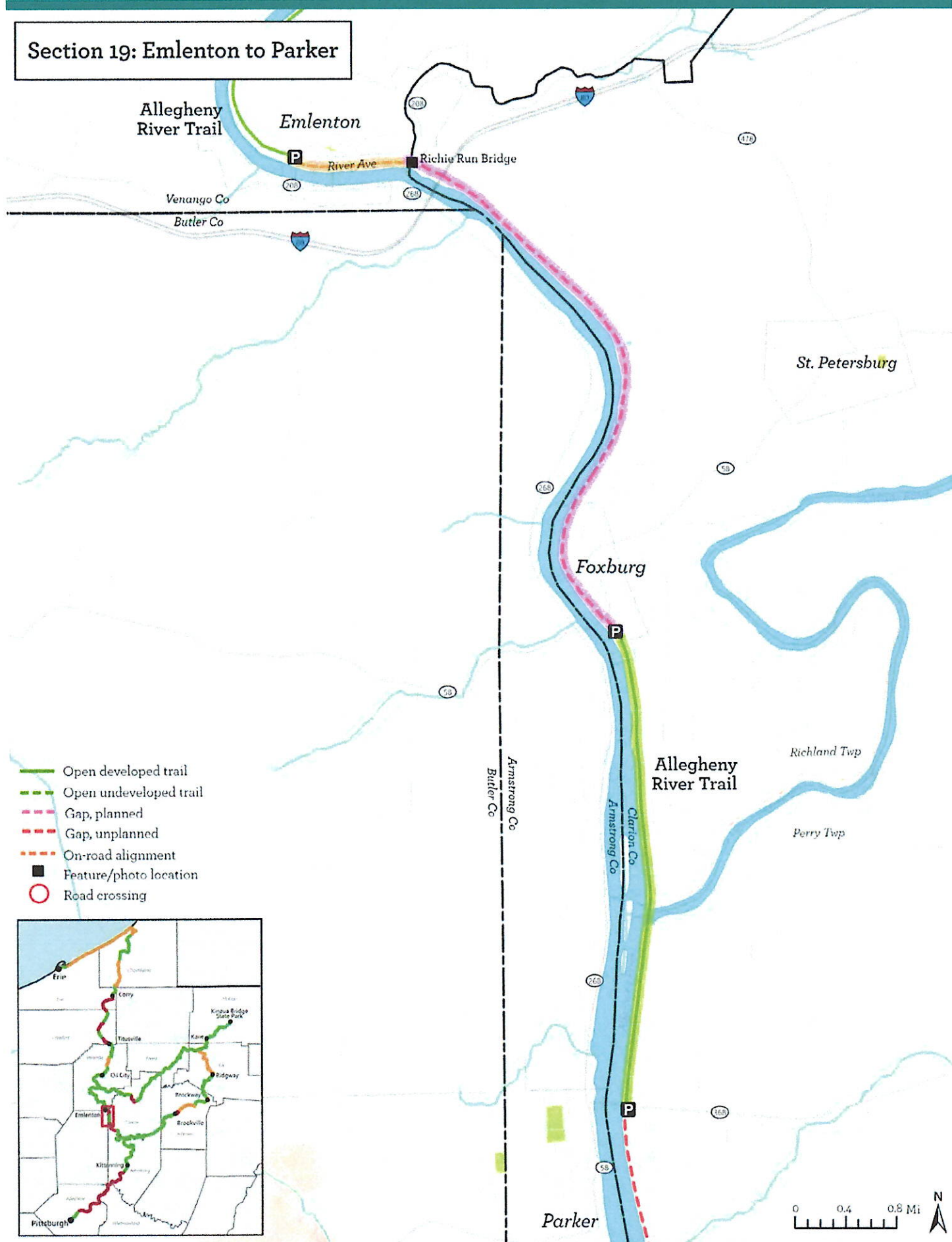


Section 19: Emlenton to Parker



Section 19: Emlenton to Parker

County(s):	Status:	Distance:	Acquisition Status	Segments:
Venango County, PA Clarion County, PA	Gap, Planned/ Open, Developed	6.63 miles	Negotiations Ongoing / Complete	44, 45, 46, 47, 48
Project Partners: Allegheny River Trail in Clarion, Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance, Allegheny Valley Trails Association, Armstrong Trails, North Country Trail Association			Cost Estimate:	
			44: NA	47: \$139,938 - \$171,036
			45: \$28,427 - \$34,744	48: \$354,540 - \$433,327
			46: \$283,724 - \$346,773	

Field Notes

As the Allegheny River Trail ends in Emlenton, the alignment follows a short, .7 mile, on-road stretch using River Ave. The trail alignment turns left from River Ave. and reconnects to the historic rail corridor using 2nd St.

