



#### ABSTRACT

Application Packet for the  
City of Pittsburgh  
Commission on Naming  
Public Properties

# FORMALIZING FRICK PARK'S TRAIL NAMES

Compiled by: Erica Heide, Frick Park Ranger



City of Pittsburgh Commission on Naming Public Properties

City of Pittsburgh, Department of City Planning

200 Ross Street, Fourth Floor

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

NAMING COMMISSION ON PUBLIC PROPERTIES

Application for Review

COVER FORM

Hearing Date: 4/5/2020

CURRENT AND PROPOSED NAME OF PROPERTY/FACILITY: Frick Park Single track Trails:

Concrete Block Trough  
276 Meadow

ADDRESS OF PROJECT PROPERTY: (Panger Office) 1 English Ln

HAS THIS PROJECT EVER COME BEFORE NAMING COMMISSION?  yes  no (check one)

If yes, when? \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_ year

APPLICANT NAME: Erica Heide (Pittsburgh Park Panger)

ADDRESS: 1 English Lane

City Pittsburgh

State, Zip PA, 15217

PHONE: 412-518-0280

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: erica.heide@pittsburghpa.gov

RELATIONSHIP OR ROLE IN PROJECT: Frick Park Panger

CO- APPLICANT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

RELATIONSHIP OR ROLE IN PROJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED PROPERTY: Formally name three single-track trails in Frick Park. All these names are used frequently & on trail-mapping sites but the need for signs to assist in emergency scenarios is pressing. These trails are designated as multi-use trails but preferred by mountain bikers.

Erica Heide  
1 English Lane  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217  
[Erica.heide@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:Erica.heide@pittsburghpa.gov)

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Ms. Danielle Nicol  
Senior Secretary, Dept. of City Planning  
Commission on Naming Public Properties

Dear Ms. Nicol,

I am submitting this packet of information with goals of being placed on the next Commission of Public Properties Hearing on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. This packet contains the information needed to formalize names of four single-track trails in Frick Park, Pittsburgh, PA.

The intent of formalizing these trail names is to improve communication in emergency scenarios and provide park goers with knowledge of the trails they use.

The four trails we wish to formalize names for are:

- Concrete Block Trail
- Trough Trail
- Two Seventy-Six Trail
- Clayton Hill

The trails proposed names have been used in numerous online mapping sites, including MTB project and Strava, and have been commonly referred to in the community for years. Therefore, renaming would not be necessary, but would be considered upon reasonable objections.

With support from the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and Trail Pittsburgh, and cooperation with the Eastern Division of Public Works, this project should tentatively be completed by summer of 2021, pending approval.

Sincerely,

Erica Heide  
Office of Public Safety  
Pittsburgh Park Ranger

Frick Park, established in 1919, then opened to the public in 1927, has undergone numerous iterations as it transitioned from the recreational phase of park planning, where sport fields, playgrounds and amenities dominated the primary focus, to an urban forest focused plan with natural surroundings to allow visitors to experience nature. As the park transitioned over the years, more and more trails have been developed and maintained by the City of Pittsburgh Public Works and volunteers with Trail Pittsburgh. With over 19 miles of trails, guests have the pleasure of enjoying a well thought out, interconnected trail network full of varying difficulties. Most trails have been marked with formalized names, however, few single-track trails remained unnamed. While these trails have well known nicknames, the influx of new visitors, due to the pandemic, requires these less well-known trails to have signs at the trail head. Our goal with this proposal is to name four single track trails within Frick Park. The trails are: Concrete Block Trail, Clayton Hill, Two Seventy-Six Trail, and Trough Trail.

Concrete-Block Trail is a single-track trail that is approximately 0.8 miles long. It is rated at intermediate-advanced, as it has many elevation changes and difficult terrain. The trail connects Iron Gate Trail to Lower Riverview and Firelane Extension. There is an upper and lower section of this trail. The trail gets its name from the large concrete blocks dumped along the hillside that the trail meanders over. It is presumed these blocks come from the removal of a trolley line which once paralleled what is now Forbes Avenue. To properly mark Concrete Block, Trail Pittsburgh requested five signs. Upon approval we will start with four trail signs and add a fifth if necessary.

