

KTA A.T. Section Report for July 29, 2017 Board Meeting

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. Our management team consists of: Jim Foster, section manager; Dennis Hurley, eastern subsection coordinator; Ed Ritter, western subsection coordinator; Charlie Ogle, parking lot & kiosk coordinator; Kathy Corpora, boundary coordinator. Our activities are coordinated through KTA's Meetup site and a KTA Lehigh Gap Section group on Facebook. We've established a dedicated email address for our A.T. section, ktalehighgapat@gmail.com We have approximately 25 volunteers who fill various roles on our section.

The remediation work is continuing on the Superfund site on the east side of our section. We are monitoring the progress by the contractor on this site. At some point, the A.T. footpath will be relocated from its current temporary reroute back to the remediated portion. Remediation work will then begin on the west side, in the vicinity of the present North Trail. After this work is done, the A.T. on the west side will be relocated close to the route of the present North Trail, and the present A.T. will become a side trail.

In cooperation with the Lehigh Gap Nature Center and Appalachian Trail Conservancy, we have closed the Devils Pulpit Trail, which has a very dangerous steep rocky section. Another trail maintained by LGNC, the Charcoal Trail, now joins the North Trail where the Devils Pulpit Trail formerly did.

We are continuing to make improvements to the Lehigh Gap east parking lot, near the junction of Routes 248 and 145. DCNR has made a sign for the entrance to that parking lot, and PennDOT is scheduled to install it soon. ATC has installed a beautiful sign at the parking lot, at the overlook above the Lehigh River. It is one of a series of signs that ATC is installing along the A.T. with funds from the William Penn Foundation.

We will have a work day on our section on Saturday, September 16, at 9 a.m. You can sign up for it using KTA's Meetup site or on KTA Lehigh Gap Section group on Facebook.

- Jim Foster