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VISTAS

An Allegheny Land Trust Publication

Winter 2018



notes

FROM THE LAND:

The Future of Allegheny County's Remaining Green Space

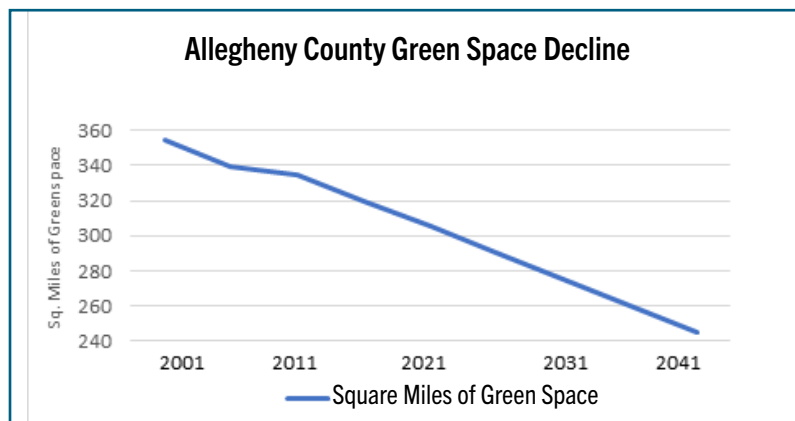
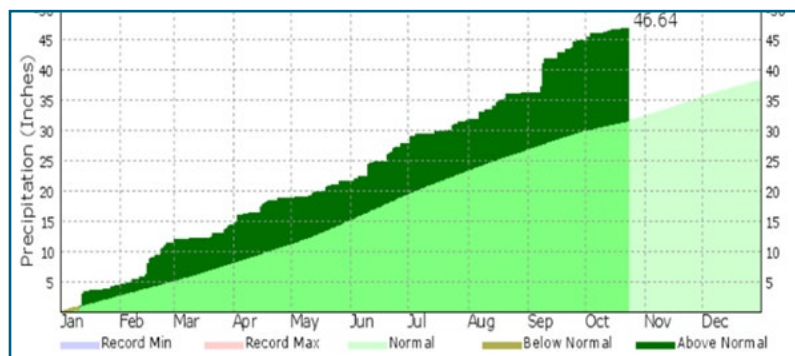
by Roy Kraynyk | VP of Land Protection & Capital Projects

The question we face today is: How will the remaining green space in Allegheny County be treated over the next several decades? Will it be protected for the critical natural infrastructure it is, or purely as a commodity to develop and profit from? This choice will significantly impact the region's character, economy, and livability.

If the current pace of green space decline continues, it is very likely that the county's air and water quality will further decline, and flooding and landslides will increase in frequency and magnitude. Climate change could exacerbate the problems.

In the first 10 months of 2018, our region received 37% more precipitation than it normally does in a typical year. Rainfall saturated the region's slide-prone soils and geology, which triggered more landslides and flooding than we normally experience. It is uncertain if this increase in precipitation is an anomaly, or if our region's climate is trending wetter.

However, another trend for which there are decades of data from the USGS National Land Cover Data Base, is the loss of green space. As ALT's Tom Dougherty wrote about in the last issue of Vistas, the rate of green space loss in Allegheny County since 2001 averages about 3 square miles, or about 2,000 acres annually.



A view of a Spring 2018 landslide just outside of the City of Pittsburgh. The road pictured collapsed after a heavy rain event. Photo by Lindsay Dill.



An aerial view of Dead Man's Hollow where it meets the Great Allegheny Passage. Photo by Gerardo Velasquez.

“One individual cannot possibly make a difference, alone. It is individual efforts, collectively, that makes a noticeable difference—all the difference in the world!”

Dr. Jane Goodall

What is most alarming about this trend is that Pittsburgh region does not have the population growth to blame for the sprawl that this unjustified land consumption represents. Adding insult to injury, land development frequently enjoys local, county, or state subsidies in the form of tax incentives or deferments, infrastructure grants, or even variances granted by local government.

So, what if Allegheny County continues to lose green space at this rate and the annual precipitation increases?

The consequences of these trends continuing in the same trajectory and rate could be seen in the form of more frequent flooding at higher than normal elevations, more frequent and damaging landslides, and poorer water quality. Economic losses could result from damage to homes and buildings, highways, and other public infrastructure. Not to mention the risk to people from landslides and flash flooding. The region is already experiencing these events, which we should regard as a wake-up call to action.

If these trends continue, how many more times will Point State Park get flooded each year? How many more times will Washington Boulevard flood? How many more times will the “Bath Tub” on I-379 and the Mon Wharf flood? How many more landslides will occur on Mount Washington roadways and railroad tracks? What

