

Pittsburgh Green: We Feel Your Envy

Allegheny Riverfront Visioning Brownfield Site Redevelopment

"For decades, our riverfronts were used as transportation centers for the industries of the past, but now we will use them to further the momentum surrounding Pittsburgh's third renaissance," Mayor Ravenstahl said. "It's time we return our riverfronts back to our neighborhoods, reclaiming our waterways as amenities and part of what makes Pittsburgh 'America's most livable City.'"

The planning process for the Allegheny Riverfront is a collaborative effort between the City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning, Urban Redevelopment Authority, and Riverlife. The steering committee is comprised of staff from the URA, Department of City Planning, and Riverlife, along with property owners, developers, and community representatives.

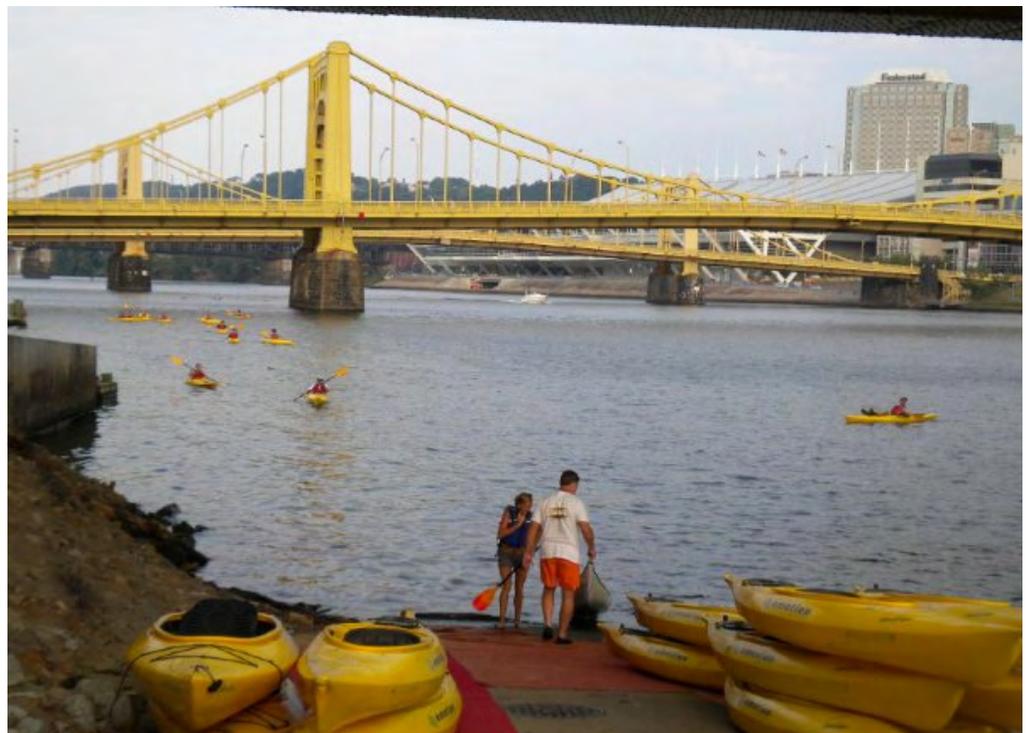
Community members will then be invited to

participate in a series of design discussions, public meetings, and recreational activities designed to reacquaint them with the riverfront over the course of the next year.

A consultant team led by Perkins Eastman will spearhead the visioning process for the 6.45 mile segment of the Allegheny Riverfront stretching from the David L. Lawrence Convention Center to Highland Park, including a small under-developed

section of the northwest bank of the Allegheny River.

This planning effort is the latest project building on a ten-year riverfront visioning and investment process, in which thousands of citizens and leaders set goals for restoring the Pittsburgh riverfronts. Significant investments in riverfront parks over the last ten years have created a strong incentive for riverfront economic development.



Current Uses

This area includes hundreds of parcels of property, both publicly and privately owned. Parcels along the river

include former industrial properties that lie vacant, large surface parking lots, and distribution centers. These uses have inhibited access to the river. The remainder of the study area includes three distinct neighborhoods: the Strip District, Lawrenceville, and Morningside, as well as the river edge of Highland Park. Previously completed developments in the area include the Heinz

History Center, Seagate, Hampton Inn, rehabilitation of the former Kerotest Building, Cigar Lofts, the Armstrong Cork Factory, Pitt-Ohio Express Trucking headquarter, revitalization along Butler Street, CMU National Robotics Center and the rehabilitation of a building originally used by Westinghouse into a facility for the Pittsburgh Opera.



Residents reconnect to the Allegheny River on a kayaking trip organized by the planning team

Location of Planning Study

6.5 miles of the south shore of the Allegheny River stretching from 11th Street at the edge of Downtown to Highland Park. A small area on the north shore at the 16th Street Bridge is also included. Major areas of concentration include

property between the 16th Street Bridge and the Veteran's Bridge in the Strip District, property between 40th Street and 47th Street in Lawrenceville, and the former Tippins steel mill at 62nd Street.

Opportunities

Reconnecting adjacent communities and the city itself to the riverfront is crucial in transforming the Allegheny River into an amenity and an attraction. By redeveloping and reconnecting the riverfront, our city has the opportunity to attract new businesses and residents to Pittsburgh. Employment opportunities will become available as a number of sites within the entire study area are

redeveloped by private entities as places of business. This new employment and river amenities will attract residents to the area.



Future Plans for the Area

The master plan will connect adjacent neighborhoods along the Allegheny Riverfront to the river; this access was lost during Pittsburgh's industrialization. River access will be enhanced by the development of trails and other recreational amenities, complemented

by the ecological restoration of the river's edge. Land use recommendations will be guided by the completed master plan, and will include housing, retail, office, and industrial options based on a market

study. The completed master plan will also address traffic and public transit along with pedestrian and bicycle connectivity.



Project Status

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A one year planning process began in May 2009. The planning effort is led by Perkins Eastman for urban design and planning, along with a team of ecological and landscape designers (CH2M HILL, Viridian Landscape Studio and Continental Conservation), transportation (Clear View Strategies and Trans Associates), and market consultants (GSP Consulting). A Steering

Committee that includes representatives from the URA, the Mayor's Office, Riverlife, and local stakeholders oversee the effort along with a larger advisory committee. The public is able to participate in the planning process through community meetings, workshops, and activities in various locations throughout the study area.

