THREE RIVERS WATERKEEPER®

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Photo Credit: Dave DiCello

Three Rivers Waterkeeper

Mission

To protect the water quality of the Monongahela, Allegheny, and Ohio Rivers, and their respective watersheds.

Vision

To have drinkable, fishable, swimmable waters in the Monongahela, Allegheny, and Ohio Rivers, and their respective watersheds.

Member of the Waterkeeper Alliance

WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE MEMBER

THREE RIVERS WATERKEEPER®

How do we protect our waters?

- On The Water
  - General Monitoring & Patrolling
  - Targeted monitoring & Pollution Response
  - Riparian Stewardship

- In the Community
  - Community Events
  - Education & Outreach
  - Community & Partnership Amplification

- Through Advocacy
  - Clean Water Laws Enforcement
  - *We hold polluters accountable!*

3RWK & GAPS

- Increased monitoring and patrolling efforts.
- Focused on monitoring major industrial sites on the Ohio River with Mountain Watershed Association and Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community on the Ohio River monitoring in Beaver County, PA.
- Provided the connections and baseline data to work with the US Army Corp of Engineers to explore the ecological benefits of these naturally-forming deltas.
- Identified restoration sites with community partners.

Increased Monitoring and Patrolling Efforts

Monitoring & Patrolling

Targeted Monitoring & Pollution Response

Visual Monitoring & Water Sampling Analysis
By foot and by boat

Increased Monitoring and Patrolling Efforts

A WATCHDOG FOR OUR WATERWAYS

Water Quality Monitoring and Testing

Three Rivers Waterkeeper patrols and monitors our waterways for pollution by visually assessing our waters and using high quality monitoring and sampling technologies to collect water samples for testing. As your Three Rivers Waterkeeper, we maintain a critical on-the-water presence where we focus our efforts on several forms of monitoring and testing.

665
hours dedicated to patrolling our watershed

288
water samples taken to identify pollution

18
violations reported to regulatory agencies

2024

Monitored Industrial Sites on the Ohio River

Focus efforts on the Ohio River and Raccoon Creek with Mountain Watershed Assoc (MWA) and Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community (BCMAC)

Monitored & Created Baseline knowledge of the major industrial sites of concern:

- Shell Cracker Plant
- Styropek
- Semi-abandoned slag pile owned by Befesa

Monitored Industrial Sites on the Ohio River

Number of times a site exceeded Freshwater Standards

Location	pH	Cl- (mg/L)	SpCond (µS/cm)	Sal ppm (converted)	TDS (mg/L)
Ohio River (Includes Shell)	17	26	3	3	9
SHELL	13	17	2	2	6
% Ohio River Exceedences by Shell	76.47%	65.38%	66.67%	66.67%	66.67%

*Freshwater standards were used above as described on pg. 6 except for pH. The standard used for pH was ideal standards for aquatic life.

