



**M O U N T A I N
W A T E R S H E D
A S S O C I A T I O N**

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

*PROTECTING, PRESERVING, AND RESTORING
THE YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER WATERSHED AND
ITS BROADER COMMUNITIES SINCE 1994*

Photo: Colleen O'Neil

MOUNTAIN WATERSHED ASSOCIATION IS A NONPROFIT 501 (C)(3) ORGANIZATION WITH THE MISSION TO PROTECT, PRESERVE, AND RESTORE THE YOUGHIOGHENY RIVER WATERSHED AND ITS BROADER COMMUNITIES.

OUR HISTORY

Like many grassroots groups, Mountain Watershed Association began its life around a kitchen table. The organization was founded in 1994 to oppose an underground coal mine proposal in the Indian Creek watershed. MWA's input and organized opposition resulted in the denial of the permit. Since then, we've continued fighting for the well-being of the Youghiogheny River watershed and all of the communities that rely on it.



OUR WORK

Our organization is unique in that we pursue on-the-ground restoration of historic environmental damages while we advocate to protect the watershed from new sources of pollution, primarily caused by fossil fuel development. MWA aims to empower communities, both locally and downstream, to transition towards sustainable, resilient, equitable economies and healthy environments where all beings can thrive.

WE STRIVE TOWARD A WORLD WHERE WE ALL ACT AS IF WHAT AFFECTS ONE OF US AFFECTS ALL OF US, BECAUSE THAT'S HOW WATERSHEDS WORK.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

As I reflect on Mountain Watershed Association's work in 2024, the first image that comes to mind is the strong web of support our Board, staff, volunteers, and supporters have woven over the past three decades.

For me, this web's importance resonates because of how our community stayed strong to support each other amidst times of loss and change. This year, links of the web were severed after the passing of cherished members, and its foundations were tested through uncertain times, including one of the worst droughts our watershed has experienced in decades.



Still, our work moved forward. We came together to grieve and to celebrate lives lost. We tended to our abandoned mine treatment systems, which continue to restore 70% of Indian Creek - a public water supply thousands depend upon. We tested the water quality of roadside springs, which serve as critical water sources for those without public access. We advocated for individuals who lost their wells or springs as a result of extractive industries in their backyards. We protected our rivers, streams, and aquifers from further contamination by preventing new developments that threaten the health of our watershed.

All of this work moved forward through our web connections in the Youghiogheny River watershed and broader Ohio Valley region - and we continue weaving that web every day.

To each and every one of our supporters who made the successes of 2024 possible - thank you.

Ashley Funk
Executive Director

2024 IMPACT QUICK FACTS

\$25k

Raised during our 16th annual
Yough Defense Party

\$83.4k

Disbursed to grassroots environmental
organizations through the Direct Support Fund

10.2k

Hikers and cyclists accessed the ICV trail at the
Showtime Memorial Trailhead

7,288

People learned about nature and recreation
with MWA staff and volunteers in 2024

2,232

Hours volunteered at MWA events, plus help
with water sampling, data collection, and more!

1,167

Water samples analyzed for fecal monitoring,
swimmable waters, roadside springs, and
treatment system sampling

582

Total acres MWA currently protects in the
Youghiogheny watershed

150

Doors knocked during canvassing efforts

51

Community meetings held to support clean air
and water for Youghiogheny residents

6

Open house events hosted at the MWA office

1.1

New miles of access granted for future
development of the Indian Creek Valley Trail

OUR TEAM

WHAT DO WE DO?

Administration

Conservation

Advocacy

Outreach



Ashley Funk
Executive Director



Alicia Jade Martin
Director of Operations



Carla Ruddock
Director of Conservation



Melissa Marshall
Managing Attorney



Hannah Spencer
Program Development Manager



Stacey Magda
Organizing Manager



Eric Harder
Youghiogheny Riverkeeper



Sarah Thomas
Community Advocate



Em Hough
Community Organizer



Nate Ricketts
Community Organizer



Taylor Robbins
Conservation & Recreation Manager



Keith Terney
Land Steward



Chantelle Hutchens
Watershed Specialist



Sarah Anthony
Conservation Fellow



Lindsey Waugaman
Education & Outreach Coordinator



Colleen O'Neil
Communications Specialist

CONSERVATION



Sarah, Keith, and Taylor surveying Rasler Run.

