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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 15, 2009

Chief Executive Dan Onorato Announces Community Trails Initiative Selects McTish, Kunkel & Associates

PITTSBURGH, Pa. – (January 15, 2009) Chief Executive Dan Onorato announces selection of McTish Kunkel & Associates to work with the Community Trails Initiative; a public/private multi-municipal project to complete a trail development plan encompassing 17 municipalities (City of Pittsburgh, Millvale, Shaler, Etna, Sharpsburg, Aspinwall, Fox Chapel, O'Hara Township, Blawnox, Harmar, Cheswick, Springdale, Springdale Township, Frazer, Tarentum, Brackenridge and Harrison) along the right bank of the Allegheny River.

The main purpose of this multi-municipal project is to link the existing Three Rivers Heritage Trail with the Armstrong Trail. This connection is an important part of the Allegheny County Riverfronts Project, the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Network and also the Pittsburgh to Harrisburg Mainline Canal Greenway. The project is made possible through a partnership between Allegheny County, Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Friends of the Riverfront. The Township of O'Hara and the Fox Chapel District Association are also key partners assisting with community outreach and fiscal responsibilities.

In a simple manor of statement, the Community Trails Initiatives' goal is to play a role in the successful expansion of the current Three Rivers Hertigae Trail along the Allegheny Riverfront, create community connections, and provide public access to recreational opportunities along the riverfronts. The project is funded through the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Allegheny County, Allegheny Rivertown Enterprize Zone, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Friends of the Riverfront and through generous financial support from the 17 riverfront municipalities within the corridor.

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This study will show several sets of information upon its' completion, including general demographics of potential trail users based on the existing Three Rivers Heritage Trail, potential demand and use of the trail, it will identify and evaluate potential trail linkages/connectors including possible connections to neighboring developments, and compatibility of trail development with adjacent land uses.