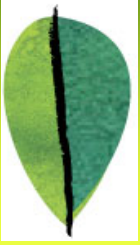


RRC



# Ridge-to-River Trail Restoration

On steeper sloping sections of the trail where deer browse and human usage have left little or no vegetation to hold the soil, heavy rains have gouged gulleys and washed soil downhill over the years. To preserve the trail, save our soil, and restore plant life, the Rolling Ridge Conservancy implemented a trail restoration project on the most deteriorated portion of the Ridge-to-River Trail.

With the help of a generous grant from the Two Rivers Giving Circle (*part of the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation*) and over 130 hours of hard work with dedicated volunteers and a rented excavator, RRC installed 22 water bars. Some of the larger bars have locust logs buried in them that were harvested on site. Water-worn ravines were filled with sediment-retaining rock to repair erosion damage. Dispersal areas and some open areas adjacent to the trail were seeded with a mix of warm season grasses and native wildflowers. Once established, this vegetation will hold the soil as well as providing cover and food for wildlife and pollinators.



## HOW DO WATER BARS WORK?

Water bars are raised berms constructed on a slight diagonal across the trail perpendicular to the path of the water. By interrupting the flow, water bars slow down and redirect storm-water off the trail into adjacent dispersal areas where water can percolate back into the ground along with the soil and silt that would otherwise wash away.

