

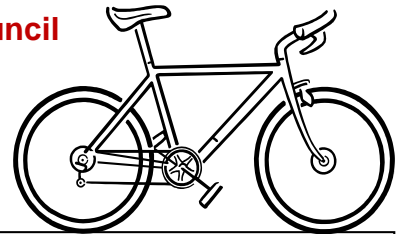


Steel Valley Trail Council eNewsletter

Providing the latest news on the Steel Valley Section of the Great Allegheny Passage

Steel Valley Bicycle Tour to Benefit Steel Valley Trail Council

This year the Steel Valley Trail Council (SVTC) is holding a bicycle tour to benefit the section of the Great Allegheny Passage maintained by the SVTC. It will be held on April 26 beginning at the Homestead Works Pump House.



The Steel Valley Bicycle Tour celebrates the connection of the Montour Trail to the Great Allegheny Passage and the industrial heritage of the Monongahela River Valley. The route begins at the Pump House in Munhall and heads down SVTC's section of the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) to McKeesport. The first rest stop is at McKeesport where the McKeesport Trail Commission's section of the Great Allegheny Passage begins. Riders may return to Homestead on the trail or proceed to Clairton on SVTC's "Clairton Connector" bike route on local streets. After snacks at the Clairton Trail Head of the Montour Trail, riders will back track the route to Homestead.

Steel Valley Bicycle Tour Homestead to Clairton

- 24 Mile or 14 Mile Round Trip
- Saturday, April 26, 2014 @ 9 AM
- Pump House, Waterfront (Munhall, PA)
- Fully Supported Ride
- Registration fee is \$20 by April 19th, \$30 afterwards.

Also in this edition:

- Pump House Market Bike Days
- 2014 Day of Giving is May 6
- More Volunteers Needed!
- Registration Form for Steel Valley Bike Tour

This will be the first organized bicycling event of the year on a Regional Trail Corp. trail/bike route that is fully paved. At this time of year it may be a cold, rainy weather challenge for hard core cyclists or a warm, pleasant ride along the Mon for more casual riders. Either way the ride is fully supported with drinks, snacks, and sag wagon service.

In 2013 the Great Allegheny Passage trail from Pittsburgh was finally finished. In 2013 we also had major damage to the GAP due to storms. Repairing a washout and a

The Steel Valley Trail Council is proud to be sponsored by the following community partners.



KU Resources, Inc.

Interested in learning more about our sponsors?
Visit <http://www.steelvalleytrail.org/CorporateMembers.html>

Interested in becoming a sponsor, email us info@steelvalleytrail.org

mudslide on the SVTC section of the GAP cost over \$10,000. Other routine maintenance costs totaled \$5,000. Your participation in the Steel Valley Bicycle Tour will help us build our war chest to battle gravity and the elements to keep our section of the GAP open. For more information: George Schmidt (gschmidt1@verizon.net or 412-521-1538)

The registration form is available at the conclusion of the eNewsletter and online:

<http://www.active.com/munhall-pa/cycling/races/steel-valley-bicycle-tour-2014>

Volunteers Needed for Steel Valley Bicycle Tour

We need volunteers for registration, rest stops, sag wagon duties, and clean up, for our first SVTC bicycle fundraising event on our section of the Great Allegheny Passage and the Clairton Connector.

Registration will be at the Homestead Works Pump House. The rest stops will be in McKeesport and at the Montour Trail parking lot/trail head in Clairton.

The more volunteers we have the less everyone has to do. Our aim is to pamper the bicyclists and the volunteers so everyone has a great time and looks forward to the event next year.

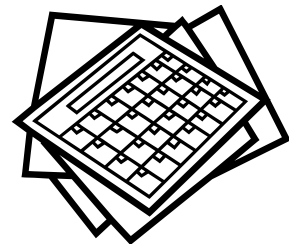
For more information: gschmidt1@verizon.net or 412-521-1538.

March SVTC Directors Meeting

The next meeting of the Steel Valley Trail Council Board of Directors will be held on March 17th at 6:00 PM at the Whitaker Municipal Building, 124 Grant Ave., Homestead, PA 15120.

All SVTC members are welcome to attend.

For more information: gschmidt1@verizon.net or 412-521-1538.



