

MORE

THE MID-ATLANTIC OFF-ROAD ENTHUSIASTS 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

## Mission + Vision

MORE is the premier mountain biking and trailbuilding advocacy club in the Mid-Atlantic region of D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. MORE's mission is to build an inclusive mountain biking community, expand riding opportunities, and increase access to natural-surface trails throughout the region.

Founded in 1992, MORE has advocated for naturalsurface trails throughout the DC-MD-VA area and has helped build an impressive network of multi-use trails and a strong community of trail users. MORE maintains over 850 miles of natural-surface trails in over 60 state, county, federal, and city parks in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., building on the work of hundreds of MORE volunteers and 16,000 volunteer hours annually.

The success of our advocacy depends on the strength of our membership. Be a part of the movement that builds and protects great mountain biking experiences in the region! Join one of the most respected mountain bike advocacy groups in the USA – join MORE and join in the fun!

> MORE is Mountain Biking – MORE is Trails MORE is Advocacy – MORE is You



MORE (The Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts), Inc. is a 501c (3) nonprofit organization representing thousands of area mountain bikers.

PO Box 2662 Fairfax VA 22031-0662

TAX ID: 54-1691373

## **MORE's Leadership Team**

Jali Fernando - Executive Director (March 2023 to Present)

**Peggy Flaxman -** Executive Director (Until January 2023)

Ernest (Ernie) Rodriguez - President

David Beugelmans - Secretary

Tom Howe - VA Advocacy Director Rob Lowe - Membership Director Clay Deming - Activities Director Kathy Mihm - Ride Program Director Nate Frey - Communications Director



## **President's Note**

Thanks to you, MORE enjoyed a great year, influencing and growing our mountain bike communities. You'll read about projects, fundraising, grants and membership in the pages that follow from MORE's Board of Directors. We owe our success to YOU, the members and supporters who give of your time, talents, and efforts to support "Riding Bikes and Building Trails".

MORE's volunteers logged over 16,000 hours of trail work, leading rides, and support functions in 2022. MORE volunteers help maintain 869 miles of trails in 62 parks in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

Ride leaders continue to expand our welcoming and inclusive women's, sMORE's, and group rides.

MORE's communications team continues to expand its reach and influence for advocacy, trail use, and programming.

Thank you for inviting your friends to join MORE's advocacy voice though automatic membership renewals. Your help has grown membership to an all time high of over 2,000 members.

I hope you've enjoyed at least one or all of our awesome mountain bike events, clinics, or rides and continue to do so in 2023. Our finances are in great shape as we enter our 31st year of operations in the District, Maryland and Virginia. Request a copy of our annual review or public information IRS 990 filing by sending a request to treasurer@more-mtb.org.

### Ernie Rodriguez - President



#### **Stay Involved**

As an all-volunteer organization, MORE relies on people like you to get things done. You can get involved with MORE by becoming a member, a volunteer, or a sponsor of our organization. Your membership adds to our strength in numbers, which is critical when it comes to trail advocacy and building a cooperative community of mountain bikers and other trail users across the region. Becoming a member is the best way to stay connected with your local mountain biking community, and to sign up for rides, events, and trail work days. Visit **more-mtb.org/ pages/join-more** and follow **RideWithMORE** on Facebook and **moremtb** on Instagram.

#### Volunteer

We are always looking for volunteers to help fulfill our mission. Whether it is planning new projects, digging new trails, helping with events, or leading rides, your help will go a long way. All types of volunteer help are needed, so let us know your interest to add your energy to our mountain biking community.



Visit **more-mtb.org/pages/get-involved** or e-mail us at **operations@more-mtb. org** to learn more on how you can help.

#### Donate

MORE is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and we rely on donations for most of our contributions to trail building campaigns. Any amount goes a long way and online donations start at as little as \$10. Donations will go toward making sure all mountain bikers in the DC-MD-VA area have great places to ride now and in the future. Just go to more-mtb.org and click the donate link in the top navigation bar.

If you have more to offer, corporate and individual sponsor packages are available starting at \$500 and are a great way to advertise your business or family donation in support of MORE. Additional details are at **more-mtb.org/pages/sponsors**.





