

Executive Director's Report



I wanted to teach my pup Moxie to strike a "Thank you" pose. But her limbs don't work like humans', so we went with "High 5!" instead. (Her thanks are rapid tail wags, but they're too blurry in a still photo.)

Thank-yous and high-fives define the Land Trust's launch of 2022. As our staff planned for the year ahead, it was humbling and exciting to see the extent of our protected lands (totaling nearly 20,000 acres!) and 20 preserves in various stages of development for public benefit. It may appear that our staff of nine punches above its weight. I think that's true. And while we are a hard-

working, driven team, it may be less evident that we're backed up by a large community of volunteers, donors, partners, and advisers. This big group fuels and amplifies the Land Trust's work.

Take a look inside this newsletter at our planned hikes for 2022, and join us for one or more, if you can. Choosing which properties to feature was not easy, but we've selected a range from north to south, easy to challenging, developed vs "sneak peeks", and varied conservation values: wildlife habitats; recreation opportunities such as hiking, fishing, boating, and mountain biking; and cultural sites, across seven counties. There are many more places we'll want to introduce you to in the future, too.

In-person contacts with our community have really taken a hit during the pandemic, except at our outdoor spaces. Our fingers are crossed that 2022 will give us a chance to connect safely indoors again. There's amazing momentum for conservation of land in West Virginia, for many purposes, and if we all work together, more great things can happen.

Whether or not you can join us to hike, I hope you'll follow us on the web and social media, contact us with questions, advice, and suggestions, be an advocate for protecting West Virginia's beautiful lands and waters, and continue to support the West Virginia Land Trust. We all have more to do, together.

Thanks to all – and high-fives, all around!

Brent Bailey, Ph.D.
Executive Director



SNAP SHOTS
NEWSLETTER

WEST VIRGINIA
LAND TRUST

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2022 Events

Hiking Series

WVLT has protected 20+ properties designated to be nature preserves and we are working hard to open them to the public. Access, parking, signage, and trail work are underway. We are inviting you to visit these special places to get a firsthand view of our important work and how you can help!



More details can be found
on our website at

www.wvlandtrust.org/hikingseries.

MARCH 12

Yellow Creek Natural Area

(Tucker County) with Heart of the Highlands

APRIL 9

Shavers Fork Preserve

(Randolph County) with Trout Unlimited

MAY 14

Toms Run Preserve

(Monongalia County) with Mountaineer Audubon

JULY 16

Little Bluestone Community Forest

(Summers County)

AUGUST 20

Mammoth Preserve

(Kanawha County) with Appalachian Headwaters

SEPTEMBER 10

Camp Bartow

(Pocahontas County) with Pocahontas Parks

OCTOBER 8

Potts Creek

(Monroe County) with Friends of Hanging Rock

NOVEMBER 12

Piney Creek

(Raleigh County) with City of Beckley and Active Southern WV

While there is no charge for participating, registration is encouraged! You will receive an email with event details (meeting location, driving directions, packing list, etc.) roughly a week prior. If you have any questions in the meantime, feel free to email Jessica Spatafore at jessica@wvlandtrust.org. We look forward to seeing you in the woods!

MAY 21

Blue Jean Basket

Celebrate recreational green spaces on May 21, 2022, with a picnic, live music, and outdoor activities at Camp Muffy near Morgantown. This annual event is cohosted by Mon River Trails Conservancy and proceeds benefit a green space project in the Mon Valley. Tickets: \$50 per single ticket / \$75 per couple / \$5 per kid meal
Menu: Custom grilled cheese sandwich, soup, and a brownie from Cheese Louise of Morgantown

More details can be found on our website at
www.WVBlueJeanBall.org

**BLUE JEAN
BASKET**

OUTDOOR PICNIC

Grant partnerships power stewardship work at Yellow Creek Natural Area



Appalachian Stewardship Foundation



Have you heard the saying, “It takes a village”? Successful conservation projects often involve a lot of players, including grant makers who provide the funding to make things happen and volunteers who dedicate time and energy in the field. Last fall, WVLT was fortunate to have a “village” in Tucker County who helped us complete a big stewardship effort at Yellow Creek Natural Area. Funded by grants and powered with our partners’ energy, we restored streambanks and improved trails, benefiting creek-dwelling critters and people alike.

