

A Safe Passage

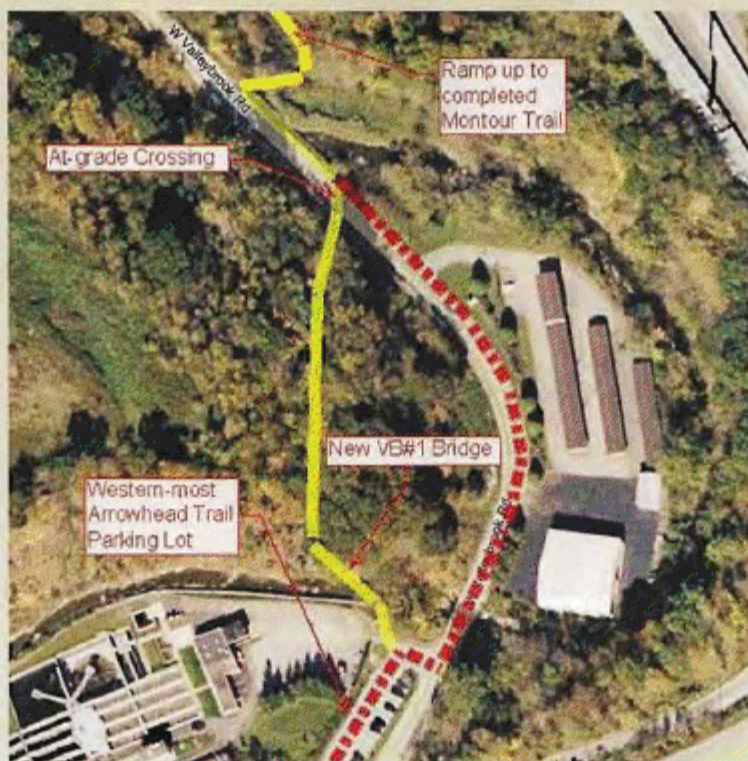
New Valley Brook Bridge Will Connect Gap on the Montour Trail

By Tracy Fedkoe

Plans are underway to construct a bridge on the Peters Township section of the Montour Trail across Brush Run Road to the intersection at Valley Brook Road, by the Peters Township Sanitary Authority at approximate mile marker 30.6. The bridge, referred to as Valley Brook #1, will be approximately 85 feet long and will connect to a short section of new trail, a ramp, and an at-grade crossing of Valley Brook Road.

Currently the connection between the Montour Trail and Arrowhead Trail is not as safe as possible. "This project will replace a dangerous bypass with a simple, safe crossing with much greater sight distances," said Mark Imgrund, president of the Peters Township Friends of the Montour Trail.

AECOM, a Fortune-500 design company, has been chosen to develop the final designs for the project, which are expected to be completed in late spring or early summer of 2012. Following the necessary approvals and the bidding process, the Peters Township



Friends of the Montour Trail are hoping construction can begin in late 2012 with a completion date of spring of 2013.

The Peters Township Friends of the Montour Trail has been raising money for this project for several years through their annual Twilight Trail Walk, held the last Friday in July. They have also received a

grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for \$95,000 and the Montour Trail Council is applying for additional funds from the local share account administered by the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Washington. "I am cautiously optimistic that we will be successful getting the funding for Valley Brook #1," said Imgrund. Ultimately, their goal is to build a second, much larger bridge that will cross Valley Brook Road.

To find out how you can get more information and contribute to the Peters Township Friends of the Montour Trail, visit www.montourtrail.org, or contact Mark Imgrund at markimgrund@gmail.com.

Another construction project going on in Peters Township will affect users of the Montour and Arrowhead Trails. The Arrowhead Trail Bridge at the intersection of Bebout and Valley Brook Roads has been torn down and construction has begun for a three-girder bridge that will be 140 feet long. It will open up the intersection on a congested major road and increase visibility from all directions. The bridge is scheduled to be complete in May of 2012 with a road closure sometime in February to install the new beams.

There is currently a detour posted for Montour Trail cyclists to go through Peterswood Park and some surrounding neighborhoods to continue on the Trail. The detour map can be found at www.montourtrail.org. Traffic detour and construction information can be found at www.peterstowship.com.

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