

Festival to help fund Ohio River Trail

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By Len Barcoucky / Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Don't ask organizer Vincent Troia to name the best part of Sunday's Gear & Cheer Music Festival at Bradys Run Park.

"We're going to have eight bands -- nine or so hours of music," he said. "We'll have a 5K run, a mountain bike race, road cycling, kayaking, rock-wall climbing ... what am I forgetting?"

Other festival activities will include stand-up paddleboarding, canoeing, hiking, arts-and-crafts making and craft beer tasting. Food and refreshments will be for sale.

Concert tickets are \$5 for ages 13 to 17 and \$10 for adults. Children age 12 and younger will be admitted free to the musical performances. Fees for other sports activities and the beer-tasting range from \$20 to \$35.

Profits from the second annual Gear & Cheer Festival will help build the Ohio River Trail.

The proposed biking-and-hiking path through Beaver County ultimately would link Mile Zero of the Montour Trail, which begins outside Coraopolis, with the Great Ohio Lake-to-River Greenway in Columbiana County, Ohio.

The proposed route of the trail would be north from Coraopolis through Aliquippa, Monaca and Rochester, then east through Beaver and Midland to the Ohio state line.

The ultimate goal is to have a safe, well-marked, mostly off-road route linking Cleveland and Pittsburgh, Mr. Troia said. He is CEO of the festival sponsor, the nonprofit Ohio River Trail Council.

Working with another nonprofit organization, Friends of the Riverfront, the trail council also is printing 30,000 copies of a water trail map. It highlights riverside amenities and boat launch sites between Pittsburgh's Point and the Ohio state line.

Sunday's festival hours are 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Bradys Run on Route 51, 2 miles north of Beaver. It is located in Brighton and Patterson townships.

Information: www.ohiorivertrail.org, or 724-728-2625.

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