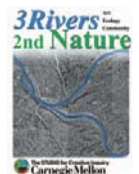




The Allegheny River Pool 2

# WATERTRAILS



## Community Dialogue - Allegheny Watertrail

### Group 1

Facilitator: Denys Candy

Mary Bates – Citizens Advocate  
 Walter Boykywicz – Carnegie Mellon University  
 Marilyn Brody – Citizens Advocate  
 Marco Cremaschi – Citizens Advocate  
 Francois Guilleux – Citizens Advocate  
 Barbara Kaiser – Citizens Advocate  
 Earl McCabe – Citizens Advocate  
 Christine Mills – Citizens Advocate  
 Mike Mills – Citizens Advocate  
 Edie Nagen – Citizens Advocate  
 Ed Patrisier – Citizens Advocate  
 Rob Pfaffman – Pfaffmann & Associates  
 Henry Prellwitz – 3 Rivers 2nd Nature  
 Dan Pryor – Allegheny Ridge Corporation  
 Mort Schweitzer – Citizens Advocate  
 Sally Schweitzer – Citizens Advocate  
 Joel Tarr – Carnegie Mellon University  
 Karl Thomas – Friends of the Riverfront  
 Dennis Tubbs – PA Fish and Boat Commission  
 John Walliser – PA Environmental Council  
 Selma Weiss – Citizens Advocate  
 Billie Woodland – Citizens Advocate

### Denys Candy - Community Partner Institute

There are hard edges and soft edges that define the riverbanks at the edges of the Allegheny River. Hard edges are often concrete banks with sharp drops, steep to the water. The soft edges gently slope, making it easier to get right down to the water. These edges were mapped by the blue group while out on the boat. There also emerged hard and soft issues of human access; the opportunities and challenges of really re-connecting people and communities along the river, so that everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the splendid beauty and touch the river directly.

Opportunities, missed and prospective, were at the forefront of the discussion as people gathered following a boat ride along the Allegheny River in pool 2, from the lock and dam at Highland Park to the Pennsylvania Turnpike Bridge.

Barbara Kaiser noticed that retail areas in Oakmont and Verona have their backs to the river. *"The Chambers of Commerce should be aware that we can capitalize on boat traffic."* Marilyn Brody noticed debris along the banks and wondered, *"Why is it not cleaned up?"* Mort Schweitzer got us thinking of models. *"San Antonio has a river walk, we have 5 or 6 restaurants in each town not far from the river."* Small scale opportunities seem to be there. This appears to represent the soft edge of opportunity.

### Big Projects

Bigger opportunities on highly visible sites might offer a bigger challenge, this harder issue of human access. The Edgewater Steel plant drew everyone's attention from out on the water. On the south bank, disused industrial buildings sit near the mouth of Plum creek. The Regional Industrial Development Corporation (RIDC) owns the property. The area to the west of the buildings looks pristine but there are problems. There have been underground storage tanks on the site and there are slag and heavy metal issues. RIDC is doing environmental work, according to Karl Thomas, of Friends of the Riverfront. There was general agreement that this site represents a real opportunity to embrace the area's history by keeping some of the old buildings and carefully designing future uses that should, according to the group, include housing. RIDC typically develops neo-industrial parks. This is an opportunity to mark the region's future by bringing the site back with an eye to much broader usage.

The City's asphalt plant sits near the Highland Park Lock and Dam. Henry Prellwitz thinks there is talk of it coming on the market for \$500,000. Joel Tarr wondered whether it might be possible for a coalition of groups to buy it as an alternative to an industrial real estate buyer. At a minimum, the City could be persuaded to require any new owner to include public access to the river.

Friends of the Riverfront has been working on a trail that would reach the river from the south (Homewood area) at a railroad bridge and continue on across the river and west toward Millvale. Moreover, the Highland Park Community group is working on opening up a stream through the valley at the Pittsburgh Zoo to the river. So why not imagine, group 1 suggested, creating the option of coming from Homewood and going either northward across the Allegheny or swinging eastward near the



Asphalt plant, along trails offering multiple access points to the River?

### Trails

Along the south bank of the Allegheny, four miles of trails are planned along the existing railroad lines that run from Arnold to Lawrenceville. Hikers and cyclists find unofficial access but the town of Penn Hills plans to acquire land that will offer fuller access. Henry Prellwitz pointed out that a parking lot and ramp for boats, along with trail access could be provided.

