



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Charleroi, PA, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019* –The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) announced a grant award of \$157,250 to the Mon Valley Alliance Foundation (MVAF), formerly the Mon Valley Progress Council, to continue development on the Charleroi Riverfront Park project.

The DCNR Recreation and Conservation grant program is funded with a variety of state and federal funding sources including the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund (Key 93) which includes Key-Community and Key-Land Trust and the Environmental Stewardship Fund (ESF).

The grant funding will be used in conjunction with a matching grant from the Washington County Local Share Account Program to widen the boat launch area, install a boat and trailer parking lot, construct retaining walls, add ADA access and landscaping, install project signage and other related site improvements.

“We are pleased to be able to continue forward with our efforts to remediate Blight in our downtowns and this project is a great example of taking an abandoned and unused property and turning it into a place where our community can access the river, enjoy recreational opportunities and support the conservation of our waterways” said Ben Brown, CEO of the Mon Valley Alliance and Mon Valley Alliance Foundation.

Partners on the project include the Washington County Redevelopment Authority and River Town Program, a project of the National Road Heritage Corridor supported by the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, which has raised in excess of \$4 million dollars over the last 8 years to support projects that reconnect communities to the river in the Mon Valley. Work to date has included the installation of an EZ Dock canoe and kayak accessible launch, resurfacing of the existing public boat ramp and a partnership with the Mon Valley Initiative for additional riverfront landscaping.

“We fully support the continued improvements and development of the Park as it will serve a vital role providing space for recreation, leisure and is a vital access point for Monongahela River related activities” said Charleroi Borough Council Member, Mark Alterici. “This is a great first step in what we hope is further development and enhancement to our riverfront property.”

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More about the Mon Valley Alliance Foundation:

The Mon Valley Alliance Foundation is a registered 501 (c) 3 charitable organization, formed in 2016 through the consolidation of two 50+ year old organizations, the Mon Valley Progress Council and the Middle Monongahela Industrial Development Association. Its mission is to be the leading advocacy organization promoting and marketing economic development and job creation in the Mon Valley communities. The long-range goals of economic and community development are leveraged with public and private investment as well as innovative strategic and master planning on tangible near-term projects intended to meaningfully impact job growth. The result of these activities is expected to produce complimentary improvements to housing, retail and recreational assets in the community.

More about the River Town Program:

The River Town Program, a program of the National Road Heritage Corridor, is a community revitalization effort working in multiple communities bordering the Upper and Mid Monongahela River. Over the past three years, this regional, multi-jurisdictional program has added capacity and resources to the communities of California, West Brownsville, Monongahela, Charleroi and Fredericktown in Washington County; Monessen in Westmoreland County; Elizabeth in Allegheny County; Rice's Landing and Greensboro in Greene County; Brownsville and Point Marion in Fayette County.

For Additional information:

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