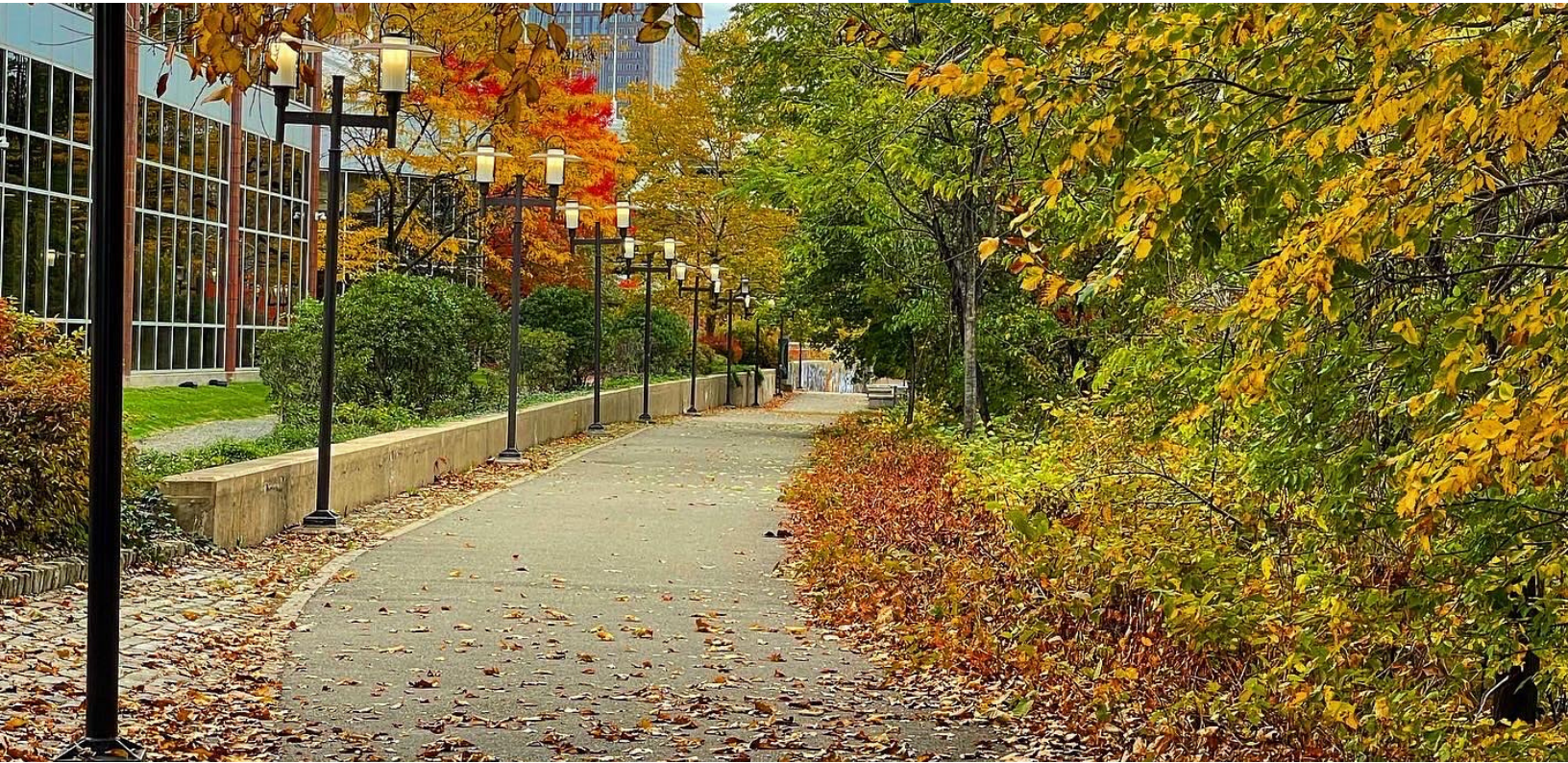


Annual Report

2023



In 2023,
the Three Rivers Heritage Trail & Water Trail accounted for:

- » 1.3 million trail visits
- » \$26.5 million in economic impact
- » \$16 million in earnings for local workers

trail development



Our Trail Development team works with communities, partners, and elected officials to further development initiatives in our communities.

33

current miles
of trail

35

miles of trail
in development

Friends is working on **more than doubling** the current length of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail.

