



Three Rivers Water Trail

Map & Guide

A Water Trail

Developed by Friends of the Riverfront



FRIENDS OF THE RIVERFRONT

If nature were to design a great American city to be seen from a water trail, it would be Pittsburgh.

The rivers that surround Pittsburgh on three sides are large, yet have a human scale, and Pittsburgh is architecturally grand, yet easily comprehended. The Three Rivers Water Trail, developed by Friends of the Riverfront, contains access points among the seventy-three municipalities within Allegheny County and also has regular access to the popular land trail bordering all three rivers – The Three Rivers Heritage Trail, also developed by Friends of the Riverfront. From the water trail canoeists and kayakers can reach the SouthSide Works, the trendy Lawrenceville shopping district, the wide riverfront promenade on the North Shore with its baseball and football stadiums, downtown Pittsburgh, museums, shopping, and even experience fireworks from the river on a summer night! The Pittsburgh region's many historic bridges are enjoyed best from the rivers, and the surrounding hills offer a quiet and almost remote setting for paddlers, even as they float by a busy urban center and into the countryside.

Beginning in the 1990s, Friends of the Riverfront took on the task of partnering with municipal and private entities to create public access points for non-motorized boats. These water trail landings are seen from the river by red paddle-shaped signs, each indicating the distance from the Pittsburgh Point. Experienced and novice paddlers can design longer and more diverse river trips for themselves as they become more familiar with the rivers. A number of water trail landings, adjacent to amenities and points of interest, contain racks for stowing your craft, interpretive signage, and available parking. The Three Rivers Water Trail also includes a number of access points for motorized boats designated by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (PFBC). These sites are noted on the map.



The Pittsburgh Region's Rivers

The Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio Rivers have a unique confluence in Pittsburgh. The Allegheny River from upstate New York ends here, as does the Monongahela from the mountains of West Virginia. But the Ohio River begins here. At times, observers can see a marked difference in the color of the water from the rivers, as the Monongahela mixes with the Allegheny downstream of the Point. The Ohio drains westward into the Mississippi a thousand miles away, and then travels southward to reach New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico.

The Allegheny River is a young river formed from the last Ice Age some 10,000 years ago, and its waters tend to be faster and colder than those of the slower moving Monongahela, an ancient, wider river from a million years ago. The Ohio River, called the beautiful river (la belle riviere) by French explorers, was the start of the watery road west for countless immigrants and settlers in the nineteenth century.

Pittsburgh's rivers change with the seasons. They can freeze in the winter, then flood with snowmelt in the spring thaw. A century ago the rivers could fall so low in summer droughts that navigation was impossible. To assure a constant water level on these working rivers, the Army Corps of Engineers constructed locks and dams which divide the river into a series of "pools." The Emsworth pool - also called the Pittsburgh pool - extends twenty-four total miles, from the Emsworth Dam on the Ohio, six miles below the Pittsburgh point; to seven miles up the Allegheny to the Highland Park Lock and Dam; and eleven miles up the Monongahela to the Braddock Lock and Dam.

The commercial "slackwater navigation" enabled by the locks and dams was essential in the expansion of Pittsburgh from an important center of iron and steel-making, to a critical supplier of material for World Wars. Barges laden with coal, sand, gravel and other heavy materials still ply these stabilized, reliable waters twenty-four hours a day.

An Urban Adventure by Water

Paddlers enjoy a different world than do people on powered boats. Even in the city, paddling provides intimate contact with the environment, moments of peaceful isolation, and serene views of natural beauty and wildlife. Most paddlers stay reasonably close to shore to enjoy the ambience, and to avoid the wakes of occasional power boats and barges which usually cruise the middle of the rivers.

Rowing as a sport has a long history in Pittsburgh, beginning in the 1880s. Paddling was popular until heavy industry sealed off the riverfronts, and the rivers themselves became polluted. With the decline of heavy industry by the 1970s, the rivers began to regenerate and public access was renewed along now empty shores. Competitive rowing became popular with many area high schools, colleges, and clubs and Pittsburgh's rivers experienced an increase in recreational boating.