PLANNING FOR RESPONSIBLE RECREATION ALONG RASLER RUN

In 2023, MWA acquired nearly 200 acres of heavily forested land to conserve. The property borders both Indian Creek and Rasler Run. The following year, we acquired 55 adjacent acres, bringing the total acreage to 241 acres. This beautiful parcel will become the Rasler Run Nature Reserve.

Rasler Run, a tributary to Indian Creek, is designated as a high-quality, coldwater fishery and a Class A Wild Trout Stream. A large part of the property is also designated as a Natural Heritage Area by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy for its exceptional ecological diversity.

Our goal is to conserve this area's high ecological diversity, while also welcoming the community for recreational activities such as fishing, hiking, and primitive camping.

To bring this vision to life, MWA is in the preliminary stages of conducting biological surveys, developing a management plan for the property, and creating public access to the property. We recently received grant funding to flag hiking trails, build a parking lot, and install a kiosk in 2025.

Last summer, the conservation team hiked into the property to measure and assess a 19-acre stand of hemlock trees near Indian Creek.



Taylor measures a hemlock tree near Rasler Run.

They measured over 150 hemlock trees on the property that were infested with hemlock woolly adelgid. This invasive, aphid-like insect feeds on North American hemlocks, eventually causing them to die. These native trees are a top priority, and we plan to work with local partners to treat -- and hopefully heal -- the hemlocks in 2025.

In the next couple years, we're excited to make the Rasler Run Nature Reserve into a place where our community can learn, recreate, and connect with the plants and animals of the Youghiogheny River watershed.

Would you like to donate land or mineral rights? Contact Taylor@mtwatershed.com!

BIODIVERSITY



Keith looks for stream bugs in Rasler Run.

HELLBENDERS AND STREAM BUGS: THE LITTLE THINGS MATTER

Throughout the year, MWA samples streams and creeks in the Youghiogheny River watershed to figure out if the water is healthy.

This year, we looked for macroinvertebrates (water bugs) and hellbender salamanders. “Macros,” as we call them for short, are critters without a backbone that spend at least part of their lives in the water and are big enough to see without a microscope.

Monitoring these tiny creatures helps us see changes in water quality throughout our watershed. (Essentially, fewer bugs = less healthy water. More bugs = water that’s getting healthier.) We’ve increased our sampling efforts to get a better overview of the watershed as a whole.

For the past several years, we’ve also been working with biologists at the Western PA Conservancy to look for eastern hellbender salamanders in the Youghiogheny River watershed.

The hellbender, which is North America’s largest salamander, is a key “indicator” species. They can only live in swift running, well-oxygenated, unpolluted streams and rivers, so the presence of hellbenders can be used to “indicate” clean water. (We like them so much that we even named a beer after them in our fundraising collaborating with Unity Brewing!)

Like many wild things, the hellbender’s habitat is in trouble. As humans develop land and pollute water, there are fewer clean



Hellbender Hazy IPA, MWA’s fundraising beer collaboration with Unity Brewing.

streams for these slimy creatures to live. Recent data from the US Fish & Wildlife Service indicate only 59% of these populations remain. Only 12% of these populations are stable.

In December 2024, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a proposal to list the eastern hellbender as an endangered species throughout its range under the Endangered Species Act.

This is a key step in protecting one the hellbender, a truly special species in our watershed and Appalachia as a whole.

RESTORATION



Aerial view of MWA's Kalp Treatment System in Melcroft.

A DAY IN THE LIFE: MONITORING ABANDONED MINE DRAINAGE

BY CHANTELE HUTCHENS,
WATERSHED SPECIALIST

The air is crisp and fresh, the sun has just started to peek out of the foggy mountains. The office is quiet, but not for long. It's an early morning at Mountain Watershed Association, and today I'm headed to sample one of our treatment systems.

I grab maps and schematics of the treatment system, record sheets for the labs, a clipboard, markers, and pencils. Then I head to the lab.

