



Westmoreland Land Trust

Annual Report 2015

On the Cover

Autumn at a property conserved
by the Westmoreland Land Trust in Murrysville.

Photo by Theo van de Venne.



Eighth Year Accomplishments – 2015

Five board meetings and one executive directors' meeting of the Westmoreland Land Trust were held in 2015.

Our objectives for 2015 were as follows.

- Close out the existing Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources grant and transfer the four acquired properties to the Municipality of Murrysville for annexation to Duff Park.
- Complete the acquisition of the one-acre Mount Pleasant Township property and hold ownership of the property.
- Initiate a strategic planning process to better define our direction and priorities.
- Complete the Suitability Analysis mapping project to identify county properties suitable for conservation to better focus and prioritize.
- Submit grant application(s) for a part-time non-profit management staff member.
- Continue to work toward an expanded/enhanced "Friends of Westmoreland Land Trust."
- Pursue acquisition of properties in Turtle Creek Gorge near the to-be-established rail trail.
- Pursue/participate in the Land Trust Technical Assistance Training program as our eligibility allows.
- Hold regular communications with the Westmoreland County Commissioners regarding ongoing funding of the Westmoreland Land Trust.
- Encourage established committees to meet routinely to advance their goals, with subsequent reports to the full board.
- Continue stewardship of Ackermann and Cabin Hill properties, with a focus on invasive species management and trail development at Ackermann Reserve.

PROPERTY

Four properties adjacent to Duff Park that the Westmoreland Land Trust acquired over the past several years were officially transferred to the Municipality of Murrysville in mid October for addition to the Murrysville park system.

Three of properties are contiguous along Duff Park's southern boundary:

- a 16.5-acre forested parcel bordering the south side of Turtle Creek;
- a 49-acre adjacent parcel donated by long-time Murrysville residents Theo and Pia van de Venne; and
- a sloped, forested 9-acre parcel.



The fourth property, a long, narrow 22-acre parcel, also is located on the south side of Duff Park, and connects the park and its three new property additions to Pleasant Valley Park. This parcel of land provides a green “link” that gives hikers and nature enthusiasts continuous access to more than 500 acres.

Together, the four acquired properties add some 97 acres of preserved open space to our region.



Duff Park Photo courtesy of Tribune-Review

Funding for these acquisitions came from a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and from a local anonymous donor on behalf of the Murrysville Trail Alliance.

Also during the year, **we acquired a one-acre property in Mount Pleasant Township** at the intersection of State Route 982 and Welty Road. This tract was donated to us by Deborah Marziano. It is mostly wooded and contains a section of Welty Run, a high-quality major stream tributary of Sewickley Creek.

This property is the land trust's tenth acquisition and the first that the organization holds direct title to.

Previous land that the trust acquired has been donated to:

- the Municipality of Murrysville (5 parcels);
- the Westmoreland County Parks system (1 parcel); and
- the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (1 parcel).

Two parcels acquired by the land trust are being held by Westmoreland County, with a formal agreement in place that the land trust performs stewardship on the properties and the county assumes the property liability.

In March, the board began to **explore the possible transfer of ownership of these two properties** – a 3.5-acre parcel in the City of Greensburg near Cabin Hill Drive and the 59-acre Otto and Magdalene Ackermann Nature Preserve in North Huntingdon Township – from Westmoreland County to the land trust.



Ackermann Reserve Photo by Mark Bowers

Westmoreland County purchased the properties with grant funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources on behalf of the land trust because, at that time, the land trust had not been in existence for five years and so did not meet that DCNR grant eligibility requirement. The Westmoreland Land Trust was created on December 6, 2007.

The land trust **agreed to partner with Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation in an effort to acquire a 28-acre parcel in Rostraver Township.** This parcel is adjacent to Cedar Creek Park, a 452-acre Westmoreland County recreation unique natural feature – Cedar Creek Gorge – the site of quite possibly the best spring wildflower show in western Pennsylvania.

