



HUCKLEBERRY TRAIL LOOP RIBBON-CUTTING PLANNED

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Nov. 16, 2010

Montgomery County, Virginia – The Coal Mining Loop Trail, a new addition to the Huckleberry Trail, will officially open Nov. 17. The public is invited to attend a ribbon-cutting ceremony tomorrow at 10 a.m. Visitors may park at the Merrimac Consolidated Site, 751 Merrimac Rd., Blacksburg.



The trail was designed and built by approximately 15 volunteers from the non-profit organization Pathfinders for Greenways. The crew worked on Wednesdays over the past four months and dubbed themselves the Wednesday Trail Crew. The volunteer trail crew's average age is 73 years. The oldest volunteer in the group is 89 years old.



“Keeping up with this wonderful group of men and women has been really fun and a lot of hard work,” said Parks and Recreation Director Mitchell Haugh. “They know how to build trails and it’s obvious they have a great time working with each other. I still cannot believe they built this amazing trail at nominal cost to the County!”

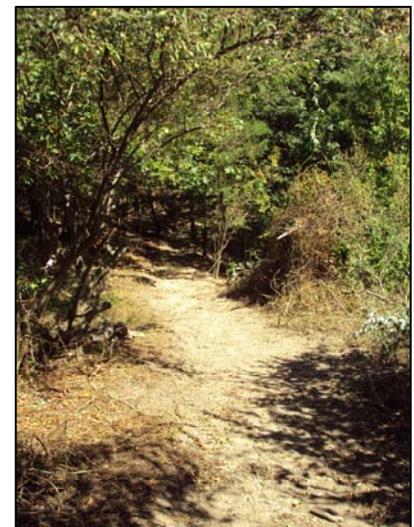
The trail crew volunteered 1,935 hours to finish the trail project.

The County invested \$2,100 into the completion of the Coal Mining Loop Trail. American Electric Power donated four telephone poles valued at \$2,000. In addition, the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets and community service volunteers picked up tons of trash along the trail. The value of the trail loop is approximately \$50,000.

The new trail addition is 1.5 miles and designed to meet International Mountain Bike Association standards to accommodate bicyclists, joggers, walkers and trail users. There is a quarter-mile section designed to be accessible for wheelchair users.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 382-6975.

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