

Armstrong Trail

Map & User Guide

www.armstrongtrail.org

The Armstrong Rails to Trails Association

The Armstrong Rails to Trails Association (ARTA) was founded in 1992 and is an all-volunteer membership 501(c)(3) organization. ARTA's mission is to promote the conversion, maintenance and management of the right-of-way into the Armstrong Trail for recreational use. The Association shall promote preservation and protection of natural resources found along the right-of-way as well as its historical significance.



The Armstrong Trail

The Armstrong Trail is a great place to bicycle, walk, jog, bird watch or exercise in a safe, relaxing environment. Horseback riding and cross country skiing are also possible on designated sections. The trail is for non-motorized use only.

While linking towns such as Ford City, Kittanning and East Brady, the Armstrong Trail connects populated areas to the natural sights and sounds of the Allegheny River Valley.

The Armstrong Trail is located along the eastern bank of the Allegheny River. Currently the trail has 16 miles of relatively flat compressed smooth surface ready to ride! Another 3 miles of development are planned in 2011 with a goal of 30 continuous miles of rideable trail from Rosston to East Brady by 2014.

Railroad and Trail History

Following the American Revolution, the Allegheny River Valley quickly became a primary supply route for Pittsburgh and points west. Native walking paths along the banks of the river were eventually developed for use by the railroads to haul merchandise.



The first railroad line along the banks of the Allegheny River was authorized in 1837 and eventually was named the Allegheny Valley Rail Road Company (AVRR). The railroad began hauling iron ore, coal, lumber, and farm products, and providing passenger service in 1855. By 1870 AVRR was transporting petroleum from the Oil Creek region.

Pennsylvania Railroad purchased the bankrupt Allegheny Valley Railroad in the early 1900s. This part of the line remained in service through the first half of the 20th century and into the 1960s. Diminished rail traffic led to the eventual sale of the Allegheny Cluster of Properties to the Allegheny Valley Land Trust in 1992 and the beginning of the Armstrong Trail. The Armstrong Rails to Trails Association was also formed in 1992 as an all-volunteer organization charged with the day to day operation of the trail.



Geocaching on the Trail

Geocaching is a high tech game of hide and seek using GPS devices and is enjoyed by people in all age groups. At last count there were more than 40 geocaches on or adjacent to the trail with more being added all the time.

For locations of geocaches go to: www.geocaching.com and set up an account.



Join Us!

To join The Armstrong Rails to Trails, to volunteer time or to adopt a mile please see the form on our website or contact the office via phone or email. We need *you* to get this great project finished and open for future generations to use and enjoy.

Armstrong Rails to Trails Association

PO Box 777, Kittanning, PA 16201

Phone: 724-543-4478

Fax: 724-543-1783

Email: armtrail@windstream.net

Website: www.armstrongtrail.org



A member of the Pittsburgh to Erie Trail Alliance

Ready to Ride



Trail Access Points and Parking

- **Rosston** – Mile 39.1, PA Fish and Boat Commission Boat Launch
- **Kittanning** – Mile 43.9, King Lanes rear lot
- **Cowanshannock Junction** – Mile 47.5, Bernie Snyder Picnic Area
- **Lock 8** – Mile 51.5, Lot next to the lock and dam
- **Templeton** – Mile 53.9, PA Fish and Boat Commission Boat Launch
- **Rimer** – Mile 59.5, End of Rimerton Road
- **Redbank** – Mile 63.2, End of SR 1002
- **Phillipston** – Mile 66, First left in Phillipston to end of Apple Street, park in field
- **East Brady** – Mile 67.6, East Brady Borough Playground or the PA Fish and Boat Commission Boat Launch through town and across the bridge
- **Catfish** – Mile 71.7, Left at bottom of hill on SR 3006

For detailed trail access information please refer to the website.

