



New River Gorge Trail Alliance Newsletter

3rd Quarter 2017

Great things are happening with trails in the New River Gorge Trail Alliance region. Please share this newsletter with people who support trail development and encourage them to join the NRGTA. Thank you to the people who contributed articles and photos for this issue. If you have information or pictures on trail projects in your area, please submit them to the NRGTA for our next newsletter. Your feedback on the newsletter and the Trail Alliance is welcome. Articles or comments can be submitted by emailing them to Bill Wells at bwells7027@gmail.com. Summer is a great time to experience one of the great trails in Southern West Virginia. Thank you for your support of trails and the New River Gorge Trail Alliance.

ARC Awards \$1.4 MM Grant to Region 4 for Trail Development. NRGTA to Manage Non-Construction Portion of Grant.

NRGTA is pleased to announce that the Appalachian Regional Commission has awarded a grant totaling \$1.4 million for the construction and maintenance of trails in Fayette and Nicholas Counties in West Virginia. The article below is a press release prepared by Grant Manager Billy Strasser.

Region 4 Announces \$1.4 Million ARC-POWER Grant

Region 4 Planning and Development Council is proud to announce that it has received a \$1 million Implementation grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) to build a regionally-connected bike trail system in Fayette and Nicholas counties. In addition to ARC's grant, the West Virginia Department of Transportation - Division of Highways is contributing approximately \$300,000, and local volunteer labor is providing an additional \$100,000 worth of in-kind contributions for a total of \$1.4 million.

This grant builds off a \$140,000 feasibility study previously received from ARC. Working in partnership with Region 4 and the WV Division of Highways, project leaders will spend the next two-and-a-half years designing and constructing a regional network of trails in the two counties.

"Our vision is to join together successful existing bike trails, such as the Tri-Rivers Trail, the Meadow River Trail, and the White Oak Trail, into a larger network of trails," said Bill Wells, president of the New

River Gorge Trail Alliance, one of the leading partners in the project. “We are happy that ARC saw the merits in our efforts to bring increased economic development, better health and wellness, and improved recreational opportunities to the region by building a network of trails.”

Besides the Appalachian Regional Commission, Region 4 Planning and Development Council, the WV Division of Highways, and the New River Gorge Trail Alliance, other project partners include Fayette and Nicholas County governments, Active Southern West Virginia, the National Park Service, the US Forest Service, West Virginia State Parks and Wildlife Management Areas, various city governments, and many private businesses including ACE Adventure Resort, Adventures on the Gorge, Cantrells Ultimate Rafting, and River Expeditions.

All bike users will find something to enjoy on these new trails, from family-friendly “connector” trails to more technical mountain bike trails in Fayette County’s Wolf Creek Park. In addition to the new trails built under this grant, several other bike trail projects are funded or “in the works” in the region, including two trails in Mount Hope (spearheaded by Active Southern West Virginia), several trails in Oak Hill and the new Needles Eye property (led by the City of Oak Hill), trails in the Gaines Estate and Fayetteville High School (led by the Town of Fayetteville), and improvements to the Narrow Gauge Trail in Babcock State Park.

“These are exciting times for trail users in our area,” said Andy Forron, owner of New River Bikes in Fayetteville and board member of the New River Gorge Trail Alliance. “Using this money to connect existing and future trails together will create a 500+ mile network of trails – one of the largest concentration of bike trails on the East Coast. Once this project is complete, I anticipate people will be traveling from all over the country to ride our trails.”

For more information about this grant, “like” the New River Gorge Trail Alliance at www.facebook.com/nrgta.

The NRGTA Board of Directors has formed a committee that will work with Grant Director Steve Jones and Billy Strasser on the oversight and management of grant activities. A Trail Maintenance Manager will be hired in a contract position for the 30 month duration of the grant. A job description and instructions for applying are below.

Trail Maintenance Program Manager

Job Description

Develop and implement a robust and sustainable trail maintenance program that supports the Southern West Virginia Bike Trail Network, being developed under a 30-month grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC); secure additional grant funding and other resources to supplement ARC funding; work with State, Federal and local governmental agencies to coordinate activities on managed land; work with the project manager to establish and coordinate volunteer trail maintenance efforts, including training; support project manager in communicating with partners and the public.

