

Concept Map 1: Natural Constraints

- Water quality
- Invasive species
- High banks

Wildlife and Vegetation

15 species of fish in this pool.
~Sean Brady

40 lb catfish came from Plum Creek.
~Sean Brady

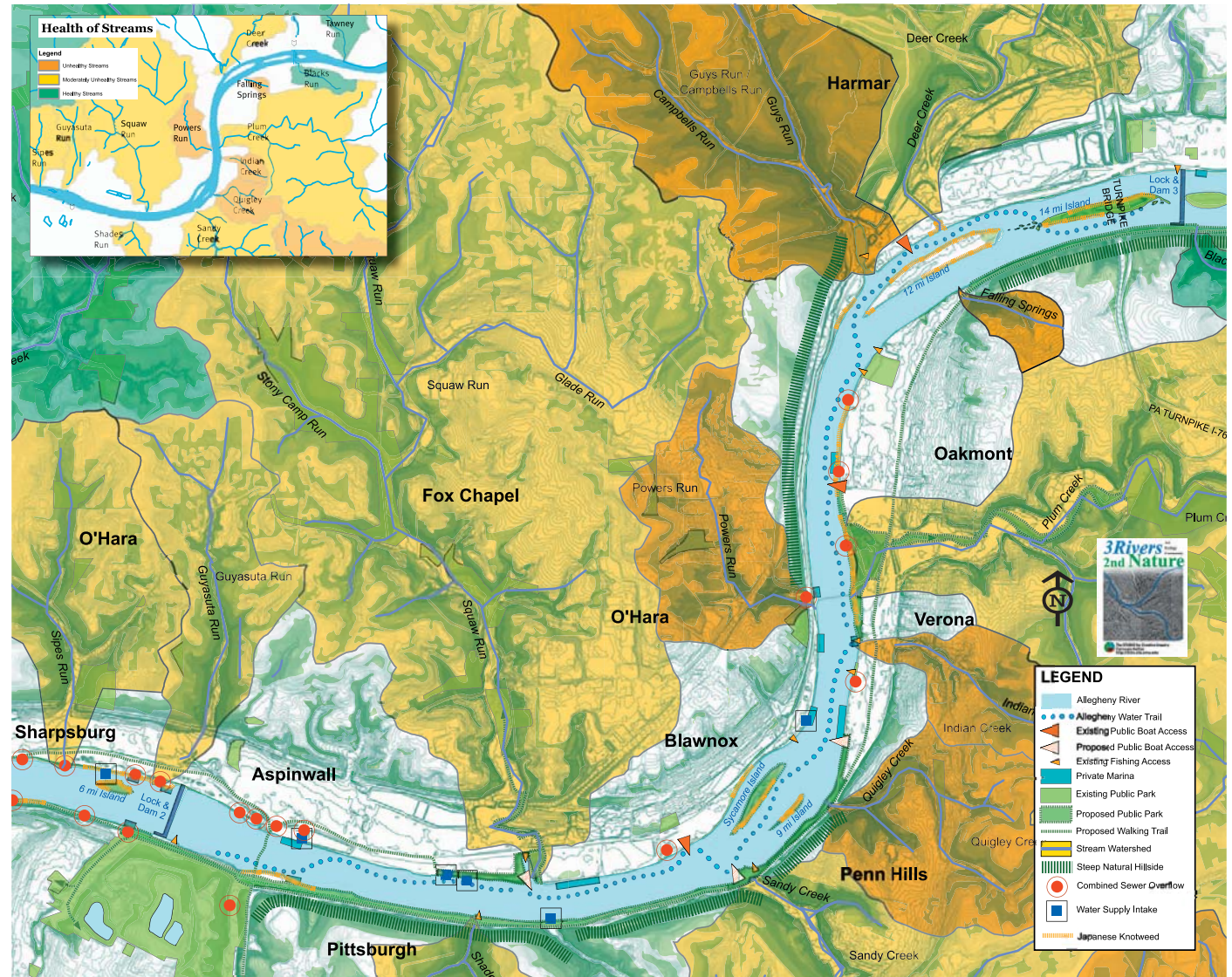
Hundreds of turtles on 14-mile Island...
~Group 3

