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SUMMER 2024

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 4 No. 2

Happy Summer on the Trail!



We hope you are taking advantage of the warm weather and spending many hours enjoying the beauty of our trail. Our all-volunteer chapter has been working hard to keep the trail in shape by cutting grass, whacking weeds, and cleaning up fallen trees.



There are many ways you can support our trail. As shown on pages 8 and 9, you can volunteer to help with parking at the Westmoreland Art & Heritage Festival; buy a bike raffle ticket; help with trail maintenance or become a trail ambassador. Or you could just come have fun at the Ted Hayes Bike Ride / Walk / Run Event on August 17.

Whatever you choose to do for the trail, please know that your support is always deeply appreciated!

Spring Flood Damage Repaired

Once again, the 'big bend' area of Turtle Creek between Saunders Station Road and Trafford suffered from flash floods during the heavy spring rain events we experienced this year. Flood waters washed away 600 feet of the trail's limestone top-coat but luckily did not remove the underlying base layer of asphalt millings that were put in place after last year's flood.

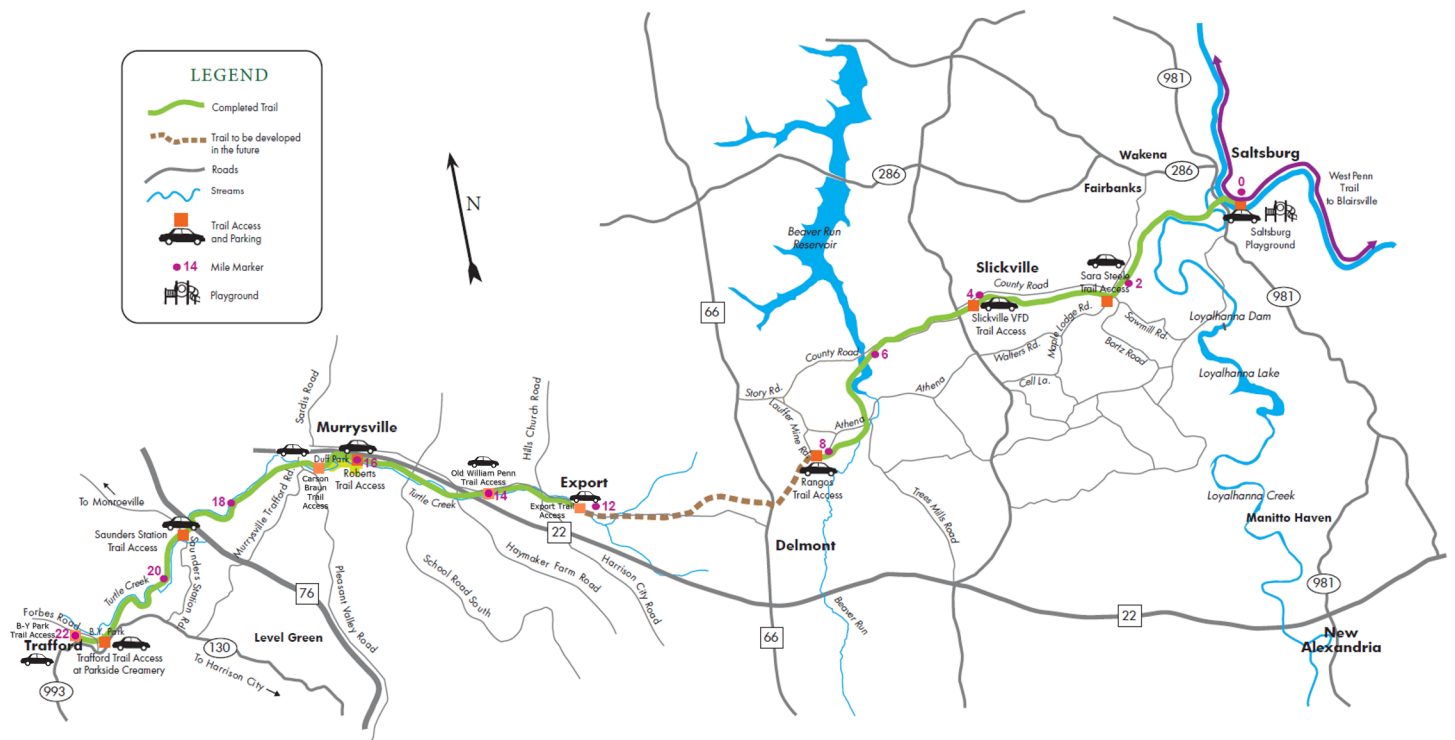
Damage repair was done by EverReady Contracting, located near the trail in Trafford. The contractor did a good job, and even removed a large tree from a drain. Limestone dust was rolled on top and packed down after a few light rain events, so the trail is now in good shape.



Westmoreland Heritage Trail Board of Directors

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The Westmoreland Heritage Trail is managed by the Westmoreland Heritage Trail Chapter of the Regional Trail Corporation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Eight municipal partners (Trafford, Monroeville, Penn Township, Murrysville, Export, Delmont, Salem Township, and Loyalhanna Township) work with over 300 active chapter volunteers to maintain and monitor the trail. Other trail partners include the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks & Recreation and the Westmoreland Conservation District.

