



## PRESS RELEASE

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# Dedication ceremony held for Dick and Willie Trail

Martinsville-Henry County's newest recreational facility was officially unveiled today.

The Dick and Willie Trail is a 4.5-mile walking and biking trail that runs from near El Parral Restaurant in Collinsville, through the City of Martinsville, to the Mulberry Creek in Henry County.

Today's event was held at the Liberty Street trail head, near the intersection of Liberty Street and Stultz Road. Congressman Rick Boucher was the keynote speaker before an estimated 200 attendees.

The cost of the Trail is \$1.4 million and completely funded by grants. The grant money came from the federal government, the Virginia Department of Transportation, and the Virginia Tobacco Commission. In-kind contributions were received from the City of Martinsville, Henry County, and the Henry County Public Service Authority.

The Dick and Willie Trail is part of the larger Virginia vision for a Beaches to Bluegrass Trail Network. It ties into the City's spur trail leading to uptown Martinsville. Eventually the new trail will tie into the Fieldale Trail and the new Smith River Sports Complex, dependent on funding.

It will be operated by the Henry County Parks and Recreation Department.

Today's event culminated four years of work by many different groups, including the Martinsville-Henry County Rivers and Trails, the Henry County Board of Supervisors, Martinsville City Council, the Henry County Public Service Authority, the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Virginia Tobacco Commission, Congressman Rick Boucher, and Congressman Tom Perriello.

Other partners included Sowers Construction (general contractor), Anderson and Associates (designer), Hooker Furniture (donation of right of way), Univar (donation of right of way), and Norfolk Southern Railway.

The trail uses a former stretch of the Danville & Western rail line which was later acquired by Norfolk Southern Railway. That train line was referred to as the "Dick and Willie" by locals.

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