

RESTORING OUR RIVERFRONTS

Since 1991, Friends of the Riverfront has promoted public access to the region's rivers by creating the Three Rivers Heritage Trail and Water Trail. Riverfronts Naturally coordinates volunteer efforts to perform landscaping, plantings, and maintenance along the trails. The riparian zones we create promote the ecological health of our urban riverfronts.

We provide comprehensive support for even the largest groups. Volunteer participation in 2011 included:

- 8 corporate partners
- 30 events
- 1563 individuals
- 4689 service hours

645% growth in volunteer participation since 2003



PLEASE HELP!

Without the financial support and the physical participation of those who share our vision, the riverfronts would quickly revert to the unnatural state of neglect which prevailed when Friends of the Riverfront was formed in 1991.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ESSENTIAL TO:

- Remove debris and invasive plants
- Plant native trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers
- Maintain the twenty four miles of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail

GET INVOLVED:

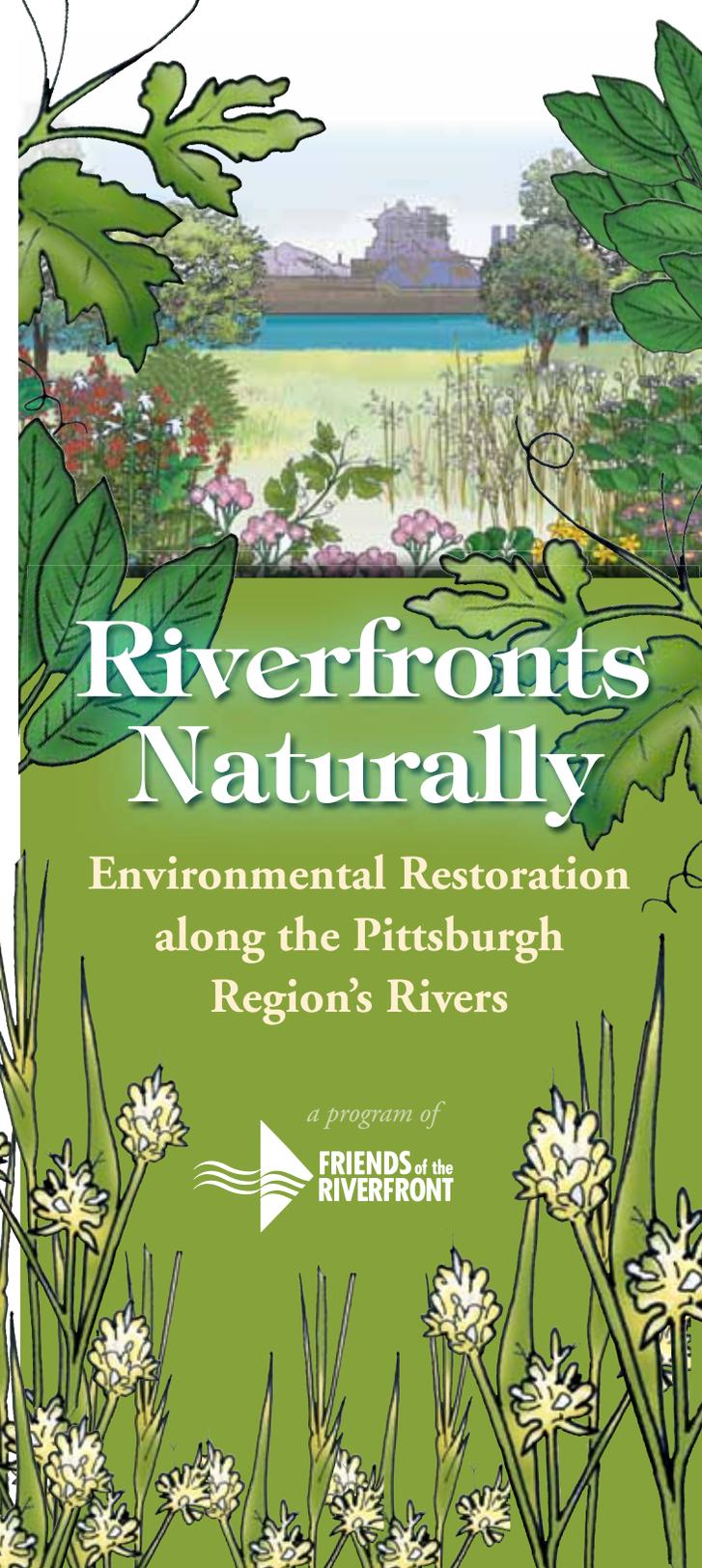
- Consult the Riverfronts Naturally event calendar online to volunteer at any of our regularly scheduled events
- Contact us to arrange an event for a group of 10 or more

For more information please contact:
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Friends of the Riverfront is a nonprofit organization working to increase awareness and engagement with the Pittsburgh region's rivers and riverfronts through activities, stewardship, and expansion of water and land trails.

412-488-0212
www.friendsoftheriverfront.org



RESTORING



Riverfronts Naturally works to undo decades of abandonment and neglect along the Pittsburgh region's riverfronts.

REVITALIZING



Riverfronts Naturally replaces invasive species with native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers.

RECONNECTING



Riverfronts Naturally reconnects thousands of volunteers with the joy and rewards of environmental stewardship.

RIVERFRONTS NATURALLY

restores and maintains "riparian zones" along our region's rivers. These natural areas provide a transition between the urban environment and the aquatic ecosystem. Riparian zones stabilize riverbanks and absorb rainfall, reducing pollution from surface runoff. The trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers we plant improve the air by filtering it, cooling it, and adding oxygen.



There are many ecological benefits of our plantings. Dogwood, viburnum, and elderberry trees provide food for resident and migrating birds. Purple coneflower, butterfly weed, and Joe-Pye weed attract and support struggling butterfly populations.

Native landscaping in the riparian zones creates ecological habitats which support waterfowl, aquatic mammals, and other animal species.



Our region's riverfronts are overgrown with invasive plant species. For example, Japanese knotweed engulfs many sections of our trail system. Japanese knotweed outcompetes native plants for light and nutrients, diminishing biodiversity. Riverfronts Naturally devotes time and resources to eradicating destructive plant species and preventing their return.



We organize large volunteer events to manage vegetation and remove litter and debris along our trails. We provide equipment, supplies, supervision, and refreshment. These collective efforts keep the riverfronts healthy for all to enjoy.