Another Successful Poker Run & Community Festival!

Murrysville was the trail town selected this year for our Annual Poker Run and Community Festival Fundraiser. As in years past, the event was held on June 1 to coincide with [National Trails Day](#). The Murrysville Community Center near the Carson-Braun trailhead made a convenient registration point, with walkers and bike-riders heading east toward Export to collect their poker hands.



Early June weekends are packed with competing events, but our Poker Run was fortunate to receive lots of advertising. Generous support from the Penn-Franklin News enabled us to place flyers in local papers. Additional support provided by Penneco Outdoor Advertising allowed us to place an advertisement on the large electronic billboard along Route 22 in Delmont.

In all, fifty-three participants pre-registered for the Poker Run, and another thirty-six signed up on the day of the event to make a sizable group of bikers and walkers. Food was provided by Salsa Sam's and Millie's Ice Cream, beer by Helltown Beer Company and other beverages (Turner's tea and lemonade) courtesy of Slickville Deli.



Each participant in the race received a commemorative t-shirt with the WHT Poker Run logo on the front and the race sponsors listed on the back (see next page).



Many beautiful baskets and gift certificates were donated for the auction basket raffle, which was popular with race participants and their family members alike. The top three Poker Hands won prizes donated by Pro Bike and Run, Trafford Shop & Save, and Pristine Clean Auto Detailing. Many thanks go out to Ann Wade, who chaired the event, Malcolm Sias, who served as the master of ceremonies, and all of the dedicated volunteers who staffed the registration and poker hand tables!



WESTMORELAND HERITAGE TRAIL COMMUNITY FESTIVAL



and Poker Run



THANK YOU

to our 2024 Sponsors and Donors!



**Flat Tire Co.
Bike Shop**

**SHOP'n SAVE
Trafford**

PROBIKE+RUN



Export P.N.A.

**RDK ASPHALT
SEAL COATING
724-468-5956**

ESSMC

The Hair Zone

Salsa Sam's Eatery

United Medical Products

Slickville Deli

Lena's Food

S&T Bank

Mayor Regis Synan

Millie's Ice Cream

Ralph & Beverly Resnick

Ace Hardware – Delmont
Alluring Designs
Auto Body Panels & Parts Supply
Bonnie Coleman
D's Six Pax & Dogs
Dairy Queen – Delmont
Wendy Davis
Digital Trafford
Eastwood Hardware
Export Floral
Export Historical Society
Franco's Expert Nail

Friends Thrift Shop
Ginny's Restaurant
Mike Ginsburg
Griff's Italian Ice & Soft Cone
Richard & Jean Hajnosz
Richard & Lori Hensler
Ianni's Pizzeria
Joey's the Edge
Mike Keenan
Kitch's Auto Service
L. J. Novak Co
Lucci's

Premiere Pizza
PTARC
Rewind Reuse Center and Workshop
Rob's Pizza
Stan & Vicki Rudge
Dan Siggs
St. John's Church
Valmax Jewelers
Wade's Breakfast and Grille
Ann Wade
Women of the Moose
Yellow Bridge Brewing

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST CORPORATE SPONSORS!



The officers, Board of Directors, and members of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail Chapter extend a hearty welcome to the Kacin Companies, the CNX Foundation, Weisser Insurance, and Wye Beer Company as our first Annual Corporate Sponsors. Each company will be recognized and honored with a large logo on our event banners, commemorative t-shirts, and posters from now until March 1, 2025. Sponsors will also have a dedicated recognition gallery on our trail's website in addition to individual recognition plaques that will be placed later this year along the trail itself.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO BECOME A SPONSOR!



If you know a company that would be interested in joining the trail as a Corporate Sponsor, please let an officer or board member know. We can forward them a letter of invitation and a packet of information about the program.



Twin Lakes Arts & Heritage Festival Trail Fundraiser



The [Twin Lakes Arts & Heritage Festival](#) is just around the corner (July 4 -7). For every WHT trail member who covers a three-hour slot helping to direct parking, we raise money for our trail. Plus, you can enjoy the festival yourself either before or after your shift. If you'd like to add your name to the list of folks already going, you can contact Brandon Simpson, Director of Westmoreland

County Parks & Recreation at **BSIMPSON@westmorelandcountypa.gov**.

Our Summer Bicycle Raffle Still Has Tickets Available!

Have you been thinking about getting a new bicycle recently? Before you pull out your credit card, why not try your luck at winning an amazing bike donated to the trail by Flat Tire Company in Greensburg?

Tickets are available by contacting Vicki Rudge at **whmpr2017@gmail.com**. Winning number will be the July 4 Pick-3 lottery.



The 4th Annual Ted Hayes Memorial Bike Ride / Run / Walk will be held on Saturday, August 17 in Slickville

The Hayes and Shearer Families are once again generously organizing a bike ride / run / walk event to benefit the Westmoreland Heritage Trail. This event honors Ted Hayes, a much-missed volunteer who spent many hours maintaining the eastern portions of our trail. The event will be held at the Slickville Fireman's pavilion with registration at 9 AM and the race kick-off at 10 AM. Lunch and a gift of jerky from Soldier Boy are included in the registration fee of \$35. There will also be amazing auction baskets! **To register, contact Heather Shearer at 724-972-3414 or hshearer513@comcast.net.**

Volunteer with the Westmoreland Heritage Trail!