On the river, along the north shore in Harmerville, an access area owned by the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission offers cheap year round access to the water. Not many people know about this resource, raising the issue of education and information. Barbara Kaiser noted there is no sign at the site. It was taken down during a construction project but not returned. This may be the only official public access point to the river from the banks in this Pool.

Access is also an issue when on the water. Where, for example, can boaters find access to the banks, restaurants, or simply nice places to sit? There are ways to access various marinas, but not a single system giving access to all of them. Rob Pfaffman suggested a single annual permit that could be negotiated with multiple owners of access points.

In order to capitalize on opportunities, people will need to have access to the river. There may be short term gains to be made. Franco Guilleux is pointed out that there is access in some places in Blawnox and Oakmont, but signs say, "For Town Residents Only." Why not access for all? The Greek Orthodox Church has a potentially useful parking lot. There are pavilions at Oakmont Riverside Park with steps



to the river, but boaters don't know about it and there is a fence. Can access be facilitated there? Edie Nagan, a board member of Riverview Children's Center in Verona, told us of the Center's riverfront property and its wish to do something useful with it. This offers an immediate opportunity.

### A Recreation Area

Marco Cremaschi, visiting from Italy, suggested swimming and beaches to complement the trail system and all were struck by the islands, they form another interesting asset. There already is a beautiful sandy beach between 12 and 14 mile islands, reported Ed Patrisier. Orange flags are flown when combined sewer overflows (CSO) make swimming unsafe. Francois suggested a camping permit for the islands. One is owned by a ski club. The boat houses and rowing clubs reminded us that many are active on the rivers today. In the past, even more people took to the rivers. It can be that way again.

The various ideas for camping, walking, swimming, sitting, boating, and cycling suggest that the area could be identified as a recreation area with multiple amenities. Creative thinking was encouraged. A big swimming pool, boulders to make white water, or a pedestrian bridge to an island conjure up images of people of all ages enjoying the river.

Such initiatives require attention to the hard and soft edges of many issues, from combined sewer overflows (a regional problem), to local zoning alignment that could ease the way to the River, promoting stewardship through education and enforcement.

### History

This area, like many places in Western Pennsylvania, is rich in history, offering another opportunity. Charles McCollister mapped a historical route, taking in the old mill site in Blawnox, Edgewater Steel, and the mining company houses on the north shore just west of the Hulton Bridge. Beyond the locks and dam, in Cheswick, lies the site of a mine disaster in 1904 that killed hundreds of people. Can we envision a water taxi tour that traces such history? We viewed the river and its history as a unifying force for the community.

### Conversations – One Big Neighborhood

There are multiple stakeholders along the rivers, as well as large and small opportunities. Overall, our group's vision encompassed easy access to the river from both banks, a trail on the south bank linked to a railroad bridge, other trails, multiple access points, beaches, and all kinds of people enjoying the river from the water and the riverbanks. The area would be known for its history and for several important sites.

Elements of this vision can already be experienced in this area and yet, will be a challenge to pursue for the area overall. For example, if one borough or town opts for ecological awareness while, upriver, a neighboring town opts for industrial land uses, the upriver opportunity may jeopardize the down river opportunity. The bigger opportunity may be to designate the entire area as the Allegheny River Development Area, with a commonly agreed set of development principles that would ensure environmental equity, viable land use activities and sustainable development.

#### Group 2 Facilitator: Terri Baltimore

John Bixler – Citizens Advocate  
Carol Chufo – Citizens Advocate  
Bob Chufo – Citizens Advocate  
Erica Dibeneditto – Citizens Advocate  
Steve Hoops – Citizens Advocate  
Shirley Hoops – Citizens Advocate  
Carrie King – Citizens Advocate  
Mike Koryak – 3 Rivers 2nd Nature  
Pam Koryak – Citizens Advocate  
Joe Jablonski – Citizens Advocate  
Jane Jablonski – Citizens Advocate  
Sherman Lieberman – Citizens Advocate  
Charlie McCollister – Rivers of Steel Heritage Area  
Scott McDougal – Citizens Advocate  
Suzy Meyer – Image-Earth  
Water Sadauskas – Citizens Advocate  
AJ Schwartz – Environmental Planning & Design  
John Sofranko – Citizens Advocate  
Bob Svitek – Citizens Advocate  
George Whitmore – Citizens Advocate

#### Terry Baltimore - Hill House

The day of the river dialogue was cold. But no amount of cold wind could dampen the spirits of the river warriors who came out on the November day to think out loud about the possibilities offered along the Allegheny River.

