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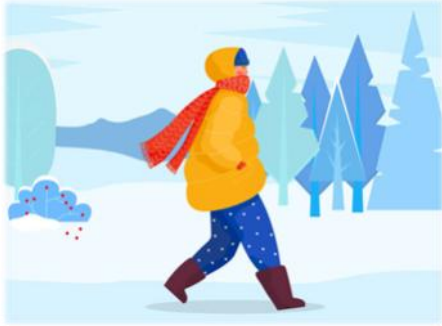
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**WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER**

**Vol. 5 No. 1**

## WINTER TRAIL NOTES



Two portable rest facilities will stay open along the Westmoreland Heritage Trail this winter - one at the Saunders Station trailhead and the other at the Sara Steel trailhead. The Roberts Parcel restrooms in Murrysville will also be open and those at the Export Historical Society Visitor's Center are scheduled to open from 7 AM to 7 PM on winter weekends.

We are often asked why we do not groom our trails during the winter, as some other trails do in higher elevation areas. The Westmoreland Heritage Trail is a group made up entirely of volunteers and keeping the trail in great shape is our top priority. However, our normal winters in Westmoreland County involve a lot of freeze-thaw cycles and the condition of the snow (often slush) would be a constant maintenance need. Any snow-grooming equipment might actually end up damaging the trail's limestone surface for the rest of the year.

We also know that our trail users appreciate the serenity of a quiet winter trail, and would prefer as little disruption as possible. The constant need to groom for winter maintenance might end up irritating our trail users more than it would benefit them.

## SAVE THESE DATES IN 2025!

We are planning for another busy and productive year on the trail. Please put these dates on your calendar, so you can enjoy all that our trail has to offer!



### **Comedy Night—March 7 and 8, 2025**

Our winter fundraiser will be held this year at the LIVE Casino in Greensburg, at Westmoreland Mall. The ticket price includes a buffet dinner catered by the Casino plus \$10 in bonus play. For more information and to find out where you can buy tickets, check out the flier on page 4.

### **Trail Ambassador Training—Mar 11, 2025**

Would you like to be a trail ambassador or recertify as one? If so, a training session will be held at the Westmoreland Conservation District on March 11 at 6:30 PM. Contact [Stan Rudge](#) for info and to RSVP.

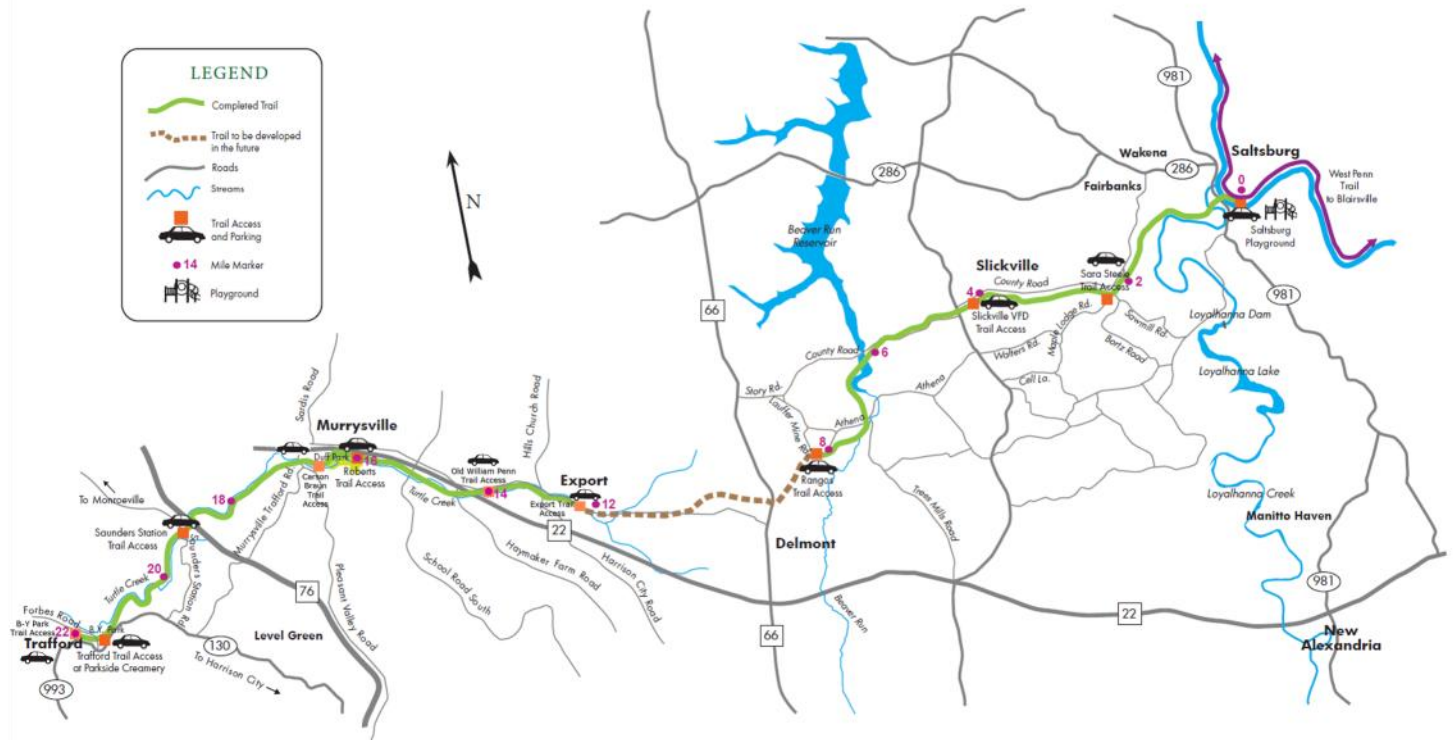
### **5th Annual Trail Town Festival and Poker Run—June 7, 2025 (National Trail Day)**