Picking up the rail corridor, the planned alignment immediately crosses Ritchie Run, elevated, over a large culvert. The Ritchie Run Bridge is a key piece of infrastructure on this stretch and in 2019 received a Greenways, Trails, and Recreation grant from PA's Commonwealth Finance Authority. Ritchie Run also serves as the jurisdictional boundary between Venango and Clarion Counties.

Following Ritchie Run, the corridor crosses under I-80. This section follows a contour roughly 30' above the water level of the Allegheny River. A wide floodplain sits below the corridor. On the steep hillside above the corridor, a mixed hardwood forest was observed. While access was granted close to the Emlenton end of this section, the remainder of the stretch towards Foxburg falls under a number of different private landowners and direct inspection was not possible. Local knowledge reports good surface compaction close to Emlenton. Nearing Foxburg, larger base material has risen to the top of the treadway creating an uneven surface. Some ponding water was observed from a distance, though actual drainage points need further investigating. A high tree canopy covered most of the treadway and little to no surface vegetation existed.

The treadway appeared to be 8-10' in width, though this was not confirmed for the whole section. No nearby roads are suitable for interim routing around this gap.

The Allegheny River Trail consists of the main stretch from Franklin to Emlenton, as well as an additional piece running from Foxburg to Parker. This 2.63 section is much like the longer section of the ART north of Emlenton, as both sections of trail are asphalt-paved and offer frequent glimpses of the Allegheny River. The nearby mixed hardwood landscape is consistent with the upriver section. 1 mile from the southern terminus, the trail crosses the Clarion River as it meets the Allegheny.



Photo A: Aerial view of Emlenton, start of undeveloped segment

Section 19: Emlenton to Parker

Opportunities

The Allegheny River Trail in Clarion is a sub-group of the Allegheny Valley Trails Association and operates with a geographical focus specific to this section. The presence of a local entity actively exploring development of this section is positive.

The development of this gap would provide residents in both Emlenton and Foxburg a safe, enjoyable opportunity to travel between towns by active transportation means. Foxburg is a unique town with a wine cellar and upscale chocolatier as well as a riverside banquet hall and restaurant. The Emlenton/Foxburg area is also a popular water-based recreation hub.

The local trail group is also exploring the development of trailhead facilities at the end of River Ave. This trailhead would feature a direct connection to the trail alignment.

Barriers

Landowner negotiations have been an ongoing challenge on this section. Several landowners hold parcels along this 4 mile stretch. Although there have been positive discussions with some of them on providing a means of legal access through the corridor, there hasn't been 100% buy-in from all of the property owners. Without 100% buy-in, the willing landowners are hesitant to invest time in negotiations.

Recent research by the Allegheny River Trail in Clarion group has called into question the legal claim to ownership of the corridor by these landowners. Proceedings are underway to more clearly determine these claims.



Photo B: Aerial view of Foxburg showing alignment entering town

Section 20: Parker to Hillville

Allegheny River Trail

Perryville Rd

Parker

Terrell Rd

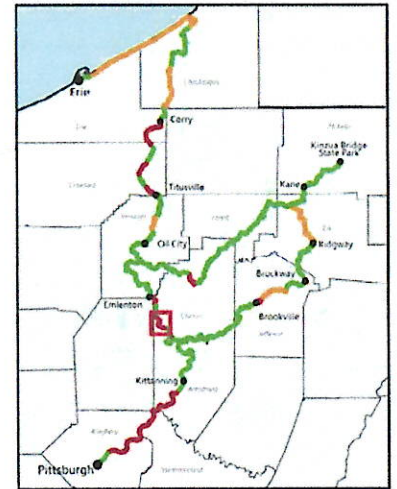
Perry Twp

West Monterey

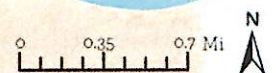
Clarion Co
Armstrong Co

Upper Hillville

Allegheny River Trail



- Open developed trail
- Open undeveloped trail
- - - Gap, planned
- - - Gap, unplanned
- - - On-road alignment
- Feature/photo location
- Road crossing



