

# Erie to Pittsburgh Trail

(Between Titusville and Parker, PA)

## 2013 User Survey and Economic Impact Analysis



### 2013 Trail User Survey

- ◆ 158,507 annual users (Multi-Use Trails)
  - ◆ Hiking, Water trails (not studied)
- ◆ \$7,479,348 Economic Impact - including hard goods (bikes, racks, helmets, etc.) bought here & prior to trip
- ◆ \$6,928,620 directly into the local economy

### 2006 Trail User Survey

- ◆ 138,281 annual users (Multi-Use Trails)
- ◆ +22,510 Hiking, Water trails
- ◆ \$4,310,000 Economic Impact

#### The six trails surveyed are as follows:

- ◆ Queen City Trail (1.4 mi)
- ◆ Oil Creek State Park Trail (9.7 mi)
- ◆ McClintock Trail (3.7 mi)
- ◆ Samuel Justus Recreation Trail (5.8 mi)
- ◆ Allegheny River Trail (34.2 mi)
- ◆ Sandy Creek Trail (12 mi)

In 2013, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) conducted a study of six trails that make up the central leg of the developing 270-mile Erie to Pittsburgh Trail (EPT) and are located in northwest PA.

The Trails are connected by geography, history and marketing. Owned, operated and maintained by several trail organizations and municipalities, these trails represent just over 66 miles of multi-modal corridor. This survey was designed specifically to monitor trail-user characteristics and economic impact.

- ◆ 89.8% - from Pennsylvania representing 25 mostly regional counties; 10.2% other states
- ◆ 56 - 65 Years - predominant age range
- ◆ 51.8% Biking
- ◆ 27.8% Walking
- ◆ 3.7% Fishing
- ◆ 2.7% Geocaching
- ◆ 54.5% for Health Reasons
- ◆ 42.8% for Recreation
- ◆ More than 87% spent an average of \$337.50 on hard goods (bikes, racks, helmets, etc.).
- ◆ Soft goods (meals, snacks, bike rentals) were purchased by 76.8% for an average dollar amount of \$21.62 per person per visit.
- ◆ 13% paid for overnight lodging in the area, with an average stay of 2.6 nights.



**Rails-to-Trails Conservancy**  
Northeast Regional Office  
2133 Market Street, Suite 222  
Camp Hill, PA 17011  
717-238-1717

Patricia Tomes, Program Manager  
Carl Knoch, Mgr of Trail Development

[www.railstotrails.org](http://www.railstotrails.org)

**Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance**  
Parke Wentling, President

[www.eriepittsburghtrail.org](http://www.eriepittsburghtrail.org)

Special thanks to the late  
Jim Holden, founding President



**Council on Greenways & Trails**  
217 Elm Street  
Oil City, PA 16301  
814-677-3152 Ext. 116

Debra Frawley,  
Greenways Coordinator

[dfrawley@oilregion.org](mailto:dfrawley@oilregion.org)

This study utilized a survey methodology previously tested on Pennsylvania trails and documented in RTC's Trail User Survey Workbook available on the RTC Trail Building ToolBox. This report was financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Environmental Stewardship Fund, under the administration of the PA DCNR, BRC.