

Where Am I RVA? North Bank Trail

Phil Riggan | Posted: Tuesday, November 18, 2014 12:00 am

Where would Richmond be without the army of volunteers who help develop and maintain the network of trails, paddle takeouts and park sites around the region?

Richmond is blessed with a great layout for nature trails along the banks of the James River and the **North Bank Trail** is an excellent challenge for mountain bikers and hikers, running from the Boulevard Bridge to Oregon Hill. The single-track trail is about 2.5 miles long and runs below the scenic and beautiful hilltop resting places at Hollywood, Riverside and Mount Calvary cemeteries, winds through the hillsides at North Bank Park and connects to Maymont and a short ride beside the James River & Kanawha Canal.



North Bank Trail - Richmond
MORE volunteers

North Bank Trail - Richmond **MORE**
volunteers

I wrote in 2012 about 10 Reasons We Bike James River Park Trail and how "the trails have been developing over the past decade or more, but not without the blood, sweat and money from hundreds of volunteers."

That holds true today as well. This past weekend I caught up with the City of Richmond trails crew and volunteers from **Richmond MORE**, the trail building outfit that is largely responsible for miles of trails around the Richmond area.

Greg Rollins, president of Richmond MORE, was on the North Bank Trail with about a dozen other volunteers who put in about five hours on a project to armor about 15-20 feet of trail on a climb below Mount Calvary Cemetery. They used a zip line to deliver a truck load of huge rocks down to the trail to supplement the dirt and rock trails in an effort to make the trail more sustainable, less susceptible to erosion and require less long-term maintenance.

Most areas of the 9.5 mile James River Park trail loop were developed more than a decade ago by volunteers, most of whom have had trail-building training classes and are certified. Many volunteer every weekend the trail crews are out there, which is more than half the weekends in a year all around the region.

The efforts amount to a huge gift of thousands of hours annually by the volunteers and it is a great contribution to the city. The trails are a tremendous asset to our outdoor offerings in Richmond and are hugely popular.

In the two hours I was at the site, at least 30 runners, hikers (many with dogs) and mountain bikers passed through the site and every one of them took the time to thank the volunteers. A couple even asked how they could help. Be sure to check the Richmond MORE website, its Facebook page and sign up for their newsletter which is updated weekly with trail care information and volunteer opportunities.

10 Reasons We Bike James River Park Trail

With all the recent talk about road and commuter cycling with the UCI Road World Cycling Championships coming to Richmond in 2015 and the region making efforts to become more cycling friendly,...