



Historic Route Series

Throughout the last 19 years we have varied our StepTrek routes to allow for exploration of all the areas of our neighborhood and steps. This summer, we are releasing a variety of these historic routes where you can safely take an urban hike in our neighborhood, at your leisure.

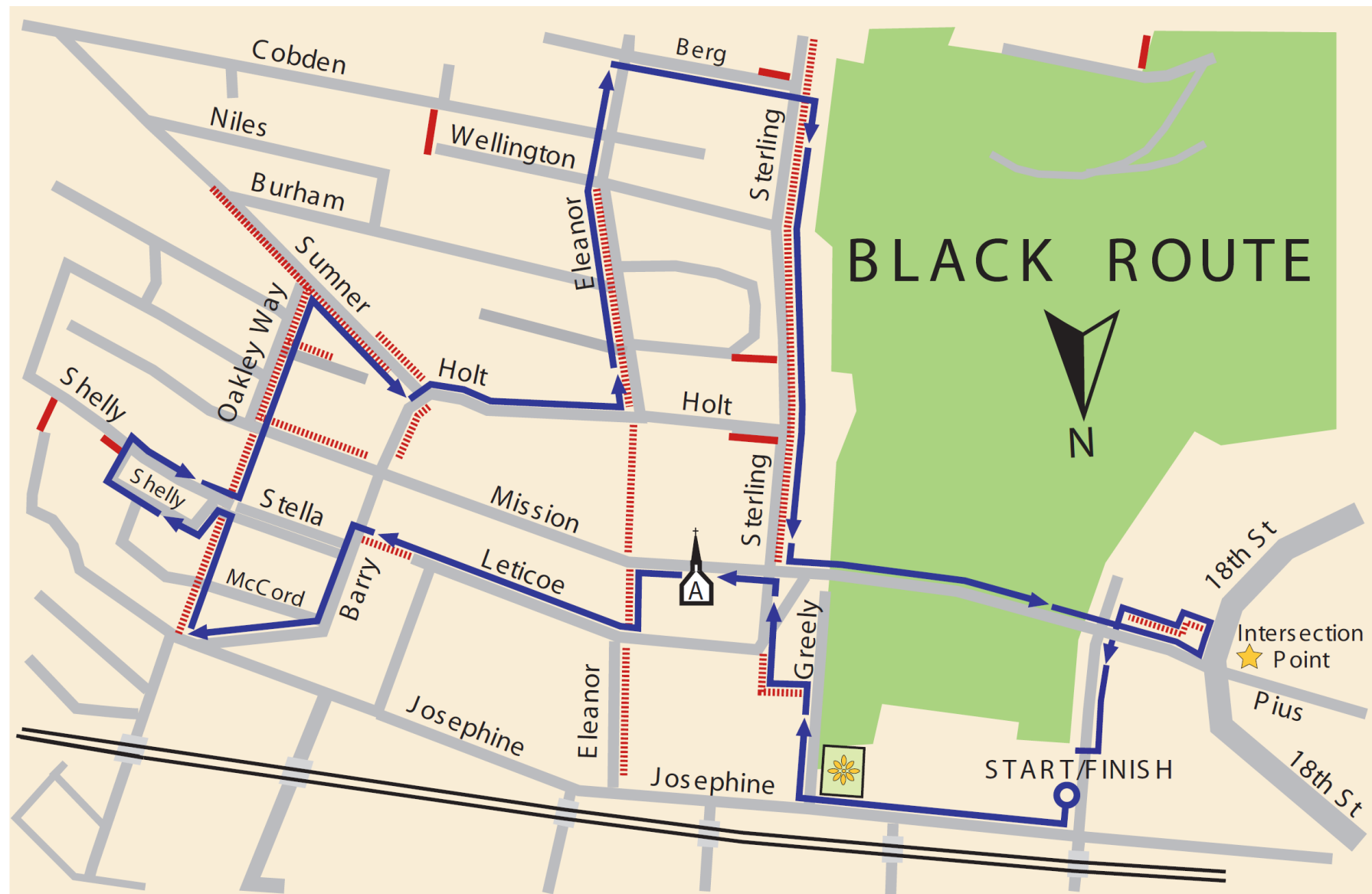


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2005 Black Route

Sponsored by

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#StepTrek



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* denotes history or significant building

