

# NEWS RELEASE



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## **COUNTY, STATE DEDICATE NEW BRIDGES, TRAILS AT MID-LOTHIAN MINES PARK PARTNERSHIP WITH DMME RECOGNIZED**

CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, VA — Officials with Chesterfield County and the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, or DMME, joined community representatives today to dedicate new bridges and trails at Mid-Lothian Mines Park. These and other improvements at the park are furthering its role as a place of historical site and recreational gem.

Mid-Lothian Mines Park is the site of the first commercial coal mine in America. In particular, today's ceremony recognized the contributions of DMME, which partnered with the county in 2010 to begin planning for mine-shaft closures, ruins stabilization, expanded access and other reclamation activities for the park, which opened in 2004. The work could not have been completed without numerous grants and other support from DMME.

"We are excited about recent improvements at Mid-Lothian Mines Park," said Mike Golden, director of the Chesterfield County Department of Parks and Recreation. "We are working with our partners at the Mid-Lothian Mines and Rail Roads Foundation and at the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy to tell the history of coal mining and to provide an inviting place for residents to walk or jog."

A master plan and vision for the park was adopted in 2002, calling for closure of the mine shafts, fencing along the shaft areas, restoration of the mine ruins, central and spur trails, bridges along the two old railroad beds and interpretive signage, exhibits and displays. The effort is a multi-phase project happening over seven years. When completed, the park will tell the stories of the Midlothian Village, hard-rock mining, the Richmond coal basin and the early industrial development of Chesterfield County.

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“The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy is about safety, the environment and post-mined land use,” said Butch Lambert, deputy director of DMME. “This project meets all three of our goals. These old mine works are no longer a hazard and visitors to this park can safely view them for years to come.”

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**Note to media: Additional information, including a fact sheet about the history of the mines and the background about this project, with maps and other images, is available on the county’s [online newsroom](#).**