



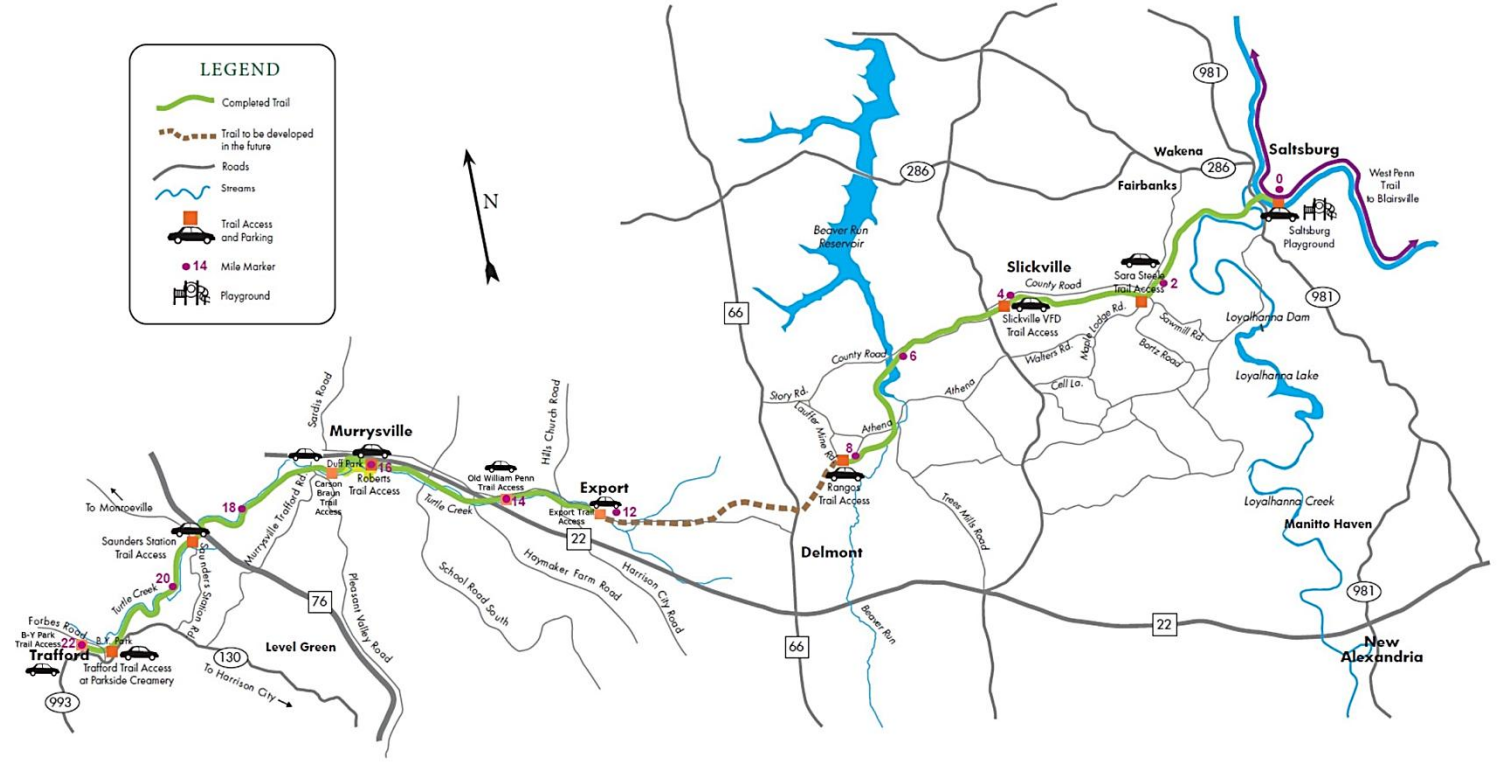
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# Westmoreland Heritage Trail Spring 2026 Newsletter

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 500 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](#).



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## Spring Trail Notes



We hope you are getting out and enjoying the arrival of spring along our trail! From the peeping of spring frogs in Beaver Run wetlands to the blossoming of wildflowers along the slopes of Turtle Creek Gorge, there are many signs that spring has sprung. One of those signs is the appearance of construction vehicles along the trail, as we work to finally repair the last damage from the 2025 floods and protect the trail against future extreme rainfall events. You can read more about that project on page 4.

As usual, we are also making plans for our main summer fundraiser, the Poker Run Festival. This year, it will return to B-Y Park in Trafford. In addition to the main Poker Run and the ever-popular basket raffles, we plan to have fun activities for younger children as well. Read more about that on page 5.

Our final spring update is a happy one – after three long years of delay, PennDOT has finally approved mural artist Christina Donahue’s proposal to cover the graffiti along the trail under the Route 22 bridge. Check out page 6 for more details about her work.

