

Phase II is Coming!!

Written by Administrator

Tuesday, 13 November 2012 02:43 - Last Updated Friday, 16 November 2012 04:01

Just a few short weeks ago, we here at the Fountainhead Project seriously discussed shutting down the Project. Earlier in the year we had received negative news about our RTP grant application and our funding for a proposed demo project fell through. And then the below letter showed up in the NVRPA mail box.

It is my pleasure to inform you that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has released the remaining Recreational Trails Program (RTP) apportionment for fiscal year 2012. As a result, there is now funding available to advance the Fountainhead Regional Park trail improvement project to Phase II of the RTP approval process.

The purpose of this phase is to gather more detailed information about the RTP proposal for review and decision. In order to obtain final approval from the FHWA, it is necessary for the applicant to complete the Environmental Review and Public Comment requirements. The environmental review documentation becomes part of the federal administrative record in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and its implementing regulations. For RTP proposals, the NEPA process coordinates compliance with *separate but related* federal, state, and local environmental requirements.

At a minimum, compliance by the applicant with the following federal laws and executive orders shall be coordinated during the NEPA process: National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106; Endangered Species Act, Section 7; Executive Orders 11988 (Flood plain Management) and 11990 (Wetland Protection); and Coastal Zone Management Act Federal Consistency Determination.

As part of the NEPA process, the public is required to be invited to provide comments on the proposed federal grant project. A public notice must be issued providing a description of the project and its anticipated impacts on the human environment. The public must be given thirty days to review and provide comment. Evidence of the notice and a summary of any comments received must be provided to DCR along with documentation showing coordination with the abovementioned laws and executive orders.

*State Parks • Stormwater Management • Outdoor Recreation Planning
Natural Heritage • Dam Safety and Floodplain Management • Land Conservation*

We are months and months away from new construction but it looks like the fun is about to begin!!!

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The public comment period has begun for the Phase II construction on the Fountainhead Mountain Bike trail. Now is your time to express your concerns, objections or comments to the Park: <http://www.nvrpa.org/uploads/Files/Fountainheadmountainbiketrailpubcomment.pdf>

The Grant Award for the Phase II construction is for \$152,000. On April 11th, 2012 the Mid Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts (MORE), as part of the RTP Grant Application, pledged to raise \$16K in cash, provide nearly \$17K in volunteer labor and plans to provide over \$5K in rental of trail building assets.

Once the environmental studies are completed, an RTP written, released and awarded; we will conduct several volunteer days. Under the RTP guidelines, as long as we properly record volunteer information, each volunteer hour is worth \$22.03 an hour.

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