

# Landmarks

## HIGH POINTS



## District's Streamside Work to Benefit Turtle Creek Trail

This summer, the District will be helping to pave the way for construction of a new walking/biking trail.

The Turtle Creek Trail\* will offer beautiful views of its namesake stream when it is constructed between Trafford and Export.

But right now, some of those stream views – like the one pictured here – are a little too close for comfort because the earthen bank between the stream and the future trail site has severely eroded. Before the trail can be built along the old railroad line, more than two miles of these precariously steep streambanks need to be stabilized. And that's where the District comes in.



We applied for and received a grant from the state's Growing Greener program to purchase rock and trees and to contract for services to install them all in six distinct places along the proposed trail where the streambanks are badly eroded.

The work will place very large rocks at the lowest point on the slopes, which will slow the stream's velocity and reduce further erosion. Above that, on about the middle third of each slope, smaller-size rock will be added. And, above that, on the upper-most third of each slope as it approaches trail-level, soil will be added and a diversity of native trees, including oaks, maples and birches, will be planted.

Walkers, bikers, and even fish and aquatic life will benefit from this work (the latter because of the habitat changes the rock and trees will create). Water quality of the stream also will be improved. Sediment is the number one water pollutant by volume in Westmoreland County, and the six trail locations to be stabilized have already added a total of 1,000 tons of sediment into Turtle Creek because of erosion.

In all, nearly \$93,000 of improvements will be made to the streambanks along Turtle Creek and the proposed trail.

Contractor Curry & Kepple Inc. of New Alexandria is scheduled to begin the work in July. It should be completed by fall.

Construction of the trail itself is scheduled to begin next spring.

Partners in the streambank stabilization effort include the Westmoreland County Industrial Development Corporation, Westmoreland County Bureau of Parks and Recreation, the Turtle Creek Watershed Association, the Westmoreland Heritage Trail, and the Municipality of Murrysville.

*\* The Turtle Creek Trail is an extension of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail.*

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