



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2007

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## **Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance Honored by Governor's Council on Physical Fitness**

Lansing – The Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance (MTGA) will be honored by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports at their first annual *One in a Million* event on Thursday, November 15 in Detroit. MTGA is the recipient of the Governor's Council Achievement Award for Organizations, an award presented for exceptional work that supports healthy, active lifestyles.

Earlier this year, the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance released the ambitious *Connecting Michigan: A State Trailways Vision and Action Plan*, based on four major principals: to ensure that Michigan's railway stakeholders have ready access to technical resources and best practices; to improve Michigan's financial, maintenance, and marketing resources for developing, promoting, enhancing, and sustaining a statewide railway system; to improve coordination and communication, encourage cooperation, and foster partnerships to support trailways; and to provide a compelling statewide railway vision and tactical plan to achieve it.

MTGA spearheaded the project and led it with the help of steering committee members from the National Park Service and the Michigan Recreation and Park Association. State government and non-profit partners included the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Michigan Department of Community Health, Travel Michigan, and the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness.

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“What a tremendous undertaking for MTGA, in its first year, to bring together so many groups, in the spirit of collaboration for the well being of Michigan’s residents. MTGA’s vision and commitment to connect the state with trails shows dedication to providing opportunities for people to be physically active,” said Marilyn Lieber, President and CEO of the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports.

“The coordination and synergy on trails between so many groups as we move forward with implementing the plan will greatly assist on-the-ground trail efforts,” said Nancy Krupiarz, Executive Director of MTGA.

MTGA was able to secure funding for this work through the Ruth Mott Foundation, the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative Network and the People and Land Program of the Kellogg Foundation.

One hundred twenty-five organizations and agencies at the national, state, regional and local levels have officially endorsed the plan. Implementation is already happening in some areas, including development of a comprehensive database and web site to promote trail tourism and trail planning across jurisdictional boundaries.

The November 15 *One in a Million* event is presented by The Michigan Health Ministries of Ascension Health, which includes St. John Health, Borgess Health, Genesys Health, St. Joseph Health System and St. Mary’s of Michigan. Other sponsors include Detroit Medical Center; Henry Ford Health System; Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan; Citizens Bank; Health Alliance Plan; Pfizer; Oakwood Healthcare; the American Osteopathic Association; and Trinity Health.

The Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports and the Michigan Fitness Foundation envision a physically educated population with the knowledge and skills to enjoy a healthy, vigorous and safe lifestyle in communities designed to support physical activity. For more information, visit [www.michiganfitness.org](http://www.michiganfitness.org).

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