

Western Branch Trail and Commonwealth Railway Trail

We are currently beginning Phase I of the Commonwealth Railway Trail which will convert the abandoned Commonwealth Railroad right-of-way into a recreational trail. The City of Chesapeake recently acquired the 3-mile-long trail, previously owned by The Virginia Port Authority. Once complete, this trail would be a section of the larger Hampton Roads Trail that will run from Suffolk to Norfolk and Virginia Beach. The new trail planned will also include eventual connection to the existing trail along Bruce Road and Tyre Neck Road, which provides access to adjacent neighborhoods as well. The City has received initial funding to convert this railway to trail.



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.

Currently, Parks, Recreation and Tourism, with assistance from Public Works, is in the process of converting the existing Western Branch Trail from stone dust and dirt to asphalt. This trail runs primarily from the intersection of Taylor and Bruce Roads, east down Bruce Road towards Tyre Neck Road. The second part travels adjacent to the wooded area behind Tyre Neck Road. Once resurfaced with asphalt, additional amenities such as Bike-Fix-It stations, benches, new signage and more will be added to further enhance the trail.



Bruce Road



Tyre Neck Road