Monitored Industrial Sites on the Ohio River

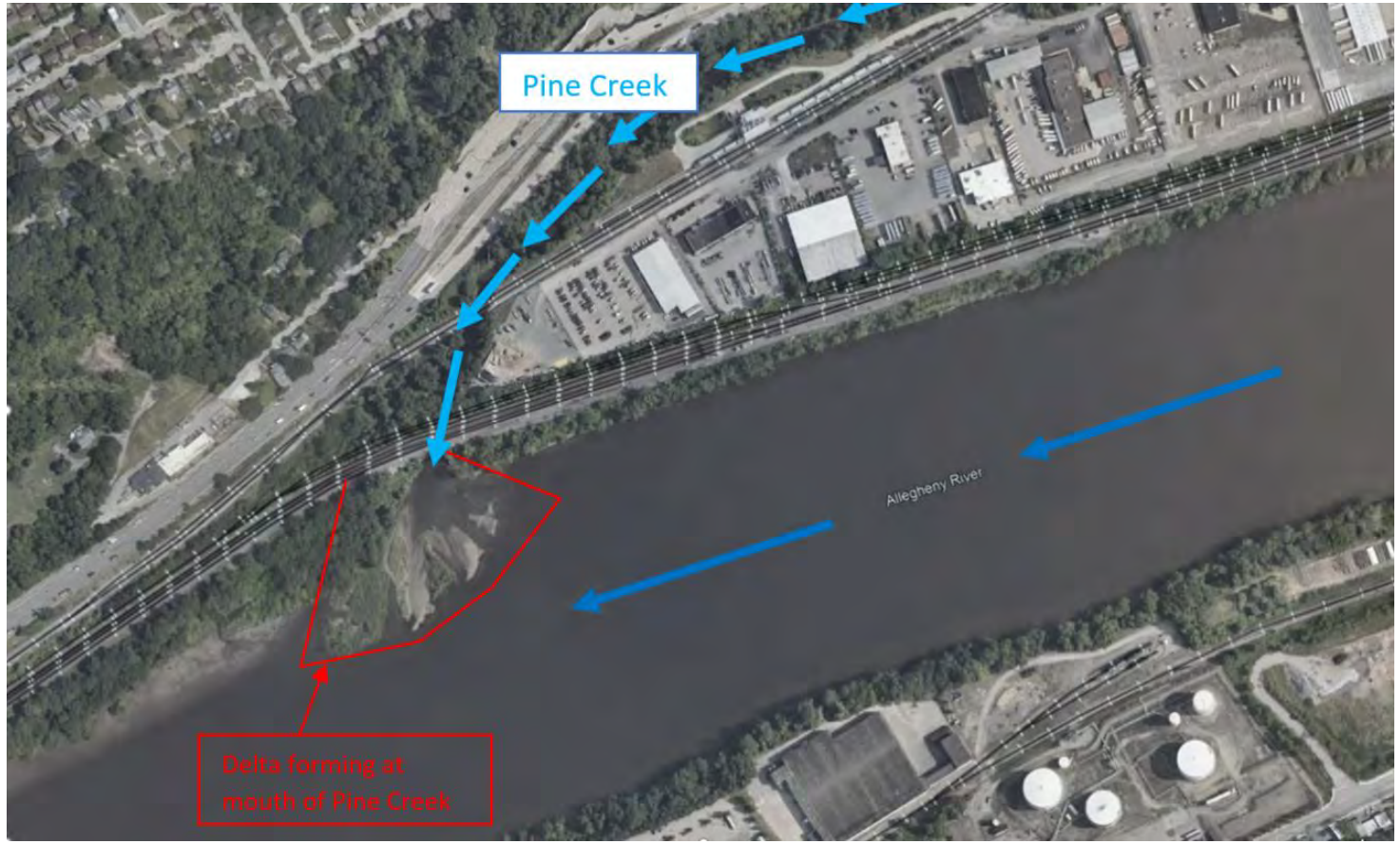
Monitored Industrial Sites on the Ohio River

Exploring a Semi-abandoned slag pile owned by Befesa, Inc

Self reporting data show permit exceedances of total selenium, total suspended solids (TSS), and total residual chlorine (TRC)

3RWK YSI and Laboratory Data				
Date	**Type of Sample**	**pH**	**Permit Allowance (low)**	**Permit Allowance (high)**
11/3/23	YSI	5.48	6	9
11/3/23	Laboratory	5.4	6	9
2/8/2024	YSI	9.4	6	9
3/4/2024	YSI	9.05	6	9
3/4/2024	Laboratory	9.2	6	9

Exploring Naturally-forming River “Deltas”



(Total of 4 Tribs in Etna, Munhall, Millvale, and Sharpsburg)

Partnering with the US Army Corp of Engineers, WVRI/3RQ and Western PA Conservancy (WPC) Conducting a survey of the tributary-river deltas.

Led to a project aimed to create an interactive ArcGIS story map and accompanying report

- ecological, hydrologic, and geospatial information

The report will consider how tributary deltas contribute to

- flood risk, aquatic and terrestrial biodiversity, water quality, recreational fishing, and equitable access to rivers

Identified Restoration Sites

Erosion in Pine Creek along the Allegheny River

- Erosion Issues Identified, reported to ACCD
- ACCD worked with the Borough of Etna – pipe fixed and bank reinforced

- We also have identified PFAS contamination in Pine Creek without a clear, known source

Dive Deeper & Support

www.3RWK.org for general information

3rwk.org/data for our reports

3rwk.org/EVENTS for upcoming events

3rwk.org/boat to support our campaign for a larger boat!

Thank you!

@3RWaterkeeper

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THREE RIVERS WATERKEEPER®

See Pollution? Report Pollution.

It is always better to overreport than assume what you see is less serious.

CALL

Safety is always the number one priority. Call 911 if you suspect an emergency or call one of the following pollution contacts:

Three Rivers Waterkeeper: **412-589-9411**
Southwest PA DEP hotline: **412-442-4000**
PA Fish and Boat : **855-347-4545**
EPA Region 3: **1-800-424-8802**

DOCUMENT

Take pictures and document the visuals, smells, time and location.

Obtain as much information as possible while remaining safe and following all laws.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT 3RWK.ORG

REPORT ONLINE

1. Submit a report for free at WaterReporter.org
2. Submit a report to us using this QR Code
3. Follow and tag us on social media

@3RWaterkeeper #3RiversWatch

or email us at ops@threeriverswaterkeeper.org

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