



Mendota Trail Newsletter

DCR GRANT

Mountain Heritage, Inc. was recently awarded a federal grant, administered by Virginia's Department of Conservation and Recreation. The grant application required an affiliation with a governmental entity and the City of Bristol, VA enthusiastically responded.

The total award will be somewhat shy of \$400,000. The funds will be distributed over several years and are earmarked for the development of a Bristol trailhead adjacent to Island Road. There will be parking facilities, restrooms, a picnic area and an access ramp leading to the trail.

The grant is an 80/20 reimbursement grant. This means the grantor will reimburse Mountain Heritage 80% of approved expenditures 2-3 months after the expenses have been paid. There are 2 phases to the grant: a preliminary engineering phase and a construction phase. We are extremely grateful for the help provided by the Bristol, VA staff related to this grant application. These individuals included Ellen Tolton, Sally Morgan, Bart Poe, Wallace McCulloch, Joseph Daft, and Kelly Miller. We are also most appreciative of the endorsing vote provided by the Bristol, VA City Council in support of the resolution to pursue this grant award. **Thank you Bristol, VA!**



In addition, we are truly grateful to the Commonwealth of Virginia for entrusting us with this major grant award and giving our effort the added legitimacy it deserves. **Thank you Virginia!** Thanks also to all of the community leaders who wrote letters of support on behalf of our grant submission.

Visit our website, www.MendotaTrail.org, to view our media announcement and other information related to the grant award and the Bristol Trailhead.

IN THIS ISSUE

Remembering Juanita Wells
 Boy Scout Kiosk
 Thank You Will Witcher
 Please Help!
 Rules For Trail Use
 VA Tech Design Assistance
 Kroger Plus Card



REMEMBERING JUANITA WELLS

The Mendota Trail lost a dear friend in early December with the passing of Juanita Wells. She was a VDOT employee and of enormous help in advancing the trail effort in numerous ways. She helped us navigate the challenges of several permitting issues related to trail enhancements and was also of great assistance concerning signage requirements we faced where the trail intersects with vehicular traffic. She was a great resource for funding possibilities, as well.

She always had a pleasant disposition and enthusiastically offered her encouragement for the trail effort. We extend our sincere condolences to her family, including her VDOT family.

THANK YOU WILL WITCHER

The Mendota Trail effort owes a **huge** debt of gratitude to Will Witcher for the professional expertise he voluntarily shared with us this past year in our application for a Sediment and Erosion Control Plan with Washington County, VA. Will is a Bristol native and is employed as a civil engineer with LDA Engineering in Johnson City, TN. He is glad to contribute his talents as he sees the trail as being a ‘true asset for the community.’

He and his wife, Virginia, have two young children and reside in Bristol, VA. He looks forward to them all enjoying the trail as it continues to develop.



EAGLE SCOUT KIOSK

An Eagle Scout Project completed in July, 2018 added a beautiful new kiosk to the trail. It is located south of Reedy Creek Rd. near its intersection with Haskell Station Rd.

SAVE THE DATES!

- April 6 Work Day, Creeper Trail
- April 13 Work Day, Mendota Trail
- April 27 Creeper Fest
- August 2 Virginia Highlands Festival
Mendota Day

STAY CONNECTED!

Please visit our website! Our brochure, video and prior newsletters are available for viewing.

www.mendotatrail.org



We are also on Facebook.

www.facebook.com/mendotatrailblazer



THE MENDOTA TRAIL NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

The grant administered by the VA Department of Conservation and Recreation is an 80/20 reimbursement grant. We pay invoices as they are due and are later reimbursed 80% of the expense. This ensures accountability. It also necessitates we urgently need to build up our reserves.

The grant will reimburse us \$80 for each \$100 contributed to the trailhead project. What a deal! Where else can you obtain a better yield on your charitable contributions? In addition, your donor dollars are **totally** dedicated to the project. We are an all-volunteer organization.

Yes, **the Mendota Trail Project is very unique!** Please help us in achieving our match requirement by sending your tax advantaged contributions to: **Mountain Heritage, Inc.**

Please notate **Bristol Trailhead** on the memo line of your check.

Mail to:

Mountain Heritage, Inc.
P.O. Box 1259
St. Paul, VA 24283

Or deliver to:

Mountain Sports, Ltd.
1021 Commonwealth Ave.
Bristol, VA 24202

We thank you for your prior and continued support. We truly believe the Mendota Trail will make Bristol (and Mendota) an even better place to live!



RULES FOR TRAIL USE

Only officially announced portions of the trail (the first mile in Mendota) are open to the public. The rest of the corridor is closed due to dangerous conditions; non-permitted usage is solely at the user's own risk.

