



## *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. To celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we are releasing a variety of these historic routes where you can safely take an urban hike in our neighborhood, at your leisure.

## #StepTrek





*Historic Route Series*

# 2002 Gold Route

Sponsored by

**UPMC** | **MERCY**

1. **Starting** at the Registration Area (21<sup>st</sup> Street at Josephine), make a left and walk west on Josephine to 18<sup>th</sup> St. At this intersection is the newest Slopes garden, completed just one month ago. Built in partnership with the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, it will be maintained by Slopes Association members.
2. **18<sup>th</sup> St.** – Make a right on 18<sup>th</sup> St. and keep to the right side. Continue down the street to the curve at the railroad trestle. Cross over to the steps. The Victoria era garden here has a representation of plants native to the Slopes hillside gardens. Funded by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, the garden is maintained by Association members.
3. **18<sup>th</sup> St. Steps** – Climb these 122 steps to Pius St. Make a right on Pius.
4. **Join Here from Black Trek** – Continue west along Pius. One house past the 18<sup>th</sup> St. steps, in the 100 block on the right, is the All Wars Memorial tucked behind a fence. Continue west on Pius.
5. **On the left** at 64 Pius is the theatre of the Veronica's Veil Players. They host a series of plays throughout the year but are most famous for their Passion Play, Veronica's Veil, performed each spring during Lent.
6. **The Burning Bush** – Like the buildings that house the theatre and the condominiums to the east, the Burning Bush Retreat Center is a part of the complex that was St. Michael's Parish. The Burning Bush offers a retreat center for quiet meditation in overnight rooms.
7. **15<sup>th</sup> St. Steps & Footbridge** – At St. Michael's Rectory, make a right on 15<sup>th</sup> St. and descend to the recently opened 15<sup>th</sup> St. footbridge as it crosses the Norfolk Southern Railroad. At the request of SSSNA & Slopes residents, the City and the railroad completed this footbridge this summer, and the one at 10<sup>th</sup> St., to reconnect the Slopes to the Flats. The 119 steps descend to Breed St. on the South Side Flats.
8. **Breed St.** – Make a left on Breed St. and continue west to 12<sup>th</sup> St.
9. **12 St. & Brosville St. Steps** – Make a left on 12<sup>th</sup> St. and ascend the sidewalk on the left side as 12<sup>th</sup> becomes Brosville St. As you cross over the railroad tracks, to your left stands the 15<sup>th</sup> St. pedestrian bridge, while to the right is the 10<sup>th</sup> St. pedestrian bridge. It's 17 steps to Clinton St. and another 27 steps to Pius St. and St. Michael R. C. Church.
10. **St. Michael R. C. Church** – On the left as you reach Pius St. is St. Michael Church. Built between 1855 and 1866 for a German Catholic congregation, it was designed by Charles Bartberger. Famous for the prayers that spared parishioners from the deadly cholera plague of over 150 years ago, St. Michaels was closed for years and is now being redeveloped as condominiums.
11. **St. Michael St. Steps** – At the corner of Pius & Brosville St., cross the street to the St. Michael St. steps. They climb 150 steps to Hackstown St. Six of the last 7 steps are wood.
12. **Hackstown St.** – Make a right on Hackstown. Across the street and down 15 yards are the St. Thomas St. steps. Another 50 yards on Hackstown is the Kanyuseak-Zofcin House at 112 Hackstown. Built and inhabited circa 1890 – 1920, it was the residence of a steelworker from the Jones & Laughlin works along the Monongahela River.
13. **St. Thomas St. Steps (part 1)** – These next 78 steps continue up to St. Joseph's Way. Turn around and you are on level with the top of St. Michael's Church steeple. Also visible is the Mon River and Pitt's upper campus. Walk one half block up to Monastery St.
14. **St. Thomas St. Steps (part 2)** – Cross Monastery and take the 79 steps on the right hand side of St. Thomas St. past Regina St., past St. Martin St. and on up to E. Warrington Ave. Cross St. Thomas here and descend the 7 wooden steps on the opposite side to the sidewalk. Descend 7 more steps to St. Martin. Mercy Hospital, Duquesne University, downtown, the Point and North Side are all visible across the river. Continue down 79 steps to Monastery.