Clayton Hill is a short trail that extends behind the Frick Environmental Center's fountain and terminates along South Clayton. It is approximately 0.6 miles. The trail is rated at beginner level, as its predominantly flat and has a very gradual uphill climb. This trail earned its name as it intersects the North and South Clayton Trails. This trail is frequently used by education groups and elderly, as its close to the entrance and often filled with wildlife including deer, owls, and snakes! This trail has two entrances, so two trail signs would suffice to properly mark this trail.

The Two Seventy-Six (or 276) Trail is a 1.3-mile trail that is predominately used by the mountain biking community. It is located across Nine Mile Run Stream and weaves up and down hill with the top overlooking the parkway. This trail is rated at intermediate-advanced for its gradient. Depending on the committee's suggestions we can name it using numbers or spell out the entire number. This trail got its name from the view of the parkway, or 376. The need to differentiate the parkway from the trail lead to the nickname "Two Seventy-Six" because it is similar to a "mini" parkway. This trail would only need one sign as there is only one authorized and maintained entrance to this trail.

The final trail we wish to name is Trough Trail. This trail is approximately 0.8 miles and parallels Bench and lower Riverview trails. It starts from the entrance of Bench Trail and lets out on the backside of Riverview trail. This trail is rated at intermediate, as it is narrow with uneven terrain and occasional hills. This trail earned its name for the old horse troughs found along the trail from when Frick Park was traveled by horse. Trough Trail gained popularity when the Great Horned Owl built a nest along the trail, and when Trail Pittsburgh built a well-known bridge over a muddy section of the trail. Trail Pittsburgh requested four signs for this trail, as it intersects well known trails in three different locations. Our goal is to start with three signs and add a fourth if we find it necessary.

Formalizing the names of these four trails in Frick Park is of great importance for visitors and the city. With the influx of park goers, due to pandemic related shutdowns, the parks are receiving more traffic than ever. Often visitors are found on these trails and are lost thanks to the lack of signage at the trail head. These lost individuals end up on hikes they are under prepared for, and occasionally get hurt. When notifying authorities, it results in searches by police, paramedics, fire, and rangers trying to respond as they do not know their location. With Frick Park spanning 644 acres, over 19 miles of trail and bordering four townships the time wasted could be life threatening. Installing trail signs with formalized names can result in life-saving information. In addition, we can create more accurate maps with cooperation between City Planning and Pittsburgh Park's Conservancy. Recently, the Department

of City Planning walked all the trails within Frick Park. They have a comprehensive map that shows all authorized and non-authorized trails. Our goal is to partner with City Planning to clean up these GIS maps. In addition to adding these four names we can add amenities, known hazards, accessibility information, and other details that can be shared with Public Safety to make emergency response more efficient.

Adding official trail signs to unnamed, “nicknamed”, trails has been discussed by numerous organizations and is easily doable. Organizations including Pittsburgh Park’s Conservancy, Trail Pittsburgh and Public Safety have requested signs at trail heads. Pittsburgh Park’s Conservancy desires a superior visitor experience and easier communication between staff during functions. Trail Pittsburgh has maintained many of these single-track trails and would like to see informed park goers using them. Public Safety needs signs for emergency scenarios, as mentioned earlier. Also, it would assist the rangers with directing park goers throughout the park when they come across them.

These signs can be made in-house and installed before the summer season, pending approval. With cooperation from the District of Public Works Eastern Division and conversations with the Park Foreman, Nick Rossi, they already have materials, tools, and personnel to create and install signs readily available. If approval is given, these signs can be engraved and painted by the end of April and installed by early May.

