



Five Star News

Volume 1, No. 1

Fall/Winter, 2016

The Poker Run Was Great Trail Fun!



Participants make their way down the trail for the Poker Run.



Volunteer Jill Jackson manages a card selection and water break stop.

One of the favorite Five Star Trail events is the annual Poker Run, which helps raise funds for the continued maintenance, improvement and promotion of the trail. This year's Poker Run took place on Saturday, July 23rd and began at 9 a.m.

Poker Run participants could choose to cycle, jog or walk the trail during the event. Everyone started at the Kaufman Pavilion, near the pool at Lynch Field in Greensburg, where they turned around and headed back to finish at Lynch Field for a total of 4 miles. Participants on bikes traveled to Depot Street in Youngwood and then back to Lynch Field, a total of 12 miles. A couple of runners headed out early and ran the 12 miles. This is the second year we started at the

pavilion. Not only did it save the volunteers the time in putting up and taking down the tents, the large trees provided welcome shade once they traversed the trail.

Participants either pre-registered or registered at the starting point the day of the event. Bicycle riders came from everywhere riding all kinds of different bicycles. There was even one couple enjoying a bicycle built for two. Some cycling parents brought their toddlers along by attaching little cleverly designed kids' trailers to their bicycles to safely tow them behind. Many also enjoyed jogging and walking the trail with family and friends. They dressed from casual to sophisticated jogging and walking gear.

Along the way participants stopped at Poker Run stations operated by Five Star Trail volunteers, including a group from

the Special Olympics. The trail has been fortunate to have their help at the Poker Run for many years now. At each station the participants chose a playing card to help complete their Poker hand. The card they drew was then recorded on a special Poker Run hand card which they received upon registering at the starting point. The three highest scoring poker hands were eligible for special prizes at

continued on page 6

Save the Date
Poker Run 2017
Saturday, July 22

INSIDE:

- From the President
- Trail User Etiquette
- Discover the Little Crabtree Creek Trail
- 2017 Comedy Nights
- Become a Five Star Trail Supporter



A Chapter of the Regional Trail Corporation

Five Star Trail

c/o Westmoreland County Bureau
of Parks and Recreation
194 Donohoe Road
Greensburg, PA 15601
Phone: 724-830-3950



Like and follow us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/5-Star-Trail-117109801709637/

The Five Star Trail is operated and managed by the Five Star Trail Chapter of the Regional Trail Corporation. Seven municipal partners, Greensburg, Hempfield Township, South and Southwest Greensburg, Youngwood, New Stanton, and Westmoreland County combine their resources with those of the 200 chapter members to operate the trail. Other key organizations that assist include the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks & Recreation and the Westmoreland Conservation District

Subchapter affiliates - The Little Crabtree Creek Trail and The Saint Vincent to Latrobe Trail

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Total finished trail mileage: 7.76 miles

Destinations <i>All destinations include parking except Hillis St. and Armbrust.</i>	Lynch Field	E. Pittsburg St.	Huff Ave.	Willow Crossing Rd.	Trolley Line Ave.	Depot St.	Hillis St.	WCCC	Armbrust
Lynch Field	X	0.61	2.26	3.76	4.59	5.50	6.11	6.05	7.15
E. Pittsburg St.	0.61	X	1.65	3.15	3.98	4.89	5.50	5.44	6.54
Huff Ave.	2.26	1.65	X	1.50	2.33	3.24	3.85	3.79	4.89
Willow Crossing Rd.	3.76	3.15	1.50	X	0.83	1.74	2.35	2.29	3.39
Trolley Line Ave.	4.59	3.98	2.33	0.83	X	0.91*	1.52	2.07	2.56
Depot St.	5.50	4.89	3.24	1.74	0.91*	X	0.61	0.55	1.65
Hillis St. <i>(End of Trail)</i>	6.11	5.50	3.85	2.35	1.52	0.61	X	1.16	2.26
WCCC <i>(Sewickley Creek Trail)</i>	6.05	5.44	3.79	2.29	2.07	0.55	1.16	X	1.10
Armbrust <i>(Sewickley Creek Trail)</i>	7.15	6.54	4.89	3.39	2.56	1.65	2.26	1.10	X

* For nine-tenths of a mile, the trail is on a roadway. There are six-foot wide bicycle lanes on each side of the road and it is clearly marked with "Bike Lane" signs. Trail users are reminded to use extra caution along Trolley Line Ave.
Mileage configuration courtesy of John W. Matto, Jr.

From the President...

