

2011 ARMSTRONG TRAIL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Armstrong Rails to Trails Association/ Allegheny Valley Land Trust

Prepared 1-10-12

Financial accomplishments

- Received \$26,087.00 in donations towards the Chip N Trail Fund including a \$16,000.00 match from AVLT
- Participated in the Armstrong County Community Foundations' Day of Giving and raised \$2,862.00
- Developed a memorial fund, this fund may attract more donations on the Day Of Giving
- Applied for and received 2 DCNR grant for \$293,000.00 with matching funds from AVLT of \$70,000.00 to improve trail from Phillipston to Lock and Dam 9.
- Applied and received a DCNR grant for \$70,000.00 with matching funds from AVLT of \$70,000.00 to conduct a feasibility study of the Brady tunnel and potential campground in Phillipston.
- Surveyed Armstrong County sections of the trail in preparation for applying for a new DCNR grant
- Laid the groundwork to request funds from private corporations
- Received final ruling in favor of the defendants (AVLT and ARTA) for 16 1/2 year lawsuit
- Filed IRS Form 990
- Obtained PA Sales tax exempt status

Membership/organizational accomplishments

- Set strategic goals at first annual Board of Directors Retreat
- Planned and attended regular meetings with RVTA Board members
- Attended Erie To Pittsburgh meetings, working towards developing signage standards
- Represented the Armstrong Trail at several conferences, meetings and events
- Enjoyed a members group ride in Pine Creek
- Hosted a members picnic and trail ride
- Conducted a membership drive netting 62 new or renewing yearly members, 32 new or renewing lifetime members and 7 business members
- Partnered with Nautical Mile Campground on projects and strengthened our alliance
- Logged 860 hours (only hours reported are logged) in volunteer time for administrative work

Trail building/maintenance accomplishments

- Added to Adopt A Trail volunteers now covering 23 of 30 miles of trail
- Provided signs for Private Property, No Motor Vehicles, For your own safety
- Developed a standard for our first town kiosk
- Self-built 4 miles of trail between Grays Eddy and Rimer
- Redecked the bridge at Whiskey Run Mile 54
- Repaired decking at the Pine Creek Bridge Mile 49.8
- Made safety improvements and resurfaced Mahoning Bridge Mile 54.8
- Started restoration of the Train Turntable outside of Phillipston

- Started restoration of the Coaling Tower near the Redbank Bridge
- Organized and participated in approximately 47 work days picking up litter, conducting routine maintenance or working on specific trail related projects
- Worked with a local boy scout troop and community service providers to beautify areas along the trail
- Worked with East Brady Borough to add paved trail from Purdum Street to the new sewer plant. Partnered with the borough to submit a grant for trail head facilities
- Logged 1219 hours (only hours reported are logged) of volunteer time on trail building/maintenance
- Trimmed 13 miles of trees and vegetation miles 42.8-47.8, miles 55.5-59.5, mile 1-4 at entrance to Redbank Valley Trail
- Completed bank stabilization at 4 locations (Mile 42.8, 47.2, 47.3, 47.35)
- Improved sightlines at Owen Curve – mile 42-8
- Installed mile markers 55, 56, 58 and 59
- Unplugged drain inlets at 12 locations
- Trained 4 volunteers on various jobs on the John Deere 40HP Tractor
- Completed Manorville survey Mile 41.8-42.8
- Trail encroachments were removed in Manorville, agreements are being formulated
- Improved Cowanshannock Junction
- Granted environmental approvals for Storm water Controls Project
- Granted environmental approvals for Mosgrove Connector Project

Public Relations/partnership accomplishments

- Developed a Map & Trail Guide and distributed seven thousand copies throughout Armstrong and neighboring counties
- Built relationships with local businesses through map sponsorship
- Published four Quarterly Updates
- Increased PR through website and newspaper releases
- Joined the PA Wilds, corrected tourist information regarding the trail
- Renewed membership in the Armstrong County Tourism Bureau, displayed materials at their yearly members luncheon and provided a presentation
- Continued our relationships with HEALTHY Armstrong and the Kittanning Rotary Club encouraging the use of the trail for their programs
- Kittanning YMCA chooses to build their new facility next to the Armstrong Trail