Our summer fundraiser will again be held on the first Saturday of June, National Trail Day. The location for this year's Trail Town Community Festival and Poker Run will be Export PA. Please plan to join us!

## Westmoreland Heritage Trail Board of Directors

Stan Rudge, President (Penn Township Rep)  
 Rob Cronauer, Vice-President  
 (Westmoreland Conservation District Rep)  
 Karen Rose Cercone, Secretary  
 Chris Panichella, Treasurer (Westmoreland  
 County Bureau of Parks & Recreation Rep)  
 Mike Banda  
 Michael Bertonaschi (Trafford Borough Rep)  
 Wendy Davis  
 Jerry Detar  
 Chad Emahizer  
 Elizabeth Ferri (Export Borough Rep)

Richard Fisher (Municipality of Murrysville Rep)  
 Kerry Jobe (Salem Township Rep)  
 Geri Lombardo (Loyalhanna Township Rep)  
 Tom Marcin (Municipality of Monroeville Rep)  
 Monica Meehan  
 Darren Miller  
 Pat Norton  
 Vicki Rudge  
 Malcolm Sias  
 Annamarie Stackiewicz (Delmont Borough Rep)  
 Ann Wade



*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 400 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.*



# 2025 Comedy Nights!

2 Nights of Laugh Out Loud Fun!

Proceeds Benefit Westmoreland County  
Parks, Trails, and Concert Series

## March 7 & 8, 2025

**Doors Open 6:00 p.m.**



Live! Casino  
Westmoreland Mall

Tickets \$40 per person  
Ages 21 and up

**Buffet Dinner & \$10 in Free Play\*  
included with ticket!**

*\*Must register as a Live! Casino Rewards Member; 1 voucher per card  
Tickets must be purchased in advance - No tickets will be sold at the door*

**2 fun evenings  
with good food,  
cash bar,  
basket auctions,  
50/50s, and  
lots of laughs!**

**Tickets available at the  
following locations:**

Westmoreland County Parks Office,  
The Lamplighter Restaurant, Delmont;  
Ginny's Pizza Joint, Export;  
or by calling (724) 830-3959  
*(cash or check only)*

Hosted By:



# There's Still Time to Become a Sponsor of Comedy Night 2025!

Sponsoring Comedy Night is an inexpensive way for your business or organization to get your name out to the local community and be associated with a good cause. Our sponsors are featured on the event banner (which will be seen by many other Casino patrons this year!) and also on all of our social media during the month of March. **February 28 is the deadline to become a sponsor for our two 2025 Comedy Nights.** For more information, check the sponsor flyer sent with this newsletter or email Event Chair Rob Cronauer at [robcronauer@yahoo.com](mailto:robcronauer@yahoo.com).





### **SPRING MEMBERSHIP DRIVE STARTS FEBRUARY 1!**

The Membership Committee is delighted to announce another spring membership contest. If you renew your WHT annual membership during the month of February using [our website](#) [PayPal app](#), your name will be entered into a drawing for Comedy Night Tickets, Cash, or a free Poker Run registration. (The PayPal requirement for the drawing is so we can verify the date of payment.) You don't need to have a PayPal account to use the website app. Simply select "Pay with a Credit Card" and enter the card details, then select "No, I don't want an account" when asked.

Join or renew during the month of **February** and be entered into a drawing to win one of three prizes!

