

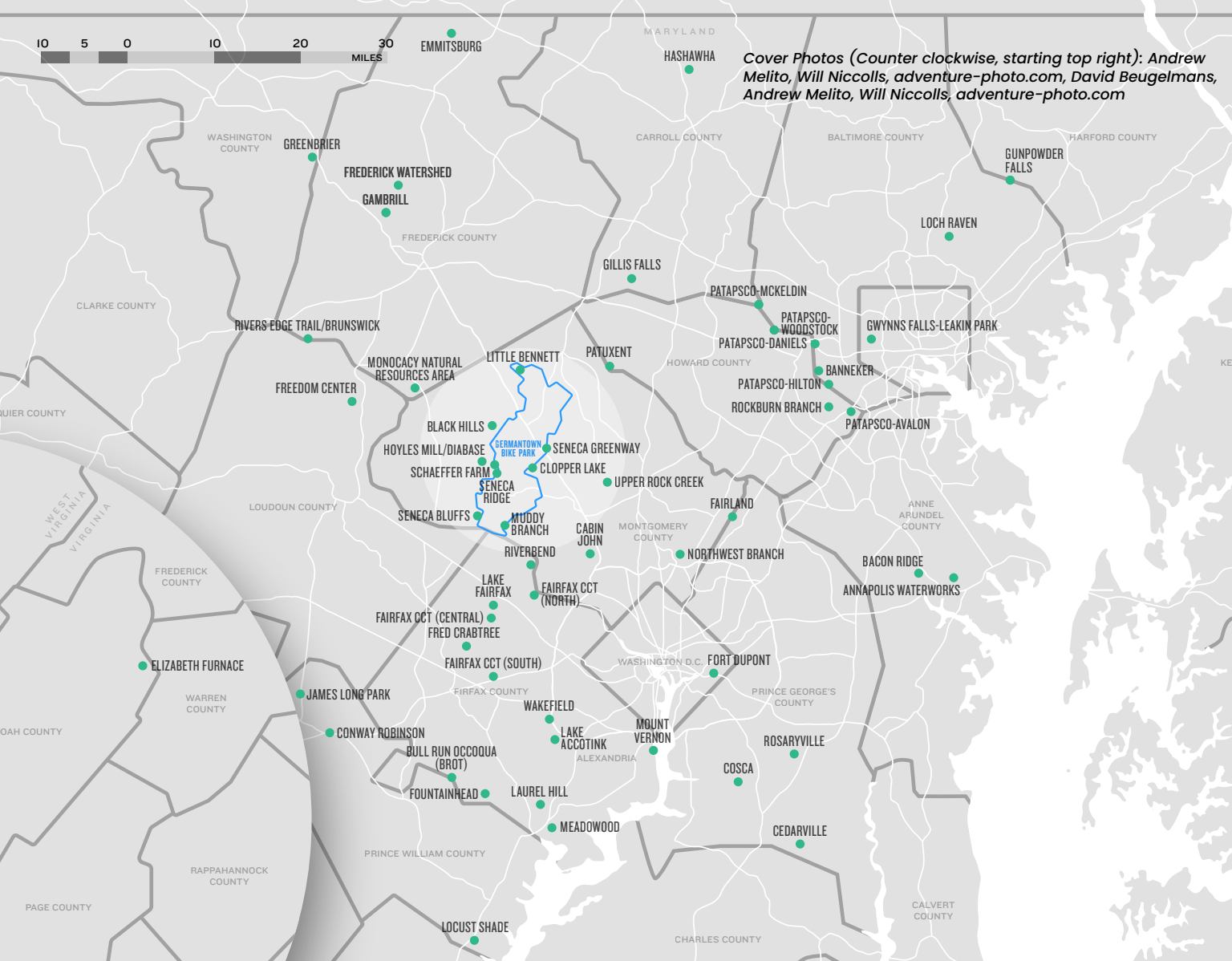


MORE
Riding Bikes &
Building Trails
Since 1992

**THE MID-ATLANTIC
OFF-ROAD ENTHUSIASTS
2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

I M B A
INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BICYCLING ASSOCIATION





