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For more information contact: Dennis Pfeiffer (412) 762-4857
or Bruce Barron (412) 835-0614

MONTOUR TRAIL'S HURRICANE-DAMAGED MILES BACK IN SERVICE; GRAND REOPENING CELEBRATION SET FOR SEPTEMBER 16

Less than a year after Hurricane Ivan made 10 miles of the Montour Trail impassable, the Montour Trail Council has achieved what once seemed impossible--reopening the trail.

A grand "reopening" celebration will be held on September 16, at 3:00 p.m., at the former Wickes parking lot off Montour Run Road, to thank the many people and organizations who have helped to put these popular 10 miles of trail, from mile zero in Moon Township to Findlay Township, back in service.

Robinson and Moon Township work crews laid four miles of new limestone surface earlier this month, restoring the Montour Trail's western segment to an uninterrupted 22 miles. A short segment near mile zero has not been completely restored due to a pending water line installation, but is passable.

Among those whom the Montour Trail Council will thank on September 16 are:

- Findlay, Moon and Robinson Township elected officials and road crews.
- Allegheny County Chief Executive Dan Onorato and the county's Public Works Department.
- Grants from Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) for \$50,000, Allegheny County Regional Asset District for \$75,000; Laurel Foundation for \$25,000.
- Individuals who donated over \$22,000 designated for trail repair and gave hundreds of volunteer work hours.
- Trail repair contractor BKG, Inc.

The restored trail will also be highlighted on September 10 as the Montour Trail Council hosts its largest annual event, the Montour Trail/IKEA half-marathon, 5K run and walk, which typically draws over 1,000 participants. In addition the third annual Tour the Montour bike ride will be held on September 24 starting at mile zero.

The Montour Trail is one of Western PA's most heavily used recreational resources, with 40 miles of active trail in use in Allegheny and Washington Counties. When complete, it will extend from Coraopolis to Clairton. The Montour Trail is part of the Allegheny Trail Alliance network of trails that will connect the Pittsburgh area to Washington, D.C. Additional information about the Montour Trail can be found at www.montourtrail.org or

by calling (412) 257-3011.

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