

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

Marshview Park, located within a mile of the Virginia Beach Oceanfront, has nearly four miles of soft trails that wind through hardwood forest giving trail users views to Owl Creek. These soft trails have existed for years, primarily used by the local community.

In **2012** the Marshview Master Plan was completed to include future dog parks, paved trails, open field play area, playground, picnic shelters, parking areas and a restroom building site.

In **2015**, a multi-use asphalt trail was constructed connecting Marshview Drive to Virginia Avenue.

In **2020/2021**, four dog parks, an open field play area, play nodes, a playground and additional multi-use asphalt trails were constructed.

The 2012 Master Plan included a Bike Recreation area. This amenity was unfunded and planned for a future phase.

The Eastern Virginia Mountain Biking Association (EVMA) is a non-profit volunteer driven group that builds, maintains, and inspects mountain biking trails throughout the greater Hampton Roads area. In fall of 2020, Parks & Recreation reached out to EVMA to discuss the possibility of partnering together. Knowing the unfunded and future plan to bring a bike recreation area to Marshview Park, Parks & Recreation, and members of EVMA met onsite to survey the existing trails and scout the park for the possibility of new trails.

Given the convenient location and lack of mountain biking trails on the southside of Hampton Roads and the rare topography that exist at Marshview, EVMA was willing to partner with Parks & Recreation to build and maintain mountain biking trails at Marshview Park.

Throughout 2020 and 2021 Parks & Recreation staff and EVMA met numerous times at the park to work on trail routing and design. Using the International Mountain Biking Association's (IMBA) standards, the goal was to identify existing soft trails, and the potential for new trails, that vary in length, difficulty, and skill level. In total there will be 4-5 miles of multi-use soft trails.

In 2021, Parks & Recreation entered into a partnership agreement with EVMA to begin trail building and trail maintenance for the new mountain biking trail system.

Currently all soft trails at Marshview Park are multi-use, open to pedestrians, bikers, runners etc. This will remain the same. Using IMBA's standard for rules and trail etiquette, signage will direct mountain bikers to use the trail in one direction, yielding to hikers and hikers with dogs on the trail.

With the partnership between Parks & Recreation and EVMA, the soft trails at Marshview Park will be enhanced, giving all users a benefit in experience. Parks & Recreation will be installing trailhead maps, raised walkways, wayfinding signage and mileage markers for all soft trails which will bring a safer and more enjoyable trail experience for all users. The possibility also exists to add bike repair stations and benches along the trail.

Utilizing a partnership with EVMA will not only fulfill part of the Marshview Park Master Plan but it will also bring the first ever formal mountain biking trail system to Virginia Beach.

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **Will the trails be for mountain biking use only?**

No. All trails at Marshview Park will be 'multi-use', open to pedestrian use as well. Equestrian trail use will not be permitted.

## **Where do I park to access the mountain biking trails?**

To access the trails at Marshview Park, you can park in the parking lot at the end of Virginia Avenue, the parking lot at the end of Indian Road, the dog park parking lot on Marshview Drive or at Salt Marsh Park, located across Marshview Drive from the park.

## **Are dogs allowed on the soft trails?**

Yes. All pets must be firmly secured by a physical leash or lead attached to a collar or harness and under control of a responsible person capable of physically restraining the pet. (City Code 5-531) Please "Scoop the Poop." (City Code 5-534)

## **Are motorized bikes allowed on the trails?**

No. Motorized bikes or vehicles are not allowed on trails.

## **How can I volunteer with Parks & Recreation?**

We are always looking for volunteers - you can fill out our [Volunteer Interest Form](#).

## **How can I become a member of EVMA?**

You can join EVMA by visiting their [website](#) or getting in touch with them on [Facebook](#)!