



Westmoreland Heritage Trail Chapter of the Regional Trail Corporation

The Officers and Board Members would like to say “**Thank You**” to all our Chapter Members and Trail Enthusiasts. Without your continued support, volunteer time, membership subscriptions, and donations, the accomplishments listed below would not have been possible.

2019 Major Accomplishments

- The completion and Grand Opening of an additional 3.4 Miles of trail from Roberts Trail Access, Murrysville to Lincoln Avenue, Export on August 17th.
- A huge successful Trail Towns Festival Event was held in June. So successful, it has been scheduled as an annual event.
- The Installation of seventeen informational Historical Markers from Saltsburg to B-Y Park, Trafford. A Huge Thank You to Karen Rose Cercone for leading the project and the Pittsburgh Foundation for a funding Grant that made the endeavor possible.



Phase IV Grand Opening Murrysville to Export



Trail Towns Festival



One of Seventeen Historical Markers

- The membership drive during the Trail Towns Festival Event subscribed over 50 new WHT members.
- Trail Mile Posts added every quarter mile on the newly open section from Lincoln Avenue, Export (Mile 12 $\frac{3}{4}$) to Roberts Trail Access, Murrysville (Mile 16).
- Six stream bank stabilization sites along the new section (Phase IV) of the trail and planted of 21 trees.
- Established five “Maintenance Zones” with maintenance supervisors to better allocate maintenance resources and volunteers to keep the trail in pristine condition.
- Had a record number of volunteers who freely contributed to trail improvement totaling over 2,372 hours in 2019.
- The “WHT Awesome Volunteers” Annual Volunteer Recognition dinner was held in September.
- A remarkable number of patrons stepped forward and have gone above and beyond donating to Westmoreland Heritage Trail. Thank You!

- The WHT's most successful ever "Comedy Night" with record breaking attendance and fund raising was held in February at Colton Hall in Claridge, Pennsylvania.
- Another successful 2019 "March for Parks".
- The expedient repair of the trail during two events of unprecedented rainfall and flooding of the Turtle Creek Valley.
- Many thanks to Urban Brothers Construction for their expert help restoring the trail after the first event.
- Many Thanks to Westmoreland Parks and Recreation for assisting in the clean-up and restoring the trail base after both events.
- Westmoreland Conservation District contracted to have the log jam removed from the creek in the area of flooding.
- The Delmont Visionary Committee was added to our trail planning and vision for a future trail spur into Delmont.
- A record number of Membership subscribers. Thanks to all that joined and helped to achieve a record number of members increasing our ranks from 140 in 2018 to 281 in 2019.
- Ongoing discussions continue with Norfolk Southern Railroad to purchase the "right-of-way" to extend the Trail into downtown Trafford.
- WHT informational booths were staffed by our Public Relations Committee and Community Representatives, at the community festivals in Monroeville, Slickville, Export, Penn Township and Delmont. WHT volunteers also attended the Murrysville Halloween walk on the trail and attended Forbes Regional first Employee Safety Fair.



Volunteers



Trail Enthusiasts

- Once again, WHT volunteers "Placed First" in fundraising parking cars at the Westmoreland County Arts and Heritage Festival.
- Achieved the milestone of over "1,800 followers" on the "Westmoreland Heritage Trail" Facebook page. Followers continue to increase each month.
- The continued increase of "views" on the <https://WestmorelandHeritageTrail.com> website and the added ability on the website to subscribe to membership, purchase Memorial Benches, Mile Post Sponsorships, and Trail Logo Clothing.
- A new format for Milepost Sponsorship has been implemented.
- Thirteen Memorial Benches were installed this year.
- Eagle Scout project planted fourteen trees along the trail near Trafford.

- Finished the last of four bridges on Phase IV in February in anticipation of the completion of the new section of trail in late summer.



Before



After

- The Initiation of a Phase One environmental study to ascertain the impact of the “Middle Gap” four miles of Trail between Export and Delmont.
- The RTC has signed an agreement with Great Oak Energy to purchase property as a start for The WHT “Middle Gap” trail from Export to Delmont.
- Additional Stihl Power equipment was purchased to help keep the knotweed “at bay” along the trail.
- The WHT is assisting Monroeville to complete a study to build parking access and a pedestrian bridge from Valley Park on Abers Creek road to the WHT Trail.
- Thanks to all communities and Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation for their unwavering support along the trail.
- Other accomplishments too numerous to itemize, but silently completed!