The Appalachian Trail Conservancy oversees the care & protection of the world’s longest hiking-only footpath, almost 2,200 miles from Springer Mountain, Georgia to Baxter Peak, Katahdin, Maine. The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) is our regional stewardship club. Its North Chapter members regularly maintain the Trail, shelters and cabins and offer community events such as Second Saturday Hikes and Third Thursday Teacher Hikes for Trails To Every Classroom.

For more information as well as how to become a supporting member; visit

- Appalachian Trail Conservancy’s Official Website: www.appalachiantrail.org
- Potomac Appalachian Trail Club’s Official Website: www.patc.net

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy ™ program is designed to recognize communities that promote and protect the Appalachian Trail. The program serves to assist communities with sustainable economic development through tourism and outdoor recreation, while preserving and protecting the Appalachian Trail.

On April 26, 2014, The Greater Waynesboro (PA) Area became the third community in Pennsylvania awarded this distinction. Situated along the Mason-Dixon line near the A.T.’s midpoint, this is a perfect place to supply, rest or arrange a flip-flop hike. Easily accessible from the Baltimore/D.C. corridor, as well as Interstate 81, the Greater Waynesboro Area has a wide variety of businesses and services to offer, including an outdoors festival in June.

Environmentally, where the Trail crosses PA Rt. 16, borders a rare “relic plant area” at the Bicentennial Tree Trail blue loop, where over 80 species of trees exist in a small riparian zone along Red Run Creek. Also nearby is the Happel’s Meadow wetland preserve, a unique mountain-top area of natural progression that supports a variety of reptiles, amphibians, songbirds, raptors, and mammals (including bobcats) as well as endangered flora. A natural trail is also within a mile of the AT.

Greater Waynesboro Area:

Located in the lower Cumberland/’Great Valley’ and bordered by South Mountain, the region saw its first settlers arrive in the 1700’s and is vested in rich history. Renfrew Park and Museum displays a limestone manor house, with its barn housing the Visitor’s Center. Inside is the largest collection of Shenandoah John Bell pottery, and house tours are available in season. The 107-acre public property offers picnicking, hiking, catch-and-release fly fishing in the East Branch of Antietam Creek, and a home for the Renfrew Institute of Cultural and Environmental Studies. Washington Township’s parks include Red Run and Pine Hill Recreation Area which offer a variety of activities and events. Red Run Park includes the 9-11 Tribute Memorial, housing artifacts of the World Trade Center, Pentagon, and Shanksville and is a place to remember and reflect.

Gettysburg is about 30 minutes away by car. Retreating Confederates found themselves once again fighting with the Yankees July 4-5, 1863, during a miserable midnight miasma amidst thunder, lightning, rain, and mud. The Monterey Pass Battle interpretive center, less than a mile to the east from the Trail, marks the crossing of these troops.

Waynesboro bustled in the 1800’s with a variety of industries and nearby iron ore furnaces. Remains of charcoal hearths in the mountainside can be delineated along the Trail within miles of Old Forge Rd. Architectural details on older buildings reflect the robust economy of those times. An Industrial Museum on Philadelphia Avenue showcases the movers and shakers of that rich history.
Grab your pack and hike the Appalachian Trail!