ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Northside neighborhood trails are part of the Northside Neighborhood Connections project of One Northside. One Northside is a community initiative driven by thousands of neighbors working to improve the quality of life in all 18 neighborhoods in Pittsburgh’s Northside. We hope you can use these maps to rediscover your own neighborhood, get to know a neighborhood that is new to you, or fall in love with the Northside! Visit gtechstrategies.org/projects/trail to learn more about this project.

PRINTING INSTRUCTIONS

If you would like to print these maps in bulk, please contact GTECH at info@gtechstrategies.org or call 412-361-2099. If you are just printing a few for your own use, please follow these instructions for the best outcome. The trail maps are meant to be printed as tri-fold brochures. Each map should be printed using the following settings: 11 x 17 inch paper, landscape orientation, centered page position, double-sided with short-edge flip, and color. After printing, cut the page just under the 8.5 x 11 inch size so no white borders are showing on the side of the page without a map. Fold the paper into a tri-fold brochure with the map on the inside.

REFERENCES

The base data used in these maps are from the City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning GIS Division and Northside Asset Inventory Mapping, a project of GTECH and One Northside.

The route for the trail and featured treasures were chosen based on input from Northside residents, community groups, and an advisory committee. The network of existing and proposed bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure was also taken into account. Information in the neighborhood descriptions and trail directions was gathered with the help of Northside residents, particularly Northside historian John Canning. For additional references, please visit gtechstrategies.org/projects/trail.
Allegheny Center occupies the area which, in the 1788 survey of “the land opposite Fort Pitt”, was to become the town center of the frontier village called Alleghenytown. Much of modern Allegheny Center was part of a controversial urban development project in the 1960’s, for which over 500 buildings were leveled and the street network was significantly changed. Preservation activists succeeded in saving a number of historic buildings which can be seen along the trail.

Allegheny Commons was established in 1869 and is the oldest park in Pittsburgh. It wraps around the Allegheny Center and Nova Place neighborhood, providing a peaceful sanctuary and area for recreation. The park also contains the picturesque Lake Elizabeth. Allegheny Commons is now recognized on the National Register of Historic Places.

Nova Place, one of the city’s high tech incubators, is surrounded by a variety of housing options and cultural institutions that all contribute to the rich diversity of the neighborhood.

The Allegheny Center Neighborhood Trail is part of the Northside Neighborhood Connections project of One Northside. One Northside is a community initiative driven by thousands of neighbors working to improve the quality of life in all 18 neighborhoods in Pittsburgh’s Northside. We hope you can use this map to rediscover your own neighborhood, get to know a neighborhood that is new to you, or fall in love with the Northside! Visit gtechstrategies.org/projects/trail to learn more about this project and get access to other Northside neighborhood maps.

Data from:
City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning GIS Division and
Northside Asset Inventory Mapping, a project of GTECH and
One Northside

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ALLEGHENY WEST TREASURES

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Allegheny West is one of the smallest neighborhoods in Pittsburgh. Despite its size, this neighborhood has a lot to offer. Located directly north of the North Shore, the neighborhood has housed some of Pittsburgh’s most influential people in its long history. In the late 1900’s, the steel industry’s leaders lived in lavish mansions on Ridge Avenue and Brighton Road. Many other wealthy professionals populated the streets of Allegheny West. After many of the original families moved away, a decades-long process of transformation, disinvestment and demolition took place. The remaining structures, however, remained intact. In the 1970’s, a reclamation process began to lift the neighborhood and its houses back to their former brilliance.

The neighborhood’s business district on Western Ave is known as a great lunch spot. Thousands of students flock to the neighborhood for the Allegheny Branch of the Community College of Allegheny County. Enjoy your visit to Allegheny West!

The Allegheny West Neighborhood Trail is part of the Northside Neighborhood Connections project of One Northside. One Northside is a community initiative driven by thousands of neighbors working to improve the quality of life in all 18 neighborhoods in Pittsburgh’s Northside. We hope you can use this map to rediscover your own neighborhood, get to know a neighborhood that is new to you, or fall in love with the Northside! Visit gtechstrategies.org/projects/trail to learn more about this project and get access to other Northside neighborhood maps.

