



# RACHEL CARSON TRAIL

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

PENNSYLVANIA

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The Rachel Carson Trail is a 33 mile newly-created hikerway extending from Harrison Hills County Park, near Freeport, to North Park, all in Allegheny County, Pa. The trail was established by the Pittsburgh Council of the American Youth Hostels, Inc., and will link to its Baker Trail and others.

In 1950 the Baker Trail was opened from Highland Park Bridge, Pittsburgh, to Cook Forest State Park. Shortly thereafter the 25 mile section in Allegheny County was abandoned due to development. During 1972-75 members of the AYH have rebuilt much of the old trail which follows the bluffs of the Allegheny River; the former Baker Trail is followed from near Freeport to Springdale and Harwick.

At Harwick the trail generally follows a gas pipeline to Dorseyville, crosses the Pa. Turnpike, skirts new County Park 9 (the Lawrence Estate), and proceeds west to North Park. The trail avoids roads, utilizing the three County Parks and several township parks, most established since 1950.

Because the trail passes close by the birthplace of Rachel Carson, in Springdale, and because of the interest of AYH members in our environment, it was considered appropriate to name the trail after one of our early ecologists. Rachel Carson was the author of The Sea Around Us and Silent Spring.

The trail is marked with yellow blazes as is the Baker Trail, and may join the older trail at Garvers Ferry. The trail will eventually go north through North Park and west toward Beaver County. A leg is planned through County Park 9, along Squaw Run and Trillium Trail into GUYASUTA Run, to the Highland Park Bridge and into Pittsburgh at Highland Park.

Public transportation is available to almost all access points of the trail.

Construction of new Rt. 28, the Allegheny Valley Expressway, will cause disruption at times, especially near Tarentum and Creighton.

Maps: Freeport, New Kensington East, New Kensington West, and Glenshaw. Maps of North Park and Harrison Hills Park.

## USE OF THE TRAIL

The Rachel Carson Trail is exclusively for hikers; permission of landowners was obtained on this basis. Boy Scouts, Girl

Scouts, families, other groups and individuals are welcome to walk the trail.

For the time being the trail must be seen mainly as a day-hiking opportunity, for there are no shelters nor camps along the way. The privilege of camping on private land may be requested, but Allegheny County bans camping in the parks. Water should be carried by hikers.

This trail is relatively primitive and is steep in places; no bridges have been built so streams have to be crossed.

Several steep and potentially dangerous cliffs border the trail. The bluffs are scenic but also risky. Children should be watched carefully.

## GUIDE

A guide to the Rachel Carson Trail is planned, and should be forthcoming in Summer 1975. This will describe the trail in detail, include a set of maps, information on hiking and more on the use of the trail.

## ORGANIZED HIKES

One or two Trail hikes are sponsored each month by AYH. They are listed, along with many other trips, in the AYH newsletters. Anyone may participate.

## INFORMATION

Specific up-to-date information about the trail and trips can be obtained from the Trail Chairman by writing (address below) or by calling AYH between 8:30-10:30 p.m. on Thursday - during an Open-House meeting. The number is 412-362-8181. These meetings are open to the public.

## ACCESS POINTS

North Park - Rocky Dell Shelter  
Rt. 8 - 100 yds. S of Wildwood Rd.  
Middle Road at McCully  
Little Deer Creek Rd. & Rich Hill Rd.  
Springdale @ Riddle Run  
Glassmore-Murryhill Rd., power line  
Tarentum-Park Plan  
Harrison Hills - bluff overlook