Today, our riverfronts are literally alive with activity. The rivers have hosted national bass tournaments and large events such as the Pittsburgh Triathlon & Adventure Race, also sponsored by Friends of the Riverfront. In 2010 this event with its 1.5 k swimming race or 2 mile paddle was judged the third-best urban triathlon in the world by Triathlete Magazine.



The Three Rivers Water Trail was named a National Recreation Trail by the US Department of the Interior in June 2010.



WHAT IS A WATER TRAIL?

Water trails are recreational waterways on lakes, rivers or oceans between specific points, containing access points and day-use and camping sites for the boating public. Water trails emphasize low-impact use and promote resource stewardship. Explore this unique Pennsylvania water trail.

FOR YOUR SAFETY AND ENJOYMENT:

- Always wear a life jacket.
- Obtain proper instruction in boating skills.
- Know fishing and boating regulations.
- Carry proper equipment.



PENNSYLVANIA BOATING REGULATIONS



- A U.S. Coast Guard-approved wearable personal flotation device (PFD or life jacket) is required for each person on board. In addition, one throwable device (seat cushion or ring buoy) is required on boats 16 feet in length or longer. Canoes and kayaks, regardless of length, are not required to carry a throwable device.
- Life jackets must be the appropriate size for the person intended and must be in good, serviceable condition.
- Life jackets must be worn by all children 12 years old and younger on all boats 20 feet or less in length while under way, and on all canoes and kayaks. Others are strongly encouraged to wear a PFD at all times on the water.
- All boats must display an anchor light (a white light visible 360 degrees) when at anchor between sunset and sunrise. Boats can use a lantern or clip-on battery-powered unit to meet this requirement.
- Unpowered boats must carry a white light, either hand-held or installed, to be displayed in time to avoid a collision between sunset and sunrise and during restricted visibility.
- All powered boats must show running lights between sunset and sunrise. All boats are required to carry a sound-producing device. Athletic whistles meet this requirement.
- All motorboats must be registered, regardless of where they launch.
- Unpowered boats (canoes, kayaks, rowboats) using Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission or State Park or Forest access areas must either be registered OR display a valid launch permit. Launch permits can be purchased through the Commission's website at www.fishandboat.com (Click the "Outdoor Shop" icon.) or at many state park offices
- Operating watercraft, including canoes and kayaks, under the influence of alcohol or drugs is illegal. This law is strongly enforced for user safety. For further information on boating regulations, contact the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission at www.fishandboat.com

PADDLING THE WATER TRAIL:

SAFETY TIPS

Paddle the Three Rivers Water Trail at your own risk. Be sure to take appropriate safety precautions and pay attention to the natural conditions of the rivers.

PUTTING IN

- Never boat alone. Boating safety increases with numbers.
- Scout ahead whenever possible. Know the river and avoid surprises.
- Wear your life jacket. Some eighty percent of all recreational boating fatalities happen to people who are not wearing a life jacket.
- File a float plan with a reliable person. Decide on the best places for getting started, and consider how far you must carry a boat to your vehicle.
- Be prepared for the weather. Get a forecast before you go. Sudden winds and rain are common and can turn a pleasant trip into a risky, unpleasant venture.
- Check the river conditions before you launch. River levels and currents can rapidly change with recent rainfall.
- Wear appropriate clothing and footwear. Expect to get wet.
- Be prepared to swim. If the water looks too hazardous to swim in, don't go paddling.

ON THE WAY

- Keep ropes coiled and secured.
- Never tie a rope to yourself or to another paddler, especially a child.
- Anticipate wakes of passing motor boats.
- Watch out for commercial traffic. Although barges are large and slow, they can sneak up on inattentive paddlers.
- Paddle near to shore, away from the navigational channel.
- If you collide with an obstruction, lean toward it. This will usually prevent the current from capsizing or flooding the boat.
- Stay clear of strainers, such as moored barges, docks and downed trees, these can trap a person underwater.
- If you capsize, hold onto your boat, unless it presents a life-threatening situation. If floating in current, position yourself on the upstream side of the capsized boat.

