



Ohio River Trail Council Press Release

For Immediate Release

Contact Persons:

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Ohio River Trail Council Partner Communities Receive EPA Grant

Monaca, Pa. (February 2, 2011) - The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected the Borough of Monaca as a Brownfields Area-Wide Planning Pilot Program recipient. The successful proposal was submitted by the Borough of Monaca in partnership with the Borough of Midland, the City of Aliquippa, Borough of Coraopolis and the Ohio River Trail Council.

The Ohio River Trail Council's planning and community revitalization initiatives along the Ohio River Trail Corridor will be complemented by the area-wide planning process, which will facilitate community involvement in site-specific brownfields cleanup and reuse plans based on environmental conditions and evaluate which sites have potential for new or increased public access to the river through the proposed Ohio River Trail connections.

The decline of steel industry along the Ohio River Trail corridor during in the 1970's has left many of our targeted areas with poverty rates as high as twenty-one (21) percent. The EPA's Brownfields Pilot Program will help further community-based partnership efforts within these underserved or economically disadvantaged neighborhoods by confronting local environmental and public health challenges related to brownfields, while creating a planning framework to advance economic development and job creation.



Monaca along with the Ohio River Trail Council (ORTC) has selected three other partner communities to target four brownfields areas along the proposed forty-one (41) mile Ohio River Trail Corridor. The target areas are in the Borough of Monaca, the City of Aliquippa, Borough of Coraopolis, and Borough of Midland. The four target areas include more than 250 acres of land and 34 brownfields, which are primarily former steel mill-related and small-scale industrial lands. These municipalities have joined to undertake a grass-roots effort to re-think the future of our communities as a way to overcome the loss of a major portion of our manufacturing base and the post-industrial brownfields legacy that remains from that loss.

To reach the next level on the Ohio River Corridor Plan, Monaca, the leading founding member of the ORTC, will receive a grant for a \$150,000, contract assistance, and collaboration to facilitate community involvement in area-wide planning approaches to brownfields assessment, cleanup and subsequent reuse. In addition, the connection of the Ohio River Corridor to other community facilities and investments will be evaluated and the development of a strategy for leveraging public and private resources.

"The Ohio River Trail Council's plan to redefine its existing industrial heritage through a visionary, community-wide brownfield planning process will enable the cleanup of industrial properties, promote the highest and best use of underutilized areas, and create opportunities for more direct connection to water resources," Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Deputy Secretary Denise Brinley said. "DEP proudly supports the efforts of the Ohio River Trail Council and will continue its effective partnership with the council to achieve its mission of community revitalization through brownfields redevelopment."

"EPA is pleased to be working with the Borough of Monaca as a Brownfields Area-Wide Planning pilot community. One of the goals of this new program is for the Borough to develop a strategic redevelopment plan for area-wide investments and improvements, which will lead to cleanup and reuse of brownfield sites. With a strong focus on authentic local community engagement and partnerships, Monaca will use this grant assistance from EPA to create a shared vision for cleaning up and revitalizing the Ohio River Corridor brownfields areas." expressed Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator for US EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

"I am very pleased that the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Pa Department of Environmental Protection appreciates the need for land revitalization in our communities and the time and energy our volunteers devoted in the preparation of the brownfields application," expressed Dr. Vincent Troia, Chief Executive Chairmen, CEO and Co-founder of the Ohio River Trail Council. "This grant is an important step forward in achieving our mission. Our goal is to use the Ohio River Trail as a framework for redevelopment investment."

"The Ohio River Trail Council is to be commended for its economic foresight, hard work and due diligence in securing a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency as a Brownfield's Area-Wide Planning Pilot Program recipient. This land revitalization grant will provide economic stimulus and recreation activities that will add to the quality of life in Beaver County, by connecting our communities", said Beaver County Commissioner's Chairman Tony Amadio.

"By revitalizing old industrial sites throughout the Ohio River Corridor, we can attract new economic development to our area," said U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04), who worked on behalf of the grant proposal and wrote a letter of support. "This grant will help communities along the Ohio River join forces to create a better future for our region."

"Monaca's previous work in partnering with the Ohio River Trail Council led to the awarding of the EPA grant for the four-community partnership," stated Mario Leone, the Borough of Monaca's

manager, grant administrator and the President and Co-founder of the Ohio River Trail Council. “The next step is advertising for the Request for Proposal (RFP) and selecting a consultant for the project.”

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The Ohio River Trail Council (ORTC) works to bring individuals, groups, councils, communities, businesses, recreational users and all levels of government together to promote and protect a continuous corridor of natural and cultural resources along the Ohio River and its tributaries known as the Ohio River Trail. The ORTC's goal is to honor our past and build our future by providing recreation opportunities, heritage development, environmental stewardship, safe transportation networks and economic stimulus. Presently the ORTC is undergoing multi-municipal planning efforts with a focus on community revitalization planning, with a specific emphasis on capitalizing on our common interest in reconnecting all of our communities along the Ohio River. The Ohio River Corridor is a critical local and regional resource that calls for protection and enhancement.

For additional information regarding, brownfields news and events, and publications, visit the [EPA Brownfields & Land Revitalization](#).

To download or distribute a portable document of our press releases or event flyers please visit the [ORTC Press Room](#) or [ORTC Events](#).

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Click here to download an [ORTC membership application](#).

Click here to view the [ORTC meeting schedule](#).

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For additional information regarding the EPA Brownfields Program and the mission of the Ohio River Trail Council please visit www.ohiorivertrail.org.



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