



# allegheny riverfront vision plan

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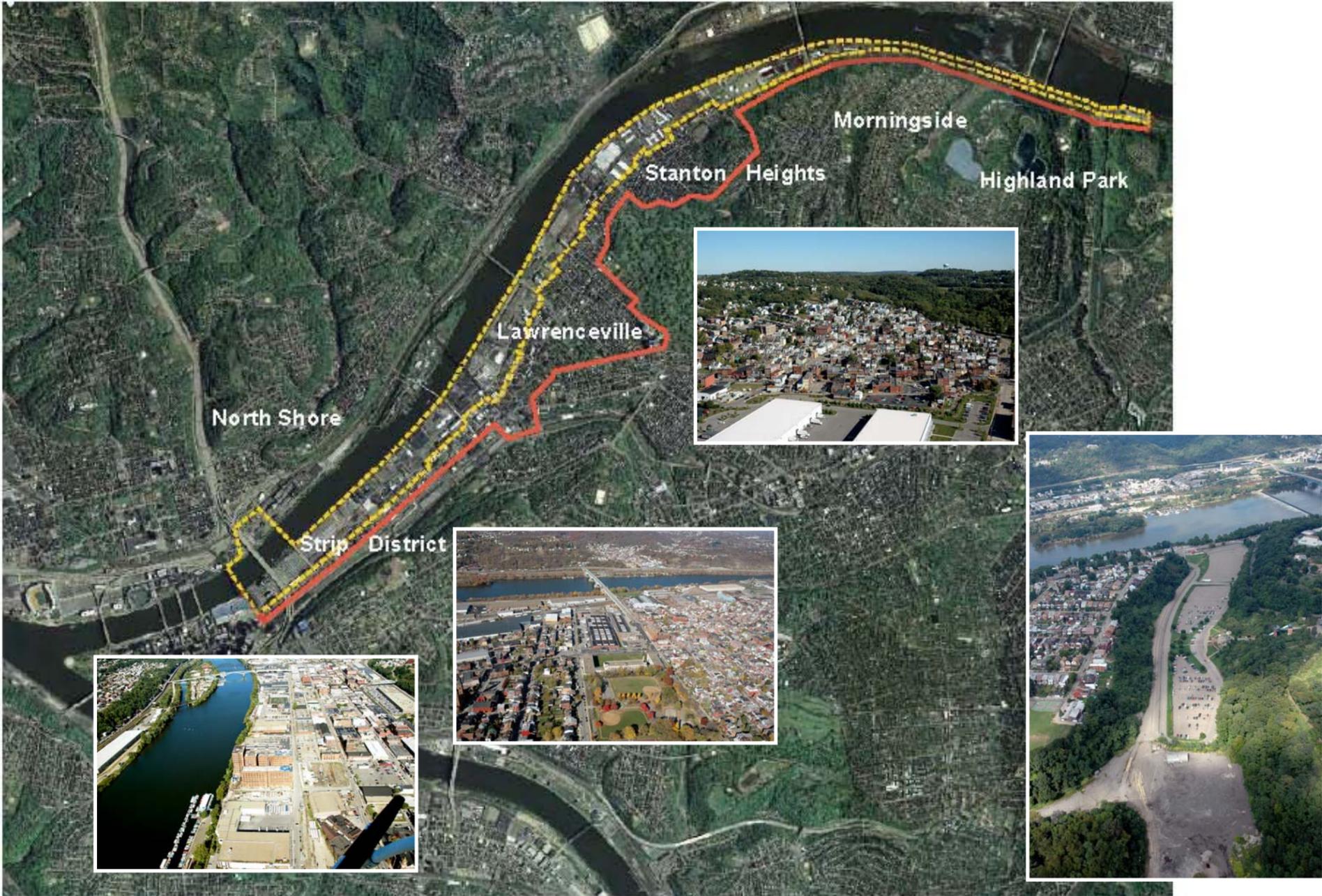
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Stakeholders explore the Allegheny Riverfront area

allegheny riverfront vision area



The study area, later enlarged to include the local watershed

# introduction

Just upriver from Pittsburgh's Golden Triangle several city neighborhoods line the banks of the Allegheny River. The river is alive with recreational boaters and paddlers of all types; fishermen try their luck in waters that have hosted fishing tournaments; adventurous swimmers brave the chilly river; and from the green banks one takes in vistas of Downtown, the opposite shore, and the river valley itself. But standing on almost any street corner in the Strip District or Lawrenceville—where you see older buildings, cars and trucks, parking lots, metal sheds, and perhaps brick row houses—you wouldn't guess that such a remarkable resource is only a few blocks away.

The Allegheny Riverfront Vision Plan presents a new direction for the banks of the Allegheny River and for the Strip District and Lawrenceville riverfront communities. It is a vision based on respecting fundamental ecological principles, employing smart strategies to increase resident and business connections, increasing the quality of urban living, and achieving a regenerative and sustainable market for long-term investment. Its recommendations address six miles of Pittsburgh's Allegheny Riverfront, but its vision offers guidance for Pittsburgh as a riverfront city.

## Location

At the heart of the study is the Allegheny Riverfront between downtown Pittsburgh at 11th Street and the city boundary at Washington Boulevard in Highland Park. The Vision Area encompasses about 2,000 acres of Pittsburgh city land, including most of the rivershed to the south and a short segment on the north bank opposite the Strip District. Two neighborhoods comprise most of the Allegheny Riverfront Vision Area: the Strip District and Lawrenceville, and they are the primary focus of the study. Three residential communities—Stanton Heights, Morningside, and Highland Park—front the Allegheny Riverfront at its eastern end complete the study area.