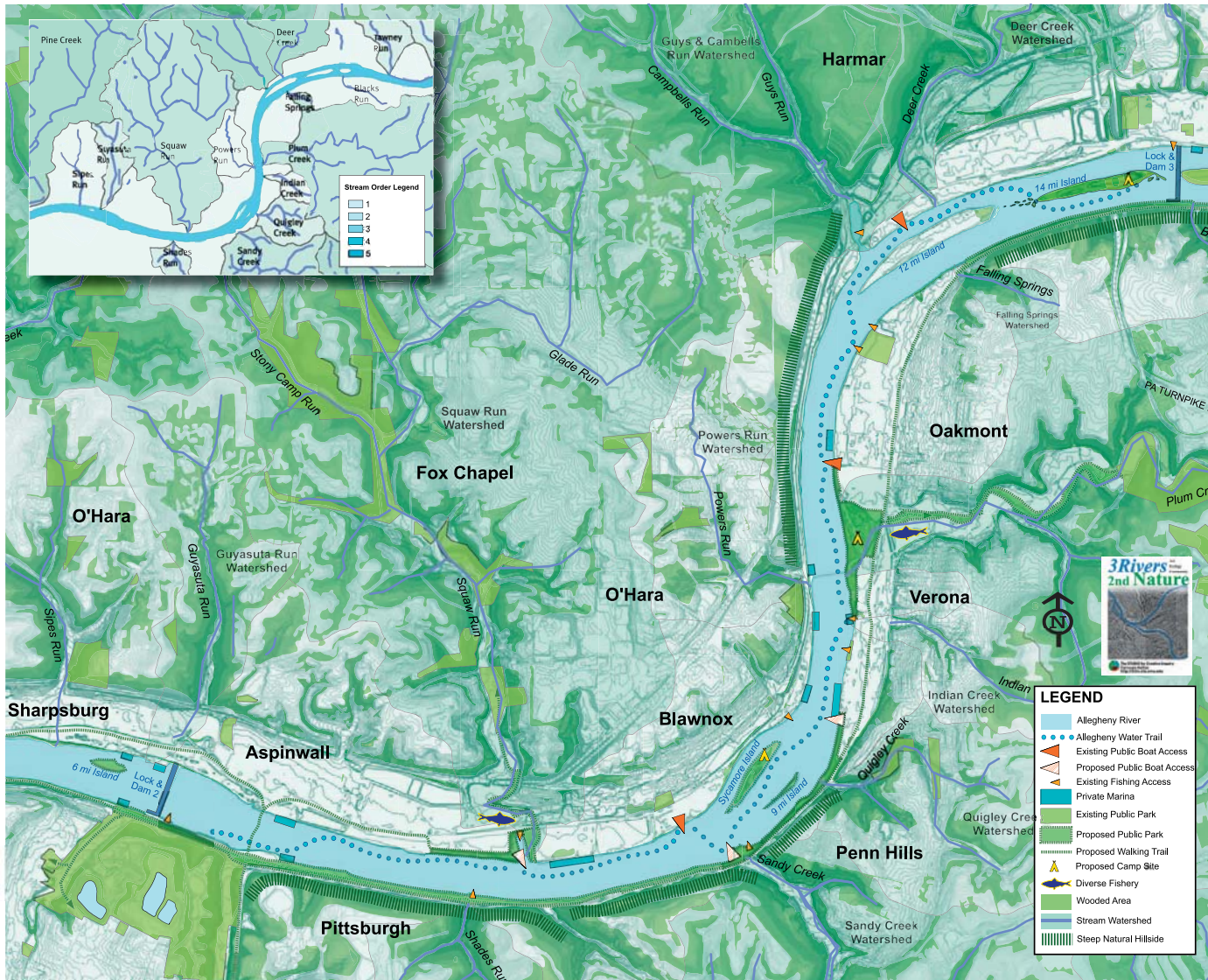
Last spring on a Western Pennsylvania Field Institute trip, we approached 14-Mile Island at dusk. We saw 20 Green blue herons.
~Bridget Kilroy

Japanese Knotweed is taking over the banks.
~Kathy Knauer



Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) is considered an "invasive" plant species in Western Pennsylvania. Related to rhubarb and buckwheat, it has bamboo-like stalks and clusters of white small flowers. It was originally introduced to the United States from Asia as an ornamental landscaping species in the early 19th century. Knotweed grows well in moist, shady areas, such as stream banks, but it also grows in sunny and dry sites and has aggressively spread throughout Allegheny County. According to the 3R2N biodiversity study, along the three rivers in Allegheny County, knotweed occupies 8% of land area shared by approximately 80 species of woody plants. Japanese knotweed is not a woody plant, however, its size and quantity threatens the habitat of other native species.