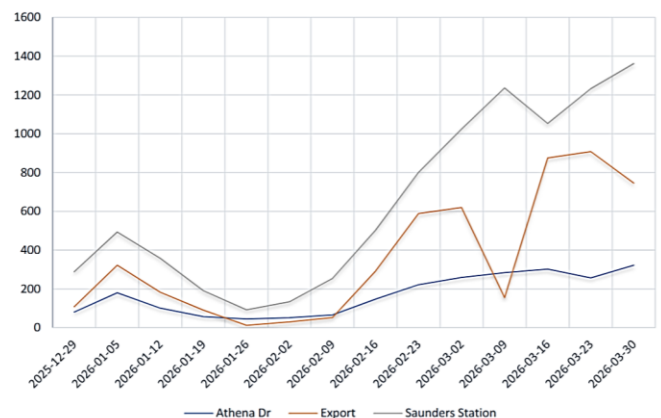
## Counting Our Trail Users

One of the ways that the Westmoreland Heritage Trail demonstrates its benefit to the community is through counting the number of users on the trail throughout the year. This statistic shows our grant funders, donors, and partners that their investment in the trail is worthwhile. We currently have four active counters installed at strategic spots along the trail – three between Trafford and Export (the most heavily used part of the trail) and an additional one on the eastern half of the trail at Athena Drive.



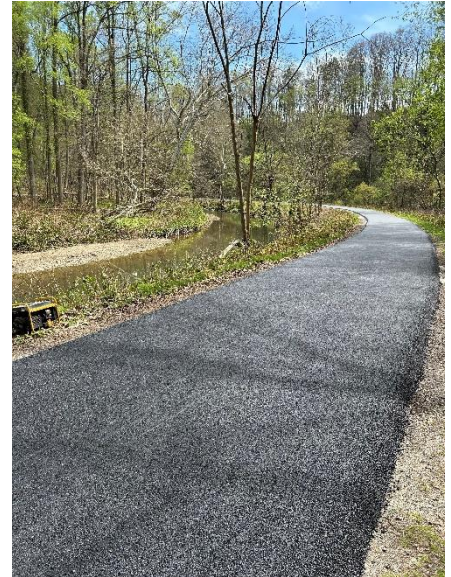
Data from all four trail counters is collected by trail volunteers Dan and Kathy Sigg, who use their background in engineering to collate and analyze the data. The trends are similar from year to year, with lower levels of use in the colder months and a much higher level of use in the summer, when there are also many more hours of daylight and when schools are not in session.

2026 WHT Quarter 1 Trail Counts



## Spring Trail Resurfacing Project Has Been Completed

Over the past few weeks, contractor Adam Eidemiller Inc. repaired the rough sections of the trail between Export and Trafford that still had flood damage from last summer's extreme rainfall events. In most sections, a fine-grained limestone coating was added and pressed flat to restore the trail's original surface (left photo). In a few sections that have been repeatedly damaged by flooding events, such as the Big Bend between Trafford and Saunders Station Road, the trail was paved over with asphalt to prevent or reduce future washouts (right photo).



We would like to thank our hard-working trail maintenance volunteers for their assistance with the rolling trail closures. We would also like to thank our trail users for their patience and understanding as we made these upgrades. We hope you all enjoy using the new and improved Heritage Trail!

## Turtle Creek Connector Trail Update: Trafford Ballfields

The long-term plan to connect the WHT with the Great Allegheny Passage is making progress. This initiative, led by Allegheny County Economic Development, has combined land appraisals by the Friends of the Riverfront, a land survey within the 9-mile trail corridor by WSP Engineering, and project coordination by the Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC).

In Trafford, the Connector Trail is proposed to be routed under the Veterans Memorial Bridge, through the UPMC All-American Park and then north past the Trafford Commerce Center in order to connect with the current Westmoreland Heritage Trail where it ends south of B-Y Park.

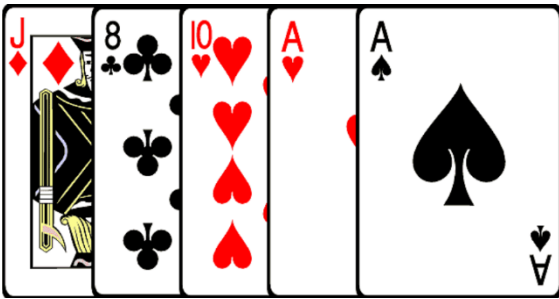


Picture courtesy of <https://playallamerican.com/upmc-all-american-park/>

On May 21, 2026, 6:00 PM, the Trafford Planning Commission is scheduled to meet with representatives of All-American Baseball to discuss how the proposed expansion of the Baseball Center (to the north of the bridge) and the proposed Turtle Creek Connector trail under the bridge can co-exist and add to the vitality of Trafford as both a trailhead and a baseball town.



# The 2026 WHT Poker Run Festival Returns to B-Y Park!



The Westmoreland Heritage Trail will once again hold our main summer fundraising event on National Trail Day - **Saturday, June 6 from 9 AM to 1 PM**. This year, our Poker Run will be headquartered at the B-Y Park in Trafford. It will include a Blessing Ceremony for cyclists, runners, and walkers sponsored by St Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Export. Also on hand will be live music, food trucks, beer from Wye Beer Company, fun activities for children, and basket raffles.