The group 2 returned from the boat ride with a great deal of enthusiasm and vigor. As a group, we talked about the sights, sounds, and possibilities that struck them. The group shared their observations, they saw a great deal of opportunity on the river and along the river banks.



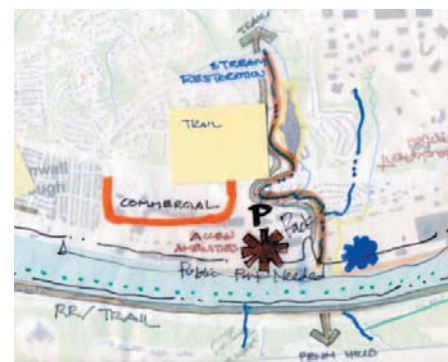
#### Politics

No conversation about changing attitudes and behaviors would be complete without a brief word about politics. The group was privileged to have at least four members who were involved in local politics. The communities along this section of the Allegheny run the gamut, from affluent to working class. Historically, those divisions have created a backdrop of suspicion and tentativeness. There was a discussion about the inability for the three local communities and boroughs to work together on projects. The members agreed that the Allegheny river provided the potential for each of the communities to benefit.

#### History/Landscapes

Our group benefited greatly from having a community historian. He recalled delivering newspapers by boat along the river. A former resident of the area recalled how the river was a “forgotten” aspect of community life. People knew that it existed, but it never was anything that could be utilized because of the industry that used to exist along the river banks.

Many in our group recognized the previous industrial heritage of the area. During the boat ride, they observed how much land had been off limits to the community. And, as the industries shut down, the community is saddled with a number of formidable structures along the river banks. They suggested that some of the old industrial sites should be demolished so the land can serve as access points to the river. There were also suggestions that some of the old buildings be recycled in some to pay tribute to area's manufacturing history.



#### Obstacles

As a group we talked about the physical obstacles to the river. We discussed the barriers presented by the large property owners. How can access to the river become a reality at points such as the Waterworks Mall? How can the various yacht clubs offer access points for non-members? How can trails along the river be used if railroads and rights of way are impediments? We talked about the necessity of having representatives of those entities at the table for a full conversation about how these barriers could be addressed.

Interestingly enough, this group also looked at one of the impediments that is not often freely addressed - the issue of class. How can we encourage people to take advantage of the beautiful riverfronts if they do not have the resources to actually get onto the river itself? This question was put on the table by one of our group members. She was eager to share her desire to get close to and into the river. She was a mother, with children, who could not afford to join a water sports organization or boat club. She lived in Oakmont, but her family could not afford to participate in any water-related activities. As the group pondered this issue, a very intriguing suggestion was made. One of the group members had lived, for a time, in Boston. There, river groups made crafts available for a small fee. The fee entitled residents to use boats and kayaks. It provided those without resources the opportunity to participate in the “river life” without the financial commitment necessary to buy, operate, and maintain a river craft.

The group also talked about the barriers to children and families in taking part in leisurely riverfront activities. Parents in our group talked about the lack of safety measures along the River. With the steep drop-offs, they stressed the importance of providing and planning for families with young children who will want to have access to the river.

#### Amenities

The group was very energetic when it came to amenities. They were adamant about making the river a destination point. In order for the rivers to draw a cross-section of users, they recommended the following: maps/information racks (along the river and trails), web sites with information, parking lots along the river, play areas for families, trails, restaurants, restrooms, look-outs/observation points, inns and hotels, camping sites, gas stations (for cars and boats), and places to get electricity (boats and trailers).

#### Transportation Hub

Our group was very excited about the possibility of resurrecting a train line that would have a stop in Oakmont/Verona. They saw the train as an engaging way to make the



river a destination point. It would also serve as a very unique way to bring folks to the river thus providing an interesting tourist attraction.

#### User Issues

One of the big issues our group covered was the lack of communication between and among the various river users. The canoers do not talk with the speed boaters. The speed boaters do not talk to the kayakers. The kayakers don't talk to the big boat owners. The big boat owners don't talk to the water skiers. The lack of communication is a constraint if the various groups happen to have problems with others.