Cover Photos (Counter clockwise, starting top right): Andrew Melito, Will Niccolls, adventure-photo.com, David Beugelmans, Andrew Melito, Will Niccolls, adventure-photo.com



750 miles of trails in 61 state, county, federal and city parks throughout the region. Visit bit.ly/MOREtrails for more information on your local trail systems

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN BICYCLING ASSOCIATION
more-mtb.org
 PO Box 2662
 Fairfax VA 22031-0662

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

Mission + Vision

Founded in 1992, MORE maintains more than 750 miles of trails in 61 state, county, federal and city parks throughout the region. MORE members contribute an average of 16,000 volunteer hours annually.

The club leads hundreds of rides each year at local parks, ranging from beginner to advanced levels.

MORE's Mission is to build an inclusive grass roots mountain biking community and organization with the express purpose of expanding riding opportunities and increasing trail access throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. This is to be achieved by building and maintaining multi use sustainable natural surface trails through promoting volunteerism, partnerships and educational outreach across user groups, thereby enabling fun and rewarding riding experiences for all ages and ability levels.

MORE's vision is to become the premier mountain bicycling club in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Support local mountain biking! Join MORE and be part of the most respected mountain bike advocacy group in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

750
**MILES OF TRAIL
MAINTAINED**



Credit: Will Nicolls, adventure-photo.com

MORE's Leadership Team

Peggy Flaxman – Executive Director

Ernest (Ernie) Rodriguez – President

David Beugelmans – Vice President

Neil Blake – Treasurer

Dave Magill – MD Advocacy Director

Tom Howe – VA Advocacy Director

Rob Lowe – Membership Director

Sharon Maloid – Activities Director

Andrew Melito – Communications Director

351
DAYS OF
TRAIL WORK



President's Note

MORE had a great year in 2019, 48.7 miles of new trails, 16,369 volunteer hours and a total investment of \$486,133 in trails. As we prepare our annual report for 2019, we realize COVID 19 will seriously limit our efforts to continue building a welcoming and inclusive community in 2020. This curtailment of group activities is required to maintain our liability insurance coverage and to comply with government orders. I'm happy to report 2019 included growth in membership, volunteerism, organization and social programming. Interestingly, we had 1,327 unique volunteers attend our trail work days or lead rides. This number is interesting as it is slightly less than the total number of members. Membership will be addressed by Rob in his section of the annual report; however, we average between 1,100 and 1,400 members depending on the number of events we host and social media engagement. Organizationally, MORE is influencing our elected officials directly or through partnerships with other organizations like Maryland Interscholastic Cycling League, Trails for Youth, Potomac Heritage Trail Alliance, Washington Area Bicyclist Association, Capital Trails Alliance, Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicyclist and others. Dave and Tom will expound on advocacy efforts and liaison activities. Social media groups have helped attract new riders, members and volunteers to rides, trail work and visits to the hill to advocate for mountain biking. Our Family Ride Program continues to build diversity with

additional women's and sMORE's rides, clinics and events. MoCo Epics celebrated ten years in 2019 which was one of the best attended Epic since its inception. Steve DonTigny did an awesome job of managing the Epic during 2017-2019 and decided to resign in 2020. We hired Peggy Flaxman as MORE's Executive Director in March who is acclimating very well into the position, leading the MoCo Team, fundraising, building a diverse community and digging into administrative support work and advocacy. If you missed the Winter Membership Meeting, you missed out on a great t-shirt designed by Andrew Melito, our communications director listing all Club Enduro (more than 15 rides and more than 50 hours trail work) and ride leaders/sweeps with more than five rides and trail work volunteers with more than 20 hours. I am so proud to be associated with MORE as we continue to build sustainable, natural surface, multi-use trails for our community to enjoy individually during our current pandemic. It literally helps keep us healthy, both mentally and physically. Our most pressing issue in 2020 will be "How to remain relevant and reinvent ourselves". If you have ideas for connecting with new trail users or increasing MORE's membership with new or lapsed users, please contact me or Rob Lowe. I look forward to a great 2020 with you.