To raise funds for this acquisition, a grant application was submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and letters of inquiry were developed and sent to both the Richard King Mellon Foundation and the Colcom



Foundation. The Colcom Foundation indicated interest in the project and, in November, we submitted a full application for funding.

Disposition of the DCNR grant, expected in the fall, was delayed due to the Pennsylvania state budget impasse.

In December, we were notified by the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation that it would donate \$35,000 to this project if we were able to raise a matching amount and if our DCNR grant application is successful.

We also continued to **review a variety of other properties for possible acquisition** – including several that were brought to us by members of the public interested in donating or selling properties to our organization.

As part of the strategic planning process we began this spring (*see page 11*), we identified the need to **refine and enhance our existing process for targeting and selecting properties to conserve**, and ranked this as one of our five key goals for the next two years.

To this end, an ad hoc team of board members was formed and spent considerable time and effort during the year developing:

- selection criteria to evaluate potential fee-simple acquisitions, and
- a prioritization process to identify focus areas in the county for conservation.

As part of the prioritization effort, which will continue in 2016, the land trust applied for and received notification that it will receive technical assistance from the Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service.

STEWARDSHIP

The Westmoreland Land Trust received a donation of \$2,000 from Norbert and Joanne Ackermann for **treatment of invasive species at the Nature Reserve in North Huntingdon named for their family**. One of our board members also made a financial donation to this effort.

Ackermann Reserve Photo by Mark Bowers



In June, several board members and other volunteers spent some six hours cutting down 1.2 acres of Japanese knotweed in a floodplain area of the reserve in preparation for an herbicide application, which was administered

in late August.

Japanese knotweed is a non-native plant that grows rapidly, quickly shading out native species. It takes over roadsides, streambanks, forest clearings and other areas.

The best approach for controlling it is now considered to be a combination of cutting and herbicide application. Several years of treatment may be needed for well-established populations.



(l-r) Board members Betsy Aiken, Mike Kuzemchak, Loree Speedy (all in green) and Mark Bowers (taking photo) are joined by volunteers Delia White and Shawn Stout in the effort to control the knotweed at Ackermann Reserve.

Our two properties presently held by Westmoreland County – the Ackermann Reserve in North Huntingdon Township and the Cabin Hill property north of Greensburg – were **monitored in 2015 by members of the Stewardship Committee** to evaluate the condition of property boundaries and the overall health of the natural environment.

This regular monitoring helps to prevent misuse of the land and its resources and to minimize risk to the organization. No property boundary encroachments or serious misuse of the Ackermann or Cabin Hill properties were noted during the monitoring visits, and these conditions were documented using our monitoring reports.



Jack-in-the-pulpit on land conserved in Murrysville Photo by Theo van de Venne

In 2014, the land trust established a **segregated fund for stewardship** to insure the long-term management of our properties.

In 2015, the board approved allocating 50% of the funds raised on the annual Day of Giving (see page 8) to this fund, retroactive to 2014.

The allocations from 2014 and 2015 to this stewardship fund were made and totaled \$2,975.28.

FUNDRAISING

The Westmoreland County Commissioners allocated \$9,500 for the Westmoreland Land Trust in 2015. This currently is the only dedicated funding our organization receives and this year's amount reflects a 5% reduction in funding from previous years.

Late in the year, we submitted a request to the county for 2016 funding in the amount of \$10,000.

Because the Westmoreland Land Trust is partnering with Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation on acquiring land for Cedar Creek Park and on the development



of the Turtle Creek Trail, a new 9-mile-long trail that will extend from Export to Trafford, we formed two teams and **participated in the County Parks' annual fundraiser, March For Parks**, on March 28.

Ten Westmoreland Land Trust board members, friends and families participated as walkers and these teams raised almost \$400 in this effort.

Among the Land Trust board members braving the 17° cold to March for Parks were (l-r) Mike Kuzemchak, John Lohr, and Virginia Stump.

We updated our profile and once again participated in the Pittsburgh Foundation's/Community Foundation of Westmoreland County's **Day of Giving** on May 5.