We always welcome volunteers, especially in the summer when weeds are growing and windstorms knock down trees across the trail. Your volunteer hours also count as an in-kind donation, making the trail eligible for higher levels of grant funding because we can show that we have ‘matched’ the cash award with our many volunteer hours.



There are several opportunities available to help support the trail. These include: trail maintenance and special projects, public relations, fundraising events, festivals, clean-ups or by joining one of our committees.

We especially welcome dedicated runners, walkers, and bike-riders to become Trail Ambassadors, like the great folks shown below who recently went through training.



Our ambassadors keep an eye on trail conditions and let trail users know about possible hazards, parking closures, and updates to trail policies. They also answer questions about how to join our all-volunteer trail chapter. If interested – all you need to do is attend one of our monthly meetings (page 11) or send us a message through [our website](#) or our trail’s Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/WestmorelandHeritageTrail>).

News from Other Trails - Five Star Trail Poker Run

The annual Five Star Trail Poker Run will be held on **Saturday, July 20, 2024** starting at Lynch Field in Greensburg. Registration begins at 8:00 am and the event will start at 9:00 am. The registration fee is \$25 for pre-registered participants; day-of registration is \$30. [Click here to download a registration form.](#)

Like the WHT Poker Run, the Five Star Trail's Poker Run is not a race. Participants can choose a 4-mile walk or a 12-mile bike ride; or adjust the distance according to your needs. Participants will choose a playing card from a deck of cards at each of 5 checkpoints along the trail. Upon finishing the event, each participant will have assembled a full poker hand. The top 3 poker hands will get a trophy and a special prize package.

If you've never visited [our sister trail in Greensburg](#), it runs from Lynch Field Park north of Greensburg down to Youngwood and Armbrust.



Starting & Ending Point: Lynch Field, Greensburg
Registration: 8 a.m., Event Start: 9 a.m., Awards: 10:45 a.m.

12-Mile Bicycle Ride *or* 4-Mile Walk/Jog
Go as far as you want to go!

Pre-Registration: \$25 per person (\$30 day-of)



Scan the code for a
[Registration Form](#)
and more info!

What is a Poker Run?

This is not a race! Each participant will stop at five check points and choose a playing card from the deck. At the end of the event, each participant will have a complete poker hand. The best hands will receive a trophy and prizes!

POKER RUN BONUS FUN!

- ★ Basket Raffles
- ★ Historic T-Shirt Display
- ★ Lots of Door Prizes
- ★ Snacks & drinks
- ★ Activities for the whole family!



The Five Star Trail shares part of its route with an active railroad line, the Southwestern Pennsylvania Railroad corridor. Trails that operate next to active railroads are an unusual circumstance, and only a few exist in Pennsylvania. The Five Star Trail has been a success since opening in 1996, and their lease agreement with the Southwestern Pennsylvania Railroad has been renewed through 2045.

The mission of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail is to manage and maintain the trail from Saltsburg to Trafford, in partnership with like-minded groups, Westmoreland County Parks, and the associated municipalities the trail passes through. The trail will be promoted for walking and biking activities and for recreation, education, volunteerism, tourism, and historic and environmental conservation.

Spotlight on our Trailside Sponsors

There are many businesses near the trail that help us out throughout the year by donating gift cards, free products, and Day of Caring volunteers for trail projects. In this issue, we wish to thank **Slickville Deli & Groceries** in Slickville for their donation of a gift card and beverages to our Poker Run Participants. We would also like to thank **Helltown Brewing** in Export for donating the proceeds from their beer sales at the Community Festival. Please patronize and thank these businesses whenever you are in their neighborhood.

<https://www.facebook.com/helltown.taproom>

<https://www.facebook.com/slickvilledeli/>



Slickville Deli

& Groceries
154 main st Slickville ,pa

724-468-6212



The Westmoreland Heritage Trail is an all-volunteer chapter of the Regional Trail Corporation, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) entity which promotes the conversion of abandoned railroad corridors to recreational trails across Westmoreland, Fayette, and Allegheny Counties. Other RTC trails on the Great Allegheny Passage include the Steel Valley Trail Council, the Mon/Yough Council, the Westmoreland Yough Trail Chapter, the Whitsett-Fayette Yough Trail Chapter and the Yough River Trail Council. Also included are the Five Star Trail Chapter, the Coal and Coke Trail Chapter, the Little Crabtree Creek Trail Chapter and the St. Vincent Trail Chapter.

The Westmoreland Heritage Trail

194 Donohoe Road
Greensburg, PA 15601

<https://westmorelandheritagetrail.com/>

Upcoming WHT Board Meetings

July 11, 7 PM—Pedora Park in Export

August 8, 7 PM—Pedora Park in Export

September 12, 7 PM—Lamplighter in Delmont