PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Planning to begin on 5-mile extension of Heritage Trail

By Tory N. Parrish
PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW
Tuesday, November 8, 2011

The nonprofit steward of Three Rivers Heritage Trail is seeking a professional's help to plan a 5-mile extension of the 22-mile corridor.

Developed over 20 years, the biking, walking and hiking trail runs along both sides of the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio rivers.

Friends of the Riverfront is soliciting requests for proposals from consultants to identify right-of-way access, the trail path, property owners, etc., said Thomas Baxter, the group's executive director.

The extension would connect Pittsburgh and Coraopolis at the planned Allegheny County Sports & Athletic Complex at Montour Junction, a 78-acre complex that would reach into Moon and Robinson. The county expects to begin work on the complex next summer or fall.

The trail would link to the Montour Trail and provide a non-motorized connection through the South Hills and access to Pittsburgh International Airport, according to Friends of the Riverfront.

It would pick up where the trail ends along the Ohio River at Station Square on the South Shore and head downriver, Baxter said. He said it is too soon to tell what the cost might be.

The property along the banks of the Ohio River has been industrialized, so it would be difficult to build a typical trail in the area, he said.

Friends of the Riverfront anticipates that development would involve some sort of multi-use trail, which would be 12 feet wide and paved, Baxter said.

"It (would be) open to people of all ages and abilities," he said.

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Allegheny County, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Friends of the Riverfront and other groups will pay up to $48,000 for the consultant.

Tory N. Parrish can be reached at tparrish@tribweb.com or 412-380-5662.

Images and text copyright © 2011 by Trib Total Media, Inc.
Reproduction or reuse prohibited without written consent.