In 2015, 28 donors contributed to the Westmoreland Land Trust and their donations were matched at 13 cents on the dollar by the foundations, netting a grand total of \$3,206.88 for the land trust on that day.

Our board voted to allocate 50% of funds we raise on the Day of Giving to our stewardship efforts (*see page 7*).

In addition to the Day of Giving funds, the Westmoreland Land Trust also received **ten additional monetary and in-kind donations** during the year totaling \$20,385.

Of that total, \$6,000 was specifically designated for the Murrysville land purchases and \$2,110 for property stewardship.

2015 Donors

Patron

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Anonymous, on behalf of the Murrysville Trail Alliance

Arvind Paranjpe

Westmoreland County Commissioners

Sponsor

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Norbert and Joanne Ackermann

Partner

\$500 to \$999

Betsy Aiken

Charles and Judy Duritsa

Westmoreland Conservation District

Associate

\$250 to \$499

Lewis Lobdell

The Pittsburgh Foundation/The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County

Joseph Tarara

Donor

up to \$249

Anonymous

John Arganian

Carl Baumeister

Cary Bohl

Mark Bowers

Anne Brendel

Mark and Sharlene Emerson

John Folmar I

Martha Frech

The Honorable R. Ted Harhai

Susan Huba

Karen Jurkovic

Joseph and Arlene Kalinowski

Michael Kuzemchak

Brian Lawrence

David Lester

John Lohr

Janet McNeel

Gregory Phillips

Anthony Quadro

Vincent Quatrini, Jr.

Malcolm Sias

Clarence Skena

Robert Skena

Lisa Smith

Deborah Snider

Loree Speedy

Virginia McCracken Stump

The First Evangelical Lutheran Church

John Ward

Board members met with fundraising specialist Bob Teeter to discuss the **potential for soliciting funds for the trust from area foundations.**

Based on this discussion and our strategic plan work, board members prepared a request to the Allegheny Foundation, which, if successful, would fund a dedicated, part-time staff position for the organization over a two-year period. The request was sent to the foundation in late August. There is no time-line for award determinations.

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

A 15-page **annual report**, detailing the organization's accomplishments in 2014, was developed and copies were mailed, along with a letter from our chairman, to everyone who donated to the Westmoreland Land Trust since its founding in late 2007.

The report also was distributed to each board member and posted on the organization's website, www.westmoreland-landtrust.org.

Printing of the report was provided by the Westmoreland Conservation District.

Our board members designed a display and staffed a table at the **Westmoreland Earth Day event** at Saint Vincent College on April 19.

We had a comprehensive display and handout information about the land trust, and we provided handmade nature journals for children and attendees to stamp, color, and design as their own. Some 180 of these journals, identified with the land trust's information on the outside back cover, were distributed at the event.



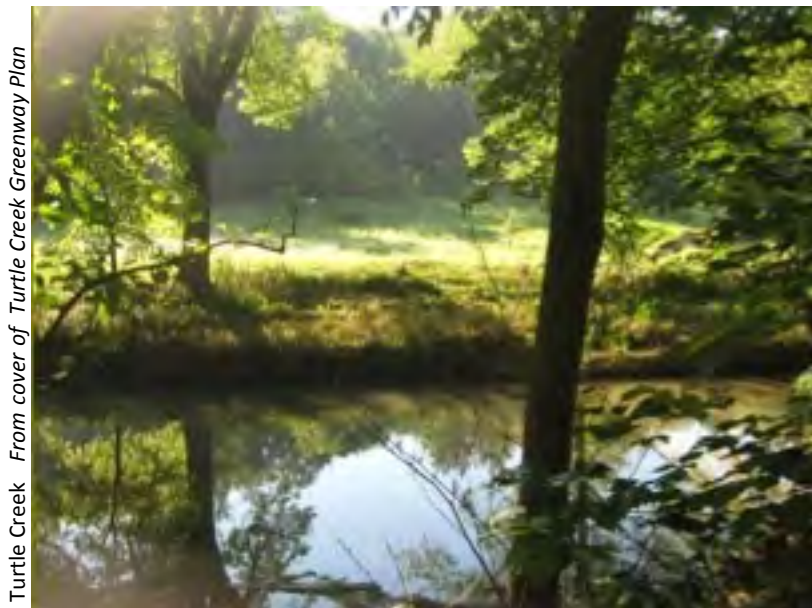
Photo by Karen Jurkovic

We also set up an **informational booth with our banner and brochures at the Murrysville March for Parks location** to educate the public about our work.