LOCKING THROUGH

- Locking through is recommended for experienced paddlers only!
- When heading downriver, the dam is difficult to see. Stay alert and keep track of your location (be visible and cognizant of others). Cross over to the correct side of the river that the lock is located on as much as one mile before you arrive and hug the shoreline. Keep an eye out for the "DANGER DAM" signs and the white and orange pillar buoys (they may be taken out of the river depending on time of year and river flow).
- Let the Lock Master know you are there by ringing the bell located at the end of the storm wall, calling them on the phone or VHF radio channel 13 or by sounding one long blast from a boat whistle followed by one short blast. Advance communication is advised. Check schedule for hours.
- Approach the lock and be aware of the following signals: Red means stand clear and do not enter, Yellow means approach lock under full control and Green means proceed to enter lock directly. The Lock Master may also signal via air horn: one long blast means enter landward lock, two long blasts means enter riverward lock, one short blast means leave landward lock and two short blasts means leave riverward lock.
- Carry aboard at least seventy-five feet of mooring line to secure your small craft safely to the lock wall. The Lock Master reserves the right to deny permission to pass through due to inadequate line. To proceed, give one end of the line to the Lock Master. He will place around the mooring hook above. Feed the rope through your hand going up/down with the water level while holding the other end securely.
- After being let up/down, wait for the Lock Master to give you an OK before proceeding. Leave at a slow and consistent speed staying close yet visible beside the storm wall. Do not stop until you are well away from the pull of the dam's current and other boat traffic.

TAKING OUT

- Each Three Rivers Water Trail Landing contains directional red paddle signs that orient paddlers from both land and water. Amenities such as ramps, interpretive signs and canoe/kayak racks are also a part of each location. Remember to properly secure your craft before setting out on foot to explore.
- Find places where easy exits are possible. Exits along high banks or railings can be difficult.
- Respect private property and take out only at approved locations. Emergency exits from the water may be necessary because of weather or water conditions; in this case private access points may be considered.

FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

The Allegheny, Monongahela and Ohio rivers near Pittsburgh offer a tremendous variety of quality fishing opportunities throughout the year. Fishing requires prominent display of appropriate license, and the waters are regularly patrolled. Please visit www.fishandboat.com for fishing license and additional information.



Friends of the Riverfront, founded in 1991, is dedicated to the development, expansion, promotion, and stewardship of the Three Rivers Water Trail and Three Rivers Heritage Trail in the Pittsburgh region. This guide is provided so that everyone can enjoy the natural amenities that make the Pittsburgh region a great place to live, work, and play.

Hikers and bikers can explore the interactive Three Rivers Heritage Trail map by going to www.friendsoftheriverfront.org. To request a paper copy, call 412.488.0212.

STEWARDSHIP

Friends of the Riverfront works with a wealth of dedicated volunteers every year to improve and maintain our riverfronts. Please help care for this land, water and cultural resource along the Three Rivers Water Trail by respecting private property, wildlife, and other enthusiasts. "Leave No Trace," a national outdoor ethics program, provides guidelines to minimize your impact by following these simple concepts. For information on "Leave No Trace," visit www.lnt.org.

- ✓ Plan and be prepared.
- ✓ Dispose of waste properly.
- ✓ Leave what you find.
- ✓ Respect wildlife.
- ✓ Be considerate of others.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Emergency Contacts
All areas dial 911
VHF Channel 16

Pittsburgh River Rescue
412.232.7260

U.S. Coast Guard
800.253.7465

Three Rivers Water Trail Manager

Friends of the Riverfront
33 Terminal Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15219
412.488.0212
www.friendsoftheriverfront.org

Weather & River Conditions

Weather Forecasts
412.262.2170
www.weather.gov
VHF 162.55 MHz (Weather Channel 1)

River Conditions
412.262.5290
www.erh.noaa.gov/ohrcf

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
412.395.7500
www.lrp.usace.army.mil

Outfitters & Kayak Liveries

Kayak Pittsburgh
412.969.9090
www.kayakpittsburgh.org

REI
412.488.9410
www.rei.com

Exkursion Outfitters
412.821.0206
www.exkursion.com

Rowing Clubs
Three Rivers Rowing
412.231.8772
www.threeriversrowing.org

Steel City Rowing
412.828.5565
www.steelcityrowing.org

Guided Kayak Trips
Venture Outdoors
412.255.0564
www.ventureoutdoors.org

Tourist Promotion
Visit Pittsburgh
412.281.7711
www.visitpittsburgh.com



RED PADDLE MARKERS

Red paddle signs at each Three Rivers Water Trail access help guide you from land and water.

