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## Spring Trail Notes

*With April showers come ... falling trees!*



The recent storms brought one particularly large tree down right on top of the Trafford WHT information kiosk. Fortunately, our volunteer trail chapter has insurance coverage through our parent organization, the Regional Trail Corporation, and we hope to be reimbursed for all the costs of rebuilding the kiosk. Special thanks go out to Nick from [Eveready Contracting LLC](#) in Trafford for help with tree removal!



WHT volunteers are also getting ready for grass-cutting and weed-whacking season which will soon be upon us. Trail users are reminded to give them enough room to work when biking or running. Remember also that our volunteers may not

hear you over the noise of their equipment, so hail them loudly if you are coming from behind.

*Cover photo of WHT and B-Y Park courtesy of John Beale*

## New WHT Merch on Sale

Can you see yourself in one of these stylish new WHT shirts, hats, or sweatshirts?

We have many new designs and colors available (this is just a sample).



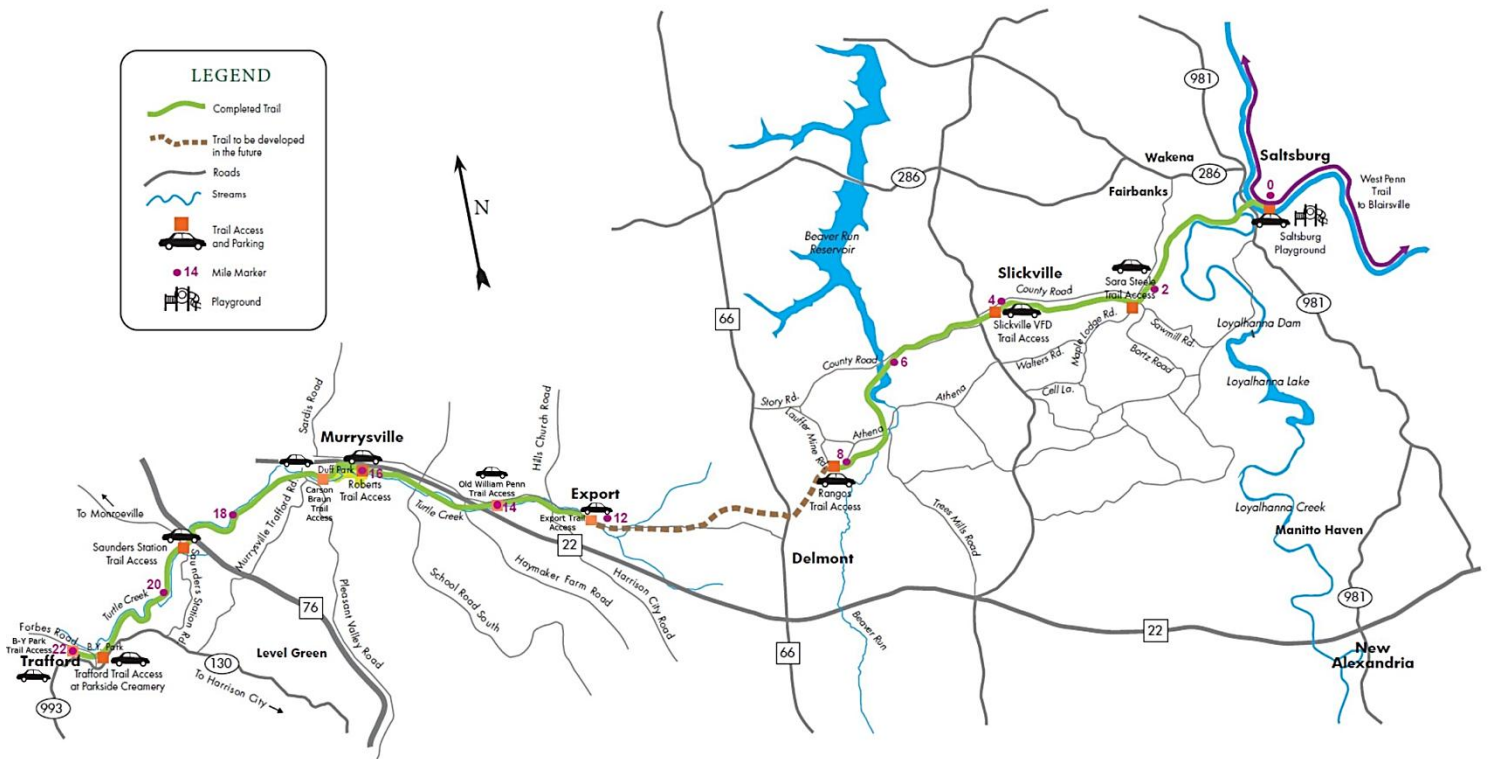
Merchandise can be purchased at the RTC store in West Newton, or at any WHT board meeting. We hope to soon have an online purchasing link available as well. Hurry, our stock is going fast!

