

## 2019 WYTC MAINTENANCE REVIEW

During the first half of 2019 trail repairs due to heavy rains required intensive work and substantial money. Two locations in particular were addressed; the landslide below the West Newton Cemetery and a failed drain near GAP Milepost 111 (between Cedar Creek Park and Smithton). The landslide at the cemetery location had been cleared in late 2018 at a cost of \$12,000, but cleaning the drain and rerouting of the water flow required extensive handwork. Eventually the water flow from the cemetery was successfully routed through the existing drainpipe. On the evening of June 19/20 a heavy rainstorm caused a drain blockage near MP 111 that resulted in severe erosion of the trail surface for approximately 75 feet. The crushed limestone surface was about 90% removed down to the railroad ballast in the area. The very next evening another rainstorm, not quite as severe, again eroded the site to a lesser extent. The WYTC Maintenance crew performed emergency repairs to keep the trail passable in that area. An excavating contractor was hired to clear the drainage ditch and they found the old railroad stone arch drain had collapsed. A new 48-inch plastic drainpipe was installed to replace the old stone arch drain. The cost of that installation was over \$10,000.

Throughout the summer and fall the Over the Hill Gang maintenance crew used our mini excavator to clean drainage ditches and to brush cut vegetation in the drainage ditches. Routine chores like mowing, weed whacking, minor trail surface repairs, and building/installing memorial benches kept the crew well occupied. Several pieces of equipment required both routine and emergency repairs. The Takeuchi excavator, John Deere tractor and Ventrac tractor all required repairs that total over \$5000.

Through October the Over the Hill Gang has expended over 1000 hours performing the work described above. A big thank you to those volunteers.