Other Non-SVTC Events along or near the trail:

Allegheny Trail Town Kick Off

Wednesday, March 19 from 6:00-7:30 PM

Bulgarian – Macedonian National Educational & Cultural Center
(449-451 West 8th Avenue, West Homestead, PA 15120)

The press release about this event is at the conclusion of the eNewsletter with local coverage by the media on page 5.

Trail Town JMD Wheels of Hope 2014

Benefits JMD CANCER RESOURCE CENTER'S

Saturday, May 10, 2014 with registration starting at 9:00 AM

Online registration is available at www.jmdf.net

Walk And Ride Against Hunger

Presented by Rainbow Kitchen Community Services & UPMC Health Plan

Saturday, May 31, 2014 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/walk-and-ride-against-hunger-registration-10795721293>

Pump House Market Days: Bike Day @ the Pump House

Once a month, there will be a bike day at the Pump House Market. SVTC will have an information table there and we welcome any ideas to encourage bicyclists to bike into the Market.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• May 25• June 22• July 27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• August 24• September 28 |
|---|--|

The Pump House is located at 800 East Waterfront Drive (Near Lowe's Home Improvement) Munhall, PA 15120

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

2014 Pittsburgh Day of Giving:

Tuesday, May 6, 2014 from 6 AM to 12:00 Midnight ET

It is almost time for this year's Day of Giving. This year, The Pittsburgh Foundation will be having their Day of Giving event in May instead of October as previous years, tying it to a Give Local America initiative, a U.S.-wide day of fundraising events organized by more than 100 community foundations across the country.

Other changes include:

- An 18-hour donation period instead of the previous 24 hours
- A cap of eligibility for matching funds to the first \$1,000 contributed by a donor to an individual organization (introduced during last year's Day of Giving)

As in the previous two years, donations made towards the SVTC will count towards membership within the organization.

Look for more information next month as we begin to gear up to participate!

<http://pittsburghgives.org/>

FROM THE PRESIDENT: MORE VOLUNTEERS?? HECK, YES!

We have one man, Jim Taggart, who does the lion's share of the technical, behind the scenes work for the SVTC. He is the go-to guy for everything from map design to maintaining the membership list. Everyone likes to go out on the trail and play with dangerous, sharp objects, but we really need more tech-savvy, alpha-geek people to take some of the load off Jim.

We also need volunteers to tend to our SVTC display at the Homestead Pump House Bike Days and encourage visitors to join our organization. The more people we have to help out, the more time we have to enjoy the activities centered around the trail.

While we are at it, does anybody want to have some fun with the trail? We need an Events Committee to organize activities to support the trail. It would be nice if they made money for trail maintenance, but the important thing is to draw attention to the SVTC and encourage people to become active in the organization. I am open to lots of ideas for events like a member's day picnic, or eagle watching parties, or special bike/hike/running events.

Please feel free to contact me to volunteer or if you have any ideas to promote the SVTC. I hope to see you out on the trail or at one of our meetings. Watch our SVTC Facebook page for immediate updates concerning our trail.

Think spring.

George Schmidt, President
Steel Valley Trail Council
gschmidt1@verizon.net or 412-521-1538

THANKS PAUL AND BOB

Many thanks to Bob MacGregor for leading a work party to perform emergency damage control to the fence behind COSTCO and replace broken delineators on the bike lane in Munhall. Paul Heckbert, SVTC Secretary, led another work party to clear brush from around the Braddock Lock and Dam interpretive sign. We now have an impressive open view of the Braddock Dam and the massive USS Edgar Thompson Works.

Both of these work parties took place on March 8 and traffic on the trail was amazingly heavy already.

Photos of Paul's work party to clear the view of the Braddock Lock and Dam can be found on our Facebook page (posted March 9th and within our timeline photos).