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Begin at the Healthy Ride Station (1) at the intersection of Ridge Ave and Brighton Ave. Go west on Ridge Ave out of the park and you will find yourself in a cluster of buildings that are part of the Community College of Allegheny County. First you’ll see B.F. Jones House (2) on your right, the former mansion which once belonged to the son of the founder of Jones and Laughlin Steel Co., who lived just down the road. Continuing on, you’ll see West Hall (3) which was formerly part of the Western Theological Seminary. These stately buildings were built in 1910 and 1912 respectively. Turn right onto Galveston Ave and right again on Lincoln Ave, passing by 841 Lincoln Ave (4), a house built in 1878 which has been marked as a historic landmark by Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation. Turn left onto Rope Way, then left again on Western Avenue (5), a beautifully restored business district and a great spot for lunch. Turn right onto Allegheny Avenue and you’ll come upon Calvary United Methodist Church (6), a Gothic Revival cathedral built in 1895 containing three massive Tiffany windows. Turn again onto Beech Ave (7), a tree-lined street with homes built in the mid to late nineteenth century. While many homeowners left throughout the Great Depression, the majority of homes on Beech Street have been remarkably preserved through the years. You’ll pass by 850 Beech Ave (8), the birthplace of American novelist and poet Gertrude Stein, who was born in 1874. Turn right on Brighton Rd and left on West Ohio St, following along the sycamore lined streets of Allegheny Commons Park (9), Pittsburgh’s oldest park, established in 1869. If you’re visiting during the warmer months of the year, you’ll likely come upon a small crowd of people next to an antique food cart. It’s Gus and Yiayia’s (10), a great place to stop and cool off with an ice ball. Continue until you reach Ridge Ave. Turn right, and you’ll be back where you started.

Distance: 1.3 Miles
Walk or bike this route. Best for a summer lunchtime stroll. Difficulty: easy
Half hour walk

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Begin by the Carnegie Library of PGH - Woods Run Branch (1). Go towards the businesses on Woods Run Ave then right on Brighton Rd. At the top of the hill you will reach Legion Memorial Park (2) where you will find monuments honoring those who’ve served in times of war. Turn left on Davis Ave and left on McIure Ave. As you continue down McClure, you will notice a large open space on the right. This site formerly housed the Saint John’s (3) hospital and is being reclaimed by the community. Turn right to ascend Antrim St. At the top, cross the street to look over the hillside at the spectacular view (4) below, including ALCOSAN, the Ohio River, and the McKees Rocks Bridge. Continue up California Avenue where you will pass several historic churches, including Avery Memorial AME Zion Church (5), home to the congregation of the Northside’s former Avery College, one of the first African American colleges in the United States. Continuing on California Ave, you will pass through one of Brighton Heights’ business districts (6). At the intersection of California Ave and Benton Ave you can stroll through Allegheny Mountains Lot (7) on the left, which is full of native Pennsylvania plants and has a Little Free Library. Continue up Benton Ave, turn right on Brighton Woods Rd, and right again on the sidewalk entering into Brighton Heights Park (8). You will pass a swimming pool and baseball fields. When you reach the edge of the woods, you will notice a trail switchbacking down through it. Take this trail, known as Vinnie Hill Trail (9), eventually connecting with an old paved road now used as a footpath. This trail is being further developed by Brighton Heights Citizens Federation and the greenway it is part of is established and maintained by Hollow Oak Land Trust. Once you reach the end of the road, turn right onto Woods Run Ave. Across the street is Riverview Park (10), one of Pittsburgh’s largest parks. Continue right on Woods Run Ave and you will find yourself back at the library.

**Brighton Heights**, originally known as Davisville, is the Northside’s most northwestern neighborhood, sitting on steep hills overlooking the Ohio River. Though these hills yield fantastic views of the surrounding land, the steepness made movement to and from Brighton Heights difficult in its early days, delaying the area’s settlement and growth. In the mid-19th century, bridges and trolley lines were built, connecting the neighborhood to Allegheny City and Pittsburgh, bringing an influx of new residents.

Brighton Heights is now full of large, old, charming homes and many beautiful churches. The neighborhood borders Riverview Park and contains many green, wooded areas of its own. While the Davis Avenue Bridge, the main link from Brighton Heights to Riverview Park, was demolished, new biking and walking trails are beginning to reconnect the neighborhood to the park. It’s a large neighborhood and a long, hilly walk, but it is definitely worth your time!

