



## Westmoreland Heritage Trail Chapter of the Regional Trail Corporation

The WHT extends its heartfelt thoughts and concerns to those who have been personally affected by Covid-19. We all have suffered and sacrificed our normal lives during this 2020 “Year of Covid-19”. Despite the restrictions and protocols, your support for the Trail has been unwavering. During the Covid-19 Pandemic, the trail has received an unprecedented record amount of use from bicyclists, walkers, pet exercisers, runners and everything in between. The WHT, with your support, is dedicated to providing an outdoor “Greenspace” where all can relax, stress relieve, or just plain “Chill Out”. Please continue to be Vigilant, Stay safe and Be well.

The Officers and Board Members wish to extend a resounding “**Thank You**” to all our Volunteers, Chapter Members and Trail Enthusiasts. We recognize you for your volunteer time and membership subscriptions. We also want to recognize the remarkable number of patrons who stepped forward to go “above and beyond” donating to the Westmoreland Heritage Trail. Without “ALL of YOU” the accomplishments listed below would not have been possible.

### **2020 Major Accomplishments**

- The Partnership with The Level Green Women’s Club for our premiere “Amazing Race” fund raiser for both organizations was a HUGE success.
- Two Toro UTV’s were acquired for maintenance along the trail.
- An additional maintenance shed was added in Slickville to house our maintenance equipment.



Amazing Race Winners



Getting Cyclists Attention



Trick or Treat Along the Trail

- Heavy excavator work of the trail bank at the entrance of the tunnel in Saltsburg was completed to shore up the trail.
- Flow from the water falls at mile 1.75 was diverted to run along the trail to a relief culvert to prevent trail washouts.

- To comply with Covid-19 protocols, we held several outdoor Board meetings and also held our first “Zoom” Board meeting.
- An application was submitted for the DCNR’s 2020 Trail of the Year recognition.
- Permission was granted to use the Hoss’s Restaurant rear parking lot for additional parking and trail access.



Lucky Comedy Night Winner



Another Visitor to the Trail

- We had an exceptional number of volunteers who turned out to freely contribute to trail improvement. A record number of over 2,350 volunteer hours were logged in 2020. This “grass roots” participation aids greatly in our Grant Funding requests.
- The WHT’s had its most successful ever annual “Comedy Night” with record breaking attendance. The fund raiser was held in February, 2020 at Colton Hall in Claridge, Pennsylvania, thankfully just ahead of the March Covid-19 restrictions.
- “MANY THANKS” are extended to Urban Brother’s Construction for their expert help restoring the trail along the Turtle Creek big bend section of the trail.
- A “THANK YOU” to all that joined the trail as members and helped to achieve a record membership within our ranks from 140 in 2018, to 281 in 2019, to 303 in 2020.
- The “Westmoreland Heritage Trail” Facebook page achieved the momentous number of 2,390 followers. Followers continue to increase each month.
- A “Westmoreland Heritage Trail” Twitter social media page was added to our Internet presence.
- A WHT Video Media collection on YouTube is in the “development” phase.
- Our website, <https://WestmorelandHeritageTrail.com>, has seen increased and continued viewership. You may use the website to subscribe to membership, purchase Memorial Benches, Mile Post Sponsorships, and Trail Logo Clothing.
- Four issues of the WHT Quarterly Newsletter were published to disseminate Trail News, Trail updates and other pertinent Trail information.
- The Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner was held “minus the dinner”, however, cake was served. We applaud our “WHT Fantastic Volunteers” for making the Trail what it is today.
- Volunteers of the United Way “Day of Caring” joined trail maintenance volunteers to stain fences, bridges and kiosks along the trail.

- A new Milepost Sponsorship format has been implemented to increase fund raising.
- An additional fifteen Memorial Benches were installed along the Trail.
- A Grant from The Colcom Foundation was received by the RTC and was shared between WHT and its four other trail chapters.
- A “Middle Gap” (Delmont to Export) Trail Feasibility Study was initiated to evaluate possible trail routes to connect Delmont, Rango’s Trail Head with Lincoln Avenue, Export. The next four miles are needed to complete the 22-mile corridor between Saltsburg and Trafford.
- A Trail easement was acquired to extend the trail westward 1,000 feet from Rango’s Trail Head.
- Three fourths mile of old railroad corridor was purchased to help in extending the Trail from the west side of Route 66 to Spring View Court.
- A Thank You to the Murrysville Municipal Public works for assisting in our efforts to complete portable advertisement along Route 22.
- The Pittsburgh Foundation is graciously continuing their funding to install additional Historical markers along the WHT Trail.
- Sponsored by Westmoreland County Chamber of Commerce the Leadership Westmoreland Youth Academy assisted in cleaning and staining our bridge along the trail near Hell Town Brewery.
- Sadly, there were three unfortunate evenings of vandalism along the trail from Export to Athena Drive which had to be repaired. Restitution is currently being pursued.
- The Trail “Thanks” Trafford, Export communities and dedicated Board members for removal of trash from refuse cans along the trail.
- “Thanks” to all eight of our neighboring communities, The Westmoreland Conservation District and The Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation for their unwavering support of the trail.
- A crossing drain at the Roberts Trail Head was installed to reduce trail erosion.



Volunteers Recognition Night



Snow Art

- At the request of RTC, our “Charter”, The WHTC “Articles of Association” were revised and successively approved.
- The RTC signed an agreement with Great Oak Energy to purchase property for the “starting step” to complete The WHT “Middle Gap” trail from Delmont to Export.

- Additional Stihl Power equipment, Mini Sickle Bar and Buffalo Turbine Blower was purchased to help keep knotweed “at bay” along the trail.
- “Thank You” to Beaver Jack Tree Service for supporting us to remove a large tree canopy over the Getty bridge.
- WHT entered the contest and won the Grand Prize from Eastwood Hardware of merchandise.
- A HUGE “Thank You” to the Municipality of Monroeville and Penn Township for their help in keeping knotweed at bay along the lower Turtle Creek Gorge.
- A CARES Grant was received from Westmoreland County to aid in the loss of fund raising during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Out Trail hosted several events during the year including . . . The Amazing Race, Halloween parade, several 5k walks/runs, races and other trail events.
- ***Other accomplishments too numerous to itemize, but silently completed!***



United Day of Caring and WHT Volunteers



Cycling / Dog Exercising / Fisherman along WHT



Award of Grand Prize



Tranquility



Youth Volunteering