Position is under the general supervision of the ARC POWER+ Project Director.

Job duties include:

- Produce and Implement a successful trail maintenance program matched to local needs and opportunities
- Identify best practices in trail maintenance and disseminate to project partners
- Work with the project manager to establish and coordinate volunteer trail maintenance efforts
- Provide and/or coordinate training of volunteers, including trail maintenance principles and safe use of trail maintenance equipment
- Identify funding sources and prepare and submit grant applications
- Identify local sources of support for equipment, supplies, and volunteer incentives and manage procurement
- Identify and prioritize trail maintenance projects in collaboration with project leadership and land managers
- Develop plan for maintenance of equipment
- Prepare materials for and participate in project leadership meetings, including monthly reports
- Support project manager in completing quarterly progress reports
- Represent the Bike Trail Network project publicly as necessary

Qualifications

- Demonstrated success with obtaining grant funds for trail maintenance
- Experience with/working knowledge of trail maintenance
- Experience leading and/or coordinating activities of groups
- Ability to use basic trail maintenance equipment with understanding of basic safety
- Strong organizational skills
- Strong oral and written communication skills
- Good record-keeping skills
- Ability to interact with diverse public groups and State, Federal and local governmental agencies in an effective, collaborative manner
- Ability to work with competing priorities

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:

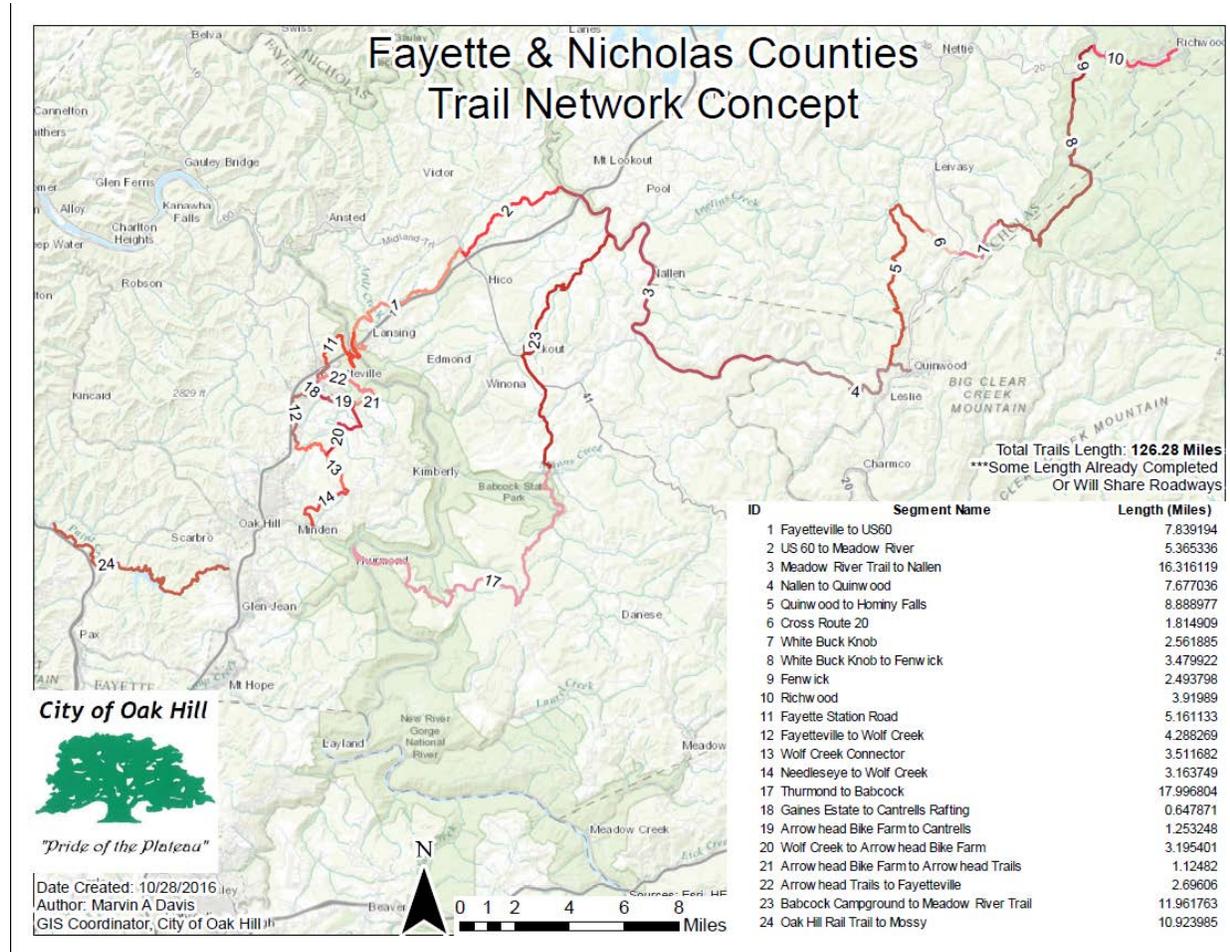
- 1) Ability to perform extended periods of physical labor including, but not limited to, walking, lifting, bending, pushing, pulling, sitting, and standing.
- 2) Heavy to moderate lifting and carrying of up to 50 lbs.
- 3) Ability to work in various weather conditions including sun, wind, rain and snow.
- 4) Distance vision and depth perception to perform the job safely.