- 20+ public engagement events hosted in communities across Allegheny County
- Over 2022-24, provided assistance to raise almost \$6 million in trail development funding
- 35 miles of NEW trail in development
- 27 projects & 12 partner projects across the land & water trail network in progress
- 36 communities engaged on trail planning & construction

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Evaluated all of our water launches as part of the Three Rivers Water Trail Management Plan. Stay tuned for more in 2024!



Opened new trail segment in Brackenridge Borough with more to come.



Welcomed Trail Development Project Manager Katie Kovalchik, PLA, to the team!



Helped ensure the Chateau and Marshall-Shadeland Trail segment was repaved.



New Water Trail wayfinding signs installed in Sharpsburg in 2023.

Rep. Mandy Steele, 33rd District:

"Friends of the Riverfront has been a strong partner in the critical work of trail building and river access in the region, helping to push cultural and economic revitalization into our communities. Their work is having a major impact here in the Allegheny Valley."

trail stewardship



1,242

volunteers hosted



25,056

lbs. litter cleaned



3,288

hrs. volunteer time



76

events held



195

trees planted

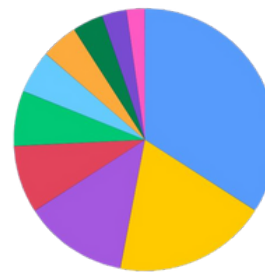
2023 TRAIL STEWARDS

FOR Trail Stewards adopt trail segments and maintain them

- 25 Trail Stewards
- 549 activity reports
67% increase from 2022
- 1,402 hours reported
48% increase from 2022
- 14,620 lbs of litter cleaned
107% increase from 2022

2023 VOLUNTEER TRAIL CARE

We hold public and private trail care opportunities



- Litter/Trash Management: 34.1%
- Overgrowth Management: 18.9%
- Invasive Plant Mitigation: 12.9%
- Other: 8.3%
- Tree Care: 6.8%
- Surface Cleaning/Repair: 5.3%
- Vine Cutting: 4.5%
- Graffiti Removal: 3.8%
- Equipment Install/Maintenance: 3.0%
- Perennials/Annuals Planted: 2.3%

Volunteers completed a wide range of activities to improve the trail, in 2023 including building this new shelter along the Eliza Furnace trail segment.



2023 LITTER LEAGUE



Our annual Allegheny county-wide cleanup makes litter picking a team sport, with a whopping 64,408 lbs of litter cleaned in 2023.

>> Ashley Martin joined our staff as the Trail Stewardship Program Coordinator in 2023!

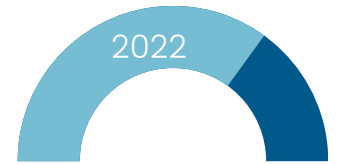
Fonda Hollenbaugh, Volunteer:

"Along with Friends of the Riverfront I have worked on trash clean up and invasive vegetation management along the trails. I have enjoyed getting to know new sections of the trail, many of which I had never seen before. Working with a regular crew of volunteers on Trail Tuesdays is something I look forward to every week. There is nothing like getting outside with good company and performing good deeds!"

communications and development

- Welcomed Kate Angell, Director of Communications & Development, in May 2023
- Hosted “Building Trails, Building Bridges” in October 2023 with almost 200 guests raising \$24,000 for trails
- In 2023, brought in 30% more in individual contributions than in 2022
- Received BikePGH’s 2023 “Advocate of the Year” Award

30% more in individual donations in 2023



Thanks to everyone who helped get us there!

trail experience

- Welcomed 23 Trail Ambassadors
- 12 on-trail educational & recreational activities
- 1,002 new people engaged in Friends’ work
- Did outreach at more than 30 community events
- 8 charity/community rides & events on trail



Lavender Sedlock, pictured on the left, became our Trail Experience Coordinator in 2023!



Trail Ambassador Robin Woods on the trail in our snazzy Ambassador Vest

Trail Ambassador Program

We kicked off our Trail Ambassador Program in 2023! We welcomed 23 Trail Ambassadors to the first annual training event in August and Trail Ambassadors supported Friends at events and on the Trail. Ambassadors logged **160 volunteer hours** and submitted 60 Trail Reports over the first short season of only 3 months.

Beth Battalion, Trail Ambassador

“Rode with a new person to Pittsburgh, admiring the network of trails, beautiful views and how Friends of the Riverfront maintain the trails. We discussed future goals for more viewing points as greens are cleared. Connections from town to the Eliza Furnace are now clearer to our new resident too! Nice riding and really appreciating the work of Friends of the Riverfront.”

