



Bridge provides lifeline to many

Eight years in the making, Dutchman's Creek Bridge and Trail are now open

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Staff Writer

Eight years in the making, the Dutchman's Creek Pedestrian Bridge and Trail was dedicated Wednesday afternoon.

Due to inclement weather, the ceremony was moved to the nearby Dutchman Creek Volunteer Fire Department. The event was attended by approximately 75 area residents, representatives of project engineer the Dennis Corporation, as well as government officials including Rep. Creighton Coleman, County Council Chairman David Ferguson and Council members Mary Lynn Kinley and Eddie Branham.

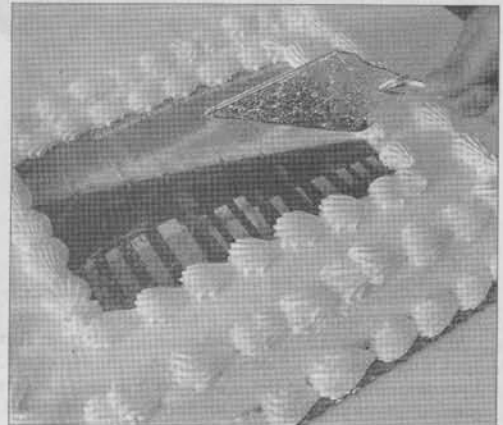
"On behalf of the Council, I would like to say that we appreciate what you have done," Ferguson said. "We appreciate your patience about the time that it has taken to get this thing done. ... As they say all good things come to those who wait and you have waited a long time for this."

The Pedestrian Bridge and Trail, Coleman said, is a good compromise which meets the need for the safety of

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The Dutchman Creek Pedestrian Bridge is ready to serve thousands of fisherman and bear witness to thousands of fish stories.

BRIDGE



A highlight of the Dutchman's Creek Pedestrian Bridge dedication was this cake with an image of the bridge on it.

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fishermen and the need for vehicular mobility in the area.

The project consists of a pedestrian walkway attached to the Dutchman's Creek Bridge, a walking trail, and an adjacent parking lot.

The project was developed in order to provide a safe passageway for the high volume of pedestrian traffic and fishermen in the area, while providing connectivity to adjacent Lake Wateree State Park, local homes, and Lake Wateree. (See accompanying story on Page 1 about Lee Hudson.)

Prior to the construction of the steel platform attached to the bridge, the existing bridge was not safe

for pedestrian use or recreation. Standing or sitting only a few inches away from traffic traveling at 55 mph, many fishermen used the bridge to gain access to Lake Wateree where they fished to provide food for their families.

After reviewing several options, Dennis Corporation designed the plans for the new galvanized steel pedestrian bridge, which would be attached to the existing structure and connect to a pedestrian walkway, off the shoulder of the roadway.

Dennis Corporation was awarded an Engineering Excellence Award from the South Carolina Division of the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) for its work on the project.