The group recommended two specific actions. First, the various river users need to meet on some regular basis to understand how, when, and where each group uses the river. Second, the groups need to work out a strategy for co-existing on the river. Our group recommended carving out "lanes" in the area where designated groups could safely navigate the river.

#### Group 3: Women's Group Facilitators: Stephanie Flom and Reiko Goto

Jane Butler – 3 Rivers Rowing Association  
Russellyn Carruth – Citizens Advocate  
Joyce Chilton – Citizens Advocate  
Maureen Dawley – Carnegie Mellon University  
Steffi Domike – Chatham College  
Anita Driscoll – O'Hara Township Parks & Recreation Commission  
Dianne Flanagan – 3 Rivers Rowing Association  
Lee Fogarty – Citizens Advocate  
Katrine Grossman – Citizens Advocate  
Marijke Hecht – Nile Mile Run Watershed Association  
Casey Carruth – Hinchey  
Evelyn Hodill – Citizens Advocate  
Sharon Janitor – Citizens Advocate  
Bridget Kilroy – Citizens Advocate  
Kathy Knauer – 3 Rivers 2nd Nature  
Ronna Lieberman – Citizens Advocate  
Shirley Lieberman – Citizens Advocate  
Mary Jane Magel – O'Hara Township Parks & Recreation Commission  
Mary Lee Mahon – O'Hara Township Parks & Recreation Commission  
Connie Merriman – Citizens Advocate  
Edie Nagin – Citizens Advocate  
Margie Oliver – Riverlife Task Force  
Phyllis Raines – Citizens Advocate  
Linda Stafford – 3 Rivers 2nd Nature  
Mary Ann Thomas – Citizens Advocate  
Dori Tompa – Steel Rowing Club  
Roberta Weiss – Citizen Participant

#### Stephanie Flom - The Persephone Project

In planning for this group, to be facilitated by Reiko Goto and myself, I wondered what we would discover. Would there be a feminist perspective or at least a woman's perspective

when planning for use of the River? How would this differ from a general perspective?

I called to mind a few occasions when I have interacted with the river sans men. One occasion was a sunrise spring equinox event led by Brooke Smokelin that began at the Healing Garden on the North Shore. As is usual with such events, there were just one or two men amidst the twenty or so women. My Jewish women's meditation group also seeks out the river. Once a year we gather on the bank of the Monongahela to perform Tischlach, the practice of casting bread crumbs upon the water (representing misdeeds or habits we want to let go of), in preparation for the Jewish High Holy Days. Is it feminist to seek a contemplative relationship with the river?

I posed the question of a woman's perspective on river use to my friend Rachel one morning after meditation. Her response was practical. She has a disability and wears a prosthesis where her right foot once was. She is in great physical shape and looks for activities that do not rely on strenuous use of her legs. When introduced to canoeing, she was ecstatic until she learned of the need to carry the canoe on rocky terrain.

My poll of two women—Rachel and myself—brought up two issues I did not recall hearing in other river planning sessions. Maybe there was a woman's perspective.

Our group at the Dialogue was not self-selected. Some were surprised and even annoyed to find themselves in a "woman's" group. The group, which had a broad age range—30's through 70's, had many strong capable river women who would gladly out-row any man given a chance. Why separate us they wanted to know. Joyce Chilton has been competently swimming the river since she was a child. Dori Tompa insisted she became adept at her river skills precisely because her father treated her no differently than her brothers. And that's how she treats the young women who come to her to learn to paddle the river. The issue of ghettoization was raised. Reiko and I had a small rebellion on our hands.

The question needed to be reframed. I called upon my budding knowledge of Carl Jung: All of us possess both Feminine (process-oriented) and Masculine (product-oriented) attributes; the goal is to attain a balanced whole. Are there river-related concerns universal to men and women that we as women are in a better position to identify and address? Relying on my "poll," I used Rachel as an example. Her barrier to river use brings up issues of physical disability and muscular strength. While not gender-specific issues, is it easier for a woman unburdened of machismo expectations to raise them? And myself. Seeking contemplation in nature is appealing to me as a woman, yet it is certainly not

reserved for women. A process-oriented relationship to the environment benefits us all.