The Brighton Heights Neighborhood Trail is part of the Northside Neighborhood Connections project of One Northside. One Northside is a community initiative driven by thousands of neighbors working to improve the quality of life in all 18 neighborhoods in Pittsburgh’s Northside. We hope you can use this map to rediscover your own neighborhood, get to know a neighborhood that is new to you, or fall in love with the Northside! Visit gtechstrategies.org/projects/trail to learn more about this project and get access to other Northside neighborhood maps.

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**BRIGHTON HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD TRAIL**

| Distance: 3.6 Miles |
| Suitable for walking or biking. Includes several hills and an off-road trail. |
| Moderate difficulty |

**One Northside**

**www.onenorthsidepittsburgh.org**
We are working to get a California-Kirkbride trail map off the ground. If you live in California-Kirkbride and would like to help determine the route for the trail or give advice on which assets to feature, please contact us at info@gtechstrategies.org, or call 412-361-2099.
Central Northside, also referred to as Allegheny City Central, is a colorful, thriving community just north of Allegheny Commons. This neighborhood includes the historic Mexican War Streets District, has a budding commercial zone, and is a center of culture and recreation that contains a mixture of tradition and innovation.

In 1847, the enterprising General William Robinson Jr. (Allegheny City’s first mayor) was one of the leaders in the development of this community. He chose to memorialize the Mexican-American War occurring at the time by naming streets in the area after battles and generals in the war. The neighborhood contains street after street of historic brick row houses and is flourishing thanks to the substantial efforts of local organizations and dedicated residents. Central Northside also has a number of cultural destinations, and also houses the Allegheny General Hospital on the eastern edge of the neighborhood. Enjoy your stroll through Central Northside - there’s lots to see and experience!

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Start at the intersection of Federal St and North Ave. This is also a good place to grab a Healthy Ride Bike if you need one. Head west on North Ave and you will pass by the historic Garden Theater and Alphabet City (1), an event center, restaurant, and bookstore run by the City of Asylum. Turn right to go up Monterey St which, like many streets in the neighborhood, is a narrow, tree-lined street filled with beautifully restored row houses (2). Turn left on Taylor and you will find Ye Olde Allegheny Park (3) complete with a garden and mural. Turn right up Brighton Rd and then take a right on Jacksonia St. At the intersection with Buena Vista St take a walk through the garden (4) at the corner, one of many in the neighborhood. Continue up Buena Vista, turn right on Armandale, then right again onto Monterey. Turn left onto Sampsonia Way. You will pass the back side of the Mattress Factory (5), a contemporary art museum. The front entrance to the museum is at 505 Jacksonia St. As you continue down Sampsonia Way, you will find several creatively decorated houses on the left side. These houses are part of the City of Asylum (6), a community for writers, many of whom are seeking sanctuary from areas where their writing would put them in danger. Turn left to go up Sherman St, and then right on Jacksonia St. There you will find Randyland (7), a free museum open to the public, and the home of artist Randy Gilson. Turn right on Arch St and continue until you reach Olde Allegheny Community Gardens (8) where residents grow fruit and veggies in garden plots. Head back up Arch St and take a right on Sampsonia Way. Turn right on Federal St where you’ll get a great view of the city and pass through the Federal St business district (9), including the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh: Allegheny Branch (10) and a few shops and restaurants. Continue down Federal St and you will be back where you started at the intersection of Federal and North.

Distance: 1.5 Miles

Best for walking or biking. Mostly flat terrain. Difficulty: easy

Half hour walk

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www.onenorthsidepittsburgh.org
CENTRAL NORTHSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD TRAIL

