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Onorato Announces Effort to Redevelop South Park Fairgrounds

PITTSBURGH — Allegheny County Executive Dan Onorato today announced plans for the sustainable redevelopment of the South Park Fairgrounds and adjacent areas. The effort is part of Onorato's County Parks Action Plan, which is transforming and enhancing recreational opportunities at the County's nine regional parks.

“Allegheny County has undergone a remarkable economic and environmental transformation, and the time has come to also transform the South Park Fairgrounds into a modern facility that reflects the needs of today's park users,” said Onorato. “Our plan is to engage residents in creating a sustainable development plan that make the most of this significant public asset.”

Allegheny County has contracted with GAI Consultants Inc. to facilitate the redevelopment project, which includes conducting an overall collaborative design process and developing a feasibility plan. GAI will conduct a multi-stage stakeholder input process, facilitate a design charrette, and synthesize the concluding results.

This first step includes a public comment period during which Allegheny County will conduct focus groups consisting of park users, officials from adjacent municipalities, conservation and historical preservation groups, and other stakeholders. The County will also hold public meetings where residents can share input.

Within six months, Allegheny County will collect data, form a project team, conduct intensive planning sessions, and develop recommendations to present to the public. The goal of the first phase is developing a master plan that is sustainable and appropriately satisfies the needs of park users and other stakeholders. The Richard King Mellon Foundation and The Heinz Endowments have generously provided \$22,500 each toward development of the master plan for the site.

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Allegheny County operates nine public parks that span more than 12,000 acres and offer a wide array of sporting, leisure, cultural and entertainment opportunities. The Allegheny County Parks system serves to enhance the quality of life and well-being of citizens of Allegheny County and Southwestern Pennsylvania. Various seasonal and year-round programs, activities and amenities provide residents with educational and recreational opportunities, while also contributing to the economic vitality of the region. For additional information on Allegheny County parks, visit www.alleghenycounty.us/parks.

The Heinz Endowments supports efforts to make Southwestern Pennsylvania a premier place to live and work, a center for learning and educational excellence, and a region that embraces diversity and inclusion. The Endowments provided a \$22,500 grant to develop a plan for sustainable redevelopment of the South Park Fairgrounds and surrounding portion of the park.

Homestead-based GAI Consultants Inc. will provide master planning, historic research, and public outreach coordination services. The company is joined by subconsultants Brean Associates and Sci-Tek Consultants Inc. Transforming ideas into reality for over 50 years, GAI is an employee-owned, multi-discipline engineering and environmental consulting firm, serving clients worldwide in the energy, transportation, water, municipal, government, and industrial markets from offices throughout the Northeast, Midwest, and Southeastern United States. The firm's past projects include environmental and site work on the high-profile Summerset at Frick Park redevelopment, as well as engineering and streetscape enhancements on Wood Street in Downtown Pittsburgh. To learn more, visit www.gaiconsultants.com.