

# Beaver County Times

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## Ohio River Trail Council gets assistance from feds

By: Michael Pound  
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MONACA — The group working to build rail trails along the Ohio River from Moon Township to Ohioville will have some experienced help as it moves towards starting work on the first section of the trail.

The Ohio River Trail Council will get technical assistance from a section of the National Park Service, officials announced on Tuesday; the Ohio River Trail will be one of just five projects in the state to receive the help from the service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.

"They have a lot more experience with building trails than we do," said Vincent Troia, the Monaca resident who serves as chairman and chief executive officer of the trail council. "We're very happy that they recognized the potential for our plans and that they're willing to help."

The National Park Service will help the local effort in a couple of ways, Troia said. The council is about to kick off the feasibility study for the north shore section of the trail, which would run from Rochester to Ohioville, and park service staffers will help with the preparation of that report.

The service will also help to connect the Ohio River Trail Council with counterparts in West Virginia and Ohio, so they can work towards the goal of establishing a Tri-State Trail Alliance; that group would make physical connections among trails in the three states as well as share resources.

"The proposed Ohio River Trail is a critical and missing link to nationally significant trail linkages," Peggy Pings, an outdoor recreation planner with the park service, said in a statement. "I am looking forward to working closely with the Ohio River Trail Council, adjacent communities and other nearby trail groups to help create a vision for a linking system of trails."

Work on the south shore portion of the trail, which will run from Monaca to Moon, is progressing as well, Troia said. The council will soon receive a final version of the feasibility study for that section of the trail; once that's in, the council will turn towards raising money for engineering and construction.

"We're thinking that final price tag will be about \$6 million," Troia said.