Posed in this way, the women's river dialogue flowed. There was passion and emotion in how the group described what they saw on the river. Russellyn Carruth used the word heartbreaking to describe her observation of the lack of access (to the river). A visceral response to a relationship to the river was expressed.

*"Sometimes I just want to put my body in the river."*  
~Bridget Kilroy

The emotion of fear was explored and the potential danger of the river discussed. Fear of the water and not knowing how to use the equipment.

*"I'm afraid of dams and I don't want to go in a lock."*  
~Anita Driscoll

*"I carry the memory of a drowning that occurred in the 80's every time I'm in the river."*  
~Stephanie Flom

*"I think we need a separate protected area for non-motorized vehicles."*  
~Russellyn Carruth

*"Fear of others who might take advantage of the isolation of the river. And overcoming the fear. You can't let fear overcome your desire. You have to get the knowledge."*  
~Diane Flanagan

*"Can we give people information, so it isn't so dangerous?"*  
~Jane Butler

*"The more we separate ourselves from the rivers, the more fear there's going to be."*  
~Maureen Dawley

If it's true that women are more willing than men to ask for directions, these women were asking.

*"We need signage, education, and communication letting people know these places exist."*  
~Margie Oliver

*"Our boat driver told us not to go near the islands without local knowledge. We need information—guidance, lessons."*  
~Casey Carruth-Hinchery

*"O'Hara township offered a 1-day boat workshop. They had to turn people away. It was the best response to any summer*



*recreation program in 10 years.”*  
~Anita Driscoll

*“There are many ways to distribute the information. Create a network, people to people, and women to women.”*  
~Jane Butler

The group explored narrative and memory as a connection to the river. *“I saw a child playing outside by the river. I imagine that the child’s fondest memory will be of the river.”*  
~Bridget Kilroy

*“Memories that we share are very tangible. They impact how we feel about and deal with the river.”*  
~Maureen Dawley

And finally, a classically Feminine viewpoint of a process-oriented relationship to the river.  
*“You don’t need a destination to enjoy the river.”*  
~Russellyn Carruth

*“I want observation areas with unobstructed views of the river.”* ~Phyllis Raines

That became quite poetic, even Zen. Our group wanted nothing less than a fully integrated cultural shift to this powerful relationship.

*Be with the river even if you’re not on the river.*  
~Marge Oliver

While the product of the woman’s group had similarities to the other groups—a plan to preserve and protect natural areas, a vision for a hub for low-impact river activities, and signage and educational activities to promote participation—the process was shaped with poetry, emotion, narrative, honest expression of fears, and a desire for information and better communication. Perhaps we did not bring a uniquely feminist perspective to the dialogue, but we certainly contributed to a fuller, more whole and balanced approach to the plan. ~Stephanie Flom

#### Reiko Goto - The 3 Rivers 2nd Nature Project

Steffi Domike talked about her concerns about being in rivers. *“My teenage daughter and stepdaughter who are in their 20’s go out on the river, I don’t really worry about them. But they cannot carry the boat between the shore and water by themselves. Still what I worry about most is other people.”*

When I worked with Jessica Dunn who was our botanist to look at plant species along the rivers, we drove our motorboat very slowly between two points (about 500 feet apart). We went back and forth three times. Sometimes we stopped

to get closer to the shore to identify plants. Every time a motorboat drove by, we were prepared for the wake. Most weekdays were calm because there were not many boats on the river, but weekends were different. There were way too many waves from motor boats. Some people were drinking and getting very loud. They were zig-zagging back and forth on the river at full speed.

Dori Tompa who was the Executive Director, Coach and Co-Founder of the Steel Rowing Club said, *“We always finish rowing by 10 am. After that the river becomes very busy.”* Choosing an appropriate time to be on the river might be wise, even it is very passive approach to river safety. Dorrie also questioned why we have to separate from men to talk about rivers. I felt she was right. If a woman really wants to do something, she can do anything. Her approach may or may not be different from a man’s. Still, I wanted to see if there might be a difference in the way we thought and talked about water front use in an all women group.