In conclusion, the formalization of the names Concrete Block, Meadow, Two Seventy-Six and Trough Trails is needed amongst the public and city. This project does not call for any “new” names to be proposed, just finalizing nicknames that have been used for years. Formalizing the names of these trails is supported by numerous organizations including Pittsburgh Park’s Conservancy, Trail Pittsburgh, and Public Safety. It will help current mapping projects already underway by the Department of City Planning and will potentially save lives by clarifying emergency response. With a plan to construct and install already solidified, this project is a simple solution to a multi-faceted problem.



# Frick Park Proposed New Trail Names

Courtesy of the Department of City Planning, Matthew Jacob

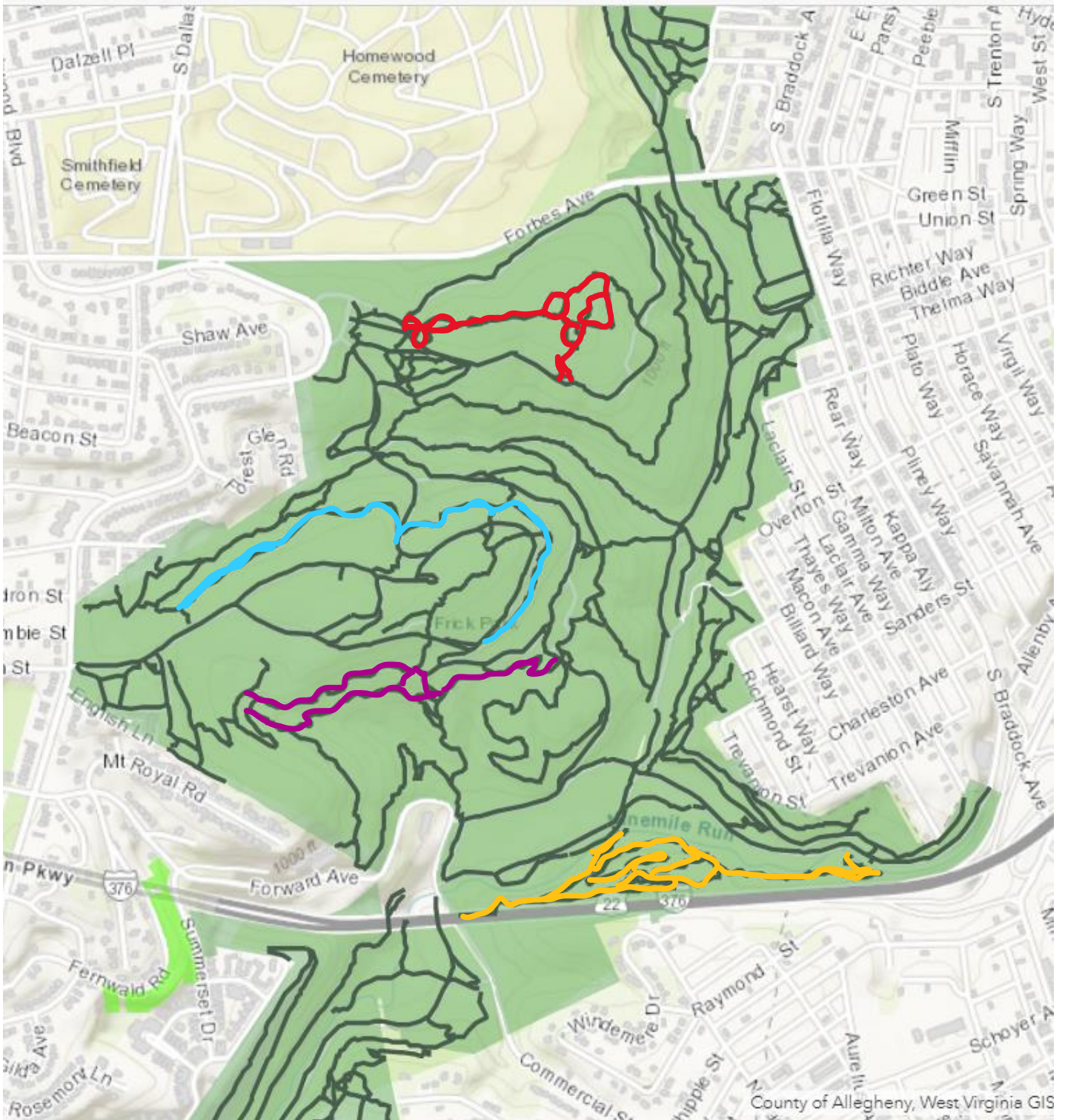


Figure 1: Comprehensive Frick Park Map Highlighting New Proposed Trail Names

- Trail Names Proposed:
- Highlighted in Red: Clayton Hill
  - Highlighted in Blue: Trough Trail
  - Highlighted in Purple: Concrete Block
  - Highlighted in Yellow: Two Seventy-Six



# Concrete Block Trail

## Site Map and Images

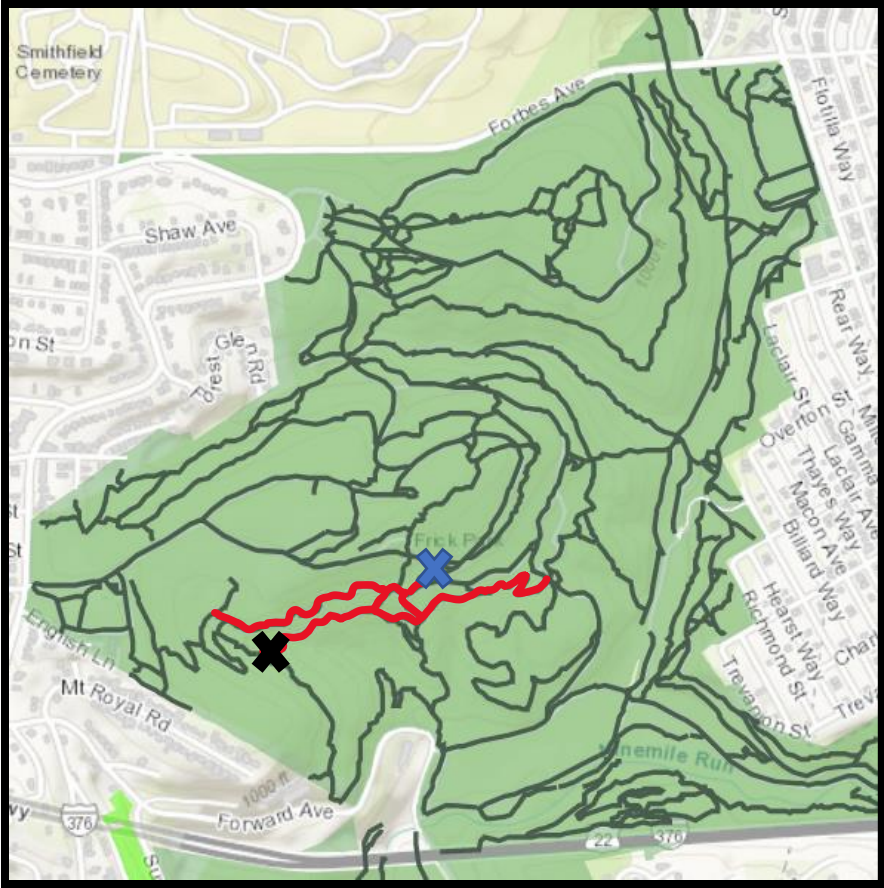


Figure 3: Concrete protruding from Concrete Block Trail

Figure 2: Concrete Block Trail outlined in red, map courtesy of Matthew Jacob, City Planning



