



Bill Atkinson

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www.trailtowns.org



Great Allegheny Passage
www.GAPtrail.org



Pittsburgh

McKeesport

West Newton

Connellsville

Ohiopyle

Confluence

Rockwood

Meyersdale

Frostburg

Cumberland

Washington D.C.



Allegheny Trail Alliance



Seven Trail Groups

Mountain Maryland Trails – Somerset County Rails to Trails Association

Ohiopyle State Park – Regional Trail Corporation – Steel Valley Trail Council

Friends of the Riverfront – Montour Trail Council

Allegheny Trail Alliance

One Board - One Mission – One Goal



Economic Development Opportunities to Towns along the Great Allegheny Passage Trail



Did it Work?

Let's Look at the Numbers



Economic Impact Great Allegheny Passage

- \$40 Million in Direct Spending
- \$7.5 Million in Wages Paid
- 800,000 Trail Users
- \$17 Daily Individuals Spending
- \$51 Daily Group Spending
- 28% Stay overnight
- \$114 Average spent on overnight accommodations
- 33% Average gross revenue of business attributed to GAP
- 30% businesses plan expansion

Trail Town Program®



- Regional solutions
- Research
- Connect “trail to town”
- Business attraction and retention
- Business loans

Connecting Pieces Creating Partnerships

Signs

Kiosks

Brochures

Bike racks

Sidewalks

Crosswalks

Public art

Visitor centers



The Progress Fund

Business Attraction & Retention



Business Activity: 2007-2012

- ❖ 76 new trail-related businesses opened
- ❖ 93+ new jobs (net) were created
- ❖ 78% of the new businesses remain in operation
- ❖ 23% of new and expanded businesses provided Loans
- ❖ \$4.5 million in loans leveraged another \$1.5 million in private investment
- ❖ 100% of the borrowing businesses remain in operation



**Business
Builder
Kit**







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- Trail Town Initiatives
- Blog and E-news
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