

## 2022 IN REVIEW

Building safe, clean, and accessible riverfront trails as part of the Three Rivers Heritage & Water Trail systems to create and maintain an outstanding experience for trail users while providing economic, environmental, and health benefits to the Pittsburgh region



**Volunteers contributed over 5,210 hours- a \$155,806 value!**

### Benefits the Three Rivers Heritage Trail & Water Trail provide to our communities:

- ✓ Health
- ✓ Recreation
- ✓ Community Identity
- ✓ Transportation
- ✓ Historic Preservation
- ✓ Revitalization
- ✓ Conservation
- ✓ Economic Impact
- ✓ Livability



**1 million+**  
Annual Trips  
on the  
Three Rivers Heritage Trail

**33+**  
Miles of Urban  
& Suburban  
Trail

**31**  
Water Trail  
Launches



Bike ride  
after Clean  
Water Act  
Festival

## 2022 Highlights along the Three Rivers Heritage & Water Trails

- Eliminated ponding along the Baldwin Trail segment - a \$250k project ("Eagle Lake")
- Added new interpretive signage featuring the local Bald Eagles along Baldwin Trail segment
- Built a 100ft trail segment in Natrona, connecting the Community Park to the riverfront and installed 12 mosaics highlighting local plants and wildlife
- Hosted "Fireside Folktales," a collaborative event with the Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center that paired storytelling and stewardship
- Kelsey Ripper, Executive Director, served on Mayor Gainey's Infrastructure and the Environment Transition Committee, presenting a road map for a Clean, Connected, Coordinated, and Climate Resilient Pittsburgh
- Partnered with Allegheny CleanWays to host the 2nd Annual Litter League where participants collected 22 tons of trash in Allegheny County
- Completed the Turtle Creek Connector Feasibility Study which is now moving into the design and engineering phase
- Added 4 new staff to support our stewardship and trail development work
- Joined Allegheny CleanWays in moving to a larger office in Etna
- Expanded our website so trail users can stay up-to-date on trail development projects



Litter League  
competitor  
poses with  
collected  
trash



Mosaics  
created with  
local artist  
for Natrona  
trail segment



Corporate  
volunteer from  
Koppers  
cutting invasive  
vines



Fireside  
Folktales  
included a  
Taino elder's  
story

**THANK YOU to our many partners, volunteers, supporters & friends who make our work possible!**



# 2022–2025 Strategic Plan

In 2022, Friends of the Riverfront finished a new 3-year Strategic Plan that identifies strategic focus areas and goals for the organization. Visit "About Us" on the website to view the entire plan.

## Our strategic focus areas...

### 1 CONNECTIVITY

creating  
new,  
**high-quality trails**  
with available  
information and signage  
to guide access and use

### 2 MAINTENANCE

ensuring trails across the  
system are  
**clean and safe**

### 3 RELATIONSHIPS

designing a framework  
for developing and  
maintaining  
**effective government  
relations**

### 4 COMMUNICATION

increasing our profile,  
including in populations  
with  
**limited prior  
engagement**

## Some of the ways we'll do this...

- ✓ collaborate with a diverse group of organizations for stewardship and volunteer events
- ✓ develop trail segments in communities with little to no trail access
- ✓ conduct an Economic impact study for the Three Rivers Heritage Trail
- ✓ improve our property and easement acquisition process so we can act quickly when opportunities arise
- ✓ improve signage and wayfinding on land and water trails

## Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Efforts for justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion are a critical element to reaching our vision for the trail network. We recognize that this intentionality needs to be deliberately named for internal accountability, and that this focus needs to be embedded within all of our strategic goals and implementation

"Cycling in the city scared me, but knowing that I could minimize my time in traffic by using the trails made me much more comfortable and got me back on a bike"  
– Trail User

"Seeing more BIPOC [trail users] made it feel immensely more welcoming and comfortable to be on the trails"  
– Trail User

"I love being able to ride to the Strip and Downtown easily and so many other places to shop, have dinner, go to a Pitt game – it is so convenient [and] good for the environment"  
– Trail User





# Help us keep our Trails **SAFE, CLEAN, + CONNECTED**



Visit [friendsoftheriverfront.org](https://friendsoftheriverfront.org) to

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Become a Member

Volunteer

## Stay in the Know

Subscribe to our e-newsletter and follow us on social media for trail alerts, updates, and more.

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