

Western Branch Trail and Proposed Railway Trail

There are plans to convert an abandoned Commonwealth Railroad right-of-way into a recreational trail, known as the “Commonwealth Railway Trail”. The City only recently acquired the 3-mile-long trail, formally a part of the rail system. Once complete, this trail in Chesapeake would be a section of the larger Hampton Roads Trail that will eventually run from Suffolk to Norfolk and Virginia Beach. The new trail planned will also include connecting the existing trail along Bruce Road and Tyre Neck Road, which provides access to adjacent neighborhoods.



Virginian-Pilot picture

There are 2 phases to the plan:

Phase I – Conversion of abandoned Commonwealth Railroad line to a trail from I-664 to the Portsmouth City line.

Phase II – completes the connection by converting the Seaboard Rail line to trail from the end of the Phase I project at I-664 to the Suffolk line.

The City has received initial funding to convert this railway to trail. Design work has begun.

In 2017, Parks, Recreation and Tourism completed Phase I base renovation of the existing Western Branch Trail, approximately a 1-mile stretch of the trail beginning at Taylor and Bruce Roads, running east toward Tyre Neck Road. The exiting trail along Bruce and Tyre Neck Roads are scheduled to be resurfaced with asphalt with other biking amenities added by Summer 2019.

