



Volume 32
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The Peaceful Stable Reserve is proudly donated by Barbara Molicki; a retired nurse who worked in the original J&L Steel Mill on Carson Street. This almost 4-acre field was originally part of a much larger farm owned by the McMullen family and is located right in the heart of Murrysville off School Road North. Situated on a big, sloping hill, the field offers beautiful views and ‘green space’ for neighbors on Windover and Cherry Drive. The field is home to a diverse animal population and also boasts a beautifully-kept horse stable, complete with 6 stalls and authentic craftsmanship! Just a couple of years ago, the field was slated



to be developed by a builder. Barbara, understanding the beauty and historic importance of the property both for her and the neighbors, seized the opportunity to buy it herself. She purchased the property with the sole intention of donating it to Westmoreland Conservancy, thus forever ensuring that this beloved parcel of land is preserved and will remain a natural habitat for many animals. It gives her great joy to know that friends and neighbors will be able to enjoy the peaceful reserve for many years to come.



Westmoreland Conservancy held a neighborhood meet & greet Saturday, July 29th. The morning rain was heavy, but the skies cleared in time for the 10AM – 12PM event which was designed to encourage input for future management. This reserve is the Conservancy’s tenth unique property.

Westmoreland Conservancy is proud to protect such special places for neighborhoods and communities. Our thanks to Barbara and her family for entrusting us with this lovely property.

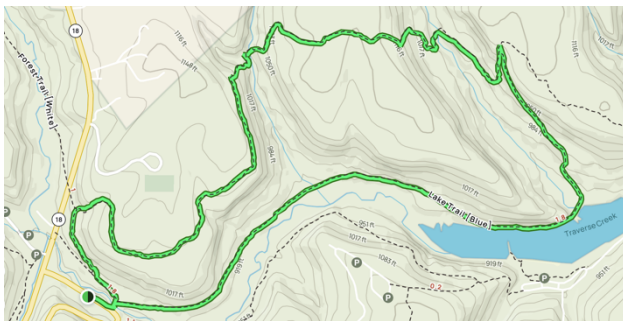


UPCOMING 4th QUARTER EVENTS:



Autumn Enchanted Forest 10/14 Come find fairy houses and learn about the mysterious magic of Nature! Dress as your favorite Sprite, Fairy, or woodlands creature! We'll make a fun craft for everyone to take home! The Morosini Reserve is on Morosini Farm Court off Ringertown Road. Park at the lot at the end of the road, but please don't disturb the residents of the house.

Witch Hazel Hike 10/21 The McGinnis Reserve on Hunter Drive is home to all sorts of interesting flora. It boasts large colonies of the autumn-blooming Witch Hazel, a native shrub known for its medicinal qualities. The group will leave the parking lot at 10AM and follow the blue trail to the meadow and into the woods. The delicate yellow blooms are a lovely addition to the colors of the autumn leaves!



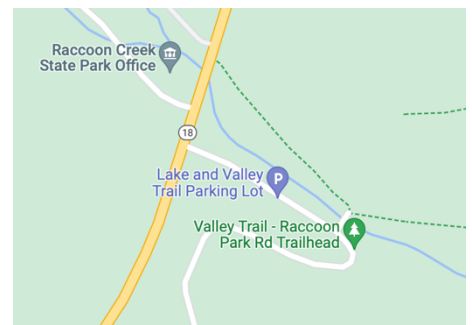
Raccoon Creek Autumn Excursion 10/28

Raccoon Creek State Park is one of Pennsylvania's largest and most visited state parks. It began as a Recreational Demonstration Area operated by the National Park Service in the 1930s during the [Civilian Conservation Corps](#) (CCC) era. The park encompasses 7,572 acres and features the beautiful 101-acre Raccoon Lake. Facilities

are a mix of modern and rustic with group camps from the CCC era.

We are planning to follow the Forest and Lake Trail Loop. This loop follows a small portion of the Forest Trail (white blazes) which transects several stream valleys that feed Raccoon Lake, if you continue along this trail. Then the loop continues along the Lake Trail (blue blazes) where the remains of an 1846, two-story, stone springhouse exists near the western end of the trail. The Lake & Valley Trails parking area is on Raccoon Park Road off Route 18, 1000 Raccoon Park Rd, Clinton, PA 15026. Meet at the park lot at 10AM, or meet at the Murrysview Plaza sign in front of Michael's at 8:30AM. We'll find a place for lunch, but please make sure you bring water!

Please let us know you'll be coming!



Peaceful Stable Gathering 11/04 Our next gathering of neighbors and members at the new reserve is scheduled for 4PM Saturday afternoon, November 4th. We are planning a "campfire and conversation" event to discuss plans regarding the stable's roof, necessary tree management and planting projects.



Opt-Outside DHCT 11/24 Prior to Covid, the day after Thanksgiving (Black Friday) meant standing in lines at stores to get bargain sales. Now we'll opt to go outside and walk off some of that wonderful turkey dinner and tryptophan! Bring your walking stick and register on our website:



The Don Harrison Community Trail (DHCT) is a 5-mile trail extending from the Townsend Park Ballfields to the Walter Reserve on Weistertown Road.

