



A scenic drive through . . .

Murrysville, Export and Delmont

For a driver and a navigator

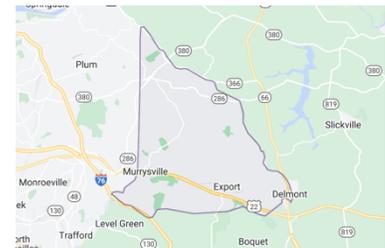
At a minimum, a driver and a navigator are required for a Ramble! Drive safely, and observe all traffic rules. Route information is provided only as a suggestion for a scenic drive.

Enjoy this Westmoreland Ramble! Duration: 50 minutes / Length: 18.2 miles

Murrysville was named for tradesman Jeremiah Murry who came from Ireland circa 1778. Murrysville was first known as Franklin Township, and became a home-rule municipality in 1976.

Export grew around a Westmoreland Coal Company mine serviced by the Turtle Creek Railroad from 1892. Export became a separate borough in 1911, named to recognize the coal exported from the mine.

Delmont (“a valley in the hills”), came into being in 1814. Formerly Salem Crossroads, it was a stagecoach stop on the turnpike linking Pittsburgh to Philadelphia.



Franklin Regional School District

These communities lie within the **Franklin Regional School District**, and collectively serve as one of the western gateways to Westmoreland County.

Mile Directions

0 **Start** at the **Delmont Library** at 75 School Street, Delmont PA (the modern off-white building behind the Delmont Community Building).

Delmont Library’s new building features electric car chargers, solar panels, and geothermal heat. It was built with contributions and efforts by many in the community.

This Library is one of many that have **Westmoreland Land Trust (WLT)** “**Westmoreland Nature Backpacks**” available for exploration of nature.



0 **IMPORTANT! . . . Set your Trip Odometer to “Zero”**. Exit the parking lot by turning L onto School Street to Stop, then R onto Crest Drive to Stop. Turn R onto Greensburg Street.

On the right is Delmont’s Community Building (formerly the Delmont Public school) dedicated in 1898. There are many historic log houses and buildings in **Salem Crossroads Historic District** in the National Register of Historic Places.

0.2 Stop at Pittsburgh Street.

At right you will see a water trough along E. Pittsburgh Street that dates to Salem Crossroads’ days as a stagecoach stop, and many historic buildings.

0.2 Turn L onto W. Pittsburgh Street.

WESTMORELAND RAMBLE THROUGH MURRYSVILLE, EXPORT, AND DELMONT

The **Delmont Visionary Committee** is working to create a spur from the popular **Westmoreland Heritage Trail (WHT)**, a segment of which starts just NE of Delmont. Nearby are Delmont's Newhouse Park and Shields Farm.

0.3 At traffic light, cross PA Route 66 and continue straight on W. Pittsburgh Street. W. Pittsburgh St. becomes Old William Penn Highway.

0.9 At Stop at Elizabeth Ct., continue straight on Old Wm Penn.

You will travel near the route of George Westinghouse's Turtle Creek Valley Railroad (TCVRR), which reached the Murrysville gas fields in 1891 and Export in 1892. Export mines were very productive, shipping coal to cities in the NE. Now much of the TCVRR is the **Westmoreland Heritage Trail (WHT)**, a popular bike/pedestrian recreation trail.

At 1.6 you will see Pedora Park on the left, just before Wilson Road. Murrysville is fortunate to contain over 1400 acres of parks, nature preserves, and open space.

2.8 At Stop continue on Old Wm. Penn Hwy./Kennedy Avenue.

At 3.1 at right is future parkland, and just beyond on left is Export Community Park.

3.2 At Stop at Italy Road, continue straight.

Note the murals to the left – one painted, and one a large photo mural.



3.3 At Stop, turn L onto Lincoln Avenue, then L onto Washington Avenue. Export's downtown holds many historic structures.

3.4 Turn L into Export parking lot.

Pass the replica **Train Station** on the right, in which the **Export Historical Society** displays many items of historical interest.



3.5 Continue through the parking lot and exit the parking lot at Stop, turning R onto Lincoln Avenue. At next Stop, turn left onto Kennedy Avenue/Old Wm. Penn Highway.

Immediately on the L note Export's **Caboose** and a time capsule. This point is the start of a long stretch of landscaping alongside Kennedy Ave./Old William Penn Highway, undertaken as part of a community beautification effort.



Here is also an end of the **WHT** at Lincoln Avenue. The **WHT** runs 9.2 miles (on the alignment of the former **TCVRR**) from Trafford through Monroeville, Penn Township, and Murrysville to Export. Another 9-mile segment runs from Athena Drive just NW of Delmont through Slickville to Saltsburg, where it connects with the West Penn Trail. The WHT is maintained by volunteers of the **WHT** Chapter of the **Regional Trail Corporation** that works to convert old railroads into multi-use recreational trails in Westmoreland, Allegheny, and Fayette Counties.