Get Involved

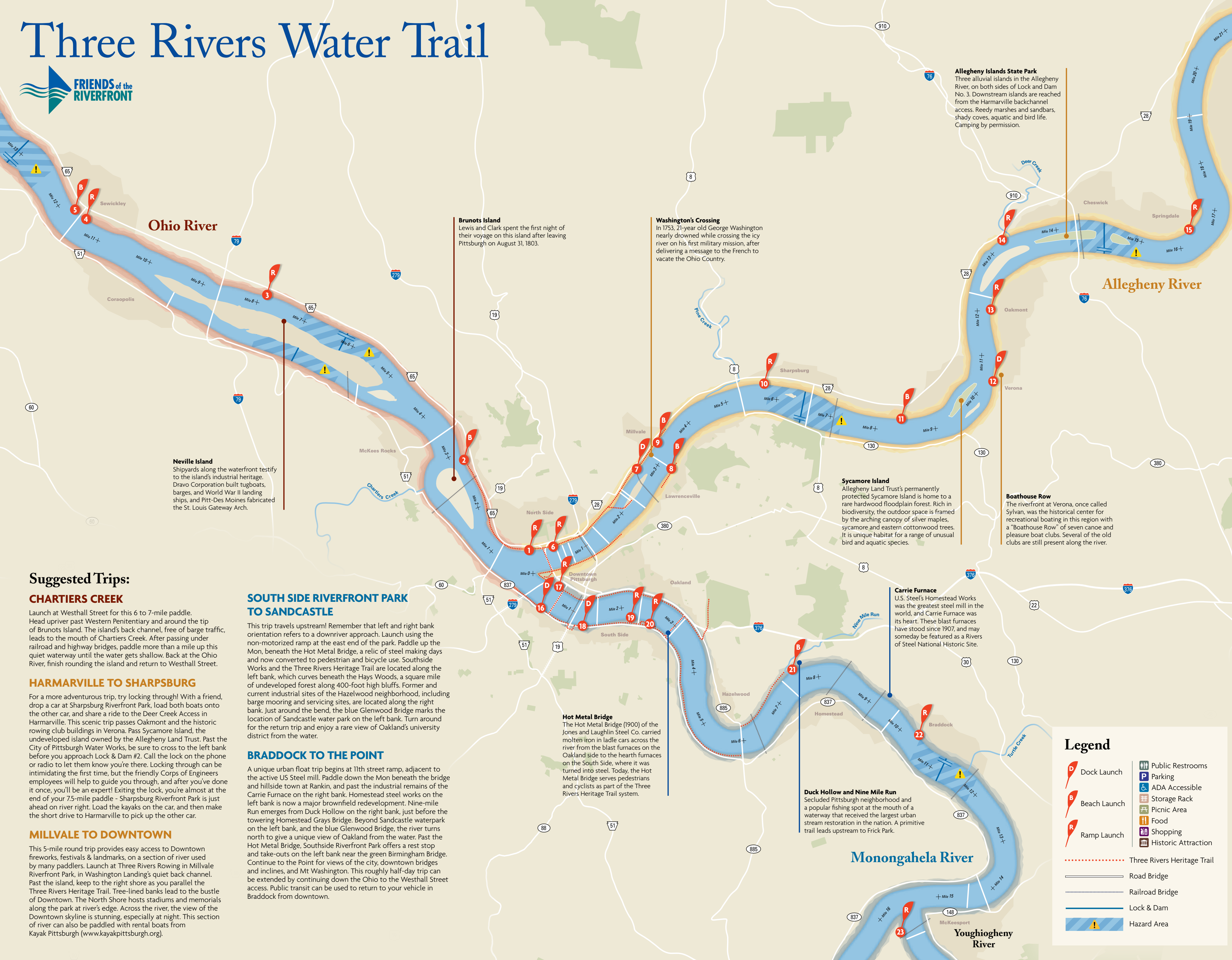
Friends of the Riverfront is a 20-year-old membership-based organization charged with increasing awareness and engagement with the Pittsburgh Region's rivers and riverfronts through activities, stewardship and expansion of water and land trails. Please help us to continue our work by becoming a member or contributing to one of our projects. Call us at 412.488.0212 or visit us online at www.friendsoftheriverfront.org to learn more about our organization.