Figure 4: Entrance to Concrete Block, depicted by blue X on map



Figure 5: Entrance to Concrete Block, depicted by black X on map



# Clayton Hill Trail

## Site Map and Images

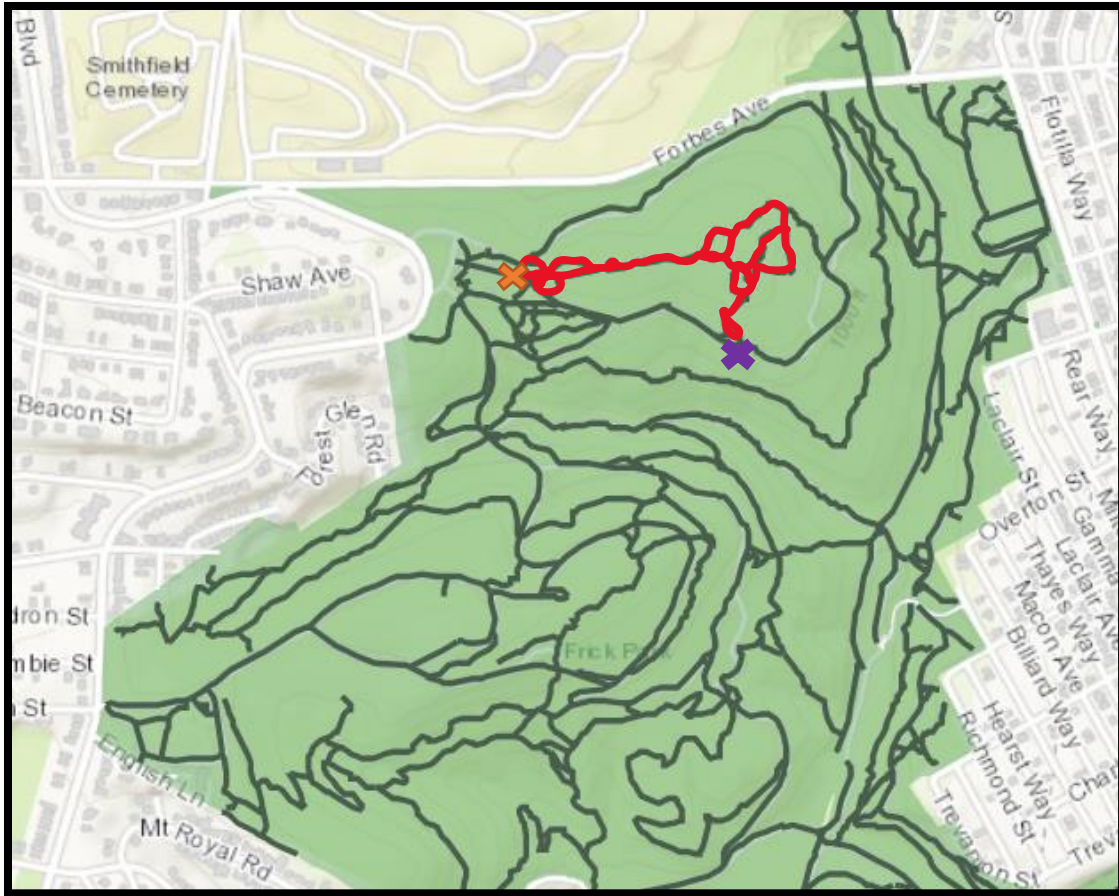


Figure 6: Clayton Hill Trail outlined in red, map courtesy of Matthew Jacob, City Planning



Figure 7: Entrance to Clayton Hill, depicted by an orange X on the map



Figure 8: Entrance to Clayton Hill, depicted by purple X on map



# Two Seventy-Six Trail

Site Map and Images



Figure 9: Two Seventy-Six Trail outlined in red, map courtesy of Matthew Jacob, City Planning