The lab has a unique smell to it - hundreds of stream bugs bathing in 70% ethanol don't smell great. I ignore the smell and grab my sample containers.

There are pre-packaged bottles for Geochemical testing, but I have to prepare the bottles tested by the PA DEP.

I label and mark the DEP bottles, then add the preservative. Counting carefully, I add drops of hydrochloric acid into one set of bottles and nitric acid to another set.

These acids prevent heavy metals from "falling out of solution" or precipitating before the sample can be analyzed in the lab. The presence of heavy metals is the calling card of abandoned mine drainage -- the stuff that stains water and creek beds orange and destroys aquatic life.

I arrange my bottles in coolers, grab a 5-gallon bucket, the "bottle-on-a-stick" (our preferred sampling device), a coworker, and my clipboard before making my way to the MWA work truck (which is electric!).

Our treatment systems are a series of small

ponds that connect to each other via a system of underground pipes. They remind me of a set of giant, orange mud puddles. Each pond serves a purpose and helps to treat the mine drainage that would otherwise pollute our streams.

When we arrive, I park the truck and we head to our sampling site for the day.

I hold my bottle-on-a-stick under an orange-stained PVC pipe poking out from the ground. I rinse the collection bottle a couple times, then fill my prepared sample bottles. I hold my breath. Any spills could make the acid leak out and compromise the sample - or spill acid on my hands.

A lone goose hiding in the brush gives me a side-eye as I grab my bucket to get the flow

reading. I crouch over the pipe, holding the bucket as my coworker starts a timer. We use this number to figure out how much water is flowing through the system.

We make our way around the ponds taking samples, checking flows, and taking note of any built up brush and clogged pipes. I notice the dry stalks of the once vibrant wildflowers that are reclaiming the site. They were mesmerizing in the fall, swaying in the wind like something out of a storybook.

I stop to look toward the stream that the treatment system is protecting. Thanks to our work, the cold current of the stream flows along, clear and steady, where it once was rust-orange. I'm proud to be protecting this water.

RECREATION



\$13,000

We had the best turnout yet for the Indian Creek Golf Scramble, raising nearly \$13,000 for the Indian Creek Valley Trail! **Come golf on Friday, June 6 at Donegal Highlands Golf Course!**

1.1 MILES OF NEW ICV TRAIL ACCESS

In August, the Randell E. Nicholson Irrevocable Trust signed a trail easement agreement with Mountain Watershed Association. The easement allows the non-profit to build a 1.1-mile section of the Indian Creek Valley Trail. MWA is one step closer to completing the 19-mile rail-trail that runs from Jones Mills to the Youghiogheny River!

The newest 1.1-mile section starts at Whites Bridge along Route 653 in Springfield Township and follows Indian Creek to the south. Before opening this section to the public, MWA will raise funds to resurface the trail to make it safe for walking and cycling.

MWA is still seeking landowner permission to finish the final mile of unimproved trail. Once the gaps are closed, the Indian Creek Valley will have a continuous trail to safely walk or bike from Donegal to the Youghiogheny River in Mill Run. Then, we hope to connect the ICVT to the Great Allegheny Passage trail, which runs from Pittsburgh to Washington D.C.!

NEW TRAIL MAP AVAILABLE!



Thanks to grant funding from our partners at GO Laurel Highlands, MWA designed and printed a new map of the Indian Creek Valley Trail. The map now shows newly opened sections and local points of interest!

Check out the new map at
mtwatershed.com/indian-creek-valley-trail

GORGE WASHOUT REPAIRED!

In 2019, a strong storm washed away a piece of the Indian Creek Valley Trail in the "gorge" section, about a mile downstream of the Indian Creek Reservoir. Since then, MWA has been fundraising to repair the damage.

