

Henry touts rivers as resource to tap

By Benjamin Lanka

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Tom Henry called for the creation of another community task force if elected mayor, this one to examine how to capitalize on the city's three rivers.

Speaking on a platform overlooking the St. Joseph River, the Democratic mayoral nominee announced his "Celebrate Our Rivers" initiative, which involves the creation of a team of community volunteers to gather input from the public on how to maximize the area's rivers.

"It's time to make a concerted effort to capitalize on our community's single recognizable feature," he said.

The group will be charged with examining the opportunities of the rivers, proposing steps to maximize the rivers' natural features and potential economic gains, and acting as ambassadors for the rivers to the public. He said the days of his being elected, although he has not initiative would start within 100 set a size for the group nor a timeline for it to complete its work.

It is the second task force championed by Henry. He previously called for the creation of a community group to examine how to use the city's trust fund, which million in unrestricted is expected to come due in 2009 with a balance of \$40 money.

Henry said he supports the city's north river task force work, which is acres of land just north of the St. Marys River examining the use of 29 million purchase option for the land owned by downtown. The city has a \$4.3 OmniSource. Henry did not commit on whether he supports purchasing the property, only saying it "holds promise."

Henry faces Republican nominee Matt Kelty this fall. Members of the Kelty campaign declined to comment Monday afternoon.

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