

## **Nike Park (Park-to-Park Trail)**

The Nike Park Trail or sometimes called “Park-to-Park Trail” project has generated a great deal of interest over the past several months. This multi-use trail, when completed, will connect the County’s District Nike Park to the Town of Smithfield’s Windsor Castle Park. The following facts are provided in an effort to assist citizens in their understanding of the background, current status, and benefits of this project:

### **BACKGROUND**

In January 2001, the Board of Supervisors directed County staff to present a recommendation on how to address bicycle and pedestrian planning in the County. A citizen committee with representation from each election district was appointed to assist with this effort. The result of this work was the Master Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail Plan, adopted as a supplement to the County’s Comprehensive Land-Use Plan.

This is one of the County’s first major trail projects relative to implementation of the Master Plan. The Trail Project has been publicly discussed and acted on many times in past over the past decade by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors. In addition, County staff has presented public updates to the Board and the Smithfield Town Council on numerous occasions. The Parks & Recreation Department, in conjunction with the Bike and Pedestrian Committee, also held public input and information meetings for interested citizens and property owners along the trail.

The project has received direct support from the County’s Bike and Pedestrian citizen’s committee, the local Chamber of Commerce, Bureau of Tourism, and Town of Smithfield Council. It has also received support and praise from the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, the Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, and the East Coast Greenway Alliance. We even have a local Friends of the Trail group.

The County has worked hard to take our residents’ limited resources and leverage them for grant funds to bring the project to completion. Staff has successfully gotten more than \$3.5 million in federal grant funds, plus another \$1.2 million in State funds for the project. The County has also worked with the Town of Smithfield to utilize leftover grant funds from the S. Church Street beautification project.

It’s important to note that the grants are also from your tax dollars (at the federal and state levels). These funds are designated to be used *specifically for these types of connectivity pathway projects*. The grant program is highly competitive, and if the trail were not being built here, the grant funds, (again, your state/federal taxes) would be building trails in other communities. County staff has been working hard for over a decade to bring these funds to *our* community for projects that benefit Isle of Wight County.

### **CURRENT STATUS**

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$7.3 million and it is broken into 3 segments. Segment 1 is Battery Park Road from S. Church Street to Nike Park Road; Segment 2 is Nike Park Road from Battery Park Road to Nike Park itself; and Segment 3 is S. Church Street from Battery Park Road to Smithfield Station.

Funding is being provided by the County (\$1.1 million), the Town of Smithfield (\$1.2 million),