To request a particular color / size combination for our next order, you can contact Vicki Rudge at [whtpr2017@gmail.com](mailto:whtpr2017@gmail.com).

## Westmoreland Heritage Trail Board of Directors

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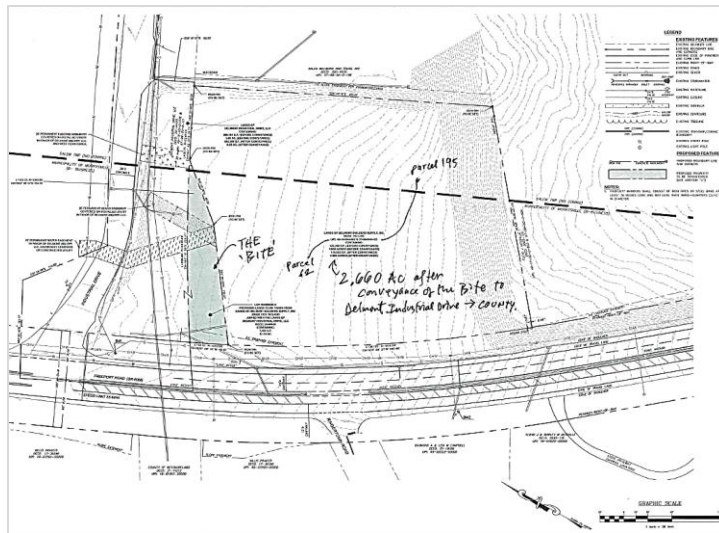
The Westmoreland Heritage Trail is managed by the Westmoreland Heritage Trail Chapter of the Regional Trail Corporation, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Eight municipal partners (Trafford, Monroeville, Penn Township, Murrysville, Export, Delmont, Salem Township, and Loyalhanna Township) work with over 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.

## Property Acquired for Future Route 66 Tunnel and Trailhead

At the end of March, the Regional Trail Corporation signed a purchase agreement for a 2.66 acre parcel at the intersection of Route 66 and Industrial Drive north of Delmont. This site was under development to become a Dollar General store, but those plans fell through late last year. The property was then offered to the RTC to help fill in the missing ‘middle gap’ of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail. Funds for the purchase were contributed by the Regional Trail Corporation, the Westmoreland Heritage Trail Chapter, the Westmoreland Land Trust, and an anonymous donor.



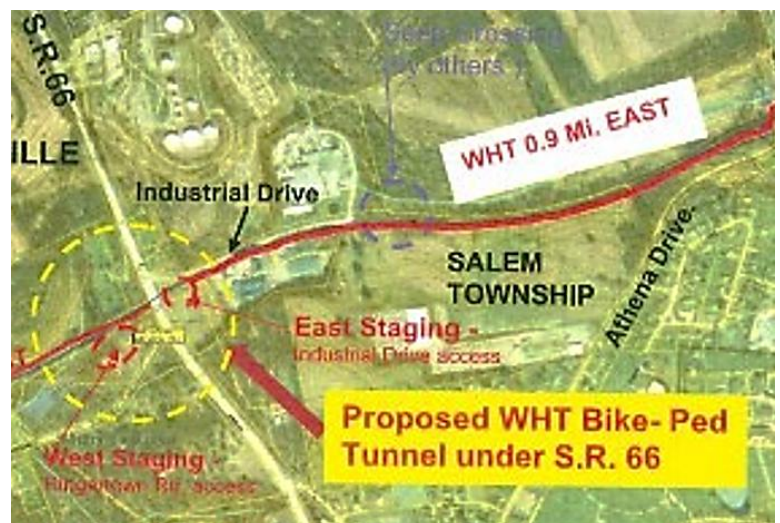
Mark Price, President of the RTC, and Bruce Corna Sr. representing Delmont Builders Supply, at signing.