The Westmoreland Land Trust issued **one news release** during the year, on the appointment of Theo van de Venne to our board (*see page 14*), with good pickup by local print media. We also regularly added new content to our website and Facebook page.

At the request of the board, all of the land trust's **policies were formatted and posted on the organization's website.**

PARTNERSHIPS



Turtle Creek From cover of Turtle Creek Greenway Plan

We are **partnering with Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation Department and others on the Turtle Creek Trail** and Greenway project (*see page 8*) and on the acquisition of a property adjacent to Cedar Creek Park (*see page 4*).

We continued our membership with the **Land Trust Alliance and the Pennsylvania Land Trust Association.**

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our organization **undertook its first-ever Strategic Plan** in March.

The majority of the trust's volunteer board members have been actively involved in this organizational assessment and planning tool, which is being facilitated by Arvind Paranjpe, president of Dynamic Leadership Ltd.

During this process, the board identified seven three-year goals and five key strategies for achieving them. SMART goals, which include measurable outcomes and deadlines for completion, have been identified for each key strategy.

Focus areas include:

- Property selection
- Revenue stream

- Board of Directors and committees
- Organizational identity
- Organizational standards and practices
- Participation in the creation of the Westmoreland County Comprehensive Plan
- Staffing.

In November, members of the board participated in a **comprehensive organizational assessment** provided by the Land Trust Alliance as part of its technical assistance and outreach to western Pennsylvania land trusts.

“Assess Your Organization,” presented a comprehensive series of questions in a variety of organizational areas – compliance with laws, board accountability, financial and asset management, land transactions, and so on – and board members were asked to rate our organization’s effectiveness in each area using a four-point scale from “not true” to “always true.” The day-long exercise clearly showed what things we were doing well and what areas we need to improve with respect to Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices.

E-Concepts, LLC, a local land trust consulting firm, will facilitate our assessment and use the results to prepare a report with recommendations and a work plan. This process can be an end unto itself or it can be used as a step toward accreditation.

Funding for “Assess Your Organization” is provided by the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

Pasture rose on land conserved in Murrysville
Photo by Theo van de Venne



In its seven years of existence, the Westmoreland Land Trust has conserved more than 200 acres of land through a total volunteer effort.

The board recognizes that taking the organization to the next level, however, will require the kind of consistent and dedicated investment of time and focus that only a staff person can provide.

To this end, board members **developed a job description and prepared a request to the Allegheny Foundation to fund a part-time position for two years.** A decision on this request was still pending at year-end.

The Stewardship Committee developed a comprehensive **Oil, Gas and Minerals Policy** for our properties.

FISCAL ADMINISTRATION AND LEGAL CONCERNS

Our revenue in 2014 was such that we were **exempt from filing a full federal tax return** in 2015. Our treasurer filed the exemption (the organization's 990-N) online in a timely fashion.

Bids for an **external audit of the Land Trust's financial records** were obtained from three auditors. After review and discussion, the board moved to accept a three-year engagement from Delisi, Keenan and Associates to cover audits for the years 2014, 2015, and 2016.

The Finance Committee asked for input from the board in developing a **draft operating budget for 2016**. This budget will be emailed in early 2016 to all board members, and discussion will take place at the January 2016 meeting.

The Westmoreland Land Trust submitted a **Charitable Organization Registration Statement** with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations that allows us to solicit charitable contributions from Pennsylvania residents.