Colcom Foundation



Three Rivers Water Trail



ACCESS AND AMENITIES ALONG THE WAY

(L) and (R) indicate the left or right riverbank when facing downriver.

All river mileages are measured from the junction of the Three Rivers at the Point.

Ohio River

- 0.0 Point State Park
- 0.1 R North Shore Attractions - Heinz Field, Carnegie Science Center, USS Requin submarine, Rivers Casino
- 0.1 R **1 Heinz Quay Launch** Along North Shore Riverfront Park at Heinz Field. Take out for North Shore attractions. Long carry from stadium parking lots. (40.4448°N, -80.0151°W)
- 0.7 L **2 Marine Terminal** - Beware commercial traffic!
- 0.8 L Saw Mill Run
- 0.8 West End Bridge, 1932
- 1.6 Brunots Island
- 2.3 Ohio Connecting Railroad Bridge, 1915
- 2.6 L Chartiers Creek
- 2.7 R Western Penitentiary
- 2.8 R **3 Westhall Street Launch** Next to Western Penitentiary. A short ramp leads to a pebble beach. (40.4721°N, -80.0435°W)
- 3.1 R **4 ALCOSAN Sewage Treatment Plant** Beware strong outflow!
- 3.3 McKees Rocks Bridge, 1931
- 4.9 Neville Island
- 6.3 **5 Emsworth Lock & Dam** - Going downriver, approach from river left. 412-766-6213
- 7.9 R **6 Kilbuck Access** Located at the end of Colfax Street in Springdale. PA Fish & Boat Commission access area - PFBC or DCNR launch permit required. (40.5351°N, -79.7839°W)
- 8.7 I-79 Neville Island Bridge, 1976
- 11.6 R **7 Chestnut Street Launch** Near the Sewickley Bridge, Chestnut Street ends in the Ohio River. 0.5 mi walk to the Beaver St. business district. (40.5338°N, -80.1854°W)
- 11.6 Sewickley Bridge, 1981
- 11.8 R **8 Walnut Street Launch** Access to Sewickley Riverfront Park. A 400' carry leads to a dock and pebble beach. 0.5 mi walk to the Beaver St. business district. (40.5354°N, -80.1884°W)
- 13.1 **9 Dashields Lock & Dam** - Going downriver, approach from river left. 724-457-8430

Allegheny River

- 0.2 Fort Duquesne Bridge, 1969
- 0.4 R PNC Park
- 0.6 R **10 Clemente (6th Street) Bridge Launch** Along the Three Rivers Heritage Trail, hidden under Roberto Clemente (6th St.) Bridge next to PNC Park. Concrete ramp is home to Kayak Pittsburgh rentals and Venture Outdoors guided trips. Long carry down stairs or walkways. Limited on-street metered parking. (40.4466°N, -80.0037°W)
- 0.6 Roberto Clemente (6th Street) Bridge, 1928
- 0.7 Andy Warhol (7th Street) Bridge, 1926
- 0.8 Rachel Carson (9th Street) Bridge, 1928
- 0.9 L David L. Lawrence Convention Center
- 1.0 Ft. Wayne Railroad Bridge, 1904
- 1.2 Veteran's Bridge (I-279), 1987
- 1.4 16th Street Bridge, 1923
- 2.1 Washington's Landing (Herr's Island)
- 2.5 31st Street Bridge, 1928
- 2.7 Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Bridge, 1921
- 2.8 R **11 Three Rivers Rowing Launch** Behind Three Rivers Rowing at Millvale Riverfront Park. Access to the quiet back channel at Washington's Landing (Herr's Island). A long walkway leads to the low-profile dock. Used by rowing crews during morning and evening practices. (40.4695°N, -79.9745°W)
- 3.1 L **12 Lawrenceville Launch** Under the south end of the 40th Street Bridge. A short, moderately steep gravel path with rope handrail leads down to the river's edge. 0.4 mi walk to Butler St. business district. (40.4715°N, -79.9672°W)
- 3.2 Washington's Crossing (40th Street) Bridge, 1924
- 3.2 R **13 Millvale Riverfront Park Launch** Near the north end of the 40th St. Bridge. Auto access down to the river's edge. Concession with refreshments, bike rentals, fishing gear, canoes & kayaks. (40.4741°N, -79.9695°W)
- 4.7 R Pine Creek
- 5.4 Senator Robert D. Fleming (62nd Street) Bridge, 1962
- 5.5 R **14 Sharpsburg Riverfront Park Launch** At the end of 13th Street. Separate ramps for paddlers & motor boats. (40.4932°N, -79.9283°W)
- 6.2 Six Mile Island (private)
- 6.7 **15 Lock & Dam 2 Allegheny** - From above, approach from river left. 412-661-2217
- 6.8 Highland Park Bridge, 1938
- 7.1 Brilliant Branch Railroad Bridge, 1904
- 7.8 R Pittsburgh Water Treatment Plant
- 8.5 R **16 O'Hara Chapel Harbor Launch** Access in a quiet neighborhood near the Waterworks Mall. A long concrete walk leads to the gently-sloping river bank. (40.4847°N, -79.8797°W)