Compensation

The position will be paid through a 30-month contract with the New River Gorge Trail Alliance (a 501(c)3 organization). Compensation will be \$3,750/month for 30 months of work. Must be willing to accept ARC process of payment (invoicing and reimbursement).

How to Apply

Interested candidates should send an email to brendakorte@gmail.com, including a cover letter detailing their interest and qualifications, a resume, and three (3) references.



Billy Strasser helping with Trail Maintenance in the Monongahela National Forest

West Virginia Connecting Communities to Hold Its 3rd Annual WV Bike Summit

West Virginia Connecting Communities is holding its 3rd Annual Bike Summit in Morgantown, WV on September 24 - 25. Join trail supporters throughout the state to network, exchange ideas and learn new ways to advance trail construction and biking in West Virginia. You can register by visiting WVCC's website at www.wvconnectingcommunities.com. A draft conference schedule is attached.

REGISTER NOW



Sunday, September 24 – Monday, September 25, 2017
Morgantown | Waterfront Place Hotel

Are you interested in:

- Learning how to make WV a cycling-friendly state?
- Meeting other cyclists and discovering new places to ride?
- Improving communication among cyclists, transportation officials, and policy makers?

Join us! September 24-25, 2017 in Morgantown

wvconnectingcommunities.com

Closed Section of the Greenbrier River Trail Reopens

The 11 mile section of the Greenbrier River Trail from Caldwell to Anthony that was closed due to flooding in June, 2016 has reopened. The slide that blocked the trail was 300 feet wide and 600 feet long. The slide was repaired by pushing the unstable material over an 800 foot section of trail, raising the trail elevation by 18 feet. The elevated trail section has given a scenic view of the river below that didn't exist before. Repairs were also made to 30 other sites that were damaged by flooding. The entire 78 mile trail is now open from Cass to Caldwell. Summers County NRGTA members have plans to create a share the road trail from Hinton to Alderson along the Greenbrier River. The goal is to eventually create a trail that will allow users to travel from Cass to Hinton where they will connect to two proposed trails: the Mary Ingles Trail connecting Hinton to the Virginia State line along the path of the abandoned Fayette, Giles and Kanawha Turnpike and the New River Trail connecting Hinton to Gauley Bridge along the New River.

Boy Scouts and Fayetteville Rotary Club Donate Park Benches For Fayetteville Recreation Trail

Micah Bates, an Eagle Scout candidate of Fayetteville Boy Scout Troop 179 completed his Eagle Scout project by designing and building a bird watching station on the proposed Fayetteville Recreation Trail. The station includes a park bench, a bird feeder and bird houses. Micah keeps the bird feeder full to attract birds to the station. The Fayetteville Rotary Club used Micah's bench design to construct two additional benches along the proposed trail route. John Daniel Franklin, another Eagle Scout Candidate from Fayetteville is working on his Eagle Project to install two additional benches and a trail kiosk. Terradon Engineering has met with the WVDOH several times to define the project scope and to negotiate a design contract for the Fayetteville Trail. Thank you to Micah Bates, John Daniel Franklin and the Fayetteville Rotary Club for supporting the Fayetteville Recreation Trail. The Fayetteville Rotary Club is a member of the NRGTA.



