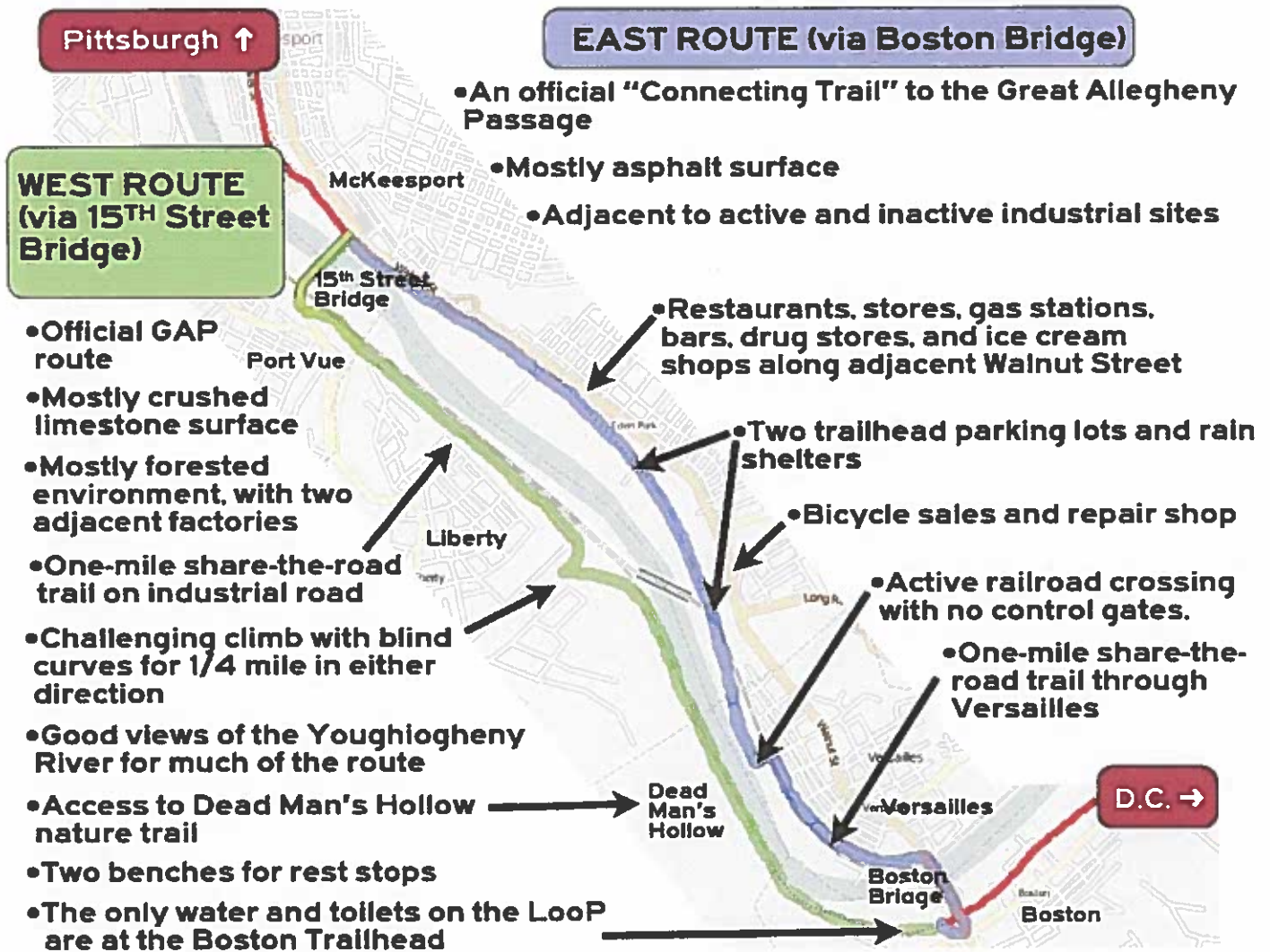


# THE SCOOP ON THE



The Loop Section of the Youghiogheny River Trail and Great Allegheny Passage, marked with green "Loop" bike logo signs, goes for exactly 6.2 miles, or 10 kilometers, on both sides of the Youghiogheny River between the 15<sup>th</sup> Street and Boston bridges.

The Loop trail between Versailles and the 15<sup>th</sup> Street bridge is paved for almost two miles. Great roller blading! This is the Christy Park Section of McKeesport. We call it the "Feed Zone". There are over ten eateries along Walnut Street (parallel to the trail) and in the Olympia Shopping Center, offering everything from fast food, ice cream and beer to the best homemade pasta this side of Italy. If you are hungry, you have to come to the "Feed Zone". Two trailheads along this stretch have shelters and kiosks with maps. In Versailles, the Loop follows share-the-road streets to the Boston Bridge (walk your bike on the sidewalk across this narrow bridge) and rejoins the Loop at Boston. Turn hard right

after crossing the Boston Bridge and you are back on the limestone path Loop heading back to McKeesport, or, if you wish, go south on the YRT portion of the GAP to West Newton and beyond, all the way to Cumberland, Maryland.

If you continue to take the Loop trail to the 15<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge, you will pass the Dead Man's Hollow Wildlife Preserve. Take a break on a shaded bench just inside the Hollow or a 1/2 mile cool and shady walk through the Hollow to view an abandoned clay pipe factory. From Dead Man's Hollow, the Trail continues on a paved surface up an 8% grade to River Ridge Road, which leads to the 15<sup>th</sup> Street bridge. Use the sidewalk to cross the bridge and stay on the Loop or continue north on the Great Allegheny Passage to the McKees Point trailhead. From McKees Point, the trail continues northeast for 16 miles to Point State Park in Pittsburgh.