



**FRIENDS** of the  
**RIVERFRONT**

# About Us:

- For over a decade, Friends of the Riverfront has been on the ground and in the water, working to protect and restore our region's priceless rivers and riverfronts. We are a pioneering organization that has been involved in creating nearly all of the trails you see as you bike, hike, rollerblade or paddle along our beautiful shores. Through intense collaboration with community partners, government officials, and diverse volunteer base, our rivers and riverfronts have been transformed from industrial wastelands to international examples of environmental renewal.

# Mission Statement:

- Increased awareness and engagement with the Pittsburgh region's rivers and riverfronts through activities, stewardship and expansion of water and land trails.

Land Trail Development

Water Trail Development

Stewardship

# Three Rivers Heritage Trail

- The Three Rivers Heritage Trail is a wonderful pedestrian trail and greenway system around Pittsburgh. Running for 21 miles along both sides of the Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio Rivers, it is an almost complete public route for cyclists, walkers, runners, and in some places rollerbladers.

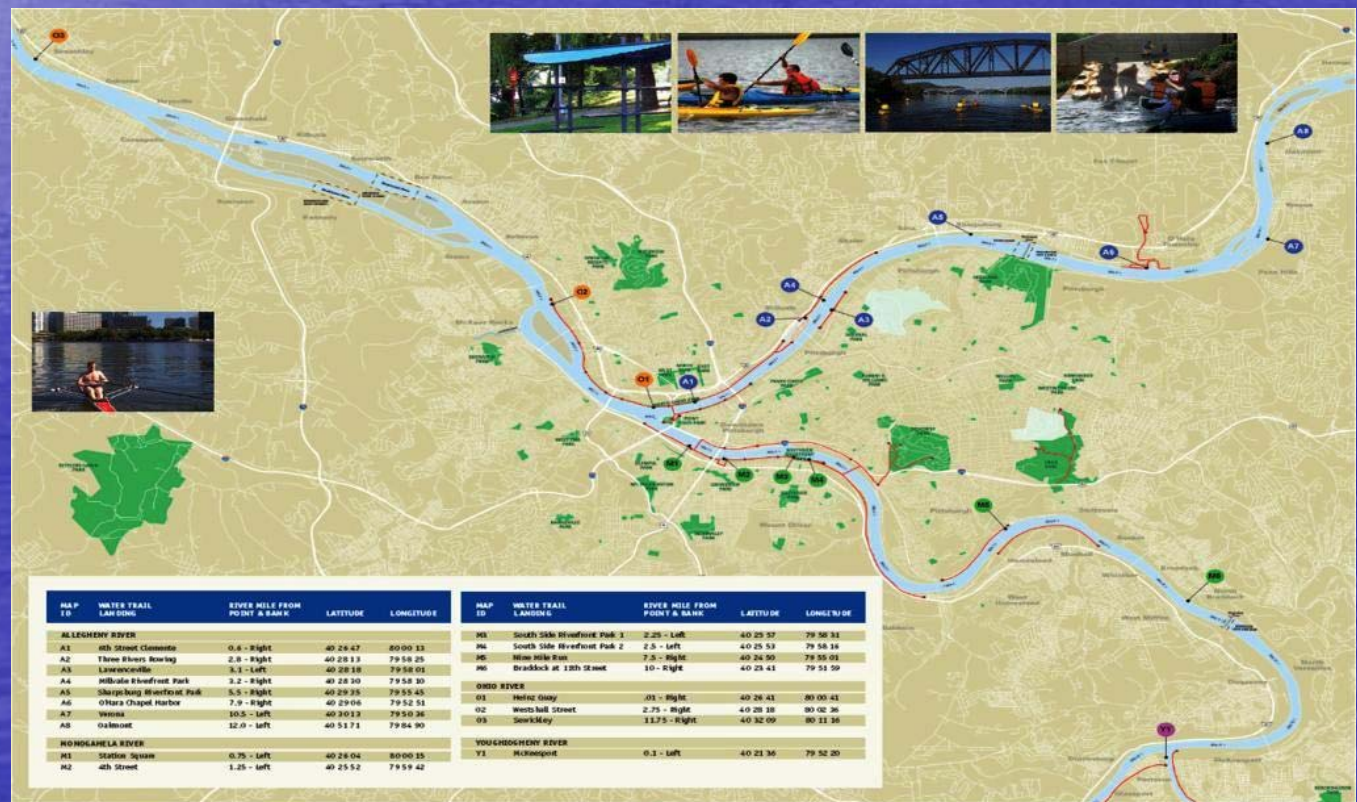


# Three Rivers Heritage Trail

- The riverfront trails that make up the Three Rivers Heritage Trail are linked by maps and Interpretive Signage that tells the story of Pittsburgh's historic riverfronts.

# Three Rivers Water Trail

- The Three Rivers Water Trail is a series of canoe/kayak Access Points within the 90 riverfront municipalities of Allegheny county.



# What makes up an Access Point?

- A License and Maintenance Agreement between Friends and the Municipality.
- Water Access signs that guide users from land to water.
- Storage Racks for kayaks/canoes.
- An ADA accessible boat launch.
- Maintenance.



# Riverfronts Naturally

- Riverfronts Naturally is an ongoing program of Friends of the Riverfront to combat invasive species, restore riverfront lands, and promote native species in riparian zones of the Three Rivers in the Pittsburgh Region—all while engaging volunteers in meaningful experiential education on watershed and riparian habitat issues. The Riverfronts Naturally Program continues to involve a diverse group of volunteers and engage municipal agencies in best practices for care of the region's riverfronts.

