

Richmond Ride Center awarded bronze level by IMBA

By Phil Riggan Richmond Times-Dispatch | Posted: Thursday, August 6, 2015 10:30 am

The International Mountain Biking Association has awarded the efforts of RVA MORE, a Richmond-area non-profit trail building group, bronze level regional ride center status.

The Richmond Regional Ride Center is being developed at Pocahontas State Park in Chesterfield County. It has become the 12th site worldwide and second in Virginia (Harrisonburg).

The volunteers of RVA MORE have been involved with the development of the Richmond Regional Ride Center every step of the way. They have raised more than \$325,000 in just two years to support the development, according to IMBA.

Greg Rollins of RVA MORE addressed a crowd of about 50 mountain bikers and trail advocates gathered at Legend Brewery Wednesday night. "These are your trails. You helped build them. Now we need your support to build more," he said.

The trail building is already underway at Pocahontas State Park and is being done in phases. The goal is to rehabilitate 15 miles of existing trails and build an additional 20 miles to the park's existing 20 miles of challenging mountain bike trails. Combined with the rest of the region's trails, the Richmond area would boast more than 70 miles of trails, including some facilities that would serve individuals with disabilities.



Richmond Region Ride Center at Pocahontas State Park

Cycling, mountain biking hot spots in the Richmond region

The Richmond region will become a biking wonderland for thousands of professional cyclists next September, and fans who visit the area for the World Championships can look forward to finding p...

IMBA's release details this year's findings from a review of current and future ride centers:

For more than a decade, IMBA has recognized trails and trail systems around the world that stand out as models for the best that mountain biking has to offer -- from rugged, long-distance treks to front-

country networks that challenge and excite riders of all ability levels.

This year's class includes our first round of renewing Ride Centers: Each location is now required to resubmit an application every four years. To maintain a high level of consistency a reviewer from IMBA's **Trail Solutions** team conducts an on-site visit to evaluate the center's trail system, bike amenities and other criteria. "Earning a top-tier score keeps getting more difficult," says IMBA Field Programs Director Chris Bernhardt. "We want to continually set the bar higher—just as riders' abilities are always expanding and improving, so should the facilities that we recognize as the best places for mountain biking."

IMBA highlighted the status of the Richmond Regional Ride Center:

Bronze-level Ride Centers

Richmond, Virginia

Big things are happening in Richmond, including the upcoming (Sept. 19-27) World Road Cycling Championships. For dirt lovers, **rvaMORE** and a host of partners have raised over \$325,000 in just two years, opening miles of new trails, including a purpose-built hand-cycle line, plus a flow trail and beginner-level singletrack. Best of all, this is a truly urban-based center, with great connectivity allowing riders to access standout trails without getting into a car.