

June-July 2010

Volume 2, Issue 1

IN THE



McKeesport Trail Commission Newsletter



RIBBON-CUTTING AND GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

Participants in the event from left: Bike Patrolman Eli Tubin, Rob Roberston, PennDOT District 11 Executive Dan Cessna, County Councilman Bob Macey, Hannah Hardy, Jack Paulik, Mayor James R. Brewster, Commission President Linda Brewster, State Representative Bill Kortz, Tim Joyce, Bob Baum, Beth Bendel (daughter of the late Mayor Joe Bendel), and Bike Patrolman Joe Lynn.

A crowd gathered at the McKeesport riverfront under clear blue skies on April 30 to celebrate the completion of the new McKeesport trailhead, featuring benches, bike racks, signage, landscaping, a new pergola, and

trailhead parking lot, along with the opening of the McKees Point Trail to the Monongahela River.

Meanwhile, dignitaries broke ground for the paving and relocation of the Great Allegheny Passage from the 15th Street bridge to John J. Kane Regional Center. The existing limestone trail along Walnut Street will be abandoned and a bicycle route will be marked along 13th Street and Market Street to behind Kane, where it will meet the Water Street portion of the GAP.

Mayor James R. Brewster said the development along the river holds promise in bringing bicyclists, walkers, hikers, and boaters into McKeesport and bodes well for the economic future of the city.

Bringing it Back: Come and See!

Linda Brewster, president of the McKeesport Trail Commission, is happy to announce that Mayor James R. Brewster, City Council, the Trail Commissioners and Friends of the Trail are "Bringing McKeesport Back."

Stop by and see our beautiful trailhead at McKees Point Marina and enjoy a delicious meal at McKees Cafe. Cafe hours are: Sunday through Thursday, 8 AM to 2 PM and Friday and Saturday, 8 AM to 10 PM. Be sure to sign the "Cyclists' Wall!"

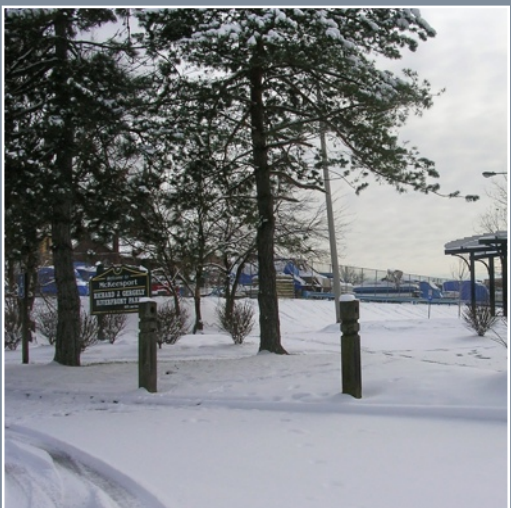
GREAT ALLEGHENY PASSAGE

THE CUMBERLAND & PITTSBURGH TRAIL



TRAILSCENES

Winter 2009-2010



DC BOUND

As part of his Trail Monitor duties one summer day, Bob MacGregor helped lead a group of young people through McKeesport. The group hailed from around Buffalo, New York and their grateful supervisor, Bonnie Enders of Teen Treks, e-mailed this: "...I just wanted to let you know that the group of kids you helped lead through McKeesport did make it to DC! We arrived tired and muddy, but in good spirits. It was a wonderful adventure that I think the kids will look back on proudly for the rest of their lives. I can't thank you enough for your help that first day. The best part of the trip was getting to meet so many trail angels along the way - thanks for being one of them!"



TAKING A HIKE

After backpacking 132 miles from Cumberland, MD, Rich Kelso from North Carolina and brothers Mike and Greg Went from Michigan and Las Vegas, NV, enjoy a rest at the new McKeesport Trailhead on the Great Allegheny Passage.

TRAIL UPDATE

Open to Duquesne

Now that the tunnel under the Duquesne flyover ramp is done, the Riverton Bridge is open. An open house was held on October 2nd to celebrate this important new section of the GAP, which extends to Grant Avenue in the Duquesne RIDC.

In July, two steel bicycle flyover bridges will be installed to take the GAP from Grant Avenue to the existing trail near the Rankin Bridge, and then into the Waterfront section of the GAP.

