

Montour Trail Council
304 Hickman Street, Suite #3
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**MONTOUR TRAIL'S WESTERN SECTION RETURNING TO LIFE;
9 OF 10 FLOOD-DAMAGED MILES REOPENED**

The Montour Trail Council (MTC) has reopened all but one of the 10 miles of trail in Moon, Robinson, and Findlay Townships that were severely damaged by floodwaters from Hurricane Ivan in September.

"The base and final surface still await restoration in many areas, but the trail is passable," said MTC president Dennis Pfeiffer.

The trail remains closed between Old Beaver Grade Road (Mile 3.1) and Park Manor Drive (Mile 4.1). This section has severe erosion on the trail itself and on the adjacent stream banks. A contractor is prepared to restore the trail's sub-base and the stream banks as funding becomes available.

Pfeiffer thanked the hundreds of volunteers who have assisted with cleanup and repairs since the September flooding.

In addition, the MTC has received substantial financial assistance from three sources. The Allegheny County Regional Asset (ARAD) board permitted a transfer of \$25,000 from a previously awarded 2003 grant. The Laurel Foundation provided a donation of \$25,000, and nearly \$18,000 more came in private donations. These funds have been used to hire a contractor to repair some of the severely eroded sections.

"Our engineer's early estimate was \$475,000 to fully repair the trail," said Pfeiffer, "so additional funds will be necessary to complete the restoration." Grant requests are pending with ARAD and the Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources (DCNR). Monetary donations can still be sent to the Montour Trail Council at 304 Hickman St, Suite #3, Bridgeville, PA 15017.

Allegheny County has donated old road asphalt millings for rebuilding the trail's base. As funding becomes available, the MTC will purchase the surface material. It is hoped that Moon, Robinson and Findlay Townships, who have been significant supporters of the trail sections in their respective communities, will be able to assist with placement of the new base and surface material.

"Under the best-case scenario," Pfeiffer explained, "we will substantially complete the restoration in the early spring, to coincide with the start of the trail's busiest part of the year."

The Montour Trail is one of Western PA's most heavily used recreational resources, with 39 miles of active trail in use in Allegheny and Washington Counties. When complete, it will extend from Coraopolis to Clairton. It is part of the Great Allegheny Passage network of trails that will connect the Pittsburgh area to Washington, D.C. Additional information about the Montour Trail can be found at www.montourtrail.org or (412) 257-3011.