Quotes for **directors and officers insurance and for the land trust's first-ever property liability insurance** (see page 3) were obtained from three carriers and reviewed in an Executive Committee meeting in early June.

The Executive Committee, acting on authority given by the board in March, assessed each proposal and secured what it determined to be the best coverage – policies provided by Conserve-A-Nation, a carrier that insures 501(c)3 conservation organizations nationwide.

The policy's premium was less than the quote provided by our current insurer, and includes a Volunteer Accident Policy and an Umbrella Policy that covers general liability claims in excess of \$1,000,000.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Pallone was reappointed to the board for a three-year term, beginning in January 2015 ending in December 2017.

Theo van de Venne, a resident of Murrysville and an active community volunteer, was appointed to a three-year term on the land trust board in July.

Theo and his wife, Pia, provided the land donation that enabled the trust to acquire additional properties in Murrysville near Duff Park (see page 2).

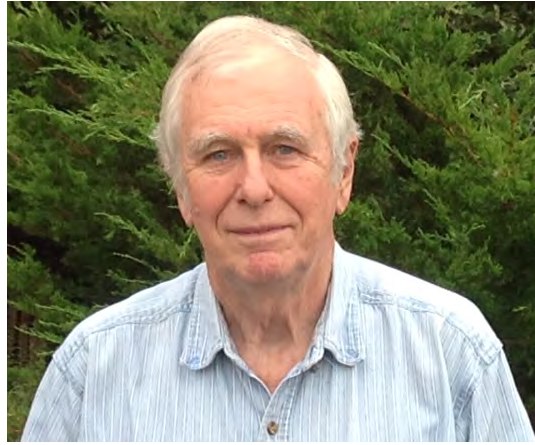


Photo by Karen Jurkovic

Theo van de Venne

Existing board members who were up for **reappointment at the end of the year** – **Alex Graziani, Karen Jurkovic, Lewis Lobdell, John Lohr, and Greg Phillips** – all were unanimously appointed to a new three-year term, effective January 1, 2016.

Lisa Smith, a founding board member, resigned her position on the Westmoreland Land Trust board in October to avoid any potential conflict between her volunteer service to our organization and her role as Principal with E-Concepts, the consulting firm facilitating the “Assess Your Organization” process (see page 12).

Board members voted at the January 2015 meeting to elect the following **slate of officers**: Chuck Duritsa, chair; Tony Quadro, vice chair; Susan Huba, treasurer; and Loree Speedy, secretary.

Four board members attended the **Pennsylvania Land Trust Alliance Conservation Conference** from May 7 through 9 in Gettysburg, with funding assistance provided by the Richard King Mellon Foundation.

During the conference, land trust board member Betsy Aiken represented our organization in a panel discussion, “Urban Conservation Opportunities: Tools for Land Trusts.”

