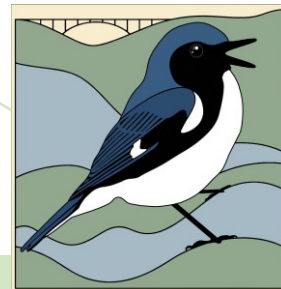


New River Birding & Nature Center

Wetlands Boardwalk & Woodland Trails

sharing the secrets of science and nature in the Outdoor Classroom.

MEDIA COVERAGE, RECOGNITION, AND IMPACT



FOUNDATION & PURPOSE

Conceived in 2008 to fulfill community needs expressed in the 2001 Fayette County Comprehensive Development Plan, the New River Birding & Nature Center was established as a free-access, non-commercial refuge for everyday recreation. In 2009, a naturally unwalkable wetland was transformed into a multi-generational asset with the construction of our barrier-free Wetlands Boardwalk providing safe, affordable outdoor activity for all ages and mobility levels while preserving wild and wonderful natural resources that define our environment and community character.

Today, the Center continues to share the secrets of science and nature through nature focused programs and remaining open as a destination for self-guided walks by residents and tourists alike, fostering environmental literacy and ensuring sustainability.

CONSERVATION SCIENCE

MAPS STATION: Licensed bird banders established the site as a station for the international Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program. Out of 500 stations in the U.S., ours is the only station to report the Swainson's Warbler in breeding habitat - providing critical demographic data on a species whose extreme habitat requirements are dwindling.

MOTUS WILDLIFE TRACKING SYSTEM: Selected by the WVDNR Wildlife Diversity Program, our site hosts a solar-powered telemetry receiver. Part of a global network spanning 31 countries and 4 continents, the receiver records radio signals from tagged bats and birds, allowing researchers to accurately track species migration routes in real time.

National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count: The longest-running community science project in the world, the Oak Hill Circle counts winter birds at the site to provide long-term population data that's used to track bird population trends, and understand how shifting weather patterns affect where birds overwinter, and data from the count directly backs habitat restoration initiatives and informs environmental policy to protect species under the Endangered Species Act.

GET INVOLVED

Director, Rachel Davis | 304-880-8059 | rachel.davis8059@gmail.com
FB @NewRiverBirdingNatureCenter

Fiduciary Partner: 501(c)(3) Fayette County Education Fund, Inc. (FCEF).
President, Geoff Heeter | 304-573-0111 | geoffheeter@gmail.com

DONATE



LOCATION & PARKING

Less than 1 mile from US Route 19, at the end of Guy Dooley Trail in Fayetteville, WV. Parking is at the corner of Guy Dooley Trail and Nick Rahall Greenway, with accessible parking directly by the Boardwalk. Search "New River Birding & Nature Center, WV" in Google Maps.

MEDIA COVERAGE & RECOGNITION

A chronological bibliography from the Fayette Tribune and regional press networks showcasing over 15 years of environmental education, leadership development, and ecotourism infrastructure - a legacy of community values and a blueprint for continued future impact.

"Count birds for science and fun for Audubon's 126th annual Christmas Bird Count" *West Virginia Press Alliance* | December 8, 2025 | Rachel Davis for The Fayette Tribune; reprinted by West Virginia Press Alliance

"Birders and nature enthusiasts in Fayette County will join this tradition that has lasted over twelve decades, in the Oak Hill circle."

Highlights local participation in the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count, encouraging community members and birders to contribute to long-term citizen science data collection across Fayette County.

"Outdoor recreation, activities are big focus in Oak Hill" *Fayette Tribune* | April 11, 2024 | Steve Keenan
The City of Oak Hill sought natural soft surface trail builders to construct "7 miles of shared-use and bike-only singletrack at Needleseye."

Outlines community initiatives, municipal priorities, and infrastructure developments centered on expanding outdoor recreation and eco-tourism opportunities in Oak Hill, WV connecting the New River Birding & Nature Center woodland trails.

"Local bird count set for Dec. 16" *Fayette Tribune* | November 23, 2023 | Rachel Davis

A great blue heron keeps an eye out for dinner from a tree near a body of water.

Announces scheduling details, gathering spots, and instructions for local volunteers taking part in the upcoming winter bird census in the area that includes the New River Birding & Nature Center wetlands and woodlands.

"Wild and Wonderful Wetlands - Wolf Creek Wetland" *WV DEP: Environment Matters YouTube* | October 5, 2023
"Wetlands cover far less than one percent of the space of West Virginia, but they are used by 23 percent of the species."

A video feature showcasing the ecological significance, wildlife habitat value, and conservation efforts at the Wolf Creek Wetland in Fayette County.

"Volunteers pitch in at birding, nature center" *Register Herald* | July 27, 2023 | Rachel Davis

"Being out there, reinforced that God created the natural beauty for us and it strengthened my testimony that God created this work that we can learn and grow from it. It's a powerful witness to what we believe," James Thorley.