- 8.6 Railroad Bridge
- 9.3 Railroad Bridge
- 9.6 Rankin Bridge
- 10.7 R **17 Braddock Launch at 11th Street** Next to U.S. Steel Edgar Thompson Works. 11th street ends at a ramp shared with motor boats. Beware heavy barge traffic from adjacent locks and marine terminals. (40.395°N, -79.8665°W)
- 10.7 R U.S. Steel Edgar Thompson Works
- 11.2 **18 Braddock Lock & Dam** - From above, approach from river right. 412-271-1272
- 11.5 R Turtle Creek
- 11.6 Railroad Bridge
- 11.7 Railroad Bridge
- 14.2 McKeesport - Duquesne Bridge, 1928
- 14.3 McKeesport Connecting Railroad Bridge (Great Allegheny Passage Trail), 1890
- 15.6 R Youghiogheny River

- 9.8 Sycamore Island - Owned by the Allegheny Land Trust, this undeveloped 14 acre island hosts a unique floodplain hardwood forest.
- 10.5 L **19 Verona Launch** Steel City Rowing, at the end of Arch Street. Low-profile rowing docks used by rowing crews during morning and evening practices. (40.4958°N, -79.8476°W)
- 12.0 L **20 Oakmont Launch** California Avenue ends at the river's edge. On-street parking. 0.4 mile walk to Oakmont's business district. (40.5157°N, -79.8491°W)
- 12.7 Hulton Bridge, 1908
- 12.6 12 Mile Island (private)
- 13.1 R **21 Deer Creek Access** Wenzel Drive, off of Freeport Road in Harmarville. On the back channel of 12 Mile Island. PA Fish & Boat Commission access area - PFBC or DCNR launch permit required. (40.5338°N, -79.8423°W)
- 13.6 Allegheny Islands State Park - Undeveloped state park, access from river only. Islands above and below Lock & Dam 3.
- 14.2 Pennsylvania Turnpike Bridges, 2010
- 14.3 Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad Bridge, 1918
- 14.5 **22 C.W. Bill Young Lock & Dam** (Lock & Dam 3 Allegheny). From above, approach from river left. 412-828-3550
- 16.5 R **23 Springdale Access** Located at the end of Colfax Street in Springdale. PA Fish & Boat Commission access area - PFBC or DCNR launch permit required. (40.5351°N, -79.7839°W)
- 19.0 C.L. Schmitt (Ninth St.) Bridge, 1927

