

KTA A.T. Section Report for April 14, 2018 Board Meeting

First, we are THRILLED to welcome KTA to the Lehigh Valley!! Section volunteers are leading hikes and a boundary work day during the KTA weekend.

KTA's section of the Appalachian Trail extends for 10 miles from Lehigh Furnace Gap to Little Gap. It is located near Palmerton, PA, north of Allentown. We also maintain 6 miles of adjacent trails, the North Trail on the west side of the Lehigh River and the Winter Trail on the east side. We've established a dedicated email address for our A.T. section, ktalehighgapat@gmail.com and a Google Group. We have approximately 25 volunteers who fill various roles on our section. We'd love to have more volunteers.

Our largest parking lot is Lehigh Gap east, on Route 248, just across the Lehigh River from the Lehigh Gap Nature Center. In November of last year, we got a sign installed for this lot. Thanks to PA DCNR for building the sign and PennDOT for installing it. PennDOT also replaced an A.T. sign at Little Gap.

Our section goes through a Superfund site, with the damage caused by a zinc processing plant. The remediation has largely been completed. We expect to begin rebuilding and relocating the trail through the site this year, with the assistance of Appalachian Trail Conservancy. We will be scheduling some work days, probably during the period from Labor Day to the end of October. This work will be led by a professional trail builder engaged by ATC. It will be an excellent opportunity for volunteers to hone their trail building skills. If any KTA trail maintainers (or other KTA folks) are interested in joining us, send an email to ktalehighgapat@gmail.com

- Jim Foster