Section 20: Parker to Hillville

County(s):	Status:	Distance:	Acquisition Status	Segments:
Clarion County, PA	Gap, Planned	6.48 miles	Negotiations Need to Occur	49, 50

Project Partners:	Cost Estimate:
Allegheny Valley Trails Association, Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance, Armstrong Trails	49: \$553,363 - \$676,332 50: \$321,245 - \$392,632



Photo A: Aerial view of Allegheny River Trail alignment near Parker

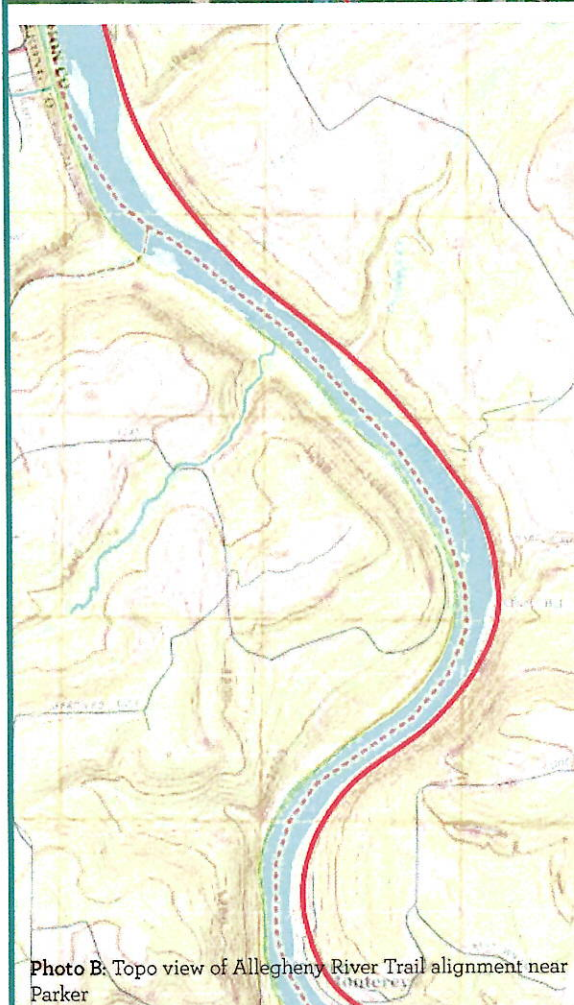


Photo B: Topo view of Allegheny River Trail alignment near Parker

Field Notes

Section 20 is the proposed continuation of the Allegheny River Trail from Parker through West Monterey to Upper Hillville. Ownership of the former railroad corridor through this section is split between a number of different entities. As this is private property along the river, no direct investigation was possible. The remote nature and topography of this section means there are no suitable nearby roads for interim routing.

Aerial imagery confirms that the landscape here is very similar to other points along the Allegheny River Trail. If developed, the trail experience would be consistent as well.