Through our local trail communities, as collective stewards, and advocates for both our environment and shared outdoor recreational opportunities, MORE appreciates everything that we do through our shared love of mountain biking. All in all, 2022 was a great year for trails in Northern VA thanks to our collective advocacy efforts, volunteerism, donations, and grants.

With 30+ trail liaisons working in concert with 8 land managers from NOVA Parks, Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA), Prince William County, Loudoun County, Virginia DCR, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Forest Service, and the National Park Service (NPS). Volunteers logged 6,000 trail work hours in helping to build and maintain a total of 174 miles of trails across 20 parks in Virginia. Reporting highlights from 2022 include:

- Lake Fairfax Park (FCPA) 470 volunteer hours, 82 rides led, with \$17K spent to add additional jump lines as well as a return line
- Laurel Hill 1,500 volunteer hours, 24 rides led
- Locust Shade (PWC) 800 volunteer hours, 36 rides led, with \$15K spent on trail features, maintenance and signage
- Wakefield Park (FCPA) 1,000 volunteer hours, 84 rides led, with \$33K spent to rehabilitate the berms and the rollers including a jump line return for the rollers

Significant advocacy highlights from 2022 include:

• Arlington County – Continued to work with Arlington Trails to bring legal, natural surface trails to Arlington County



• Loudon County – Continued progress in Loudoun County with the build of a pump track in Ashburn

Lost River State Park (WV DCR) –
Continued advocacy efforts with Jeramiah
Bishop at Lost River State Park

Planned highlights for 2023 include:

 Andrew Letch (PWC) – Introducing sMOREs rides this Spring/Summer to expand opportunities for getting more kids riding bikes in Prince William County

• Arlington County – Continue working with Arlington Trails to bring legal, natural surface trails to Arlington County • Forest Greens (PWC) – Continue working with Prince William County towards the realization of a 6 mile natural surface, multiuse trail loop

• James Long (PWC) – Completing a 2 mile natural surface, multiuse trail to form a trail loop

 Loudon County – Continue working towards the possibility of natural surface trails at Veteran's Park and Beaver Dam Park as well as exploring opportunities for partnerships with private land owners

 Wakefield Park (FCPA) – Continue working towards the professional rehabilitation of the trails in Phase II under the Power Lines

#### Tom Howe - Virginia Advocacy Director





It was another great year for making new trails and making existing trails better at MORE. Along with my fellow VA Advocacy board member Tom Howe, we help coordinate the efforts of almost 100 trail liaisons at over 60 parks to build and maintain trails. We are celebrating 30 years for the club; that is a long time with a lot of change and growth. Just in the last five years we have made tremendous progress in bringing more trails, more bike parks, and more types of riding to our area.

2022 was another banner year for trail growth. Another 7 miles of trail were added at Bacon Ridge near Annapolis, and 6 miles were added just north of the Ten Mile Creek trail in Black Hill Regional park in Germantown. New mileage was also added at Patapsco, Gunpowder, Cosca, Emmitsburg, Gillis Falls, Patuxent and Windy Ridge. The Fairland skills park was officially opened, built out by Montgomery parks at a cost of over \$300,000. More jump lines and features were added at the Germantown bike park. In all 22 miles of net new trail open to bikes was built in 2022 in Maryland, the seventh year running of adding over 20 miles of trail and bringing MORE's inventory of maintained trail in MD to 700 miles.

When I joined the board about 10 years ago I felt that we were in the real heyday of trail growth. After the recession of 2009, many local governments became more open to volunteer help, to stretch their public dollars further, and started allowing MORE and others to build more trails. I did not expect that this trend would last as long as it has. But survey after survey shows that trails are the most popular amenity in parks and so land managers want more of them. And our liaisons are already planning for 2023. One of our growing opportunities is to upgrade and rebuild existing trails, and I think you may find 5 years from now that your local trails are even more fun, flowy and feature-filled than ever before. We have already started in on this focus of upgrading existing trails with major refurbishments at Schaeffer Farm and Waterworks, funded by MORE.

It's our goal to meet the demand for all types of riding. New gravity trails in the Shed, NICA race loops, bermed turns, wood and asphalt jumps and walls, beginner and family friendly options, these have really taken off over the last five years and show us how we can keep making both new and old parks better.

