

A photograph of a snowy forest. The ground is covered in a thick layer of white snow, with some small, bare branches and fallen leaves scattered on the surface. Several tall, slender trees with dark, textured bark stand prominently in the foreground and middle ground. The trees are mostly without leaves, showing a dense network of thin branches against a pale, overcast sky. The overall scene is quiet and wintry.

Westmoreland Land Trust

Annual Report 2016

On the Cover

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

Photo by Theo van de Venne



Ninth Year Accomplishments – 2016

Six board meetings of the Westmoreland Land Trust were held in 2016.

Our objectives for 2016 were as follows.

- 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.

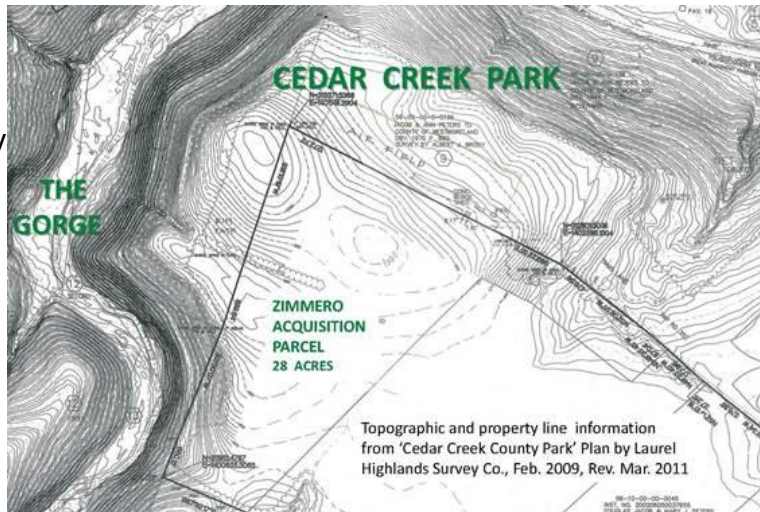
We were extremely successful in accomplishing virtually all of our objectives. Work toward erecting permanent signage was deferred due to the pending transfer of our road-front property in Mount Pleasant Township.

PROPERTY

One new property was acquired during the year – a 28-acre parcel of ground adjacent to Cedar Creek Park in Rostraver Township.

The Westmoreland Land Trust's primary interest in this property was to provide a buffer to and ecological protection for the Cedar Creek Gorge, a rich maturing mesic forest community that is part of a Biological Diversity Area of Exceptional Significance (source: *Westmoreland County Natural Heritage Inventory*).

Previously, there was no long-term buffer for the park's highly valued creek-carved gorge, which contains an area of dry-mesic calcareous central forest (an unusual natural community in Westmoreland County), and a profusion of wildflowers that includes the largest known population of Snow trillium (*Trillium nivale*) in southwestern Pennsylvania.



The newly acquired property is the immediate, directly adjacent property to the steep eastern slopes of the gorge, which stretch for almost 6,000 feet.

A secondary goal of this acquisition is to provide a safety buffer and some additional area for the existing recreational radio-controlled model airfield, which borders the property on the north.

Cedar Creek Park Addition Photo by Ted Kopas



The property acquisition was made with grant funds successfully obtained by the Westmoreland Land Trust from the Colcom Foundation, matched equally with grant funds successfully obtained by the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The Colcom Foundation also provided an

additional \$5,000 to support transition of the land from its agricultural use to a more natural, vegetated state. That work will take place in 2017.

The closing for the purchase of the property occurred in late March, and a celebratory event called “The Sky’s The Limit” was held in May (*see page 8*), during which the land trust turned the deed for the property over to the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation for annexation to Cedar Creek Park.

The land trust was most fortunate to also have a commitment from the Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation to help it acquire this property. The McKenna Foundation offered to provide a \$35,000 challenge grant to satisfy the land trust’s matching funds for this partnership effort. With the successful award from the Colcom Foundation for the total amount of the land trust’s share, this generous match was not needed.