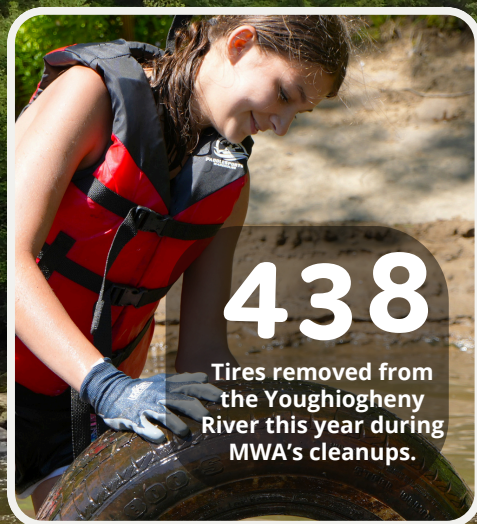
Thanks to construction help from Doug Show and our engineering team, the washout is finally repaired! We've built up two washed out areas, installed new drainage and resurfaced the trail.

RUN FOR FUN!

On April 19, 2025 we're hosting a fun run in the Gorge! Run or walk at your own pace - this event will be self-timed and non-competitive.

Learn more and sign up:
mtwatershed.com/events

CAMPAIGNS



The Youghiogheny River and old-growth hemlock trees at Swallow Falls State Park.

RIVERKEEPER'S REPORT

BY ERIC HARDER, YOUGHIOGHGENY RIVERKEEPER

Riverkeepers monitor waterways to find and address any sources of pollution. Here are just a few initiatives our Youghiogheny Riverkeeper is working on the protect and defend the Yough.

(1) **"Emerging contaminants"** is a term used for new or lesser known pollutants. Tires are a new source of an emerging contaminant called 6PPD. When tires break down, they leave tiny bits of rubber, which degrade over time through exposure to sun, ozone, and water. The interaction between 6PPD and ozone creates "6PPD quinone," which has been found to cause fish kills in the Pacific northwest, specifically of salmon.

This is a cause for concern in the Yough watershed, as our beloved native brook trout is a member of the salmon family, *Salmonidae*. We believe 6PPD is entering our waters through stormwater runoff, an issue that must be addressed. Stay tuned for updates and legislative updates that will hopefully address this issue with a swift course of action.

(2) **Hemlock trees** are a treasured tree species known for their ability to shade and protect the banks of our cold and clean creeks and streams. Many of the remaining old growth trees, a status determined by tree size and age, in our watershed are hemlocks! These trees are the reason we're opposed to an ongoing proposal to re-align a bridge near Swallow Falls.

County Commissioners in Garrett County, Maryland believe the most economical way to fix the bridge is to reroute and widen the road. But doing so would destroy sensitive biological and cultural resources. The project would remove 18% of the remaining Old Growths from the Youghiogheny Grove Site at Swallow Falls State Park.

Garrett County wants to use federal funding for the project, which has many requirements regarding environmental assessments. So far, they've been successful in finding work-arounds for many of these requirements, but we're still working with local groups to oppose the project.

(3) **Plastic manufacturing** sites exist throughout our region. These facilities are common locations for plastic pellets (nurdles) to be lost into the environment and eventually our waterways.

We've filed many complaints when we've discovered plastic spills along transport and transfer sites. (One inspector noted seeing thousands below a dumpster that had escaped the waste container.) We hope to see regulatory changes to outline the specific environmental laws that are being broken so we can properly file complaints and see efficient enforcement.

We are still partnering with our Waterkeeper organization to the north, 3 Rivers Waterkeeper, to monitor the Shell Ethane Cracker plant in Beaver, PA to monitor their pellet producing project. Together, we will continue to do so to ensure their facility is in compliance with their permit.

HAZARDOUS WASTE



Community members and MWA spoke at a press conference in Yukon after April 2024 EPA consent order.

FIGHTING TOXIC WASTE IN YUKON, PA

It's been a big year for MAX Environmental. This longtime polluter is yet again under scrutiny from state and federal agencies for failures to comply with its permit.

MAX Environmental's Yukon landfill is permitted to accept and treat hazardous and toxic materials from construction, manufacturing, oil and gas production, and more – all literally in peoples' backyards.

Since it opened as Mill Service in 1963, the landfill has built a long history of permit violations, failed site inspections, and consent orders from regulators.

Between 2002 and 2012, the PA DEP documented over 105 violations at MAX, including improper hazardous waste handling, illegal dumping, and leaking containment systems.

