

Warren Times Observer poll in print 12/12/2009, currently available at <http://www.timesobserver.com/page/polls.detail/id/523.html>

The screenshot shows the Warren Times Observer website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the site name and various utility links. A large banner for Capella University is visible, advertising online graduate-level curriculum. Below the banner, the site's main navigation menu includes categories like News, Obituaries, and Local Classifieds. The main content area features a 'Poll Detail' section with a bar chart showing the results of a poll: 'Would you like to see a trail connect Kinzua Beach and Rimrock?'. The results are: Yes (69%), No (21%), and It might help (10%). A sidebar on the left contains a 'Local Coupons' section and a 'News' section with links to various news categories.

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Poll Detail

Would you like to see a trail connect Kinzua Beach and Rimrock?

Yes	69%
No	21%
It might help	10%

Resolution # 2927

SUPPORTING PENNSYLVANIA KINZUA PATHWAYS CONCEPT

WHEREAS, Warren County supports public economic development initiatives and the supporting role tourism and tourism promotion plays in bolstering those efforts; and,

WHEREAS, in order to successfully participate in tourism related markets, it is essential to develop, maintain and promote an inventory of private and public attractions and venues which will cater to those needs; and,

WHEREAS, the Leadership Warren County participants have created a plan called Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways which outlines a concept for a trail system within the Allegheny National Forest and adjacent properties; and,

WHEREAS, the Warren County Commissioners accept the Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways concept as an initiative which, when successfully implemented, will support economic development and tourism; and,

WHEREAS, the Warren County Commissioners desire for all stakeholders who are necessary to develop this concept further deem it an initiative worthwhile of their time, energy, and resources;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Warren County Commissioners support the Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways concept by encouraging a dialogue which will promote the further development of the Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways concept toward its feasible implementation; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Warren County Commissioners request the participation by the Allegheny National Forest and other crucial stakeholders as further efforts are organized regarding the Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways concept.

ADOPTED this 24th day of June 2009.

COMMISSIONERS OF WARREN COUNTY

John E. Eggleston
Chairman

Terry L. Hawk
Vice Chairman

Attest:

Pamela J. Matve
Chief Clerk

John R. Bortz, Jr.
Secretary

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Project 'connects dots' between reservoir venues

By STEPHANIE HAMM shamm@timesobserver.com

POSTED: February 16, 2009

A ten-year plan to "connect the dots" between key locations on the Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways has been developed by members of the Leadership Warren County's 2009 class.

The plan, as class members explained last Thursday, has been devised to create awareness and generate revenue sources in the tourism and recreation industries.

The goals are to attract visitors to the area surrounding the Allegheny Reservoir, educate them on the rich history of the past, provide facilities to enjoy and facilitate enhanced wilderness access in the future.

"We want to tell a story," said Joe Colosimo, a team member for the project who gave the presentation. "We want it to be a compelling story, and we want it to be a story that makes people want to go up to that area."

The locations include Kinzua Beach, Kinzua Wolf Run Marina, Kinzua Dam, the upper reservoir, Rimrock and a new visitor center near the western side of Morrison Bridge that crosses the reservoir.

It was emphasized Thursday that the presentation was only intended for public viewing and feedback. As of yet, there has not been discussion with the U.S. Forest Service or U.S. Corps of Engineers about the plan.

A fundamental problem in the area, and major factor behind the plan, according to Colosimo, is the lack of a trail or commuter system to get to each point without having to drive.

"Everyone of these dots are only connected by your car, and that's what we're trying to change," said Colosimo. "Again, build a system to connect the dots."

Another focus for the project is to share the history.

"There's a tremendous amount of information and stories that could be told about before people were even in this area," said Colosimo. "There's none of that information available now and you would have to take it upon yourself to find it."

Speaking to the Seneca Nation of Indians about their history is on the agenda for the plan, he said.

The project will be broken into five phases.

Phase one would involve Kinzua Beach, the marina and the visitor center.

"We want to upgrade the beach and the surrounding area," said Colosimo. "We don't want to take away the free beach aspect; we think that's a unique and interesting aspect."

Possible ideas for the area included a museum, meeting rooms, dining facilities, a boardwalk and water taxi system from one side of the reservoir to Kinzua Beach.

Phase two would involve the creation of a multi-purpose trail that would lead from Kinzua Dam to the new visitors center.

"We'll put some signs in there, put some information, GPS coordinates, before and after (stories) and get on the trail and walk your way around the reservoir and enjoy the view," said Colosimo.

The trail would be non-motorized and utilized for activities like hiking, biking, animal watching and cross country skiing.

Phase three would involve a trail to connect the upper reservoir to the top of Longhouse Drive, as well as a staging area.

"What we're proposing is a formal staging area at the top of Longhouse Drive," said Colosimo, explaining that it would offer a place for snowmobiles or pack animals, such as horses, to unload.

The trail would also offer hiking, biking and access to rock formations.

Phase four would involve a trail connecting Kinzua Beach to Rimrock.

"This particular one is really looking at the free beach area," said Colosimo.

He added that all proposed trails would be low-income, non-motorized and a non-blacktop surface.

Phase five would involve the formation of a trail from the staging area at Longhouse Drive around the entire southern tip of the reservoir and back up to the free beach area.

