



November 20, 2006

Allegheny County Council Members  
VIA Email

**Re: Countywide Riverfront Park**

Dear Members of the Allegheny County Council,

Allegheny Land Trust has been asked to comment on legislation proposed by Councilmen Fawcett and Burns that is intended to create a countywide park following the riparian corridors of the Ohio, Allegheny, Monongahela and Youghioghene Rivers.

Since 1993, Allegheny Land Trust has worked to implement the Allegheny County Greenways Plan (1995) and to protect critical natural areas identified in the Allegheny County Natural Heritage Inventory (1993). Since then ALT has conserved more than 1,200 acres in 15 municipalities of Allegheny County. Several ALT conservation areas are comprised of several hundred acres of riverfront slopes in Forward Township, and Plum and White Oak Boroughs.

In addition to our land conservation work, ALT administers ARAD funds for other private and public organizations building a network of trails from abandon railroad rights-of-way. Beneficiaries include the Montour Trail Council, Friends of the Riverfront, Steel Valley Trail Council, Panhandle Trail Council, Rachel Carson Trail Conservancy and the Yough River Trail Council. More than \$1 million of ARAD funds have been administered by Allegheny Land Trust that has helped to construct over 60 miles of vehicle-free and safe hiking and biking trails. These trails link urban and suburban communities throughout the county, and Pittsburgh to Washington D.C.

Allegheny Land Trust has more than a decade of experience with conserving land and has refined our criteria to target lands that provide the greatest public benefit by helping to reduce the impact of regional threats such as flooding, landslides and water pollution from combined sewer overflows. We are developing the *ALT Greenprint – A Regional Conservation Agenda*<sup>TM</sup> that prioritizes conservation for the public good.

ALT generally supports the concept of a riverfront park as long as other critical landscapes within the county that also provide substantial public benefits are not overlooked. We look forward to bringing our expertise to the table through the planning process, and I look forward to meeting with each one of you personally to share details about the ALT Greenprint.

Sincerely,

Roy Kraynyk  
Executive Director