Five years has seen a lot of change in our maintenance approaches as well. Thanks to your donations and memberships MORE has bought dozens of battery powered trimmers and packable trail tools for our liaisons and other key volunteers.



Most of our trail building is done in weekend group trailwork days, but a lot of our maintenance has shifted to solo or small group work. One person with a battery powered hedge trimmer can do as much vegetation clearing on our trails as five people with loppers. I hope you appreciated that last year's MoCo Epic routes were nearly pricker and log free! That's thanks to about 30 people who survey, coordinate, and then go out and do the job.

MORE members have contributed huge amounts of time and money to this success. But it's not just MORE who builds trails, we partner whenever possible with other organizations like the Gunpower group GUMBO, Friends groups like Patapsco and Seneca Creek, Isaak Walton league, TROT. How lucky are we that Montgomery County has funded a full time trail crew that turns out 5-10 miles of new high quality trail each year? And Prince Georges County has started on a meaningful trail construction program in its various county parks.

MORE is growing our "Riding Bikes" programs as well, and you will hear more about that in this report. It's the job of our "Building Trails" teams to keep building and maintaining all the kind of trails and bike parks that our diverse mountain bike community wants.

Last comment, trails don't build themselves. And for the most part governments don't build trails. It's MORE members and other volunteers who often make it happen. It's been a real joy to see passionate people like our liaisons dream up plans

Dave Magill - Maryland Advocacy Director

## Activities

What a way to celebrate MORE's 30th Anniversary! 2022 was a fantastic year for MORE events.

We started the year off showcasing the trails at Locust Shade Park with rides for all and followed that with similar events at Schaeffer Farm and Fairland Regional Park. Women's Mountain Biking Day showed just how strong the women's cycling community is in the DMV.

MORE's Annual Summer Picnic gave back to our riding community with free food, drinks, and prizes with help once again from the Locust Shade Team and Prince William County Parks! DCMTB and Freehub Magazine helped coordinate a community movie night at City State Brewing in Washington, DC for a showing of Biketown in August.

Sharon Maloid and Phillip VanWerkhoven once again organized the Fall Camping Trip at the Big Bear Camplands and you all responded! We had a

MORE THAN 500 GROUP RIDES LED massive showing of campers riding around the challenging terrain of Big Bear Lake. In October the MoCo Epic returned and raised funds for new trails and upkeep in Montgomery County. We ended the year with a 30th Anniversary Gala at Rockwood Manor in Potomac MD. Guests enjoyed an evening of socializing on the outdoor patio followed by a catered dinner.

Please support MORE's events. By volunteering to help organize and execute, you directly impact membership. We couldn't do it without our sponsors, partners, liaisons, and you!

#### **Clay Deming** - Activities Director



## **2022 Volunteer Award Winners**

MORE's volunteers are the backbone of our club. Over 1,000 volunteers pitched in for a total of about 16,000 hours of volunteer work in 2022 including building trail, leading rides, member activities, trail advocacy and planning. MORE has specifically recognized the 2022 Award Winners below for their achievements.

Scott Scudamore Lifetime Achievement Award

Mike Klasmeier

**Silver Spoke** Meg Sharley, Jennifer Werner, Ashlea Gray, Jessica Rozek, Joe Fritsch

> **Ride Leaders of the Year** Simona Vincenciova, Kathy Ascenzi

#### sMORE's Leaders of the Year

Anne Mader, Mindy Sziede, Tony Watkins, John Claman, Jason Stoner, Robin Bairstow, Julie Mattison