"It's creating a system, it's tying it all together," said Colosimo. "You can now spend a day, you can

spend two days up there. You're not going up there and unpacking the kids or unpacking your gear and moving from spot to spot, you're now ready to navigate by water or by land to multiple systems."

Other members of the Leadership Warren 2009 team are Melissa Anderson, Lana Creal, Brandon Deppen, Stephanie Freitag, Ines Nelson and Coralee Wenzel.

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Ambitious proposal for reservoir area detailed for local politicians

By DEAN WELLS dwells@timesobserver.com

POSTED: March 6, 2009

Local politicians got a chance to hear an ambitious proposal by the Leadership Warren County group to utilize one of the most underutilized areas of the county.

The group recently developed a 10-year plan designed to improve access points and transportation in the vicinity of the Allegheny Reservoir, connecting various points of interest, such as the Kinzua Dam, the visitor's center, Wolf Run Marina, Kinzua Beach and various overlooks.

This was the second time the group has detailed its proposal; the first was on Feb. 16.

The plan was devised to create awareness and generate revenue sources via tourism and recreation.

"It's intended as a historical awareness project," Joe Colosimo, a team member for the project said during Thursday's presentation at the Conewango Club. "Our first priority is to attract visitors to the Allegheny Reservoir."

The plan calls for developing and improving six areas surrounding the reservoir and "connecting the dots" through improving or developing existing routes, trails and water transportation.

Those areas include: Kinzua Beach, Wolf Run Marina, Kinzua Dam, the upper reservoir, Rimrock and Jake's Rocks. Those areas would be connected via "pathways."

Pathway One includes upgrading Kinzua Beach, including renovating current facilities, along with constructing a cafe, lodging facilities, an interactive model of the Kinzua Valley and making the area "technology friendly." In addition, the plan calls for the construction of an amphitheater, a floating stage and increased access via a water taxi service. Improvements would also include building a new visitor's center in the area of the current visitor's center, along with an observation tower and gift shop.

Pathway Two calls for connecting the Kinzua Beach area with the Wolf Run Marina area via a boardwalk or walking path under the Morrison Bridge, which carries Rt. 59 over the reservoir.

Pathway Three envisions constructing a bike/hike trail running parallel to Rt. 59 from the visitor's center to a spot near the dam.

Pathway Four calls for connecting the area of the dam to the area of the upper reservoir, along with Jake's Rocks and Longhouse Drive via a trail, along with the possibility of constructing an observation tower near Jake's Rocks.

Pathway Five would improve a trail that currently exists between Kinzua Beach and Rimrock.

Pathway Six calls for a low-impact, multi-purpose trail encompassing the entire southern arm of the reservoir in the Longhouse Drive area.

Colosimo acknowledged that the plan was ambitious, saying, "Who the heck is going to go up there and see all these things in one day? Well, the answer is . . . nobody. It's like getting a six-foot sub: you don't eat it all at once. You eat some, then come back. That's what we want people to do: visit and come back to see more.

"We want this to become a thing that will spiderweb out into a lot of other things," Colosimo said. "We'd like a group to take ownership of this. The intent is to hand it off. We will remain as active as we can, but we'd like to see someone like (the newly formed Council on Tourism) or the Vacation Bureau or Pennsylvania Wilds take over. It's a very large project, it's very ambitious, but it's also very feasible."

Warren County Commissioner John Bortz thanked the Leadership Warren County group for its efforts in developing the plan. He told the group he would request that county Planning Director Dan Glotz examine the plan to see if it could be amended into Warren County's comprehensive plan.

"That would make it more eligible for funding," Bortz said.

Glade Township Supervisor Joe Skelly asked if the group had talked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regarding its project proposal. "Are they for the program?" Skelly asked.

"We'll find out after today," Colosimo said.

"The issue here is being able to generate some momentum," WCCBI President and CEO Jim Decker said. "Chop it into do-able sections and keep the momentum moving. This isn't something that will be done in three years. This is more like a 10-year plan."

Bortz commented further on the Leadership Warren County project following the meeting.

"I found the presentation by the members of class to be very stimulating," Bortz said. "Any number of

elected officials have been working these last couple of years on how to get a better return to our communities on this national forest. Certainly a component of that is recreation."

Bortz said the Warren County Commissioners would review the plan during their next public work session.

"We'll see what we can do with it," Bortz said.

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Plan to Boost Warren County Tourism

March 20, 2009, 4:38 pm

A major effort is now underway to improve access and boost tourism around the Kinzua Dam and Allegheny Reservoir in Warren County. [CLICK FOR VIDEO](#) The group Leadership Warren County is the driving force behind the project. Planners are now meeting with government, business, and outdoor groups to outline the plan and look for support to move it forward. The group says right now the Kinzua Dam draws about 250,000 visitors each year. But Leadership Warren County thinks more people would visit the area, and stay longer if it was easier to travel between attractions near the dam and the Allegheny Reservoir. Those sites include Kinzua Beach, and the Wolf Run Marina. Right now, tourists have to drive to see all the different recreation sites. Supporters of the Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways Project want to change that by "connecting the dots." The plan calls for building bike paths, nature trails and possible starting a water taxi. Plus improving current facilities and emphasizing the history of the region. Leaders say they know the plan is ambitious so supporters say the best approach is to do the work in stages over the next decade. Tom Colosimo of Leadership Warren County said, "Our thoughts are it's a 10-year, multi-site, multi-year project where we are going to concentrate on separate phases, get them implemented, get them established, then move on to the next phase." The group is now busy trying to generate public-private partnerships to get the plan off the drawing board. Cost estimates are unknown. But the group knows raising money will be a major challenge.