Snow Trillium Photo by Theo van de Venne

Cedar Creek Park is one of ten free parks maintained by the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation to provide visitors with a wide variety of benefits and experiences.

Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation indicated interest in assuming ownership of a one-acre property in Mount Pleasant Township that the land trust acquired in 2015. The county would add this parcel, which is located at the intersection of State Route 982 and Welty Road, to its nearby Mammoth Park.



Parcel Near Mammoth Park Photo by Karen Jurkovic

The parcel, which was donated to the Westmoreland Land Trust by Deborah Marziano, contains a section of Welty Run, the stream that feeds Mammoth Park’s lake.

After ongoing discussions about whether the land trust should retain ownership of the property, our board voted unanimously in November to transfer its ownership, subject to a deed covenant for its conservation, to the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation.

Earlier in the year, the land trust had applied for and received a favorable decision by the Board of Assessment Appeals for a county real estate tax exemption on this property for tax years 2016 and beyond.

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 began in 2015, an ad hoc team of board members spent considerable time and effort during the year **developing a prioritization process to identify focus areas in the county for land conservation.**

All board members weighed in through a pairwise comparison survey and technical assistance in this effort was provided by the Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program of the National Park Service.

The board's collective priorities for conservation include: ecological, historic/scenic, and recreational criteria.

The ad hoc team also worked during the year to develop a detailed and standardized **checklist of the specific steps to be taken to successfully complete a land acquisition project.** Three phases delineated in the checklist cover project selection, project detail and advancement, and project closing.

STEWARDSHIP

2016 was the second year of an ongoing effort to **treat invasive species, primarily Japanese knotweed, at the 59-acre Otto and Magdalene Ackermann Nature Preserve** in Ardara, North Huntingdon Township. The work this year resulted in visibly effective results.

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 Westmoreland Land Trust received a donation of \$2,000 from Norbert and Joanne Ackermann in 2015 for ongoing treatment of invasive species at the Nature Preserve named for their family. One of our board members also made a financial



Removing Knotweed at Ackermann Nature Preserve Photo by Betsy Aiken

donation to this effort.

Other stewardship work on the preserve included laying out alignments for additional trails and positing “No Overnight Parking” signs in the preserve’s parking lot. Four benches were built and installed by an area teen as part of his Eagle Scout project.

The **Stewardship Committee visited the properties and completed site inspection forms for the Ackermann Nature Preserve** in North Huntingdon **and the Cabin Hill property** in the City of Greensburg.

Our stewardship team also walked the Cabin Hill property with an adjacent property owner concerned about trees that were leaning. It was determined that the trees were not on the land trust’s property. During the spring of 2017, discreet boundary markers will be posted to clarify the property lines.



Amur Corktree, Cabin Hill Property

FUNDRAISING

We were successful in 2016 with four foundation grant requests.

The Colcom Foundation provided \$75,000 in funds for our share of the partnership acquisition of a 28-acre property next to Cedar Creek Park (*see pages 2 and 3*).

The Allegheny Foundation provided a grant of \$75,000 over two years to allow us to hire our first paid staff person (*see page 10*).

The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County provided a grant of \$1,300 to cover the costs for two of our board members to attend the 2016 Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference in May in State College.

Also see page 3 regarding the generous challenge grant from The Katherine Mabis McKenna Foundation.

The Westmoreland County Commissioners allocated \$10,000 for the Westmoreland Land Trust in 2016. This currently is the only dedicated funding our organization receives.

In April, four land trust board members met with the three Westmoreland County Commissioners to update them on the land trust’s work. Among the items discussed at this meeting was a proposal to develop a county reserve fund for land acquisition under control of the commissioners.

Late in 2016, board members attended a meeting with Meghan McCandless, Westmoreland County's director of financial administration and aides of the Westmoreland County Commissioners to discuss **the land trust's 2017 allocation**.

As a result of this meeting, and in response to increasing pressures on the county budget, we submitted a request for 2017 funding in the amount of \$9,500. Our intent was to use this funding to provide support services, including fundraising support, for our new part-time professional staff person (*see page 10*).