In November, WVLT partnered with Friends of Blackwater on a successful grant application to the AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) program for a trail crew to work in Tucker County. The group constructed trails at WVLT’s Yellow Creek Natural Area and improved outdoor spaces at cultural heritage sites near Thomas. The crew gained valuable workforce development skills and local communities and visitors will benefit from their work for years to come.

The Heart of the Highlands Trail System (HOH) also played (and plays) an essential role with trail improvements at Yellow Creek Natural Area. Working side-by-side with the NCCC trail crew, HOH volunteers skillfully constructed pathways on the Yellow Creek and Moon Rocks Trails and replaced a footbridge over Yellow Creek near an access point from the Little Canaan Wildlife Management Area. Special thanks to the Brooks Bird Club for funding the bridge!

In addition to the hard work completed by NCCC and HOH, WVLT worked with stream restoration experts from Big Hat Spider Hoe LLC to reduce erosion entering Yellow Creek and enhance streamside habitat. These efforts were funded by a grant from the Appalachian Stewardship Foundation to improve water quality in Yellow Creek. Big Hat Spider Hoe LLC’s experts reshaped eroding streambanks, reclaimed old roads, and planted native vegetation to reduce future erosion-- keeping the soil in the forest and out of the stream. Yellow Creek is a tributary to the Blackwater River and our work helps decrease sediment loads entering this waterway and the Cheat River further downstream-- benefitting aquatic organisms and communities dependent on these rivers as drinking water sources.

WVLT’s neighbors at Yellow Creek Natural Area are also part of our “village”. These private landowners granted permission to cross their property with heavy equipment and provided crews the access needed to complete our projects. We are very grateful for their understanding and support!

WVLT’s work will continue with new signs and more trail maintenance along Moon Rocks and Yellow Rocks Trails. Until then, watch your steps and use your maps!



Our Projects

- A Ohio River
- B Middle Island Creek
- C Monongahela River
- D Cheat River
- E Potomac River
- F Greenbrier River
- G Kanawha River
- H Elk River
- I New River

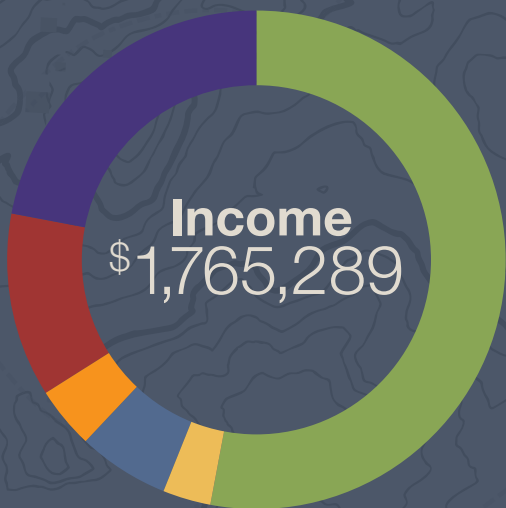


Grants Awarded in 2021

(awarded but not all received in 2021)

FUNDER	AMOUNT	PROJECT
Outdoor Heritage Conservation Fund	\$53,000	Chesapeake Conservancy's Partner Project at Moulton Farm
Appalachian Trail Conservancy	\$222,000	Little Bluestone Community Forest
US Forest Service (Community Forest)	\$192,000	Little Bluestone Community Forest
Outdoor Heritage Conservation Fund	\$92,000	Little Bluestone Community Forest
Outdoor Heritage Conservation Fund	\$25,000	Jenkinsburg Recreation & Natural Area
Walmart	\$1,000	Jenkinsburg Recreation & Natural Area
Appalachian Trail Conservancy	\$480,000	Mt Lake Wilderness/Crosier Branch Preserve
Americorps NCCC Trail Crew	7 Trail Crew	Yellow Creek Natural Area
The Center for Active WV at WVU	\$4,500	Yellow Creek Natural Area
Total	\$1,069,500	

