



PAUL BARNETT/Sun-Gazette

Festival of wheels rolls on river walk

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It's all about the Greenway.

Area residents came out in support of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership's first ever Bicycle and River Fest Saturday.

The event, designed to promote outdoor activities, featured a kids' bike derby and bicycle scavenger hunt on the Susquehanna River Walk as well as a variety of vendors, live music and a raffle.

"Part of our purpose here is to encourage families to get into bicycling and healthy living," said John

Walls, chairman of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership Board.

The event brought out people from all different walks of life. Walls stated that one family had four generations from various



areas in the region came to check out the event. They heard about it on the radio in Sandary, he said.

Angie Fillman brought her daughter Rachel, age 8, out to participate in the kid's derby.

"It's a nice day, it gets people outside and it's a fun thing to do," Fillman said of the event.

Rachel shared her mother's excitement. She says

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At left, Rachel Fillman rides through the festival's kids' course.

Bikeable communities

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through the derby course three times in a row.

"It was fun because we could do different kinds of stuff with our bikes," she said.

She especially enjoyed getting a chance to see the different mascots that were patrolling the festival, like Tony the Tiger and Smokey Bear.

Vendors also were able to promote their various causes and teach families about healthy living.

Erin Roush, owner of Freshlife, set up samples of some of the products she sells for families to have a healthy snacking option.

Roush initially was approached by Walls to be a part of the event as her store's mission and the mission of the Susquehanna Greenway Partnership were similar, aiming to provide families with healthy lifestyle options.

In addition to the vitamin and grocery stock Freshlife has to offer, the store also provides nutritional consultations for people looking to get healthy but don't have a starting

point, Roush said.

Representing Bicycle Center, one of the sponsors for the event, Rick DeVito offered bike demonstrations to visitors and identified what types of bicycles would fit their personal needs. Bicycle Center also donated two bikes to be raffled off to the derby and scavenger hunt participants.

"It heightens awareness of the things we have here in the valley," DeVito said of the festival. "People don't realize what we have. Once they get out and are exposed to it, they'll utilize it in a healthy way."

The River Fest also was an opportunity for the partnership and Lycoming County to share their plans to develop area bike trails even further as part of the regional ridge trail plan.

The hope, according to Walls, is to create a continuous trail from Lake Ontario in New York all the way through the local area.

When completed, the trail will cover approximately 750 miles of interconnected trails and travel through 76 river front towns. Mark Murawski,

Lycoming County transportation planner, and Brian S. Auman, landscape architect and current consultant on the project, were there to explain the proposed plan to extend trails in Lycoming and Clinton counties.

While Auman still is studying the area and looking into the project in providing definitive costs for developing new trails from Lock Haven to Jersey Shore, Jersey Shore to Williamsport and Montoursville to the Montgomery area, Murawski estimated that the various projects could cost \$3 million, \$10 million and \$13 million, respectively. Funds for the project would come from a variety of sources, including the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Auman is exploring all the options for the trail development.

"The possibilities are really endless," he said. "We could build an 80 mile trail for very little (cost)."

While it's too early to set a date for the completion of the project, Murawski said his hope is that the trail project will be on the ground for use in five to 10 years.



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Above, infant Liam Bartley, Lera Tressler, Tierney Halterman, 5, and Lera Tressler. At left, Scott Smith, and Linda Smith, with their children, Shane Smith, 4, Sam Smith, 2. The Susquehanna Greenway Partnership held a Bicycle and River Fest Saturday. Families and vendors came out in support of the festival, which offered two biking events and information on healthy living.

