



Plan for water trail gets funding

Sunday, August 01, 2010

By John Hayes, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

In the centuries before and during European colonization of what is now Pennsylvania, the Ohio River was used by Indians, trappers and soldiers as a water route to the West. The "route" will soon be upgraded to a "trail."

About the Author



John
Hayes

 [Email Author](#)

 Call 412-263-1991

Outdoors editor John Hayes grew up in Pittsburgh's eastern suburbs in a culture steeped in hunting, fishing, camping and

[More »](#)

 [Hunting/Fishing](#)

[Get Out Events, Hunting & Fishing Calendar for 8/1/10](#)

[New research supports mentor programs for young hunters](#)

[Fishing: The three rivers have a healthy mix of walleyes, saugers and saugeyes](#)

Last month the Ohio River Trail Council was awarded a \$10,000 grant by the Port of Pittsburgh Commission to develop safe, efficient and interesting passage for canoes and kayaks on the river through Allegheny and Beaver counties.

The proposed Ohio River Water Trail will enhance paddling and rowing access to the Ohio River, Beaver River and Little Beaver Creek near the towns of Bridgewater, Monaca, Ohioville and Rochester. The grant will be used to pay for design, construction and installation of four kayak and canoe launch sites, storage racks, signs, picnic tables, benches, bike racks and other amenities.

"The proposed trail, when completed, will enhance and further develop recreational opportunities for the communities along the Ohio River Trail corridors as well as the region, by linking existing and proposed pedestrian, bicycle, recreation, open space, and transportation facilities while protecting environmental and cultural resources and improving public access to the river's edge," said Sean Garrigan, principal of the Ohio River Trail Feasibility Study, on the nonprofit group's website. "One of the major outcomes of the project will be to foster further recreation and cultural-based economic development within the local communities and the region, capitalizing on the synergy of ecotourism and the potential development of a larger recreation and parks system as a way to reposition all the evolved communities for the 21st century business and lifestyle needs."

The Port of Pittsburgh Commission "[promotes] the commercial use and development of the waterway-intermodal transportation system and to integrate that system into the economic, recreational, environmental and intermodal future of the residents of southwestern Pennsylvania."

John Hayes: jhayes@post-gazette.com or 412-263-1991.