



The South River Current

Promoting interest and collaboration for watershed stewardship



River Restoration

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Have you been to North Park lately? Riverbank restoration work is well underway. A gravelled pathway now runs along the river's edge, and the Greenway will be extended along the top of the riverbank. This restoration enhances river access as part of a larger riverbank project to reduce the mercury input to the river. Two wooden staircases have also been added so that folks can easily launch a kayak or canoe.

Don't miss the opportunity to take advantage of this great outdoor retreat once the remediation project is complete in late October. Thanks to the crew at Summit Environmental and AECOM who worked diligently to bring about this transformation. For more information about the work, go to the [SRST website](#).

Did You Know?

- Waynesboro enjoys proximity to the Blue Ridge Mountains, Skyline Drive, Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian Trail, making it an ideal base camp for exploring the region.
- The northern entrance to the Blue Ridge Parkway begins only 4 miles from Downtown Waynesboro at Afton Mountain in Rockfish gap.
- Rockfish Gap is also the southern entrance to Skyline Drive and a trail head in the middle of the 2,190-mile Appalachian trail.
- Over 100 miles of the Appalachian Trail run through Shenandoah National Park.



Photo from Virginia Street Arts Festival at Waynesboro Facebook page

Connections

If you usually enjoy meandering through art museums and galleries, this pandemic definitely puts a damper on your go-to weekend leisure plans.

Waynesboro offers an alternative fine art experience seemingly hidden from plain view—street art! A handful of massive works appear on the sides of buildings in Basic City and Downtown districts. Click on this [map](#) to find a 2-mile route around the area highlighting each masterpiece. You can quench your thirst for a fine art experience and clock some serious steps for the day – all while keeping socially distant! Don't miss this opportunity while the weather outside is balmy.



Take a Walk Back

Did you know that Virginians used to cast pig iron in the Mount Torrey Furnace right here in the South River Watershed? Of course, this begs two questions: what is pig iron and where is Mount Torrey Furnace? First, pig iron acquired its name from the iron-ore reduction process in the 1800s. The output from heating the iron ore in the furnace was sand cast into one big mass that seemed to resemble a lounging pig or sow. Second, the Mount Torrey Furnace stands at the foot of Torrey Ridge, along Mount Torrey Road a couple of miles north of the Sherando Lake entrance in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests. This massive stone trapezoid-shaped furnace was used on and off from 1804 to 1892. It was powered by a waterwheel set close to the stack and connected to an embankment so that iron ore, limestone flux, and charcoal could be dumped into the cavity and melted into pig iron. All that remains of the original furnace after 128 years is the stone structure. It is a bit worse for wear, but the [Mount Torrey Furnace](#) remains a symbol of the early years of Virginia industry.



The Current is a publication of the South River Science Team (www.southernriverstewardship.org). To be added or deleted from our distribution list, contact KB at kbaldino@writingunlimitedllc.com