

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

Three Rivers Heritage Trail to extend to Hazelwood, new segment through ALMONO site

By Andrew Moore

A new segment of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail will soon extend upriver to the Hazelwood neighborhood, where construction is already underway. The trail is being developed in conjunction with other infrastructure and preparation work at the ALMONO site, the 178-acre former LTV Steel property located along the Monongahela River.

Thomas Baxter, Executive Director of Friends of the Riverfront, says this is one of the first steps to enliven the ALMONO site and to get the community interested in the project, especially the residents of Hazelwood.

"This is going to be their community asset," Baxter says. "Not just the region, but the adjacent community."

The two mile segment will connect a trailhead facility, planned for the intersection of Gloster Street and Hazelwood Avenue, through the ALMONO site to the Hot Metal Bridge, from which point trail users can access the South Side, Oakland, and Downtown Pittsburgh.

"This is not just about recreation, it's about transportation," Baxter says. "It will create a non-motorized connection from Hazelwood to virtually anywhere in the City of Pittsburgh allowing people access



to places of work, business and education."

Partners in the project include RIDC, managers of the ALMONO site, the URA, Hazelwood Initiative, Rothschild Doyno Collaborative, and the Inland Group. Funding for the trail's design and construction has been provided by The Heinz Endowments, one of several foundations that own the site.

As part of the trail development, Friends of the Riverfront (FOR) is partnering with CDM Smith to develop trail design and engineering, address safety concerns, and develop easements to ensure the trail is accessible as

the site is developed in the near future.

FOR is in the process of selecting a firm to complete the trail construction, including signage, connections, and the new trailhead facility.

The trail segment is scheduled to be complete the day before FOR's June 16th Trail Mix(er), to be held at Robot City Roundhouse on the ALMONO site.

An updated plan for the ALMONO site was presented at an industry meeting in Pittsburgh last month, and the trail development is the first component of the project to break ground.