[Paul Wagner](#)

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Forest Service hears update on Kinzua Pathways project

By MEGHAN BOGARDUS mbogardus@timesobserver.com

POSTED: August 17, 2009

Joe Colosimo, Ines Nelson and Coralee Wenzel of the Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways project presented their findings report to Tony Scardina, Bradford district ranger for the Allegheny National Forest, and Leanne Marten, forest supervisor, last Friday morning.

The project is a ten-year plan to renovate, update and virtually "connect the dots" in the areas near the Allegheny Reservoir developed by the 2009 Leadership Warren class and was continued by Colosimo, Nelson and Wenzel.

"Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways is, first and foremost, a historical awareness project designed to benefit and educate locals and visitors for generations to come," the reported detailed.

The 35-page report detailed the group's recommendations of revitalizing Kinzua Point, creating a 2.8-mile walking/bicycling path from Kinzua Point to the Kinzua Dam upper parking area, creating a walking/bicycling path from Wolf Run Marina to Kinzua Beach, revitalizing Kinzua Beach, creating a bicycling/hiking path from Kinzua Beach to Rimrock, creating a bicycling/hiking path around the southern tip of the reservoir from Longhouse Drive to Kinzua Beach and creating 30 to 40 miles of looping mountain biking/hiking trails between Longhouse Drive and the Upper Reservoir.

The report also contained 24 letters of support from local business like Allegheny Outfitters, organizations like the Pennsylvania Wilds and government entities like the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"We had some tremendously positive letters," Colosimo said.

He said they wanted to get as many groups together as possible in support of the plan.

The group also gather statistics about the area and the types of tourists it would attract.

Colosimo said they also hoped that students at the Warren County Career Center would be able to have an active role in designing some of the trails.

Scardina, said the next step for the group and the ANF would be discussing the recommendations made in the plan and seeing how they could begin.

"This isn't going to happen in a year," Scardina said.

He said they would be getting a good start with the earmarked funds the ANF has received to work on Kinzua Beach and the Kinzua Point information center and then they would "look at where we're going next."

Colosimo said the partnership with the ANF has been quite successful.

"They've been very supportive of us," he said.

Article Photos



Times Observer photo by Meghan Bogardus
Give report

2009 Leadership Warren graduates Ines Nelson, Joe Colosimo and Coralee Wenzel presented the findings report for their Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways project to Allegheny National Forest personnel on Friday morning. From left to right, Nelson, Tony Scardina, Colosimo, Leanne Marten and Wenzel.

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Pathways group previews trail

By BRIAN FERRY bferry@timesobserver.com

POSTED: October 2, 2009

Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways is about creating historical awareness and connectivity, and building partnerships.

Not surprisingly, it's also about creating pathways in the Kinzua area.

On Thursday, a Pathways group ventured into the field at Kinzua Beach with 50 students from Warren County Career Center, and a pair of Allegheny National Forest officials to check out a possible site for a new trail.

The U.S. Forest Service will be working on an underground spring system that runs down from the Rimrock area and feeds the water needs at the beach.

Since the Forest Service is going to dig up the road that runs above the spring anyway, it was a good time to look into creating a new trail connecting the beach with the overlook.

Joe Colosimo of Pathways contacted Dan Passmore at the career center's pre-engineering program to see if his class could produce a design for a trail.

"If we give them a viable design, they'll put it back the way we want," Pathways' Coralee Wenzel said.

Thursday's trip was a major step toward that goal.

"We're starting to make progress on this project," Colosimo said.

Bringing in the career center students will provide technical expertise that Pathways does not have.

"This project is way too big for any one group," Colosimo said.

Without the support of the ANF, the project wouldn't be going anywhere. "The ANF has been tremendous," he said. "They've been very supportive."

Trails Coordinator Mark Conn and Recreation Technician Jerry Dixon hiked with the students, offering their professional input.

"They're the trail experts - design, regulations," Colosimo said. "And they're great with the kids."

The students were divided into four groups - trail, vista, wildlife, and plants - each with a camera and a notebook.

Passmore shouted - he was outside and trying to communicate with about 50 high school students - out his expectations for the day.

"We're going to try to get as much information as we can," he said.

The trail team was tasked with finding the proper location for the trail, whether or not it should follow the existing road, and working on potential problems like run-off. They were also in charge of working on signage considerations.

"Vista - pay attention to everything around you," he said. "Look for a spot for a treehouse or a platform."

That included a possible handicapped accessible overlook area near the bottom of the trail.

The plants and wildlife groups had common goals - to note the species that they saw and take pictures of unfamiliar plants or animal signs for later identification.

According to Passmore, the presence of a raptor nest, a large burrow, or a cluster of mountain laurel could require an alteration to the path plan.

The students in the pre-engineering class will eventually be involved in the virtual creation of trail proposals and the revisions of those proposals. "We're going to provide a detailed drawing of the trail

Article Photos



Times Observer photo by Brian Ferry
A fine fall day for a path planning hike
Students from Warren County Career
Center enjoy the view at Rimrock after
hiking up from Kinzua Beach.

itself," Passmore said.