# The efforts of Riverfronts Naturally to plant native vegetation will:

- Restore the natural ecosystem
- Provide sustainable habitat for wildlife such as heron, geese and beaver
- Reduce the need for fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides and watering, thereby benefiting the environment and reducing maintenance costs
- Enhance the outdoor experience for land and water trail users
- Provide educational opportunities and living laboratories for schools, universities and the general public.

# Riverfronts Naturally – Long Term Goals

- Over time, the plantings along the trail will grow into an extensive park, or greenway within our city, able to sustain itself with restored trees and wildflowers.



# Riverfronts Naturally

- Each year, we offer a series of opportunities to volunteer with Riverfronts Naturally between April and November.
- Each year, we engage over 1,000 volunteers for 3 or more hours of work cleaning up the riverfronts.

# Native Plants

- **Native species** of trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses produce oxygen and filter pollutants out of the air and also soils, preventing them from leaching into the water.



# Native Species

- **Trees and Shrubs:**

Red Maple  
Box Elder  
Shadblow Serviceberry  
Devil's Walking Stick  
Buttonbush  
Silky Dogwood  
White Ash  
Green Ash  
Witch Hazel  
Red Mulberry  
Ninebark  
Sycamore  
Black Locust  
Black Willow  
Elderberry  
American Cranberry

- **Herbaceous Perennials:**

swamp milkweed  
Butterfly milkweed  
Common milkweed  
Joe-Pye Weed  
Switchgrass  
Black eyed Susan  
Narrow-leaf Cattail  
Broad-leaf Cattail

# Invasive Species

- Many plants not native to our region have successfully established themselves, causing environmental damage in their new habitat. When **invasives**, like Japanese Knotweed, go unchecked, they crowd out native plants by competing for light and nutrients, greatly diminishing biodiversity.



# Native Invasive Species

- Several species native to Southwestern PA can aggressively take over large areas of riverfront. Native grapevine is commonly seen carpeting trees and shrubs along the riverfronts.



# Riverfronts Naturally

- What are the top 3 things found on the Riverfronts?



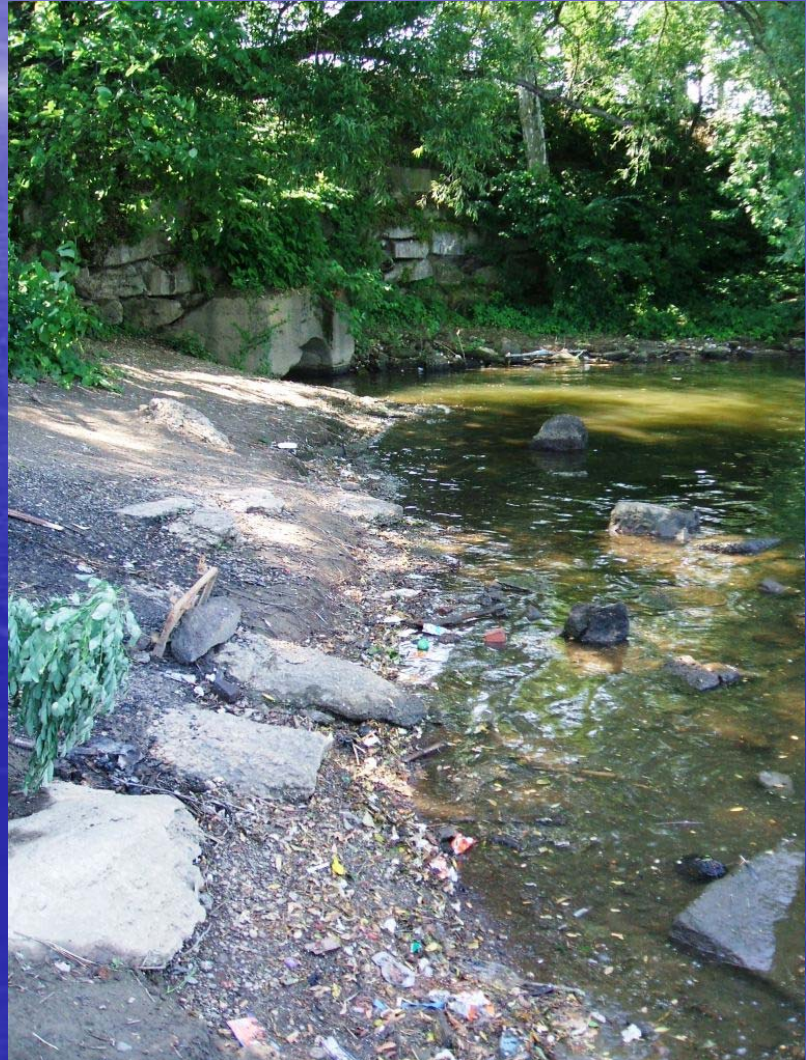
# Riverfronts Naturally

TIRES



# Riverfronts Naturally

DRINK CUPS



# Riverfronts Naturally

## RIVER BALLS



# How can I get involved?

- Volunteer at one or more Riverfronts Naturally event.
- Write a letter of support for Friends of the Riverfront.
- Visit us online at [www.friendsoftheriverfront.org](http://www.friendsoftheriverfront.org) , and become a member!