

New section of Three Rivers Heritage Trail Ready for Construction

Friends of the Riverfront is proud to announce the development of a new section of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail starting in 2009. The segment will offer users a dedicated trail corridor along the Allegheny Riverfront between the City of Pittsburgh and Borough of Millvale. Construction is scheduled to begin late Fall of 2009 as part of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's (Penn DOT) Route 28 East Ohio Street Improvement Project.

To complete this half mile segment Friends of the Riverfront is partnering with the City of Pittsburgh and Penn DOT. Funding to cover the estimated \$2.8 million cost

has been provided by Penn DOT through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR), Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development (PA DCNR), Federal Earmarks, Laurel Foundation, The Heinz Endowments and membership support from Friends of the Riverfront.

The Three Rivers Heritage Trail Route 28 Project is an integral part of the Community Trails Initiative, a multi-municipal project linking the existing Three Rivers Heritage Trail with the Armstrong Trail. The Route 28 Trail Project

is an important connector in three different alternative transportation systems: Allegheny County Riverfronts Project, the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Network and the Pittsburgh to Harrisburg Mainline Canal Greenway. For complete project details and design plans of the Route 28 Trail Project, visit the "Trail Status" page at www.friendsoftheriverfront.org.

PA Water Trails Workshop

"Natural Resource & Stewardship Management for Water Trails"

On a beautiful September day, forty water trail stakeholders gathered at the Centennial Barn at Fort Hunter Park to talk about "Natural Resource & Stewardship Management for Water Trails". The morning session was a lively discussion with presentations by Jessica Sprajcar (PA DCNR), Sarah Whitney (Pennsylvania SEA Grant) and Alice Trowbridge (Northcentral PA Conservancy). Topics included riverine invasive species and the recently completed West Branch of the Susquehanna Stewardship & Conservation Plan. In the afternoon participants discussed sustainable boat access and

management of island campsites in an on the water experience that included a paddling trip from Fort Hunter to West Fairview on the Middle Susquehanna River Water Trail.

Many thanks to the PA Fish & Boat Commission for providing boats, the Susquehanna River Trail Association for assisting in leading the paddling trip and the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network and PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources for funding the workshop.



*photo credit Brook Lenker
Participants listen to Bruce Bishoff of the
Susquehanna River Trail Association talk about
maintenance of island campsites.*