

## About *Find the Rivers!*

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### **WHAT**

*Find the Rivers! (FTR!)* is a partnership launched in 2002 to engage communities in river-related planning and development projects, and to improve their financial, physical, and social health. This project's overall vision is to connect the Hill District with the rest of the City and to build social, cultural, and economic opportunity.

### **WHO**

Contributors to the work include: the City of Pittsburgh, Riverlife Task Force, University of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, Community Design Center of Pittsburgh, and Chatham University. Funding has come from: the Heinz Endowments, the Richard King Mellon Foundation, Community Design Fund, Local Initiative Support Corporation, Sprout Fund, and the Maurice Falk Foundation.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Involving more than 200 residents and a broad range of organizations in plans/projects.
- Attracting new visitors to the Hill through performing arts and public art installations.
- Developing a design vision for reconnecting the Hill District and the rivers by beautifying natural assets and promoting their use for economic development.
- Producing design plans for core components of the *FTR!* vision – along the Kirkpatrick and Herron Avenue corridors.
- Identifying and mapping strategic sites with a view to physical development, such as overlooks.
- Documenting and communicating *FTR!* ([www.findtherivers.net](http://www.findtherivers.net)).

### **CORE PARTNERS**

- The Hill District Planning Forum, a coalition of neighborhood residents and organizations, chaired by Carl Redwood. This group meets monthly to coordinate service and development initiatives. They have produced a *Blueprint for a Livable Hill*, outlining a series of planning and development initiatives -- including *FTR!* plans and projects -- agreed to by stakeholders as important to future growth in the Hill. The Planning Forum is the main conduit to residents to make sure the project reflects the interests of a broad group of community stakeholders.
- Hill House Association ([www.hillhouse.org](http://www.hillhouse.org)), a multi-service agency with a long-standing commitment to the neighborhood, represented by Evan Frazier, President and CEO, and Terri Baltimore, VP for Neighborhood Development. Hill House provides project oversight, program development, community leadership, planning, coordination of public events, staffing, office space, and fiscal management for several *FTR!* initiatives.
- Community Partners Institute (CPI) ([www.communitypartner.org](http://www.communitypartner.org)), an international consulting firm with extensive expertise in community engagement, represented by Denys Candy, Principal. CPI provides expertise in research and strategy development, civic engagement, facilitation, documentation, fundraising, and project oversight.
- Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy ([www.pittsburghparks.org](http://www.pittsburghparks.org)), a non-profit focused on park development and restoration represented by Meg Cheever, President and CEO, and Susan Rademacher, Parks Curator. The Parks Conservancy provides expertise in planning and design, construction, maintenance and management to *FTR!* PPC is also providing some fundraising assistance and is acting as the fiscal manager.