Locally Seamless, Nationally Connected!

In 2012 the all-volunteer Montour Trail Council continued to make great progress toward giving hundreds of thousands of users each year the best trail experience possible.

Pittsburgh International Airport Connector

On the first day of spring the long-awaited 6.3-mile connection between the Montour Trail and Pittsburgh International Airport became a reality. Reflecting the importance of this achievement, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald personally attended the opening ceremony. Now cyclists from across the nation and even from around the world are flying into Pittsburgh and biking directly to the Montour Trail. Once they reach the Montour, their most popular destination is the Great Allegheny Passage and the C&O Canal trail to Washington, D.C.

National Tunnel Lighting and Cecil Park Access Ramp

Three very significant improvements took place along the trail in Cecil Township. First, lights were installed in the National Tunnel, with the help of a Washington County Tourism Promotion Agency grant. As usual, MTC volunteers provided the labor—more than 550 hours on this project.

Second, Cecil Township’s Department of Public Works paved the heavily used ramp from Cecil Park up to the trail. The Cecil Friends of the Montour Trail made this work possible by donating the cost of materials, using funds earned from its Tails to Trails Dog Walk.

Two Big, Beautiful Bridges

And third ... the biggest trail improvement in Cecil Township since 1992 was completed in July, as the bridges over Morganza Road and Georgetown Road were opened in tandem. The Georgetown Road bridge replaced one removed in 2000; the Morganza Road bridge, adjacent to the four miles of trail that opened in fall 1992, had been anticipated for 20 years!

As a reflection of the increased trail activity resulting from these bridges—which make the Montour Trail virtually seamless for 35 miles from Route 51 in Coraopolis to Route 88 in South Park—a new business, appropriately called Tandem Connection, opened at Morganza Road to serve trail users seeking food, drinks, trail merchandise, or a bike rental.

Westland Branch – Rail with Trail

In August the first train from Markwest Energy’s facilities in Westland ran on the Westland Branch “rail with trail” corridor. Markwest expects to complete the trail alongside this restored rail line in 2013.

Annual Events Get Bigger

We hold three major trailwide events each year, and they just keep growing. The UPMC Urgent Care half-marathon, 5k run and walk set a record with 1,447 registrations; we probably would have hit 1,500 had a morning downpour not discouraged day-of-event signups. In its tenth year, the Tour the Montour group ride saw a 20 percent increase in participation, to 671. And the Burgh’s Pizza and Wing Pub 10k/5k run and walk attracted 725 participants, bringing revenue raised over its 12 years of operation to nearly $250,000.

Another major event benefitting the trail debuted in 2012: the Pittsburgh Cycling Expo. This brainchild of Cathy Rogers, proprietor of the Aerotech Designs bicycle clothing store, drew 1,000 people and immediately became a prominent event on the local cycling calendar.

We Couldn’t Do It Without You

We are one of the most blessed volunteer organizations in all of southwestern Pennsylvania. The Montour Trail’s operation is the result of 1,270 paying members (including 187 new members in 2012) and between 15,000 and 20,000 volunteer hours per year. Your support helps us minimize administrative costs and devote our resources to trail building and maintenance. See you on one of the most popular suburban trails—and now one of the most nationally connected trails—in the United States!
MTC Organization: Of the funds to run the MTC organization, 17% came from individual members, 18% from fundraising events and 65% from leases and miscellaneous sources. Fundraising events slightly outpaced memberships in terms of providing support to the MTC organization in 2012. Income from lease rental was up slightly from last year. Expenses to run the organization were increased mainly from higher utility costs and increased legal fees. The final payment to the PUC was made in 2012.

Trail Construction: Inflows represent grants received in 2012. Outflows went to materials and labor for ramp construction and engineering work for Piney Fork Bridge project, completion of Georgetown and Morganza Bridges, lighting installation for the National Tunnel, and completion of the Airport Connector.

Value of Major Completed Trail Projects: $1,883,384

Maintenance Endowment: The maintenance endowment is intended to keep the Trail in good condition into the future. The board designated $35,000 in 2012 to the endowment fund.

Thank you 2012 sponsors and special donations!

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Donation received from Karen & Bill Heil in honor of Ken & Tevis Gregory’s 50th wedding anniversary.

Donation received from Dr. Jay Wells in honor of David Lovejoy & Sandy Demas.

Donations were received for the Marshall Fausold Memorial Fund by:
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Every attempt is made to ensure that listings are correct, but if there are errors or omissions please contact us.
Thank you, 2012 contributors

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