

[Pedal pushers: Monaca-to-Robinson hiking and biking trail would be a great asset](#)

[Beaver County Times](#)

Published: Wednesday, June 10, 2009 8:15 AM EDT

Taking a hike could have a whole new meaning for area residents if two local men have their way.

Monaca borough manager Mario Leone Jr. and borough businessman Vincent Troia envision a hiking-and-biking path called the South Shore Trail running along the Ohio River from Monaca to the Montour Trail in Robinson Township.

But they're thinking bigger than that.

They envision a hiking-and-biking trail that one day would run from Lake Erie in Ohio to Washington, D.C. To accomplish that, Leone is also looking into a Bridgewater-to-East Liverpool, Ohio, trail that would hook up with the still-working-on-it Great Ohio Lake-to-River Trail, which ends in Ashtabula at Lake Erie.

The Erie-to-Potomac connection is closer to reality than some might believe. A series of rails-to-trails already link Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C., and the almost-completed Montour Trail would tie into it at Clairton. The East Liverpool-to-Robinson trails are the most important missing link.

Right now, Leone and Troia are putting together the grant money that is needed for a feasibility study. They're also making sure about the rights of way the South Shore Trail will need.

This trail would be an important development, and not just for residents of the communities through which it would go.

Because of its terrain, our region doesn't have many places that are user friendly to serious and recreational hikers and bikers. By helping to fill this void, the South Shore Trail would further enhance the quality of life in our region.

This project deserves to be supported not only by federal, state and local governments but by area residents as well. It would be money well spent.