In response, the EPA issued two consent orders in April and September 2024, citing failure to

contain waste, inadequate monitoring, insufficient staff training, and non-compliance with waste treatment standards. Community members and MWA organized a press conference to address the serious repercussions of these problems.

Later, a petition with over 550 signatures led to an EPA listening session in October 2024, where residents reported serious health issues and impacts to daily life.

They expressed concerns about environmental degradation impacting recreation, as the landfill's outfall pipe discharges directly into Sewickley Creek.

Earlier, in March 2024, MWA collaborated with Sewickley Township on the first public notification of the facility's discharges (chemicals like arsenic,

cadmium, and hexavalent chromium). Two bright orange signs now stand by the creek, warning people who are fishing or paddling there about hazardous pollution that could enter the water.

As this situation evolves, MWA will continue to stand with the community, demand more transparency from regulators, and seek justice for Yukon.

LEARN MORE!

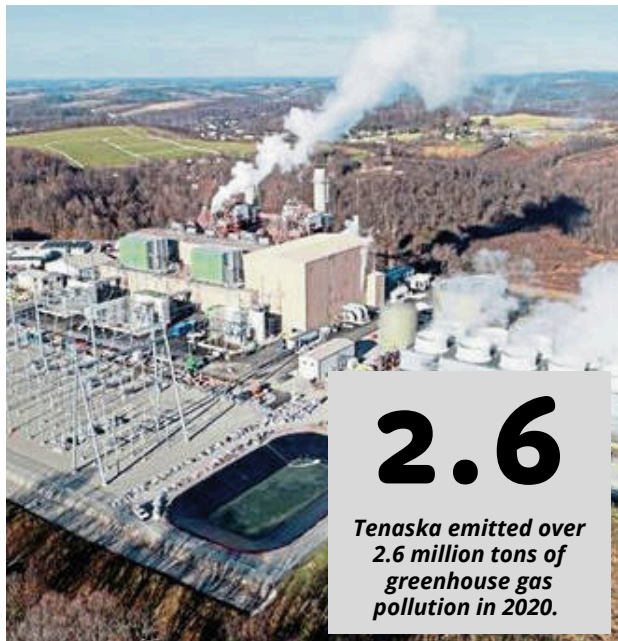


MTWATERSHED.COM

OIL & GAS DEVELOPMENT

WESTMORELAND POWER STATION ONE OF PA'S "DIRTY DOZEN"

Tenaska Generating Station, located in Westmoreland County, was named one of Pennsylvania's top 12 polluters by a 2023 PennEnvironment study.



This gas-fired power plant sits right behind the Pittsburgh Renaissance Festival. It's been operating without a Title V permit for air pollution since at least 2018. Instead, the facility has been operating under a patchwork of temporary permits that fail to evaluate its total impact.

In July 2024, DEP received Tenaska's draft Title V permit. There is an 18-month review process, most likely with an opportunity for public comment in 2025. Final permit issuance is expected in 2026.

MWA has been active in the community around the power plant, informing residents about the impending permit renewal and helping to organize public participation. We're organizing a series of public meetings for the West Newton area community.

GET INVOLVED BY CONTACTING EM HOUGH, EM@MTWATERSHED.COM

NEW INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENTS

TAKING FAST ACTION AGAINST INJECTION WELLS

In July 2023, a company called G2 STEM proposed to repurpose a conventional gas well in Nicholson Township. G2 STEM wanted to pump fracking wastewater, which often contains heavy metals, PFAS chemicals (toxic, man-made compounds used in everyday products), and radioactive materials, back into the hole left by the drilling that produced it. The site was just hundreds of feet from nearby homes, a quarter mile from abandoned underground mining operations, and adjacent to a tributary to the Monongahela River.

EPA hosted a virtual public hearing on the proposed injection well. More than 100 residents from Nicholson Township gathered in a nearby church, all demanding that the EPA not issue the permit to G2 STEM. MWA worked with partner organizations to submit comments on the proposed development. Following the hearing, MWA organized two additional town halls that had large community attendance.