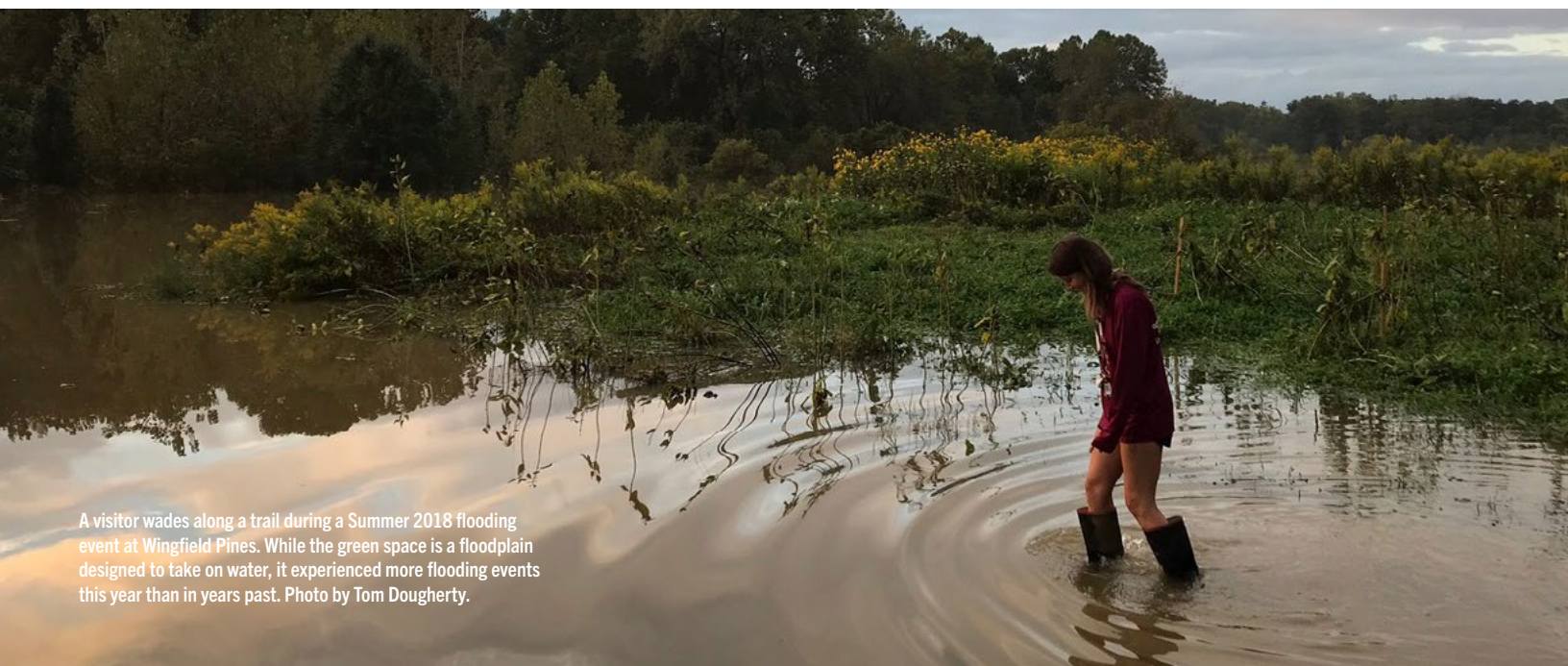
will be the impacts to the economy and quality of life of our region? Will large, game-changing companies like Amazon even consider Pittsburgh in the future if employees frequently can't get to work because of flooded roads?

For local municipalities and the County to avoid the future cost of landslides and flooding, green space needs to be protected today. Flooding and landslides are two problems that more development will not solve.

To act upon this threat, ALT will be seeking funding to have an Economic Impact Analysis done to illustrate and quantify the consequences of losing more green space.

With this analysis, we want to build a convincing case for green space to be respected and protected as part of the region's critical infrastructure that provides flood control, carbon sequestration, and scenic beauty. Unfortunately, green space is usually seen as a commodity to develop and profit from, while the consequences of exacerbating floods and landslides are overlooked.

This paradigm needs to shift, because depending on how remaining green space is used or abused over the next several decades will shape the region's character and livability.

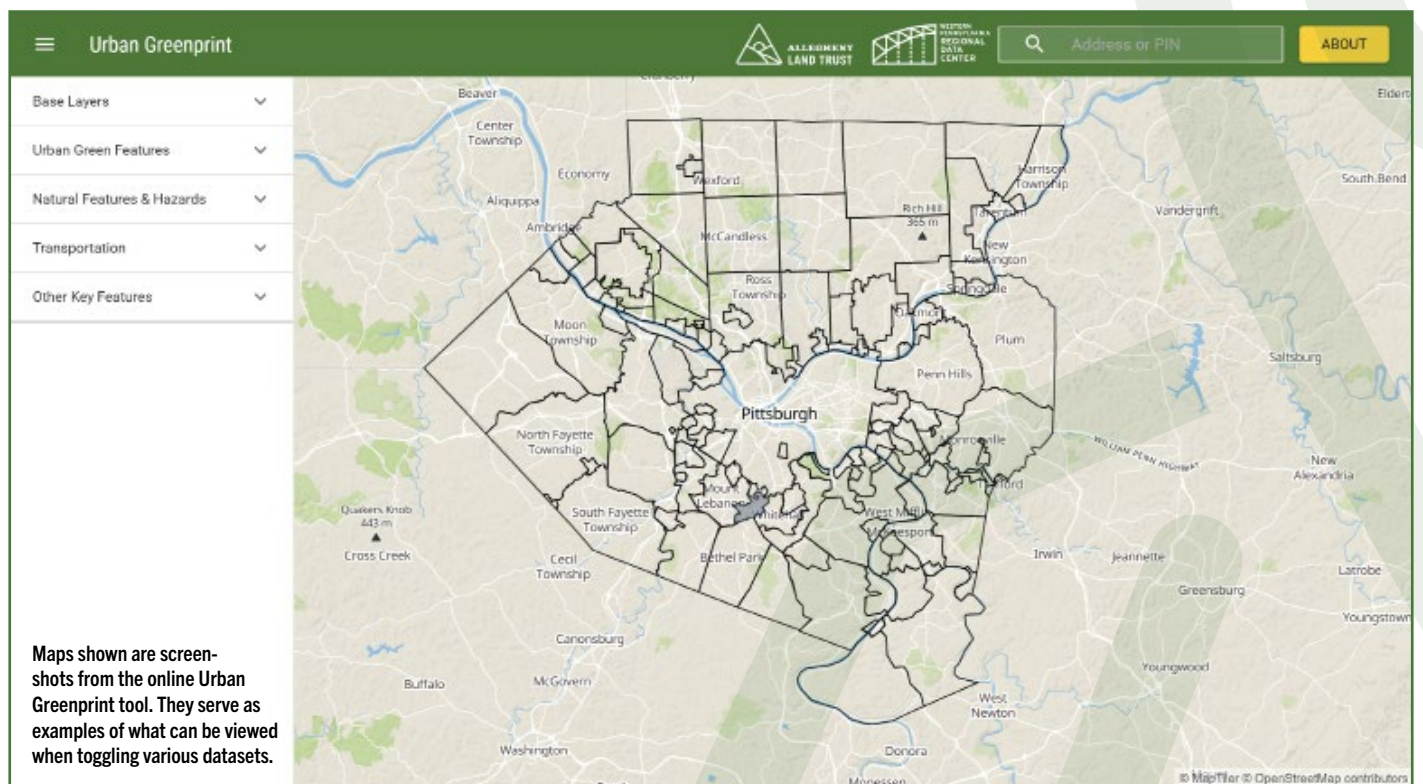


A visitor wades along a trail during a Summer 2018 flooding event at Wingfield Pines. While the green space is a floodplain designed to take on water, it experienced more flooding events this year than in years past. Photo by Tom Dougherty.