For Further Information About the Area and the Trail Contact:

Armstrong County Tourist Bureau
125 Market Street, Kittanning, PA 16201
www.armstrongcounty.com
724-543-4003

Armstrong County Chamber of Commerce
125 Market Street, Kittanning, PA 16201
www.armstrongchamber.org
724-543-1305

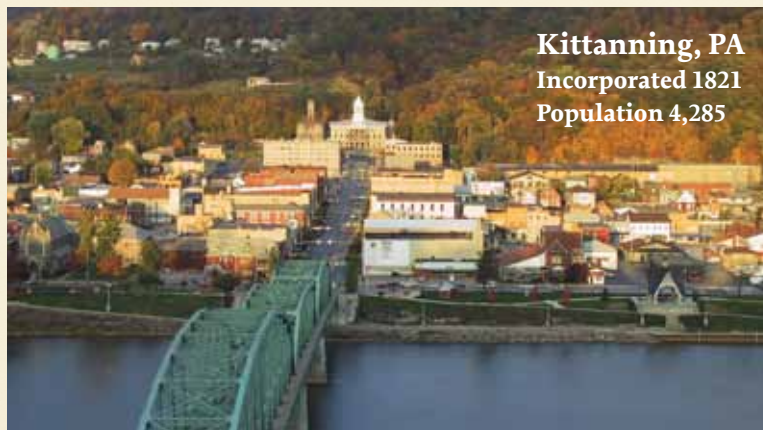
Clarion County Chamber of Commerce
21 North 6th Avenue, Clarion, PA 16214
www.clarionpa.com
814-226-9161

Visit Our Towns Along the Trail

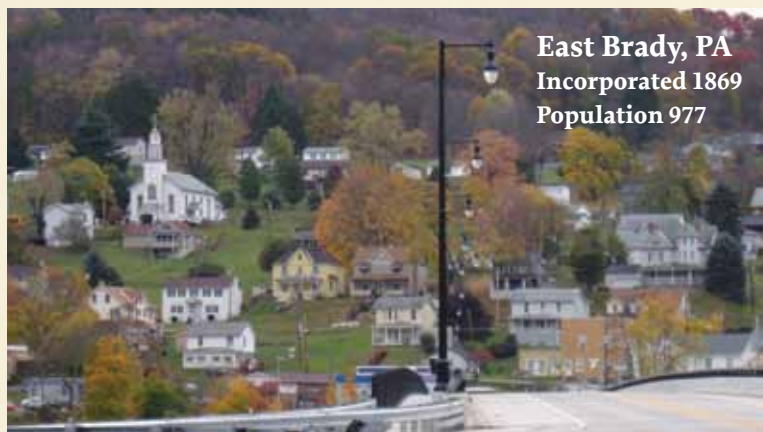
Ford City, Kittanning and East Brady were once important industrial towns that were connected by the river and the railroad. The Allegheny River and the Armstrong Trail now serve to attract tourists for a multitude of outdoor activities.



Ford City, PA
Incorporated 1889
Population 3,123



Kittanning, PA
Incorporated 1821
Population 4,285



East Brady, PA
Incorporated 1869
Population 977



Highlights Along the Trail

- **Mile 40.9** – Ford City Memorial Park
- **Mile 44.3** – Armstrong County Courthouse. Built from 1858-1860 in the Greek revival style. The attached Gothic structure is the former jail.
- **Mile 44.9** – Lock & Dam #7. Built from 1928-1931 and opened in 1930, Lock 7 is 45.7 river miles from the point in Pittsburgh.
- **Mile 47.5** – Cowanshannock Junction. Bernard Snyder Picnic Area accesses trail to Buttermilk Falls.
- **Mile 47.9** – Monticello Iron Furnace. Built in 1859 by Robert E. Brown of Kittanning, this furnace at one time employed as many as 200 people. *Source: www.oldindustry.org*
- **Mile 51.5** – Lock & Dam #8. Built from 1928-1931 and opened in 1931.
- **Mile 55.5** – Grays Eddy. Site of a small village dating from 1840. Note the stone arched culvert, cut stonewalls, and beautiful waterfalls.
- **Mile 61.3** – Lock & Dam #9. Built from 1935-1938 and opened in 1938, Lock 9 is the northern most lock and dam on the Allegheny River.
- **Mile 63.6** – Coaling Tower. Fuel for steam locomotives, which were powered by coal, was loaded at this double-track site.
- **Mile 64.9** – East Brady Tunnel. Built in 1915 and currently closed. This 2,468 foot tunnel is a critical link in the future network of trails in Western Pennsylvania.
- **Mile 65.9** – Train Turntable. This was used to reposition locomotives, which were not designed for extensive runs in reverse, for return trips.