Reports on community volunteer efforts focused on trail maintenance, habitat upkeep, and facility improvements at the local birding and nature center.

Note: The remaining historical archive pieces dating back to 2008 highlight continuous trail mapping, eco-tourism, and youth outdoor programs like the 'Wolf Creek Wanderers' that helped pave the way for the later initiatives throughout the area.

"Annual New River Birding & Nature Festival a success" *Fayette Tribune* | May 24, 2023 | Rachel Davis

Summarizes the turnout, notable species sightings, and community engagement results from the annual New River Birding & Nature Festival with programming at the Nature Center.

"Best of the Blue Ridge: 2022 Readers' Choice Awards" *Blue Ridge Outdoors* | February 10, 2022

Destinations: Birdwatching Spot - Features regional reader awards recognizing premier outdoor destinations, including top picks for birdwatching at Wolf Creek Park, from choice spots across the Blue Ridge region.

"A new soft surface trail plan underway in Fayette County" WOAY TV | January 15, 2022

Details planning and design efforts to expand soft-surface multi-use trails for pedestrian and recreational use within Fayette County.

"Fayette community, business titan remembered" Fayette Tribune | September 30, 2021 | Steve Keenan

A retrospective of the civic leadership and economic impact of a prominent Mr. Dooley in Fayette County history; naming the road to the New River Birding & Nature Center in his honor.

"Historians seek info on area now known as Wolf Creek Park" Fayette Tribune | December 6, 2018 | New River Gorge Trail Alliance

Issues a call to the public for photos, stories, and historical records regarding the land, settlements, and usage of what became Wolf Creek Park.

"NRG Master Naturalists to gather in Oak Hill Saturday" Fayette Tribune | July 13, 2017 | Steve Keenan

Previews an upcoming gathering of the New River Gorge Master Naturalists chapter in Oak Hill focused on regional environmental stewardship and training.

"World Series of Birding to benefit Fayette County Education Fund" Fayette Tribune | April 6, 2017 | Rachel Davis

Explains how local birders' participation in the competitive World Series of Birding serves as a fundraiser for local educational programs and grants.

"Local birding events gain in stature; Hummingbird Festival, Hawk Gawk set" Fayette Tribune | July 25, 2016 | Rachel Davis

Highlights the growth and schedule for popular seasonal nature events, including the regional Hummingbird Festival and the autumnal Hawk Gawk event.

"Hummingbird Festival set for August 22" Fayette Tribune | August 17, 2015 | Rachel Davis

Announces activities, banding demonstrations, and family events lined up for a celebration of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds.

"New River Birding & Nature Festival offers students insight" West Virginia Press Alliance | May 27, 2015 | Rachel Davis for The Fayette Tribune; reprinted by West Virginia Press Alliance

Covers educational outreach programs connected to the festival that give local school students hands-on field experience with ornithology and ecology.

"Wander through nature in your own back yard" Fayette Tribune | June 5, 2013 | Rachel Davis

Encourages local residents to explore nearby public green spaces, trails, and backyard biodiversity across Fayette County.

"Festival continues to boost economy" Fayette Tribune | May 14, 2012 | Rachel Davis

Examines the economic impact and tourism revenue generated for local businesses by visiting nature enthusiasts during the festival season.

"Sweep into spring at Wolf Creek Park" Fayette Tribune | April 4, 2012 | Rachel Davis

Details spring cleanup days and seasonal preparation activities organized by community volunteers at Wolf Creek Park.

"Fiber optic service coming to Wolf Creek" Fayette Tribune | November 3, 2011 | Rachel Davis

Reports on infrastructure upgrades and business in the Wolf Creek Park development.

"Students may become 'Wolf Creek Wanderers'" *Fayette Tribune* | June 23, 2011 | Rachel Davis

Describes a student environmental education initiative designed to engage youth through outdoor study and trail exploration at Wolf Creek.

"Wolf Creek event scheduled" *Fayette Tribune* | June 9, 2011 | Rachel Davis

Outlines schedule items for an upcoming community outdoor gathering and open house held at Wolf Creek Park.

"Birding & Nature Center invites individuals to help with curriculum planning" *Fayette Tribune* | March 17, 2011 | Rachel Davis

Issues an invitation to educators, naturalists, and community members to collaborate on designing environmental curriculum programs.

"First Hummingbird Festival 'a smashing success'" *Fayette Tribune* | August 19, 2010 | Rachel Davis

Reviews the strong attendance, community enthusiasm, and success of the inaugural New River Hummingbird Festival.

"New River Hummingbird Festival set" *Fayette Tribune* | July 22, 2010 | Rachel Davis

Previews plans, dates, and speaker lineups for the very first event dedicated to hummingbird appreciation in the area.

"\$15k grant awarded for Wolf Creek nature trail" *Fayette Tribune* | December 22, 2008 | Dave Pollard

Reports on a \$15,000 grant secured to fund initial construction, signage, and pathway development for the Wolf Creek nature trail network.