Ernie Rodriguez

A Note From Our Executive Director

This note comes at a time of transition for MORE as I moved into the role as Executive Director on March 1, 2020. Having volunteered with MORE for the past five years, I am excited about the opportunity to be a part of MORE's future.

As a sMORE's ride volunteer nothing has made me happier than seeing kids discovering what they can do on a mountain bike. After weeks of "I can't" they finally try the creek crossing or rocky climb that had vexed them every previous Monday evening. Helping with the sMORE's kids captures what makes mountain biking such a pleasure. Every

rider gets to take from the experience exactly what he or she needs – simple time in the outdoors, a personal best on a trail segment or conquering that elusive trail feature. All of this is possible because of the generosity and commitment of the MORE supporters. Our members not only help fund our local trail systems, but our volunteers carry rocks, dig and trim every week to keep up with mother nature and make sure the trails are ready for riding.

Peggy Flaxman – Executive Director

Bring your friends and family out for a ride! I look forward to seeing you on the trails.

Stay Involved

If you haven't heard of us, chances are we're already helping out at your favorite riding spot. As an all-volunteer organization, MORE relies on people like you to get things done. If you're interested in joining or donating, visit more-mtb.org/get-involved today or follow **RideWithMORE** on Facebook.

Volunteer

We're always looking for volunteers to help us. Whether it's digging new trails, helping with event setup or leading rides, your help will go a long way. Visit our website or e-mail us at operations@more-mtb.org to learn more on how to help.

Donate

Consider sponsoring MORE with a monetary tax deductible donation. Sponsorship packages begin at \$250 for individuals, corporations or small businesses. It's a great way to support MORE's Vision and Mission as we continue Riding Bikes and Building Trails in the Mid-Atlantic. Additional details are at more-mtb.org/more-sponsors/.

Any amount goes a long way and online donations start at as little as \$10. Donations are tax deductible and will go into making sure all mountain bikers in the Mid-Atlantic region 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.

16.4k
VOLUNTEER
HOURS LOGGED



Credit: Korey Hopkins

Virginia and DC Trails: Year in Review

Credit: Will Niccols, adventure-photo.com

Virginia

2019 was another great year for the trails in Virginia. With 30+ trail liaisons working in concert with land managers from NOVA Parks, Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA), Prince William County, Loudon County, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Forest Service, and the National Park Service (NPS). Volunteers logged 3,511 trail work hours in helping to build and maintain a total of 132 miles of trails across 21 parks.

Lake Fairfax Park saw the build and dedication of the Marc Genberg Trail which provided the missing connector for riding the trails within the park. Locust Shade added the new Expert Loop which is ready to be unveiled. Wakefield Park has begun a multi-year rehabilitation of the trails within the park with the highlight being the renovation of the top half of

the berms. Mt. Vernon District Park was re-opened to mountain biking and saw the completion of the all new flowline. Laurel Hill re-graveled the trails for sustainability. Fountainhead Regional Park continued to be the destination for mountain biking in Northern Virginia with hundreds of riders visiting the trails on any given Saturday or Sunday.

The trails outlook for 2020 is looking bright with new trails planned for Lake Fairfax Park, Locust Shade, and Mount Vernon District Park. We will continue to advocate for new trails as well to maintain and improve upon our existing trails and trail networks. Looking forward to seeing you out for one of our trail work days, on a ride, or advocating with us as we strive to live our motto of riding bikes and building sustainable multi-use trails for the

Virginia and DC Trails: Year in Review Cont'd

benefit and enjoyment of everyone ready to be unveiled. Wakefield Park has begun a multi-year rehabilitation of the trails within the park with the highlight being the renovation of the top half of the berms. Mt. Vernon District Park was re-opened to mountain biking and saw the completion of the all new flowline. Laurel Hill re-graveled the trails for sustainability. Fountainhead Regional Park continued to be the destination for mountain biking in Northern Virginia with hundreds of riders visiting the trails on any given Saturday or Sunday.

