

Richmond Regional Ride Center dedicated as legacy project of UCI bike races

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After three years of planning, fundraising, volunteering and hard work, the Richmond Regional Ride Center is now open.

State and regional officials gathered in Chesterfield's Pocahontas State Park Monday morning to dedicate the new trail system, a legacy project of the 2015 UCI Road World Championships, according to a release from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

The ride center includes more than 70 miles of mountain biking trails across Pocahontas State Park, Chesterfield County and the Richmond.

"The Ride Center is an example of an exceptional regional project that helps Chesterfield and Richmond continue to be vibrant communities," said Hunter Applewhite, president of the Dominion Foundation, in the release.

Ride Center is a designation of the International Mountain Biking Association for a mountain biking trail system that offers opportunities for all skill levels, from beginner to expert. The RRRC also includes trails for handcyclists.

"We improved 15 miles of trails and oversaw the construction of 20 miles of new trails in the park," said Craig Seaver, director of state parks. "We're in the outdoor recreation business, and we're particularly proud to play a pivotal role in this important project. We hope this will help people in the Richmond region know that they are much closer to a Virginia State Park than they might think."

The ride center is expected to stimulate the local economy by attracting more bike riders to the region. Economic projections call for \$4.5 million in tourism spending in Virginia, with \$2.7 million in Chesterfield County, according to the officials.

Partners include Chesterfield County, Dominion Virginia Power, James River Parks, MeadWestvaco, Paralyzed Veterans of America, People for Bikes, Richmond 2015, RVA MORE, Friends of Pocahontas State Park, the International Mountain Biking Association, the UCI Road World Championships, the Virginia Association for Parks, the Virginia Tourism Corporation, the



Richmond Regional Ride Center

Ribbon cutting for the Richmond Regional Ride Center at Pocahontas State Park in Chesterfield County, Monday, Sept. 14, 2015.

Chesterfield Rotary Club and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, which manages Virginia State Parks.

Richmond Region Ride Center Economic Impact

Virginia

Economic activity: \$4.5 million

Labor income: \$1.5 million

Tax revenue: \$369,452

Jobs: 51

Chesterfield County

Economic activity: \$2.7 million

Labor income: \$867,679

Tax revenue: \$212,360

Jobs: 31