



The Mon Valley Trailblazers Club
Welcomes You to
Ernst Trail - Meadville, PA for a 5k, 10k, and 22.5k YRW
Crawford County

This AVA rated 1B walk is composed of a 5k, 10k, and an optional 22.5K walk starting/finishing from the same location.

Welcome to the Ernst Trail

Traversing terrain with imprints of ice-age glaciation, the trail passes through the lush bottom lands of French Creek Valley. With 66 species of fish and 27 species of mollusks, French Creek is Pennsylvania most biologically diverse body of water. From the creek to the end of the trail's completed portion, the landscape is pastoral with varied environments of meadow and marsh, hardwood stands and hemlock thickets. The proposed segment from Route 19 to Conneaut Lake parallels Conneaut Marsh, an ancient river valley infield with glacial debris, and home to nesting bald eagles and migrating waterfowl. The paved trail is five miles long, located from the Park Avenue Plaza in Meadville to Route 19, a distance of five miles, with progress in extending the trail.

Walk Registration:

Please use the online start box provided by AVA at website (<https://my.ava.org>). Follow the 'Online Start Box', and the instructions provided to sign a waiver and register for this event. Follow directions to make payments for event credit and directions. The directions and insert cards are PDFs that you can download and print as needed. The POC does not provide event directions or accept alternate payment methods. The entire online process should take less than 10 minutes for a first time user. There are bathrooms at various locations throughout the town.

Walk Completion and Walk Credit:

Once you have physically completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account and select the "Finish Table" tab. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped "virtual" insert cards that you may later choose to print out.

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DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From the West: Take I-90 E to OH-167 E in Denmark Township. Take exit 87 from OH-11 S. Continue on OH-167 E. Take US-6 E and Harmonsburg Rd to US-19 N/US-322 E/US-6 E in Fredericksburg. **Ernst Bike Trail Bean's Trailhead** 18759 Smock Hwy, Meadville, PA 16335

From the East: Follow I-76 W and I-79 N to US-19 N/US-322 E/US-6 E in Vernon Twp. Take exit 147A from I-79 N. Merge onto US-19 N/US-322 E/US-6 E. Pass by Dairy Queen on the left in 0.3 miles. Destination will be on the right. **Ernst Bike Trail Bean's Trailhead** 18759 Smock Hwy, Meadville, PA 16335

From the South: Take I-79 N to US-19 N/US-322 E/US-6 E in Vernon Township. Take exit 147A from I-79 N. Merge onto US-19 N/US-322 E/US-6 E. Pass by Dairy Queen (on the left in 0.3 mi) Destination will be on the right. **Ernst Bike Trail Bean's Trailhead** 18759 Smock Hwy, Meadville, PA 16335

From the North: Take I-79 S (signs for Pittsburgh). Take exit 147A to merge onto US-19 N/US-322 E/US-6 E toward Meadville. Pass by Dairy Queen on the left in 1.0 miles. Destination will be on the right. **Ernst Bike Trail Bean's Trailhead** 18759 Smock Hwy, Meadville, PA 16335

Ernest Trail is the country seat of Crawford County.

PARKING: As work progresses on both the extension of the trail and the parking lot at the Bean's trailhead, visitors can still use the trail. Parking is available at trailheads on Mercer Pike, Krider Road and Bailey Road. Visitors can also park at Plaza Lanes and walk through the grass to the Bean's trailhead, according to a post on the trail's Facebook page. **Please do not park in the Bean's Auto Business Parking area of the lot.**

Ernst Trail, Meadville, PA

Walking Directions

Directions To Bean's Trailhead: US-19 N/US 322 E/US 6 E. Pass by Dairy Queen on the left in 1.2 miles. Bean's Trailhead will be on the RIGHT after Home Depot. (From I-79 exit 147A Rt. 322 E, in 1 mile parking on right after Home Depot.)

This trail is a fairly level paved trail used for walking, biking or running. The trail is a 7 mile long and moderately level and the distance is marked every 1/4 mile features a river and is good for all skill levels. There are benches at different intervals for sitting if you want and there are several covered bridges that go over the water or marshes. Dogs are also able to use this trail but must be kept on leash and picked up after.

