

# Beaver County Times

Wednesday July 28, 2010

## Ohio River Trail Council receives \$10,000 grant

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Beaver County Times

**MONACA** — By the time the Ohio River Trail Council has its next public meeting, it could have the results of a study examining its plans to build a rail trail that would follow the Ohio River through Beaver and Allegheny counties.

But even before the group has that study in hand, it's already receiving money for building some features along the trail.

The nonprofit group, which will have its next update meeting at 4 p.m. Aug. 5 at the Monaca borough building, has received a \$10,000 grant from the Port of Pittsburgh Commission to build bike and canoe racks at four points along the planned trails — in Rochester, Monaca, Bridgewater and Ohioville — to integrate aquatic recreation with the trails, said Mario Leone Jr., Monaca's borough manager and the council's president.

"That mini-grant is paying for the actual equipment, and the in-kind portion of the grant means we do the installation," Leone said. "They were pretty excited about our plans, and they wanted to be a part of it."

Those plans include one long trail running from the Pennsylvania-Ohio line to the Montour Trail in Allegheny County. It would be developed in two phases; the first would run along the river's south shore from Monaca and eventually connect with the existing Montour Trail in Robinson Township, and the second would follow the river's north shore from Bridgewater to East Liverpool.

Leone said that although the study is not quite complete, the council is already looking at possibilities for design and construction funds.

"This is the hot thing in recreation right now, and we have the perfect location for it, so we're getting a lot of interest and support," he said. "And we're excited to take the next steps."