[Map showing the Central Northside Neighborhood Trail with various landmarks and streets labeled.]
**Start on Beaver Ave in front of the Drew Mathieson Center which is part of Manchester Bidwell Corporation (1).** Manchester Bidwell Corporation houses several centers to provide education to adults and youth on topics ranging from ceramics to horticultural technology. You can smell the fresh scents of plants coming out of the greenhouses as you walk down Franklin Ave. Take a right on Metropolitan St, a left on Columbus St, and go into the parking lot to the left. There you will find **Bicycle Heaven (2)**, the largest bike museum in the country. You won’t miss it - the **Bicycle Heaven mural (3)** by artist Tim Kelley has given the old warehouse a face lift. If you have time make sure to walk through the museum - it’s free after all. When you’re finished retrace your steps back to Franklin Avenue and continue towards the river. Stop in at **Chateau Cafe and Cakery (4)** on Preble Ave for a bite to eat. Continue on Franklin Ave until you reach the **Three Rivers Heritage Trail (5)**, a 24 mile trail that connects Pittsburgh’s neighborhoods along the rivers. Go left on the trail. Here and there you will get a good view of the Ohio River and the West End (6) between the trees. The Ohio River is formed by the Monongahela River and the Allegheny River, and eventually spills into the Mississippi. You will also pass under the **West End Bridge (7)**, a tied-arch bridge built between 1930 and 1932. As you continue down the trail you will see the **Rivers Casino (8)** and the point of downtown Pittsburgh will begin to come into view. In the river on your right you will find the **USS Requin Submarine (9)** which was first used in missions at the end of World War II and is now open for tours. Next door is the **Carnegie Science Center (10)**, a great place for kids and adults to learn and play, with four floors of interactive exhibits. And that’s Chateau! If you continue on the Three Rivers Heritage trail you will enter the North Shore.

**Chateau** covers an ‘L’ shaped piece of land in the southwest corner of the Northside. It was part of the neighborhood of Manchester until construction for Route 65 split Manchester in two in the 1960’s. The neighborhood then became a hub for business and education. Around that time, Bill Strickland, a young African American man, started a ceramics program in the neighborhood which eventually grew into Manchester Bidwell Corporation, a career-training institution and center for youth mentorship. It is comprised of a number of educational affiliates which bring thousands of students and participants to their facilities in Chateau every year.

Though Chateau has the smallest population of any Pittsburgh neighborhood, it isn’t lacking in places to visit or things to do! Chateau sits next to the Ohio River, and the Three Rivers Heritage trail runs along its edge, leading to destinations along the riverfront. It’s a great spot for a stroll for those working and learning in Chateau.

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**LEARN MORE ABOUT ONE NORTHSIDE**
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DEUTSCHTOWN TREASURES

Start at the corner of East Ohio St and Cedar Ave. Notice the “Welcome to Deutschtown” mural (1) which honors the history of the neighborhood. Head East towards Deutschtown’s business district (2). Make sure to grab a bite to eat as you travel past businesses! On the right you’ll see the Photo Antiquities Museum of Photographic History (3). Turn left to go up Middle St, then another left on Foreland St, take a right on James St then a right on Suismon St then left again on Middle. Turn right on Tripoli which will take you across I-279. After crossing the highway, you will see Neu Kirche Contemporary Art Center (4) which provides space for producing, learning about, and displaying art. As you continue on Tripoli, you will pass Food City (5), a community permaculture forest garden, and the Tripoli Street Bake Yard (6) which holds Pittsburgh’s first community baking oven. Turn left to go up Chestnut St - you’ll notice the historic street car tracks in the brick road. If you’re traveling by bike, walk this section to avoid getting stuck in the tracks! Turn right on Vinial St, then left on Troy Hill Rd. At the intersection with Chestnut St, you’ll see Teutonia Mannerchor Hall (7), home to a clubhouse of a German singing society founded over 150 years ago for fellowship around German cultural traditions. Turn left on Chestnut and right on East Ohio St. Take a left on Nash St. You’ll notice Pittsburgh’s Grand Hall and the Priory (8), which is around the corner on Pressley St. The Grand Hall was built in 1854 for its original purpose as St. Mary’s German Catholic Church. The Priory which is around the corner on Pressley St. was built in 1888 as a home for the church’s clerics. Today the Priory is a hotel and event center. Continue on Pressley and turn right on Cedar Ave. At the corner sits the Elks Lodge (9) which is most well known for its weekly Banjo Night, during which attendees can hear dozens of banjos playing together and sing along to old-timey tunes. Continue up Cedar and you’ll have reached the end of the trail!

