



confidence in both need and quality on the part of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. All of these groups are reaping the rewards of being solid partners for local land managers.

Virginia State Parks, which has held an MOU with IMBA going on nine years, has been working hard to develop a new, 20-plus-mile trail system at Pocahontas State Park, which will be a key feature of the planned Richmond Area Ride Center. IMBA Trail Solutions completed the design work in January and plans to be on the ground moving dirt in early spring.

The Richmond project will have something for everyone, including a new trailhead located about 10 minutes closer to downtown, a gateway trail that will also feature a handcycle accessibility component and directional gravity trails. The goal is to have a ribbon cutting in April 2015, while the City of Richmond is ramping up preparations to host the UCI Road Racing World Championships later that year.

In Maryland, the state parks department has doubled down on mountain biking by requesting \$600,000 for trail development in western Maryland. This budget request is in addition to \$150,000 allocated last year to hire IMBA Trail Solutions for the design and execution of a 5-mile

demonstration project. Those trails, located in Garrett County, will help bolster the existing tourism amenities near Deep Creek Lake.

Maryland State Parks also created a new Trails Planner position and hired none other than native son and former IMBA Trail Solutions project manager, Dan Hudson. Hudson hit the ground running by reaching out to volunteer groups throughout the state to better understand their goals and capabilities. One of his first projects will be to work with stakeholders to improve the trail network at Patapsco State Park outside of Baltimore.

Finally, Wisp Ski Resort, located in northwest Maryland, is working with IMBA on a plan to expand singletrack offerings at the mountain, in addition to existing trails on lands owned by the county and the resort.

READING, PA, SHINING A SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL TRAILS

If you are in the know, you do not need to be told

that Reading, Penn., has amazing trails adjacent to downtown and an active shuttle culture. In the past, however, learning how to get around and where to ride required a secret handshake of sorts. Thanks to the work of the Berks Area Mountain Bike Association and its downhill committee, the city is now looking to formalize the trails on Mt. Penn and elsewhere. For a taste of what Reading has to offer, check out the video "From Where We Stand."

CHECK OUT A PUSH BIKE FROM THE LIBRARY

Slatyfork, W. Va., is not a large town but the creativity of its citizens is immense. Local IMBA chapter Pocahontas Trails partnered with the Linwood Community Library and Joey's Bike Shop in Elkins to provide a fleet of Strider bikes to give kids at the community center an option for exercise during the winter. Once a week, the kids get a chance to borrow a bike and prep for a future of riding the lift at nearby Snowshoe Resort. Who wouldn't want to check that out?

VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND GO BIG TO CREATE DESTINATION TRAILS

Both Virginia and Maryland took great strides in 2013 to develop destination mountain bike trails. In Virginia, Richmond-MORE has been leading the charge, developing productive relationships while providing years of solid stewardship on local trails, most notably in James River Parks. In Maryland, the work that the Mid-Atlantic Off Road Enthusiasts (MORE) and the Delaware Trail Spinners have been doing for years in state parks has recently been bolstered by projects that Eastern Shore IMBA and Southern Maryland Mountain Bikers have taken on, leading to increased