

## **Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 18, 2011**

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### **OHIO RIVER TRAIL TO RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

#### **Tri-state Trail Project Commences at the "Point of Beginning"**

**Ohioville, Pa. (January 18, 2011)** The National Park Service has approved the Ohio River Trail Council's application for technical assistance from the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program. The Ohio River Trail Council (ORTC) was selected from the most competitive field of requests ever received by the National Park Service (NPS) and was one of only five new projects accepted in Pennsylvania.

The Ohio River Trail Council proposes the broad vision of a tri-state greenway system of interconnecting trails in Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia. The ORTC is working to develop a forty-one mile multi-use land & water trail system along the Ohio River and its tributaries in southwestern Pennsylvania, known as the Ohio River Trail (ORT). The ORT and the tri-state trail campaign originate at the U.S. Public Land Survey "Point of Beginning", a National Historic Landmark located near the three-way intersection of Ohio, Pennsylvania and the northern tip of West Virginia.

"I am proud to have supported the Ohio River Trail's application for this technical assistance grant," said U.S. Senator Bob Casey. "With the guidance of the National Park Service, the Ohio River Trail Council will now have the capability to conduct feasibility studies on the construction of a 41-mile, multi-use trail along the Ohio River. More importantly, this program will provide extensive fitness and recreation opportunities for people from the twenty-seven (27) communities who reside along the route."

"Our region's riverfronts are some of our best assets," said U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire, who wrote a letter in support of the Ohio River Trail Council's application. "I want to congratulate the Ohio River Trail Council on receiving this well-deserved recognition and securing support that will help them realize their vision for our area."

"I am very encouraged that the National Park Service has approved the Ohio River Trail Council application for assistance as one of the five new projects in Pennsylvania as this new trail will

eventually improve the quality of life in Beaver County for its residents", said Beaver County Commissioners' Chairman Tony Amadio.

"I'm pleased to see that the National Park Service has recognized the important work that the Ohio River Trail Council is doing and that it will now provide technical assistance to the ORTC," U.S. Congressman Mike Doyle said. "As we've worked to reinvent southwestern Pennsylvania, the region's leaders have come to appreciate the important contributions that a wide-ranging network of parks, trails, and green spaces makes to our quality of life and economic development," Congressman Doyle added. "Contacting the Park Service in support of the Ohio River Trail Council's application was just one of the many efforts I've made over the years to promote just such a system along the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela Rivers, and I'm pleased that the Park Service rated this initiative one of the most important in the country."

Over the next year, the National Park Service Rivers & Trails staff will assist the Ohio River Trail Council with the completion of a feasibility study and to expand public involvement in the project. Efforts are underway to communicate and collaborate with other trail groups, and to establish a Tri-State Trail Alliance in order to increase visibility and success of each smaller trail component of a greater linking trail system. The National Park Service is proud to support such a capable partner and eager to help contribute to the Ohio River Trail Initiative. The National Park Service helps communities and neighborhoods improve their important local resources, protect river resources, develop new trails and greenways and create and manage open space. These projects are locally-led with Rivers & Trails staff supporting recreation and conservation leaders. In 2010, 60 projects were selected as Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance recipients in the 12 Northeastern states. Nationally, in 2010, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance efforts helped over 200 communities leverage \$16.5 million in funds for targeted projects.

"The proposed Ohio River Trail is a critical and missing link to nationally-significant trail linkages. I am looking forward to working closely with the Ohio River Trail Council, adjacent communities, and other nearby trail groups to help create a vision for a linking system of trails, with on-the-ground trail development and river access as the ultimate goal," said Peggy Pings, Outdoor Recreation Planner with National Park Service-Rivers & Trails Program.

"I am very pleased that the National park Service has recognized the outstanding recreation and conservation work that the Ohio River Trail Council and our partner communities have accomplished," stated Dr. Vincent Troia, the Chief Executive Chairman & CEO of the Ohio River Trail Council. "The ORTC's mission is to honor our past while improving our communities' future by providing recreation opportunities, heritage development, environmental stewardship, safe transportation networks and economic stimulus. One of the principal outcomes of the Ohio River Trail Project will be to foster further recreation and cultural-based economic development by capitalizing on the popularity of nature tourism through the development of a tri-state recreation and parks system".

To view the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance 2011 Pennsylvania News please click here: [RTCA Pennsylvania News](#)

For more information on the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program, please visit [www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca).

To download and distribute a copy of this press release please click here: [ORTC Press Release](#)

For additional information regarding the mission of the Ohio River Trail Council please visit [www.ohiorivertrail.org](http://www.ohiorivertrail.org).

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