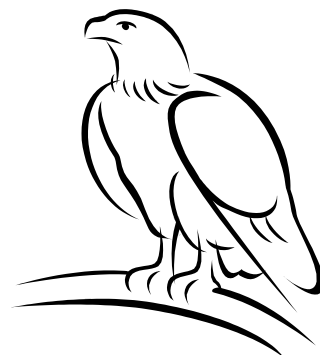


Get updates as they happen!
www.facebook.com/SteelValleyTrail

Pittsburgh Bald Eagles Camera:

Have you seen the Eagle's Return to Pittsburgh in 2014? If not, their nest is now being streamed live on the Internet at <http://www.pixcontroller.com/eagles/>

For more information on how Pix Controller and the PA Game Commission installed the camera, visit <http://www.wqed.org/birdblog/2013/12/27/pittsburgh-eaglecam/>



Elsewhere in Trail & Cycling World:

- Pittsburgh will get help developing bike lanes part of a national campaign to install protected bike lanes in American cities (story in Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on March 10): <http://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2014/03/10/Pittsburgh-will-get/stories/201403100139>
- The Supreme Court has ruled against the government's use a federal government granted right-of-way easement from the 1875 General Railroad Right-of-Way Act in Wyoming as part of the Medicine Bow Rail Trail. It is not expected to have too much of an impact in Pennsylvania (story in Pittsburgh Tribune Review on March 10): <http://triblive.com/state/pennsylvania/5740110-74/trails-government-rights#axzz2vvKRATnj>
- More coverage on the Trail Town Kickoff in Allegheny County and how the program is expanding to more communities and along more trail corridors:

Post-Gazette on March 6:

<http://www.post-gazette.com/local/south/2014/03/06/Trail-Town-program-expanding-in-Allegheny-County/stories/201403060044>

Pittsburgh Tribune Review on February 27:

<http://triblive.com/neighborhoods/yourmckeesport/yourmckeesportmore/5667687-74/trail-town-program#axzz2vvKRATnj>



1st Annual STEEL VALLEY BICYCLE TOUR

FUNDS RAISED WILL SUPPORT MAINTENANCE OF THE STEEL VALLEY TRAIL COUNCIL SECTION OF THE GREAT ALLEGHENY PASSAGE.

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2014. The tour goes rain or shine.

The ride begins and ends at the Pump House, 800 East Waterfront Drive (Across from Lowe's Home Improvement) Munhall, PA

HARD HATS (Helmets) ARE MANDATORY

The Steel Valley Bicycle Tour (SVBT) is a fully supported flat ride through the historic Monongahela River Valley. The first 7 miles of the ride is on the Great Allegheny Passage from Homestead to McKeesport. The next 5 miles continues on local streets through Glassport and Clairton to the Montour Trail trail head. There will be a rest stops with food and drinks in McKeesport and Clairton. There will also be sag wagon service for broken bikes and tired riders. The total distance out and back is 24 miles.

Registration opens at 8:00 AM and closes at 10:00 AM. Riders may start after registering.

Note: SAG support ends at 3:00 pm.

Pre-register! All pre-registered riders receive a packet containing maps and a snack ticket.

Confirmation? Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope with your registration.

Questions? Contact George Schmidt: 412-521-1538 or by e-mail at gschmidt1@verizon.net

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Club/Organization: _____ Email: _____

Are you 18 or older? Yes ____ No ____

REGISTRATION FEE: By April 19, \$20 ____ / After April 19, \$30 ____

Total \$ _____ Please send checks to: **SVTC, PO Box 318, Homestead, PA 15120**

Signed: _____ Date _____

_____ Individuals under 18 must obtain the signature of a parent/guardian. By signing this release, I as a parent or guardian of minor participate hereby give permission to the terms of the above release. Note: Individuals under 16 must be accompanied by parent/guardian.

Signed

Parent/Guardian: _____ Date _____

Liability Release—I voluntarily request permission to participate in the 2014 SVBT, UNDERSTAND THE HAZARDOUS NATURE OF THIS ACTIVITY AND ACCEPT FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY PARTICIPATION AND THE RISKS INVOLVED including, by way of example and not limitation, dangers of collision with

