

## Beaver County Online

June 13, 2009

Monaca's city manager is starting a push to begin work on a trail along the Ohio River for hiking, walking and biking. The borough already has \$20,000 (remaining from a halted pool study) of the estimated \$35,000 to begin the project. The trail would be intended to connect with the Montour Trail which will soon connect to the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP already connects to the C&O). The C&O ends in DC.

Leone, Jr. is also interested in building the trail west to connect with the Great Ohio River to Lake Trail.

Michael Pound has a nice piece on this in the Times.

There is also an editorial on the construction of the trail.

While the Times article garnered positive response in the comments section, the opinion piece didn't fair as well. Although there were a few raves. The rants ruled, including the following:

Personally, I think this idea is brilliant. The cost to put in a trail is (relatively) minimal and while maintenance is certainly necessary it doesn't equate to many parks and recreation initiatives. Perhaps, some of this comes from my own love of cycling and being in the outdoors with my family, but building recreation areas such as this will improve our area exponentially.

It does not only contribute to those who will use it, but it will increase both pride in our area and a draw for future residents. Currently, not only my family, but several others I know, load up their families and drive nearly 2 hours to ride trails (45 minutes to Lisbon, Oh, 35 minutes to Coraopolis, or even over 90 minutes to ride the beautiful rails to trails in Oil City). I pull my spawn in a trailer behind my bike and I refuse to drag my kids around on the streets of my city. Many drivers here simply do not have an eye for spotting cyclists (yes, I have been hit once and have had many near-misses).

So, keep going Monaca! And here's to Beaver Falls extending their trail. One mile is a good start, but its time to get blazin' again.