

Draft Guidelines for Your Consideration

The Nine Mile Run Greenway Project asked the Steering Committee to consider guidelines for programs and actions in support of a sustainable greenway in Nine Mile Run. The following is a first draft of the guidelines separated into a mission, goals and actions. We have developed these guidelines as a starting point for public discussion. During the workshop in July, we will seek your input and final approval on an approach to Nine Mile Run.

Mission: To awaken and inspire decision-makers and citizens to the opportunities that exist for all in shared restoration and use of the Nine Mile Run environment and landscape.

Goals: Correct the legacy of pollution in the Frick Park - Nine Mile Run area by repairing the contributing sewer systems* (eliminating a public health threat) and enhancing the park (adding value to existing communities and new developments). Extend Frick Park to the river by greening the slag slopes and creating a pathway for people and wildlife to access the historic riverfront. Develop long term plans rather than short term strategies for places that we care about like Frick Park and our waterfronts.

Actions:

- 1) Provide opportunities for everyone to be involved in the long term positive change of the Nine Mile Run watershed
 - Schedule community meetings for information and discussion of issues
 - Create two-way communication tools to provide information and allow input, i.e. phone numbers, email, web, newsletters, etc.
 - Assure that citizens voices are heard and carry weight in the changes in their community, i.e. providing input from the community to civic leaders, development authorities, etc.
- 2) Allow more people to experience and engage the attractions of the watershed area and think about its use in new ways
 - Provide more information in the watershed area (i.e. signs with natural history, cultural history, etc.) to give people a better appreciation of the area
 - Support and organize events, educational tours, plantings, and active participation in the enhancement of the watershed areas
- 3) Propose solutions that provide multiple benefits without creating other problems
 - Integrate infrastructure and ecology (i.e. show how stormwater feeds can provide natural water areas in Frick Park, creating more habitats for wildlife)
 - Support and organize plantings which help beautify the slag heap and stabilize the streambank
 - Provide a diverse variety of native plants that offer an attractive place/food for local wildlife
- 4) Recognize the great differences in the users and environment of the Nine Mile Run watershed area
 - More widely promote the valuable assets of Frick Park / Nine Mile Run to all of the surrounding community/watershed areas
 - Provide easy ways for community citizens to match their interests with the offerings of the watershed area (i.e. community customized pamphlets about the area, postings at community centers, etc.)
 - Produce materials which easily show how other subjects are related to a main area of interest and extend the enjoyment of that area (i.e. pamphlet which describes available playground areas but also shows how an interesting nature walk could be taken to get there; organize efforts which bring together different groups which traditionally have not worked together - such as helping the city replant an area after major sewer construction)
- 5) Promote curiosity in everyone who uses the Nine Mile Run watershed and inspire people to continually enhance the area and their community for themselves and future generations
 - Develop opportunities for students of all ages to explore how life in a city can naturally integrate with the environment (i.e. work with surrounding schools, nature centers and community organizations to provide learning materials and programs)

* Pittsburgh, Wilksburg, Swissvale and Edgewood