Rebecca Solnit is an art critic and a friend of mine in the San Francisco, Bay area, she would talk about feminine and masculine landscapes. She compared the Headlands area in The Golden Gate National Park and Sonoma County. Both have gently sloping golden hills with patches of oak trees. The landscape of Headlands was formed by former military buildings and facilities, while Sonoma was formed by farming. The farming process and relationship to land can make a landscape look much softer. Rebecca called it, “a feminine landscape.” One is not necessarily better than the other. The shapes of Pittsburgh’s rivers were historically changed to accommodate barges and industry. People acknowledge the beauty of old industrial architectonic remnants, but they are definitely masculine landscape elements. A feminine response may be appropriate at this time. ~Reiko Goto



#### Group 4: Youth Group Facilitators: Jonathan Kline

Lynn Benson – Citizens Advocate  
Sean Brady – Venture Outdoors  
Jenny Brown – Citizens Advocate  
Alex Denmarch – Citizens Advocate  
Jessica Dunn – 3 Rivers 2nd Nature  
Hannah Hardy – PA Environmental Council  
Reid Frazier – Citizen Participant  
Noel Hefelee – 3 Rivers 2nd Nature  
Priya Lakshmi – 3 Rivers 2nd Nature  
Ben Ledewitz – Carnegie Mellon University  
Matt Smuts – Carnegie Mellon University  
John Stephen – Friends of the Riverfront FRF  
Jennifer Thoma - Friends of the Riverfront FRF  
Carolyn Yagle – Environmental Planning & Design  
Gudrun Well – Citizens Advocate  
Ann Wootton – Carnegie Mellon University  
Christina Worsing – Citizens Advocate

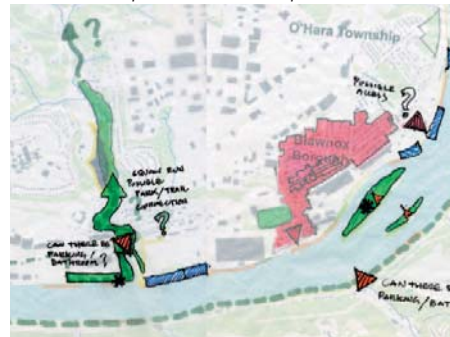
#### Jennifer Thoma - Friends of the Riverfront

*What did you see? What left the greatest impression?*

The group hadn’t realized that this pool had such a natural habitat, complete with islands, many streams with excellent fishing, small communities close to the river, and “dramatic” views. They were also very interested in the historic markers along the rivers, like the former Edgewater Steel, the row of homes for the millworkers, Boathouse Row, and various bridges.

*What are the resources and destinations?*

Natural areas, parks and particularly the islands of the Allegheny River dominated our discussion in this area. They seemed very excited and surprised about being able to get permits to camp on 14-mile Island, which is owned by the state. There are potential boat access points at the end of



streets in the Pool 2. Wildlife, especially the population and number of fish species, is very healthy in the area. There are many great spots for recreation (boating, swimming, fishing, rowing, hiking), relaxing, and educating in the Pool 2. Also mentioned, was the great opportunity to connect to the small communities along the river for amenities, food/drink, and entertainment. Friends of the Riverfront has funding to create the water trail with access points, signage and canoe racks, so the opportunities along the Allegheny are very timely.

*What stops you from using the river?*

There are many reasons offered for not using the rivers more, but the more dominant ones include lack of access to information about boating and the concept of a “water trail”; lack of access points along the river; and misconceptions about the health/safety of the water. Most of the issues can be addressed with strong public relations & communication efforts, outreach within the communities, and consistent and thorough signage and mapping.

*What would make it easier to enjoy the river?*  
(Visions and Dreams)

The primary features that people are looking for in water trail development and river recreation are: good, visible, thorough signage; different “thematic tours” to educate and entertain; creative destinations (“art parks”); amenities such as public restrooms, picnic areas, water/vending areas; quick and easy access to communities where they may find restaurants/entertainment; and more businesses and places of interest, including public art right at the water’s edge.

Many recommended “guided” and regularly scheduled boating trips and walks to make it easy for people to start enjoying the river. Connectivity to land trails also seemed important to the group.





