



Volume 35
Issue 1



Westmoreland Conservancy

Protecting Nature's home, enriching yours

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Upcoming Events

01/01 First Day Hike at the King Reserve Thursday on Crowfoot Road. Park at the lot on Crowfoot Road and **be ready to set out at 11AM**. Step up and breathe in the fresh air of the New Year. We'll check out everything that Nature will share with us as we explore the property that made Westmoreland Conservancy an official private landowner in 1996! Welcome 2026! Please register! www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration



01/16 Hot Chocolate Hike with Murrysville Recreation at the Morosini Reserve at 10AM Hike at the Morosini Reserve with Murrysville Recreation. We'll be leaving the Universal Pedestrian Trail parking lot at the end of Morosini Farm Road at 10AM to hike up the UPT to the pond and around the connected trails. We can see what birds might overwinter locally. There should be plenty of activity in the branches. We'll enjoy some hot chocolate back at the parking lot! Please register: www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration



02/15 Seasons on the Land Hike at the Walter Reserve with Lindsey at 10AM First in the 4-part 2026 series. Join Lindsey at the Walter Reserve on Weistertown Road Sunday, February 15th for the Winter installment of the Seasons on the Land Hikes. Leaving the lot at 10AM sharp! Be prepared to learn neat things! Please register: www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration



02/21 Apple Tree Pruning Workshop at the Morosini Reserve at 9AM:

Park at the lower left lot at the bend (lot #1 on Google Maps) of Morosini Farm Road. Our quest is to not only revitalize the old variety trees at the reserve, but to make others more comfortable with the process before trying the process at home. We have seen these trees bloom and produce the very same year! Bring your work gloves, loppers, clippers, pole saws, and questions so that our team can share their experience. Event Registration: www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration



03/20 First Day of Spring Hike at the McGinnis Reserve at 4PM:



it's warm, often it's snowy or wet, but the promise of SPRING is welcome! The First Day of Spring, or the Vernal Equinox, means that day and night are of equal length across the globe. The plants and trees are awakening and greening is on the way. Join us at the McGinnis Reserve on Hunter Drive to see what signs might be showing! We'll leave the parking lot at 4PM and head up to the blue trail. Event Registration: www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration

04/18 Earth Day at the Kellman Reserve at 9AM:

Join us at the Lillian Kellman Reserve at the Kellman Drive parking lot for a special Earth Day project. Westmoreland Conservancy will be partnering with the Municipality of Murrysville to do some trail maintenance and perhaps teach some sustainable trail restoration tips. The Lillian Kellman Reserve is the Conservancy's legacy property.

Though owned by Murrysville, it is the project that created our organization and we are excited to help out with a day of maintenance. We have high hopes for what may come next! Bring your loppers, work gloves and clippers! Register: www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration



04/22 Annual Members Meeting and Election,

Delmont Public Library at 7PM: The April meeting of Westmoreland Conservancy is our annual Members Meeting. (Any annual donation of \$25 or more qualifies for membership.) The Members vote on the slate of new and returning Board members. The Board will then elect officers. Your participation is very important and WE WANT YOU to

have a voice. The meeting will be at 7PM at the Delmont Public Library and on Zoom (please email us at contact@westmorelandconservancy.org for the Zoom link)

Please register: www.westmorelandconservancy.org/event-registration

Watch For It! Something New!

Our volunteers are amazing people with a wide range of talents! Sara (you've met her on hikes!) happens to be WAAAY more skilled at managing the website than the current individual (and I'm MORE THAN happy to admit it!) Anyway, Sara has offered to take on the task of updating and generally streamlining the Westmoreland Conservancy website. We are grateful to the team of Franklin Regional students who created the current site so many years ago, and we are looking forward to seeing the new configuration sometime this quarter!

4th Quarter 2025 Events

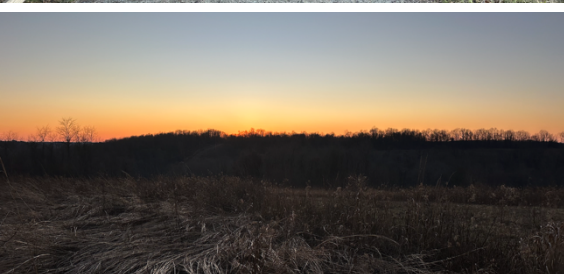
Witch Hazel Hike at the McGinnis Reserve



OptOutside Hike along the Don Harrison Community Trail



Winter Solstice Walk at Morosini





2026 Winter Campaign

We have big plans for 2026 and beyond and need your help to make them happen.

2026 Project Highlight: A Meadow in the Making at Morosini Reserve

At the Morosini Reserve, visitors enjoy the Universal Pedestrian Trail (UPT)—an accessible, treelined path designed for individuals with mobility challenges. A parallel mowed trail offers a grassy alternative, ensuring inclusive access for all.

Just below the UPT and the Wildlife Observation Blind lies a field with extraordinary potential—ready to be transformed into a vibrant native meadow.

Our vision is to restore this area using native wildflowers and grasses to:

- Support birds, pollinators, and small mammals
- Improve ecological diversity and resilience
- Create new opportunities for education, observation, and exploration

This multi-year restoration project will involve mowing, tilling, and reseeding to replace existing switchgrass with a diverse mix of native species—bringing seasonal beauty and long-term environmental benefits to the reserve.

Together, we can turn this open field into a living landscape that thrives for generations.

Your Gift Makes Our Work Possible

As you consider your end-of-year giving, we invite you to support Westmoreland Conservancy.

- 100% of your donation goes directly to projects on our reserves such as meadow & grasslands restoration, trail creation and maintenance and habitat protection
- Your generosity creates lasting impact—for wildlife and for people
- Your support helps ensure nature remains accessible to all

Give Today

Thank you for being part of Westmoreland Conservancy and for helping protect the lands that connect us to nature—today and into the future. We are grateful for your support.

Shelly Tichy, President

DONATIONS

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

Or: **Any Monetary Donation**



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, which gives you the right to vote at our Annual Members Meeting in April. 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 Reserves are **privately owned lands that are open to the public and subject to permitted use restrictions.**

No weapons without written authorization. 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/

2025/26 Board of Governors

Alan Halperin
Rob Malley
Ella Stewart

2025/26 Officers

President	Shelly Tichy
Secretary	Bob Sloboda
Treasurer	Chip Brown

Westmoreland Conservancy
1 Priority Lane, Unit 446
Murrysville, PA. 15668



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 presence of Unsuitable Weather.



01/01/2026: First Day Hike 11AM, King Reserve Lot, 11AM
01/16/2026: Hot Chocolate Hike at Morosini w/Murrysville Recreation
01/28/2026: January Meeting at Delmont Public Library 7PM
02/21/2026: Apple Tree Pruning at Morosini 9AM
02/25/2026: February Meeting at Delmont Public Library 7PM
03/20/2026: 1st Day of Spring (Vernal Equinox) Walk at McGinnis Reserve 4PM
03/25/2026: March Meeting at Delmont Public Library 7PM
04/18/2026: Earth Day at the Kellman Reserve 9AM
04/22/2026: April Meeting & Annual Elections at Delmont Public Library 7PM