An explorer hikes the shore of Sycamore Island Conservation Area in Blawnox, just nine miles from Point State Park. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Launching a New Conservation Tool



by Alyson Fearon
Community Conservation Director

By now, you may have seen or heard about the Urban Greenprint tool we developed in conjunction with the Western PA Regional Data Center but maybe not why or how we did it.

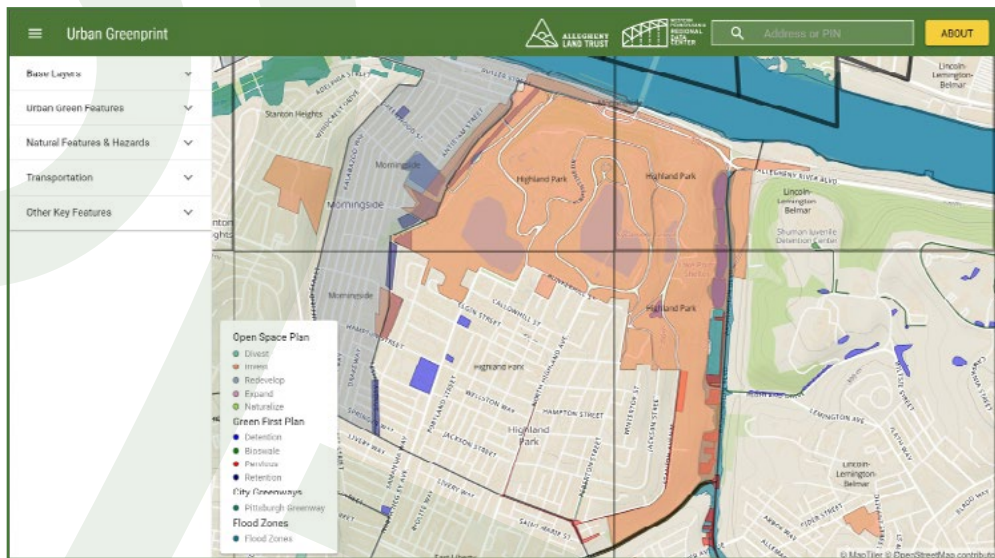
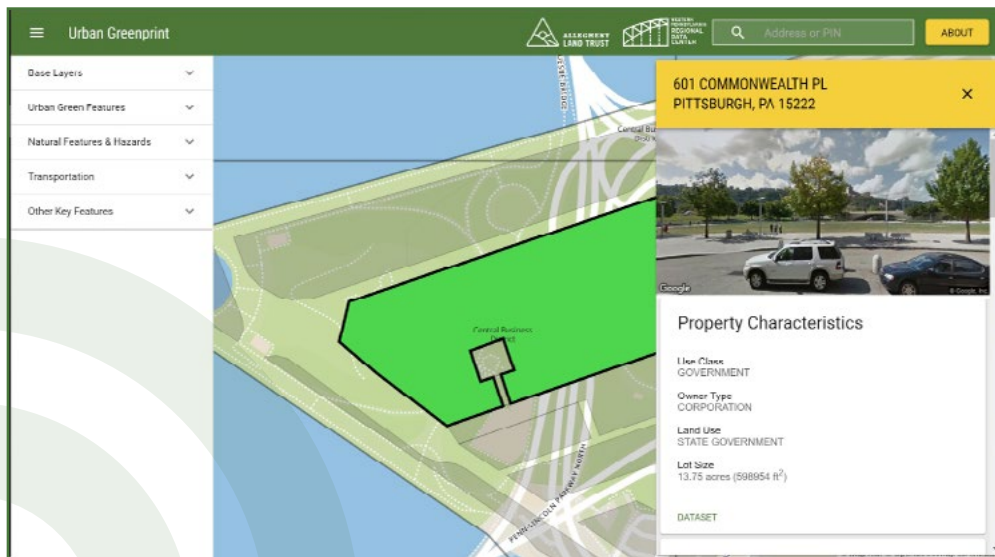
As you may know, ALT has been using our original GREENPRINT to guide land protection decisions, but at that time there was clear lack of information available for the City of Pittsburgh. With ALT's

expanded role working in urban environments, we needed a dynamic tool to assist us in visualizing where green space was, and - more importantly - was NOT. We were also looking for a way to map the multiple, often-conflicting plans for City neighborhoods, many of which placed green space at risk for development.

When looking at the type of information we wanted to include, we quickly realized much of the information was government-created or otherwise public. We took

the opportunity to partner with the Western PA Regional Data Center (WPRDC) to combine this information.

WPRDC was founded out of a joint initiative by the University of Pittsburgh Center for Urban and Social Research, in partnership with Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh to make government data more available in a format known as 'Open Data'. Open data is the idea that some data should be freely available for everyone to use and re-publish as they wish, without restric-



tions from copyright, patents, or other mechanisms of control.