Westmoreland Land Trust
Income and Expense Statement
1/1/2015 through 12/31/2015

REVENUE	2015	2014	2013
UNRESTRICTED REVENUE			
Donations	\$ 8,693.44	\$ 3,868.67	\$ 3,531
Grants	9,500.00	10,000.00	20,000
Interest	29.32	21.43	19
Misc.	3859.28	0	0
Total Unrestricted Revenue	\$ 22,082.04	13,890.10	23,551
RESTRICTED REVENUE			
Grants	-	-	-
Turtle Creek Gorge Project	-	5,285.00	-
Ackermann Maintenance Fund	2,000.00	-	-
Land Stewardship	3075.28*	-	-
Total Restricted Revenue	\$ 5,075.28	\$ 5,285.00	-
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 27,157.32	\$ 19,175.10	\$ 23,551
EXPENSES & DISTRIBUTIONS			
GENERAL OPERATING			
General Administrative (Postage/Copies/Refreshments)	\$ 453.40	\$ 295.93	\$ 217
Meeting Advertisements	122.50	143.80	144
Non-Capital Equipment/Signage	-	263.70	-
Organizational Dues	415.00	410.00	405
D & O Insurance	788.00	1,151.00	1,038
Liability Insurance	1,099.00	-	-
Appraisal Fees	1,500.00	-	-
Environmental Assessment	1,650.00	1,650.00	-
Survey	2,115.00	-	-
Audit	-	-	777
Web Domain Hosting/Maintenance	142.54	99.20	72
State Tax Return	-	-	-
Bank Charges (Paper Statements/Deposit Fees)	-	-	6
Legal	769.00	-	243
Westmoreland County - DCNR Match (Murrysville)	-	-	15,000
Misc: PALTA Conference Attendance	2,209.28	-	195
Strategic Planning/Annual Breakfast Meeting	399.01	-	-
Outreach/PR Events	15.00	674.01	-
PA Non Profit Registration Fee	155.00	15.00	-
Fundraising Costs	-	49.99	-
Depreciation	651.00	651.00	651
Total General Operating	\$ 12,483.73	\$ 5,403.63	\$ 18,748
RESERVE DISTRIBUTIONS			
Grants	-	-	-
Turtle Creek Gorge Project	-	-	-
Ackermann Property Maintenance	\$ 990.00	\$ 401.60	\$ 250
Land Stewardship	-	-	-
Checking Account Interest - Returned to State	-	-	-
Total Reserve Distributions	\$ 990.00	\$ 401.60	\$ 250
TOTAL EXPENSES/DISTRIBUTIONS	\$ 13,473.73	\$ 5,805.23	\$ 18,998
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$ 13,683.59	\$ 13,369.87	\$ 4,553

*Includes \$1,371.84 transferred from operating reserve (50% of 2014 Westmoreland Gives Income)

Westmoreland Land Trust
Statement of Cash Flows
1/1/2015 through 12/31/2015

	2015	2014	2013
CASH ON JANUARY 1	\$ 45,863.49	\$ 31,842.62	\$ 26,639
Cash to General Account	22,052.72	13,868.67	23,532
Cash to Restricted Account	5,075.28	5,285.00	-
Investment Income (Interest)	29.32	21.43	19
Cash from General Account	(13,855.57)	(5,403.63)	(18,748)
Cash from Restricted Account	(990.00)	(401.60)	(250)
Capital Expenditures	-	-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Equipment	-	-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Property	-	-	-
Payment of Long-Term Debt	-	-	-
Depreciation	651.00	651.00	651
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	\$ 12,962.75	\$ 14,020.87	\$ 5,204
CASH ON DECEMBER 31	\$ 58,826.24	\$ 45,863.49	\$ 31,843

Westmoreland Land Trust

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2015

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	\$58,826.24	\$45,863.49	\$31,843
Accounts Receivable	-	-	-
Prepaid Expenses	-	-	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	58,826.24	45,863.49	31,843
LONG-TERM ASSETS			
Equipment	1,300.00	1,951.00	2,602
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(651.00)	(651.00)	(651)
Total Equipment	649.00	1,300.00	1,951
Land Held for Conservation	5,645.00		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$65,769.24	\$47,163.49	<u>\$33,794</u>
<u>LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS</u>			
SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable	-	-	-
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES			
None	-	-	-
NET ASSETS:			
Unrestricted	\$47,203.10	\$38,327.63	\$29,842
Restricted:			
Ackermann Reserve	4,560.86	3,550.86	3,952
Turtle Creek Gorge	5,285.00	5,285.00	
Land Stewardship	3,075.28		
Land Held for Conservation	5,645.00		
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$65,769.24	\$47,163.49	<u>\$33,794</u>



