

DEVOU PARK WEST TRAIL PROJECT A HUGE SUCCESS!

On Saturday, March 28th, approximately 150 Volunteers came to Devou Park West (west of Sleepy Hollow Road) to help construct the first phase of Covington's first mountain bike riding (non-motorized) and hiking trails! Despite overcast skies and the threat of rain all day, Volunteers were busy with hand tools and other equipment clearing brush and grading a 6,000' section of trail in this 235 acre area of Devou Park. Other Volunteers stayed busy cleaning up all types of litter including tires, car parts, bottles and cans. Many Volunteers were from Give Back Cincinnati and U-Give High, its high school age association; Kentucky Mountain Biking Association and CORA; Covington Schools including Two Rivers, Holmes, Covington Latin; and other schools including Notre Dame Academy and Badin High School in Cincinnati; as well as Volunteers from Ohio, Indiana and even Louisville!

Approximately one (1) mile of sustainable trail was cleared and graded by these Volunteers. For the past several months Chad Irey and select Volunteers from KYMBA and CORA have been there almost every weekend during some very unpleasant weather charting out the best course for the trails.

Laura Baverman and Give Back Cincinnati and U-Give High, and Chad Irey of Kentucky Mountain Biking Association (KYMBA) did an absolutely incredible job of organizing this all-out effort on Saturday! Laura and Chad and their respective organizations and others have been planning this event since late last summer.

Thanks also to our sponsor Duke Energy Foundation and Rachelle Caldwell for their generous support of our community with a \$10,000 grant that purchased hundreds of hand tools and other supplies for the day including lunch from Riverfront Pizza in Covington! Remaining grant funds will be used for an informational kiosk and trail signage.

A huge note of appreciation also goes to Covington Recreation Director Natalie Gardner, Covington Police Sergeant Jim Donaldson, and Covington's Director of Public Improvements Tom Logan, who have been intimately involved with this project from Day One each providing their own expertise and resources, helping to plan and prepare for this event, and all of whom were there working all day on Saturday as well.

A great deal of appreciation also goes to the following for their respective roles:

Covington Police Explorers for the great job they did with parking and traffic control and all-around security. Thanks to Sgt. Donaldson and Chief Russo for these arrangements.

The City of Ludlow, our project co-sponsor and great supporter!

Ludlow Fire Chief Ken Williams and Life Squad crew who were there all day in case of an emergency and thanks to Covington Fire Chief Mark Young for coordinating this effort to make sure that emergency medical help would be available on-site if needed.

Ludlow Public Works Director Mike Woodward for his help in coordinating the City of Ludlow's assistance with access and parking at the Ludlow ballfields.

Northern Kentucky Water Department for donating 50 cases of bottled water and to Natalie Gardner and Angela Cook for transporting all 50 cases last week!

Covington Legal Department for drafting all the necessary liability waivers for everyone to sign for the day.

Students from Two Rivers Middle School and Holmes High School showed up and worked until 1:15 when they had to leave for the celebration for the Holmes Bulldog's state boys basketball championship! Thanks especially to these students led by Meredith Potter of Covington Schools who came out and inspired everyone with their hard work and leadership!

Covington Department for Public Improvements who spent time last week removing heavy debris items (tires, car parts, etc) in preparation for this event. Volunteers from Transitions in Newport also helped with cleanup one day.

John Coulter, our Solid Waste Coordinator, for arranging the pickup and removal of dozens of tires found in the area.

Devou Park Rangers who vigilantly patrol this area so that ATV's and motorcycle/dirt bike riders which are prohibited anywhere in Devou Park don't use these trails causing damage to them.

What's Next?

The next trail building day will be on Saturday May 9th when Give Back Cincinnati will be back with around 150 of its Members to volunteer for the day in continuing the trail building in Devou Park West! In addition, Jason Ramler and URS Engineering has volunteered to provide a design for small bridges for the Devou Park West trail system that can be replicated using volunteers and Scout groups in the future. If any Scout groups want to sponsor a bridge building project, or if anyone wants to participate in the May 9th trail building day, please contact Assistant City Manager Larry Klein at 292-2160 or at lklein@covingtonky.gov if you are interested in helping in any way!