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize** – Pair of tickets to Comedy Night on March 8, 2025 at Live! Casino Westmoreland Mall (\$80 value)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** – \$50.00 Cash

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** – One free registration for the 2025 Poker Run on June 7, 2025 (\$25 value)

Not sure if your membership needs to be renewed? The February 2025 board meeting email announcement will let you know if your membership expired in 2024.

### **2024—A RECORD-BREAKING YEAR FOR WHT FUNDRAISING!**

Donations and grants received by the Westmoreland Heritage Trail chapter in 2024 totaled \$17,950, almost four times more than the donations contributed in 2023. This includes Corporate Sponsorships, memorial donations for Noel Grimm, and charitable donations made by our trail chapter members, regional benefactors, and several small community foundations. Thanks to all of our amazing supporters!

In addition to donations and grants, trail fundraising events added \$6,247 from Comedy Night in 2024, \$7,046 from the 2024 Trail Town Festival and Poker Run, \$2,759 from the 2024 Ted Hayes Memorial Run-Bike-Walk, and \$550 donated by the Export Witches Ride in 2024, for a grand fundraising total of \$34,552.

**Many thanks to all of our trail chapter members and volunteers who generously donated the time, labor and support to make this accomplishment possible!**

## Over 4000 Volunteer Hours were Donated to the Westmoreland Heritage Trail in 2024



## VOLUNTEER WITH THE WESTMORELAND HERITAGE TRAIL!

We welcome volunteers to join us in maintaining and supporting the trail, no matter what season of the year it is. 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 many donated hours of labor.

There are several ways you can help support the trail. These include: helping out with trail maintenance; helping to staff tables at our fundraising events; working at our Poker Run and Community Festivals, or joining one of our active committees.

We especially welcome dedicated runners, walkers, and bike-riders to become WHT Trail Ambassadors. Our ambassadors keep an eye on trail conditions and let trail users know about possible hazards, parking closures, and updates to trail policies. **The next Trail Ambassador Training Session will be held on March 11, 2025 at 6:30 PM at the Westmoreland Conservation District barn in Greensburg. Contact [Stan Rudge](#) to attend.**

If interested in that or any other volunteer activity – all you need to do is attend one of our monthly meetings (schedule on page 9) or send us a message through [our website](#) or our trail’s Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/WestmorelandHeritageTrail>).

## News from Other Trails - Friends of the Riverfront



The Turtle Creek Connector is a new bicycle and pedestrian route proposed by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC) along with the nonprofit Friends of the Riverfront. This trail would start at the west end of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail (WHT) in Trafford, PA and then continue down through the Turtle Creek / East Pittsburgh Valley to the historic Carrie Furnace in Rankin, PA where it would cross the Monongahela River and join up with the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) Trail.

A virtual tour of the proposed trail alignment can be viewed here:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/374181bb7dd0404abf7e0161f128ea24>

The western part of the Turtle Creek Connector will need to be a shared-use trail, utilizing existing streets and sidewalks. This is because the original Westinghouse Interworks line that once ran through this area has been replaced by buildings and roadways. From Wilmerding to Trafford, the unused Westinghouse Interworks line is still available to be converted to a trail, if the right-of-way can be purchased from Norfolk



Southern Railway. This purchase would include the rail line that runs from the Westmoreland Heritage Trail west of BY Park into downtown Trafford.

As PEC continues to work on the design and funding of the Turtle Creek Connector, municipal officials in Pitcairn have started planning for it as well. The borough will use the first part of a \$255,000 state grant to improve parking and create a walking path near their Sports Complex, which should connect to the new trail. Pitcairn officials say they are hoping to follow the same model as Export in Westmoreland County, which has taken advantage of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail to revitalize their downtown and bring more foot traffic to their business community.

Source: <https://triblive.com/local/monroeville/pitcairn-officials-look-to-improve-recreation-areas-in-advance-of-connector-trail/>



*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 Trail Sponsors

The Westmoreland Heritage Trail extends a hearty welcome to [Turner's Dairy](#) as our newest corporate sponsor. For almost a century, Turner's has supplied fresh milk to our region using milk from local farms. It is also famous for its iced tea, originally created for Pittsburgh's steel workers. The dairy was founded in Penn Hills by Charlie G. Turner back in 1930, and is still run by the fourth generation of the Turner Family. We deeply appreciate their support and welcome all Turner's employees to come out and enjoy the trail!



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

**February 13, 2025 — Online over Zoom**

**March 13, 2025 — Online over Zoom**

**April 10, 2025—Lamplighter Restaurant in Delmont**