Opportunities

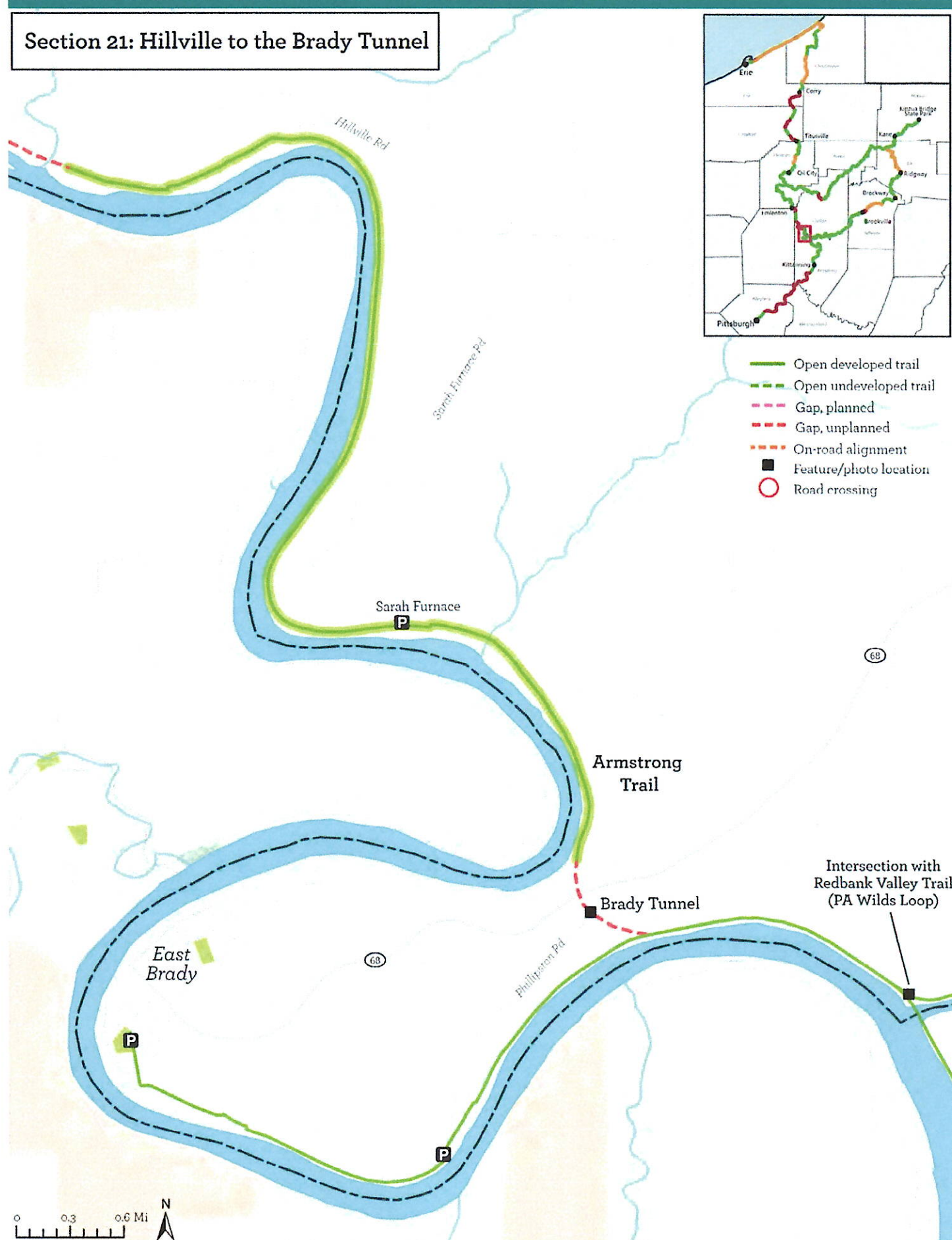
As of the Fall of 2019, Armstrong Trails has been working to complete the trail upriver from the northern end of the Brady Tunnel to Upper Hillville. It may be possible to leverage this momentum to push beyond Upper Hillville while the Allegheny Valley Trails Association continues to work downriver from Parker.

Although the right of way is privately held, the Allegheny Valley Trails Association could collaborate with Armstrong Trails to explore easement opportunities and present the trail's development as an asset for landowners along this section.

Barriers

The Allegheny Valley Trails Association is lacking in capacity to perform thorough title and deed research necessary to continue landowner negotiations. Without a clear understanding of ownership, trail development is stifled.

Section 21: Hillville to the Brady Tunnel



Section 21: Hillville to the Brady Tunnel

County(s): Clarion County, PA	Status: Open, Developed	Distance: 4.8 miles	Acquisition Status Complete	Segments: 51, 52
Project Partners: Armstrong Trails, Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance, Allegheny Valley Trails Association, Clarion County				Cost Estimate: 51: NA 52: NA

Field Notes

As of early 2019, Armstrong Trails has improved the 4.8 mile section from the northern portal of the Brady Tunnel to Upper Hillville. The valley through this section is relatively unchanged compared to the upriver sections of the Allegheny River Trail. The corridor has been resurfaced with crushed limestone and maintained to a consistent width of roughly 8'.

Trailhead parking is accessible from Sarah Furnace Rd., though no additional amenities are offered at this location.

Nearing the Brady Tunnel, the adjacent hillsides rise steeply from 850' to over 1,400'. Though inaccessible from the trail, a developed overlook at the top of the slope provides sweeping view of Brady's Bend.

Erie to Pittsburgh/PA Wilds Gap Assessment Report



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