*Sometimes I just want to be in the river.  
I want to lock my bicycle up and jump in.  
Is there such a place?* ~ Bridget Kilroy



*CSOs are a big barrier.  
All the pollution is a barrier.* ~Russellyn Carruth



*Get the municipalities to change their policies.* ~Jennifer Thoma

*Can we give people information, so it isn't so dangerous?* ~Jane Butler



*There is an interaction of two  
cultures the motorized and  
non-motorized. Can they co-exist?*  
~Stephanie Flom



*We don't know where to go. We don't know how to get there.* ~Everyone



*How do you find out where to camp?* ~Pam Koryak

*Think of creative things that can become  
destinations.* ~ Hannah Hardy



*As we encourage use, we need to encourage safety.*  
~Steffi Domike



*I have a canoe. Where  
can I put it in the river?*  
~Jane Butler

*If we can convince people that if we do  
this it will draw people. This is a type of  
economic development and it needs to  
be phrased that way.*  
~Bridget Kilroy



*You don't need a particular place to enjoy the river.*  
~Russellyn Carruth



*This was a former wetland site.* ~Noel Hefe

*In small townships the riverbanks are seen as economic opportunities. We need regional thinking  
—beyond all of us—to promote a public driven voice in opposition of development.* ~Anita Driscoll





Mirric Realty Company now owns Sycamore Island. ~John Stephen



Our memories impact how we feel about and deal with the river. ~Maureen Dawley



40 years by river, this is my only time on it. ~Carrie King



When I go to other places there are guides with information about where to go. Here nothing exists. ~Jane Butler



Let's save places that are already quiet. ~Jane Butler



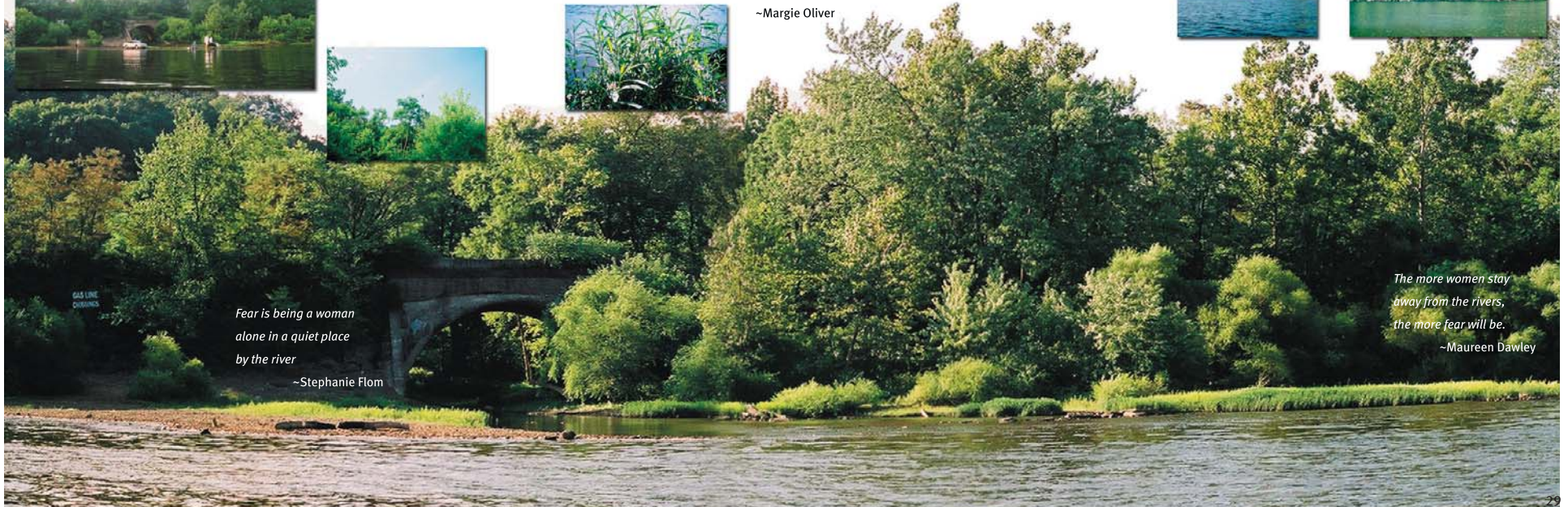
Our boat driver said don't go near islands without local knowledge. We need information —guidance, lessons. ~Casey Carruth-Hinchey



Many people don't have boats. ~Anita Driscoll

We need signage/education/communication letting people know these places exist.

~Margie Oliver



Fear is being a woman alone in a quiet place by the river

~Stephanie Flom

The more women stay away from the rivers, the more fear will be.

~Maureen Dawley