

## Implementing *Allegheny Places*: The Ohio River Trail's South Shore Section

In 2008, the County adopted its first comprehensive plan, *Allegheny Places*. Two important objectives of the plan are to expand the current trail system to serve future populations and to facilitate public access to the riverfronts. Allegheny County Economic Development's (ACED) Planning Division has been working towards the implementation of these objectives by participating in the proposed Ohio River Trail project through the Ohio River Trail Council (ORTC). The ORTC is a multi-county, multi-municipal organization that includes representatives from various Beaver and Allegheny County municipalities as well as the Beaver County Planning Commission (BCPC) and ACED. William McLain and Andrew Hartwell of the Planning Division are serving on the Ohio River Trail Council (ORTC) South Shore Steering Committee.



The ORTC's consultant, Stromberg/Garrigan & Associates (SGA), recently completed a feasibility study that identifies proposed routes for the South Shore section of the proposed Ohio River Trail. When completed, the trail will run from the Ohio state line to Coraopolis Borough, connecting with the existing Montour Trail at the Allegheny County Sports & Athletic Complex at Montour Junction.

Currently the ORTC is focusing on the South Shore route which, in addition to Coraopolis Borough, will travel through Moon Township and Crescent Township. The route will feature approximately 17 miles of both on road and off road trail, include an elevated boardwalk along the shoreline in Moon Township, and provide neighborhood feeder routes connecting Sewickley Borough and Neville Township to the trail. The trail will also provide a link between the Montour Junction sports complex and Moon Township's proposed riverfront park, which will be located along the river just west of Coraopolis.

Recently, county planning staff met with municipal staff from the three Allegheny County municipalities to discuss what support ACED can provide to assist them with trail development in their communities. In the near future, county planning will host a joint meeting with representatives of all three municipalities, BCPC, Allegheny Together and Allegheny County trail organizations to discuss how to move the project forward.

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