



BOAT MAN WALKING
 At 7 a.m. on a brisk Friday in August, Dave Malehorn barrels down a Pittsburgh sidewalk. Alone, the research assistant professor of pathology might not even turn a head. But today he hauls a red, 9-foot kayak, nestled in a modified baby stroller.

“Hey! Is that a boat?” shouts a man from his SUV window. “Yes, it is. It’s a kayak,” Malehorn replies, flashing the driver a smile.

A moment later, a rough curb cut ambushes the proteomics researcher and his kayak. “I’ve inadvertently become an advocate for accessibility,” he says, surveying the worn sidewalk. “Were I in a wheelchair, would I even want to try and get around the city?”

Malehorn began his boat walks to see if he could trek from his Morningside home to one of the city’s half-dozen river access points and soon became a staunch advocate for the waterways. He’s brought the kayak he dubbed “Toy Boat” to work at Magee-Womens Research Institute several times, paddling to Southside Riverfront Park and walking the rest of the way.

In the fall, Malehorn took Toy Boat to tailgate alongside other Panthers football fans, roasting hot dogs over a Sterno-fueled flame. —Missy Raterman



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHELLE MALEHORN