Park Bench Donated by the Fayetteville Rotary Club

Trail System Proposed for Wolf Creek Industrial Park Property

A new 10-20 mile system of recreational trails is being planned for Wolf Creek Park. Wolf Creek Park is a 1,000 acre mixed-use business park located on Route 16 between Fayetteville and Oak Hill. Owned and managed by the Fayette County Urban Renewal Authority, Wolf Creek Park aims to combine business and residential development in a beautiful natural setting offering recreational, educational, and conservation opportunities. The planned trail system will connect developed areas in the park to offer residents and employees a convenient way to get around the park or get some exercise and fresh air on their lunch break. The trail system will also be open to area residents and tourists looking for a new adventure recreation opportunity.

The 3.5 mile Wolf Creek Connector trail is a key feature of the trail system and will be constructed first. This trail will traverse Wolf Creek Park north to south, serving as the backbone for the rest of the trail system. The connector trail will be instrumental in advancing the Southern West Virginia Bike Trail Network, a regional trail project led by the New River Gorge Trail Alliance and funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission's Power+ program. The Wolf Creek Connector trail will be part of this network, providing trail network users an off-road route to travel between Fayetteville and Oak Hill. Currently, in order to bike from Fayetteville to Oak Hill, one must travel either Gatewood Rd. or the shoulder of Rte. 19. These routes both have heavy vehicle traffic and are not very safe for bikes. The Wolf Creek Connector trail will eliminate nearly all the road-way biking required to get from Fayetteville to Oak Hill, and will offer a much safer alternative and more pleasant experience.

Later phases of the project will expand out from the connector trail to create a free, public, non-motorized, multi-modal, and diverse trail system that will offer trails for every level of biker and hiker while connecting residential developments to businesses located in the park. Funding for design and construction of the Wolf Creek Connector, along with an additional ten miles of trail, is being provided by the New River Gorge Trail Alliance through their ARC Power grant. The Fayette County Urban Renewal Authority is currently seeking funding to design and construct the remainder of the trail system. For more information, please contact Kelly Jo Drey, Fayette County Resource Coordinator, at 304-574-4258 or kelly.j.drey@wv.gov

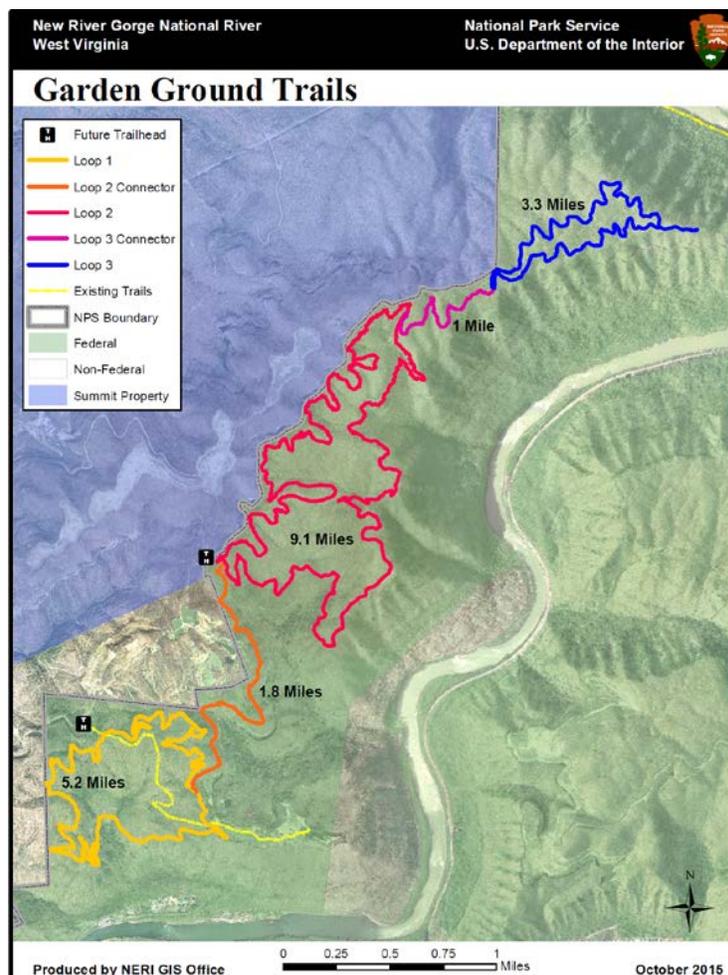
Summit Bechtel Reserve Bike Trails Will Open to NRBU Members in September

