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Beech Mountain, NC – Beech Mountain Parks & Recreation has announced a collaborative trail workday with ASU Cycling on Thursday, September 23rd, 2010, in preparation for the ASU home mountain bike race to be held on the trails Sunday, September 26th, 2010.

Over the past 6 months many area residents have banded together to create what will soon be the Beech Mountain Adventure Trail Park, a comprehensive public trail park totaling 20+ miles of trail for hiking, biking, running, snowshoeing, and cross country skiing use. The first phase of the project is the “Emerald Outback” micro-park/trail network. This area consists of 7 to 8 miles of single track, double track, and fire/gravel road trail. The entire Emerald Outback trail is nestled above 5,000ft. in elevation and has varying terrain and geographic features that make the trail system truly unique to the area. The trail system has been designed by bikers, hikers and trail runners in order to better meet the recreational demands of such outdoor enthusiasts. The best part is this is a public project, so the trails are open for your enjoyment. Beech Mountain citizens, Town employees, Beech Mountain Club employees, Banner Elk and Boone residents, and visitors to the area have all played a hand in the creation of this amazing trail network.

On Thursday, September 23rd, 2010 the Beech Mountain Parks & Recreation Department and ASU Cycling will host a collaborative trail work day in order to prep and prime the trails for a great weekend of racing. The group will be placing additional directional and informational trail signage on all trails, marking the course for Sunday’s race, and doing final trail clean-up before the ASU home mountain bike race takes place. The group is reaching out to you to request your help on this momentous day in order to make these trails more accessible, discernable, and clean for not only the race, but your recreational enjoyment as well.

The trail workday will begin at the Beech Mountain Town Hall at 4:30 PM on Thursday, September 23rd. If you can't make it at 4:30, you can find us on the trails until about 8:00 PM, please don't hesitate to catch up with us if you can make it later. For those unfamiliar with the trails, maps will be available at the trail head and the Beech Mountain Chamber of Commerce, which is adjacent to the trail head. Although some trail equipment will be provided, it is recommended that you bring along metal rakes, loppers, shears, gloves, weed-eaters, chainsaws, and leaf blowers of your own if you have them available. Also be sure to pack water and snacks. The group will set out on foot to groom every inch of the Emerald Outback trail system while placing brand new directional markers throughout the network. As this is a public project, help from the public is needed in order to better the trails for your enjoyment. Please encourage anyone you know interested in trail building, biking, hiking, etc to come lend a hand to the Town of Beech Mountain and ASU Cycling. Your help is greatly needed and greatly appreciated!

For more information regarding the Beech Mountain Adventure Trail Park, the trail workday scheduled for Thursday, September 23rd, 2010, or general information about hiking and biking on Beech Mountain, please call 828.387.3003. You can also follow trail development; get group ride and workday updates, view park photos and maps, etc at:

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=129374807082146&ref=ts>