**#StepTrek**



*Historic Route Series*

# 2002 Gold Route

Sponsored by

UPMC | MERCY

15. **Monastery St.** – Make a right on Monastery St. Ascend the 32 steps on the right side that were built in 1950. Ahead is St. Paul of the Cross Monastery. The church was built in 1859 and also designed by the architect Charles Bartberger. On the riverside of the building is a view of the Mon River, Station Square and the Ohio River. The church is open for quiet visitation.
16. **Monastery Ave.** – Turn right on Monastery Ave. and then left onto St. Paul St. The course winds around St. Paul Retreat House sits on the left. Stay on the sidewalk to the right. Behind the high brick wall are the Monastery gardens and Stations of the Cross. Do not descend, but 100 yards before Yard Way are the 82 steps down to 18<sup>th</sup> St. Stay on St. Paul to Yard Way.
17. **Yard Way** – Welcome to Billy Buck Hill! Make a left on Yard Way and walk to Shamokin St. View uptown, Oakland and Greenfield across the river. The LTV site under development sits to the bottom right. The Yard Way steps, built in 1944, contain a total of 317 steps, and extend down to Pius St. Cross Shamokin & descend 63 steps to Winter's Playground at Huron St. and another 52 steps to Baldauf St.
18. **Baldauf St.** – Make a left on Baldauf into the Gold Trek rest stop. At this point you have traversed 790 steps so relax and refresh.
19. **Short St. Steps** – At the end of Baldauf, make a right onto Short St. Steps. These 105 steps were built in 1900 and descend to Magdalene St.
20. **Magdalene St.** – Make a right onto Magdalene St. You'll cross the Yard Way steps and continue to Oporto St.
21. **Oporto St.** – Make a right onto Oporto Street. These stairs date to 1950 and climb 124 steps to Baldauf St.
22. **Baldauf St.** – Make a right onto Baldauf St. Continue one long block to the Yard Way steps. It's all down hill from here.
23. **Yard Way Steps** – Make a right onto the Yard Way steps and descend 186 steps past Roscoe St. and Magdalene St. to Gregory St. The last 13 steps of Yard Way were rebuilt to Pius St. in preparation for the prior StepTrek.
24. **Pius St.** – If you have joined the Gold Trek via the Mission St. bridges, jump down to # 26 on this list. If not, make a right onto Pius St. and continue to 18<sup>th</sup> St.
25. **18<sup>th</sup> St.** – Cross 18<sup>th</sup> St at the light to Mission St. You may join the **Black Trek** by continuing east on Mission St. across the two bridges to Sterling St. or return to the start by descending the steps behind the bus shelter on the right. These 102 steps drop down to 21<sup>st</sup> St. and the registration area.
26. If you joined this course from the **Black Trek** and the Mission St. bridges, turn left on Pius. Walk to the 100 block of Pius and enter the steps on the right.
27. **18<sup>th</sup> St. Steps** – Descend these 122 steps to the 18<sup>th</sup> St. garden and 18<sup>th</sup> St. This garden has a representation of plants native to the Slopes hillside gardens. Funded by the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, the Victorian Era garden is maintained by Association members.
28. **18<sup>th</sup> St.** – Cross 18<sup>th</sup> street and ascend the sidewalk on the left side to Josephine St.
29. **Josephine St.** – Make a left on Josephine St. At the corner of 18<sup>th</sup> & Josephine is the newest Slopes garden. Funded by Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, the garden will be maintained by SSSNA members. Continue on Josephine St. to the 21<sup>st</sup> St. registration area.

SOUTH SIDE  
SLOPES  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION

**#StepTrek**



# Save the Date!



# Oct 1-7, 2020

In our 20<sup>th</sup> 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