

Oil City Whitewater Recreation Park



THE RESOURCE

The Oil City Whitewater Recreation Park would be a safely designed length of Oil Creek and/or the Allegheny River altered for “park and play” activity consisting of waves, hydraulics, and other features allowing for hours of fun in one spot. In a whitewater park kayakers stay in one area and do not travel along the river from one point to another.

The engineers from Recreation, Engineering, and Planning appointed to the project will use natural materials to produce the various obstacles and varying stream flow directions. Easy access and entrance points for kayakers will be made through the use of large rock lining of the shore and a sidewalk built along the waterway. Onlookers can enjoy the view from designated observation points with bench seating.

THE RECREATION

Whitewater parks are for recreation and education. Kayaking was the fastest growing outdoor sport between 2000 and 2003¹. With two of the nation’s larger kayaking clubs within two hours of Oil City, both the Three Rivers Paddling Club of Pittsburgh and the Keelhaulers Club of Cleveland have shown interest in the project. The Oil City Whitewater Recreation Park can also be used as a center for swift water rescue training.

THE RESTORATION

The development of a whitewater park has proven benefits to the surrounding ecosystem. Features such as pools, riffles and runs increase aeration of the water, which improves the ecosystem for both animals and plants. Natural terracing, re-vegetation and riparian zone restoration will allow the community to interact with the river in a natural setting.

THE REVITALIZATION

The development of the Oil City Whitewater Recreation Park will act as a catalyst for enhancements along Oil Creek as a gateway into Oil City. These enhancements such as trails, observation points, and improved bank access will create momentum for business owners along this corridor to participate in the clean-up and development of this area.

¹ Information gathered and released by the Outdoor Industry Association 2003 Participation Study.

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THE RISK

As with any project, there is a risk. We recognize this and will be sure to take every action necessary to keep the public informed about concerns such as public safety. *The Oil City Downtown Study* completed in 2005 by Shepstone Management Company and Fairweather Consulting provides valuable information that supports the development of the Oil City Whitewater Recreation Park. After multiple discussions, assessments, and research we think that there is far more benefit to this project than risk.

THE RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Through assessments done by the consultants at Recreation, Engineering, and Planning the estimated cost to develop the Oil City Whitewater Recreation Park is between \$500,000 and \$1 million. Like communities with a similar whitewater project have reported revenue between \$1 and \$2 million.

The opportunity for festivals, events and competitions at the Oil City Whitewater Recreation Park are all viable. Such events would bring sponsorship, tourism, and business dollars to our area and increase our profile as a community.

THE REALITY

Our waterways are our most prominent and beautiful natural resource, but are underappreciated and underutilized. This project can work in Oil City as it has for many other small towns across the United States. This is a community initiative and we need the community to be involved in the planning and development of the Oil City Whitewater Recreation Park. There are many representatives from business and community leadership working hard to ensure that we approach this project with integrity and intelligence. The research being gathered will assist us in making sure this can happen.

Your input is valuable to the success of this project! ***Let's decide to succeed!***

For more information about this project, please contact:

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For updates on the project and local waterway events, please visit:

www.ocwhitewater.com