



COUNTY OF ERIE

OFFICE OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE

MARK A. DIVECCHIO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
E-MAIL mdivecchio@eriecountygov.org

December 9, 2008

News Advisory

Contact:

Alyson M. Amendola
Director, Communications and Public Relations
Erie County Office of the County Executive
(814) 451-7440
aamendola@eriecountygov.org

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Erie County Natural Heritage Inventory

(ERIE, PA)--Plans for a two-year inventory of the most biologically significant areas of Erie County will be presented at a public meeting on Thursday, December 11, at 7 p.m. at the Erie County Conservation District office, 1927 Wager Road, Erie, PA 16509.

During the presentation on December 11, biologists will explain how they will conduct the survey; discuss the information and data they are seeking; and will describe the final product that they will prepare, a report to the County on its biologically important areas. The inventory is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2010.

The results of the inventory will include a list of the most important biological sites in Erie County as well as maps that identify their locations. The project will be carried out by biologists from the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

“This inventory will provide valuable information that will help communities, businesses and private landowners identify and protect Erie County’s natural resources,” said Jake Welsh, Director of the Erie County Department of Planning. Erie County is known to host plant and animal species found nowhere else within the Commonwealth, and more rare species than any other Pennsylvania county.

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The Erie County Natural Heritage Inventory is funded by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), the Erie Community Foundation, and Pennsylvania Sea Grant and is similar to inventory projects that are either underway or planned for most counties within the Commonwealth. Erie County will be among the first group of counties to undergo a new, full-scale inventory that will update existing records.

People who know of areas within Erie County that may deserve special attention – such as potential old-growth forests, rich wildflower areas, bird rookeries, or large, undisturbed wetlands – are requested to attend this meeting. Those who cannot attend but would like to participate may send written descriptions of sites, along with maps showing their locations, to: Christopher Tracey, Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, 800 Waterfront Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15202.

Questions about the Erie County Natural Heritage Inventory may be directed to: Jake Welsh, Erie County Department of Planning, 814-451-6336.

Media contacts:

Stephanie Kraynick
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
(412) 586-2358
skraynick@paconserve.org

Jake S. Welsh, AICP
Director
Erie County Department of Planning
Erie County Courthouse, Room 119
140 West Sixth Street
Erie, PA 16501
Phone: 814.451.6336
E-mail: jwelsh@eriecountygov.org

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