pedestrians, vehicles, other cyclists and fixed or moving objects, dangers arising from surface hazards, equipment failure, inadequate safety equipment, the released parties' negligence, weather conditions and the possibility of serious physical and/or mental trauma or injury. I have no physical or mental condition, to my knowledge, which would endanger myself or others, or would interfere with my participation. I have inspected all my personal equipment to be sure it is in good and safe condition. I agree to abide by all applicable laws and regulations and to act in a safe and courteous manner. I acknowledge that it is mandatory that I wear an ANSI or Snell approved helmet at all times while bicycling the SVBT. In consideration of permission to participate in the SVBT for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, legal and personal representatives, successors, and assigns. I DO HEREBY DISCHARGE, RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS, PROMISE NOT TO SUE AND I INDEMNIFY THE STEEL VALLEY TRAIL COUNCIL, its officers, volunteers, and any other organizations including sponsors, associations, municipalities, or individuals connected with SVBT from any and all claims, demands, rights, actions or causes of actions of whatsoever kind and nature, arising from and by reason of any and all known and unknown, foreseen and unforeseen bodily and personal injuries, damage to property and all the consequences thereof which may hereafter be sustained by my participation in the SVBT. In addition, I hereby consent to emergency treatment in the event of injury or illness.

Emergency Contact: (name) _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____



A Resource for Businesses along the Great Allegheny Passage

The Progress Fund • 425 West Pittsburgh Street • Greensburg, PA 15601
(724) 216-9160 • www.trailtowns.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Trail Town Program® Expands to Allegheny County *Kick Off Event Planned for March 19th*

Greensburg, PA - The Trail Town Program® is hosting a kickoff event on **Wednesday, March 19th** from **6:00-7:30PM** at the **[Bulgarian – Macedonian National Educational & Cultural Center](#)** (449-451 West 8th Avenue, West Homestead, PA 15120) for its expansion into Allegheny County. This event, co-sponsored by the **[Steel Valley Enterprise Zone](#)**, is an opportunity to learn more about the Trail Town Program® and the Great Allegheny Passage. Attendees will meet with trail groups, business owners, and other tourism advocates.

Since 2007, **[The Progress Fund](#)**'s Trail Town Program® has been working to revitalize communities along the Great Allegheny Passage in the Laurel Highlands and Mountain Maryland. As more trail users visited and more trail was completed so did the interest to expand to new communities. Early discussions with community members in Allegheny County have shown growing efforts to become more trail friendly tourism destinations.

In 2014, **[Trail Town Program®](#)** will be expanding to four new communities in Allegheny County: Boston, McKeesport, Homestead area, and the South Side. Trail Town Program® staff will bring its six services to these communities to help grow trail tourism and revitalization efforts. These six services include: Business Assistance and Development, Marketing, Economic Research, Community Connection Projects, Real Estate, and Small Business Loans.

This regional program will provide communities and businesses with the tools to capture visitors from across the world visiting the **[Great Allegheny Passage](#)**. Later this Spring, communities will go through a Trail Town Assessment to address issues and opportunities related to safety and access, business and amenity needs, design, and more.

In addition to the Great Allegheny Passage, other Trail Town communities will be established in new trail corridors including the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail, Montour Trail, Sheepskin Trail, and Trans-Allegheny Trail System.

To learn more about the Trail Town Program® or to RSVP to the event, please contact: William Prince, Program Manager

724-216-9160 ext 318

wprince@progressfund.org

www.trailtowns.org

The Progress Fund is a vigorous non-profit loan fund that creates jobs and improves communities by providing entrepreneurial coaching and capital to small businesses in the travel & tourism industry. The Progress Fund serves 40 counties of Pennsylvania, the State of West Virginia, Western Maryland, and Appalachian Ohio. The Progress Fund was founded in 1997, and has made 428 loans totaling more than \$50.5 million to 261 enterprises, creating or preserving more than 3,170 jobs. The Progress Fund is an Equal Opportunity Lender.

The Steel Valley Enterprise Zone Corporation is the economic development organization for the Boroughs of Homestead, West Homestead and Munhall and a portion of the 31st Ward of the City of Pittsburgh. Attractive financial incentives are available in this State-designated Enterprise Zone. For information go to www.svez.org.

Trail Town Program® Kick-Off Event!



*This event is co-sponsored by the
Steel Valley Enterprise Zone.*

Date: March 19, 2014

Time: 6:00PM—7:30PM

Location: Bulgarian Macedonian National
Educational and Cultural Center
449 West 8th Avenue Homestead, PA 15120

RSVP: by March 17 to Will Prince @
wprince@progressfund.org or 724-216-9160
ext 318

**The Progress Fund's Trail Town Program® is expanding to communities
in Allegheny County along the Great Allegheny Passage.
Join us for this free event to learn how your community and business can get
involved in capturing trail tourism from this international destination!**