

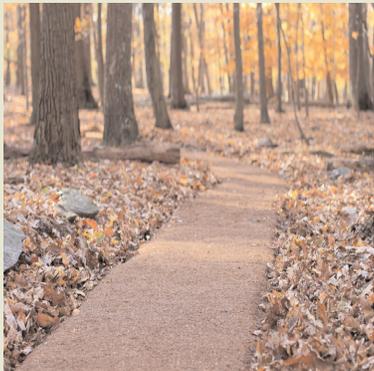
ZEAGER NEWS

Active Trails grant from the National Park Foundation funds refurbished nature trail:

The folks at Catoclin Mountain Park had a dedication ceremony recently to celebrate the opening of their reconditioned trail made of bonded Woodcarpet®. The .3 mile long trail originally was built in the 70's and had asphalt that had become old and unusable. Personell at the park desired to recondition the trail but funding the project was an obvious concern with budgets for national parks being squeezed for every penny.



Park Interpreter and Volunteer Coordinator Debbie Mills told Zeager how she was able to aquire funds and labor to help kick start the project; "I knew that the Superintendent wanted to upgrade the facilities at the Chestnut Picnic Area so the Active Trails proposal seemed like a perfect fit. The regional partnership coordinator had mentioned the Job Corps as a resource for volunteer projects. I called their outreach coordinator and everything started to fall into place. The veterans seemed like another natural partner since the VA hospital is close. I have worked with groups of all disabilities and veterans for nearly 30 years so I understood how the relationship could be beneficial to both sides."



Most of the funding came from the National Park Foundation and it's corporate partner Coca-Cola. The rest of the money came from the National Park Service Youth Programs account. "We were granted money from this account because the work was completed by the Job Corps, which is considered a youth organization." Mills said.

Mills commented that "the project owes its success to the Harpers Ferry Job Corps who contributed nearly 2000 hours of labor to the arduous task of removing existing asphalt, leveling a stone base and installing the final surface." She also noted that local Boy Scout Troop 270 completed the project by closing gutters on path edges during two work days between Christmas and New Years Day.



The Spicebush Nature Trail is located in Catoclin Mountain Park's Chestnut Picnic Area. The picnic area and trail are open daily during daylight hours.

You can read more on the Active Trails Program by going to : <http://www.nationalparks.org/our-work/programs/active-trails> .

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