Message from our Executive Director, Kelsey Ripper:

“ In 2023, we saw significant progress and accomplishments, thanks to many people and partners. This year, I want to spotlight the exceptional efforts of the Friends staff. Their dedication to expanding and enhancing trails on land and water fills me with pride. This team is smart, strategic, creative, and enthusiastic. I can't wait to see what they accomplish in 2024. We're geared up and ready to go! ”



Friends of the Riverfront staff, December 2023.
Not pictured: Greg Dinkar Manley, Mary Beth Sklar

We want to thank all our supporters. Without you, none of the accomplishments in this report would have been possible.

Kelsey Ripper

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Kate Angell

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

Alex Toner

TRAIL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM MANAGER

Courtney Mahronich Vita

DIRECTOR OF TRAIL DEVELOPMENT & GOV. RELATIONS

Katie Craig

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Maddie Dayton

DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Katie Kovalchik

TRAIL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT MANAGER

Greg Dinkar Manley

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SPECIALIST

Ashley Martin

TRAIL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Lavender Sedlock

TRAIL EXPERIENCE COORDINATOR

Mary Beth Sklar

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

staff

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TREASURER

Lauren Burge

SECRETARY

Doug Clark

Jeanne K Clark

Tom Demagall

Durwood Hill

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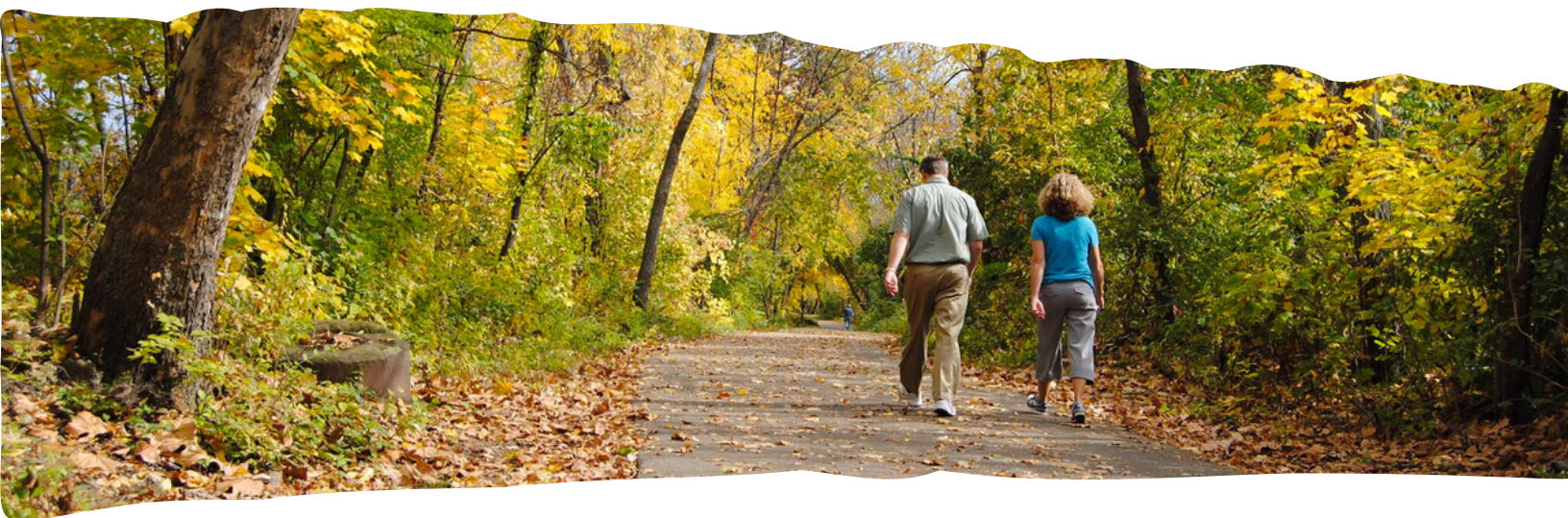
Megan Winters

board



Help us continue to

build 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.



Donate ▼



Membership ▼



Volunteer ▼



Stay in the Know

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



friends@friendsoftheriverfront.org



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[Friends of the Riverfront](https://www.linkedin.com/company/friendsoftheriverfront)

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