



Summer Trail Notes

New WHT T-Shirt Design

Poker Run Breaks Records

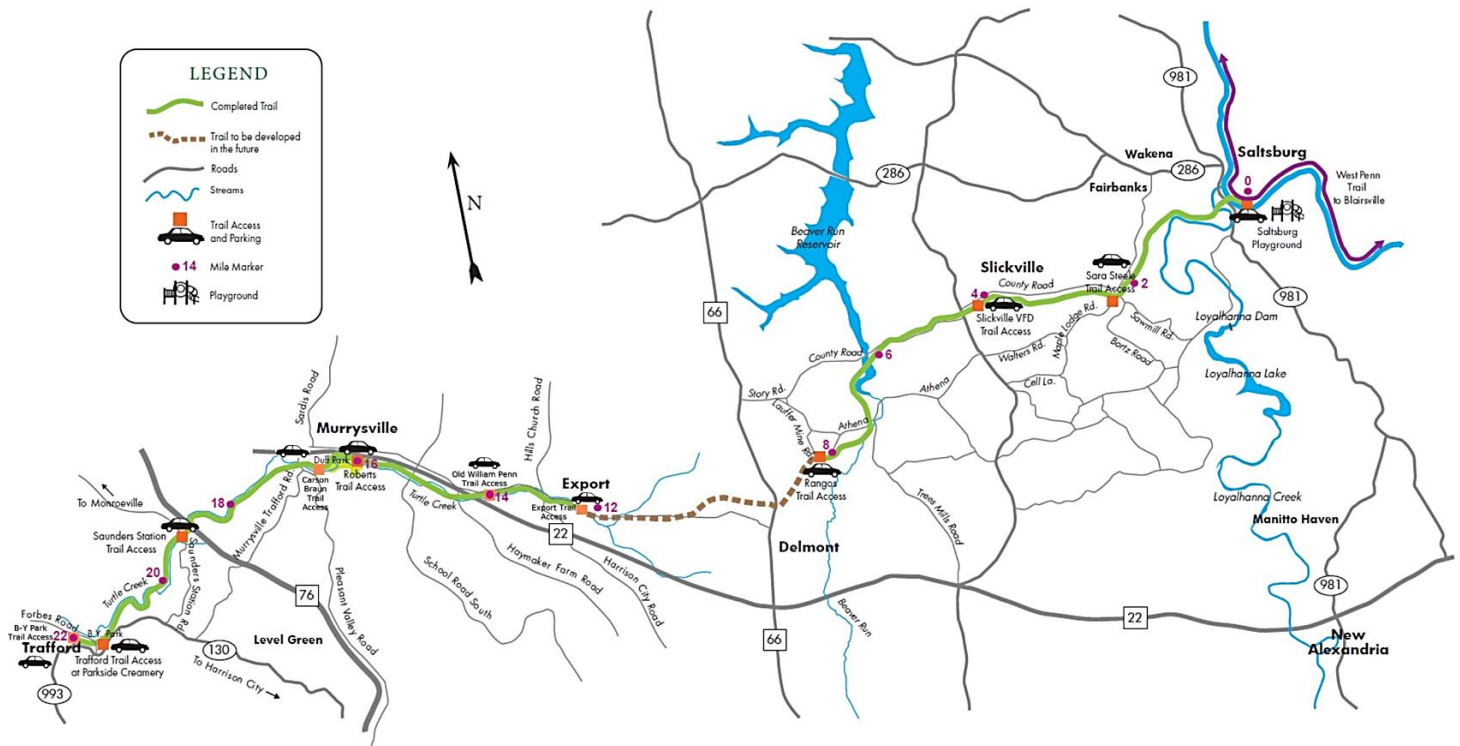
Turtle Creek Gorge News

AED for Trail Users

Tunnel Vision:

Research

The Westmoreland Heritage Trail



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 600 active chapter volunteers to maintain and monitor the trail. Other partners include the [Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks & Recreation](#) and the [Westmoreland Conservation District](#).

Westmoreland Heritage Trail Officers and Board of Directors

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Westmoreland Heritage Trail Summer 2026 Newsletter

2026 WHT Poker Run Festival Breaks Records!

Our fourth annual Poker Run Festival went off without a hitch on June 6 - National Trail Day. Despite predictions of rain, it turned out to be a lovely day, with only a few times of some cloud. Ninety-two people signed up to collect a poker hand by biking, running, or walking along the trail.