On this drive, you will often see and cross the **WHT**, which was built by **Westmoreland County's Bureau of Parks and Recreation**. The **WHT** logo will be shown for each of these places.



The **Murrysville Trail Alliance (MTA)** developed a **Murrysville Trail Plan** for a community-wide network of hiking trails and bike-friendly roads, with the spine of the **WHT**.



WESTMORELAND RAMBLE THROUGH MURRYSVILLE, EXPORT, AND DELMONT

4.1 At Stop at Hills Church Road, continue on Old Wm. Penn.

You will see the **WHT** running on the left alongside Old William Penn Highway. For several years **WLT** has provided funding support for land acquisition to extend the **WHT**.



4.9 Bear R at the Y, to remain on Old William Penn Highway.

5.5 At Stop, turn L onto Cline Hollow Road. Then at traffic light turn R onto US Route 22. *Immediately move into the left lane.*

When Route 22 was widened in 2004/2005, the project included median plantings that Murrysville had worked to secure as part of a community beautification effort.

5.9 At traffic light, turn L onto School Road South.

At 6.0, you will cross the **WHT**.

6.1 Turn R into parking lot for Murrysville's Duff Park.

Duff Park is a **PA Wild Plant Sanctuary** with old growth deciduous forest and abundant spring-blooming wildflowers. **Friends of Murrysville Parks** have worked for years to control invasive plants in Duff Park. In 2013 **WLT** secured a generous donation of land and grant funding to significantly enlarge the park.



6.1 Turn around and exit by turning R onto School Road South.

6.9 Turn R onto Round Top Road.

At 7.1, you will see the Hoey / Staymates Cabin on the left. It was built in 1758 by Samuel Hoey and bequeathed by Bessie Staymates to the Girl Scouts in 1972. The cabin was purchased by Murrysville and restored with its barn by the **Murrysville Historical Preservation Society (MHPS)**. The historic Forbes Road ran nearby.



It is believed that George Washington camped in this area in November 1758, en route to Fort Duquesne (now Fort Pitt).

At 8.5 on the left is a greenway connecting **Duff Park** to Murrysville's **Pleasant Valley Park**, that was conserved by the **WLT** and donated to Murrysville. Pleasant Valley Park, accessed by car from Pleasant Valley Road, is a favored destination for many mountain bikers, hikers, and casual walkers. **Friends of PV Park** maintains trails throughout the park.



In this stretch you are travelling along the western end of **Duff Park**. The historic Forbes Road ran through this part of the park, in part along a tributary to Turtle Creek that was the site of a 1759 Native American ambush of British troops.

9.0 At Stop, turn R onto Pleasant Valley Road.

At 9.3, you will cross the **WHT**. You are not far from the former site of the **Haymaker Well**, the first commercial natural gas well in the United States, drilled by Obediah and Michael Haymaker in 1878. The well caught fire in 1881 and burned for over a year before the fire was extinguished. Later, Obediah was mortally injured defending the well from takeover by a group from Chicago.



WESTMORELAND RAMBLE THROUGH MURRYSVILLE, EXPORT, AND DELMONT

9.4 At traffic light, cross Route 22 onto Vincent Hall Road.

At 9.5, if you are able to look back you may see remnants of the historic "MURRYSVILLE" tree sign on the opposite hillside. It was created by **Boy Scouts** in 1933 and maintained by the **Sportsmen and Landowners Alliance of Murrysville** for many years until its trees became too large. At one time the sign was listed in the Guinness Book of Records.



9.5 At traffic light cross Old Wm. Penn Hwy. onto Sardis Road.

The crosswalks and clock at this intersection, and planters along Old Wm. Penn Hwy., were part of another Murrysville community beautification effort.

11.9 At Stop at School Road, continue straight on Sardis Road.

On the left you will see a stone house built c. 1790 by Michael Rugh. Michael and his family were captured by Native Americans in 1778 and taken to Canada. Michael and his wife Phoebe were released and after several years so was their daughter Mary. Their son Michael Jr. died in captivity. The house is now a private residence.

12.0 At Stop at Bulltown Road, continue straight on Sardis Road.

At 12.3 you will pass the **Murrysville Municipal Building** and **Murrysville Community Library** on the left. This library also maintains **WLT Westmoreland Nature Backpacks**, available to borrow.



12.5 Turn R onto Crowfoot Road.

At this intersection a 5-1/2 mile cross-Murrysville greenway trail known as the **Don Harrison Community Trail (DHCT)** crosses Sardis Road. The **DHCT** was established as a cooperative effort between the **Westmoreland Conservancy (WC)** and the Municipality of Murrysville.



The **DHCT** starts at Murrysville's Townsend Park and runs through three **WC** nature reserves and Murrysville Community Park before it terminates at the **WC's** Walter Reserve. Like almost all trails in Murrysville, the **DHCT** is maintained by volunteers.