Students in Gregory Waterman's Building Construction Occupations class will be involved with the construction of any treehouses, "rockhouses," observation decks, and any other structures associated with the trail.

Passmore said he hopes the trail will be the beginning of a whole system of trails so that visitors do not have to drive from site to site.

"You come up here and you drive to everything," he said.

Colosimo said he would like to see signs at both ends of a finished trail emblazoned with credit to the Warren County Career Center class of 2010. "They come back in 10 or 20 years and say, 'That's my trail.'"

The Pathways program is one of 10 finalists for the Community Foundation of Warren County's 60th Anniversary grant program. Public voting that closes Friday will determine which group receives the \$10,000 grant, Colosimo said.

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Grant award

Times Observer photo by Stephanie Hamm

POSTED: October 7, 2009

Representatives of the Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways plan, from left, Coralee Wenzel, Joe Colosimo and Ines Nelson accept a \$10,000 grant check from the Community Foundation of Warren County Executive Director Dr. Charles MacKenzie, far right, during a reception Tuesday evening at the Conewango Club of Warren. The grant was awarded in celebration of 60 years of philanthropy by the Community Foundation of Warren County, which held an online voting competition to determine the winner. Colosimo said the money will be used to develop a website that will market the plan and promote the region.

Article Photos



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\$10K Put To Work

PKP plans website

By DEAN WELLS dwells@timesobserver.com

POSTED: October 13, 2009

With a check for \$10,000 in hand, Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways is already moving forward with plans to build a website to promote the region, along with its recommendations for constructing a slew of trails and access areas along the Allegheny Reservoir.

The \$10,000 came courtesy of the Community Foundation of Warren County.

This fall, the foundation announced it would give away a one-time \$10,000 grant to a selected applicant to celebrate the foundation's 60th year in existence.

The Community Foundation patterned the grant opportunity after a similar giveaway by a community foundation in eastern Pennsylvania, according to Community Foundation board member Barbara Tubbs.

The foundation received 22 applicants, which were narrowed down to 10 by a committee of three people. From there, the top 10 applicants were posted on the foundation's website for the public to vote on the winner.

The foundation announced earlier this month that Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways was the top vote-getter, earning the organization a \$10,000 grant.

"Work has already started," Kinzua Pathways spokesperson Joe Colosimo said Monday. "We have secured three domain names and are starting to work on the overall outline."

Colosimo said the website will promote the Pathways project, along with promoting the entire northwestern region of Pennsylvania: where to dine, outdoor events, theater events, etc. "People will be able to see what they can do in Warren County and anywhere else when they go on a trip," he said.

Tony Nelson, of Nelson Creative Services, has been selected to construct the website for the Pathways group.

"Nelson Creative Services was selected for a number of reasons," Colosimo said. "(Owner Tony Nelson) guaranteed that the project will be completed within the \$10,000 budget. They are donating a portion of the design and creative aspects in order to ensure that we stay within the budget. They have done all the previous graphic design work for (Kinzua Pathways) pro bono. And they are a group who understands the scope/complexity/goals of Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways the best."

The Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways group rose out of a project conducted by last year's Leadership Warren County program. The program calls for its participants to plan a community-oriented project. Out of that came a proposal for a 10-year plan to design and improve access points and transportation in the vicinity of the Allegheny Reservoir, connecting various points of interest, such as the Kinzua Dam, the nearby visitor's center, Wolf Run Marina, Kinzua Beach and various overlooks.

The plan was devised to create awareness and generate revenue sources via tourism and recreation.

Following the conclusion of last year's Leadership Warren County program, three of the participants Colosimo, Ines Nelson and Coralee Wenzel decided to continue forward with the Kinzua Pathways proposal in an attempt to bring it to fruition.

"We have such a cultural and historical heritage in this area that no one knows about," Colosimo said. "We live here, so we are fortunate to know about the Seneca and the history. When other people visit, they think it's a reservoir and some trees."

"We've already got some things happening. We're meeting with the Forest Service, Pennsylvania Wilds and a national mountain biking association to discuss proposed mountain biking trails. They are going to go up to Jake's Rocks and ride and give us feedback. We are also finally hitting the elected officials. The website will allow for the awareness; now we're going for the funding."

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Kinzua Pathways group says work is progressing

By BRIAN FERRY bferry@timesobserver.com

POSTED: November 29, 2009

A local group is moving its ideas down the path.

Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways (PKP) is working on hiking trails, mountain biking trails, designing a building, and generally bringing their goals toward reality.

PKP hosted a meeting Oct. 15 to discuss some mountain biking possibilities in the area of Kinzua Dam and and Jakes Rocks.

Joining PKP were representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, Pennsylvania Wilds, Northern Alleghenies Mountain Bicycling Association (NAMBA), International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), and an international trail design expert.

"Fostering partnerships is at the core of the Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways plan," PKP team member Coralee Wenzel said. "We are pleased that we were able to bring key groups together for this meeting."

The groups discussed possibilities for trail designs and funding.

"The plan is for (a) 25 to 30 mile stacked loop, natural surface trail system," IMBA's Frank McGuire said. "Stacked loop refers to multiple loops, building off a central trail head, allowing for multiple ride options, increasing challenges and difficulty."