The event included a Blessing of the Bikes by Father Jay Jacinto of the Diocese of Greensburg; performance by acoustic duo Common Ground; several food trucks; and a beer stand run by our own corporate sponsor, Wye Beer of Trafford. Over 50 other sponsors (see page 7 for the full list) helped us raise \$5595 for trail maintenance and for our new headquarters. Many thanks to all!



Congratulations to our lucky prize winners:



Westmoreland Land Trust Protects Turtle Creek Gorge

The Westmoreland Land Trust, a non-profit land conservancy based in Latrobe, is pleased to announce their successful acquisition of a 23-acre wooded property in Trafford bordering the Westmoreland Heritage Trail and Turtle Creek, permanently protecting a significant scenic and ecologically important natural corridor in the region. The land is located in Westmoreland County between the Forbes Road trailhead near Parkside Plaza and the Saunders Station Road trailhead. The acquisition represents the culmination of nearly two years of effort by the Westmoreland Land Trust alongside private landowners, donors, and fellow conservation organizations, including the Murrysburg Area Watershed Association, whose partnership helped strengthen the effort to protect the landscape.



The area is celebrated for its biodiversity, serving as an important natural greenway and an officially recognized Core Habitat by the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program. It protects a remarkable stretch of the Turtle Creek Gorge, preserving mature forest, towering rock outcroppings, and the natural beauty experienced by thousands of visitors along the Westmoreland Heritage Trail each year. Beyond its scenic value, the property provides important wildlife habitat, strengthens ecological connectivity, and ensures this unique landscape will remain undeveloped and protected for generations to come.

The property will be permanently protected and stewarded as part of Westmoreland Land Trust's growing network of conserved lands across Westmoreland County, now totaling over 740 acres. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held on **August 6 at 10 AM** along the trail. For more information, check out the flyer that came with this newsletter or visit <https://westmoreland-landtrust.org/>.

Coming Soon: New AED for Trail Users at Roberts Parcel

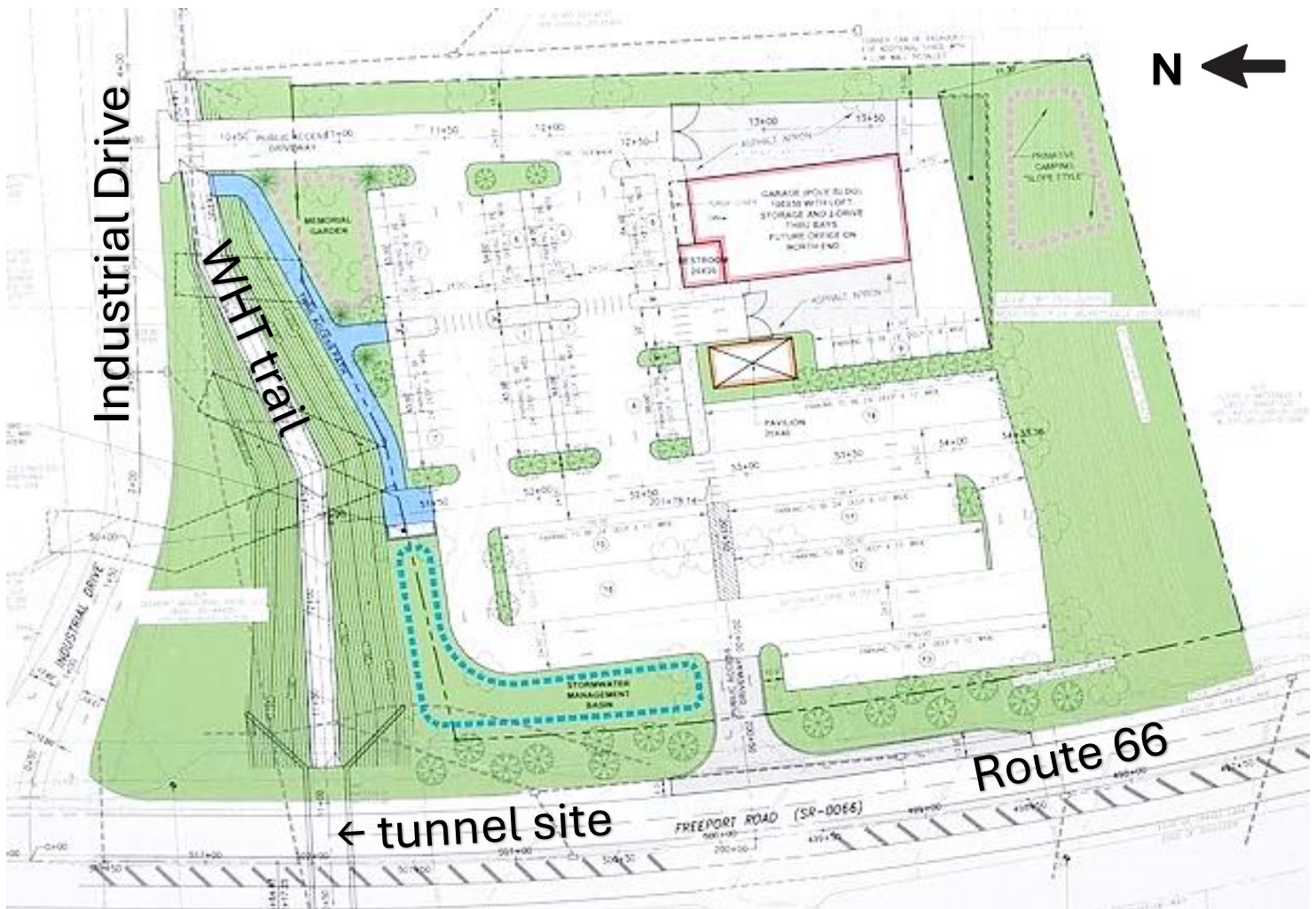
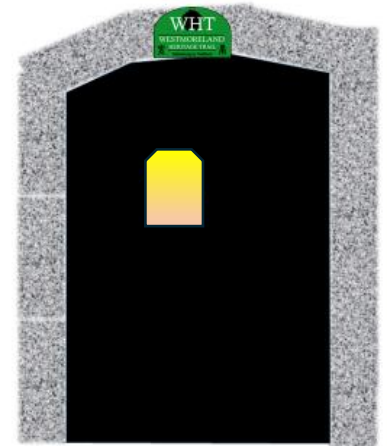


