

Mahoning River Consortium Joins Expanded River Corridor Initiative

Effort is awarded ODOD Local Government Collaboration Grant
YSU Center for Urban and Regional Studies to house and coordinate regional
initiative that includes nine municipalities in two county-area

Bringing together and building on the individual efforts of various organizations to revitalize and redevelop the Mahoning River corridor, Mahoning River Consortium has joined with the Mahoning River Corridor Mayors' Association, Mahoning River Corridor of Opportunity, , CASTLO – CIC and Greater Ohio/Mahoning Valley and the YSU Center for Urban and Regional Studies to form the Greater Mahoning River Corridor Initiative.

Each organization has been working on complementary, parallel efforts to address various aspects of urban and river corridor redevelopment. While the Mahoning River Consortium efforts have been focused on river restoration, watershed preservation and recreation, the MRCO and CASTLO efforts have been actively pursuing brownfield revitalization and infrastructure improvements to promote economic development in the southeastern portion of the corridor,

The River Corridor Mayors' Association, whose goal is to promote urban redevelopment through regional cooperation and collaboration, has been instrumental in bringing together the mayors of the nine river corridor municipalities to endorse and financially support the initiative. The Mahoning River Corridor Mayors' Association includes Lowellville, Struthers, Campbell, Youngstown, Girard, McDonald, Niles, Warren and Newton Falls and is thought to be the first time municipalities in the two counties have formally joined to pursue common goals.

Joining together under the auspices of the YSU Center for Urban and Regional Studies provides institutional support, expertise, staffing and other resources that will enhance its effectiveness. The Corridor Initiative will be governed by a steering committee representing the various government and community partners.

In addition to the funding being provided by the Mahoning River Consortium, YSU Center for Urban and Regional Studies, Castlo, River Corridor Mayors' Association members, Greater Mahoning Valley and Common Wealth, the initiative will benefit from a \$80,000 Ohio Department of Development Local Government Collaboration Grant secured by the City of Youngstown. The funds will be used to establish a regional urban economic development and brownfield revitalization plan that will enhance the quality of life for the participating communities through economic development, recreational amenities and conservation and create a sustainable revenue stream.

The initiative will coordinate its activities with the Eastgate Regional Council of Governments, a community partner in the initiative, the Governor's Regional Office and Congressman Ryan's Office.

For more information about the initiative, please contact Dan Mamula at dcmamula@ysu.edu