

HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY MAYOR
WESTON WAMP

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**200-Acre Mountain Biking, Hiking Park on Signal Mountain
Set To Open in September**

Hamilton County Parks & Recreation today announced the opening of Walden's Ridge Park located on the side of Signal Mountain. The dynamic new 200-acre park will feature over ten miles of trails to include mountain biking, hiking, trail running, and bouldering.

"This new mountainside county park is one the most unique parks in America, offering a recreational experience that is only possible in a community with the natural beauty of ours," said Hamilton County Mayor Weston Wamp. "This project is the latest example of the creativity of the county's talented Parks & Recreation department and their efforts to make Hamilton County a wonderful place to live and raise a family."

Although Hamilton County has a large community of mountain biking enthusiasts, the trails at Walden's Ridge Park will be the first purpose-built, progressive, downhill trails in the Chattanooga region.

"We are very grateful for the many partnerships, donors, and volunteers over the years that brought this multi-use park to life. This has been an eight-year undertaking, and we are excited to finally open it to the public," said Hamilton County Director of Parks & Recreation, Matt Folz. "Visitors will enjoy the impressive trail network that offers a variety of terrains and shows off the natural beauty of Hamilton County."

Mountain biking in Hamilton County attracts around 45,000 annual visits, resulting in a nearly \$7 million impact to the local economy.

"Walden's Ridge Park offers a unique bike-optimized experience on public lands that will be a regional draw, and quite possibly a national destination, for thousands of riders each year," said Mike Repya with IMBA Trail Solutions, the organization that helped design and build the trail system. "This bike park is similar to what lift-served ski resorts offer in the Rocky Mountains and New England. Riders in the Southeast now have a destination close to home rather than driving long distances for the high-quality trails found at Waldens."

Hamilton County Parks & Recreation will be hosting a formal ribbon cutting on Saturday, September 30th.

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