



New River Conservancy

Lovers of the New River

We extend our best wishes and concerns to all in this time of uncertainty. We hope that you are healthy, safe, and finding new and creative ways to spend time in a world of distancing. The Staff and Board of Directors at [New River Conservancy](#) remain dedicated to protecting the waters, woodlands, and wildlife of the New River watershed. While we have had to cancel many events, volunteer days, and river cleanups we have taken this opportunity to take a closer look at our projects and programs and come up with new ways to best protect the water that flows in the New River and empower the communities and critters that rely on it.

Ten years ago, NRC and stakeholders from Oak Hill and the larger New River Gorge community came together concerned about the health of Arbutle Creek. Nearly half of Arbutle Creek is impaired, threatening the health of the New River and the \$70 million tourism industry it supports in the New River Gorge.

Out of this effort the [New River Clean Water Alliance \(NRCWA\)](#) was born with the goal of improving water quality in the Lower New River and its tributaries to sustain the river's environmental, cultural, recreational, and economic benefits [See picture to the right of our 2020 kickoff meeting]. The group worked together to identify the issues, incorporate community input, focus priorities, and set the stage for improving water quality in the Lower New [\[Click Here for The State of the Watershed\]](#).



Volunteers were trained as [New River Water Watchers](#) to help pinpoint the sources of the pollution- leaky pipes and a failing wastewater treatment plant. Along with Oak Hill, NRC lobbied the state for the needed resources to fix the problem. [The Town of Oak Hill](#) has recently upgraded the wastewater treatment plant to eliminate stormwater infiltration and incorporate flows from the closed Arbutle Public Service District. Oak Hill is now replacing failing sewer lines and manholes in the Minden area.

The members of NRCWA are currently working together to revisit the research and projects from the State of the watershed to determine what impact they have had on water quality in Oak Hill and where further work is needed.

To learn more about other
on going projects in the watershed
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