Start Point:

Bean's Trailhead: From Meadville, Rt. 322 W, in 1/2 mile parking on left before Home

Begin 5K Trail

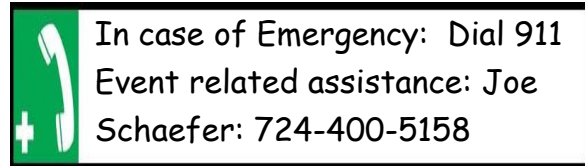
- 1) **Enter the Trailhead from the Bean's Parking Lot.**
- 2) **The trail meanders along the water and goes through marshes and a swamp area. There are benches along the way.**

Depot. From I-79 exit 147A Rt. 322 E, in 1 mile parking on right after Home Depot.

Restrooms:

Restrooms are available throughout the Trail.

Emergency Numbers:



Walking Instructions:

These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

- 3) **Follow the trail, which is marked every 1/4 mile. When you reach the French Creek Viewpoint turn around and return to the parking lot.**

Thank you for walking our event.

Ernst Trail, Meadville, PA

Walking Directions 10K walk

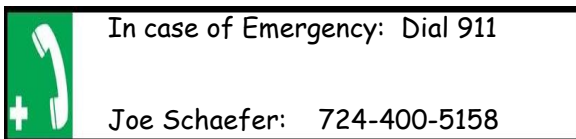
Start Point:

Bean's Trailhead: From Meadville, Rt. 322 W, in 1/2 mile parking on left before Home Depot.

From I-79 exit 147A Rt. 322 E, in 1 mile parking on right after Home Depot.

This trail is a fairly level paved trail used for walking, biking or running. The trail is a 7 mile long and moderately level and the distance is marked every 1/4 mile. There are benches at different intervals for sitting if you want and there are several covered bridges that go over the water or marshes. Ernst Trail is a 6.3 mile moderately trafficked point-to-point trail located near Meadville, Pennsylvania that features a river and is good for all skill levels. The trail offers a number of activity options and is

accessible year-round. Dogs are also able to use this trail but must be kept on leash and picked up after.



Restrooms: Restrooms are available throughout the Trail.

These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

Ernst Trail is the country seat of Crawford County.

PARKING: As work progresses on both the extension of the trail and the parking lot at the Bean's trailhead, visitors can still use the trail. Parking is available at trailheads on Mercer Pike, Krider Road and Bailey Road. Visitors can also park at Plaza Lanes and walk through the grass to the Bean's trailhead, according to a post on the trail's Facebook page. **Please do not park in the Bean's Auto Business Parking area of the lot.**

Begin 10K Trail

1. **Enter the Trailhead from the Bean's Parking Lot.**
2. **The trail meanders along the water and goes through marshes and a swamp area. There are benches along the way.**
3. **Follow the trail, which is marked every 1/4 mile.**
4. **When you reach the Mercer Pike Trailhead Parking Lot, there will be a restroom after the parking lot.**
5. **Continue for another 1/4 mile then turn around and retrace your steps back to the Bean's Trailhead parking lot to finish the walk.**

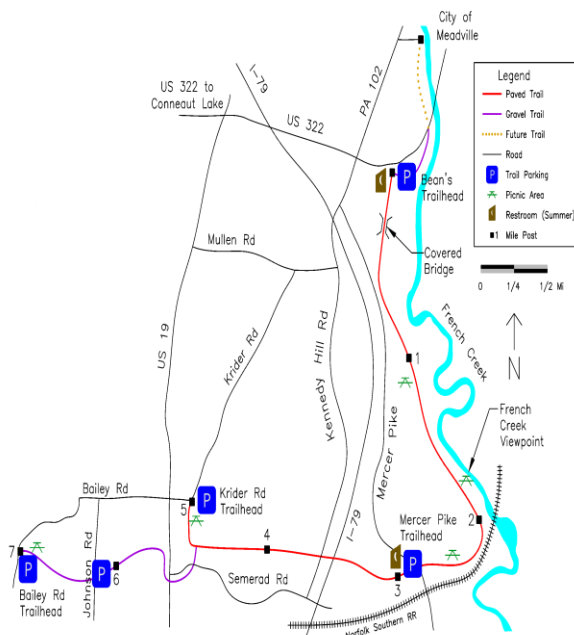
Optional 22.5K Trail

1. Follow the 10K Trail directions but continue until you reach the Bailey Road Trailhead.

2. Turn around and head back to the Bean's Trailhead for a total of 22.5K walk.

We hope you enjoyed our walking event.

Ernst Trail Map



The map provided above is the official map of Ernst Trail in Meadville. According to the map, the total distance one way from Bean's trailhead to Baily Road trailhead is 7 mi/11.29 km. The first 5 mi are paved and the last 2 mi are gravel.