DEUTSCHTOWN's name comes from the large number of German speaking immigrants which first settled the neighborhood. It’s also known as East Allegheny, referring to Allegheny City which was annexed into Pittsburgh in the early 1900’s. In its early years, Deutschtown was known for its many ethnic and fraternal singing and athletic clubs, which were especially strong in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Though construction for Interstate 279 in the 1980’s split the neighborhood in half and displaced many families, community organizations and local businesses are working to alleviate the lasting effects.

Deutschtown is now an energetic neighborhood with a strong business district, complete with a grocery store, new and old restaurants and bakeries, gift shops, hardware stores, and more. The neighborhood is a prime location with easy access to downtown, Allegheny Commons Park, and the Three Rivers Heritage Trail.

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Fineview was once known as Nunnery Hill due to the presence of the Sisters of St Clare convent built in 1828. Fineview is a wonderful neighborhood tucked into the hillside with a rich history. One of the few curved inclines in the world used to be in Fineview, as well as a local streetcar line. The neighborhood has houses that have survived since the civil war era, including some that can be seen along the trail. Located on the slopes north of Allegheny General Hospital, Fineview has spectacular views of Downtown Pittsburgh, which can be seen best at Fineview Overlook.

Fineview is known for its many steps - there are 16 sets of steps in the neighborhood. The longest set of city steps in Pittsburgh, the Rising Main Steps, are in the neighborhood with a total of 337 steps. Fineview’s steps are great destinations for walkers, urban hikers, and tourists. The neighborhood is a place of green living, with gardens, forested greenways, and recreational parks.

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Manchester is located in the flats of the Northside next to the neighborhood of Chateau, which was originally part of Manchester. Manchester historically housed those who served in industrial and commercial occupations along the shoreline of the Ohio River. Many of its historic homes have been and continue to be preserved and restored, from simple workers’ homes to brownstone mansions. Beginning in the 1960’s when many sections of Northside neighborhoods were leveled for the construction of new highways, Manchester Citizens Corporation, Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation, and a number of organizations worked to save the varied Victorian homes throughout the neighborhood.

Though the neighborhood is primarily residential, Manchester has quick access to Downtown, the river trails, Allegheny Commons Park, and number of cultural destinations in nearby neighborhoods. It’s also known for its many gardens which are cared for by Manchester neighbors. Enjoy your visit!

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MARSHALL-SHADELAND has been known by many names, like Woods Run and Shadeland-Halls Grove. It’s currently known to residents as Brightwood or Marshall-Shadeland.

The neighborhood includes a valley, a hill, a riverside, and officially, an island, though Brunot’s Island is functionally very separate. The neighborhood has a small but busy business district in the valley of Woods Run Ave that has a little bit of everything. The hilltops of the neighborhood are mostly residential with businesses peppering their streets. The western edge of the neighborhood is bounded by the Ohio River which can be accessed by the Three Rivers Heritage Trail. The trail makes it easy for those on foot or bike to connect to the North Shore, Downtown, and the South Side.

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Start at the intersection of Marshall Ave and Brighton Rd. Walk down the hill on Marshall Ave and you’ll find the Marshall-California Parklet (1). Cross California Avenue and continue onto the pedestrian walkway. Wind your way down and turn left at the end of the pedestrian bridge onto the sidewalk, then continue across the crosswalk and turn right on Beaver Ave then left on Island Ave. At the end of the road, enter the Three Rivers Heritage Trail (2) and head right. When you get a good view of the Ohio River, you’ll notice a large island. It’s Brunot’s Island (3), named for the Brunot family who settled the island in the 1700’s and hosted the Lewis and Clark expedition. The island now holds a power plant and is only accessible to employees via a pedestrian path on the railroad bridge or by ferry. At the end of the trail, you will see a canoe and kayak launch (4) and a sign about Life on the Riverfront, created by Friends of the Riverfront. Turn onto Westhall St, then take a quick right and then a left on Eckert St. Continue into the valley between Brighton Heights and the hillside that makes up part of Marshall-Shadeland. You can even see natural springs emerging from the stony layers of earth. Veer left onto McClure Ave under two bridges. Turn right onto Woods Run Ave and continue into the Woods Run Ave business district (5). Past Brighton Rd is the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Woods Run Branch (6), and woods Run Ave eventually leads to Riverview Park. Turn right onto Brighton Rd and then right to climb Schimmer St. You’ll see a mural, Peace, Home and Charity (7), on the side of the Providence Family Support Center. Turn left on Shadeland Ave where you’ll pass by the Shadeland Neighborhood Garden (8) and several businesses including Cafe on the Corner (9). Turn left on Woodland Ave and right on Brighton Rd. Across the street is the historic Union Dale Cemetery (10), established in 1846. Here you’ve reached the end of the Marshall-Shadeland trail!
North Shore sits along the Allegheny River and Ohio River where it boasts great views of downtown Pittsburgh. The neighborhood is brimming with entertainment and recreational opportunities. It’s a fantastic place to go to a concert, learn about the history of Pittsburgh, and have fun! Catch a Steelers or Pitt Panthers football game at Heinz Field or a Pirates baseball game at PNC Park, which is regarded as one of the premier parks in major league baseball.