Within months, G2 STEM withdrew their proposal. Shortly after, the Fayette County Commissioners proposed an ordinance restricting injection wells in the county.

With an additional request from MWA to increase the injection well distance from 500 feet to 2500 feet, on March 21, 2024, Fayette County Commissioners voted unanimously to protect the health and welfare of Fayette County residents by restricting oil and gas wastewater injection well development. By doing so, this ordinance protects homes and water supplies in Fayette County.

COAL MINING

WAITING ON PETITION APPEAL

On March 22, 2024, MWA filed a lawsuit challenging the Department of Environmental Protection's rejection of our "Unsuitable for Mining" Petition, which could protect 11,000 acres of Laurel Highlands from surface mining.

After reviewing the Petition, DEP deemed it "frivolous," claiming the petition only listed impacts from underground mining and not surface mining, as is required.

However, the standards also allow for the DEP to consider impacts from surface activities connected with underground mining. MWA included a lengthy hydrogeology report, which repeatedly referred to these types of impacts, such as the pumping, treating, and discharging of mine water into Jacobs Creek.

Our legal team quickly filed an appeal of DEP's "frivolous" ruling. That appeal process is underway, and our team is currently responding to discovery and deposition requests.



Board member Jeri Lowe shows support for MWA's campaign at the DEP public hearing

BIG TURNOUT AT DEP PUBLIC HEARING

In August, PA DEP held a public hearing on LCT Energy's Rustic Ridge I water discharge permit renewal. Almost two dozen Donegal-area residents and environmental activists spoke, including MWA. We urged state regulators to reject the renewal. About 70 people attended the two-hour hearing, and none spoke in favor of the DEP renewing the permit.

MWA WEIGHS IN ON TURNPIKE REALIGNMENT



Part of the hillside that could be destroyed by the turnpike realignment.

Local groups are strongly opposed to the PA Turnpike Commission plans to renovate the roadway through Somerset County's Allegheny Mountain. The project proposal involves eliminating the tunnel by cutting a new roadway through the top of the mountain. MWA joined local group Citizens to Save the Allegheny Mountain to address the issue last fall.

The PTC says it needs to update the Allegheny Mountain Tunnel passageway, as it hasn't been refurbished since the 1960s. The Commission believes realigning the road and adding more lanes will make the road safer and ease congestion. But there are serious ramifications to slicing a new road through Allegheny Mountain.

Cutting a new road through the mountain could pose a serious risk to the natural environment, impact wildlife and sensitive headwaters, and scar the scenic landscape.

For more information, visit:
savealleghenymountain.com

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Piper and Nettie having a blast with fish printing at Family Field Day.

7,288

We've reached 7,288 people in 2024 over the course of 122 education, outreach, and volunteering events.

NEW MATERIALS & EXPERIENCES FOR EDUCATORS & CLUBS!

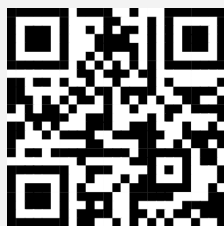
With increasing interest in teaching kids about nature, our Outreach and Education Coordinator, Lindsey, has created an awesome set of resources for classrooms, homeschool educators, clubs, and more.

Now MWA can bring a naturalist into your classroom to help your students understand nature, take your scouts on a nature hike, teach an interactive, after-school program, or partner with your homeschool cohort to play in nature! Thanks to funding from the DEP Environmental Education Grant and PA Fish and Boat R3 Grant, our educators can facilitate these experiences for free!

Additionally, we can also help develop recreation and service learning activities for clubs and groups of all ages. We'll help you get active in the Youghiogheny River watershed through paddling days, fishing lessons, river cleanups, guided hikes, and more.

**LEARN ABOUT
NATURE WITH
MWA!**

*Scan this code to access
our program guide, or to
schedule an event with our
educators!*



**MTWATERSHED.COM/
EDUCATION**

SAVE THE DATE



FAMILY FIELD DAY - JUNE 28

Laurel Hill State Park, Somerset PA



**INDIAN CREEK WATERSHED
FESTIVAL - SEPT 20**

CW Resh Memorial Park, Indian Head PA

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Learning to fly fish at Laurel Hill State Park.