This is the first issue of our long dormant newsletter. Since it's been a while I thought I'd recap a bit of our history. Ed Hutchinson and Bob Wile, trail founders, began in 1995 to promote the concept of a biking and walking trail to connect Lynch Field Recreation Area in Greensburg to the Westmoreland County Community College in Youngwood. Thanks to their vision and the efforts of a group of volunteers and commitment of the leadership of Westmoreland County and our Municipalities; City of Greensburg, Hempfield Township and the Boroughs of South Greensburg, Southwest Greensburg and Youngwood the Five Star Trail became a reality a few years later. The Armbrust section of trail which connects Youngwood and the Westmoreland Community College was opened in 2002.

We are a trail operated and maintained largely by volunteers. Our five municipalities assist us with heavier maintenance items but regular clean-ups, minor trail repairs are by our members at work details throughout the year. The Master Gardeners maintain our landscape planters and many church, school, Boy and Girl Scout groups have cleaned up litter, painted murals, installed benches and planted trees. We not only appreciate their help but we also appreciate the many thank you's we hear from trail users when we are out working.

The trail has become an important part of our communities being used by persons who are keeping themselves



fit, commuting or just out having a good time enjoying nice weather. The trail has also been utilized by several non-profits sponsoring 5K fundraisers.

We have two signature fundraisers to support trail operations. Many of you have attended our annual Poker Run held in July and we also have a Comedy Night which is being held in Delmont February 18th. We appreciate everyone's attendance and support at these events.

We appreciate your feedback, suggestions, reports on trail conditions and willingness to volunteer. You can either message us on Facebook or you can send me an email at fivestarpresident@yahoo.com.

Thank you,

Jeff Parobek

Trail User Etiquette (Rules)



Are you interested in having an event on the Five Star Trail? 5K Run, Fun Run, Clean Up, Service Project, etc., call 724-872-5586 for permit information.

Trail users are welcome guests.

Please follow these simple rules. Use common sense, courtesy, and caution.

The trail is open daily, dawn to dusk.

No overnight use is permitted.

No motorized vehicles are permitted except for motorized wheelchairs. Call 724-872-5586 for a handicapped access permit.

Share the trail. Keep right and pass on the left.

Bicycles yield to walkers.

Walkers please walk single file and to the right.

Give verbal warning when overtaking other trail users.

All pets must be on a six foot leash and under control. Clean up after your pet.

Dumping and littering are prohibited. If you see litter please pick it up.

Please respect private property. Stay on the trail.

No horses are permitted.

Emergency Phone Number for Fire, Emergency Medical Services and Police...911.

Discover the Little Crabtree Creek Trail

by Jeff Richards

Planning Coordinator, Westmoreland County Parks



Photo - PA DCNR

The Little Crabtree Creek Trail features an area for horses.

As a subchapter of the Five Star, The Little Crabtree Creek Trail is a little-known recreational resource east of Greensburg. Phase I of the envisioned 2.7-mile multi-use trail between Twin Lakes Park and Crabtree was constructed in 2013-2014. Walkers, joggers, and cyclists can access the trail from the parking area within Twin Lakes Park near the Boathouse on the Lower Lake. Equestrians may park, with horse trailers in tow, in the RTC Festival Hayfields at the corner of McWilliams and White Church Roads. Phase I is short – only 1.3 miles in length, ending at Luxor Road, but someday will be extended to Crabtree.

The trail surface is generally limestone dust. A generous grassed shoulder along the creek-side of the trail is provided for equestrian users. Phase I was constructed by Murin & Murn, Inc. of Glassport, PA.

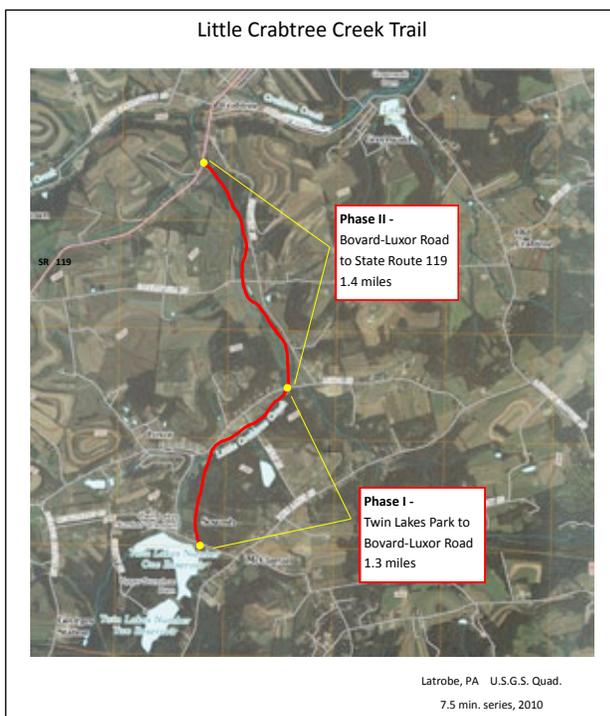


Grading the trail in preparation for the finished surface.