2016 OBJECTIVES

- Obtain matching funds to the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation challenge grant of \$35,000 to purchase a parcel that buffers Cedar Creek Park.
- Complete the Land Trust Alliance's "Assess Your Organization" process and begin to implement its suggestions.
- Continue with the land conservation prioritization process, supported by National Park Service's Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.
- Use our recently developed text-based Selection Criteria to evaluate potential projects and acquisitions.
- Develop and implement a diverse revenue and funding strategy that includes an expanded "Friends of Westmoreland Land Trust."
- Host an event to increase public awareness of the Land Trust.
- Continue to pursue ways of obtaining part-time professional staff.
- Erect attractive and permanent signage to increase the visibility of Land Trust properties.
- Pursue conservation of land in the Turtle Creek Greenway.
- Participate in the update of the Westmoreland County Comprehensive Plan.
- Hold regular communications with the Westmoreland County Commissioners regarding ongoing funding of the Westmoreland Land Trust.
- Encourage committees to meet routinely to advance their goals with subsequent reports to the full board, and reconfigure committees as needed or beneficial.
- Continue stewardship of Ackermann, Cabin Hill and Marziano properties, and develop management plans for each.
- To advance our 2015-2017 Strategic Plan, periodically review our progress, make course corrections, and report to the board and to our strategic planning facilitator.



Mission

To conserve and steward lands and waters of Westmoreland County that harbor ecological, scenic or recreational qualities to offer a healthier and more sustainable future for all.

Vision

All Westmoreland County residents and visitors enjoy the scenic and natural value, accessibility and quality of open space conserved.

Throughout Westmoreland County recreational land abounds, water resources are protected, wildlife flourish, and the quality of life is high because of the continuing work of the Westmoreland Land Trust complementing the work of like-minded entities.

Values

The Westmoreland Land Trust values the following.

Conservation of diverse real property that is in, or in close proximity to, Westmoreland County and culturally, historically, ecologically, recreationally, or scenically valuable

Restoration, protection, and maintenance of conserved property as appropriate for its best long-term stewardship

Partnership with public or private entities where beneficial to encourage collective effort

Research and planning in support of conservation efforts

Promotion and education of conservation opportunities and benefits

Conformance with the Land Trust Standards and Practices published by the Land Trust Alliance in 2004, or as amended

2015 Board of Directors

Betsy Aiken

Mark Bowers

Chuck Duritsa
Chair

Martha Frech

Alex Graziani

Rep. R. Ted Harhai

Susan L. Huba
Treasurer

Karen Jurkovic

Commissioner Ted Kopas

Mike Kuzemchak

Larry Larese

Brian Lawrence

H. Lewis Lobdell

John Lohr

John Pallone

Greg Phillips

Tony Quadro
Vice Chair

Malcolm Sias

Lisa Smith*

Loree Speedy
Secretary

Virginia McCracken Stump

Jay Tarara

Theo van de Venne**

John Ward

** Resigned in Oct. 2015; position not filled*

*** Appointed in July*

Background

The Westmoreland Land Trust was formed in December 2007 in response to citizens' desire to conserve land of special value in Westmoreland County, such as land that contributes to the local quality of life because of its scenic, recreational, environmental, historical, or cultural qualities. The trust was awarded nonprofit status by the Internal Revenue Service in January 2009, making donations to the land preservation group tax-deductible.

From its founding in December 2007 through the end of 2014, the Westmoreland Land Trust has acquired some 207 acres in six distinct communities:

- the 59-acre Otto and Magdalene Ackermann Nature Preserve in Ardara, North Huntingdon Township,
- the 22-acre Peter and Victoria Skena Nature Reserve in Murrysville (contiguous to the 55-acre Lillian Kellman Nature Reserve),
- 21 acres in Rostraver Township along the Youghiogheny River,
- 3.5 acres in the City of Greensburg near Cabin Hill Drive,
- 9 acres in Murrysville adjacent to Duff Park,
- 4 acres in Ligonier Township along Route 30 (conserved in partnership with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the Loyalhanna Watershed Association),
- 16.5 acres in Murrysville adjacent to Duff Park (a property formerly part of the Norbitrol Plan of Lots),
- 49 acres in Murrysville adjacent to Duff Park and accessible from Round Top Road,
- 22 acres in Murrysville that link Duff Park and Pleasant Valley Park (providing continuous access to 500 natural acres), and
- 1 acre in Mount Pleasant Township, at the intersection of State Route 982 and Welty Road.