Appearance improvement activities

The McKeesport Trail Commission is working on two existing planters at the junction of the GAP and Loop trails near the 15th Street Bridge. Weeds have been removed, existing trees and bushes pruned and additional soil and mulch and new drought-resistant plants have been installed. The City Public Works Department has weeded and pruned existing landscaping areas at the junction of Water Street and Lysle Blvd. and new plants will be placed there to complement the new trailhead parking lot. Soil, mulch and new plants are being funded by a generous grant from the McKeesport College Club and the Confederation of McKeesport District Women's Clubs.

Temporary bicycle trail from the new trailhead to the RIDC

The McKeesport Public Works Department prepared a temporary connecting trail from the new trailhead parking lot on Water Street to the



**Trail Section is
Complete to
McKees Point**

trail on Locust Street inside the McKeesport RIDC. This trail goes in both directions through the Municipal parking lot up to the Veterans' Park with the band shell, where the trail is marked along the sidewalk up to Locust Street with bicycle logos. Large white Great Allegheny Passage trailblazing signs donated by the Allegheny Trail Alliance have been placed along this route to direct bicycles between Locust and Water Streets.

New bicycle repair kit:

A kit for the repair of basic "breakdowns" of bicycles has been placed in the McKees Cafe. In addition to basic tools and an air pump, the kit includes tire tube patches, new tire tubes, tire blowout patches, a replacement brake cable, and a list of local bicycle repair shops. These have been provided by the McKeesport Trail Commission as a courtesy, but donations to replace supplies used are welcome.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

TRAIL UPDATE (CONTINUED)

Through-cyclist assistance

As the McKees Cafe is not open all hours, a notice has been placed on the entrance door to provide information on how to access the PAT Rack n' Roll service and where to find full service bicycle repair shops. The memo cautions against using Rt. 837 to reach Pittsburgh and instead recommends using other means, including PAT to connect with the Eliza Furnace Trail near the Hot Metal Bridge in the South Side. Emergency phone numbers of two trail volunteers are also provided if cyclists have any questions or need further advice.

PAT Rack n' Roll Service:

You have probably noticed that many PAT buses have bicycle racks mounted in front. This existing service is a safe and comfortable way to get a bicycle and rider between McKeesport, on the 56C bus, and the Eliza Furnace Trail at Second Avenue and Greenfield Avenue. The ride takes about 40 minutes and lets you off within a short sidewalk walk to the Eliza Furnace Trail terminus. The Eliza Furnace trail intersects with the Hot Metal Bridge bicycle trail to the South Side Trail or goes on to Grant Avenue in downtown Pittsburgh. Any cyclist who can lift a standard bicycle should be able to install or remove the bicycle in the bus rack in about 20 seconds. A map of the Rack n' Roll routes and a procedure for using the racks is on the counter in McKees Cafe.

Steel Valley State-of-the-Trail

McKeesport Trail Commissioners Darlene Allen and Laura Jenkins , also members of the Steel Valley Trail Council volunteered at Steel Valley's State-of-the-Trail meeting at the Pump House at the Homestead Waterfront on April 19, 2010.

BIKE RAFFLE

To support the development of our city's trails, the McKeesport Trail Commission is raffling off a **Marin Drakes Beach Cruiser Bike**, perfect for enjoying our area's bicycle paths.

Raffle Tickets will be available for purchase for \$3 from members of the Commission as well as at the **International Village**, August 17-19, 2010, where the winner of the drawing will be announced on the last evening of the event.

The bicycle was graciously donated by **Zak's Speed Shop** in McKeesport.



McKeesport Trail Commission

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THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS


- DeWayne and Evette Wivagg for their donation.
- The McKeesport College Club and the Confederation of McKeesport District Women's Clubs for a trail beautification grant
- McKeesport Kiwanis Club
- The Blanche and DeWayne Wivagg Charitable Foundation
- An Anonymous Donor
- Zaks Speed Shop - Marin Bicycle
- Ruth K. Thon for her donation
- Richard Rodgers for his donation

NEW "FRIENDS OF THE TRAIL"

- Janice Boyko of Brentwood
- Roy Joseph Fagan of Clairton
- Brian Evans and Erica Gamorro
- Thaddeus and Nancy Merriman



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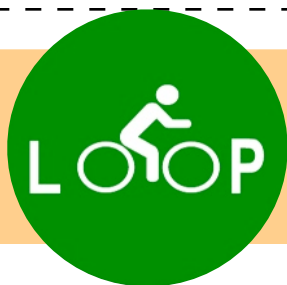


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