Monongahela River

- 0.2 Fort Pitt Bridge, 1959
- 0.6 L **24 Gateway Clipper Fleet** - Beware frequent movements of large passenger vessels.
- 0.7 L **25 Station Square Marina** Take out at the marina's high docks for access to Station Square. (40.4350°N, -80.0050°W)
- 0.7 R **26 Mon Wharf Launch** Access near the Smithfield St. Bridge. Pay parking lot is closed on weekends.
- 0.8 Smithfield Street Bridge, 1883
- 1.0 Panhandle Railroad Bridge, 1903
- 1.1 Liberty Bridge, 1928
- 1.3 L **27 4th Street Launch** End of 4th Street. A steep, winding stairway leads from street level to a wooden dock. (40.4314°N, -79.9947°W)
- 1.5 South 10th Street Bridge, 1933
- 2.3 L **28 South Side Riverfront Park** End of S. 18th Street. 0.5 mi walk to Carson Street Business District. (40.4326°N, -79.9750°W)
- 2.5 Birmingham Bridge, 1976
- 2.5 L **29 South Side Riverfront Park** Non-motorized Launch. A concrete block ramp leads to a quiet, grassy area of the park. A 200' carry from the turn-around at street's end. (40.4318°N, -79.9714°W)
- 2.9 L South Side Works (restaurants & shopping)
- 3.0 Hot Metal Bridge, 1887
- 5.9 Glenwood Bridge, 1966
- 6.2 Glenwood B&O Railroad Bridge, 1884
- 6.4 L Sandcastle Waterpark
- 7.0 L The Waterfront (restaurants & shopping)
- 7.3 Homestead Grays Bridge, 1936
- 7.5 R **30 Nine Mile Run Launch** From Browns Hill Road, follow Parkview Boulevard into Duck Hollow. Concrete ramp leads down to a natural beach. Trailheads for the Duck Hollow segment of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail, and the primitive hiking trail that follows Nine Mile Run into Frick Park. Excellent fishing. (40.4157°N, -79.9154°W)

- 8.6 Railroad Bridge
- 9.3 Railroad Bridge
- 9.6 Rankin Bridge
- 10.7 R **31 Braddock Launch at 11th Street** Next to U.S. Steel Edgar Thompson Works. 11th street ends at a ramp shared with motor boats. Beware heavy barge traffic from adjacent locks and marine terminals. (40.395°N, -79.8665°W)
- 10.7 R U.S. Steel Edgar Thompson Works
- 11.2 **32 Braddock Lock & Dam** - From above, approach from river right. 412-271-1272
- 11.5 R Turtle Creek
- 11.6 Railroad Bridge
- 11.7 Railroad Bridge
- 14.2 McKeesport - Duquesne Bridge, 1928
- 14.3 McKeesport Connecting Railroad Bridge (Great Allegheny Passage Trail), 1890
- 15.6 R Youghiogheny River

Youghiogheny River

- 0.1 L **33 Port Vue Launch** Atlantic Avenue ends at a ramp shared with motor boats. (40.3523°N, -79.8714°W)

Suggested Trips:

CHARTIERS CREEK

Launch at Westhall Street for this 6 to 7-mile paddle. Head upriver past Western Penitentiary and around the tip of Brunnots Island. The island's back channel, free of barge traffic, leads to the mouth of Chartiers Creek. After passing under railroad and highway bridges, paddle more than a mile up this quiet waterway until the water gets shallow. Back at the Ohio River, finish rounding the island and return to Westhall Street.

HARMARVILLE TO SHARPSBURG

For a more adventurous trip, try locking through! With a friend, drop a car at Sharpsburg Riverfront Park, load both boats onto the other car, and share a ride to the Deer Creek Access in Harmarville. This scenic trip passes Oakmont and the historic rowing club buildings in Verona. Pass Sycamore Island, the undeveloped island owned by the Allegheny Land Trust. Past the City of Pittsburgh Water Works, be sure to cross to the left bank before you approach Lock & Dam #2. Call the lock on the phone or radio to let them know you're there. Locking through can be intimidating the first time, but the friendly Corps of Engineers employees will help to guide you through, and after you've done it once, you'll be an expert! Exiting the lock, you're almost at the end of your 7.5-mile paddle - Sharpsburg Riverfront Park is just ahead on river right. Load the kayaks on the car, and then make the short drive to Harmarville to pick up the other car.

MILLVALE TO DOWNTOWN

This 5-mile round trip provides easy access to Downtown fireworks, festivals & landmarks, on a section of river used by many paddlers. Launch at Three Rivers Rowing in Millvale Riverfront Park, in Washington Landing's quiet back channel. Past the island, keep to the right shore as you parallel the Three Rivers Heritage Trail. Tree-lined banks lead to the bustle of Downtown. The North Shore hosts stadiums and memorials along the park at river's edge. Across the river, the view of the Downtown skyline is stunning, especially at night. This section of river can also be paddled with rental boats from Kayak Pittsburgh (www.kayakpittsburgh.org).

