



January 3, 2022

Mon River Trails Conservancy

Goodbye 2021, Hello 2022

We wish you a happy and a healthy 2022!



This past year was one of highs and lows with a focus on being **RESILIENT**. This year brought some big storms and with them many **LANDSLIDES** and **WASHOUTS**!

Despite these challenges, our accomplishments of 2021 have the Mon River Trail system in even better condition and more welcoming to trail users.



Trail Improvements

Significant improvements were made to the trail drainage and surface on a 5.5 mile stretch of the Mon River Rail-Trail from Little Falls (mile 18.5) to Opekiska (mile 24). Landslides and washouts near Pricketts Fort, north of Star City, in the Core Arboretum, and on the Deckers Creek Rail-Trail led to emergency repairs and, when possible, upgrades to the drainage system to help protect the rail-trail in these areas from future storm damage.



Two Recreational Trail Grants helped fund major restoration work of the Deckers Creek Rail-Trail in Morgantown city limits, paving over 2 miles of trail and installing a micropile wall that will stabilize an undercut from Deckers Creek. The City of Morgantown helped match these grants, installed new trail culverts, and built a retaining wall that is helping to stabilize a hillside protecting the trail.



Innovation and Imagination

With the WV Land Trust as our partner, we reimagined the **Blue Jean Ball**. This party for green space transformed into a picnic for green space and was re-named the Blue Jean Basket. This adaptation to uncertain times gave



us a chance to raise funds and take time to enjoy our favorite green spaces. Thank you to those who participated and helped us raise over \$12,000 for outdoor recreation projects in the Mon Valley.

We also saw the creation of a brand new fundraiser for the rail-trails called the **MRTCentury**. A group of eleven cyclists took on the challenge of individually cycling the 105 miles of connected rail-trail in one day. Pledges from rail-trail lovers, friends, and family kept them motivated and moving toward their goal on this completed unsupported ride for the rail-trail cause. Thank you to each of them: *Christiaan Abildso, Adam Baus, Stephen Cain, Colin Dierman, Ethan Flanigan, Marc Glass, Gabe and Kemp Holtzer, Charlie Shobe, Michael Simms, and Kristina Vrouwenfelder*. Their efforts kept the rail-trails funding coming in and raised over \$24,000 for storm repairs and trail access improvements.

New Friends in Trail Engagement

We welcomed the beginning of the WV TRAIL (WV Trails & Recreation Advocacy & Information Link) organization with its aim of increasing awareness of and appreciation for non-motorized trails of all kinds in West Virginia. MRTC is one of many organizations participating and engaged in efforts to see positive trail policies in West Virginia, updates to the WV Statewide Trails Plan, and strengthening communication between trail planners and trail users. MRTC, as an experienced trail organization, shared tips on rail-trail maintenance at the first WV TRAIL conference. We hope to see this organization continue to grow and succeed in its mission in 2022 and beyond. Learn more at: <https://www.wvtrail.org>

Mon River Trails Coservancy

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The Board meets on the 1st Thursday of every month at 5:15 in the Morgantown Public Library. We are currently holding Zoom Meetings until we can gather again in person- contact Ella if you would like to join in.