The proposed trails would not require any surfacing materials, except "where special circumstances require," he said.

The stacked loop and natural surface are the elements that visitors will be looking for.

"Such a system is needed to create a destination trail network," McGuire said. "One that will draw people from a six-hour radius to come spend a weekend (or more) in the area."

He said a similar project called for 9,000 traveling visitors in its first year. That estimate was "well under the actual visit number," he said.

"The meeting was followed by a field trip to the proposed location for the trails," PKP's Ines Nelson said.

"We are in complete awe of the beauty and potential the area offers," McGuire said.

The Jakes Rocks/Kinzua Dam area is not the only spot PKP is eyeing for trails, but it's their first shot. "This project is focused on the connectivity and historical awareness in and around the Jakes Rocks, Kinzua Point, Kinzua Beach, and Rimrock areas," Nelson said. "For now, this is the only area we are focusing on."

Kinzua Point building

PKP has acquired conceptual drawings for a visitors center to replace the existing Kinzua Point Information Center on Route 59 northeast of Kinzua Dam

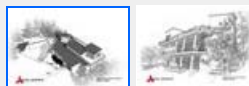
Using proposed features from the PKP Formal Findings Report, Inscale Architects donated drawings of a possible multi-level structure.

"Designed as a flagship for green construction, the facility would offer food concessions, an Artisan Trail gift shop, areas designated for historical and museum-quality displays, a high-tech digital theater, an entire level dedicated to learning and meetings with presentation rooms/classrooms, and an observatory platform on the top level," Nelson said. "All levels would maximize the view of the reservoir."

"The exterior would feature an outdoor amphitheater, a kiosk for a canoe livery and bike rental business, walkways to a proposed dock and connector trails to the southern tip of the reservoir as well as the trail connecting this visitors center to the Kinzua Dam," Nelson said. "We are tremendously grateful to Jeff and Donna Zariczny for their support of the project and creative vision."

The group hopes the building, which will be Allegheny National Forest property, to "increase connectivity in the area, increase historical awareness, educate visitors, promote geotourism and good stewardship

Article Photos



Architect's conceptual drawings of what a Kinzua Point Visitors Center could look like.

standards, and provide small business opportunities," Nelson said.

The building could provide services to hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, according to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimates of visits to their visitors center at the dam. "There are tens of millions of people that live within a day's drive of Warren," Nelson said. "The visitor potential is exponential."

If the project is fully approved and moves ahead as quickly as possible, it could start as soon as fall 2010, Nelson said. "Realistically, this one may be four to five years out."

The green construction component could include geothermal environmental controls, solar supplemental energy, eco-friendly materials and processes, and the use of wind or other natural power, Nelson said.

"We believe that there is a relatively unexplored middle ground between inefficient conventional construction and high-cost green architecture," Jeff Zariczny said. "It is in this area that a real-world difference can be made."

He said site and habitat disturbance would be minimized, sunlight would be utilized to reduce dependence on electric light, high-mass walls would increase insulation values, and rain and greywater capture would reduce the water use at the facility, in addition to other green construction methods.

No cost analysis has been done for the building, according to Nelson. "We are hoping to see local, state and federal governmental entities partner on this project for funding purposes," she said. "PKP will also work with the RC&D (Resource Conservation and Development) in exploring grant opportunities."

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Forest Service hears plan for beach to Rimrock trail

By BRIAN FERRY bferry@timesobserver.com

POSTED: December 9, 2009

The Allegheny National Forest (ANF) got some expert help in designing a new trail to run from Kinzua Beach to the Rimrock overlook.

The expert was Nicole Doverspike, a student in Dan Passmore's pre-engineering class at the Warren County Career Center.

Doverspike and Passmore, along with Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways members Joe Colosimo and Ines Nelson, met Tuesday with Bradford District Ranger Tony Scardina, Bradford District Recreation Team Leader Tonika Goins, and Recreation Technician Jerry Dixon, to describe the plan for the 1.75-mile trail.

Passmore said Doverspike did most of the work, but credited Mike Tenney and Mike Swartz with helping along the way.

The nine-page plan includes an overview map, a page of existing ANF design element details, a plan for a handicapped accessible observation deck, photos of an example kiosk and tree house, and several pages of informational posters that could be utilized in interpretive areas of the trail.

The ANF officials were impressed with the body of work and suggested very few changes to the plan.

"It has a good mix of opportunities for different types of visitors," Scardina said.

The trail follows an existing road due to the presence of a water line. That the "disturbance" already exists is a big plus in terms of having the project approved by the Forest Service, Scardina said.

The proposal coincides with some work set for spring. "We're going to replace that entire water line," Scardina said. "If this is approved, maybe I can work with them to button it back up."

If everything goes as well as possible, the trail could be ready by summer and the special elements within two or three years, he said.

"I don't think any part of the project is so hugely unrealistic" that it would be impossible to fund, Scardina said.

During the three weeks of work Doverspike put into the project, she set out the handicapped accessible pavilion and the trail feature details. She also "figured out where the problems were and what had to go where," she said.

Finding existing trail specifications was a major help.

"We're going to duplicate them," she said.

"We were staring off into space until we found some existing details," Passmore said.

