



33 Terminal Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 488-0212
Fax (412) 488-7716

Press Release

Contact: Thomas Baxter, Executive Director
Phone: (412) 488-0212 x3

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PITTSBURGH-ERIE TRAIL INFORMATIVE MEETING

PITTSBURGH, PA - (October 30, 2009) A public meeting has been scheduled to provide local citizens and interested parties with information on the trail work being done by the Erie-Pittsburgh Trail Alliance. Presentations will be given by trail representatives in the local region who are involved with developing a complete trail route between Pittsburgh and Erie. A question and answer period will follow.

With visions of becoming the next Great Allegheny Passage, the Erie-Pittsburgh Trail Alliance (EPTA) was formed in 2006 and has regular quarterly meetings to plan strategies. The Alliance is a group of twelve trail groups along with state and national advocacy groups who are working toward connecting the non-motorized trails which currently exist between downtown Pittsburgh and Lake Erie.

The meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 16th at 7:00pm at the Freeport Fire Department (400 Market St. Freeport, PA 16229), and will include presentations and updates on the EPTA, the Armstrong Trail, Allegheny County Trails Partnership as well as the Butler-Freeport Community Trail and an update of the Freeport Bridge project.

In April, the EPTA board members met in Millvale, Pa to view a presentation of the Community Trails Feasibility Study which encompasses the southern end of the Erie-Pittsburgh trail region. They also got their first look at the Route 28 project just south of the Millvale town center. "This is the crucial link for getting the trail routed [north] out of the city", said Thomas Baxter, Director of Friends of the Riverfront. "We are thrilled that PennDOT and our funding partners have been able to support our vision of a non-motorized route from Pittsburgh north to Erie."

Ron Steffey, Director of the Allegheny Valley Land Trust believes the next big challenge is finding a way to make a connection to the Armstrong Trail across the river from Freeport. The Armstrong Trail has 16 miles of trail completed trail between Schenley, PA and East Brady, with another 45 miles of trail in planning.

Member trail groups in the Erie-Pittsburgh Trail Alliance are supported largely by volunteers and membership donations. If you would like to get involved in the work of the Erie-Pittsburgh Trail Alliance, consider volunteering for a trail cleanup or participating in a trail group activity with one of the local trail groups. Information on all the trails will be available at the November 16th meeting.

The EPTA receives technical assistance from the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, the National Park Service's

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program, and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

For more information on Friends of the Riverfront, visit www.friendsoftheriverfront.org or call 412.488.0212.

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