The Regional Trail Corporation received a grant from UPMC to purchase five AED devices, which they shared with five of their trail chapters. WHT was fortunate enough to get one and is installing the device at the Roberts Parcel Trail Head on the outside of the visitor center. It is temperature controlled and has continuous 24 hour, 7 days a week, 365 days a year operation. This portable medical device can analyze heart rhythms and deliver an appropriate electric shock during sudden cardiac arrest. It will guide first-time users with step-by-step audio and visual prompts, allowing them to provide life-saving care before emergency responders arrive.

Tunnel Vision – Research and Design

Our GAI consultants are at work this summer, investigating the rocks and soil around the proposed tunnel site under Route 66. Drilling will begin in that area in August. They are also checking road crossings for the new segment of trail that will connect Rangos Trailhead to the tunnel and designing ways to calm traffic and increase safety.

The most exciting news is that we now have a conceptual design for the trail head facility that will be built near Route 66. As currently proposed, it may have two entrances - one from Industrial Drive and one from Route 66. That would make it easier for trail users to make left turns into and out of the parking area. The site will include parking and restrooms, and possibly also a primitive camping area, a memorial garden, and a shade pavilion, as well as a large storage and maintenance building for trail volunteers to use. This is an early design, and subject to change depending on site issues that may crop up, but we are happy to have a clearer ‘tunnel vision’!



Westmoreland Heritage Trail Summer 2026 Newsletter

Thanks to All of Our Poker Run Supporters!



WESTMORELAND HERITAGE TRAIL
FESTIVAL & POKER RUN

THANK YOU
to our
Sponsors & Donors

June 6, 2026
B-Y Park, Trafford
9a-2p







Penn Township Recreation
Rich and Jean Hajnosz
D's Six Pack & Dogs
Wade's Breakfast & Grille
Rewind-Reuse Center
Friends Thrift Shop MC2

Export Historical Society
DQ Delmont
Delmont Visionary Committee
Children's Museum of Pittsburgh
Dr. Annette Merlino
Parkside Perk & Creamery
Andy Warhol Museum

Olives & Peppers
Johnny's Restaurant
Sweet Buzz Bistro
John Dobrinick Funeral Home
I Knead You Massage Therapy
Century Square Theater

Steel City Collectibles
Pittsburgh Steelers
Pittsburgh Pirates
John Heinz History Center
Debbie Kostrub Scott
Penn Area Library
Crafty Shack

Kamin Science Center
Money Mike's
Moio's Pastry Shop
Papa Rocks
Ianni's Pizzeria
Southern Glazw Wine & Spirits

2026 WHT Corporate Sponsors



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

P. O. Box 184
Claridge, PA 15623

Follow us on social media:



Upcoming WHT Board Meetings

August 13, 2026 – Pedora Park

September 10, 2026 – Pedora Park

October 8, 2026 - Lamplighter

Members and guests are always welcome to attend our meetings!