One change Scardina suggested was to simplify the description of the kiosk so as not to lock the Forest Service into something too specific, which was not a major setback to Doverspike.

The tree house was a point of particular interest.

"I think it's a good idea," Dixon said.

"It's something that's more attractive to younger visitors," Scardina said.

"Tonika immediately said, 'Absolutely, I can get a grant for that,'" Passmore said.

When Kinzua Pathways members introduced the idea of the connecting trail to Passmore and the ANF official, they hoped to eliminate the need for visitors and families enjoying a day in the outdoors to drive from the beach to the overlook.

"It's all about creating experiences in that area," Nelson said. "You don't have to get into the car at all."

Article Photos



Treehouse

The proposed trail from Kinzua Beach to Rimrock includes special features including a treehouse like the one pictured here.

The tree house was a bonus.

Colosimo said he had hoped for fresh ideas when Kinzua Pathways approached the students. "That's the perspective we were looking for," he said. "We just wanted to bring the students together with the ANF."

"I'm very happy to see the students working with the ANF and getting a step closer to seeing this part of the project become reality," Nelson said. "I'm extremely impressed by the level of work that Nicole has put into this."

The trail should not be high on a scale of technical challenge, but it's more than a walk in the park. "It's a neat hike," Colosimo said. "You can get a good workout on it, but it's not expert level."

According to the plan, the first portion of the trail, about a quarter mile from the proposed parking area at the beach, will be handicapped accessible.

Scardina said that portion of the path would probably be crushed limestone.

"The consistency of a tar and chip road," Passmore said.

The plan calls for a handicapped accessible observation deck at the end of that portion of the trail.

Scardina said he expects the proposal to go out for public comment in January.

Between now and then, in addition to making the minor changes suggested by the ANF officials, Doverspike has one additional task.

Although the officials cautioned that the final say would be theirs, they encouraged Doverspike to connect with her classmates and find an appropriate name.

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Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways

BY ANITA COHAN

THE PENNSYLVANIA Kinzua Pathways (PKP) group rose out of a project conducted by last year's Leadership Warren County program that called for its participants to "connect the dots" around the Allegheny Reservoir.

Kinzua Dam, Visitors Center, Wolf Run Marina, Kinzua Beach, Rimrock and Jake's Rocks are currently connected only by highway. The plan is to develop interpretive trail systems, improved water access and a water taxi system in the area with the goal of creating awareness and generating revenue sources through tourism and recreation.

The proposed changes would attract tourists and encourage local nature lovers to spend days traveling from site to site, capitalizing on the beauty and natural resources of the reservoir.

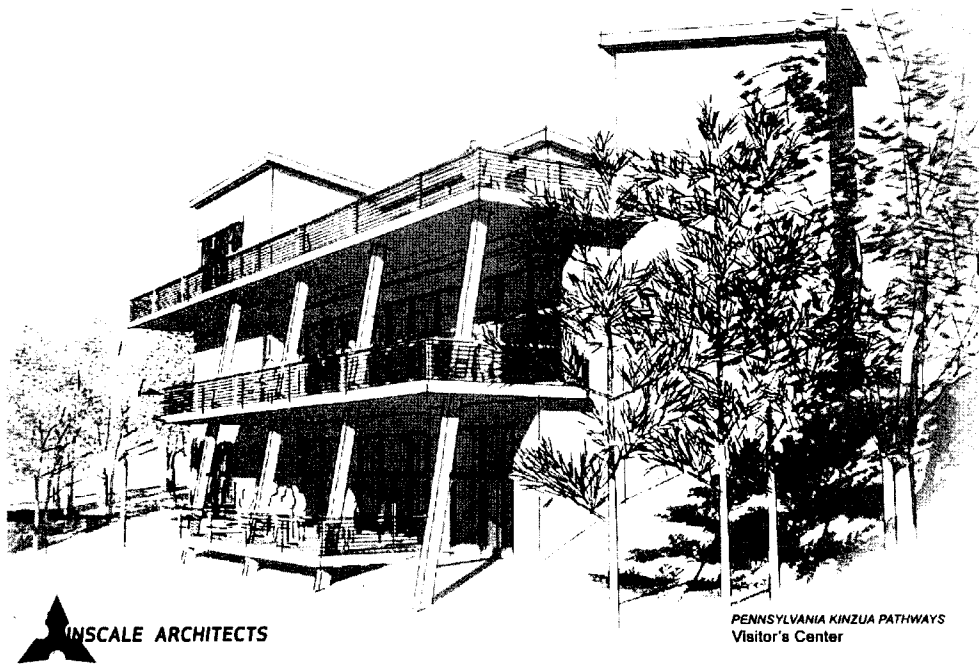
Mission statement

The mission of the PKP is to attract visitors to the area surrounding the Allegheny Reservoir, educate them about the rich history of its past, provide facilities to enjoy the present, and enhance



MORRISON BRIDGE: Allegheny wilderness and manmade accomplishments complement each other with breathtaking beauty.

wilderness access and stewardship for the future. The organization plans to enhance the area and promote it as a destination in order to generate interest in the area's resources, history and sites, as



NEW KINZUA POINT: Inscale PC, a Warren architect firm, generously donated conceptual drawings for this project, including this design of the new Kinzua Point center.

well as revenue for the county for generations to come. PKP members are focused on the reservoir/dam area, which they find to be one of the key areas needed to stimulate Warren County's tourism and recreation industry.