Figure 10: Entrance of Two Seventy-Six Trail, depicted by brown X on map



# Trough Trail

## Site Map and Images

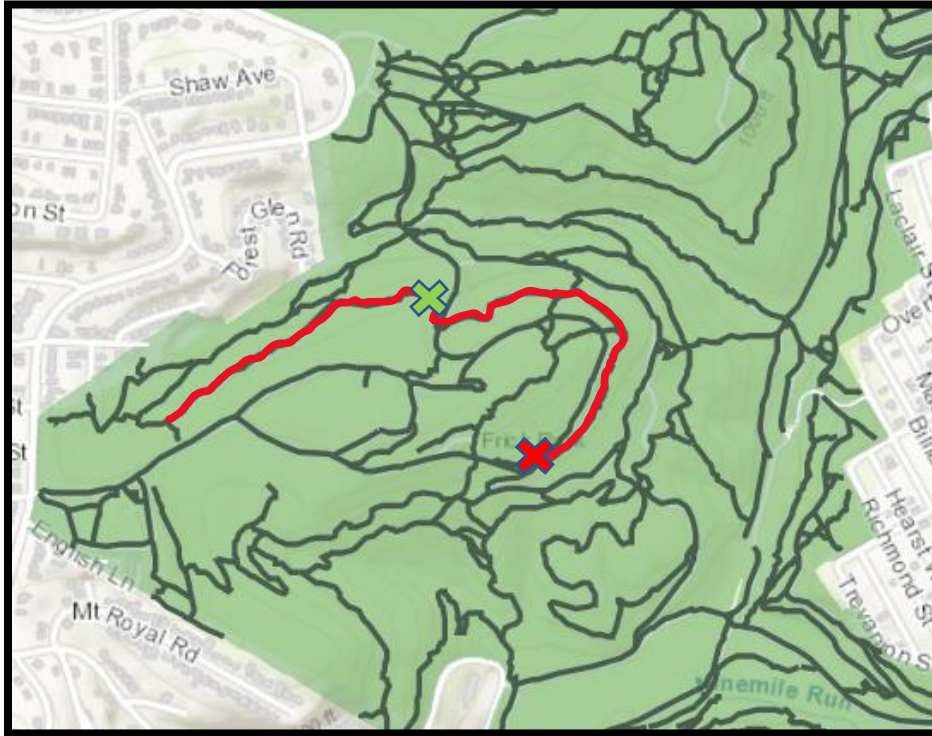


Figure 11: Trough Trail outlined in red, map courtesy of Matthew Jacob, City Planning



Figure 12: Bridge, Trough Trail



Figure 13: Horse Trough, Trough Trail



Figure 14: Entrance of Trough Trail, depicted by red X on map

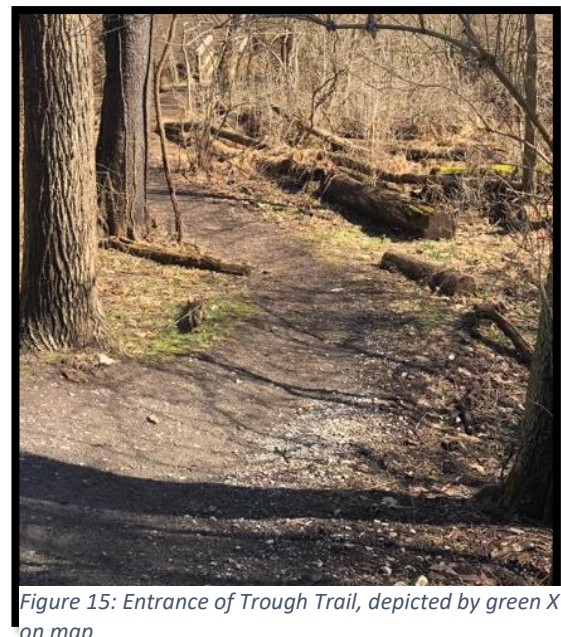


Figure 15: Entrance of Trough Trail, depicted by green X on map



Nick Rossi  
Eastern Parks Division Foreman  
1 English Lane  
Pittsburgh, PA 15217  
[Nick.Rossi@pittsburghpa.gov](mailto:Nick.Rossi@pittsburghpa.gov)

March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Ms. Danielle Nicol  
Senior Secretary, Dept. of City Planning  
Commission on Naming Public Properties

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in support to the trail naming application submitted by Erica Heide, the Frick Park Ranger. As the Park Foremen starting in fall of 2019, I saw firsthand how confusing the single-track trails in Frick Park can be. The four trails: Concrete Block, Clayton Hill, Trough Trail and Two Seventy-Six have not received an official name nor trail sign. These trails are maintained by our Eastern Division Public Works staff and Trail Pittsburgh.

