



January 1, 2023

Mon River Trails Conservancy

Goodbye 2022, Hello 2023

We wish you a happy and healthy 2023!

This past year had some hard times with landslides and storm damage, unexpected battles with Amendment 2 on the ballot, and projects that faced weather and funding challenges. But it also saw the creation of new trail amenities, the return of fun gatherings, and progress on some big dreams thanks to the Pennsylvania Fayette County Commission.



Trail Improvements

Significant improvements were made to the drainage and trail surface on an approximately 1-mile section of the Deckers Creek Rail-Trail from Carnegie Street crossing to Rock Forge Lane. Thank you to Hazel Ruby McQuain Charitable Trust for being a major funder on this project. The City of Morgantown funded and oversaw the paving of a stretch of the Deckers Creek Trail through Sabraton and a section of the

Caperton Trail in the Wharf, resulting in a smoother trail adventure.



The Fun in Fundraisers

With the WV Land Trust as our partner, we once again reimagined the Blue Jean Ball and held the Blue Jean Basket picnic at Camp Muffly. Our gathering had sunshine, great music, and delicious food as we raised funds for outdoor recreation projects in the Mon River Valley. The Spring Handmade Market which marks the national Celebrate Trails Day had its biggest attendance of art vendors and trail users and

the Up 'n' Down version of the Deckers Creek Trail Half-Marathon had runners celebrating National Trails Day. The MRTCentury Challenge returned for a 2nd successful year. Thank you to all who donated to our MRTC cyclists as they took on a 105-mile journey on the rail-trail in one day. Combined, these fundraisers and rail-trail days at Terra Café and Modern Homestead brought in over \$28,000 in unrestricted funding. Unrestricted funds help us match grants, fund emergency repairs, and keep the lights on. Thank you! to all that participated, volunteered, sponsored, and supported us at one or more 2022 rail-trail events.

More Amenities, Access, and Growth

A new weather shelter with a swing, a new art mural with a blackbird, and a new expanded trailhead at



Breakiron Road were created in 2022. Plus, our trail neighbors to the north, the Fayette County Commission, built another 1.5 miles to explore on the Sheepskin Trail, just north of Point Marion, PA. This brings us closer to our dream of 238 miles of connected rail-trail from Parkersburg, WV, to Pittsburgh, PA. **Learn more.**



A Well-Traveled Rail-Trail

MRTC has had an on-going trail-counting project with partners from the City of Morgantown, West Virginia University, the Rails to Trails Conservancy, and the Morgantown-Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization since 2014. Total annual trail traffic recorded at five locations with infrared counters has hit 400,000 for a third year in a row, up from roughly 350,000 per year in 2018 and 2019.

We could not have been so successful without the support of generous members and donors, energized partners, dedicated volunteers, and active West Virginia voters who rejected Amendment 2, which protected our levy funding. THANK YOU and HAPPY TRAILS!

Mon River Trails Conservancy

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The Board meets on the 1st Thursday of every month at 5:15 pm 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.



Monongahela River Trails Conservancy | PO Box 282, Morgantown, WV 26507

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