



October 5, 2016

Re: Report to Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance

Debra Frawley – At-Large Board Member

Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition

The IHTC 2016 Fall Summit will be held on November 4, 2016 at the Regional Learning Alliance, 850 Cranberry Woods Drive, Cranberry Township, PA 16066. Objectives of the summit are to build a stronger coalition, build awareness of the brand to help local groups market their own, inform groups of existing and new tools and resources being developed and discuss how the IHTC should function. Registration is open on the PEC website/events and costs \$30 per person which includes lunch.

Sessions include:

- The Power of the IHTC Brand
- Strategies for Collaborative Funding
- GoToTrails
- Build your Trail by Building your Community
- Mind The Gap! - Identifying trail system gaps, corridor inventory & assessment
- Strengthen Your Corridor Team
- Trails as Tools for Community & Economic Development
- Using the IHTC Brand to Build Your Corridor's Brand
- Tools in the IHTC Toolbox
- CSX — A Collaborative Approach to Corridor Acquisition
- How Can IHTC Function More Effectively?

IHTC has been promoted at events along the major corridors this summer with staffed tents including during Oil Heritage Festival in Oil City along the EPT. New promotional brochures and banners are being created. The website has been updated: www.ihearttrails.org.

Go To Trails

The IHTC Project Support Team (PST) is developing the next step in the trail inventory and gap analysis. PST members will be contacting trail groups within the next few weeks to get updated information on existing and planned projects filling these gaps. This will help in decision making on what steps and resources are needed to fill them.

The Go To Trails website will be updated with this new information. It also will have a new Manage tab to enable trail groups to go into more planning detail to use for projects and grant applications. This feature is being tested right now by a few groups. A “soft” roll-out will be presented at the fall summit.

Erie County Trails

The Erie Area Council of Governments with the assistance of the Emerge 2040 initiative and County Planning are developing a new website showing local parks and trails within Erie County. They want to start linking these trails together. I have been exploring existing and proposed trail segments to

determine off-road connections to the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail and the development of the Cleveland to Erie trail corridor.

Allegheny River Trail

The Allegheny Valley Trails Association has completed repairs and drainage improvements to three trail access areas with a recent PNC Charitable Trusts grant. This grant, with AVTA as the applicant, also assisted Two Mile Run County Park complete the engineering of a new ADA accessible trail. TMR thanks AVTA for the community partnership.

EPT Signage Committee

The signage committee met in October and the guidelines are progressing. Please see the committee report provided by Toni Henry.

Pennsylvania Environmental Council

Frank Maguire, PEC Program Director - Trails & Recreation will present information about the IHTC at the PA Wilds Trail Forum on October 21 in Foxburg. We would like to close the loop with the Redbank Valley Trail and the Clarion Highlands Trail that reach into the PA Wilds with the Pittsburgh to Harrisburg Mainline Canal Greenway and other trail systems

Debra Frawley
PEC Program Coordinator Trails & Recreation
814-657-5242
dfrawley@pecpa.org