



Standing left to right: Sarah Heppenstall, John Placha, Ron Steffey, Joanne Haneke, Patty Brunner, Toni Henry.
Seated left to right: Dave Rupert, Dick Starr and Bev Steffey

TRAIL ASSOCIATION GROUPS FORMULATE STRATEGIC PLAN

On Sunday, August 8 the board of directors of the Armstrong Rails to Trails Association (ARTA) along with members of the board of the Allegheny Valley Land Trust (AVLT) met for the purpose of formulating a strategic plan for future trail development and maintenance of existing finished trail. The 38 mile Armstrong Trail currently begins in Rosston and follows the former Conrail railroad bed north to East Brady with a branch that will eventually utilize the currently closed East Brady tunnel and then proceed along the Allegheny River towards the village of Upper Hillville. The Armstrong Trail merges with the 50 mile Redbank Valley Trail near the village of Redbank.

The mission of the organizations was reviewed and short and long term goals were discussed and evaluated. The following five goals were noted as crucial to the success of the Armstrong Trail:

1. Trail safety maintenance and improvements – complete 4 additional miles of trail by April 2012
2. Total Trail Survey – Create an itemized record of current trail conditions
3. Annual event - Plan and execute a unique annual trail event
4. Public relations and marketing - Organize a committee to promote the trail
5. Fund Raising – Organize a committee to find additional ways to support the trail financially

ARTA and AVLT welcome those who would like to assist with the tasks involved in achieving these goals. To help us realize these goals contact our office at armtrail@windstream.net or call 724-543-4478 for additional information. ARTA monthly meetings are open to the public and are held the second Monday of each month at 6:30 PM in the County Commissioner's Office in the Courthouse Annex in Kittanning.