MWA HOSTS WOMEN'S FLY FISHING CLINIC

In partnership with Trout Unlimited and Silver Hen Fly Fishing, MWA hosted our first inclusive fly fishing clinic at Laurel Hill State Park. In one instruction-packed day, a dozen students learned about fly fishing and fly tying basics from our qualified volunteers!

WE STILL PARTY IN THE SNOW!

Although winter showed up a little bit early for the Yough Defense Party, our community still rallied to raise over \$25,000 for the Yough Defense Fund! ***Fun fact: the outdoor section of the party was powered entirely by our Ford Lightning F-150!***



COLLABORATING WITH PURPLE LIZARD ON NEW MAP



Muddy Creek Falls at Swallow Falls State Park

This year, MWA and Purple Lizard Maps collaborated on a new map of the Deep Creek Lake and Western Maryland area!

This map offers insight on the headwaters area of the Youghiogheny River watershed, which is famous for whitewater recreation, camping and hiking, rare native plants and animals, and scenic beauty.

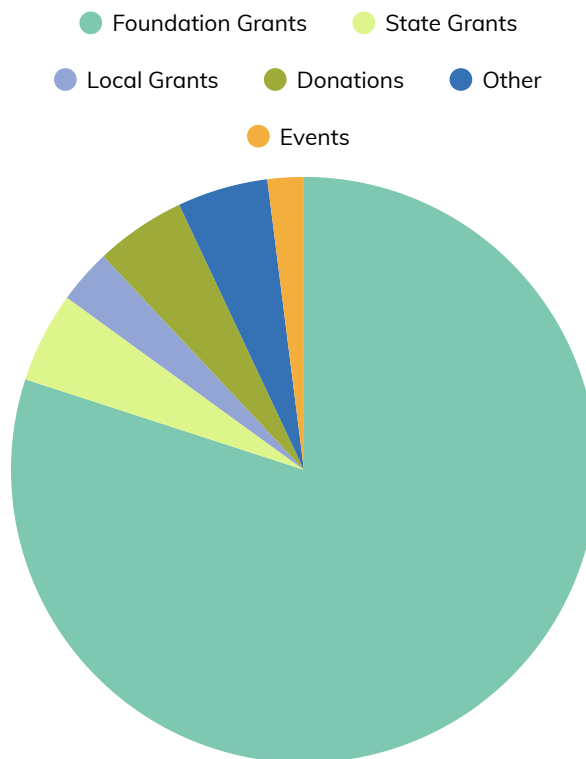
Particularly important for the Yough River watershed is the old-growth hemlock forest at Swallow Falls State Park, which has some of the oldest native trees in the watershed.

FUNDRAISING

FUNDING SUMMARY

We achieve our mission through a variety of initiatives, including abandoned mine drainage remediation, water quality monitoring, trail development, educational programming, grassroots organizing, and legal advocacy. The broad scope of our work requires diverse funding sources.

Grants and donations are vital to our mission of protecting and preserving our region's natural resources. Grants fund specific projects like maintaining AMD treatment systems, watershed sampling, and staff salaries. Donations provide flexibility for spontaneous needs, such as equipment and new project support.



LAND PRESERVATION FUND

Help us protect and conserve land in the Youghiogheny River watershed! We value properties with high biodiversity, available mineral rights, riparian buffers, or properties at risk of being harmed.

LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

Protect the health of our watershed and all who depend on it. Support our legal challenge of the Rustic Ridge Deep Mine expansion. Fighting the expansion of this underground mine will be a multi-year endeavor estimated to cost **\$500,000**.

INDIAN CREEK VALLEY TRAIL: CLOSING THE GAPS

Our next project on the Indian Creek Valley Trail is to open an additional 2.5 miles of trail between Whites Bridge (which intersects with Route 653) and Steyer Bridge. We intend to fund it through grants and donations received in 2025 and 2026. If you'd like to support the trail, **please consider donating to our trail maintenance fund!**



LEAVE A LEGACY IN CONSERVATION

MWA is dedicated to protecting and restoring land and water in the Youghiogheny River watershed. By participating in planned giving with us, you can leave a lasting legacy for our region's exceptional places. Together, we can make a difference that will last for generations.