DC

Even in these challenging times as everyone is dealing with and responding to COVID-19, MORE is continuing to try to advance advocacy in DC with National Park Service leadership. On a positive note, our new volunteer at DC Parks and Recreation is fully engaged with MORE in advocating for youth programming at Fort Dupont and additional opportunities in DC. DC MTB continues to advocate for trail maintenance and will lead rides along Fort Circle Park National Recreational Trail as guidelines permit. MORE is actively recruiting volunteers to organize and lead sMORE's rides or possibly organize a new NICA league in DC.

Tom Howe - Virginia Advocacy Director

558
GROUP
RIDES LED



Credit: Julie Childers

Maryland Trails: Year in Review



Credit: Andrew Melito

2019 was truly a banner year for MORE in Maryland on the trails. With 33 parks and 53 liaisons, the MORE team helped add 48 miles of new trail to our 613 mile inventory of trails we maintain in the state. Our relationships with our land managers has never been stronger, including in cities like Frederick, Brunswick, Emmitsburg, Ellicott City and Annapolis, our 7 main counties of Frederick, Carroll, Montgomery, Howard, Baltimore, Prince Georges and Anne Arundel, and 10 Maryland State Parks.

The heart of MORE's success in trailwork is our liaisons, who are MORE's leaders for their individual parks. They cultivate strong relationships with park managers and local riders and volunteers, and plan and execute trail projects to keep our trails in tip top shape. At the same time, MORE's large footprint in Maryland is leading to the informal creation of regional volunteer teams who share tools,

coordinate work days and events, and support each other on big projects and advocacy. Our thanks go out to Todd Bauer, Joe Whitehair, Eric Crawford and Mike Klasmeier who have stepped up to help me and the MORE board to take on this ad hoc regional organizational role. To top off 2019, they selected MORE's volunteer and land manager award winners in their regions and presented these awards at our annual membership meeting this February.

Some of 2019's more notable successes in MD were:

- *5 miles of new gravity trails in the Frederick watershed, built by volunteers and a professional builder with the help of a \$58,000 MD RTP grant.*
- *The Montgomery Parks professional crew built another 10 miles of trail throughout the county with the help of MORE volunteers, most notably in Northwest Branch, Upper Rock Creek and Little Bennett*

- *The Patapsco Army built another 5 miles of trail with the help of 4000 volunteer hours*
- *The Annapolis area exploded with the 9 mile Waterworks trail system approved and built all in one year, and another 7 miles added at Bacon Ridge*
- *Two new parks were added to our MD inventory at Gillis Falls and Waterworks.*

Significant challenges and opportunities exist opening trails around reservoirs to bikes. Singletrack trails around Loch Raven, Liberty, Prettyboy and Patuxent River reservoirs remain closed to mountain biking. We understand that the reservoir managers treat water quality as their highest priority, but we will continue to patiently advocate that recreation can be compatible with water conservation, and that properly maintained

trails (something MORE does well) improve water quality compared to poorly maintained ones.

Our amazing liaison teams have more planned for 2020, including new trail systems in Patuxent and Kent Island, and many more fine improvements and upgrades to existing trails, signage, and connections to our local towns and cities. 2020 will be challenging; as we write this many parks are closed or limiting group activities like trailwork for "social distancing". Where we can we will move forward with smaller groups and/or individual work as permitted by our land managers. We are working to put more tools into the hands of our liaisons to make them and their teams more productive. It's MORE's intent to keep on building trails and riding bikes in a socially responsible way in 2020.