## Civic Engagement

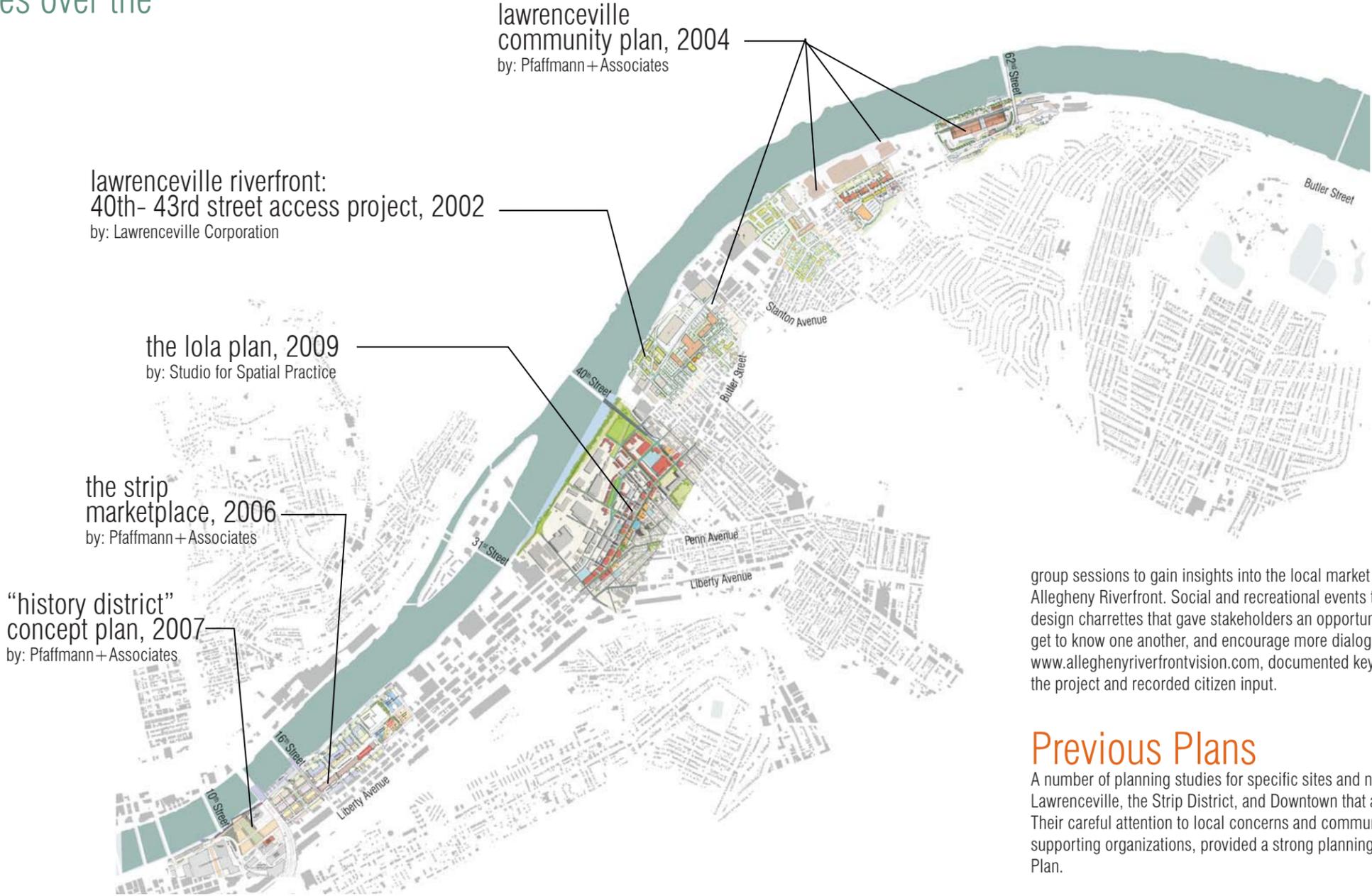
Residents, businesses, and stakeholders were engaged in the planning and decision-making process for the Vision Plan. A Steering Committee met monthly under the leadership of the URA. This committee was comprised of representatives of other sponsors and key stakeholders, provided advice and guidance throughout the planning, and served as the primary "client group" for the design team. Members of the Steering Committee were selected with the intention that they take a leadership role in the Vision Plan's implementation. In addition, an Advisory Committee of over 35 city-wide organizations and individuals met at key design milestones for feedback on ideas and policies for development sites, the riverfront, trails, and open space.

Over the course of the twelve-month planning process a number of community-building events took place. At four community meetings, citizens worked with the Steering Committee and the design team to shape priorities and proposals. Many businesses and individuals were interviewed and several progress meetings were held with local community organizations, including design review meetings with the Lawrenceville design community. The URA conducted specific focus



Community meetings and design charrettes

# planning studies over the last 10 years



group sessions to gain insights into the local market and development issues specific to the Allegheny Riverfront. Social and recreational events took place between progress meetings and design charrettes that gave stakeholders an opportunity to explore the Allegheny Riverfront Area, get to know one another, and encourage more dialogue. An interactive website, [www.alleghenyriverfrontvision.com](http://www.alleghenyriverfrontvision.com), documented key meetings and events throughout the project and recorded citizen input.

## Previous Plans

A number of planning studies for specific sites and neighborhoods have been prepared for Lawrenceville, the Strip District, and Downtown that are currently guiding development planning. Their careful attention to local concerns and community values, including adoption by their supporting organizations, provided a strong planning foundation and starting point for the Vision Plan.