

For Immediate Release

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CONTACT: Kate Angell, Director of Development, Friends of the Riverfront

Email: kate@friendsoftheriverfront.org Phone: 412-925-2537

On Earth Day, Pittsburgh Penguins' Sustainability Partners Join Forces with Friends of the Riverfront to Improve the Three Rivers Heritage Trail

Pittsburgh, PA. On Tuesday, April 22, the Pittsburgh Penguins' Penguins Pledge Partners will be gathering on the Three Rivers Heritage Trail to undertake a number of stewardship projects that will improve the 35-mile trail for users in the region and improve the sustainability of our rivers and riversides.

[Friends of the Riverfront](#), the organization that builds and maintains the Three Rivers Heritage Trail and Water Trail, is coordinating this event with the Penguins Pledge Partners on the River Avenue segment of the Heritage Trail in the North Shore area of Pittsburgh starting at 9:00 a.m.

Created in 2023, [the Penguins Pledge is a sustainability initiative](#) in which companies commit to improve social, economic and environmental sustainability efforts. The group of Pledge Partners has grown and now includes The Coca-Cola Company, EQT, Indra Energy, PPG, U. S. Steel, Wesco, Bradenton Area CVB, Davey Tree Expert Company, Duquesne Light Company, Excelitas, Neighborhood Ford Store, and WM.

Friends will welcome more than 60 volunteers from the Penguins Pledge Partners to the trail to take on projects that include removing invasive vegetation, reseeding native ground cover, planting low-growth understory plants, transplanting 30 displaced trees to save them from removal, and removing litter from the riverfront along the Allegheny River.

"The support of the business community and groups like the Penguins Pledge Partners are key to our ability to not only keep our 35-mile trail clean and accessible, but also to improve our riparian zones," says Alex Toner, Friends' Director of Trail Stewardship.

Toner added, "these volunteers are playing a critical role in improving the resilience of our riversides, which in turn helps improve our rivers' health and the environment of the Pittsburgh region – and that's what Earth Day is all about."

The Three Rivers Heritage Trail currently hosts around 1.3 million trips per year, and just in 2023, the trail drove \$26.5 million in economic activity. Friends manages more than 1,500 volunteers each year to steward and maintain the trails, including groups from local and national companies such as the Penguins Sustainability Partners.

Friends has [plans for an additional 35 miles of trail in Allegheny County](#), including connecting Hazelwood to Carrie Furnace National Historic Site; extending the trail down the Turtle Creek valley to Trafford and the Westmoreland Heritage Trail; Springdale to East Deer; the VOPP segment, from Verona to Plum Borough; and much more.

About Friends of the Riverfront: Since 1991, Friends has worked to protect and restore the riverfront in the Pittsburgh region through trail development and stewardship after decades of legacy pollution. The Three Rivers Heritage Trail now encompasses 35 miles of urban and suburban riverfront trails along both banks of the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio rivers, as well as more than 30 non-motorized boat launches along the rivers that comprise the Three Rivers Water Trail. Through broad and diverse collaborations, we continue to work towards and promote environmental restoration, economic vitality, and public health benefits for Allegheny County and Southwestern Pennsylvania.

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