

OUR IMPACT & FUTURE

Since 2008, the New River Birding & Nature Center has demonstrated a proven blueprint for success. By protecting a critical neotropical migrant stopover habitat, hosting research projects, and offering environmental literacy, we have solidified value as a foundational asset for nature tourism, environmental education, and international research.

Sustaining and maintaining our Outdoor Classroom's Wetlands Boardwalk and Woodland Trails relies entirely on public and private collaboration. Partner with us as an organization ally, donor, or volunteer to ensure this vital asset continues into the future.

PARTNERS

WV Department of Environmental Protection • National Park Service • WV Division of Natural Resources • New River Gorge Master Naturalists • American Birding Association • National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count • Institute for Bird Populations • NRBNF • Solid Waste Authority • Hico Foodland • Cathedral Café • Fayetteville Rotary • McDonald's of Fayetteville • Hamilton Burgess Young & Pollard PLLC • New River Convention & Visitors Bureau • National Coal Heritage Highway Authority • Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation • FLOW / Volunteer WV • The Benedum Foundation • Fayette County Urban Renewal Authority • Fayette County Commission • Plateau Action Network • Impel Promotions • Opossum Creek Retreat • Boxley • Crosiers • Lowe's of Fayetteville • Fayette County Park • and many individual champions.

CONSERVATION SCIENCE

The Center serves as a site for international wildlife data collection through MAPS and MOTUS.

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.

GET INVOLVED

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FB @NewRiverBirdingNatureCenter

DONATE

Fiduciary Partner: 501(c)(3) Fayette County Education Fund, Inc. (FCEF).

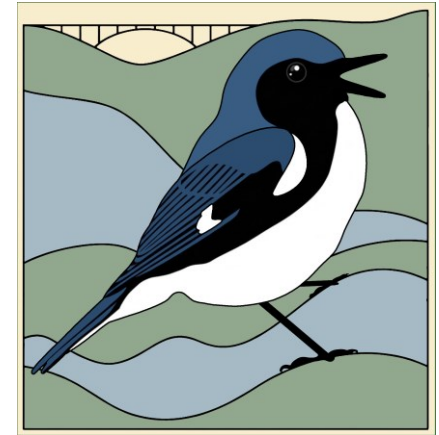
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2026 Impel Promotions, LLC

New River Birding & Nature Center

Wetlands Boardwalk & Woodland Trails
*Sharing the secrets of science and nature
in the Outdoor Classroom.*



PARTNERSHIP & CAPABILITY STATEMENT

A legacy of community values and
a blueprint for continued future 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 community character.

Today, the Center continues to advance the 2011 and 2021–2023 CDP updates by promoting ecotourism, community health and wellness, and habitat protection.

Sharing the secrets of science and nature through environmentally focused programs and remaining open as a destination for countless self-guided walks by residents and tourists alike, we foster environmental literacy, support regional commerce, and ensure long-term environmental sustainability.

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.

THREE PILLARS

We balance ecological stewardship with social health and regional economic vitality, while establishing a permanent foundation for future regional impact.

SOCIAL VALUE & HEALTH: Walking and nature watching lead to better health, improved quality of life, and stronger sense of place. Our accessible Wetlands Boardwalk and Woodland Trails were the first trail assets in Wolf Creek Park. The Wetlands Boardwalk enables people to experience a delicate ecosystem up close without getting their feet wet or disturbing the habitat.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: Wetlands make up less than 1% of West Virginia's land mass and are crucial habitat for 23% of all WV's plant species, 44% of its rare plants, and 20% of its rare vertebrate animals. Our Wetlands Boardwalk was selected by the WVDEP's Watershed Improvement Branch as a location for the educational video series, "Wild & Wonderful Wetlands of West Virginia."

ECONOMIC IMPACT & ECOTOURISM: We drive lucrative regional nature tourism. Voted the #1 Birdwatching Spot in the Best of the Blue Ridge 2022 Readers Choice Awards. The Outdoor Classroom serves as an anchor destination for the annual New River Birding & Nature Festival (NRBNF), attracting global travelers and prominent national tour groups led by experts like Jon Dunn, co-author of National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America.

COMMUNITY

Wetlands Boardwalk construction came through a collaborative framework. Labor assistance was driven by the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, local community members and businesses, and prefabrication assistance from vocational students at the Fayette Institute of Technology.

Between 2008 and 2022, the Center provided free nature-based education programs to over 4,000 students through immersive outdoor classroom modules.

DIVERSE LOCAL & MULTI-STATE EDUCATION: Our programs serve students from across all Fayette County public, private, and home schools, as well as classes from Nicholas County. Additionally, we engage diverse youth groups, including Leadership Fayette County, Montessori schools, church youth ministries from WV, FL, PA, and VA, and Scouts of America troops from across the nation. Notably, a Leadership class broke ground on the Center in 2008; and in 2013, the Center served as an integral educational site for the BSA National Jamboree.

PUBLIC & PRIVATE PROGRAMS: Including, but not limited to, Teacher Continuing Education, Master Naturalists, Second Saturday guided walks, numerous birding events, community litter clean-ups, Briar Garden Club picnics, Day Report initiatives, and al fresco fundraiser dinners.

