

Green District

*"If there is magic on this planet, it is contained
in water."*

-Loren Eiseley

Green District



A view of the Ohio River along West Carson Street.



Pittsburgh's form is defined by its natural features and its extensive park system.

At specific points along Pittsburgh's 35 miles of riverfront, the density of trees and wildflowers and steep cliffs looks and feels pre-industrial, 18th-century in its presentation.

Such Green Districts—often steep drops where the natural topography plunges headlong to the river—remain an essential feature and part of the diverse character of Pittsburgh's riverfront. Restoration of natural areas and preservation of wildlife habitats will be a primary focus of development policy in these districts.

Open spaces and visual access to the riverfront allow a connection between the riverfront and a large segment of the population whose only chance for contact may come while driving along one of the major arterial roads passing through these natural areas.

Natural Green Districts of the riverfront, which include the slopes along East and West Carson Street, the upper north shore of the Monongahela and along both sides of the Allegheny River between Lawrenceville and the Highland Park Bridge, will be protected from development.

Major arterial roads through these areas will become river boulevards with enhanced views of the water and natural landscape. A preservation ethic will encourage restoration of existing vegetation, stabilized slope areas, minimal retaining walls, scenic overlooks along river boulevards, and continuous nature trails along river. Highway

bridges, ramps, lighting, walls and railings should maintain a consistent and harmonious design.

Pittsburgh remains one of the nation's most heavily forested urban landscapes: a city where some balance still exists between the built and natural environment. There is reason here to celebrate nature's resiliency, knowing how mankind disregarded this resource for a century or more.

Pittsburgh today is finding new meaning in its extraordinary industrial and natural heritage, and interest from visitors from around the world who desire a destination of such richness. The former industrial heart of 19th century America has emerged into the information age as one of the its most distinct and beautiful cities.



The view along the shore of the Monongahela River shows the steep drop from Swisshelm Park to the water's edge.