The New River Bicycle Union (NRBU) has joined the Summit Bechtel Reserve (SBR) to open their recreation trails to members of NRBU beginning this fall. That means, anyone who is a member of NRBU can start riding trails at the Summit on Sept 1, 2017. The public can join NRBU online and pickup their membership cards at NRBU meetings, New River Bikes, Marathon Bikes or Arrowhead Bike Farm. More info can be found at <http://www.newriverbicycleunion.org/sbr-partnership>.

There's also a recent article about Fayetteville, the Summit and the partnership here, <https://www.pinkbike.com/u/briceshirbach/blog/fayetteville-dreaming.html>.

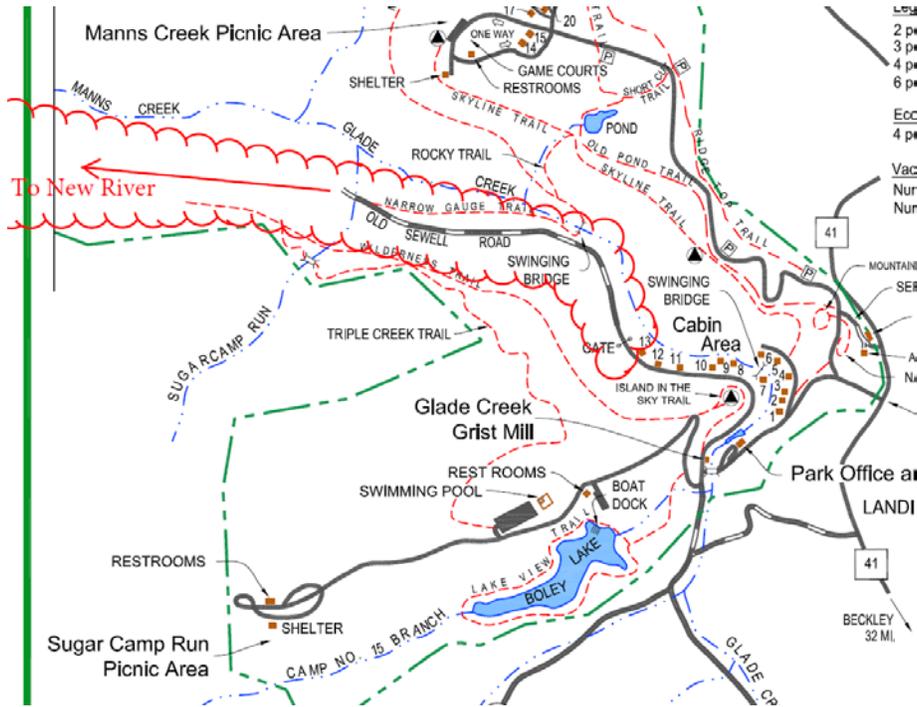
Work Continues on Garden Ground Stacked Loop Trail System

The BSA Order of the Arrow Summit Experience worked on the Garden Ground Trails in the New River Gorge National Park for 5 weeks this spring and summer. They completed 4255 feet (.81 mile) of trail, which is a record for the program. The quantity of feet is namely due to the change in terrain at the trail section, plus the hard work of the Order of the Arrow participants and staff. The Order of the Arrow estimates that it will take 3-4 summers to complete the bottom of Loop 1.