The North Shore has a Riverfront Park which runs along the shoreline of the Monongahela and Ohio rivers. The park includes the Three Rivers Heritage Trail which takes visitors past a number of attractions. The stadiums, museums, concert sites, sculpture parks, cutting edge company headquarters, and historic sites that fill the North Shore are easily accessible from the Riverfront Park, and downtown is a mere walk across a bridge. Enjoy the trail!

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Begin your tour of the North Shore at the Tribute to Children (1), a public art piece reminding of the legacy of Fred Rogers, given as a gift by a friend of the Pittsburgh legend. Walk down the steps next to the Pittsburgh Law Enforcement Memorial (2) and then along the Three Rivers Heritage Trail towards the bridges ahead. Take the second curving pathway up to the Vietnam Veterans Monument (3) and then head down again to the trail by the river. You’ll reach the Water Steps (4), a great place to cool off on a hot day and enjoy the stellar views of the rivers and Downtown. Take the steps to the right up to the Korean War Memorial (5) and then curve around back down to the main trail. You’ll pass by PNC Park (6), home to the Pittsburgh Pirates. If you take a stroll around the ballpark, you’ll find statues of notable Pirates players Roberto Clemente and Bill Mazeroski. Along the trail, you’ll notice three identical bridges leading to downtown. These suspension bridges, the Three Sisters (7), are named to honor Roberto Clemente, Andy Warhol, and Rachel Carson respectively. The bridges were built between 1924 and 1928. Under the Clemente bridge is Kayak Pittsburgh (8), run by Venture Outdoors. Kayak Pittsburgh is a great place to rent kayaks if you’re interested in experiencing Pittsburgh’s rivers up close. Continue along the trail and you’ll pass by a cluster of interesting Public Art (9) pieces. Walk up the path just past the Andy Warhol Bridge and continue onto Sandusky St where you’ll find the Andy Warhol Museum (10). Turn left on General Robinson St, left on Mazeroski Way, then right on N Shore Drive. Off to the left of the street you can experience the Southern Pennsylvania World War II Memorial (11). Continue on N Shore Drive where you will see Heinz Field (12), home to the Pittsburgh Steelers. You’ll find yourself back at the Tribute to Children - you’ve reached the end of the North Shore Neighborhood Trail!
NORTH SHORE
NEIGHBORHOOD TRAIL

1. Landmark
2. Library
3. Little Free Library
4. Parks
5. Picnic Area
6. Playgrounds
7. Public Art
8. Recreation Facility
9. Religious Institution
10. Unique Structure

Vistas

0 1,000 Feet
We are working to get a Northview Heights trail map off the ground. If you live in Northview Heights and would like to help determine the route for the trail or give advice on which assets to feature, please contact us at info@gtechstrategies.org, or call 412-361-2099.
Observatory Hill, also called Perry North, is named after the Allegheny Observatory, a research institution and historic landmark which sits at the top of Riverview Park. Riverview Park is the largest park in the Northside and the first park in Allegheny City. The park offers an array of recreational opportunities like hiking, visits to the Observatory, sports, and birding.

Observatory Hill was once connected to the neighboring Summer Hill, but the construction of I-279 in the 1980’s severed that connection, altering the flow of people through the neighborhoods.

At 1370 feet, Observatory Hill has the highest elevation of all Pittsburgh neighborhoods. Along Perrysville Avenue and the many streets tucked into its hillsides are large, beautiful homes and a local business district which neighbors are working to preserve and revitalize.