As can be seen in the parcel map to the left, a smaller ‘bite’ of land had originally been divided off from the main parcel to give the Westmoreland Heritage Trail future access along Industrial Drive. Owning the entire parcel here opens up the possibility of creating an easily accessible trail head with a large parking lot, as well as the space to build a maintenance and storage building. This is a goal that our trail volunteers have been fundraising for over the past decade. We are thrilled to finally have a site identified for its placement.

Before it becomes a trail head, the new parcel will first provide a critical ‘lay-down’ area for the large amount of construction equipment and supplies needed to build a new trail tunnel beneath Route 66. This is an ideal spot, close to where the original Turtle Creek Railroad line once ran from Ringertown on the west to Athena Drive on the east. Grant funds have already been secured for the design of this tunnel as well as its adjacent trail sections on either side of Route 66 (see proposed site map below).

With ownership of the Route 66 parcel now secured, Delmont Borough can also begin planning and development work for an additional spur trail that will connect the downtown business district with the Westmoreland Heritage Trail. While actual construction of the tunnel and trail is still years away, the WHT would like to send our sincere thanks to the staff of Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation, the Regional Trail Corporation, and to Richard Kacin and Delmont Builders Supply for making this ‘middle gap miracle’ happen!



## Pittsburgh Foundation Funds New Maintenance Equipment

A truckload of new Stihl equipment is now available for our hard-working volunteers to use when trimming weeds and cutting grass. Maintenance co-chairs Rick Fisher and Chad Emahizer will soon be distributing it to equipment sheds in preparation for spring maintenance work.

Many thanks go out to our generous long-time donors, Roy Weil and Mary Shaw, who sent us this awesome gift under the auspices of the Pittsburgh Foundation. The trail chapter and all of our trail users are deeply grateful for their continued support!



Left to right: Rick Fisher, WHT Maintenance Co-chair; Karen Rose Cercone, WHT Secretary; Chris Panichella, WHT Treasurer; Stan Rudge, WHT President; Chad Emahizer, WHT Maintenance Co-chair; and Rob Cronauer, WHT Vice-President

## WHT Spring Membership Drive and Call for Volunteers!

The WHT 2025 Spring Membership Drive was a success, with over 50 new and renewing members responding to our call in February and March. If you missed renewing your membership, it's not too late – just head over to our website at <https://westmorelandheritagetrail.com/become-a-member/>. You can use the convenient online PayPal form or download a membership form to mail in with a check.

**If you are a new trail member or have new availability for volunteering, our chapter is in need of folks to assist with maintenance and fundraising events, or to serve as trail ambassadors. Just email our president, Stan Rudge at [star15644@verizon.net](mailto:star15644@verizon.net) and let him know how you would like to help out.**

## Thanks Again to All of Our Comedy Night Sponsors

The Westmoreland Heritage Trail & The Five Star Trail present

# Comedy Night!

**March 8, 2025**

## THANK YOU to our Sponsors & Donors!

**ADAM EIDEMILLER INC.**

**Eveready Contracting**

gai consultants

**Wye BEER CO.**

**Westmoreland Heritage Trail Corporate Sponsors**

Hungry Hank's Pizzeria

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Delmont Visionary Committee  
The Filling Station, Mt. Pleasant

Lois Weaver & Jeff Richards  
Peles Salon Wendy Davis

Mark & Jill Jackson  
Joe Theis

Steel City Parkour  
Westmoreland County Parks Citizens Advisory Board

Delmont Walmart



## Get ready for the 2025 Poker Run and Community Festival!

In just a few months, the Westmoreland Heritage Trail will be putting on our main summer fundraising event – a community festival and poker run held on National Trail Day (Saturday, June 7). This year, the Festival will be held at the Export Community Pavilion, and will feature a brand-new event at the beginning, a Blessing Ceremony for bikes, cyclists, runners, and walkers sponsored by St Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Export.