The top three poker hands collected will win valuable prizes, and every participant will get an event t-shirt. All proceeds go to support the maintenance and extension of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail.

From now until May 15, you can get a \$5 discount on Poker Run registrations by clicking on <https://westmorelandheritagetrail.com/poker-run-2026/> or using the QR code on the right. Registrations will also be available on the day of the event, payable with either cash or a credit card, although not all t-shirt sizes may be available. Family members can enjoy the festival activities without needing to participate in the Poker Run. Bring kids, grandparents, and pets!



### 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 Poker Run shirt and have a prominent spot on our event banner (last year's version is shown below). 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, so don't delay! Gift baskets and gift certificates are also welcome for the Auction Basket Raffle. Contact [whmpr2017@gmail.com](mailto:whmpr2017@gmail.com) for more information and to sign up.



**June 1, 2024**  
Murrysville Community Center 9a-2p

## WESTMORELAND HERITAGE TRAIL COMMUNITY FESTIVAL and Poker Run

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to our  
Sponsors & Donors



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Salsa Sam's Eatery

Lena's Food

Millie's Ice Cream

Ace Hardware - Delmont  
Export Historical Society  
Joey's the Edge

Alluring Designs  
Franco's Expert Nail  
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Yellow Bridge Brewing

Eastwood Hardware  
Richard & Lori Hensler  
Stan & Vicki Rudge

Export Floral  
Ianni's Pizzeria  
Dan Siggs

## Murrysville Mural Work Begins Under Route 22 Bridge

It's been almost three years since mural artist Christina Donahoe (right) proposed covering the unsightly graffiti under Route 22 along the trail in Murrysville. Christina has finally received approval from PennDOT to proceed with her art installation.



Our trail users can already see some of Christina's mural art in Export, where she painted the historical mural on Export Floral. We are excited to see



what she creates for the underpass below Route 22! Once the mural painting is complete, it will be covered with a protective coating, from which any graffiti can be easily washed off in the future.

If you would like to support Christina's mural project, please donate directly to her [GoFundMe project](#).

## Thanks to You, Our 2026 Comedy Night was a Success!

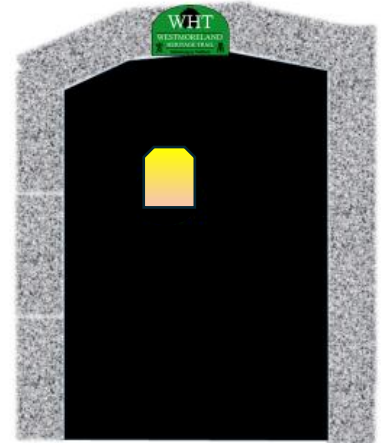
Thanks to the strong support of our members and Facebook followers, the Westmoreland Heritage Trail's winter fundraiser was able to sell out all of our seats at LIVE Casino for the 2026 Comedy Night.

Fundraising chair Rob Cronauer, who organized the event, reports that we raised over \$5000 for the trail, while our partners at the Five Star Trail raised over \$3000. Additional funds were raised through the sale of merchandise (thanks to our hard-working PR Committee) and the Casino's charity bingo. Thanks to all of our volunteers for their help with the event! We are looking for a new organizer for next year – if you're interested, please let us know.



## Tunnel Vision – Plans in Motion

Westmoreland County and the PennDOT Central Office and Attorney General have executed the Reimbursement Agreement and the companion Engineering Agreement which will now allow GAI Consultants (GAI) to proceed with the Preliminary Engineering and Design for the WHT Middle Gap Development project. A notice to proceed was issued on 3/23/2026 to GAI, and the WHT Middle Gap Development Preliminary Engineering phase is now underway.



GAI’s work will include preliminary engineering and surveying for the 1.5 miles of trail that will be added between Morosini Farm Road and Rangos Trailhead north of Delmont. The future tunnel under Route 66 will be the focus of most geotechnical work such as soil borings and geological conditions. This preliminary research and design will determine what methods can be used to excavate the tunnel, and what specifications the structure should have to support the stress of Route 66 traffic crossing above it and to allow trail users easy access to it.

A Steering Committee composed of trail volunteers, county parks staff, and other stakeholders has simultaneously been working on a schematic plan for the future “Route 66 Trailhead” to be located at Industrial Drive, on the site formerly proposed as a Dollar General location. This facility will be built once the tunnel construction is complete and will serve as a central hub for trail visitors and a headquarters for trail volunteers. It will include a 100 x 50 maintenance building for trail equipment and volunteer



meetings, storage for trail-building supplies as well as restrooms and ample parking for trail visitors. GAI Consultants have been engaged to design the site plan in conjunction with their trail study.

*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.*



# Thank You to Our 2026 Corporate Sponsors



WELCOME TO OUR  
NEWEST SPONSOR!



The Westmoreland Heritage Trail  
has a new mailing address:

P. O. Box 184  
Claridge, PA 15623

Follow us on social media:



Upcoming WHT Board Meetings

June 11, 2026 – Pedora Park

July 9, 2026 – Pedora Park

August 13, 2026 – Pedora Park

*Members and guests are always  
welcome to attend our meetings!*