The trail corridor is owned by the Regional Trail Corporation (RTC) and maintained by Five Star volunteers, working in partnership with the Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation. Should you have any questions, suggestions, or wish to get involved, please call Jeff at (724) 830-3951.



Little Crabtree Creek Trail crossing of McWilliams Road, Twin Lakes Park Lower Lake beyond the boathouse



Five Star News

Five Star News is the official newsletter of the Five Star Trail published twice per year – Spring and Fall. Photos and story submissions are accepted and should be sent to: Five Star News, Mark Jackson, Editor, c/o Westmoreland Conservation District, J. Roy Houston Conservation Center, 118 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA 15601, email: mark@wcdpa.com, 724-837-5271. All articles are edited for length, grammar, accuracy and composition. They will be used at the discretion of the editor and directors. Photos should be high quality.

Members may choose to receive this newsletter via email rather than a mailed hard copy. Just contact the editor. Please advise the editor of any and all needed corrections.



Participating in the Five Star Trail groundbreaking in 1996, left to right: Malcolm Sias, Westmoreland County Parks & Recreation, Anthony Bompiani, Youngwood Mayor Joan Derco, Greensburg Mayor Karl Eisaman, Greensburg Fire Chief Ed Hutchinson and Southwest Greensburg Mayor Dale Hassinger

Five Star Highlights - A Look Back

1996

Ground breaking ceremony takes place by the Youngwood Train Station.

Fund raising and clean up campaign announced. Trail benefits to the communities publicized.

1997

Work begins clearing brush and trash, installing drainage pipes and grading in preparation of laying the final trail surface.

Five are bridges modified for safety.

The first section of finished trail surface, crushed limestone 10 ft. wide, is laid by Adam Eidemiller, Inc. from the Pittsburgh Street Bridge to the Mount Pleasant Street Bridge in Greensburg.

The section from the Mount Pleasant Street Bridge to Huff Avenue in South Greensburg follows in May.

1998

Final trail surface is finished from Lynch Field, Greensburg to Youngwood.

1999

New parking lots constructed at Huff Avenue and Trolley Line Avenue.

Trolley Line Avenue is widened in order to have separate, marked bike lanes for this section of the trail which is part of a paved road.

2002

Extension to Westmoreland County Community College Youngwood Campus is finished and officially dedicated on September 13th.

2003

A 1.1 mile expansion from Youngwood to Armbrust is completed.

Photos- Susan Baur Sherff



WCCC Trail Section Paved

On November 1, 2016, Hempfield Township Public Works paved about 1,000' of the Five Star Trail around Westmoreland County Community College (WCCC). They decided to pave the whole piece from the road at the ball field across the causeway to the road at Powerex. They also paved 80' from the road at the ball field toward Buncher swamp and another 230 feet coming out of Buncher swamp toward the WCCC campus. These were the areas that were constantly washing with about every rain, so this should help tremendously to reduce maintenance.

Many thanks to Hempfield Township Public Works!

March for Parks

The March for Parks will be held on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at Twin Lakes, Cedar Creek, and Murrysville Sportzone. The 5 Star Trail Chapter has put together a team at Twin Lakes the past few years – we'd love for new members to join the cause! Here's some info:

“The MFP is a fun event to raise money for park and trail projects. At each location, it's a fun morning with lots to see and enjoy including a light breakfast, exhibits, activities, an optional hike, and lunch. Participants can collect donations before the March, either individually or as a member of a team. Outreach and promotional materials encourage people to form MFP teams by organizing friends and family, coworkers, churchgoers, school/sport/or community groups, or in memory of a loved one. Donations are collected on the morning of the March, with friendly competition for recognition as a top fundraising team.”

For more information call Westmoreland County Parks at 724-830-3950

New Dump Utility Cart Will Help Maintain the Five Star



Mike Caffrey of the Five Star Trail Board of Directors gets acquainted with the Five Star Trail's new John Deere Gator utility cart. The cart features a dump bed and will make it easier and faster for volunteers to get tools and materials to places needing attention along the trail.