We received a record level of donations from this year's Day of Giving.

Major problems with the national online fundraising firm's technology platform caused the May 3 **annual Day of Giving** to be aborted mid-day and re-scheduled for September 21.

The problems actually worked to the benefit of the Westmoreland Land Trust, which raised \$5,500 -- more from this year's event(s) than ever before. Giving also was enhanced by our concerted effort to reach out more strategically than we had in the past, to anyone who had ever previously donated to our organization, and to use a variety of media, including postcards, Facebook, and email.



After the addition of the matching funds provided by The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County, the May 3 Day of Giving yielded \$2,121 for the land trust and the September 21 Day of Giving brought in \$2,063.

In addition, immediately after the aborted May 3 event, five donors mailed in donations totaling \$1,325.

The grand total of all these giving opportunities brought in a record \$5,509. In accordance with board action taken in 2015, one half of this total has been placed in the Stewardship Fund.

One of our board members **personally hosted a wine-tasting event**, featuring a Pittsburgh wine expert, that raised \$350 for the land trust in addition to raising awareness of the organization and its mission.

2016 Donors

Benefactor

\$10,000 and above

Allegheny Foundation
Colcom Foundation
Westmoreland County Commissioners

Sponsor

\$1,000 to \$2,499

Lynn and Patrick Gurrentz
The Community Foundation of Westmoreland County

Partner

\$500 to \$999

Betsy Aiken
Charles and Judy Duritsa
Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation Citizens Advisory Board

Associate

\$250 to \$499

Ted Harhai
Lewis and Katherine Lobdell
Lisa Smith
Regis Synan
Theo van de Venne

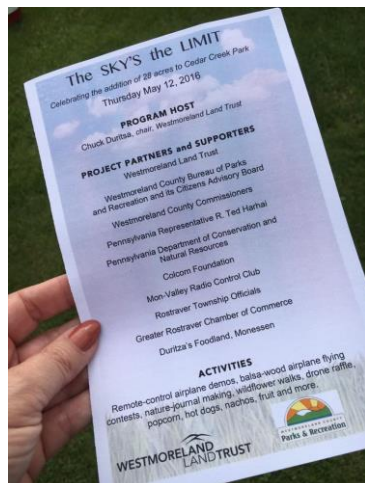
Donor

up to \$249

Carl Baumeister	The First Evangelical Lutheran Church	David Lester	Anthony Quadro
Rita Berquist	Martha Frech	John Lohr	Vincent Quatrini
Mark Bowers	The Hilltop Social Club	Joy Mallory	Diane Reintgen
Anne Brendel	Bobbie Hine	Regis & Jamie McHugh	Malcolm Sias
Susan Caroleo	Susan Huba	Janet McNeel	Clarence & Lona Skena
Marilyn Chapla	Karen Jurkovic	Susan Mignogna	Robert Skena
Julie Cohen	Commissioner Ted Kopas	Monessen Foodland	Loree Speedy
Tammy Colt	Michael Kuzemchak	Judy Parker	Roseann Stefanic
Michael Corb	Larry Larese	Paula Purnell	Virginia Stump
William Danchuk	Brian Lawrence	Jan Pechan	Joseph Tarara
William Doney		Terry & Rhonda Pegg	Nancy Valley
Mark & Sharlene Emerson		Gregory Phillips	John Ward
			Mary Lee Zasada

OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

A major public event – “The Sky’s The Limit” – was held to announce the land trust’s acquisition of the property next to Cedar Creek Park (see pages 2 and 3) and to serve as a “friend-raising” event for our organization.



Held on Thursday, May 12, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the newly acquired parcel, the event featured an action-packed air show conducted by members of the Mon-Valley Radio Control Club; balsa-wood airplane flying contests and nature-journal-making for children; wildflower walks; and a raffle for a Hubsan drone with first-person view. Popcorn, hot dogs, and other fun foods were available, and the entire event was free and open to the public.

Some 300 people came to the event, which also received excellent newspaper coverage from the Tribune Review and the Mon Valley Independent, as well as a news video from the

Herald-Standard of Uniontown.