Trail Work Leader of the Year Martin Fernandez

Virginia Trail Builder of the Year Jeffrey Ravenhorst

Maryland Trail Builder of the Year

**Casey Anderson** 

Partner of the Year EX2 Adventures

Volunteer of the Year Ted Diss

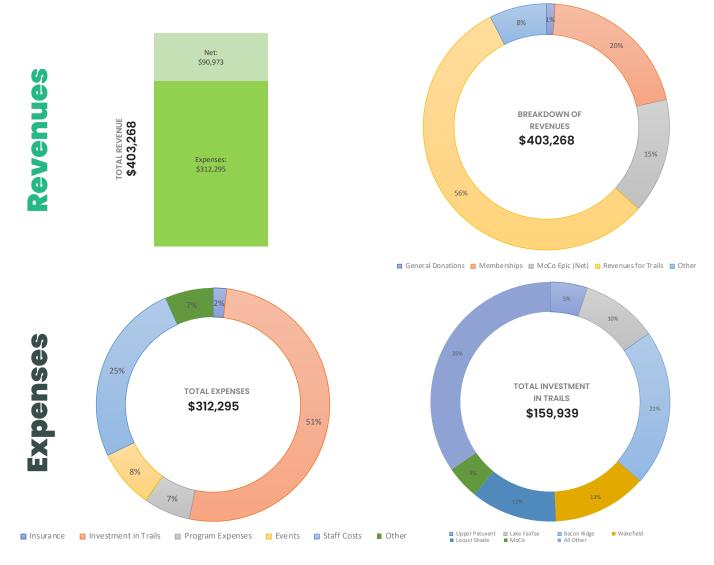
#### Land Manager of the Year Jai Cole, Brendon Hanafin

Community Builder of the Year DCMTB

> Sponsor of the Year Tommy O'Sullivan

MILES OF NEW TRAIL BUILT

## **2022 Financials**



In 2022, MORE's direct investment in trails was \$159,939. In addition, MORE contributed a volunteer equivalent investment of \$430,500 as part of MORE's trail building and ride programs in 2022.

Go to *http://www.more-mtb.org/pages/more-documents* and click on 2022 Financial Statements for more details on MORE's finances.

#### **GOLD SPONSORS**



#### **BRONZE SPONSORS**

Bike Doctor Frederick – Bikenetic – Catoctin Mountain Cyclery – Cobalt Bikes Darius Mark – State Farm – DCMTB – Fairfax Screen Printing – Gaithersburg Parks & Rec – Guided Outdoor– Travels – Jenson – Muddy Branch Alliance Muddy Pedals – NOVA Cycleworks – Pioneer PT – Terrapin Bicycles – Wartsila Thanks to all our amazing sponsors who help support our trails

### Thanks to our local, state, and national partners across the region who help us build trails





BALTIMORE CITY **RECREATION & PARKS** 















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### Thanks to our Partners



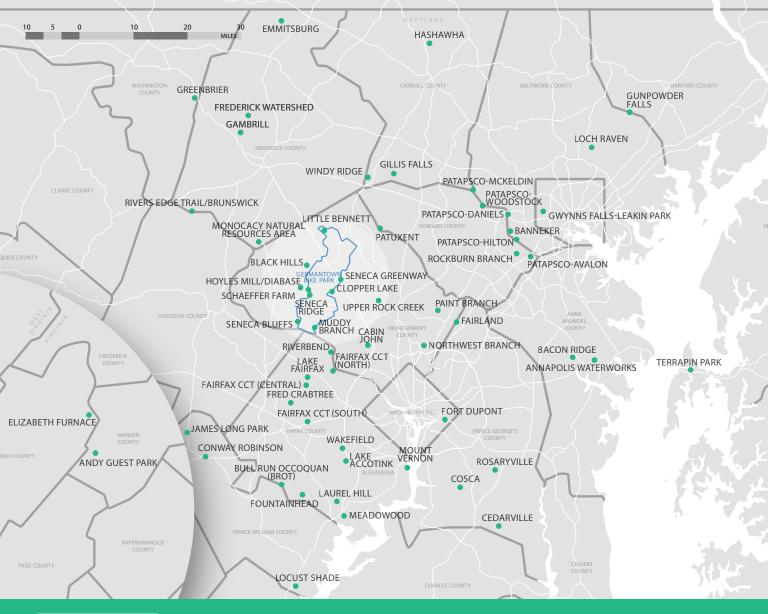
### **Thanks to our Supporters**



### **Thanks to our Members**

A special thank you to each one of our more than 2,000 MORE Members - we do what we do because of you and your support for MORE Trails. The last 30 years wouldn't have been possible without you!







**more-mtb.org** PO Box 2662 Fairfax VA 22031-0662

# **869 miles** of trails in 62 state, county, federal and city parks throughout the region. Visit *bit.ly/MOREtrails* for more information on your local trail systems

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