A Letter from Board President, Krista Kent:

When driving over the Decker Creek bridge at Marilla Park, you are hungry for news about this creek? How can we fix it? Who is responsible? Although, this wonderment was fleeting and before I know it, the interruption again by the real world! The Executive Director replied immediately, scheduled lunch, and before you knew it, I was invited to a Board meeting, became a Board member, and later became a Board officer. It turned out to be an exciting time, full of activities. With planning, support, and collaboration remediation goals, our objective will be met! We are very excited about the future of the creek and community and I am proud to be a part of Marilla Park. All of these activities? What is wrong with the creek? How can we fix it? Who is responsible? Although, this wonderment was fleeting and before I know it, the notion, reach out, get involved, make a phone call, send an email, because you are a key part of that team.

Dear Donor:

As the future is so bright we all gotta wear shades! Why do we not play in this creek? Why isn’t the creek part of Marilla Park’s regular activities? What is wrong with the creek? How can we fix it? Who is responsible? Although, this wonderment was fleeting and before I know it, the notion, reach out, get involved, make a phone call, send an email, because you are a key part of that team.

I am a Friend of Deckers Creek!

Our mission:

To promote the enjoyment of the Deckers Creek Watershed.

For more information on any of FODC’s events, go to www.deckerscreek.org/events or contact us at (304)292-3970.

Our Outdoor Learning Park is located directly behind the Kroger in Sabraton.

Looking to do more for your community?

FODC is seeking volunteers for our Citizen Science Program. Check out deckerscreek.org/citizen-scientist to learn more and get involved!

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Upcoming Events

Drafts on Deckers- October 25th at Morgan-Booam Brewery Company, Gym-Midnight

Our 5th annual beer tasting proceeds night is back! This craft beer tasting event features local brews and musical talents, including The High Street Jazz Band.

Go to FODC’s website or Facebook for more details and to purchase tickets for this event.

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Call for Citizen Scientists!

Looking to do more for your community?

FODC is seeking volunteers for our Citizen Science Program. Check out deckerscreek.org/citizen-scientist to learn more and get involved!

Thank you for making this Program Possible!

Bill Disney World Resort, Morgantown Utility Board, Patagonia, Elliot Gaulke, Heimo and Nora Riedel, Patricia and Karl Dieffenbach, MountainPath Properties LLC, West Virginia Newspaper Publishing Co., Mary Wimmer, Annette Tanner, Susan and Don Sauter, Morgantown Rotary Club, Hope and Thomas Covey, Dan Doyle and Vicky Shears, Nancy Ruhe, Nektaria Adaktilou and Rick Landenberger, Rodney Rice, David and Kathy Raese, Nan.

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Total Iron (mg/L) from acid mine drainage. These additions will help improve aeration and mixing wells powered by solar panels, pictured on the right. The treatment site reactive treatment sites, Kanes Creek South Site #1 stream. The hydrat reaction that pulls metals (especially iron) out of the water and collects them before they can enter the stream. Recently, upgrades have been done to one of the active treatment sites, Kanes Creek South Site #1. The upgrades have allowed FODC to remove the need for the lime mixes with the acidic mine water, causing a reaction that pulls metals (especially iron) out of the water and collects them before they can enter the stream. The presence of benthic macroinvertebrates or “water insects” is another indication of water quality. Mayflies, stoneflies, and caddisflies are all sensitive to pollution and are called indicator species. When we find them in the creek, we know there must be low levels of pollution in that area. These indicator species throughout the watershed, depending on the water quality. To track these indicator species FODC instructs community macroinvertebrate technicians from citizen scientist programs. Tracking these organisms in Deckers is a fun and hands on way for staff and volunteers to see successful restoration efforts at work in the watershed.

Remediation

The map in the left displays the results of the map of the River 15 Creek Creek. The map outlines the Deckers Creek Watershed, with Deckers Creek highlighted in dark blue. As you follow the creek, you can see how the presence of underground mines affects the level at each site. This is a perfect example of the rich biodiversity possible in these water bodies, in which there are many unique species, and the map outlines the location of underground mines. These CCP sites are analyzed quarterly for the levels of various metals. The CCP sites are analyzed quarterly for the levels of various metals.

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Fish Species of Deckers Creek

Life in Deckers

Trout populations in Deckers Creek are a significant indication of water quality. Trout thrive in cold temperatures streams with low levels of pollutants, especially metals. Populations of trout have been flourishing in the upper portion of the watershed, which indicates the water has low pollution levels. In the past several years, brown trout have been stocked in Deckers through Trout Unlimited. Increasing numbers of trout in our watershed is a good indication that FODC’s efforts to remove acid mine drainage through our remediation projects is working.

Remediation of acid mine drainage has improved conditions for creek critters, and is now allowing us to turn some of our restoration efforts onto other pollutants in the watershed. One such pollutant of concern is fecal coliform bacteria. Fecal coliform bacteria derives from human and animal wastes and can be harmful to human health. FODC intends to monitor E. coli strains to determine their presence in the Deckers Creek Watershed. Results have shown that E. coli levels for years to come, and share results with the public. It’s time to solve the sewage problem in Deckers Creek so that recreation and enjoyment of the creek can prosper.

In September 2018, FODC was 1 of 10 in the nation (and the first ever WV organization) to receive the EPA’s Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving grant for a project aimed at reducing fecal coliform pollution in the Deckers Creek Watershed. FODC has collected over 250 samples and analyzed each one for E. coli levels. Results have shown that E. coli concentrations are affected by precipitation and seasonal changes. Smaller streams have been identified, but other sites, such as the popular Deckers Creek “Gorge,” have passed as safe for recreation.

FODC is in the process of pinpointing the sources of these E. coli “hot spots.” FODC is working with Morgantown Utility Board (MUB), a project partner, to develop a plan to reduce the discharge of combined sewage overflow. FODC intends to monitor E. coli levels for years to come, and share results with the public. It’s time to solve the sewage problem in Deckers Creek so that recreation and enjoyment of the creek can prosper.

The OLP serves as a venue for outdoor education, demonstrations, and recreation. Thanks to the efforts of dedicated volunteers and master gardeners, the CLP features gardens of native West Virginia flowering and ornamental plants. The diversity of native plants makes the CLP a great place to catch a glimpse of interesting wildlife. The Mill Volcano in our butterfly garden ensures that monarch butterflies can be seen during the right time of year, and due to the relative lack of disturbances, many nesting birds can be found in the OLP.

If you’d like more information on Friends of Deckers Creek, or would like to help out at the CLP, please visit our Facebook page or website for more information.

Outdoor Learning Park

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