At 13.0 you will see a parking lot on the right for two **WC** nature reserves, Potter's Corner and the King Reserve. The **DHCT** runs through both of them.



13.7 At Stop, turn L onto Hills Church Road.

14.0 At Stop, turn R onto Sinan Farm Road.

14.1 Turn L onto Sinan Drive.

14.3 Turn R onto Evans Road.

15.0 At Stop turn L onto Wiestertown Road.

15.2 Turn R into parking lot for the MCP Wetlands.

WESTMORELAND RAMBLE THROUGH MURRYSVILLE, EXPORT, AND DELMONT

The MCP wetlands were built with PennDOT funding to replace wetlands lost during the widening of Route 22. They are a delightful destination for many nature enthusiasts, with a seasonal purple martin colony. Read about the wetlands and see a live webcam at <https://pondwatcher.weebly.com/>.



15.3 Drive through parking lot, then at Stop turn L onto Wiestertown Road.

You will see more of MCP on both sides of the road. This 305-acre park includes playing fields, pavilions, bocce & shuffleboard courts, a paved walking trail, a Scouting area, a dog park, a bridle path, and hiking trails.

16.6 Continue straight on Wiestertown/Hills Church Road.

At 16.9, immediately beyond the intersection with Cline Hollow Road, at right is the childhood home of Thomas Mellon, who founded Mellon Bank. There is a replica of the original dwelling in the Ulster American Folk Park in Ireland.

17.7 At Stop, continue across Old William Penn Highway/Kennedy Avenue onto Van Buren Street.

On Van Buren Street you will cross the **WHT**.



17.8 At Stop, turn R onto West Pike Street.

18.2 Turn R into parking lot of the **Sampson-Clark Schoolhouse and Tollhouse**.

The Schoolhouse is a replica of a former schoolhouse off of West Pike Street, and the Tollhouse, now restored, was originally built between 1785 and 1790. The Schoolhouse and Tollhouse are maintained by the **MHPS**, and are sites of historical reenactments and celebrations.

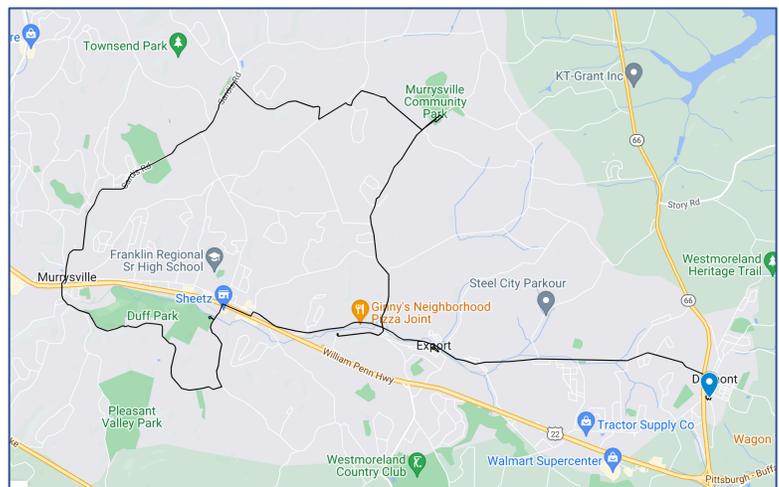


Congratulations, you have completed this Westmoreland Ramble!

We hope you have enjoyed this scenic drive.

Murrysville, Export, and Delmont all benefit from the commitment and dedication of the many individuals who work for the betterment of the communities. Each community features beautiful parks, natural areas, and structures of historical interest. Each community has benefitted from conservation of open space, and from the establishment of the Westmoreland Heritage Trail.

Map of this Westmoreland Ramble



WESTMORELAND RAMBLE THROUGH MURRYSVILLE, EXPORT, AND DELMONT

This Ramble was created by the Westmoreland Land Trust. There may be confusion about the Westmoreland Land Trust and the Westmoreland Conservancy because of the similarity of their names!

The Westmoreland Conservancy is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to acquiring and preserving rural and rustic lands for the public good. The Westmoreland Conservancy maintains 9 nature reserves that are valuable natural assets for Murrysville and Salem Township.

The Westmoreland Land Trust (**WLT**) is dedicated to conserving land of special ecological, cultural, or recreational value in Westmoreland County. **WLT** projects in Murrysville, Export, and Delmont have included conservation of the Peter and Victoria Skena Nature Preserve; enlargement of Murrysville's Duff Park and establishment of its greenway connection to Pleasant Valley Park; and support of land acquisition for the Westmoreland Heritage Trail.



Our Mission

To conserve and steward land in Westmoreland County of special ecological, cultural, or recreational value, for public benefit.

Our Vision

Throughout Westmoreland County open space and recreational land abounds, water resources are protected, and wildlife flourishes. Westmoreland County is known to families, businesses, and visitors for its high quality of life.