1. **Starting** at the Registration Area (21st Street at Josephine), make a right on Josephine St. and walk east. Notice the saplings on the railroad side of the street. The South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association (SSSNA) advocated for their planting and recruited tree stewards to care for these 54 miniature maples that the Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission planted this spring along Josephine Street.
2. **Greely St.** – The first street on the right is Greely. Turn right. Here is the first of four gardens maintained by SSSNA members. It was planted in conjunction with the Western Penna. Conservancy. Continue up Greeley to the steps on the left, and ascend Eola Way.
3. **Eola Way** - This flight of stairs, built in 1947, contain 96 steps that are 4-ft wide. They start at Greeley, climb 51 steps, turn right and go another 46 steps to end at the corner of Leticoe and Sterling Streets. More houses were built here than currently stand. Notice the foundation ruins perched over the hillside on the right.
4. **Sterling St.** - At the top of the steps, keep to the right & walk up Sterling so the St. Josaphat's church hall is on your left. At Mission Street, the first intersection, make a left onto Mission.
5. **Join Here from Gold Trek: Mission St. at Sterling St.** – At this corner, on the left, is St. Josaphat Roman Catholic church
6. * **St. Josaphat Chapel** – Dedicated in 1916, the church was built to serve a Polish parish that was established in 1901. The building is Romanesque with a Byzantium influence evident in the arches and pillars, the painting of Christ above the altar and the bell tower. The main altar holds relics of St. Josaphat. In the rear, facing beneath the choir balcony, is a picture of the Black Madonna. Many Polish descendents continue to inhabit this section of the Slopes.
7. **Mission St.** - Proceed east along Mission. Across from the Chapel, tucked into the hillside on the right, is the memorial to veterans of World Wars I & II. For a sampling of the Slopes ethnicity, take a look at the names.
8. **Eleanor St. Steps** – Cross to the left side. These steps begin at 2401 Mission Street. Descend the 100 steps to Leticoe Street. As you walk, notice the houses whose only access is from the steps. Moving day takes on new meaning here.
9. **Leticoe St.** – Make a right on Leticoe and continue east. Notice the houses tucked behind houses on the left in the 2500 block and continuing on the left behind Kosciusko Street. Close quarters!
10. **Leticoe St. Steps** – Located at the eastern terminus of Leticoe Street, these 3-ft. wide wooden steps were rebuilt in the 1990's. There are 57 steps. At the top, make a left onto Barry Street.
11. **Barry St. Steps** – Notice the sidewalk steps on both sides of Barry. Keeping to the left side, descend Barry. The route traverses 58 steps. Built in 1945, they are 5-ft. wide. After Barry loops to the right, notice the neighborhood garden planted into the hillside to the left. Created in conjunction with the Western Penna. Conservancy, the flowers are maintained by SSSNA members. Four of the 54 shade trees line the curb along Josephine.
12. **Josephine St.** – At the bottom of Barry, turn right. The shale cliff on the right has two caves that were once used for beer storage by a distributor. Cinder blocks seal the caves, but the brick arch can still be seen over the one to the left of the “No Parking” sign. Walk east along Josephine until you reach the Oakley Way Steps on the right.
13. **Oakley Way Steps** – These 289 steps, built in 1928, reach to Mission St. Notice the foundations of long gone houses on the left as you climb from Josephine. Cross McCord St. After the first 160 steps, you'll reach Shelley Street. Take a break. You've just climbed the equivalent of 12 floors.

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14. **Shelly Street** – Turn left. Take the high road and you will pass one of our artist venues on the right. Continue on and follow the road where it makes a right and ascends to Stella St.
15. * **Along Shelley St.** are six of eight new townhouses completed in the last eight months in this section of the Slopes. Around 1935 the Work Projects Administration (WPA) terraced this part of the hillside and created the bi-level street topped by beautiful iron fences. In 1998 Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation designated the Stella-Shelley area as a historically significant landmark. At 2721 Shelley is the home of the late U. S. Representative Elmer Joseph Holland who served in Congress from 1942-43 and from 1956 until his death in 1968.
16. **Stella St.** – Make a right. Continue to Oakley Way steps on the left.
17. **Oakley Way Steps** – Continue up Oakley Way another 98 steps to Mission Street. When you cross Mission, look back at the view! Continue up another 44 steps to Sumner Street. Turn right and walk to the Sumner Street steps.
18. **Sumner St. Steps** – These 85 steps descend through a canopy of trees.
19. **Holt St.** – Turn left on to Holt Street and take the walkway to the right. At the corner of Holt Street and Eleanor Street, look to your right. This is the site where 3 houses used to stand. On Memorial Day 1998, the three homes that stood here, most of the century, were burned to the ground in a fire. Difficult topography and large fire equipment resulted in a single dwelling fire becoming a three home fire. This was the catalyst for the formation of SSSNA. The first job was to lobby the City for smaller fire trucks and by December 1999, the City had taken delivery of the first of several smaller pumper trucks!
20. **Eleanor St. Parklet** – This is the Black Trek rest stop. Rebuilt by Citiparks, this terrace of playground equipment and benches offers a stunning view of downtown and the Point, and is a favorite site to watch fireworks. Take a break. Congratulations, you’ve walked ____ steps, the equivalent of ____ stories.
21. **Eleanor St.** – Continue up Eleanor St. on the left side. These sidewalks contain the fewest number of steps – exactly one – of any in the City. A much needed handrail assists the ascent up the steep slope. A classic paper street, it is the only “street” to climb from Josephine to the top of the Slopes. At night, the vertical path of its street lights are visible from Oakland and the Birmingham Bridge. Continue past Cobden St. to Berg St.
22. **Berg St.** – Make a right and climb the 9 sidewalk steps on the right side. Continue walking along the paved portion of Berg to the steps at the street’s end.
23. **Berg St. Steps** – Descend these 43 wooden steps constructed in 1997.
24. **Sterling St. Steps** – Turn right and descend. Built in 1951, the steps connect to Patterson St. above you. Notice Oakland, the Flats & downtown. As you walk down the Sterling Street Steps, the 64-acre South Side Park is the large greenspace to your right. To the left are several new homes recently rehabilitated from centuries old footprints. Walk the 53 steps to our next artist’s venue, which is to your left on Wellington Street. Stop to see their work. Continue the 213 steps down to Mission St.
25. **Mission St.** – Make a left and continue west on Mission. After the first bridge is the Mission St. pumping station circa 1900. Walk across the second bridge to 18th St.
26. **Gold Course** – You may join the **Gold Course** by crossing 18th St. at the traffic signal to Pius St. or return to the start by descending the steps behind the bus shelter on the left. These 100 steps drop down to 21st St. and the registration area.

SOUTH SIDE
SLOPES
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

#StepTrek

Save the Date!



Oct 1-7, 2020

In our 20th year of the Pittsburgh StepTrek, the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association intends to support our community and region with an outdoor, family friendly, socially distanced, and safe event that will help people to get out and explore our neighborhood. We understand the implications of our current situation with the pandemic and financial fallout that has accompanied it. Our intent is to produce an enjoyable experience in our neighborhood, while keeping our distance from each other.

StepTrek.org