

Governor invited to dedication of Vinton's first greenway trail

By Anita McMillan
and Julie Stewart

The grand opening for the 3,500 foot Wolf Creek Greenway will be Monday, May 3 at 5:30 p.m. The ribbon cutting ceremony will be held near Lynn Haven Baptist Church on Washington Avenue.

Gov. James Gilmore or David Brickley, Department of Conservation and Recreation Director, is scheduled to do the ribbon cutting for the

trail. In addition, several local officials will be in attendance.

The Wolf Creek Trail has been an on-going project since June 1997, when Vinton Town Council approved the planning department's request to apply for grant funding to build a trail.

Through a series of community meetings, Wolf Creek was identified as one of the top 11 Greenway sites in the Roanoke Valley.

In February 1998, the Virginia De-

partment of Conservation and Recreation awarded a \$30,000 grant, under its Virginia Recreational Trails Fund Program, to be used towards the construction of the trail. This amount was matched by in-kind contributions through volunteers, private and corporate contributions, town staff, Lynn Haven Baptist Church, and as easement donated by Mr. and Mrs. Pierre

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Trail

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Goria

The majority of the trail is located on Town property. It extends from Hardy Road, adjacent to The Best Little Hair House, along Wolf Creek to Washington Avenue, near Lynn Haven Baptist Church.

The trail is an 8 foot wide walking and biking trail based on Roanoke Valley Greenway Design Guidelines.

The trail will connect several major residential subdivisions, schools, and Goode Park. Wolf Creek Greenway will serve as a link in a region-wide greenway system, and it will be the first for the Town of Vinton and East Roanoke County.

The trail project involved the cleanup of the culvert under Washington Avenue, near Goode Park, by Vinton Public Works Staff and volunteers. This was a vital part of the trail construction, and was needed to eliminate trail users from having to cross busy Washington Avenue.

Another vital part of the trail, was the construction of a pedestrian bridge over Wolf Creek. The design of the bridge was donated by William Barger, an engineer from Salem. The bridge piers were contributed and installed by American Electric Power (AEP). A portion of the hardware for the bridge was given by RevCar Fasteners Incorporated.

All of the bridge-deck construction was done by volunteers, including The Pathfinders for Greenways, under the direction of Dr. William Gordge. Rock to stabilize the creek bank near the Hardy Road portion of the trail was placed by Boy Scout Troop 18, headed by Daniel Buckley III, and other volunteers.

Landscaping for the trail was made possible by a grant from The Valley Beautiful Foundation. Wolf Creek Greenway signs are being designed and donated by Jim Hix of Vinton. The conceptual design and the landscaping plan for the trail were donated by Linda Oberlander, a landscape architect from Roanoke.

The entire trail project has been overseen by Anita McMillan, Vinton Planning and Zoning Director, and Liz Belcher, Roanoke Valley Greenway Coordinator.