Dave Magill - Maryland Advocacy Director

48
MILES OF NEW
TRAIL BUILT

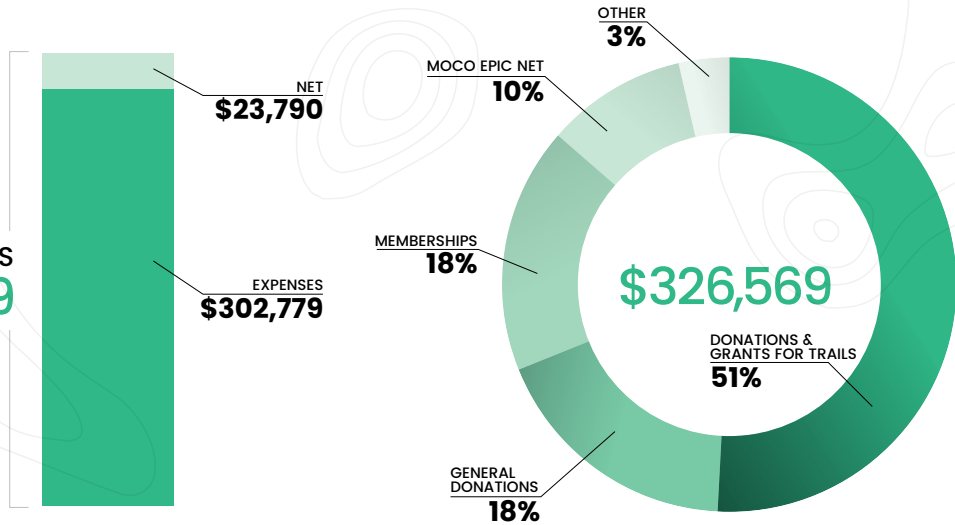


Credit: Andrew Melito

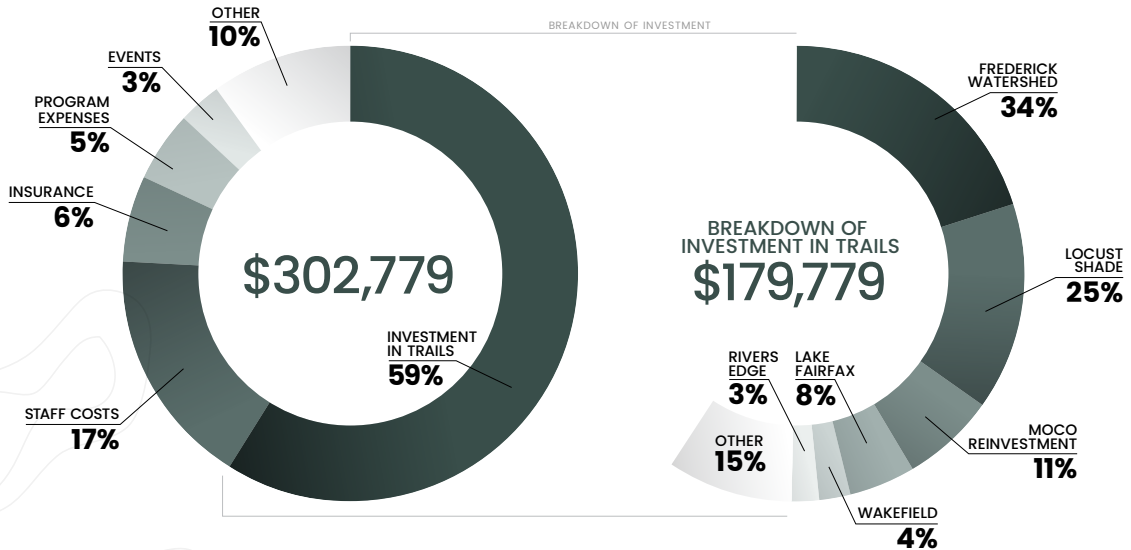
2019 Financials

Revenues

REVENUES
\$326,569



Expenses



Total Investment in Trails \$486,133 = \$179,779 + \$306,354 Volunteer Labor

Go to more-mtb.org/pages/more-documents and click on 2019 MORE Financial Statements for more details on MORE's finances

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



GOLD SPONSORS



Grace Jones
Richardson Trust



O'Sullivan
Family



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS



Thanks
to all our
amazing
sponsors
who help
support
our trails



Credit: Will Niccolls, adventure-photo.com

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