Safety Guidelines and Trail Etiquette

To ensure the safety and enjoyment of all trail users please observe the following:

General

- Open dawn till dusk*
- No motorized vehicles
- Pack out what you pack in
- Respect private property, stay on the trail
- Check the website for our ADA policy

Bicyclists

- Helmets are recommended
- Adjust your speed according to weather conditions
- Keep to the right except when passing
- Always alert others prior to passing Horseback riders

Horseback Riders

- Keep horses to the right of the finished surface
- Clean up after your horse

Pet Owners

- Leashes are mandatory
- Clean up after your pets

Camping

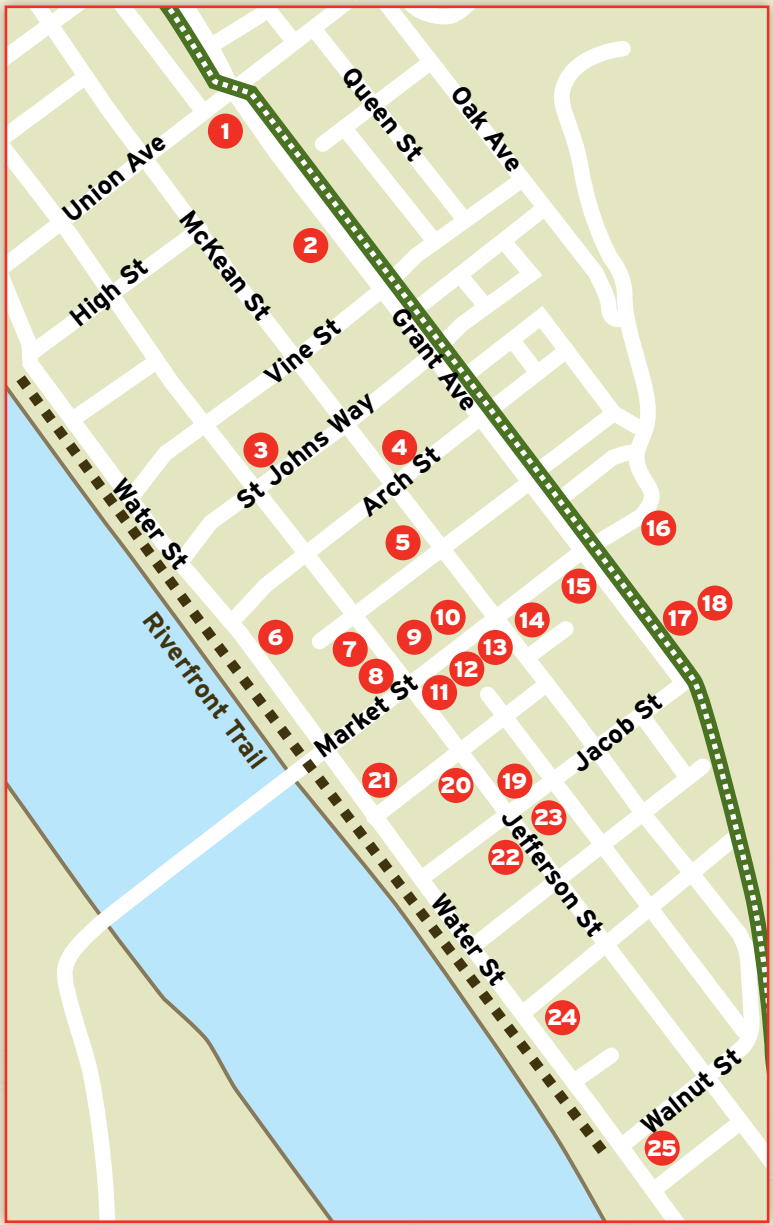
- Camp only in designated areas
- Camp only by permit of the Allegheny Valley Land Trust (contact Armstrong trail office by email or phone)