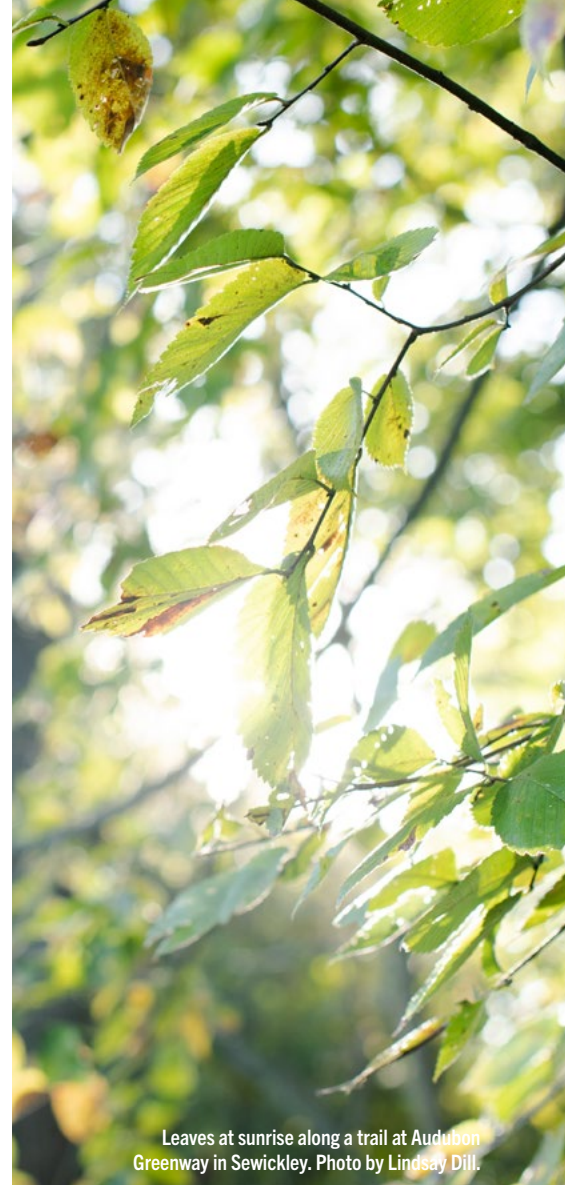
We worked with WPRDC to develop an online, publicly-available, interactive tool that features a number of land use data sets from public-sector, non-profit, and private organizations, and makes them available for public use. We wanted to not only map currently available green space in urban areas, we wanted to see where green space and green infrastructure is being proposed. This is a living project, with plans to regularly add new information as it's made available and as suggestions and ideas are given to us from community users.

The partnership with WPRDC also means as information is updated through their website, the Urban Greenprint tool will automatically show the new information.

It also allowed for a faster, more responsive tool which built upon other WPRDC work and provides much more information, like county parcel data, than our staff could have done alone.

Having the Urban Greenprint on the WPRDC portal, we have created a tool for public engagement and self-education that we hope empowers residents to take action in protecting their community green spaces. We have designed the tool for users to tailor the map to their needs, such as around current green spaces, water and green infrastructure, landslides, or transportation, depending which layers are activated.

We encourage you to check out parcels that you're familiar with—maybe there's even surprises within your own community!



Leaves at sunrise along a trail at Audubon Greenway in Sewickley. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Day of Giving

Your generosity has helped us move forward!

Thanks to a substantial match pool created by generous donations from ALT's Board of Directors and individual donations from 89 dedicated ALT supporters, the September 20th Day of Giving successfully raised nearly \$28,000 in support of ALT's operations and projects.

A sincere "thank you" to every member of the ALT board which once again demonstrated its collective commitment to the organization through a 100% participation rate, and to every person who rose to the Board's challenge by making an individual contribution to this campaign.

ALT's annual "Day of Giving" is a key component of our overall fundraising mix as it provides a much-needed infusion of unrestricted operating funds as we move into the fall. Thank you!



Check out the newly-launched Urban Greenprint:
<https://tools.wprdc.org/urban-greenprint/>

GIVE FOR GREEN



A late October view of the Hunt Road Conservation Area in Sewickley. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Help Us Maintain Momentum

by **Tom Dougherty** | VP of Development & External Affairs

What a year 2018 has been! When the year began in what feels like a very short 11 months ago, we had an exciting agenda ahead of us—full of ambitious goals for land protection, community conservation, and environmental education.

We are very pleased and proud to say that it has been a year of significant accomplishment in each of those strategic areas. If you've been working with us or following us throughout the year, you know that we have been successful in advancing a great many key initiatives.

These accomplishments include, but are certainly not limited to, the permanent protection of 214 acres across eight new conservation areas in six municipalities, and the signing of agreements to protect six additional conservation areas totaling 279 acres in four municipalities. These projects have introduced us to five NEW municipalities, and we are now in the middle of fundraising efforts to complete the pending acquisitions.

We led the development and release of our new, innovative Urban Greenprint land use mapping tool (featured on pages 4-5) that will help to identify, prioritize, and foster collaboration on land protection opportunities throughout the city, and are now working to introduce this tool to partner organizations and community groups.

Our stewardship team has worked with more than 700 volunteers to conduct habitat and trail improvements in Dead Man's Hollow, Audubon Greenway, and Barking Slopes, and is now immersed in the repair of the abandoned mine drainage treatment system at Wingfield Pines.

Our education team has greatly expanded the number of children who gained a new appreciation and deeper understanding of the natural world through their environmental education efforts.

While this is only a partial list of ALT's accomplishments in 2018, I hope it provides a sense of the kind of year it has been, the challenges and opportunities we face, and our urgent need to maintain momentum as we move into the new year. We need your help to make this happen.

ALT's Year-End Campaign is an important part of our fundraising mix because it is used to bolster our general fund as we close out one year and move into the next. Quite simply, unrestricted resources from our general fund make it possible to operate our organization. Please consider donating to our Year-End Campaign so that we can continue to work on these key initiatives without interruption into 2019. Your support is much-needed and will be much-appreciated. Please use the enclosed envelope to make your donation. Thank you.



OUR SPONSORS

help us expand and improve our work and bring its benefits to more community members.