Thanks to donations from the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation Citizens Advisory Board, Monessen Foodland, and several board members; as well as the proceeds from the drone raffle, we were able to extensively promote and host this entire event for less than \$800.



Photos by Ann Nemanic,
Mark Jackson, Bob Myers

The Westmoreland Land Trust was formed in late 2007 as a direct result of citizens throughout the county stating during the development of the first County Comprehensive Plan that their number one priority was to retain the rural character of Westmoreland County.

In 2016, the Westmoreland County Planning and Development Department began the process of **updating that original County Comprehensive Plan** and set out to again gather citizen input.

Comprehensive Plan Workshop Photo by Betsy Aiken



The land trust co-hosted three public input sessions, one for the general public with the Loyalhanna Watershed Association and two for students on the Penn State University's New Kensington campus.

Citizen and student comments gathered during these events was given to the county and will be used in the development of the plan, which will help guide local decisions.

A 20-page **annual report**, detailing the land trust's accomplishments in 2015, 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.

Land Trust board members, their families, and friends **participated as marchers and donors in the 2016 March for Parks, the annual fundraising event for Westmoreland County's parks and trails.**

Our team focused at the event's Cedar Creek Park location and raised \$290 for the Westmoreland County parks.

Four news releases were issued during the year, announcing the property acquisition near Cedar Creek Park, "The Sky's The Limit" celebration, the addition of a new board member (see page 11); and the County Comprehensive Plan meetings. We also made use of Facebook and our website to get our message to the public.

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

After seven years of operating as an all-volunteer organization, **we ended 2016 poised to hire our first staff person.**

Our board universally felt that, to continue to grow, it was imperative that our organization have a person singularly dedicated to advancing our major goals, including those identified in our strategic plan (*see next item*).

Notified in 2016 of our successful grant request to the Allegheny Foundation for funds to employ such a person part-time for two years, we were able to continue to advance toward this goal.

An ad hoc board Staffing Committee set about developing a job description for this new executive director, as well as a project budget and a list of anticipated additional annual expenses that will be incurred to support this staff position.

Board members were solicited first to gauge if there was any interest in applying for the position, which next was advertised in a number of local and regional outlets. In December, resumes were reviewed, interviews were held, and the Staffing Committee selected its top candidate.

At the end of the year, we were preparing to offer the candidate the position with a goal of having our first executive director on board in January.

Our organization **continued work in the key areas identified in our first-ever Strategic Plan**, developed with the assistance of a professional planner in 2015.

The major accomplishments of 2016 – including the land acquisition and newly developed property assessment tools, the major friend-raising event, the four successful grant awards, and the pending hiring of our first professional staff person – are the result of goals and strategies identified in our Strategic Plan.

Late in the year, a committee was formed to address items pertaining to organizational records management – an area board members identified as needing attention in a **comprehensive organizational assessment we undertook during 2016.**

The day-long “Assess Your Organization” exercise clearly showed what things we were doing well and what areas we need to improve with respect to the Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices.

One of the major tasks of the new committee will be to consolidate records now being kept by numerous individual board members.

FISCAL ADMINISTRATION AND LEGAL CONCERNS

Our revenue in 2015 was such that we were **exempt from filing a full federal tax return** in 2016. Our treasurer filed the exemption (the organization's 990-N) online in a timely fashion.

Delisi, Keenan and Associates conducted our audit for the year 2015, and it was approved unanimously at our May meeting.

Late in the year, the Finance Committee asked for input from the board in developing a **draft operating budget for 2017**. Discussion on this budget will take place at the January 2017 board 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.

We reached out to a local chapter of SCORE, a nonprofit association that provides free, confidential counseling and mentoring, and were connected with **a retired CPA who is available to assist us** with a number of fiscal tasks, including completion of Forms 990, budgeting, and accounting.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers for 2016 were Chuck Duritsa, chair; Tony Quadro, vice-chair; Susan Huba, treasurer; and Loree Speedy, secretary.

