

Fall 2018



Trail Connector Completes AHT to Elkins

The Highlands Trail Foundation has waited a very long time to make this exciting announcement:

Construction of the Elkins Rail Trail Connector is now in progress!

The project started with a ground breaking ceremony in June and is on track for completion by the end of the year. We can't wait to bike, walk, and run on the new trail from the Highland Park trailhead to the new Elkins trailhead located on the Town Square behind the Elkins Depot.

The HTF is grateful for



the long-term support and partnership of the Randolph County Development Authority, which has worked diligently since

2009 to bring the trail-connector project to completion. We also sincerely appreciate the support and assistance provided by the

West Virginia Division of Highways on the local and state level.

The RCDA has promised to host a ribbon cutting celebration upon completion of the project. We will post ongoing construction news and photos with event updates on our Facebook page www.Facebook.com/HighlandsTrailFoundation, and share info by email.

If you would like to be on the email list, please send a message with request to info@highlandstrail.org.

Blackwater Canyon Events Planned

Construction of the rail trail connector will complete the Allegheny Highlands Trail in Randolph County. Funding is in place to address trail maintenance needs on the existing AHT. It is time to

turn our attention to the Blackwater Canyon.

Two events are planned this season to showcase this exceptional state treasure.

Thanks to the gracious support and cooperation

of property owners, the HTF is hosting a new event on the Blackwater Canyon railroad grade. Held Sept. 15, the Blackwater Canyon Half Marathon will begin in Thomas, traverse downhill through the beautiful

canyon and continue from Hendricks on the Allegheny Highlands Trail to the finish line at Mill Race Park in Parsons.

The event would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors.

The HTF thanks Kingsford Manufacturing, St. George Medical Clinic, Tucker County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Tucker Community Foundation, Mary Boyd, MD Pediatrics, Valley Health Care; the City of Parsons, Davis Medical Center, Preston-Taylor Community Health, and Stumptown Ales. We also appreciate contributions from Allegheny Holistic Health Care, Hendricks Station, Siriani's Pizza, Tip



The Blackwater Canyon Half Marathon welcomes 100 racers to enjoy an epic downhill run.

Top Café, and Salomon.

Registration closed at 100 runners for the inaugural half marathon event, but spectators are welcome at the 9 a.m. start in Thomas or at the finish line at Mill Race Park in Parsons. Please note that parking will be scarce in Parsons, and biking the canyon grade will not be an option during the event.

The HTF will participate in the Tucker Community Foundation's Run For It

event Sept. 29. Please consider joining our team to help us win support. Click on "Entry Form" at www.tuckerfoundation.net to register. Be sure to choose the Highlands Trail Foundation team.

The Blackwater Canyon Bike Ride will also take place Sept. 29 in conjunction with Tucker County's Leaf Peepers Festival.

Registration at The Purple Fiddle will begin at 1 p.m. for the 2 p.m. ride. There is no charge to participate, but riders must register and sign a waiver. A parent or legal guardian must sign for any child under age 18. Refreshments will be provided after the ride by the City of Parsons at Mill Race Park. Return shuttle is included.

For more information on HTF events or to help as a volunteer, please email info@highlandstrail.org or message us on Facebook.

Volunteers are needed for the half marathon event!



The Blackwater Canyon Bike Ride is a pedaling optional downhill excursion through 13 miles of breath-taking scenery.

The Highlands Trail Foundation has worked since 1995 to create recreational trail opportunities with development of a regional trail system in the Potomac Highlands region of West Virginia. With connections to area rivers and trails of the Monongahela National Forest, the Allegheny Highlands Trail is the backbone of that system.

The AHT passes through rural communities and picturesque farmlands over 26 miles from Highland Park to Hendricks. The HTF hosts events to promote the Allegheny Highlands Trail and helps coordinate trail maintenance projects.

We invite you to get involved as a board member or volunteer. Contact us by email at info@highlandstrail.org or message us on Facebook. We hope to hear from you!

Meet the HTF Board

The Highlands Trail Foundation is pleased to welcome Don Black of Canaan Valley as our new president. An avid cyclist, runner and outdoor enthusiast, Don has served on the HTF board since 2016.

We wish a happy retirement to long-time president, Karen Carper. The Montrose resident now serves as Treasurer.

Other officers are Jason Myers, Vice President; and

Bonnie Swyter, Secretary, both of Parsons. Current board members are Joey Riddle, Mary Boyd, Mike Johnson, and Mandy Sullivan, all of Elkins; Fred Sikarskie, Teresa Lycliter, and Pete Roy, Parsons; and Sarah Forbes, Montrose. W.J. Cober serves as US Forest Service liaison.

HTF sends a fond farewell and thanks to former board member, Toby Shapiro.

Highlands Trail Foundation

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