Many thanks to our new and renewing sponsors listed below. To view a full list of our current sponsors, visit: alleghenylantrust.org/our-sponsors

Please recognize and patronize our sponsors.

NEW

- Burson Cohn Wolf - Gold
- PA-American Water Company - Gold

RENEWING

- PPG - Platinum*

Indicates an upgrade from previous sponsorship level.

If you're interested in becoming an ALT sponsor, please contact Tom Dougherty at tdougherty@alleghenylantrust.org

Looking to Our Future

by Christopher Beichner | President & CEO

Over the past year, we have actively engaged our neighbors, volunteers, funders, and partners to gain a variety of perspectives on what ALT is doing well, areas where others would like us to improve, and hopeful future areas of focus.

Outreach to these stakeholders via one-on-one interviews, focus groups, and surveys was extremely valuable for us to learn what they believe are ALT's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT). These conversations will result in the completion of our next comprehensive, multi-year strategic plan.

The Hill Group, strategic planning consultants from Carnegie, are working with our board, staff, and steering committee to help shape our next strategic plan. Our next plan will include revised vision and mission statements, a set of core organizational values, strategic initiatives, and several goals/objectives to help us achieve our mission.

However, former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill said it best by saying, "Plans are of little importance, but planning is essential." While it will be important to have a final strategic plan document as our roadmap and guide over the next several years, the act

of planning itself and gaining the voices of others will be the most beneficial and key aspects of this past year.

We've made significant changes and built our capacity over the last decade, and in this upcoming decade we're ensuring we maintain focus so as to be proactive, efficient, and effective. One of the most important aspects of our planning discussions has been what we plan NOT to do rather than what we should do.

Over the next decade, change will come at a more rapid and intense pace. Our community is changing. High quality drinking water and fresh air are at risk in our region. Our ecosystems and wildlife habitats are disappearing. Flooding and landslides are almost weekly occurrences. Allegheny County is losing 2,000 acres of green space each year because of development and infrastructure pressures. ALT's ongoing planning must address these and other issues as we begin to shape our work plans over the next 5-10 years.

We are confident our next plan will focus on these most pressing community needs, and ALT will be ready to support our vision of a resilient region with abundant green space that is accessible, valued, and essential to the overall quality of life for everyone.



Members of ALT's staff look to the sky for birds during a training at Wingfield Pines Conservation Area. Photo by Lindsay Dill.



Participants in the Haul to the Hollow field trip take to Dead Man's Hollow's trails by foot and the Great Allegheny Passage by bike. Photos by Lindsay Dill.



Haul from the Hollow

by Emilie Rzotkiewicz | VP of Land Resources

Every year, land trusts from across the nation gather in a different city for the Land Trust Alliance's "RALLY" conference for land trusts and conservation organizations. This year, Pittsburgh was the city of choice for the mid-October conference that featured four days of sessions and 11 different field trips featuring the natural and historic attributes of our region. ALT was fortunate to be able to lead one of those field trips. Entitled "Haul from the Hollow", the tour led 30 participants from our Dead Man's Hollow (DMH) Conservation Area to downtown Pittsburgh by way of hiking and biking.

We started the day at the top of Dead Man's Hollow with a hike of its trails exploring the 450-acre conservation area and industrial ruins of the Union Sewer Pipe Company. Staff discussed some of the challenges of land conservation in our region, including development, property maintenance, and volunteer management.

The hollow's trail then led hikers to the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) where we hopped on rented bikes for a sunny ride through Pittsburgh's industrial past via this recently-finalized trail. Participants were awed as the trailside brought us passed a variety of landscapes, from lush green space to moving trains and active steel mills.

Over a delicious catered farm-to-table lunch, a Rivers of Steel volunteer educated the group on the history of the Pump House where the 1892 Homestead Strike and Lockout, known as American Laborer's bloodiest battle ever, took place.

Visitors also stopped by Hays Woods to learn about the current efforts to protect it and to talk with eagle enthusiast Annette Devinney about the history of the Hays Eagles, their nest, and the history of the camera. On the final leg of the ride into downtown, Bryan Perry of the Allegheny Trail Alliance spoke to the group over a cold beverage and soft pretzel at the Hofbrauhaus.

We ended our trip with an easy ride to Point State Park showcasing the Three Rivers. We felt fortunate to be able to lead a group from green space to cityscape along a trail that emblemized our city's transition from industrial powerhouse to new economic success that allows the protection of more of our green assets.

If you'd like to follow this hike and bike route, visit this link:

alleghenylandtrust.org/rallybike2018



The 2018 Allegheny County Master Naturalist Cohort.
Photos by Ray Morris.

Becoming an Educator

by Jessica Kester | VP of Education

I never envisioned that my path would lead me to working for a land trust. Starting out, I wanted to save the whales, study marine mammal migration, and live by the ocean; but somewhere along the trails of life my twists and turns led me away from research, away from my beloved ocean, and back to the plateaus of Pennsylvania. I wandered until I found my way back to the wooded slopes and winding waters of home.

Not everyone starts down the path of working for the environment, and while children have a built-in curiosity for their world, can we really pinpoint that one moment when a love of nature goes “click”? My ah-ha moment came while watching a NOVA episode with my father that involved a pod of beached whales, but for others the moment that all the pieces fell into place for their connection to nature may be more diffuse. Perhaps they enjoyed camping with their family, fishing with a grandparent, building forts in the forest with friends or playing in a local park until the street lights came on. Research has found that more frequent positive interactions with nature during childhood influences life decisions regarding environmental careers and concerns for the environment among adults regardless of their culture, race, or socioeconomic status. (Chawla, 2006a; Wells & Lekies, 2006).

Our Environmental Education Team is working to increase those positive interactions for children and adults -- it is never too late to care for the world around you. Starting with our youngest community members, we are traveling around the region bringing the natural world into early childhood classrooms through our Science Sprouts program. We're helping early childhood educators become comfortable with teaching. Sometimes just being in nature can increase their students' exposure to the environment on a more regular basis through our Teachers of the Wild programs.