2021 Financials



Income
\$1,765,289



Grants
\$932,610



Stewardship
\$71,333



Events
\$49,441



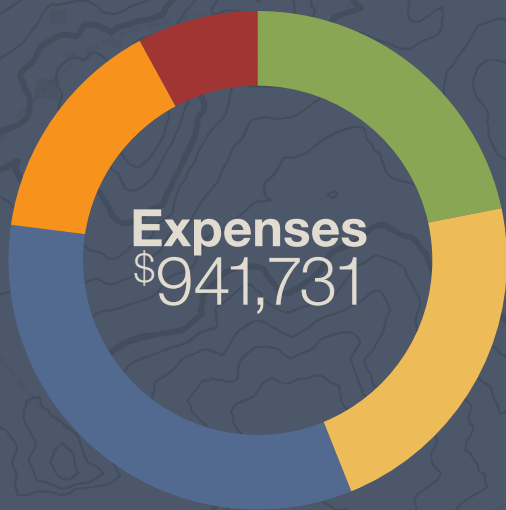
Investments
\$218,727



Annual Giving
\$106,812



Awards & Fines
\$386,363



Expenses
\$941,731



Land Protection
\$211,024



Administrative
\$144,525



Stewardship
\$209,658



Fundraising
\$70,581



Outreach & Education
\$305,941

Protected Rivers and Streams

130 Miles

Total Acres Protected

19,563

Acres of Protected Forest

12,480

Did you know

Forests sequester (store) carbon, also called “biomass”, as they grow. This carbon is stored in their trunks, branches, and leaves, as well as in their roots and in the dead organic matter in the soil. The more carbon that a forest stores as living and dead biomass, the less carbon dioxide in the atmosphere – helping to reduce or mitigate the impacts of climate change. At present, there is an excess of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, due primarily to the burning of fossil fuels.

Planning for the Unplanned

You have the ability to make a lasting impact through a planned gift. This type of charitable planning lets you protect West Virginia’s special places far into the future and offers tax incentives and other benefits.

How it Works:

Name the West Virginia Land Trust (WVLT) in your will, living trust, or as a beneficiary of your plans. You may designate your gift for a particular purpose that is important to you or allow us to use the gift where the need is greatest at the time it matures. You may also indicate a set amount (a percentage or the remaining balance) to benefit the WVLT. Your assets remain in your control during your lifetime and you can modify your gift at any time. Under current federal tax law there is no limit on the estate tax deduction for your charitable gifts. Please let us know if you have designated the WVLT in your will, so we can thank you while you are alive!

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Downstream Strategies
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Our Supporters*

In addition to our event sponsors and generous donors, the WVLT is grateful for major support from Appalachian Mountain Advocates, Sierra Club, WV Highlands Conservancy, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition, Coal River Mountain Watch, and West Virginia Rivers Coalition!

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Blackwater Bicycle Association

Boy Scouts of America

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Friends of the Cheat

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Heart of the Highlands Trail System

Mon Valley Green Space Coalition

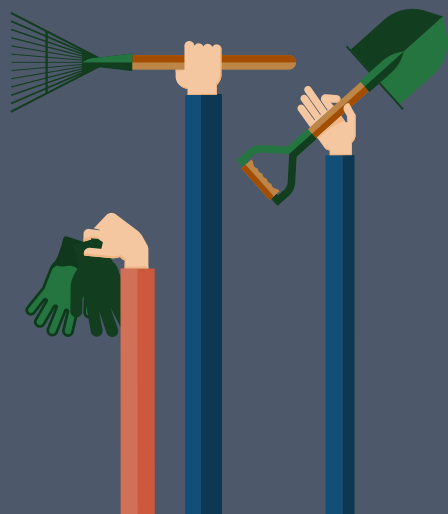
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US Fish and Wildlife Service



We love Our
Volunteers!

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22' Wooden
Footbridge built

530
Volunteer
Hours

130
Trees
Planted

1.8
Miles of
Trails Built

4
Forest Acres
Restored