SOUTH SIDE RIVERFRONT PARK TO SANDCASTLE

This trip travels upstream! Remember that left and right bank orientation refers to a downriver approach. Launch using the non-motorized ramp at the east end of the park. Paddle up the Mon, beneath the Hot Metal Bridge, a relic of steel making days and now converted to pedestrian and bicycle use. Southside Works and the Three Rivers Heritage Trail are located along the left bank, which curves beneath the Hays Woods, a square mile of undeveloped forest along 400-foot high bluffs. Former and current industrial sites of the Hazelwood neighborhood, including barge mooring and servicing sites, are located along the right bank. Just around the bend, the blue Glenwood Bridge marks the location of Sandcastle water park on the left bank. Turn around for the return trip and enjoy a rare view of Oakland's university district from the water.

BRADDOCK TO THE POINT

A unique urban float trip begins at 11th street ramp, adjacent to the active US Steel mill. Paddle down the Mon beneath the bridge and hillside town at Rankin, and past the industrial remains of the Carrie Furnace on the right bank. Homestead steel works on the left bank is now a major brownfield redevelopment. Nine-mile Run emerges from Duck Hollow on the right bank, just before the towering Homestead Grays Bridge. Beyond Sandcastle waterpark on the left bank, and the blue Glenwood Bridge, the river turns north to give a unique view of Oakland from the water. Past the Hot Metal Bridge, Southside Riverfront Park offers a rest stop and take-outs on the left bank near the green Birmingham Bridge. Continue to the Point for views of the city, downtown bridges and inclines, and Mt Washington. This roughly half-day trip can be extended by continuing down the Ohio to the Westhall Street access. Public transit can be used to return to your vehicle in Braddock from downtown.

Brunnots Island
Lewis and Clark spent the first night of their voyage on this island after leaving Pittsburgh on August 31, 1803.

Washington's Crossing
In 1753, 21-year old George Washington nearly drowned while crossing the icy river on his first military mission, after delivering a message to the French to vacate the Ohio Country.

Sycamore Island
Allegheny Land Trust's permanently protected Sycamore Island is home to a rare hardwood floodplain forest. Rich in biodiversity, the outdoor space is framed by the arching canopy of silver maples, sycamore and eastern cottonwood trees. It is unique habitat for a range of unusual bird and aquatic species.

Carrie Furnace
U.S. Steel's Homestead Works was the greatest steel mill in the world, and Carrie Furnace was its heart. These blast furnaces have stood since 1907, and may someday be featured as a Rivers of Steel National Historic Site.

Hot Metal Bridge
The Hot Metal Bridge (1900) of the Jones and Laughlin Steel Co. carried molten iron in ladle cars across the river from the blast furnaces on the Oakland side to the hearth furnaces on the South Side, where it was turned into steel. Today, the Hot Metal Bridge serves pedestrians and cyclists as part of the Three Rivers Heritage Trail system.

Duck Hollow and Nine Mile Run
Secluded Pittsburgh neighborhood and a popular fishing spot at the mouth of a waterway that received the largest urban stream restoration in the nation. A primitive trail leads upstream to Frick Park.

Allegheny Islands State Park
Three alluvial islands in the Allegheny River, on both sides of Lock and Dam No. 3. Downstream islands are reached from the Harmarville backchannel access. Reedy marshes and sandbars, shady coves, aquatic and bird life. Camping by permission.

Boathouse Row
The riverfront at Verona, once called Sylvan, was the historical center for recreational boating in this region with a "Boathouse Row" of seven canoe and pleasure boat clubs. Several of the old clubs are still present along the river.

Legend

- Dock Launch
- Beach Launch
- Ramp Launch
- Public Restrooms
- Parking
- ADA Accessible
- Storage Rack
- Picnic Area
- Food
- Shopping
- Historic Attraction
- Three Rivers Heritage Trail
- Road Bridge
- Railroad Bridge
- Lock & Dam
- Hazard Area