You can register for the Poker Run now (and make sure you get an event t-shirt!) by using the QR code on the right or mailing in the Poker Run flyer that came along with the newsletter.

### Sponsorships Available!

Are you a local business owner or community organization looking to raise more awareness of your services? For a sponsorship of \$100, you can get your name on the back of our 2025 Poker Run shirt and have a prominent spot on our event banner that day. Sponsors of \$150 or more will have their logos featured as well, with size based on donation. All sponsorships must be received by early May to be included on the t-shirt, so don't delay! Gift baskets and gift certificates of any amount are also welcome for the Auction Basket Raffle. You can use the form that came along with this newsletter or contact Ann Wade at [libarylady@gmail.com](mailto:libarylady@gmail.com).



# JUNE 7, 2025

Export Community Pavilion  
Community Park Drive  
Export, PA  
9 AM - 2 PM

St. Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish at Export invite everyone to come and gather around for the Blessing Ceremony of joggers, runners, cyclists, and bicycles on June 7, 2025

## WESTMORELAND HERITAGE TRAIL Community Festival &



## Poker Run



REGISTER FOR THE POKER RUN BY MAY 23 AND GET A \$5 DISCOUNT OFF THE REGULAR PRICE!

YOU CAN REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE →

USING PAYPAL OR ANY MAJOR CREDIT CARD.

MAILED REGISTRATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 23, 2025 TO QUALIFY FOR THE DISCOUNT.



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.



# Take a Conservation Tour along the Great Allegheny Passage

## Westmoreland Conservation District 2025 PEDALING FOR CONSERVATION



Explore conservation topics while biking **The Great Allegheny Passage**

**Wednesday, April 30**  
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., West Newton

Bring your bike and join staff from the Westmoreland Conservation District (WCD) on this easy, 7 mile (round trip) ride. Bikers will stop at multiple sites to hear about conservation and restoration projects along the trail and learn about local history.

Participants must bring their own bikes! **Park and sign in at the parking lot for the Regional Trail Corporation, 111 Collinsburg Rd., West Newton.** Registration will be from 5:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Visit the West Newton rail car during registration.

Cost is \$20, which includes an event shirt.

Ride will go on rain or shine. **Deadline to register in order to guarantee a t-shirt is April 15.** Space is limited.

Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent.

Questions can be directed to Jen Novak at [jen@wcdpa.com](mailto:jen@wcdpa.com) or 724-837-5271 ext. 211.

**Sponsors:**



**Partners:**



### 2025 Pedaling for Conservation Registration

Deadline to register is April 15, 2025. Space is limited.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Cost \$20 per person x \_\_\_\_\_ people = \_\_\_\_\_ total amount enclosed

T-shirt sizes \_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ 2XL

Make check payable to WCD and mail to:  
Westmoreland Conservation District  
218 Donohoe Rd.  
Greensburg, PA 15601

OR  
register online at [westmorelandconservation.org](http://westmorelandconservation.org)  
scroll to our calendar.

*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.*

## Westmoreland Heritage Trail Corporate Sponsors



### The Westmoreland Heritage Trail

194 Donohoe Road  
Greensburg, PA 15601

<https://westmorelandheritagetrail.com/>

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

### Upcoming WHT Board Meetings

May 8, 2025 – The Lamplighter in Delmont

June 12, 2025 – Pedora Park in Export

July 10, 2025 – Pedora Park in Export

*Members and guests are always welcome!*