The middle school years are filled with challenges but they're also the formative years where students can process facts and make informed decisions on what their personal beliefs will be as they become young adults. We're using our Investigation Nature and Community Programs for families to help introduce environmental concerns and conservation in fun, hands-on, thought-provoking investigations. Adult leaders of students this age can learn techniques to teach topics such as the importance of healthy watershed by working with ALT and the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators to use the international curricula Project WET.

ALT is proud to act as the Allegheny and Washington County Coordinating Partner for the Pennsylvania Master Naturalist program, a statewide partnership initiative that aims to connect people with their local ecosystems through intensive natural science training and local conservation service work. It's a venture directed toward developing a local corps of master volunteers and service providers to offer education, outreach and service dedicated to the understanding and management of natural areas within their communities.

No matter your age or comfort level, we have programs that we hope will reignite or spark your love of nature. Come to one of our programs and find out what will set your roots in the environment!



Experience the expertise of our education team first-hand at an upcoming event: bit.ly/altoutside

PROTECT



ALT Partners to Protect Land Along Montour Trail

by Tom Dougherty | VP of Development & External Affairs

If you've walked, run, or biked the Montour Trail from its beginning at Milepost 0 near Coraopolis, you know that this portion of the popular trail is particularly scenic as it winds along Montour Run through a uniquely rustic, wooded, natural stream valley. No matter the season, the trail and its surroundings in the Montour Run Valley provide a much-welcomed respite from the nearby noise, asphalt, and traffic for countless users each day. People of all ages, interests, and abilities have come to count on this part of the trail as their place to experience nature, exercise, spend time with family, friends, and pets, or fish along Montour Run.

It could be easy to take the wonderfully-wooded surroundings along this part of the trail and stream for granted - to assume that since they have always been here they will always be here to provide scenic beauty, clean water, fresh air, quiet tranquility, wildlife habitat, and close-to-home outdoor recreation, but we simply do not have that luxury. This special corridor is not immune to the intensifying residential, commercial, industrial, and energy development that continues to consume Allegheny County green space at an unsustainable rate.

We need look no further than a few miles down the Montour Trail from its beginning point in Coraopolis for evidence of how over-development of the trailside landscape can degrade the trail experience forever.

It is for this reason that Allegheny Land Trust (with cooperation from the Montour Trail Council and Hollow Oak Land Trust) is working to permanently protect 38.5 wooded, trail front, stream front acres surrounding Milepost One in the Montour Run Valley. This land (shown on the next page's map in red) is a key piece of the puzzle to protect remaining green space in the valley and connect with other protected lands (shown in shades of green and beige) to create a contiguous and permanent greenway to be enjoyed today and by future generations. ALT has this

The property ALT is working to protect has streamfront acreage on both sides of Montour Run. Photos by Lindsay Dill.



special property under contract to purchase if we can raise the necessary funds before the end of the year.

In addition to scenic and recreational benefits, protecting this land would help to mitigate trail and downstream flooding, maintain air and water quality, preserve contiguous wildlife habitat, and contribute to the overall sustainability of our region.

ALT needs to raise a total of \$180,000 to protect this land for current and future generations. We currently have pending grants totaling \$90,000 from PA state agencies, and commitments of \$70,000 from local foundations and other sources (including donations totaling \$7,500 from the non-profit Montour Trail Council and Hollow Oak Land Trust). **This leaves a gap of \$20,000 that we will need to raise from supporters of ALT and the local community.**

We recently sent a direct mail solicitation asking for support from residents of surrounding communities and the initial response has been strong, and we are asking members and supporters of ALT to help us close the gap so that we can have the funding necessary to complete this important acquisition by the December deadline. Additionally, a portion of the state grants noted above are dependent upon us raising local matching dollars.

Please help us to seize the opportunity to protect these 38.5 acres of trailside Moon Township green space forever by using the enclosed envelope or visiting our website at www.alleghenylandtrust.org to make your tax-deductible contribution today.

Thank you for acting urgently to help us make a difference!



Who's on the Land?

by Caitlin Seiler | Director of Volunteer & Land Resources

"Friends of" Groups have taken on larger roles to help steward ALT lands. These groups are managed by ALT staff and led by a local volunteer to connect with and care for an ALT Conservation Area. Some groups have had a platform for several years and others just began this Spring, but all are buzzing with activity working to improve trails, control invasive plants, maintain property amenities, and connect the local community.



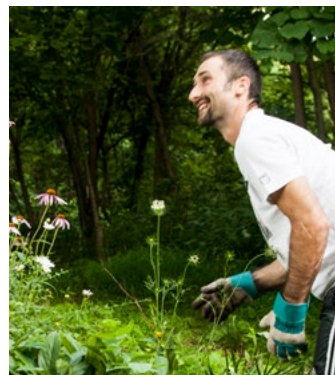
"Friends of" Groups help ALT accomplish essential annual stewardship tasks. Photos are from respective conservation areas. Photos by Lindsay Dill.



Sycamore Island Blawnox, PA

A Basecamp message group is home for a group of Friends where updates and stories from the island are shared mainly by Rick, a long-time Steward. This year, he has organized a team of working Friends who have their own transport to the island to plan projects and group

workdays. With limited transportation, we rely on these small groups and camping visitors to help maintain the area.



Dead Man's Hollow Boston, PA

ALT's largest property has the biggest group of Friends connected through the Facebook page "Dead Man's Hollow". Here, followers see updates and stories specific to the area. This year we also launched a Google Group for Friends ready to take the next

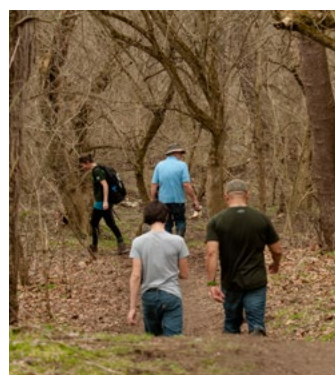
step in getting involved. Monthly Trail Tuesday events through the spring and summer are one opportunity for Friends. With the large size of this area and the variety of ongoing projects, we are looking for lead Stewards to organize gatherings and workdays with the Dead Man's Hollow community next year.



