



Land Protection and Community Support in Virginia and West Virginia

As the steward of the Appalachian Trail (A.T.), the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) has an obligation to protect high-value scenic views and connectivity for the greater A.T. landscape, preserve threatened natural habitats, and ensure the Trail experience endures for generations to come.

The ATC frequently works with partners and developers to address potential impacts of permitted projects near the Trail. One of these projects - the Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) - crosses the Appalachian Trail through southeast West Virginia and southwest Virginia.

To achieve the best available outcome for the A.T., the ATC entered a \$19.5 million voluntary stewardship agreement with The Conservation Fund and MVP. This enables the ATC to conserve key lands along the Trail, preserve viewsheds, support recreation-based economic growth, and enhance community support for the Trail. The ATC has worked with MVP and other energy providers to minimize or avoid the visual impacts of pipeline and powerline corridors to the A.T.



Land Acquisitions Secured

- The ATC has spent approximately **\$7.5 million** to acquire **nearly 4,000 acres** of land in Virginia and West Virginia, permanently protecting portions of the footpath and scenic views along the A.T., as well as improving access points and trailheads.
- Lands acquired through the agreement will protect the A.T. experience, help bolster the climate resiliency of the landscape, as well as support local recreation-based economies that heavily rely on A.T. hikers.
- To date, the ATC has secured **fifteen** new land acquisitions throughout the A.T., including multiple portions of the McAfee Knob trailhead and viewshed, Dragon's Tooth viewshed, Brush Mountain and North Mountain.

Community Impact Grants

- Through Community Impact Grants, the ATC has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars for projects in southwestern Virginia and southeastern West Virginia, including support for tourism and outdoor recreation industries in Monroe County, WV and recreation development on the Little Bluestone River.
- The ATC has funded ten programs that demonstrate the importance of environmental health, land stewardship, and green infrastructure through education and recreation activities in partnership with communities that value the Trail.
- Sample programs include Wonder Universe, a children's museum aiming to educate children on the plants and animals found along the A.T.; an outdoor program for underserved youth; and a self-guided interactive tour on Salt Pond Mountain.

The ATC remains engaged with federal partners on related issues, including improvements to the government's eminent domain practices, and developing and advocating for an improved permitting approval process for pipelines.



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Land Purchases Completed

All land tract purchases listed are complete

Dragon's Tooth Viewshed
Montgomery/Roanoke County

1,808 Acres

McAfee Viewsheds
Botetourt County

751 Acres

Kimberling Creek
Bland County

212 Acres

Mountain Lake
Monroe County

205 Acres

Brush Mountain
Montgomery County

203 Acres

Sawtooth Ridge
Roanoke County

197 Acres

Rocky Row Side Trail
Amherst County

188 Acres

Irish Creek
Rockbridge County

42 Acres

Bland Co. Open Area
Bland County

38 Acres

Cripple Creek
Nelson County

8 Acres

McAfee Trailhead
Roanoke County

7 Acres

Daleville Trailhead
Botetourt County

6.8 Acres

Total A.T. Acres Protected

3,665.8