Green District

Segments

West Carson

East Carson

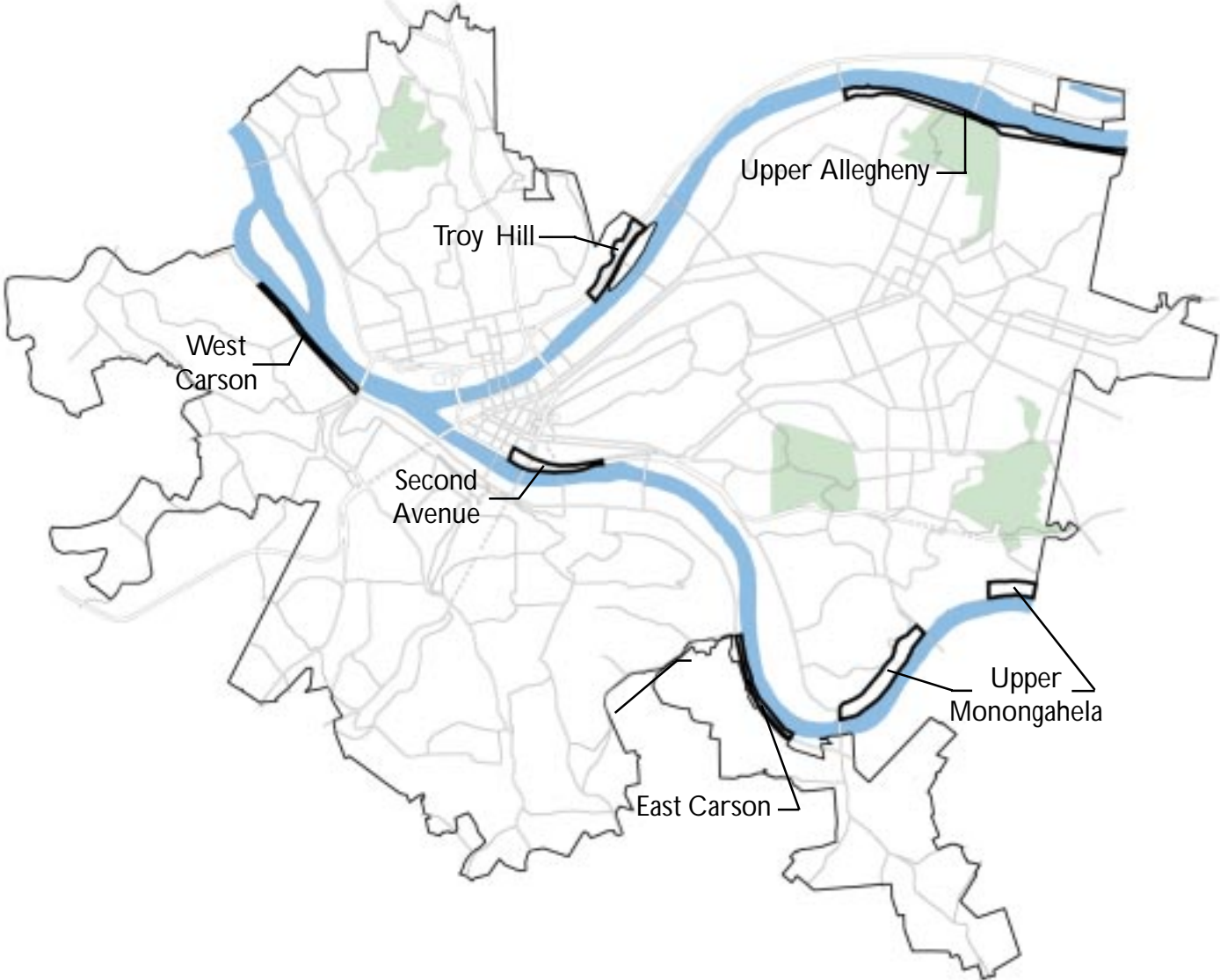
Upper

Monongahela

Troy Hill

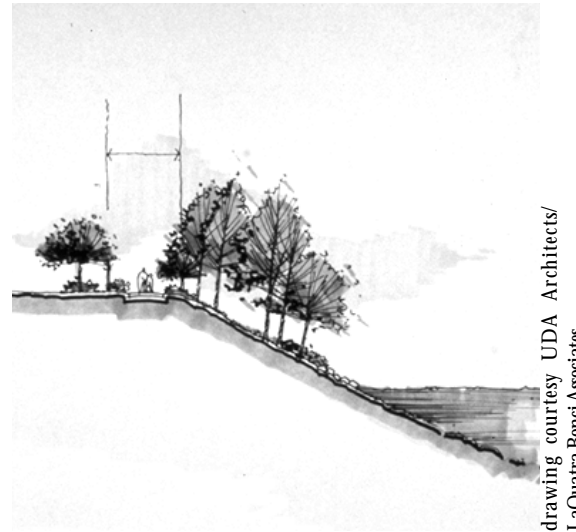
Second Avenue

Upper Allegheny



Design & Land Use Policies in the Green District

- ❖ The river's edge will be maintained in as natural a state as possible.
- ❖ Natural ecosystems should be restored where necessary.
- ❖ Slope areas should be stabilized to prevent any erosion and maintain a green edge to the river.
- ❖ Any infrastructure improvements, including roads, rail lines or highways, will be constructed to minimize impacts on slopes and vegetation.



Trails will be constructed so as to minimize impacts on the natural slopes.

An example of a trail using soft materials.



Pittsburgh remains one of the most heavily forested urban landscapes.



- ❖ Utility lines will be placed underground or away from the rivers.
- ❖ Riverfront trails will be designed to use soft materials which minimize impacts, and to discourage pedestrian intrusion into natural areas off the trail.
- ❖ Substantial construction, including building development, retaining walls, and infrastructure development, will be discouraged; marinas will not be developed in this district.

Access & Recreation in the Green District

Green District uses will be primarily recreational.



The East Carson Street slopes are the site of the Friends of the Riverfront portion of the Heritage Trail.



- ❖ Assist the Friends of the Riverfront in acquiring and developing the trail in the East Carson segment from the South Side Works development sites to Streets Run Road. This site is primarily in Baldwin Borough.
- ❖ Access should consist primarily of a river walk and trail; large recreational activities should not occur in this district.
- ❖ Riverfront trails should be part of the regional riverfront trail system, and be linked to other trails extending to the river.
- ❖ Overlooks should be developed along the trails, where slopes and vegetation allow for such construction without disruption.

Priority Projects in the Green District

*The Second Avenue slopes
along the Monongahela River.*



❖ **Underway**
PennDot Route 28/31st Street Bridge redesign

❖ **Projected**
West Carson Street upgrade
Riverview Bike Trail

*Bikers will be able to travel
from Schenley Park to Point
State Park on the Eliza
Furnace Trail.*



❖ **Recommended**
Three Rivers Heritage Trail extension
Relocate asphalt plant

Green District Project Map

