

Katie & Wil's Trail



PHOTOS: SITE RESOURCES, INC.

Left

Katie & Wil's Trail opened up at Marshy Point Park & Nature Center in Baltimore County, Maryland. Site Resources, Inc. donated pro bono design and permitting services for the trail. This shows the starting point for the new trail from the bridge.

Right

A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony commemorated the opening of the trail. In attendance were John Canoles, principal with Eco-Science Professionals (also donating entity); Stacy Fisher, principal with Site Resources; Kevin Riley, project manager with Site Resources; Kevin Kamenetz, Baltimore County Executive.

By Sharon Elliott, Site Resources, Inc. marketing manager

Katie and Wil, a mother and her son, tragically lost their lives on November 7, 2008. It was from their passion of spending time outdoors with family and friends; and their fondness of trail riding that inspired and evolved to create a local hiking/biking trail in their memory.

Site Resources, Inc. donated pro bono design and permitting services for the trail honoring Katie and Wil. The trail opened up at Marshy Point & Nature Center in Baltimore County, Maryland.

There were other trails in the region, but few that were easy enough for young children to bike without difficulty. Katie and Wil's circle of friends and family wanted to honor them by providing the community with a trail that reflected their love of the outdoors and that could be enjoyed by people of all ages and abilities.

Almost five years after their passing, the Katie and Wil Foundation, along with the help of many, gifted the county and its citizens with a hiking/biking trail providing access to 300+ acres at Marshy Point, which has sat virtually unexplored for decades.

The trail is handicapped accessible and provides opportunities beyond the proverbial walk in the park, including field trips, nature walks and the Foundation's annual "Turtle Trek 5k Trail Run and 1 mile Nature Hike."

The trail is a continuation of an existing trail which crosses Dundee Creek and projects northeast from the existing Marshy Point Nature Center. The trail extends about 1,100 feet to the northeast from the north bank of the creek to existing Brinkman's Road. The driving goal was to maximize the trail user's experience of this wonderful, natural area while minimizing the development footprint of the trail and its impact on this sensitive area.

Within the most environmentally sensitive site areas closest to the water, the trail is an in-ground boardwalk with anti-flotation anchors. The southernmost section is raised boardwalk to meet the existing bridge over Dundee Creek. Erosion control and stormwater management were designed to minimize the development footprint and therefore reduce the impact to this natural area.

Design and alignment of the trail involved careful inspection and field location to minimize impact to existing mature trees and wetlands. The resulting alignment required wetland mitigation to be installed adjacent to the new trail.

Story Ideas?

If you have a project where landscape architectural design services were provided pro bono, you can submit your Stewardship proposal to: stewardship@landscapeonline.com or call Larry Shield at (714) 979-5276 x125.