Trail Upgrade Planned for Babcock State Park

Terradon Engineering is working with Babcock State Park on the design of a trail upgrade of the old Sewell Road from the Gristmill to the New River. The upgraded trail will connect the Babcock trail system to trails in the New River Gorge National Park. The proposed trail project is 4.5 miles long and drops in elevation from 2,000 feet to 1,200 feet. The trail will be 10 feet wide with a packed gravel surface.



Old Sewell Road Trail

City of Montgomery to Build 1.5 Mile Trail Along Kanawha River

Mayor Greg Ingram reports that the City of Montgomery has opened a trail on the Route 60 side of the river from the Montgomery Bridge to the Montgomery Marina (London House). The trail will be 1.5 miles in length. The City is currently mowing the trail's grass surface and will be applying for a grant for a gravel or paved surface.



Photo of the Proposed Trail Route in Montgomery

Welcome New Members

The NRGTA is continuing our membership drive to expand our organization to include individuals, families, corporations, non-profits and government entities. A copy of the membership application is attached. Instructions for joining are on the application. Please encourage your friends and organizations that you work with to join. Membership fees will be used to fund the daily operations of NRGTA and for matching funds for grant applications. Membership fees and donations are tax deductible. Recent new members who have joined the NRGTA are listed below.

Individual Memberships

Robert Irons

Sinks Grove, WV

Family Memberships

Greg and Beth Gill

Rainelle, WV

Ray and Connie Moeller

Summersville, WV

Kevin and Connie Rock

Fayetteville, WV

David and Myra Ziegler

Hinton, WV

Corporate Memberships

Bridge Brew Works

Fayetteville, WV

Government/Non-Profit Memberships

Town of Fayetteville

Fayetteville, WV

City of Montgomery

Montgomery, WV

General Membership Meeting Update

General membership meetings were held at Pipestem State Park on May. The Board of Directors meetings are held at 4:30 PM followed by the general membership meeting at 6:00 PM. The general membership meetings are open to the public. Please encourage trail supporters that you know to attend. If you want to put a topic on the agenda, please email a description of the topic to bwells7027@gmail.com.

Future Meetings

September 26, 2017	Fayette County	Adventures on the Gorge, Lansing, WV
November, 2017	Kanawha County	Date and Time to be Determined
January, 2018	Nicholas County	Date and Time to be Determined
March, 2018	Greenbrier County	Date and Time to be Determined
May, 2018	Summers County	Date and Time to be Determined
July, 2018	Raleigh County	Date and Time to be Determined

Contact the NRGTA

You can contact the NRGTA through our Facebook page NRGTA or by emailing Bill Wells at bwells7027@gmail.com.

Trail Photo Contest

The NRGTA is conducting a trail photo contest! Send us your best trail photo in the NRGTA Area and include the location. We will publish the best photos and recognize the photographer in future issues of the New River Gorge Trail Alliance Quarterly Newsletter. Help us showcase the beautiful trails in our region that make our area a top hiking and biking destination. This quarter's winning photos can be seen at the end of the newsletter.

Thanks to our Corporate Members!

These companies are supporting trail development in our area by being members of the New River Gorge Trail Alliance and in many cases by donating right of ways for trail construction. Please support NRGTA's corporate members by giving them your business.

New River Bikes – Bike Sales, Rentals and Service

Fayetteville, WV

304-619-5966

andy@newriverbikes.com

<http://www.newriverbikes.com/>

Mountain Vacation Properties – Vacation Rentals

Fayetteville, WV

304-382-7509

bwells7027@gmail.com

<http://www.newrivermvp.com/>

Wild Rock WV – Real Estate Sales, Vacation Rentals

Lansing, WV

877-959-6650

info@wildrockwv.com

<http://wildrockwv.com/>

ACE Adventure Resort – Outdoor Adventure Outfitter, Lodging, Restaurant

Minden, WV

800-787-3982

ace@aceraft.com

<https://aceraft.com/>

Opossum Creek Retreat – Cabin Rentals

Lansing, WV

(304) 574-4836

retreat@opossumcreek.com

<https://www.opossumcreek.com/>

Bridge Brew Works, LLC

Fayetteville, WV

(304) 282-2201

bridgebrewworks@gmail.com

<https://www.bridgebrewworks.com>