

## Ohio River Trail group receives federal grant

Michael Pound | Posted: Thursday, February 3, 2011 12:24 pm

MONACA - The group looking to build a recreational trail from Moon Township to Ohioville will get some financial help from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Officials from the Ohio River Trail Council said on Wednesday they will receive a \$150,000 grant to help the council and its partner communities - Monaca, Midland, Aliquippa and Coraopolis - develop new approaches to cleaning up and re-using old industrial sites in those towns.

The council has proposed building a trail in two segments - a south shore trail stretching between Monaca and Moon and a north shore trail running from Rochester to the Ohio border. Those trails would encounter four target areas, totaling about 250 acres, in the four towns addressed in the EPA grant.

The funds, council officials said, will help develop new uses for the property beyond the construction of the trail.

"This grant is an important step forward in achieving our mission," council Chairman Vincent Troia said in a statement. "Our goal is to use the Ohio River Trail as a framework for redevelopment investment."

The next step in using the grant funds will be finding a consultant to drive the project, officials said.

They're also waiting on the final results of a feasibility study of the south shore portion of the trail; once that's in, council officials said they'd begin raising an estimated \$6 million needed for engineering and construction.