Planning for Green Trail project to promote green space, business and work force initiatives in West Philadelphia to kick off Tuesday, Sept. 21, at 5 p.m. at Philadelphia University

PHILADELPHIA, September 21, 2010 – Planning for a new project that would promote green space, jobs and businesses in West Philadelphia will get underway Tuesday, Sept. 21, at 5 p.m. at Philadelphia University’s Center for Sustainability, Energy Efficiency and Design.

Philadelphia University is located at School House Lane and Henry Ave. in East Falls.

The Park West Green Trail initiative is spearheaded by the American Cities Foundation (ACF) with a planning grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. ACF president Sandra Dungee Glenn will provide an overview of the project, and City Council members Curtis Jones and Jannie Blackwell will be attending the meeting.

Philadelphia University faculty members Claudia Phillips, Ph.D., ASLA, director of the University’s landscape architecture program, and Rob Fleming, LEED AP, associate professor of architecture and founding director of the graduate program in sustainable design, were hired under the grant to develop the conceptual master plan. Three Philadelphia University students, in landscape architecture and sustainable design, also are working on the project.

The Park West Green Trail project calls for a “greenway” trail connecting three West Philadelphia neighborhoods that border Fairmont Park: Cathedral Park, Carroll Park and Parkside. The project also would promote green building practices and green infrastructure development in community planning, and create opportunities for new green jobs.

Philadelphia University, founded in 1884, is a private university with 3,500 students enrolled in more than 60 undergraduate and graduate programs. As part of its core mission, the University focuses on professionally oriented programs that prepare students for successful careers, with a strong foundation in the liberal arts and an orientation toward interdisciplinary collaboration. Philadelphia University includes Schools of Architecture, Business Administration, Design and Engineering, Liberal Arts, and Science and Health.