Parking is available at Bean's Trailhead, just not the Bean's Auto Business portion of the lot, Mercer Pike, Krider Road and Bailey Road trailheads. Also Plaza Bowling Lanes, just on the other side of Bean's Auto, will allow trail users to park in their lot. Please DO NOT park in Bean's Auto business lot.

ERNST TRAIL – BEAN'S TRAILHEAD

MEADVILLE, PA
CRAWFORD COUNTY
Region: [Pennsylvania's Great Lakes Region](#)

Meadville, the seat of Crawford County, is nestled in the lovely French Creek Valley. This creek, named by George Washington in the early 1750s, was once the chief means of shipping local lumber and iron throughout the region. Established in 1789, the town was home to the first white settlement in northwestern Pennsylvania and, like the entire surrounding area, played a part in the French and Indian War. In 1913, the Automatic Hook and Eye Company of Hoboken, later called Talon, came to Meadville and made it the Zipper Capital of the World. Also nicknamed "Tool City, USA" because of its many tool and die shops, Meadville is home to Channellock Tools and Dad's Dog Food. Meadville's historic district includes many fine buildings, including the Market House and the Baldwin-Reynolds House. Conneaut Lake, Pymatuning State Park and the Erie National Wildlife Refuge are wonderful places to appreciate the area's natural beauty. Meadville is also the home of Allegheny College.



Ernst Trail is available for use during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please practice all recommended safety actions and help prevent spread of the virus.



Ernst trail remains open for use all year. Please use caution when enjoying the winter beauty. The trail, especially the bridges, may be snow covered, slippery, and icy.

Welcome to the Ernst Trail

Traversing terrain with imprints of ice-age glaciation, the trail passes through the lush bottom lands of French Creek Valley. With 66 species of fish and 27 species of mollusks, French Creek is Pennsylvania's most biologically diverse body of water. From the creek to the end of the trail's completed portion, the landscape is pastoral with varied environments of meadow and marsh, hardwood stands and hemlock thickets. The proposed segment from Route 19 to Conneaut Lake parallels Conneaut Marsh, an ancient river valley infield with glacial debris, and home to nesting bald eagles and migrating waterfowl. The paved trail is five miles long, located from the Park Avenue Plaza in Meadville to Route 19, a distance of five miles.

History of Ernst Trail

The Meadville-Linesville Railroad was built from 1880-1892 by a group of Meadville entrepreneurs to gain access to the Pennsylvania Railroad at

Linesville. Despite the



involvement of some of Meadville's best-known citizens, the railroad did not flourish.

In 1891, the Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad Co. leased the right-of-way and for a time it's most profitable use was as a passenger line, transporting visitors to Exposition Park (renamed Conneaut Lake Park in 1920). With the rise of the automobile, passenger service declined, and in 1934, rail service to the park was discontinued. The Bessemer abandoned the line in 1976. In 1996, Calvin Ernst, the right-of-way's owner, donated the property to French Creek Recreational Trails and the Ernst Bike Trail was born.

Work has been done to improve the Ernst Trail parking lot.

At the Bean's trailhead, the parking area will be graveled and two accessible parking spaces will be paved, Eglinton said. Already, an asphalt apron has been added where the lot meets Smock Highway to improve safety and reduce wear and tear on the lot surface. The nearly \$15,000 project was funded largely by nearly \$2,700 raised during last year's first annual Crawford Gives day and a large donation by Meadville residents Dr. Dennis and Marci Finton, according to Eglinton.

In addition, excavation work will be performed on the final remaining section of trail connecting the Bean's trailhead to Mary Gable Park, located alongside French Creek near the intersection of Park Row and Shippen Street in

Kerrtown. About 600 feet of trail will be excavated just east of the J.M. Smucker Company facility and rock put down, Eglinton said. A \$76,000 state grant will also support the installation later this summer of swales — shallow ditches to manage runoff — alongside the path from just south of Smock Bridge to Mary Gable Park.

Ernst Trail goes through a swamp — places most people don't normally go. Common sights along the way include "beavers, swamp birds — kingfishers and all kinds of things."

The hope is that rather than worrying about masks and social distancing, efforts can be directed toward trail improvements in the coming months. If all goes well, a top coating of limestone dust can be added to the section of trail connecting Bean's to Kerrtown before the summer is over, according to Eglinton. While not as smooth as the asphalt that stretches south from Bean's along French Creek for about 2 miles before turning west for another 3 miles to the Krider Road trailhead, the limestone dust makes for a very usable hard surface, Eglinton said, and has the advantage of being much more affordable.