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Fox Chapel Shoe Service	PA Commercial Real Estate	476 Individual Members &
General Nutrition Center	PA Historic & Museum Comm.	1,014 Dedicated Volunteers

A Message to our Members and Supporters

Thank you for your continued engagement and support of Friends of the Riverfront. Together we continue to *increase awareness and engagement with the Pittsburgh region's rivers and riverfronts through activities, stewardship and expansion of water and land trails*. Please take a moment to review the enclosed information, visit and explore some new features of our web-page or participate in an active discussion on the Heritage Trail Yahoo Group for the latest upcoming trail developments. All of these new features have been made possible through your generosity and commitment with Friends of the Riverfront. Together we can make the Pittsburgh region a great place to live, work and call home.

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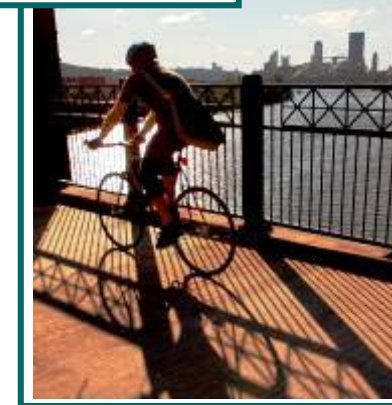
Heritage Trail Monitors

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

Annual Report ~ 2008



For over a decade, Friends of the Riverfront (FOR) has worked on the ground and in the water to protect and restore our region's priceless rivers and riverfronts. We are a pioneering organization that was 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 a diverse volunteer base, our rivers and riverfronts continue to be transformed from industrial wastelands to international examples of environmental renewal.

Heritage Trail Care and Stewardship

Accomplishments

- Riverfronts Naturally program engaged over 1,014 individuals for a minimum of 3 hours each of volunteer labor along the riverfronts and trails, removing rubbish/recyclables and tending to native planting schemes.
- Volunteers planted a total of 707 native trees and shrubs, removed 980 bags of garbage and 106 bags and recyclables at key locations along 21 miles of riverfront.
- Developed and implemented a volunteer based Trail Monitor Program along the Three Rivers Heritage Trail to report issues, care for Interpretive Signage and associated amenities.



Looking Ahead

- Continue to build on the success of the Riverfronts Naturally stewardship program by engaging additional individuals, community groups, and organizations along the riverfronts and trails.
- Increase corporate participation and donations in an effort to reduce operating and program material costs.



Events & Activities to Promote Land & Water Trails

Accomplishments

- Successfully engaged over 700 top national athletes for the Olympic distance Pittsburgh Triathlon and Adventure Race.
- Distributed 38,000 Three Rivers Heritage Trail Maps & Activity Guides throughout Allegheny County to promote the Heritage Trail's recreational opportunities and as alternative corridor for transportation in and around the Pittsburgh region.



Looking Ahead

- Grow the Pittsburgh Triathlon from 700 participants to over 1,000 through additional athlete engagement and corporate partnerships.
- Continue to develop a robust and diverse membership base that is involved, informed and motivated to aid the mission of Friends of the Riverfront.
- Complete development and deploy an online and interactive Three Rivers Heritage Trail Map and Activity Guide in response to increased demand for less paper dependency.



Three Rivers Heritage Trail Development

Accomplishments

- Partnered with Allegheny County and Pennsylvania Environmental Council for greenway and trail development along County Riverfronts.
- Work with Penn DOT on Route 28 Trail, the missing segment of the Heritage Trail between the City of Pittsburgh and Millvale.
- Continued participation in the management of the Community Trail Initiative, a multi-faced trail plan along the Allegheny Riverfront.
- Completed upgrade and replacement of sign panels within the Heritage Trail Interpretive Signage system.
- Revamped Friends of the Riverfront web-page to include "Trail Status" section as a way of informing and involving public in trail development.



Looking Ahead

- Complete capital campaign for the Route 28 Trail, garner final engineering approval, begin construction phase late 2009.
- Play an active role in planning the Pittsburgh to Erie Trail.
- Begin garnering consensus and support for a trail alignment along the Ohio River connecting communities and riverfront access.
- Continue to participate in closing the gaps in the Great Allegheny Passage along the Three Rivers Heritage Trail.
- Develop a state of the riverfronts report in partnership with Allegheny County and Pennsylvania Environmental Council.



Three Rivers Water Trail Development

Accomplishments

- Completed construction of the eighteenth Three Rivers Water Trail Landing on the Monongahela River at 4th Street in the South Side.
- Published a Guide to Paddling the Three Rivers Water Trail made widely available as a free publication to would-be paddlers.
- Maintained and enhanced existing Three Rivers Water Trail Landings along the riverfronts of Allegheny County.
- Successfully secured capital funds for development of additional accesses.



Looking Ahead

- Complete agreements for public riverfront access in the municipalities of Haysville, Elizabeth and Oakmont.
- Design, engineer and begin construction on access sites in the municipalities of Sewickley, Braddock and O'Hara
- Continue to update both printed and electronic Guide to Paddling the Three Rivers Water Trail as an important resource for non-motorized boating and access.

