



Mon River Trails Conservancy

January 1, 2024

Goodbye 2023, Hello 2024
We wish you a happy and healthy 2024!

We have weathered the storms and enjoyed the blue skies of 2023, creating many trail memories. This past year was filled with behind-the-scenes work, fund-raising, and planning, which has set the table for a bountiful 2024. The year also was marked with a ribbon-cutting for a new neighborhood connection, a return of fun gatherings, and progress on some big, trail-building dreams thanks to the Fairmont City Council and the city planning and development staff.



Trail Improvements

Through Star City's 1.5 mile section of rail-trail, the ditches and culverts were upgraded to protect the trail during heavy rains and severe storms. This also has prepped the trail for a Recreational Trail Grant project to repave this section this coming Spring! The City of Morgantown funded and oversaw repaving on two sections of the Caperton Trail, one at mile 10 in the Wharf District and the other on mile 8 near 6th Street. Thank you to Morgantown staff and city council for your strong investment in keeping the rail-trails in good shape.



Collins Ferry Connection

A ribbon-cutting celebration officially opened the Collins Ferry Connector to trail use. Though it is less than a quarter mile, the Collins Ferry Connector has made trail access much easier to those living along Collins Ferry Road and the Suncrest neighborhood of Morgantown. Once part of the Pennsylvania, Morgantown, to Beverly Turnpike with a ferry crossing at the Mon River, it now returns as a transportation route for trail users to get on and off rail-trail near mile 4.5 of the Mon River Rail-Trail. A new trailhead and wayfinding signs further enhance this newest neighborhood connection.



More Land and Water Amenities and Progress on the P2P Vision

Volunteers built a new weather shelter at the trail near the Collins Ferry Connector, which later became the canvas for murals by local artist Eddie Spaghetti. A new Upper Mon Water Trail access point was built at Opekiska at the confluence of White Day and the Monongahela River. Thank you to the WV Division of Natural Resources, Army Corps of Engineers, Upper Mon River Association (UMRA), and Morgantown Area Paddlers (MAP) for your commitment and efforts to enhance and promote river recreation. Plus, more rail property has been purchased to fill the missing trail link between the Marion County Trail and the West Fork River

Trail, bringing us closer to our dream of 238 miles of connected rail-trail from Parkersburg, WV to Pittsburgh, PA. [Learn More](#)



Fun with Fundraisers

With our friends at the WV Land Trust, we co-hosted another wonderful Blue Jean Ball at Camp Muffly, raising funds for outdoor recreation projects in the Mon River Valley. The Spring Handmade Market brought art vendors and trail shoppers to the Wharf District to shop, craft, enjoy live music, and recognize Celebrate Trails Day with others across the United States. The MRTCentury Challenge returned for a third year, breaking records with over \$22,000 raised for rail-trail projects and maintenance. The Trail Fix and Feast gathering at Black Bear Burritos brought us together again for good food, fun, and fund-raising. All of these fundraisers are critically important, as 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 2023 rail-trail events!

A Rail-Trail Well-Traveled

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 fourth year in a row, up from roughly 350,000 per year in 2018 and 2019.

Thank you to our generous members and donors, energized partners, dedicated volunteers, and active voters that passed the Parks and Trails Levy in 2020. We will need your vote again in May of 2024 to renew this levy.

HAPPY NEW YEAR and HAPPY TRAILS!

Your copy should address 3 key questions: Who am I writing for? (A

Mon River Trails Coservancy

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Website- montrails.org

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.



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

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