Additional rules are:

- The trail is open dawn to dusk
- No trespassing on adjacent private property
- No motorized vehicles
- No hunting or discharge of firearms
- No animals other than leashed, non-vicious dogs; dog waste must be disposed of properly
- Minors must be accompanied by adults

TRAIL USERS DO SO AT THEIR OWN RISK AND BY USING THE TRAIL WAIVE ALL CLAIMS OF INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE AGAINST MOUNTAIN HERITAGE, INC., ITS AGENTS, VOLUNTEERS, EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS, BOARD MEMBERS AND REPRESENTATIVES



Thank You Virginia Tech!

The Community Design Assistance Center (CDAC) of Virginia Tech, an outreach center in the university's College of Architecture and Urban Studies, recently completed a conceptual master plan for the Mendota Trail Trailhead in Mendota, VA.



The proposed trailhead is located at the Mendota terminus of the trail and near where the historic depot once used to stand at the intersection of Civil Dr. and Mendota Rd. The proposed trailhead master plan creates an exciting trail experience by providing trail-goers and bicyclists with several new picnic shelters, grills, bike racks, outfitter parking and drop-off, ample parking, and a large, multi-use pavilion. The proposed pavilion has the opportunity to become a popular destination for large gatherings and community events, complete with picnic tables, ADA restrooms, community mural, patio, fire pit, and storage room.

CDAC created the conceptual trailhead master plan in conjunction with a redevelopment plan for an adjacent property. It was suspected that a few gas pumps were previously located on the adjacent site, which prompted the designs for both the trailhead and adjacent property. The project as a whole was funded by a U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Assessment Grant that CDAC received, which funds redevelopment planning for potentially contaminated sites. The community of Mendota is actively exploring various funding opportunities and grants to implement components of the trailhead master plan.

Special thanks to Helene Holbrook (Mendota resident), Elizabeth Gilboy, Nick Proctor, and all of the other members of the CDAC Team who participated.

MENDOTA TRAIL T-SHIRTS

Mendota Trail T-Shirts are available at Mountain Sports, Bristol, Virginia for \$20. All proceeds benefit the Mendota Trail.



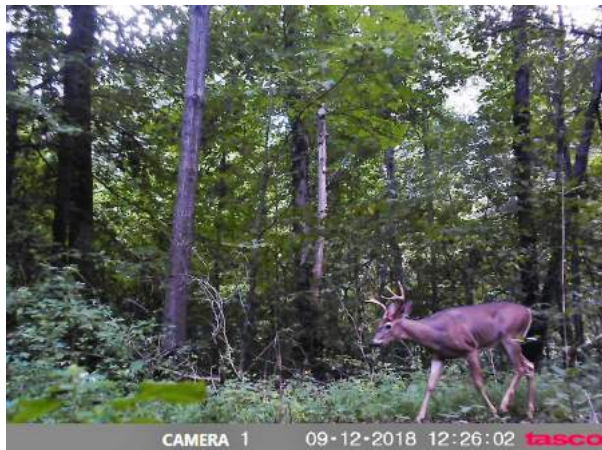


UNEXPECTED VISITORS!

We placed a game camera on the trail last fall to document reported illegal trail use by ATVs and motorcyclists. We learned some of our visitors were of the four legged variety!



A curious possum poked his nose right in the lens...bet the flash startled him!



Here's a good-looking young buck!

If you wish to learn more about the Mendota Trail and how you can be involved or contribute to this newsletter, please email:

info@mendotatrail.org



KROGER REWARDS

Shopping at Kroger with a Rewards Plus Card can now earn money for the trail. Register online at <http://www.kroger.com> and link your card to the Mendota Trail. Click on Kroger Community Rewards to enroll under the Savings & Reward heading on the website.

Each quarter, Kroger will make a donation to the trail based on the percentage of groceries purchased by shoppers who have affiliated their cards with the Mendota Trail. Purchases of alcohol, tobacco, fuel and some pharmacy items are excluded.

If you need assistance in enrolling, please contact Ellen Mueller at (423) 335-5054.

Virginia Highlands Festival

Mendota Day

August 2, 2019

We are thrilled that our friends at the Virginia Highlands Festival plan to include a walk on the Mendota Trail as part of their "Mendota Day" activities.

Plans are still coming together, and we'll have firm details in our next newsletter.

The Virginia Highlands Festival is the premier arts and culture festival in the region. For more information on this year's Virginia Highlands Festival, visit www.virginiahighlandsfestival.org.