



*Celebrating Outdoor Murrysville*

Jeffrey Richards, LA  
Parks Planning Coordinator  
Westmoreland County Parks and Recreation  
194 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA 15601

May 9, 2013

Re: Turtle Creek Greenway / Westmoreland Heritage Trail Extension

Dear Jeffrey,

I am writing to express the Murrysville Trail Alliance's support for the proposed extension of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail westward through the Turtle Creek Industrial Railroad (TCIRR) corridor. The TCIRR corridor has exceptional potential as a recreational trail that will immediately connect five (5) political subdivisions and two (2) counties.

Within Murrysville, a TCIRR rail trail will create a significant recreational hub of trail facilities, parkland (including Duff Park, designated a Wild Plant Sanctuary by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources), and greenway areas. This rail trail will also offer outstanding potential for complementary economic development along the SR22 commercial corridor.

The TCIRR rail trail has been envisioned as the horizontal spine of a proposed Murrysville Trail Plan. This Trail Plan, which impacts local land use and infrastructure planning, lays out a community-wide network of cross-country trail routes and roads designated as Bike Routes to be made more friendly for cycling and pedestrian use. The TCIRR rail trail will anchor and spur ongoing development of the Murrysville network of trails and pedestrian/cyclist accommodation, and will also create excellent links to neighboring communities.

The TCIRR rail trail will also serve as the centerpiece of a planned Turtle Creek Greenway which will bring significant ecological, recreational, and economic benefits to Murrysville, Monroeville, Turtle Creek, and Trafford. Finally, accessibility of this rail trail will complement the accessibility of a regional Miracle Field complex opened in Murrysville in 2012, and the rail trail will be another important destination for visitors to the complex.

The Murrysville Trail Alliance expresses strong support and enthusiasm for this project.

Sincerely,

Betsy Aiken  
Chair, Murrysville Trail Alliance