Route Two

The second route is also two miles long and contains 1390 steps. On this route you will walk up 680 steps (370 feet) and down 710 steps (380 feet) which is approximately equivalent to walking up and down a 31 story building. Think of traversing the floors of the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning as you walk.

Once again you can park near the intersection of South 21st Street and Josephine, but then walk west on Josephine Street to South 18th Street and cross. The first steps are the picturesque high flight of steps across the street. This flight of steps was constructed in 1940 and connects South 18th Street to Pius Street. There are 122 steps (S13).

At the top, turn right at Pius Street and walk to South 15th Street. Here (S14) turn right and take the 11 sidewalk steps on the right side of the street down to Clinton Street. At this point there is the start of the new footbridges (street steps) connecting South 15th Street in the Slopes with South 15th Street in the Flats. This bridge is also South 15th Street (an unusual paper street). Go down these 120 street steps onto the “real” South 15th Street and then turn left onto Breed Street. Continue on to South 12th Street where you turn left and start up Brosville Road. Across the railroad bridge there are 42 sidewalk steps (S15) on Brosville Road which bring you to the intersection of Brosville Road and Pius Street.

Cross the intersection to the Saint Thomas Street steps (S16) and ignore the graffiti identifying them as Saint Michael’s Street. There are 115 steps leading up to Saint Michael Street. Continue across Saint Michael Street and take the next set of Saint Thomas Street steps to Saint Joseph Way (S17). This set consists of 78 steps. At this point Saint Thomas Street becomes a “real” street with sidewalk steps. Continue along Saint Thomas Street to Monastery Street taking the six sidewalk steps on the right.

Cross Monastery Street and take the sidewalk steps on the right (S18). These 65 steps lead almost to Saint Martin Street. At the end of the steps cross to the other side of Saint Thomas Street, and take the 79 sidewalk steps on this side back to Monastery. These steps afford one of the most scenic views of the walk (indeed of almost any place in the area).

Turn right at Monastery and take the sidewalk steps on the right side (S19). These number 32 and were built in 1950. At the top of the steps continue along Monastery Street past Saint Paul Street to South 18th Street where the route turns left. Walk down South 18th Street to a set of steps on the left (S20). These steps, built in 1970 connect South 18th Street to Saint Paul Street.

There are 76 steps up to Saint Paul Street. Turn right on Saint Paul Street and walk to Yard Way. Turn left on Yard Way and walk to Shamokin Street. The Yard Way street steps (S21) built in 1944 contain a total of 317 steps and extend from this intersection down to Pius Street. The route continues down 115 of these steps to Baldauf Street.

At Baldauf Street turn left and cross through the playground to Short Street. These street steps (S22) were constructed in 1990 and there are 105 steps leading down to Magdalene Street. Turn right at the bottom of the steps and walk on Magdalene Street back to Yard Way.

Turn right at the Yard Way steps (S21) and walk up the 148 steps to Baldauf Street. At Baldauf Street turn left and walk to the Oporto Street steps (S23). These steps date to 1950 and there are 124 steps leading down to Roscoe Street. At the bottom turn toward the right and cross down to Magdalene Street. Turn left onto Magdalene Street and walk back to the Yard Way steps.

Turn right onto the last segment of the Yard Way steps. These 54 steps connect Magdalene Street to Pius Street. Turn right on Pius Street and walk to South 18th Street. The last set of steps (S24) connects the intersection of South 18th Street and Mission Street to South 21st Street. Walk down these 102 steps (built in 1950) and continue onto South 21st Street. A left turn leads back to the start of the route.