Purchasing such a cart has been a goal of the Five Star Trail Board for many years. Thanks to fund raising events such as the Poker Run and various grants and community support the dream has become reality.

The Five Star Trail is an extraordinary community resource, and like all things worth having, it needs to be taken care of regularly.

Poker Run was Great Trail Fun continued from page 1

the end of the event and they each received a trophy to commemorate their good fortune.

At Lynch Field people could purchase hot dogs, chips, beverages and homemade cookies. While having a snack, they could wait for others to finish as door prizes were being drawn. Those who weren't lucky in drawing Poker playing cards could purchase 50/50 tickets or take a chance on a Norco Bicycle.

Thank You 2016 Poker Run Sponsors

Bill and Barb Botti
Turik's Electric
West Newton Bicycle Shop
New Stanton Borough
Pace Analytical
Hufftown All-Stars
Mains Chiropractic
Farzati Manufacturing
Bicycle Shop, Youngwood, PA
News Talk 1480 WCNS

The Poker Run is made possible by:

Westmoreland County Parks & Recreation
The Five Star Trail Chapter
The Westmoreland Heritage Trail Chapter
The City of Greensburg Recreation Department



SAVE THE DATES!

COMEDY NIGHTS

Two Nights of Laugh Out Loud Fun!

Proceeds benefit Westmoreland County
Parks and Trails Projects

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2017

★ **6:00PM-9:30PM** ★

Delmont VFD Hall

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 2017

★ **6:00PM-9:30PM** ★

Youngwood VFD Hall

50/50
DRAWINGS,
BASKET AUCTIONS,
AND MORE!

Hosted by:





Tickets \$30
per person

Ages 21 and up

Featuring
Professional Comedians
and Dinner!

*Tickets must be
purchased in advance!*

*Please call
(724) 830-3950*



Become a Five Star Trail Member

Support the continued maintenance and further development of this great recreational resource. Stay up to date on trail-related activities and improvements.

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____

Email _____

Type of Membership

New Member Renewal

- Individual\$20
- Family\$30
- Lifetime Membership.....\$150
- Organization\$50
- Small Business\$100
- Corporate.....\$250

Tax Deductible Donation.....\$ _____

Please make checks payable to FSTC-RTC

Mail to: Five Star Trail Chapter
194 Donohoe Road
Greensburg, PA 15601

For more information call (724) 872-5586

I would like to get involved by volunteering for:

- Trail Monitoring Trail Maintenance
- PR & Membership Poker Run & Events

A Variety of Sponsorship Opportunities Also Help the Trail

In addition to memberships, the Five Star Trail also offers the following sponsorship opportunities to individuals, families, organizations, businesses and corporations to help support, maintain, improve and further develop the trail:

Comedy Nights - Come out and enjoy great laughs with professional comedians and a great dinner at these annual fundraisers, which traditionally occur early in the year. Purchase tickets for yourselves or get together with friends and buy out a table for a fun time! We are always in need of donations for Silent Auction prizes as well, ie: sporting event tickets, weekend getaways, gift baskets, gift cards, etc. Use your imagination. (Ages 21 and up to attend)

Poker Run - This annual fundraiser is held during the summer. For a modest entry fee donation you can sign up as a participant to walk, jog or bicycle the trail or sections of it starting at Lynch Field in Greensburg. Bring the family. Bring your friends. Bring your organization or co-workers. It's a great time for fun and fitness. We need prize contributions for this event – gift cards and others. We also need overall event sponsors, whose names or logos appear on the T-shirts which every entrant receives.

Mini-Pavilions - These unique, roofed shelters with a built-in single picnic table can serve as rest stops or lunch and snack stops along the trail. Sponsors are recognized with a commemorative plaque on the mini-pavilion.*

Memorial Benches - Benches providing rest stops at various locations along the trail. Memorial messages or tributes are inscribed on commemorative plaques attached to each bench.*

Eagle Scout Projects - Local Boy Scouts earning on their Eagle Scout rank often do their Eagle service projects along the trail. As part of the project they need to raise funds to purchase materials. A designated contribution can be very helpful.*

Volunteer Workers - In addition to monetary sponsorships, volunteer efforts are welcome from individuals and groups. Volunteer support examples include: litter clean ups, weeding, repairs, painting, trail monitoring and help with special events.*

For More Information contact Westmoreland County Parks at 724-830-3950.

*Also available on the Little Crabtree Creek Trail



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**Get out and
enjoy your
TRAIL!**

