

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For more information, contact:**

Julie Gibson Sally, media relations representative  
(816) 668-1143  
julie@clearkc.com

**Senator Kit Bond and Port Authority Cut Ribbon at Riverfront Wetland Restoration Site**

*U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completes \$1.3 million ecosystem project on Riverfront Heritage Trail*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (July 3, 2009)** — Senator Kit Bond, The City of Kansas City, Mo., the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps.) and the Port Authority of Kansas City, Mo. (Port Authority) ceremonially cut ribbon today at the site of the Riverfront Wetland Restoration along the Riverfront Heritage Trail. The \$1.3 million project is complete following a year-long construction schedule. The ceremony kicked off KCRiverFest, which will begin later this afternoon at Richard L Berkley Riverfront Park.

“There is great momentum on the Riverfront,” said C. S. Runnion, III, Chairman of the Port Authority Board of Commissioners. “Today’s ribbon cutting marks another important milestone in the Port Authority’s efforts to enhance and improve the Riverfront Heritage Trail. On behalf of the Port Authority, I want to give a heartfelt thank you to United States Senator Kit Bond, the Army Corps of Engineers and the City of Kansas City for helping to bring all the resources to bear on this very important project.”

The Port Authority, in coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers developed a \$1.3 million wetland restoration along the Riverfront Heritage Trail composed of native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflower revegetation. An aquifer well will provide the water supply for the wetlands. The project includes walkways, benches, guardrails and interpretive displays. This signature project along the Riverfront Heritage Trail is largely financed through federal funding secured by Senator Kit Bond.

"This project is a testament to the collaborative efforts of the Kansas City Port Authority, Fleshman Construction Incorporated and the United States Army Corps of Engineers", said Deputy District Engineer for the Kansas City District Army Corps of Engineers', Lt. Col. Michael F. Fitzgerald. "Collectively, their hard work and dedication have dramatically improved the landscape of the riverfront."

The Port Authority of Kansas City is charged with economic development throughout the Kansas City area, including its current focus on the redevelopment of the remediated riverfront site immediately south of Berkley Park. Redeveloping the vacant property in a sustainable manner will strengthen the local tax base and spur appropriate economic development in this portion of downtown.

“Thanks to a lot of hard work on the community and local level, a world-class riverfront is in Kansas City’s future,” said Bond. “The new wetlands ecosystem restoration project is the latest step in the Riverfront’s revitalization and will be a boost to economic growth and help protect the environment.”

***About the Port Authority of Kansas City, Mo.***

The Port Authority of Kansas City, Mo., was established in 1977 by the City of Kansas City, Mo. to enhance commerce, transportation and trade along the waterfront and to contribute to the overall vitality of the local economy. The Port Authority is a political subdivision of the State of Missouri and was formed to promote economic development activities, especially those related to Kansas City's status as an inland port. The Authority operates as a seven-member, mayor-appointed board and is entrusted with the power to condemn property, enter contracts, and issue bonds. For more information, visit [www.kcportauthority.com](http://www.kcportauthority.com).

###