Naming these trails will assist park goers in better reporting park issues such as fallen trees, excess run-off, and illegal dumping which my crew will be able to respond faster and more efficiently. In addition, signage will decrease the number of trails being created as it will deter people from cutting through the woods attempting to reach a known trail. Overall, the approval of this project will assist the rangers, my crew, and the public.

Our team at the Eastern Division is ready to create and produce these signs in a timely manner and get them installed before the summer season, pending approval. Erica has provided me with a map for the best placement of each sign to lessen the amount needed yet make them easily noticeable by the public.

If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I greatly support this project and agree with Erica in naming these trails after their nicknames to avoid addition confusion. I look forward to bettering our trails and hope to see this project go to completion!

Sincerely,

Nick Rossi  
Eastern Division Public Works Foreman





## **Frick Park Trail Names**

March 15, 2021

Naming Commission  
City of Pittsburgh  
Pittsburgh, PA

Dear City of Pittsburgh Naming Commission,

It is my pleasure write a letter in support of the single track trail name proposal being submitted by Erica Heide of the Pittsburgh Park Rangers.

Trail Pittsburgh is an all-volunteer organization that maintains the narrow wooded single track trail networks in 15 major regional parks. In Frick Park specifically we put in over 500 hours of volunteer labor each year. We work with the input and approval of DPW for major projects. In the past DPW has made some single track trail sign posts after adopting social trail names, and we have installed them. We would like to complete this project by officially recognizing the names of the remaining unmarked major trails and adding sign posts to them.

Having official trail names and signposts is important for many reasons. It makes navigation of the park easier by allowing people to more easily reference their location to a park map. It makes the park safer by giving people a better way to describe their location if they have to call for help or report a trail issue such as a fallen tree. And finally it recognizes the hard work Trail Pittsburgh volunteers have put in to making the park trail network more navigable by keeping the trails clear and improving connections between them.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of the Park Rangers as they seek approval to formalize the following trail names: Clayton Hill Trail, Concrete Block Trail, Trough Trail, and 276 Trail. Having these trail names officially recognized and labeled with signs will be a great improvement to Frick Park.

Sincerely,

Justin Scheifflee  
Trail Pittsburgh  
Frick Park Lead Steward



Camila Rivera-Tinsley  
*Education Director/Frick Environmental Center Director*  
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (Main Office)  
317 East Carson Street · West Tower · Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
[Ctinsley@pittsburghparks.org](mailto:Ctinsley@pittsburghparks.org)

3/17/2021

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to support the trail naming application being submitted by Erica Heide. The naming of the single-track trails within the park system will greatly enhance the ease of use by visitors. It will also help when creating maps and visual aids for way finding in the park. The Parks Conservancy fully supports providing better access for all park users and is prepared to help with this process in any way needed.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Camila Rivera-Tinsley', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Camila Rivera-Tinsley

Director of Education



Dick Wilford

Retired Frick Park Maintenance Manger

April 5<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear City of Pittsburgh's Naming Commission,

As the previous Frick Park Maintenance Manger for the past 27 years, I have seen countless changes in the park's grounds making it a forested retreat in the middle of the city. As the park has grown and aged the trails have become countless. Unfortunately, the trail names never caught up to the increasing number of trails.

As the Park Maintenance Manager, I was requested to make signs for numerous years but hesitated until their name was deemed official by the city. The four trails: Clayton Hill, Concrete Block, Trough Trail and Two Seventy-Six that Erica wishes to name have been around for a while and have been maintained by Public Works Staff and Trail Pittsburgh.

Naming these trails will help improve communication amongst all parties active in the park. Public Works officials will be able to find issues on trails easier. Mountain Bikers do not have to guess what trails they are taking within their loops. The park rangers will be able to accurately describe locations when emergencies occur. Overall, this project fixes many problems that were occurring.

I fully support this project, although retired, I still return to the park frequently and love to see the legacy continue.

Sincerely,



Dick Wilford

Retired Eastern Division Park Maintenance Manager