

Northwoods Trail Building Volunteer Opportunity

Hikers,

A new Trail System is being developed just north of Hot Springs. This will be a tremendous asset for OMH when completed. Construction has begun, and the first section will open later this year. We have also been invited to participate as volunteers in helping build the system. For a hiker, there is little that can give a bigger sense of satisfaction than helping create a new trail system.

The Trails System: The Trail is being referred to as the "Northwoods Trail". It is located on city property in and around the original water works for the city of Hot Springs, just off Cedar Glades Road north of town. There are three small lakes (with pre-1900 dams) and acres of forest. The system will consist of a combination of loops, with various "character" and difficulties for hikers and mountain bikers. The plan includes over 18 miles of trail. The trails will connect with the Cedar Glades Park trails just to the east, and Hot Springs National Park plans to build a trail to connect the system to Sunset Trail.

Construction: Construction began early this year. The heavy work is being done by professionals, under the guidance of IMBA (International Mountain Bike Assoc). Volunteers are supplementing the professional crews to perform "finishing tasks" and some logistics tasks.

Volunteer Plan: Volunteer effort is being conducted on Wednesday evenings each week (weather permitting), starting at 5 pm. Meeting point is the Water Works Gate on Cedar Glades Road (just north of Sunset Trail trailhead). Come on out and help. It's fun.

Here is the message from the project director, Rich Edwards:

Hello Everyone,

The clocks have changed and the weather turned so it's game on for evening trail building.

Wednesdays are typically the most conflict free evenings in most places we work so we'd like to try out regular Wednesday evening work sessions. **5pm till dark** every Wednesday through the Spring.

We're **meeting** at 5pm at the **WaterWorks gate**.

Please come dressed for trail work with long pants, boots, and gloves. Water and snacks are highly recommended. If you like to stay late a flashlight or bike lights may also be handy.

If you bring bikes you can ride in and out from the work site on fresh trail.

This week (circa April 4) we'll be working on tread and trail finishing. Next week may be more tread work or finishing off a new boardwalk section.

We should have all the trail tools needed on hand, but if you have a favorite set of pruners or hand saw throw it in your pack.

Thanks again for all the support and hope to see you in the woods. The best way to contact the active site manager is the following phone.

Trail Solutions1 (Trail1) **720-737-9373**

The Trail Solutions team member holding this phone will know the details for each weeks work session.

Thanks again for making great trails happen,

Rich

Richard Edwards

Trail Solutions Director of Construction & Operations

International Mountain Bicycling Association

(540)-421-6067 | Harrisonburg, Va 22801 | richard.edwards@imba.com