Contact Hannah Spencer, Program Development Manager, at Hannah@mtwatershed.com.

GET INVOLVED!

We're thankful for all of our volunteers who help with activities such as community organizing, water sampling, litter cleanups, fundraising, trail maintenance, and event organizing.

VOLUNTEER



HELP WATER SAMPLING

Commit to consistent water monitoring from May through September for our Swimmable Waters and Roadside Springs sampling. Training is provided!



JOIN A RIVER CLEAN-UP

Float down the river, pulling tires and trash out of the water as we go. Bring your own boat, or borrow one of ours! See events on the next page for dates.



BE A TRAIL STEWARD

"Adopt" a section of the Indian Creek Valley Trail! Walk or bike your adopted section once a month to pick up trash and report issues.

Learn more about ways to get involved:
[MTWATERSHED.COM/VOLUNTEER](https://mtwatershed.com/volunteer)

JOIN A COMMITTEE

All meetings are held in-person at the MWA office and virtually.

Deep Mine Committee: Second to last Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm.

Contact Stacey@mtwatershed.com

Fundraising Committee: Second Wednesday of every month at 9:30 am.

Contact Hannah@mtwatershed.com

Indian Creek Valley Trail Committee: Third Monday of each month at 6:30 pm.

Contact Taylor@mtwatershed.com

Land Conservation Committee: Second Monday bi-monthly at 7:00 pm.

Contact Taylor@mtwatershed.com

UPCOMING EVENTS



March 14: No Man's Land Film Festival, Patagonia Pittsburgh

April 11: *Watching the River Run*, by Tim Palmer, Wilderness Voyageurs

April 13: *Watching the River Run*, by Tim Palmer, Yough River Brewing

April 19: Indian Creek Valley Gorge 5k, Mill Run PA

May 3: Birds & Blooms Hike, Mill Run PA

May 10: 3 Rivers Outdoor Co. Mother's Day Market, Pittsburgh PA

May 17: West Newton River Cleanup, West Newton PA

June 6: ICV Trail Golf Scramble, Donegal Highlands Golf Course

June 28: Family Field Day, Laurel Hill State Park

July 27: Yough River Float Trip, Hazelbaker's River Trips, Layton PA

September 6: West Newton River Cleanup, West Newton PA

September 20: Indian Creek Watershed Festival, Indian Head, PA

October 4: Laurel Highlands Gravel Ride (date subject to change)

October (TBA): Member Appreciation Party

November 20: Yough Defense Party, Falls City Pub, Ohiopyle PA

RSVP for these events and more at
mtwatershed.com/events

OUR 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Peggy Mansberry
Gary Rigdon

Chris Robbins
Faith Sartori
Barbara Shaffer
Emma Wolff

DONATE TO DEFEND

Donate to become a member and help us protect, preserve, and restore the Youghiogheny River watershed!

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE

EMAIL

☐ \$10 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50

☐ \$100 ☐ \$250

BECOME A MAJOR DONOR

☐ \$500 ☐ \$1,000

☐ \$1,500 ☐ \$2,000

Interested in a monthly donation?

Scan the QR code to
access our online
donation page or visit
www.mtwatershed.com



I would like my donation to support:

☐ Legal Defense Fund
(Rustic Ridge)

☐ Land Preservation Fund

☐ Indian Creek Valley
Trail Fund

☐ General Fund

**You can make a donation or renew your membership on our website OR mail a check and this form:
Mountain Watershed Association | PO Box 408 Melcroft, PA 15462**

The official registration and financial information of the Mountain Watershed Association, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1 (800) 732-0999



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PO Box 408
Melcroft, PA 15462

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Visit our website: www.mtwatershed.com

MOUNTAIN WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Protecting, preserving, and restoring

MWA aims to empower communities, both locally and downstream, to transition towards sustainable, resilient, equitable economies and healthy environments where all beings can thrive. We strive toward a world where we all act as if what affects one of us, affects all of us, because that's how watersheds work.