Irwin Run Gibsonia, PA

Ken became the Irwin Run Steward after completing the Master Naturalist program with ALT this Spring. The program requires a capstone project, which he chose to focus on stewarding his favorite hiking spot: Irwin Run conservation area. Since completing

the program he has continued to improve the area by scouting and clearing a new trail, creating the Friends of Group, and leading a hike for members to meet. For next spring, the group is planning to install a chimney swift tower and plan events to get outside together.



Wingfield Pines Upper St. Clair, PA

This property will see a lot of change in 2019. Once the AMD system is repaired, the stewardship team will work from the newly-completed Master Plan. The plan makes recreational, ecological, and educational recommendations that offer great projects and activities for our

Friends. We are excited to add new energy to this dedicated group including dog walkers, bird watchers, and all explorers of Wingfield Pines.



Become a Friend Of . . .

Keep an eye on our events page for a meeting of your favorite "Friends of" group over the winter. Don't see a Friends Of group for your green space? Form your own! Contact Caitlin at cseiler@alleghenylandtrust.org.



25 Supporters for 25 Years



TOP LEFT: Dave Wade helps haul tires out of Dead Man's Hollow during a volunteer cleanup day. Photo by Caitlin Seiler.
TOP RIGHT: Sally & Dave Wade enjoy a winter hike at Wingfield Pines. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Your support has helped us thrive.

For 25 years, ALT has helped local people save local land. It's due to thousands of supporters ranging from casual volunteers to major donors that we've been able to protect more than 2,400 acres of green space.

As part of our 25th Anniversary, we'll be substituting our typical "Meet a Steward" column with featured supporter stories from our "25 Supporters for 25 Years" series.

Supporters come in many types: Members, Donors, Advisors, Board Members, Volunteers, Partners, and more.

The Wades' story is one of 25 that we'll be sharing as part of celebrating our 25th Anniversary:

www.alleghenylandtrust.org/25-years



Featured Supporters:

Sally & Dave Wade



by Lindsay Dill | Marketing Communications Director

We all have lofty ideas of what we'd do if we won the lottery, right? Once our debts are settled and we've indulged a bit, we have plans for how we would do good with the money. For Sally Wade, she didn't win the lottery, but she and her husband Dave have helped make a goal of her 2006 Lottery Dream a reality.

In 2006, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette interviewed Sally as she was the VP of Human Resources at Mitsubishi Electric Power Products Inc. Among questions about her career and personal life was a question of what she would do if she won the lottery. Sally's answer? To "set up an endowment for land conservation."

Then-Board President Pat McShea cut the feature from the Post-Gazette, storing it in his wallet until he next saw Roy Kraynyk, our VP of Land Protection. He handed the profile to Roy and said, "Here's our next Board member."

Roy was already familiar with Dave Wade because he'd advocated alongside Dave in the early 2000s for an outdoor environmental education venture. Dave was the project director for developing a regional center for environmental education, which would ultimately become The Outdoor Classroom (TOC).

TOC opened in 2004 and would frequently work with ALT at Wingfield Pines Conservation Area, conducting water quality testing workshops among other environmental education programs. In 2015, Sally and Dave realized The Outdoor Classroom, which had become a great community asset, was resource-limited and could have greater impact as part of a larger organization. Dave also knew that without additional resources, TOC could soon face the difficult decision to close.

At this point, Sally had been involved with the ALT board for 8 years. She knew ALT was poised for growth and looking to connect communities with conservation through educational programming. Then, in 2016, TOC decided to cease operations as an independent non-profit. So, together, Sally and Dave proposed and lead the charge for ALT to continue the work of TOC. Thus, was born ALT's Environmental Education Team that provides programming to all ages on the land, in the classroom, and in professional development settings.

From Sally serving active roles in the organization's marketing and development to Dave's volunteer time on the land and in helping ALT incorporate the Environmental Education Team, the couple's work has ensured a better future in our region. They'd met Sally's 2006 Lottery Dream. Their contributions have directly affected ALT's ability to raise awareness, seek sustainable funding, and provide environmental education to the next generation of land stewards.

"To me, it's a no-brainer to conserve land. ... Nature is so vital," Sally said, and Dave added, "It's so important to have opportunities to get outside. We need to protect the places we have and acquire more places to do so."

UPCOMING EVENTS

E Education Events

V Volunteer Events



Photo by Lindsay Dill

Twitter in the Trees: Christmas Bird Count Wingfield Pines

Dec 15 | Hike: 8 - 10 am, Bird Count: 10 am - 4 pm
Become a citizen scientist (no experience required!) as we learn how to use field guides and iNaturalist to identify and catalogue birds. Stick around after the hike from 10 am - 4 pm with the Pittsburgh South Hills Bird Circle & USC Citizens for Land Stewardship as they host a Christmas Bird Count in support of the Audubon Society.

All ages | Cost: \$5



Photo by Lindsay Dill

Starlight Strolls Audubon Greenway

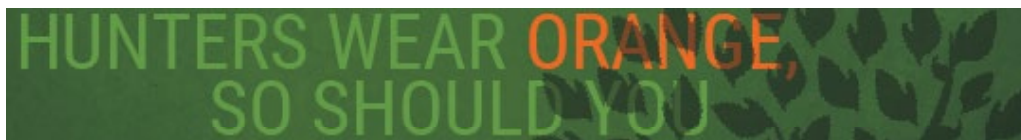
Dec 22 | "Winter's Beginning" | 5 - 6 pm

Mar 20 | "Spring Equinox" | 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Walk Audubon Greenway's trails under the light of the moon with a trained educator. December's stroll will focus on what happens after dark at green spaces in the winter, and March's stroll will focus on what spring will bring to the conservation area after dark. Great for families and community groups or as an extra credit activity for science classes. Pre-registration is highly recommended and required for groups of 5 or more.