Concept Map 2: Natural Opportunities

- Natural shoreline, hill sides, and geomorphologic formation
- Islands
- Watersheds and streams
- Wildlife; mayfly, beaver, Canada geese, muskrat, osprey, hawks, vulture, green heron, and migration birds.
- Fishing activity
- Riparian plant communities

Geological Formation

We have natural barriers on the cliff side.
~Steffi Domike

"The Barking slopes" near 14-mile Island.
~Sean Brady

"The Crazy cliffs" above Oakmont.
~Reid Frazier

You can paddle into Deer Creek. There is a 100 year floodplain.
~Sean Brady

This pool has been dredged, but next pool up is dredged more.
~Group 3



The road cut above Route 28 is the best place in Pittsburgh to see native geology.
~Group 3

Concept Map 3: Built Constraints

- Access
- Private ownership
- Economic conditions
- Personal safety
- Industrial places
- Locks and dams
- Combined Sewer Overflows
- Motorized recreation
- Traffic on water and land
- Restrooms and rest areas
- Amenities: restaurants, rental and lesson places

History

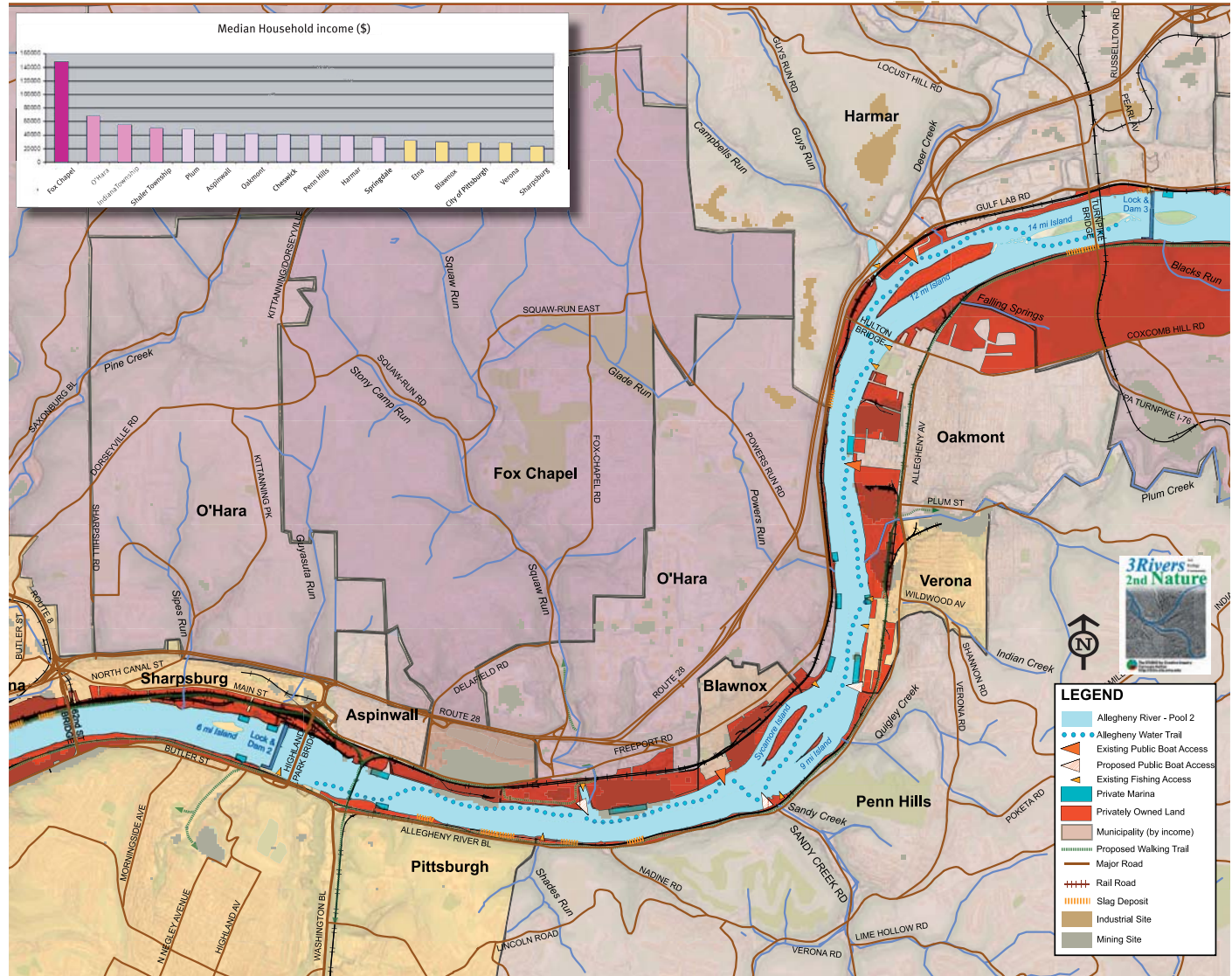
This year is the 100th anniversary of commemoration of the mining disaster in Cheswick. Two hundred miners died.
~Charles McCollister

