

CHAPTER 4. Other Active Transportation Opportunities



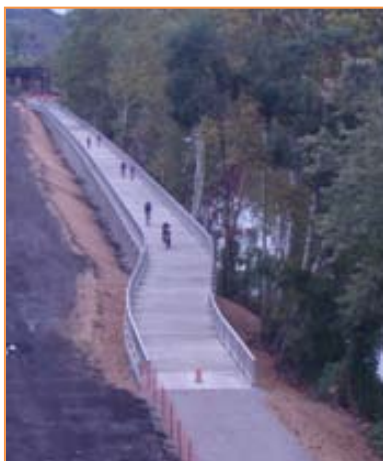
Although bicycling and walking are the most prevalent modes of active transportation in Allegheny County, other modes are emerging as not only a recreational preference, but as commuter options. A system of water trails is available to kayakers and non-motorized watercraft. While on land in-line skating has become increasingly popular partly due to the network of paved paths.

4.1 THREE RIVERS WATER TRAIL

The Three Rivers Water Trail is a system of access points and accommodations for water sport access for the Allegheny, Monongahela, and Ohio Rivers in Allegheny County. The water trail was developed and is maintained by Friends of the Riverfront. According to their website (www.friendsoftheriverfront.org/), “kayaking and canoeing were among the top five sports that had the most first-time participants in 2001.” The Three Rivers Water Trail serves these emerging non-motorized water users with signed routes and amenities.

Connectivity

The Three Rivers Water Trail system provides connectivity to the Three Rivers Heritage Trail and Steel Valley Trail (part of the Great Allegheny Passage) (www.gaptrail.org/), and offers access to bike rentals and programs in South Side and Millvale. As part of ACTIVE ALLEGHENY, countywide bicycle routes were drafted to connect active



Route 28 Trail “Missing Link”

transportation opportunities (Chapter 2-2), including access to the Three Rivers Heritage Trail and Steel Valley Trail, which both offer access to the Three Rivers Water Trail system. ACTIVE ALLEGHENY also recommended locations for complete street improvements, and pedestrian access and mobility at intersections and along corridors in Allegheny County (Chapter 3-2). A few of these locations serve as potential access to the rivers and more specifically the

Three Rivers Water Trail. For example, the missing link along the Route 28 Trail has recently been constructed and additional improvements are currently under construction to enhance access at River Front Drive near Route 28. These improvements have and will continue to facilitate mobility and access to the Millvale Riverfront Park, the Three Rivers Water Trail and the Three Rivers Heritage Trail.



Water Trail Route Sign

Accessibility

ACTIVE ALLEGHENY online survey respondents told a story of active and enthusiastic kayakers. A desire was expressed by kayakers in the survey for additional access points and convenient parking near the rivers. Issues with kayaking mentioned by survey respondents included:

- Metered parking on Federal Street is restricted to 2 hours, limiting time on the Three Rivers Water Trail (Kayak Pittsburgh is located underneath the Robert Roberto Clemente Bridge on the north side of the Allegheny River).
- Secure kayak parking is desired in Verona and Oakmont to enjoy nearby restaurants and retail.
- More kayak rental locations are desired in addition to the rentals offered by Kayak Pittsburgh (<http://www.kayakpittsburgh.org/>).
- There needs to be more publicity and public awareness for docking and launching locations.
- Add an access point at Chapel Harbor, where available vacant land use could be utilized.

Planning and Development

The Three Rivers Water Trail is expanding in Allegheny County and new access sites and amenities are planned. According to the Friends of the Riverfront website, the following access sites are under development:

Monongahela River

Braddock
Elizabeth
Mon Wharf

Allegheny River

Sharpsburg
O'Hara
Sycamore Island
Oakmont

Ohio River

Sewickley

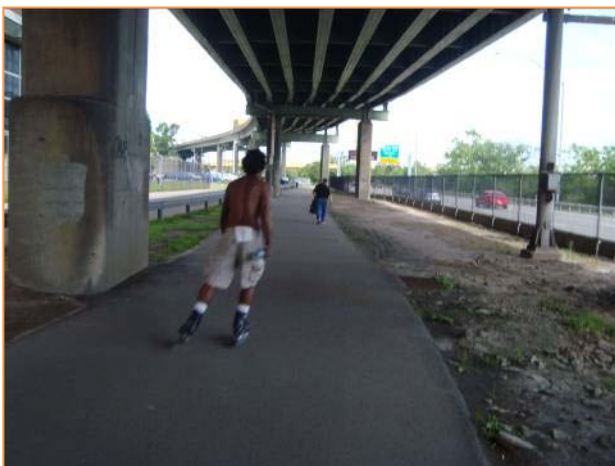


Kayaker in the Allegheny River

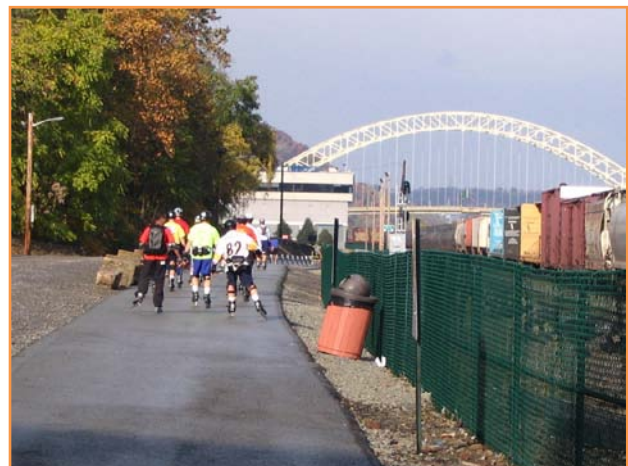
Updates and progress with regards to expansion of the Three Rivers Water Trail are available on the Friends of the Riverfront website (www.friendsoftheriverfront.org/) under "Trails" and then "Water Status."

4.2 IN-LINE SKATING & SKATEBOARDING

In-line skating has emerged as an active transportation option in Allegheny County due in part to the network of paved paths available as part of the trail system. In-line skaters in the region are supported through the Three Rivers Inline Club, which holds activities and events to promote and teach skating to cater to a variety of skill levels. Both in-line skating and skateboarding were mentioned by survey respondents as an activity they enjoy and would like better accommodated by additional paved paths. Two paths where in-line skaters were observed in the City of Pittsburgh are shown below.



In-line Skater on Eliza Furnace Trail



Group of In-line Skaters, Station Square Trail