



RIVERLIFE NEWS

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CONTACT:

Stephan Bontrager
(p) 412.258.6636 x.105
(e) stephan@riverlifepgh.org

*Mon Wharf Renovation Finished; Ribbon Cutting Celebration Planned
New Park and Trail Add a Green Riverfront Edge to Downtown's Golden Triangle*

PITTSBURGH, November 11, 2009 – With construction completed on the newly renovated Mon Wharf Landing, Riverlife is pleased to “Welcome the Wharf” with a ribbon cutting celebration on Monday, November 16, 2009. Construction began in March on the 2,017-foot long stretch of riverbank between the Fort Pitt and Smithfield Street Bridges and finished on schedule in early November. The Mon Wharf’s transformation takes Pittsburgh’s Three Rivers Park one step closer to being fully realized.

Hosted by Riverlife Executive Director Lisa Schroeder, the ribbon cutting ceremony is open to the public and will feature speakers Congressman Mike Doyle, Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Colonel Mike Crall, PennDOT Secretary of Transportation Allen Biehler, and Point Park University President Dr. Paul Hennigan. Opening remarks begin at 10 am. Refreshments are provided courtesy of the Gateway Clipper Fleet.

The landing features new lighting, seating and steps to the Monongahela River for kayakers and other watercraft. The landing’s completion concludes Phase I of the Mon Wharf project. Phase II will eventually connect Point State Park with the Eliza Furnace Trail via the proposed Mon Wharf Switchback. The switchback will in turn connect Pittsburgh to the 318-mile Greater Allegheny Passage Trail and Washington, D.C.

“The Mon Wharf Landing is a huge success story in the development of the Greater Allegheny Passage,” said Congressman Doyle, who oversaw the commitment of federal transportation funds for the project. “This project is yet another step forward in changing our attitudes about riverfronts, embracing them as assets that drive recreation, create jobs, and raise the quality of life in our region.”

“This park opens the door to welcome bicyclists, kayakers and other outdoor enthusiasts to Downtown Pittsburgh,” Mayor Ravenstahl said. “The new Mon Wharf is one of many city assets that confirm what Pittsburghers already know: that Pittsburgh is a great place to live, work and play. This is a welcome new space.”



Native trees and shrubs planted along the trail add a green edge to the Mon Wharf, which has not hosted plant life for several generations. Species include October Glory red maples, shadblow serviceberry trees, eastern redbuds, tradition serviceberry trees, soft rush and little bluestem. The new plantings were chosen to provide a splash of native color along the Monongahela throughout the changing seasons.

Because the Mon Wharf is susceptible to flooding, the design of the new park by LaQuatra Bonci Associates includes water connections and high powered hoses to wash away silt and debris left by rising water levels. The landing is also gently graded to enable drainage of flood water. Construction was overseen by Pittsburgh-based Clearwater Construction.

“The Mon Wharf project is a stunning example of what can happen when state, federal and private funding come together to aid in the transformation of Pittsburgh’s riverfronts,” said Lisa Schroeder, Riverlife Executive Director. “This project has completely changed one of the city’s most visible urban edges, and we couldn’t be more thrilled for Pittsburghers to the experience the Mon Wharf in a completely new way.”

“The investment in our region’s riverfronts is paying off,” said County Executive Onorato, “and the new Mon Wharf is a confirmation of that. I applaud Riverlife’s vision for connecting the city to the river, and look forward to future projects that will spur economic development and enjoyment of our waterways.”

Support for the \$3 million project was provided in part by Riverlife, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PennDOT, The K. Mabis McKenna Foundation, The Heinz Endowments and The Richard King Mellon Foundation.

About Riverlife

Riverlife’s mission is simple: To reclaim, restore and promote Pittsburgh’s riverfronts as the environmental, recreational, cultural and economic hub for the people of this region and our visitors. Riverlife (formerly Riverlife Task Force) is a public-private partnership established in 1999 to guide and advocate for the redevelopment of Pittsburgh’s riverfronts. Riverlife works to reconnect Pittsburgh with its rivers by bringing recreation, ecological restoration and economic opportunity back to our waterfronts.

Today, Riverlife’s stewardship extends up the Allegheny River to the 31st Street Bridge, down the Monongahela River to the Hot Metal Bridge, and along the Ohio River to the West End Bridge. Through a variety of public-private partnerships integrating the efforts of state, city, and private developers, Riverlife points proudly to a host of projects already in place, with several currently underway and more planned for the future. This seamless sequence of open spaces for civic engagement will ultimately knit our neighborhoods together and reconnect us with our living environment.



About Three Rivers Park

At the heart of our plan is the creation of Three Rivers Park: a grand urban waterfront park along the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio Rivers in downtown Pittsburgh that provides a continuous link between existing and future riverfront destinations, as well as exciting new park spaces, amenities and commercial destinations. When complete, Three Rivers Park will be a non-stop, accessible waterfront park system linking more than 13 miles of public and private riverfront property including bridges, shorelines, and adjacent development. The trail within Three Rivers Park is called the Three Rivers Heritage Trail, which continues beyond the park and is a segment of the 335-mile long Great Allegheny Passage, linking Pittsburgh to Washington, DC.