

# Pittsburgh's Changing Rivers: A Geomorphologic History of the Point 1754-1900



## INTRODUCTION

“The Point” refers to the location where the Monongahela River and the Allegheny River merge to form the Ohio River in the area that is now downtown Pittsburgh. With the coming of European settlers in the mid 1700s, The Point became a strategic location in protecting the frontier, first for the French with Fort Duquesne and later for the British with Fort Mercer and Fort Pitt. During the 1800s and early 1900s, the Point area became an industrial complex and the center of the American steel industry. Today, the Point is the focus of the transition of Pittsburgh from an industrial giant to that of a financial and cultural center. We can now walk the grassy expanse of Point State park across the old foundations of Fort Duquesne and Fort Pitt and reflect on how the Point has changed in the past 250 years. This site is designed to provide an overview of the geology of the Point and Three-Rivers area and to examine the natural and anthropogenic changes that have resulted in the area we see today. The site will change as new material is added.