



# ERNST TRAIL VISITOR INFORMATION

updated 10/25/24

*The following information is designed to assist you in planning a safe visit to Ernst Trail.*

**Ernst Trail** is a work in progress continuing to grow and improve as funding permits. Trail building and maintenance take constant effort from the team of dedicated volunteers/members of **French Creek Recreational Trails Inc.**, the trail's parent organization. Ernst Trail travels through remote areas, with a variety of wildlife, where services and cell service may be limited. It follows French Creek and traverses wetlands so flying insects, ticks and wildlife may be present. Insect repellent is beneficial at certain times of the year. **From October through February**, or during any PA hunting season, it is recommended you and your pets **WEAR ORANGE** for visibility. Please report any maintenance problems you may encounter. Volunteers and/or donations are always welcome. Visit [www.ernsttrail.org](http://www.ernsttrail.org) for more information.

**General Information** - All bridges are decked, railed and open. Use caution when crossing bridges as they may be slippery due to dampness or icing. **Stop at all road crossings and use caution.** Do not expect cars to stop for you. Some gates may require you to dismount and may be difficult for trikes to get through without assistance. Some sections have steep drop-offs. Please stay on the trail, do not park on the trail or in front of gates. Pack out what you pack in. More detailed parking information can be found below or on our website. The trail is closed to motorized vehicles. However, occasionally it is necessary to drive or operate vehicles and equipment on the trail for maintenance or construction. Thank you for your patience whenever you encounter such equipment.

## **SPECIFIC TRAIL, SURFACE & PARKING INFORMATION BY SECTION TRAVELING WESTWARD**

**MILE 0 - 1 The Shryock-Bailey Connector** - Begins at the end of Shippen Street in Kerrtown near Meadville, PA. There is no parking here. The trail travels through wetlands and along French Creek for one mile to Bean's Trailhead. The surface is asphalt pavement. To help preserve the environment this section was built at ground level so portions may be flooded during wet weather. The plan is for this section to be extended eastward into the City of Meadville at Bicentennial Park.

**MILE 1 - 6** - Improved with a paved, mostly level blacktop surface. There is parking and a temporary restroom at Bean's Trailhead mile 1, at Mercer Pike Trailhead mile 4, and at Krider Road Trailhead. There are rental bikes available at Bean's. There are many benches and picnic tables along this section. **Mercer Pike, at mile 3.9, is a busy road.** The approach on the east side is steep. Riders should dismount and walk across this road.

**MILE 5.4 - 11.5** - At mile 5.4 the paved trail continues for ½ mile to the Krider Road Trailhead. The main trail turns south for a short distance, follows Semerad Road to cross US route 19 then follows Pinetree Road a short distance to get back on the railbed. **US route 19 is a very busy road.** Please use **EXTREME CAUTION** when crossing. Riders should dismount and walk across this road. The surface of this section is gravel and may be unsuitable for some street bikes. At mile 6 a trail spur goes north from the main trail ½ mile to the Bailey Road Trailhead where parking, a picnic shelter and a temporary restroom are available. Continuing west on the main trail you come to Brown Hill Road at mile 9.5 where parking and a temporary restroom are available. The trail ends at mile 11.5, the Conneaut Lake Trailhead just behind Conneaut Cellars Winery located at 12005 Conneaut Lake Rd, Conneaut Lake, PA 16316. Parking, a temporary restroom, and rental bikes are available here. Construction is ongoing to improve this section.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or to report any problems you see to [info@ernsttrail.org](mailto:info@ernsttrail.org). Please check back frequently and visit Facebook for current updates as improvement continues and for emergency trail alerts. The trail is privately owned and maintained by volunteers. Donations are greatly appreciated and tax deductible as French Creek Recreational Trails Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.