

THE RACHEL CARSON TRAILS CONSERVANCY, INC.

(RCTC) is a nonprofit volunteer organization dedicated to the development, protection, and promotion of hiking, biking, and walking trails in western Pennsylvania. The RCTC manages and maintains three regional trails:

- The Harmony Trail follows sections of the former Harmony interurban trolley line that ran between Pittsburgh, Evans City, Butler and New Castle in the early part of the 20th century. The Conservancy has developed a segment between Route 910 and Richard Road in Wexford, and envisions extensions both north and south
- The Rachel Carson Trail is a 45-mile hiking trail north and east of Pittsburgh between two Allegheny County Parks North Park in the county's north central area and Harrison Hills County Park in its extreme north east corner. Running near to or through numerous suburban areas, most sections of the trail are enjoyed daily by the regional population.
- The Baker Trail is a 133-mile hiking and backpacking trail, following forest paths, old jeep trails and dirt roads through woods, farmlands, along rivers, and creeks. The southern trailhead is near Freeport, the northern trailhead is just inside the Allegheny National Forest. Shelters and primitive campsites accommodate hikers on this state-designed hiking trail.

THE CONSERVANCY'S TWO FLAGSHIP ANNUAL EVENTS ARE:

The Rachel Carson Trail Challenge is a one-day endurance hike that covers the middle 35 miles of the Rachel Carson Trail. In its 23-year history, it has grown from a regional endurance hike to an annual event that draws people of all ages from all over the world. The start alternates yearly between North Park and Harrison Hills Park every other year and with western Pennsylvania's variable weather the day of the hike is never the same. Due to the terrain, there are a limited number of registration spots, which are always filled well before the Challenge. Often people who are unable to get into the Full Challenge choose to participate in The Homestead Challenge that occurs on the same day, headed in the same direction, but half the mileage (17 +/- miles). Finally, for those who want to participate in the adventure as a family or a group of friends we offer the Friends and Family Hike (7 miles).

The Baker Trail UltraChallenge is a 50-mile ultramarathon on the Baker Trail. Unlike the Rachel Carson Trail Challenge, this is a timed footrace: the "challenge" is for a runner or relay team to win or at least finish within 14 hours. This grueling event is only possible because of the hundreds of volunteer hours organized by the Conservancy to maintain the trail and manage the event. Similar to 'The Rachel', volunteer trail stewards maintain and keep the trail clear for year-round training and enjoyment.

OUR GOALS/YOUR OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2019

In addition to on-going trail maintenance projects (which sometimes require large machinery), and

JUST AS OUR
VOLUNTEER
EFFORTS ARE
ON-GOING FOR 2019
AND BEYOND, SO IS
THE VITAL NEED
FOR YOUR
COMMITMENT

staging annual events and other community activities, the Conservancy's goals for 2019 include surfacing and extending the Harmony Trail toward Richard Road, improvements to the Rachel Carson Trail in North Park and Harrison Hills Park, Baker Trail reroute, bridge repairs at Crooked Creek and in the Cook Forest area.

Additionally, we are planning to connect the Baker Trail to our namesake trail leading to a massive trail system accessible to local communities and hiking enthusiasts alike.

BLAZING INTO THE FUTURE

Due to an increase in developments and urbanization of the rural areas outside of Pittsburgh our group continues to work with local communities to keep nature and the countryside accessible and beautiful for people of all ages and abilities. As an organization operated thanks solely to volunteers, your contribution is directed to taking care of our natural resources which benefits businesses, neighborhoods, and families of Western PA well into the next chapter of our regions rich history. We've provided a list of benefits your organization will receive if you are able to so generously support the Conservancy.

Please don't hesitate to reach out for further information or contact us to commit to any of the various levels of sponsorship.

With sincerest gratitude,
Doug Macphail, Sponsorship Chair

RCTC 2019 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITI \$10,000 CHALLENGE AND ULTRACHALLENGE EVENT **SUMMIT** NAMING SPONSOR **Benefits** • 25 entries for the Challenge or UltraChallenge events • Premier presence on Conservancy website, events signage and T-shirts for both events **CHALLENGE AND ULTRACHALLENGE EVENT** GUIDE \$5,000 **CHECKPOINT NAMING SPONSOR** (four opportunities available) **Benefits** • 15 entries for the Challenge or UltraChallenge events • Sponsorship acknowledgement one of four checkpoint tents and signage at both events • Listing on Conservancy website, events signage and T-shirts for both events **EXPEDITION** \$2,500 **Benefits** (eight opportunities available) • 8 entries for the Challenge or UltraChallenge events • Listing on Conservancy website, events signage and T-shirts for both events TRAILBLAZER \$1,000 **Benefits** (12 opportunities available) • 4 entries for the Challenge or UltraChallenge events • Listing on Conservancy website, events signage and T-shirts for both events Benefits (16 opportunities available) NAVIGATOR **\$500** • 2 entries for the Challenge or UltraChallenge events • Listing on Conservancy website, events signage and T-shirts for both events HIKER \$250 Benefits (24 opportunities available) • 1 entry for the Challenge or UltraChallenge events • Events signage and T-shirts for both events

Please refer to the next page for sponsorship response information. Thank you very much.



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PAYMENT We will make payment now via PayPal [please go to http://my.rachelcarsontrails.org/donate				Bob Vickers
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