Tammy Colt
Photo by Karen Jurkovic



Changes to the land trust board of directors during the year included:

the addition of Tammy Colt, a wildlife biologist with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, who was appointed to the board in May;
the resignation of Larry Larese, one of the founding members of the land trust who served more than eight years on our board; and

the decision of Susan Huba at year-end to take some time off and so not seek reappointment.

In response to Susan's decision, Martha Frech indicated her willingness to take over as treasurer beginning in 2017.

At the end of the year, **eight board members were reappointed** to three-year terms, beginning January 1, 2017.

They are Betsy Aiken, Martha Frech, Ted Kopas, Mike Kuzemchak, Brian Lawrence, Tony Quadro, Loree Speedy, and Jay Tarara. Ted Kopas and Brian Lawrence will serve as the two members appointed by the Westmoreland County Commissioners.

Westmoreland Land Trust
Income and Expense Statement
1/1/2016 through 12/31/2016

<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
<i>UNRESTRICTED REVENUE</i>			
Donations	1,050.00	\$ 8,693.44	\$ 3,868.67
Day of Giving	2,885.81		
Grants	46,450.00	9,500.00	10,000.00
Interest	149.45	29.32	21.43
Misc.	1,229.40	3859.28	0
Total Unrestricted Revenue	<u>51,764.66</u>	<u>\$ 22,082.04</u>	<u>13,890.10</u>
<i>RESTRICTED REVENUE</i>			
Zimmaro Property	75,000.00	-	-
Turtle Creek Gorge Project	-	-	5,285.00
Ackermann Maintenance Fund	-	2,000.00	-
Land Stewardship	<u>2,885.81</u>	<u>3075.28*</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Restricted Revenue	<u>77,885.81</u>	<u>\$ 5,075.28</u>	<u>\$ 5,285.00</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>129,650.47</u>	<u>\$ 27,157.32</u>	<u>\$ 19,175.10</u>
<u>EXPENSES & DISTRIBUTIONS</u>			
<i>GENERAL OPERATING</i>			
General Administrative (Postage/Copies/Refreshments)	999.79	\$ 453.40	\$ 295.93
Meeting Advertisements	525.75	122.50	143.80
Non-Capital Equipment/Signage	-	-	263.70
Organizational Dues	525.00	415.00	410.00
D & O Insurance	788.00	788.00	1,151.00
Liability Insurance	1,116.00	1,099.00	-
Appraisal Fees	-	1,500.00	-
Environmental Assessment	-	1,650.00	1,650.00
Survey	-	2,115.00	-
Audit	1,923.00	-	-
Web Domain Hosting/Maintenance	126.04	142.54	99.20
State Tax Return	-	-	-
Bank Charges (Paper Statements/Deposit Fees)	40.00	-	-
Legal	-	769.00	-
Westmoreland County - DCNR Match (Murrysville)	-	-	-
Misc: PALTA Conference Attendance	1,700.00	2,209.28	-
Strategic Planning/Annual Breakfast Meeting	155.59	399.01	-
Outreach/PR Events	2,063.18	15.00	674.01
PA Non Profit Registration Fee	15.00	155.00	15.00
Fundraising Costs	-	-	49.99
Property Taxes	123.21		
Depreciation	649.00	651.00	651.00
Total General Operating	<u>10,749.56</u>	<u>\$ 12,483.73</u>	<u>\$ 5,403.63</u>
<i>RESERVE DISTRIBUTIONS</i>			
Turtle Creek Gorge Project	-	-	-
Ackermann Property Maintenance	1,069.96	\$ 990.00	\$ 401.60
Land Stewardship	-	-	-
Zimmaro Property	69,728.57	-	-
Total Reserve Distributions	<u>70,798.53</u>	<u>\$ 990.00</u>	<u>\$ 401.60</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES/DISTRIBUTIONS	<u>81,548.09</u>	<u>\$ 13,473.73</u>	<u>\$ 5,805.23</u>
NET INCOME (LOSS)	48,102.38	\$ 13,683.59	\$ 13,369.87