Following the conclusion of last year's Leadership Warren County program, three participants, Joe Colosimo, Ines Nelson and Coralee Wenzel, decided to continue forward with the Kinzua Pathways proposal.

"We have such a cultural and historical heritage in this area that no one knows about," Joe notes. "We live here, so we are fortunate to know about the Seneca and their history. When other people visit, they think it's a reservoir and some trees."

These team members are working to promote the project through partnerships with local and regional organizations, and continuing to gain knowledge and information to help with the development of the project.

PKP members have conducted two formal presentations, spoken at more than a dozen community service and other club functions, and held over 60 other

meetings with groups and individuals. During the formal presentations, PKP surveyed those attending, and modified recommendations based on feedback received. The group has presented its formal findings to the Allegheny National Forest (ANF) management team, and will be submitting the proposals for public opinion and environmental analysis where appropriate.

Connect the dots

PKP is a multi-year, multi-phase, multi-million dollar system of projects. Each pathway will require additional overlays of the projects and will represent the efforts of multiple stakeholders' input and ideas. The group has identified several key pathways and will follow with a formal interpretive signage plan intended to enhance and enrich the visitor experience.

Areas to be included are:

- ▶ Bicycling and hiking path from Kinzua Beach to Rimrock,
- ▶ Miles of looping mountain biking and hiking trails between Long House Drive and Upper Reservoir,
- ▶ Revitalizing Kinzua Point,
- ▶ 2.8-mile walking and bicycling path from Kinzua Point to the Kinzua Dam upper parking area,
- ▶ Bicycling and hiking path around the

- ▶ southern tip of the reservoir from Longhouse Drive to Kinzua Beach,
- ▶ Walking and bicycling path from Wolf Run Marina to Kinzua Beach, and
- ▶ Revitalization of Kinzua Beach.

It has been suggested that revitalization of Kinzua Point would include razing the current Information Center followed by construction of a new, family-friendly, interactive, multifunctional learning and visitor center. Unlike other portions of the project, Kinzua Point is visible from both Route 59 and the reservoir. The new center would be expected to serve as a main hub for other trails and projects associated with the PKP master plan.

Virtual PKP

The first formal phase of the PKP project focused on raising public awareness, building partnerships, and delivering a formal finding and recommendation report to the ANF.

Virtual PKP represents the second formal phase as a strong online presence, with an interactive website that will track progress, educate and guide, in addition to serving as a hub for the marketing and social networking plan. The website will

describe the vision in detail with abundant photography to support each pathway, and track progress as portions of the project move forward. The site will contain links to entities involved and opportunities to facilitate real-time communication. The educational, historical and stewardship aspects of the project will be the driving force behind PKP's online marketing efforts. Information about the land, the people and the history of the area will be available.

PKP currently maintains a Facebook group and is in the process of developing a newsletter that will be distributed via email and also will be available for download through the website.

Ines focuses on the developing the PKP brand.

"At the core of the project is a powerful marketing plan that will promote the area as a whole," Ines emphasizes. "As volunteers not bound by geographical or political boundaries, we can broaden the focus to enhance the total experience. This spring, we will launch the Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways website, www.pennsylvaniakinzua.com, funded by the Community Foundation of

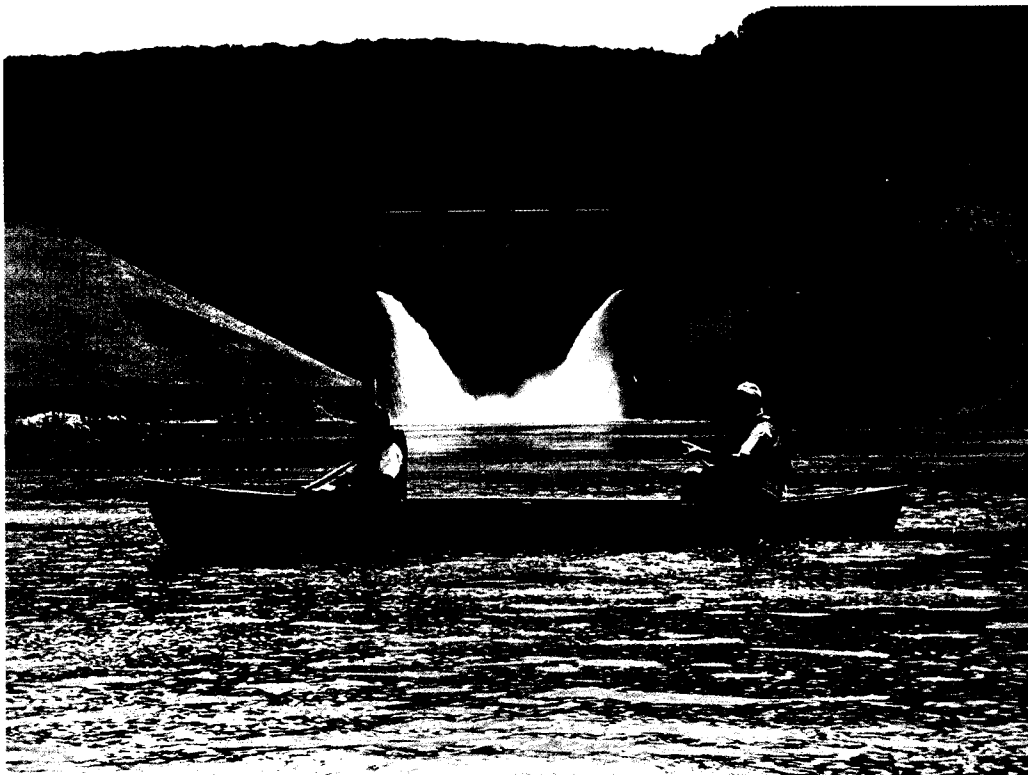
Warren County's 60th anniversary grant, awarded by public vote. The website will not only track progress and provide opportunities to support the project, but will also serve as an informational hub for visitors and locals alike."