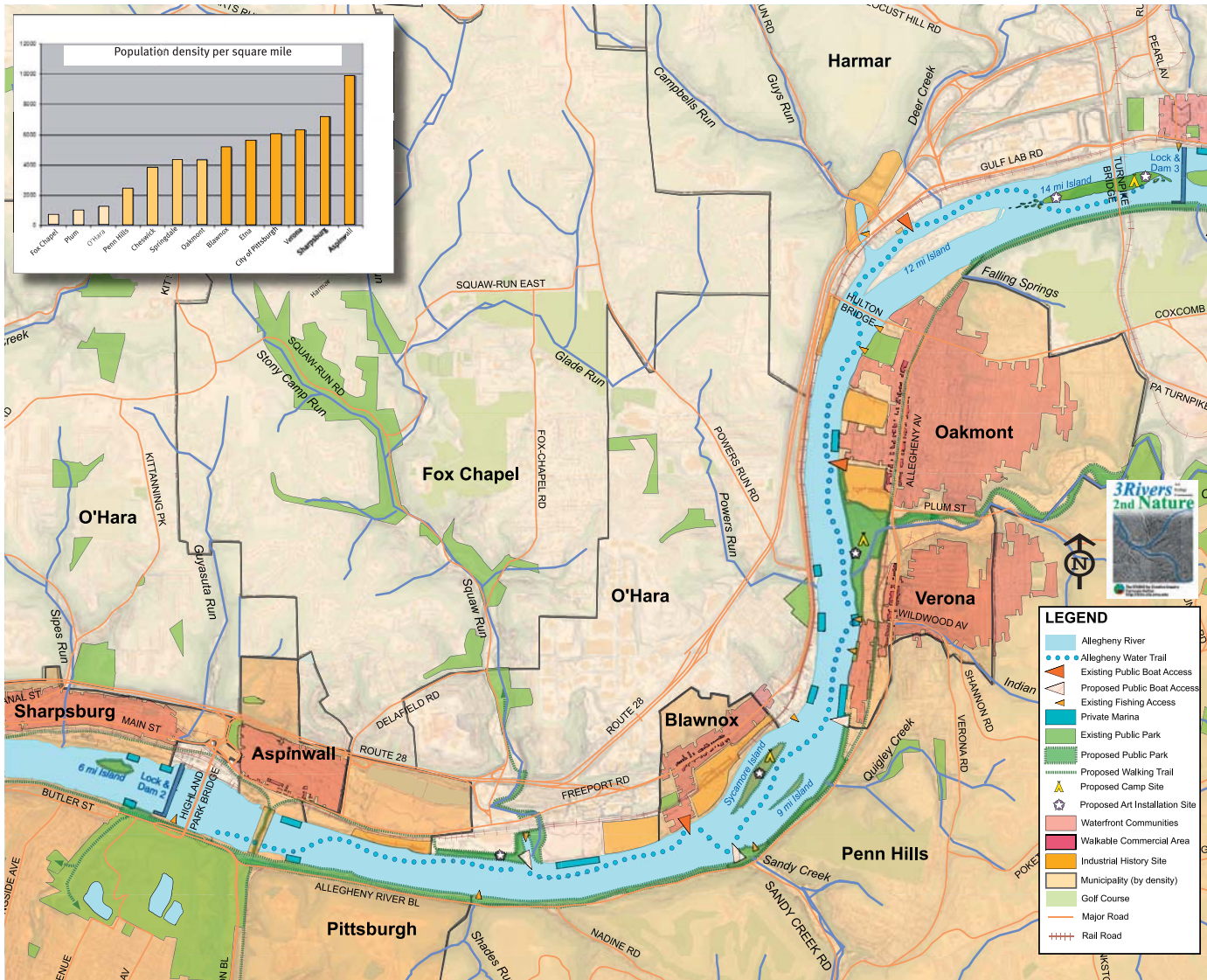
Those ugly old industrial places.
~Russelyn Carruth

Some of those old industrial places are beautiful.
~Steffi Domike



Soil materials in this Pool 2 consists of 26% natural soil and 76% man-made soil. 26% of the man-made soil is slag. Slag is a by-product of steel production. In its process, iron ore is introduced into a blast furnace along with limestone and coke. The limestone decomposes and melts into a slag that removes phosphorus and sulfur impurities from the liquid iron. Slag is highly alkaline (pH9.5-11) and does not retain water for plants to grow.





Concept Map 3: Built Opportunities

- Communities
- Brownfields (post industrial areas)
- Existing abundant structures: bridges and buildings
- Passive recreations: non-motorized boating, swimming, fishing, camping and hiking
- Trails
- Signage
- Parks
- History and memory
- Art components
- Education

Access

My memories of the rivers - they are all owned by the steel mills.
~Mary Jane Sagel

There are many more access points here in this pool than I see on other sections of Pittsburgh rivers.
~Connie Merriman

Blawnox Park can only be accessed from the river.
~Sean Brady

There is supposed to be a public access in Blawnox, but the sign says, "For residents only."
~Francois Guilleux

14 Mile Island has no road access, but full boat access.
~Francois Guilleux



Verona and Oakmont, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania 1896.
Drawn by T. M. Fowler, Library of congress