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Report for the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance July 17 – October 1, 2018

The Oil Region Alliance is assisted Oil Creek State Park with new kiosk they are designing and having fabricated, specifically the overall look of the panels using the EPT Signage guidelines. These are now in the production stage.

The Oil Region Alliance continues to work on kiosk with the Allegheny Valley Trails Association (AVTA) for the trailhead at the Saltbox House in Franklin. The AVTA will be adding a covered area that will be 10 feet by 10 feet, the kiosk panels will be under this cover, as well as other information, and a fix it station. Still in progress, AVTA is seeking the remaining funds to purchase materials to for the covered area.

Oil City has secured all the funding needed to complete the top coat surface on the new section of trail from Darr Street to Osborne Street (approximately ½ mile), install signage, and construct primitive campsites near the Marina. Work was to begin this year but has been delayed until the spring of 2019. This is Phase I of a larger Marina project.

ORA is assisting where needed with the Emlenton to Foxburg section of trail. At this time we are holding private foundation funds that have been designated to be used toward the project.

ORA is working with Foxburg, Emlenton and the City of Parker to see if they want to vie for designation of a Nature Based Place. This is a piolet program that provides designation to communities that want to enhance their economic benefits using the outdoor recreation assets. These three communities share several trail corridors, including the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail, the Allegheny River, the Clarion River is close to all three communities, the North Country Trail, as well as other outdoor recreation, nature-based activities.

ORA is working on finalizing the RFP for professional services that will look at the top 3 gaps as determined by the EPT Gap Committee. The RFP has been reviewed by DCNR, and with a few edits as recommended by DCNR the document will be ready to issue out. It is the desire that a contract can be in place by the end of this year. The ORA received matching funds for the project from a private foundation.

ORA was invited to meet with the Oil Creek Township Planning Commission to discuss the progress of trail development, and the benefits of trails. The meeting was positive, and we are hopeful it will move forward to the possibility of trail development.