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OBSERVATORY HILL NEIGHBORHOOD TRAIL

- Observatory Hill Trail
- Other Neighborhood Trails
- Riverview Park Trails
- Streets
- Steps
- Building Footprint
- Cemetery
- Commons
- Cultural Destination
- Farmers Market
- Garden
- Historic Site

Legend:
- Landmark
- Library
- Little Free Library
- Parks
- Picnic Area
- Playgrounds
- Public Art
- Recreation Facility
- Religious Institution
- Unique Structure
- Vistas
- Bike Share

0  1,000 Feet
Perry Hilltop, also known as Perry South, gets its name from Perrysville Avenue, formerly Perrysville Plank Road. The road was called a plank road because it was paved with wooden planks. The road was constructed along what was the Venango Path, a trail which American Indians used when traveling from the headwaters of the Ohio River to Lake Erie. The trail was plundered by settlers using it for military operations during the French and Indian War. Eventually, the land around the path was purchased by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from the American Indians in 1784.

In its current life, Perry Hilltop is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Pittsburgh and is almost entirely residential. The neighborhood has both a hilltop and three valleys: the Charles Street Valley, East Street Valley, and Pleasant Valley. The majority of Perry Hilltop’s homes date back to the early twentieth century. Enjoy the trail!

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Spring Garden is one of the Northside’s oldest neighborhoods. It sits in the crescent-shaped valley between the neighborhoods of Troy Hill and Spring Hill. Historically, this community has had a mixture of manufacturing and residential uses. The industries in Spring Garden included meat packing, tanning, and soap-making. Many of the neighborhood’s wood frame homes were built during the Civil War era and housed those who worked in the local industries. Over the past decades neighborhood leaders have overseen the development of projects restoring 19th century homes and constructing new houses.

Spring Garden’s main road, Spring Garden Avenue, connects to Reserve Township. Because of its location in a valley, there are few connecting roads to carry travelers over the adjacent hillsides. Sets of steps throughout the neighborhood make it easier for pedestrians to connect from the main road up to homes on the hills. Enjoy your walk through this historic neighborhood!

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Spring Hill, also known as Spring Hill - City View, was named for its natural underground springs, great views, and dramatic hills. Decades ago, the community, like those surrounding it, was home to German speaking immigrants. This heritage can be seen in the names of the neighborhood’s streets among other things. Spring Hill - City View has a number of steps on its hillsides, many of which provide interesting views of Downtown Pittsburgh and the Northside, and convenient paths for pedestrians traversing the neighborhood.

The neighborhood has many actively involved neighbors that congregate through social groups, athletic clubs, and a civic association, keeping the neighborhood lively and close-knit. It’s a popular neighborhood for young families, but is also home to many long-time residents. Enjoy the trail - it’ll be a bit of a climb!

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Summer Hill sits in the northeastern corner of the Northside. The neighborhood was originally part of Reserve Township and was annexed into Pittsburgh in 1922. At that time, the neighborhood was sparsely populated, with an almost rural feel. In the 1960’s when plans for I-279 were in development, streets and houses were constructed for those who would be displaced by the highway’s construction.

Today the neighborhood has a very suburban feel - many of its houses have large lawns. Forests border many of the neighborhood’s streets. The transmitter tower for local TV stations is a placemaker which distinguishes the neighborhood from the surrounding hillsides. Those living in Summer Hill will tell you, perhaps by nature of its secluded location and small population, that the neighborhood is friendly and tight knit.

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Troy Hill was originally part of the 300 acre wilderness, known as the Reserve Tract, set aside for sale by the government of Pennsylvania to pay soldiers who fought in the Revolution. A population boom in the mid 1800’s led to the development of a town called New Troy, located on a plateau overlooking the Allegheny River.

As the region continued to grow, Swiss families began developing cotton mills in the area. The availability of jobs at the mills led to many German-speaking immigrants settling nearby. By 1866, there were one hundred families living in the renamed Troy Hill. When Allegheny City was annexed into Pittsburgh in 1907, Troy Hill became a neighborhood in Pittsburgh’s Northside. While geographically divided from other neighborhoods by its location on a hill next to the river, it has many incredible views from its hillsides. Today Troy Hill retains the small-town charm of its earlier days, but still has plenty of energy to carry it into the future. Enjoy the trail!

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