Funding sources

Sustainability is the key to this project. The project takes in the importance of meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. As for funding suggestions — both federal and grant funding would be specifically designated for use on the Pennsylvania Wilds project, while interpretation, educational and historical references will be designed, implemented and funded through grants and other partnerships. ANF is a federal asset and would handle the costs associated with establishing these projects. Once completed, the state and local governments would derive the most benefit from the project's existence and would be expected to provide funds. Sustainability funds would be placed in the trust of the Pennsylvania Wilds specifically noting that it is to be used for the sustainability of these projects.

The project outlines a three, four- and five-year example of costs. Grants will cover design, preparation and administration estimated to cost \$7.5 million. Federal funds will be used for implementation and construction costs anticipated to be \$32 million. The project is expected to be sustained through state funding.

Last fall, the Community Foundation of Warren County announced it would present a one-time grant of \$10,000 to a selected applicant to celebrate the foundation's 60th year in existence. The check for \$10,000 was awarded to PKP. There were 22 applicants, which were narrowed down to just 10 organizations that were posted on the foundation's website. The public then voted for the winner. Building
(continues on page 14d)



REVITALIZATION PLANNED: A canoe just below the Kinzua Dam, established in 1965, highlights recreational possibilities on the Allegheny River. The PKP project will help bring this area into the future with revitalization of existing sports and facilities.



MAPPED OUT: Warren County Career Center students presented a proposed map to the ANF for the Rimrock Trail. Key features include handicapped access to the observation platform and living interpretive tree house.



relationships is a key portion of the PKP project. For submission of this grant application, PKP teamed with Penn Soil Resource Conservation and Development Council.

Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways will provide both services and activities of lasting value for individuals, the community and the region.

Joe Colosimo adds, "First and foremost, PKP is a historical awareness and connectivity project. It represents more of an experience than a destination."

Gaining strong support

All plans have a mission, a clear direction and a projected outcome, but the PKP has an additional factor that makes up a solid foundation: support. Support is obvious by the numerous letters received from individuals, foundations, businesses and government agencies. The growing number of partners includes the Allegheny National Forest, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Warren County Planning and Zoning Commission, Pennsylvania Wilds director, Pennsylvania Lumber Heritage Region, Penn Soil RC&D Council, Warren County recreation director, Warren County Visitors

ny Mountain Bike Association, Warren County Career Center, International Mountain Bike Association, Inscale PC, H PE Transystem, Council on Tourism, Warren County Historical Society, McKean County Visitor Bureau, and many more business and individual associates.

"Fostering partnerships is at the core of the Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways plan," PKP team member Coralee Wenzel says. "We are pleased that we were able to bring key groups together."

Coralee, team member and also a WEC member, affirms, "We were not paid to develop this project. We are not reaping any personal benefit from this project; this project is about the respect and love we have for the area where we live. We want to make sure that any generation ... will have the opportunity to see what events created our community. The sacrifices that were made in our area deserve to be recognized and appreciated right along with the incredible natural surroundings. Our focus from the beginning has been about working with others to determine the best way to achieve success for this project. We have much to be thankful for and to enjoy right in our backyard and as each pathway of the

Bureau, Warren Public Library, Tuna Valley Trail Association, Northern Alleghene-

project is completed, more and more people will get the opportunity to see and experience it firsthand."

Imagine

Team members include the following annotation in all their planning:

"Imagine with us a reservoir area with an extensive, unique trail system — one that not only connects visitors to nature, but also to the people and events that went before them, to the history that shaped this beautiful corner of the Allegheny National Forest.

Imagine the outdoor enthusiasts, people of all skill levels and walks of life, who will return year after year to enjoy this gem and be inspired to take care of it and share it with others. Imagine the invaluable lessons of life, nature, history and stewardship to be learned generation after generation. Imagine the powerful legacy that will remain long after we are gone and the collective pride generated by the result of citizens and government working together for a common goal — a better future. Imagine, finally, an Allegheny National Forest where visitors from near and far can spend hours, days and even weeks interacting with nature and building stronger bonds while being enriched by the Pennsylvania Kinzua Pathways experience."

For more information, or if you are interested in joining PKP, please email pakinzuapathways@yahoo.com.

17th Annual Chili Festival

Cherry Grove, Pennsylvania
 Sunday, March 21, 2010
 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
 Located six miles up Cherry Grove Road off Route 6
 Turn across from Johnson's Tire Center in Weldbank
 Free admission
 Chili-tasting tickets are 25 cents each
 No entry fee
 Call Zane Johnson at 814/688-5291 for an entry form