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

Westmoreland Land Trust
Statement of Cash Flows
1/1/2016 through 12/31/2016

	2016	2015	2014
CASH ON JANUARY 1	\$ 58,826.24	\$ 45,863.49	\$ 31,842.62
Cash to General Account	51,615.21	22,052.72	13,868.67
Cash to Restricted Account	77,885.81	5,075.28	5,285.00
Investment Income (Interest)	149.45	29.32	21.43
Cash from General Account	(10,749.56)	(13,855.57)	(5,403.63)
Cash from Restricted Account	(70,798.53)	(990.00)	(401.60)
Capital Expenditures	-	-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Equipment	-	-	-
Proceeds from Sale of Property	-	-	-
Payment of Long-Term Debt	-	-	-
Accounts Payable			
Depreciation	649.00	651.00	651.00
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH	\$ 48,751.38	\$ 12,962.75	\$ 14,020.87
CASH ON DECEMBER 31	\$ 107,577.62	\$ 58,826.24	\$ 45,863.49

Westmoreland Land Trust
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2016

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	\$ 107,577.62	\$ 58,826.24	\$ 45,863.49
Accounts Receivable	-	-	-
Accounts Payable	-	-	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	107,577.62	58,826.24	45,863.49
LONG-TERM ASSETS			
Equipment	649.00	1,300.00	1,951.00
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(649.00)	(651.00)	(651.00)
Total Equipment	-	649.00	1,300.00
Land Held for Conservation	5,645.00	5,645.00	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 113,222.62	\$ 65,769.24	\$ 47,163.49
<u>LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS</u>			
SHORT-TERM LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable		-	-
LONG-TERM LIABILITIES			
None	-	-	-
NET ASSETS:			
Unrestricted	\$ 87,469.20	\$ 47,203.10	\$ 38,327.63
Restricted:			
Ackermann Reserve	3,490.90	4,560.86	3,550.86
Turtle Creek Gorge	5,285.00	5,285.00	5,285.00
Land Stewardship	6,061.09	3,075.28	
Zimmaro Property	5,271.43		
Land Held for Conservation	5,645.00	5,645.00	
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 113,222.62	\$ 65,769.24	\$ 47,163.49



2017 Objectives

- Hire an executive director and fully integrate and utilize that person in the operation and advancement of the Westmoreland Land Trust.
- Make grant applications toward the acquisition of two properties/easements.
- Build awareness of and advocate for the land trust with the general public and with strategic audiences.
- Develop and implement a diverse, multi-year revenue and fundraising strategy.
- Complete the land conservation prioritization process.
- Continue to use our text-based selection criteria to evaluate potential projects and acquisitions.
- Continue our active participation in the update of the Westmoreland County Comprehensive Plan.
- Hold regular communications with the Westmoreland County Commissioners regarding ongoing funding and support of the Westmoreland Land Trust.
- Continue to encourage standing and ad hoc committees to meet routinely to advance our goals and to make regular reports to the full board.
- Identify individual board member capabilities, resources and interests and develop a plan to enhance board functioning and to identify new board member prospects.
- Gather and consolidate the organization's records and develop a system for ongoing comprehensive records management.
- Continue to advance our 2015-2017 Strategic Plan, and use the Assess Your Organization Recommendation to strengthen and standardize our operations and programs related to Land Trust Standards and Practices.



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



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 2016, the Westmoreland Land Trust has acquired some 235 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),
- 1 acre in Mount Pleasant Township, at the intersection of State Route 982 and Welty Road, and
- 28 acres in Rostraver Township (conserved in partnership with the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation and added to Cedar Creek Park).



Ackermann Nature Preserve Photo by Betsy Aiken



2016 Board of Directors

Betsy Aiken

Mark Bowers

Tammy Colt*

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

Loree Speedy
Secretary

Virginia McCracken Stump

Jay Tarara

Theo van de Venne

John Ward

** Appointed May 2016*

***Resigned May 2016*



218 Donohoe Road
Greensburg, PA 15601

(412) 613-9887

info@westmoreland-landtrust.org