



**WESTMORELAND COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION
NEWS RELEASE**

*** FOR IMMEDIATE USE ***

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Contact: Lauren Jones (724) 830-3962

E-Mail: ljones@co.westmoreland.pa.us

Grand Opening Ceremony of Phase Two of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail, October 5, 2013

The second phase of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail expansion is now complete! This 3.7 mile extension continues west from Route 819 in Slickville to Delmont, making the Westmoreland Heritage Trail a total of 8.7 miles, connecting Saltsburg to Delmont.

A grand opening ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2013 at the Slickville Lions Club Ball Field, Route 819 North. The ceremony will be held at 10:00 a.m., rain or shine, and will include a dedication, ribbon cutting, and a special run/bike/walk after the festivities. Speakers will include Westmoreland County Commissioners, Judge Jill Rangos speaking on behalf of the John G. Rangos family, David Hawk, chairman of Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation's Citizen's Advisory Board, as well as other keynote figures who have been involved with the Phase Two project.

The Westmoreland Heritage Trail is a biking, hiking, and walking trail with a crushed limestone surface. New access points include the Slickville Lions Club Ball Field and the John G. Rangos and James Peretto Family Trail Access Area, located on Athena Drive, just east of Delmont.

We'd like to thank everyone who has been a part of this exciting expansion:

Trail Partners

Westmoreland Heritage Trail Chapter; Regional Trail Corporation; PA Department of Transportation – District 12; Salem, Penn and Loyalhanna Townships; and the Boroughs and Municipalities of Delmont, Murrysville, Monroeville, Trafford and Export

Trail Planners and Builders

GAI Consultants (Trail Planning); Plum Contracting, Inc. (Trail Construction); SAI Consulting Engineers (Construction Inspection)

Land Donors

John G. Rangos Family and James Peretto Family; Perry and Carole Miller; Lawrence and Marlene Kestner; Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County

This project began with the Saltsburg to Trafford Trail Feasibility Study completed in 2002, which evaluated the possibility of constructing a trail across Westmoreland County from Saltsburg on the Indiana County border to Trafford on the Allegheny County border, a total distance of 22 miles. The first five miles of trail from Saltsburg to Slickville was opened in 2008 for biking and walking and has been heavily used. The trail is constructed on the

original bed of the old Turtle Creek Branch of the Penn Central rail line (formerly the Pennsylvania Railroad).

The project was made possible by a significant land donation from the John G. Rangos and James Peretto families to the Regional Trail Corporation in 2002. Trail easements across other sections were granted by the Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County, Perry and Carole Miller, and Lawrence and Marlene Kestner.

For more information, please call Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation at (724) 830-3950 or visit our website at www.co.westmoreland.pa.us/parks.

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Please see attached invitation for more information and directions.

Media representatives are encouraged to attend this ceremony for excellent photography opportunities of this exciting grand opening. Your media coverage would be greatly appreciated. For more information, please call Lauren Jones at (724) 830-3962.