

Communications Department

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**Pump track ready for riders at Craighead**

Jonesboro has its first pump track, thanks to a 50/50 grant with Arkansas Outdoor Recreation, and the track is now open at Craighead Forest Park to mountain bikers, skateboarders and rollerbladers looking for an exciting new way to enjoy their hobby.

The course comprises 1½ acres of angled turns, bumps and curves in Access 5 at the park. It’s a skills course for beginners as well as experienced riders who accelerate through hills, drops and a balance beam.

Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Director Danny Kapales said the track is a perfect addition to Craighead Forest’s many entertainment options. “We have a lot of mountain bikers in the woods out there, but this is the first stabilized, non-dirt surface for them to enjoy,” he said. “And it’s great for skateboarders and rollerbladers.”

Cost of the track was $200,000, so the City and Arkansas Outdoor Recreation split the cost evenly.

Mayor Harold Perrin was pleased to see the track, but turned down offers to take a ride.

“I don’t think I’ll be doing this at my age, but it sure looks like something I would have enjoyed as a kid,” Perrin said. “I’m proud we got the grant and that our Parks people worked hard to put this together in time for the holiday weekend. It’s just another way to have fun in Jonesboro.”

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