We will meet at the Murrysville Municipal Building and set out at 10AM along the newly restored habitat areas along Haymaker Run. The King/Potter lot on Crowfoot Rd. will allow us to re-group before setting off into the next segment of the trail. The Caywood lot (Hills Church Rd) is just over 1.75 miles, and the trailhead at the Walter Reserve lot on Weistertown Road is roughly 4.25 miles from the starting point.

Please plan accordingly: bring walking sticks, sturdy hiking shoes and protective clothing. Carpool with friends, leaving a vehicle at your chosen destination and another at the municipal lot.



Tomer Hot Chocolate Hike 12/16 at the Tomer Reserve with Murrysville Recreation. Leaving the parking lot on Twin Oaks Drive N at 10AM, we'll hike up the yellow trail and see what birds might overwinter locally. This reserve is a favorite stopover for migrating birds and local residents alike, and we seldom visit without seeing at LEAST one type of woodpecker... usually three!

When we finish, we'll enjoy some hot chocolate back at the parking lot!



Winter Solstice Walk 12/21 4PM Winter Solstice Walk at the Morosini Reserve. Park at the upper lot at the end of Morosini Farm Road. This is the shortest day and longest night of the year, with sunset at 4:55PM. Each day from this point will gain a few minutes of sun! We'll check out the different observation areas and watch the sun set from our vantage point in the eastern fields!



*Note: The house near the parking lot is NOT part of the reserve. Please do not disturb the residents.



First Day Hike 01/01/2024: Park at the improved Caywood Reserve lot on Hills Church Road and be ready to set out at 11AM. Shake off the celebratory woozies and breathe in the fresh air of the New Year. We'll meander through this beautiful reserve and see what we can see.

Welcome 2024!



2023 Third Quarter Activities

Export Ethnic Food & Music Festival



Autumn Equinox Walk



Last sunset of Summer 2023



Follow-Up: Vernal Pool Restoration Progress

before



after



bollards installation late 2023

Parking Lot Maintenance & Improvements

Walter Reserve



Caywood Reserve



2023-24 Officers

Shelly Tichy – President
Rob Malley – Vice President
Bob Sloboda – Secretary/Stwd Coord.
Chip Brown– Treasurer/Stwd Coord.



2023-24 Board of Governors

Alan Halperin - Board
Rob Bowman - Board
Lindsey Praksti – Board

You can follow us on our Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as our calendar and newsletter. We enjoy sharing our news, our events, and our plans with you, and you can stay up-to-date with events added AFTER the newsletter publication! Get to know us! We’re good to know!

Westmoreland Conservancy Reserves are privately owned lands that are open to the public for permitted use. Dogs are to be on-leash, **NO** motorized vehicles aside from mobility aids.

PLEASE observe **Leave No Trace** sensibilities and **take out anything you take in.**



Do **NOT** leave trash at the reserves.

<https://lnt.org/why/7-principles/>



Westmoreland Conservancy Online:

Website:<http://www.westmorelandconservancy.org>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WestmorelandConservancy>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/westmoreland_conservancy/

Donations

Your donations and support are ALWAYS welcome. Your donations help to support our projects and events. They help us achieve our goals and continue to grow, making nature available to EVERYONE!

Student (under 18):\$10

News Recipient.....\$25

Conservation Ally.....\$50

Steward Supporter.....\$100

Resource Partner.....\$500



Your commitment to making an annual donation helps us plan our operating budget, knowing what amount we can expect to receive every year. Any tax-deductible donation of \$25 or more qualifies for free membership. You can renew your annual donation through the site or support us with a new donation.

Any donation can be easily managed through our website:

<http://www.westmorelandconservancy.org/donate>

or mailed directly to Westmoreland Conservancy, 1 Priority Lane, Unit 446, Murrysville, PA 15668.



Westmoreland Conservancy
1 Priority Lane, Unit 446
Murrysville, PA 15668
contact@westmorelandconservancy.org



Our Vision

To preserve natural, rural, and historic landscapes for Nature's benefit and the enrichment of future generations.

Our Mission

Westmoreland Conservancy preserves, enhances, and connects land, habitat, and green space through acquisition, stewardship, and cooperation with local communities and other organizations.

Schedule of Events

****Watch our Facebook page or sign up for email reminders for work days!****

Please wear sturdy shoes, leg protection and weather-appropriate attire.

Scheduled Events may be canceled in the event of Unsuitable Weather.

10/14: Enchanted Forest, Morosini Farm Road, UPPER LOT, 11AM – 1PM

10/21: Witch Hazel Hike, McGinnis Reserve Lot Hunter Drive, 10AM

10/25: Monthly Meeting, Delmont Public Library 7PM

10/28: Autumn Excursion to Raccoon Creek 10AM

11/04: Peaceful Stable Gathering 4PM

11/24: OptOutside DHCT Hike Municipal Bldg Parking Lot, 10AM

12/16: Hot Chocolate Hike w/Murrysville Rec, Tomer Reserve, Twin Oaks Drive N, 10AM

12/21: Winter Solstice Walk at Morosini, UPPER LOT 4PM

01/01/2024: First Day Hike, Caywood Reserve, Hills Church Road, 11AM

