

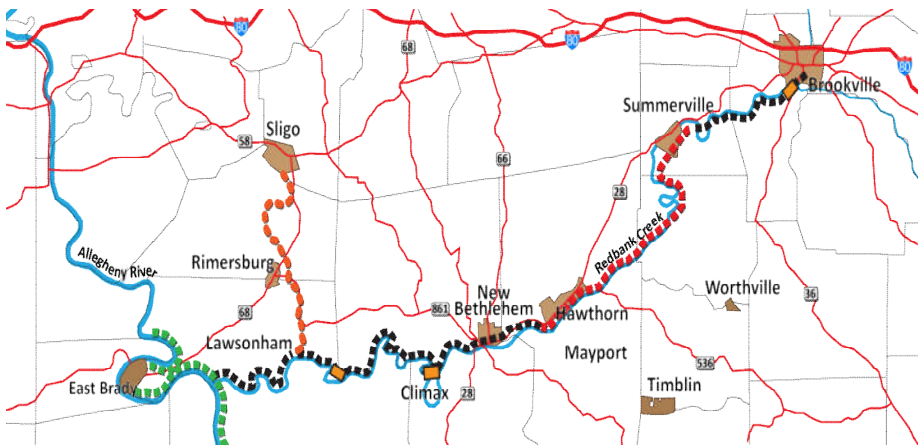
Redbank Valley Trails Association

Who we are: The RVTA was organized by community members and volunteers on May 17, 2010. RVTA is working on development of the 51-mile Redbank Valley Trails on former rail lines from the Allegheny River in Southern Clarion County, touching on northern Armstrong County, to Brookville in Jefferson County, in Northwestern PA, with a 9-mile spur to Sligo. The main trail parallels the north bank of Red Bank Creek. Since July 2010, just after the trail became officially rail-banked and was conveyed by the railroad to the Allegheny Valley Land Trust, volunteers have been working with AVLT to clear litter and brush that has grown up or fallen on the trails since the last trains went through on November 5, 2007. Volunteers have been working hard on drainage to keep water off and prevent erosion, grading and improving the trail, and decking and railing bridges.

Current Status: Currently the trail is mostly suitable for hiking and mountain biking. As of May 2011, there is a nearly 13-mile section between Alcola Cemetery, through Hawthorn and Summerville in Jefferson Co. going east a bit beyond toward Brookville that has been graded and rolled, but still contains gravel and has not yet been surfaced with crushed limestone. Bridges in most of this section have been decked and railed, but not yet ramped requiring a slight step up. There is limited parking in Hawthorn at the soccer fields and behind the Summerville post office off Route 28. Please exercise caution regarding wildlife and during hunting seasons and at other bridges and tunnels which are closed for safety. Use of closed bridges and tunnels is at your own risk. Much work remains to be done but we're making great progress. Help and contributions are welcomed.



Goal: Our goal is to open the trail for non-motorized use by bicyclists, hikers, walkers, horses, cross country skiers and others who enjoy the beautiful unspoiled scenery along the low grade trail. The trail will be widened, graded and surfaced with either crushed limestone or pavement in some areas as funding permits. Donations are welcome. **RVTA is a qualified 501(c)(3) charitable organization** so that donations are deductible to the full extent allowed by law.



More Information:

E-mail: RedbankValley_Trail@yahoo.com

Phone: 814-275-3421 or 814-275-1718

Website: www.redbankvalleytrails.org. Updates can also be found on Facebook, at the Redbank Renaissance website and on the community calendar at www.redbankren.org.

There are 13 more bridges that need decking, improvements and safety rails and 3 tunnels that need drainage and roof work before the trail can be fully useable. Eventually, we hope to build parking, rest room areas, way-finding signage, creek access and historic markers along the trails.

Grants: New Bethlehem, with support from Redbank Renaissance, and other community groups, obtained a grant from the NW Regional Planning and Development Commission for **trail town planning** with funding provided by DCNR. New Bethlehem lies at the mid-point of the trail and has easy access to both the water trail on Red Bank Creek and the rail trail which runs through the parking lot between Wood (Rt. 66) and Lafayette Streets, 1 block N of Rt. 28. Other towns along the trail were invited to participate.

New Bethlehem and Allegheny Valley Land Trust, as co-sponsors, also obtained a grant from the same source for a **feasibility study** for 42 miles of the trail from the Allegheny River to Brookville. The study did surveys for connections from all towns and facilities along the trail, helped prioritize needs, identified the best locations for parking and amenities, and hopefully will allow successful application for funding grants for development of the trail and amenities.

Meetings: Members and volunteers are welcomed. The 9-member Board of Directors of the RVTA meets on the **3rd Monday of each month at 7 PM at the New Bethlehem Presbyterian Church at 403 Penn Street**, at the corner of Wood St. (Rt. 66) and Penn St. (Rt. 861) at the trail's midpoint **in New Bethlehem**, unless otherwise announced. Future meetings may be held at Brookville Presbyterian Church. More volunteers and donations are needed and would be appreciated.

RVTA was also honored to receive \$2000 and \$7500 grants from the Trail Volunteer Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation for fuel for trail improvements and bridge materials.

***Prohibited Use:* Motorized vehicle use on the trail is prohibited!**

Violators will be reported and prosecuted with the assistance of State and local police. Please report anyone in violation. The trail is designed and rail-banked by state regulation for non-motorized use. Regrettably, motorized vehicles can and have already damaged improved portions of the trail and present a safety hazard for pedestrians and bicyclists.



REDBANK VALLEY TRAILS ASSOCIATION -- MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

Telephone(s): (H)_____ **(C)**_____

Membership Categories (please check one and make check payable to the *Redbank Valley Trails Association, c/o Ty Poster, 301 Broad Street, New Bethlehem, PA 16242:*

Individual \$10.00 (Annually) _____ **Lifetime** (Individual) \$150.00 (One-time) _____

Family \$25.00 (Annually) _____ Names of other family members: _____,

_____, _____, _____.

Business/Organization \$50.00 (Annually) _____ Contact person: _____

Website: _____.

If possible, I'd like a link to my website included on the RVTA website ____yes, ____no.

Sponsor (Non-voting): \$ _____ I would like to remain anonymous _____

I can help with:

Trail Maintenance _____ Advertising _____ Fundraising _____

Trail Construction _____ Website _____ History Trail/area _____

Lodging for visitors _____ Outfitting _____ As needed _____

Other: _____