**Parts of the Ford City section are lit and open past dusk.*



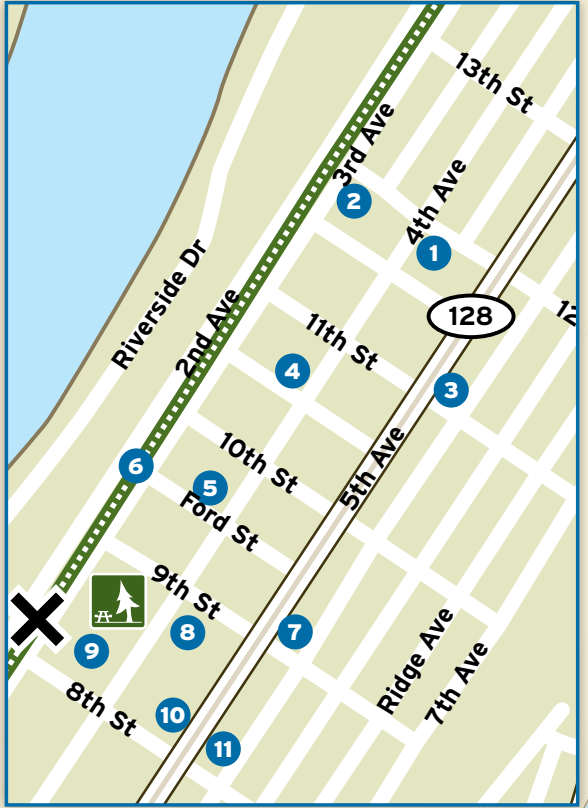
East Brady

- 1 East Brady Fresh Market
- 2 Plaza Pantry
- 3 Sport Shack
- 4 Bracken's Pharmacy
- 5 Big J's Pizza & Pasta
- 6 George's Laundromat
- 7 East Brady UniMart
- 8 All Star's Bar & Restaurant
- 9 St Cloud Hotel
- 10 Farmers National Bank
- 11 Allegheny Power Sports
- 12 Wyman's Mansion
- 13 Wyman's Chalet



Kittanning

- 1 Kevin's Meats
- 2 Armstrong County Historical Museum and Genealogical Society
- 3 Kittanning Library
- 4 Honey Bear Convenience Store
- 5 Sprankles Neighborhood Market
- 6 Armstrong County YMCA
- 7 Family Dollar
- 8 Armstrong County Tourist Bureau
- 9 Rite Aid
- 10 Downtown Bar & Grill
- 11 Klingensmith's Drugstore
- 12 Riverwalk Café & Grill
- 13 F & M Bank
- 14 Dizzy Lizzie's Restaurant
- 15 County Seat Restaurant
- 16 Armstrong County Courthouse
- 17 Fox's Pizza
- 18 Clark's Landing Restaurant
- 19 Try R Pizza
- 20 Pizza & Stuff
- 21 Vocelli Pizza
- 22 Helmet's Athletic Wear
- 23 Paul's Auto Parts & Bike Shop
- 24 Subway
- 25 Sheetz



Ford City

- 1 Ford City Library
- 2 Family Dollar
- 3 Pizzaria
- 4 Big Bear Pizza
- 5 Klingensmith's Drugstore
- 6 Ford City Clock
- 7 Lindy's Coffee Shop
- 8 Miller's Hoagies
- 9 Ford City Heritage Park
- 10 Ford City National Bakery
- 11 Rite Aid

Kittanning

Ford City

Legend

Armstrong Trail

- Paved
- Crushed Stone
- Shared with Road
- Rough Rocky Surface
- Spur Trail

Other Symbols:

- Mile Markers
- Parking
- Parks/Picnic Area
- Restrooms
- Boat Launches