E All ages | Cost: \$5

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Young Voices for the Planet Workshops

Locations Vary

Jan 26, 27 | Feb 23 | March 9

ALT is collaborating with Young Voices for the Planet to host a series of Civic Engagement and Democracy Educator Workshops. These day-long professional development courses welcome formal and informal educators of all grade levels to explore ways to empower and inspire their students in the face of climate change and other environmental concerns. More information and registration can be found at: <https://www.youngvoicesfortheplanet.com/workshops/>

Ages: Adult Educators & Facilitators | Cost: \$15/workshop

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Photo by Lindsay Dill

Logo courtesy of Young Voices for the Planet.

Getting Little Feet Wet Facilitator Workshop Philadelphia

March 17 | 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

Join this facilitator level workshop held in coordination with early childhood experts and educators. Utilizing Project WET's Getting Little Feet Wet early childhood curriculum, the workshop contains 11 interactive, hands-on activities for young learners to explore different aspects of water—from water properties to water sounds. Each activity offers both Pre-K and K-2 options and is correlated to respective educational standards. Registration fee includes a copy of the Getting Little Feet WET Curriculum Guide, 2.0 guide, and CD. More information and registration can be found soon at: <http://www.paee.net>

Ages: Adults | Cost: TBD | Act 48 & PA Keys Hours Available

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Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Fungus Among Us: Mushroom Walk with ALT & Western PA Mushroom Club Sycamore Island

March | Exact Date & Time TBD

Join Allegheny Land Trust and the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club as we journey to Sycamore Island in search of seasonal fungi aboard the Allegheny Cleanways Tireless Project pontoon, "The Rachel Carson". We will shuttle from the Verona Public Docks to explore the island and collect mushroom samples, then will return to shore for identification to discover what treasures we uncover.

Ages: All | Cost: \$20

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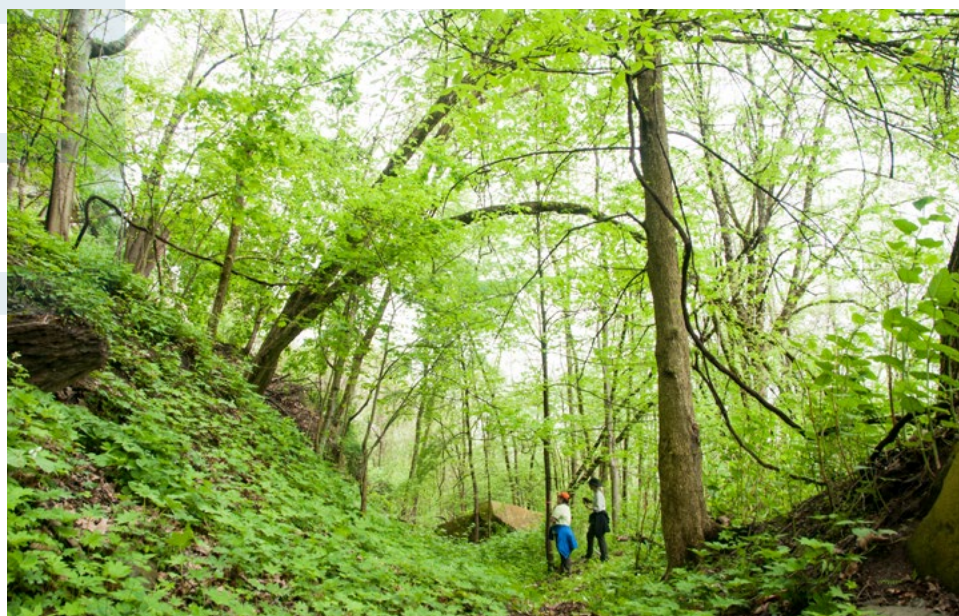


Photo by Lindsay Dill.

History & Hooch Barking Slopes

March 31 | Time TBD

Take a hike and learn to read the history of the land at this stunning, hillside conservation area in New Kensington. Along the river-side trail flanked by rockface, attendees will learn the history of Barking Slopes from our environmental education team's historian. Following the hike, we'll enjoy a hooch sampling that pairs well with the history of the land. Pre-registration is required.

Ages: 21+ | Cost: \$20

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To register and find more information, visit:
alleghenylandtrust.org/events



ALLEGHENY LAND TRUST

416 Thorn Street, Sewickley,
Pennsylvania 15143
phone 412.741.2750
email info@alleghenylandtrust.org
alleghenylandtrust.org



ABOUT ALT

Allegheny Land Trust (ALT) is a nationally accredited, independent, non-profit organization that has been helping local people save local land in the Pittsburgh region for a quarter century.

Founded in 1993, ALT has protected more than 2,400 acres of green space preserving our region's unique natural beauty, providing enhanced outdoor recreational opportunities, improving water quality, fostering biodiversity, and enhancing the overall quality of life for our communities. ALT's areas of strategic priority include Land Conservation, Stewardship, Education, and Urban Greening.

ALT's mission has expanded in recent years to include innovative methods of land conservation in support of community needs for urban green space as well the addition of a professional environmental education team teaching of all ages to foster future generations of stewards.

With conservation areas in 27 municipalities, there is now an ALT conservation project within 12 miles of every Allegheny County resident. The benefits of ALT's efforts can be experienced across the region from McKeesport to Franklin Park, Upper St. Clair to Blawnox, Mt. Washington to Plum, and many places in between.



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FRONT COVER: The sun rises on the Monongahela River in October 2018.
BACK COVER: A winter view of a trail at Linbrook Woodlands Conservation Area in Franklin Park.
Photos by Lindsay Dill.



EFP's Combined
Federal Code
is 62348