

GROWING INTO OUR ROLES

Becoming the Teachers

3

NOTES FROM THE LAND

Country Clubs & Coal Mines

4

A NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

What's to Come for ALT

7

ADAPTING OUR LAND

Changing How We Manage

9

VISTAS

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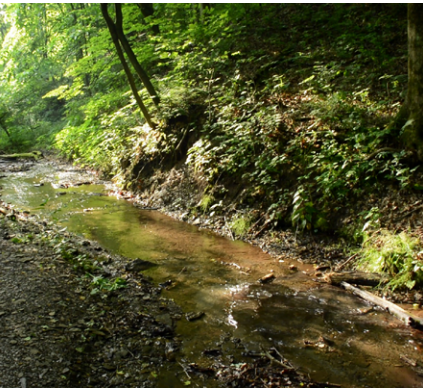


Addressing Our Region's Challenges:

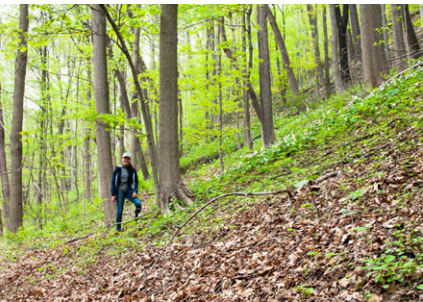
CHANGE IN OUR BACKYARDS

by Lindsay Dill | Marketing Communications Director

With weather patterns shifting or becoming more severe around the country, the impacts of wildfires, glacial melt, landslides, and more are ever-more present and worsening. When discussing the state of our environment, we often speak in future terms or refer to far-off places.



ALT maintains and enhances watersheds by protecting tributaries, like this one at Dead Man's Hollow, to prevent flooding and maintain clean drinking water. Photo by Wild Excellence Films.



ALT protects steep slopes, like those at Mossy Slopes, to ensure the land is not destabilized by development and to minimize impact of potential future slides. Photo by Lindsay Dill.



ALT works with volunteers, like this woman planting native trees at Wingfield Pines, to maintain and improve native species habitats. This helps to filter carbon to promote clean air, absorb rainwater to keep it from overwhelming our roads and systems, and create beautiful places for current and future generations to enjoy. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

In Allegheny County, though, we don't need to ask "what will happen when—" or refer to catastrophic events happening hundreds of miles away; we only need to look in our own backyards.

From Pittsburgh's issues with flash flooding to our neighbors being forcibly evacuated from their homes as they slide down our steep slopes, the effects of a changing climate have already reached crisis levels in our communities.

We can do better at home. We are not helpless, and we can do something about it together in our region. Our response to these issues must be multifaceted as no one solution can "fix" our environment. At ALT, we look at how to use our expertise in land protection and environmental education as tools to address not only global climate change long-term, but also the regional challenges impacting us here today.

So, how does land conservation make a difference in affecting these regional issues we're becoming all-too familiar with?

As written in previous issues of Vistas, trees and plants help to absorb rainwater; one acre absorbs about 860,000 gallons of rainwater annually. Vegetation and soil capture carbon that would otherwise leak out into the atmosphere, and also filter particulates from the air to combat air pollution; one acre holds about 4,132 pounds of carbon annually. The land we protect also provides habitat to thousands of species of flora and fauna, ensures that steep slopes laden with red bed clays are not victim to careless development and catastrophic landslides, and creates opportunities for recreation closer to residents' homes.

We currently protect more than 2,500 acres, which is each year absorbing 10.33 million pounds of carbon and 2.15 billion gallons of rainwater. This

permanent green space ensures that much more carbon and rainwater do not flow into our air and water, overwhelming our lungs, wildlife, roads, sewers, and hillsides.

How else are we responding? Take a look at our President & CEO's article on page 7 about our newly-launched strategic plan that directs our efforts over the next five years at creating a sustainable, resilient region. Or flip to page 9 to read about how our stewardship team is tracking, analyzing, reacting, and proactively planning to care for our lands differently in response to shifting flash flooding areas, sliding hillsides, and changing habitats for native species. On page 3, see how we're offering environmental education opportunities to all ages to deepen understanding of the nature around us so that we all can better appreciate and take notice of change in our surroundings. Or read more on page 4 about two green spaces of about 190 acres that we're currently working to protect that would positively impact their respective communities.

We hope you'll continue supporting our efforts to create local change by volunteering with us on the land to manage healthy habitats with the replacement of invasive species with native ones, by attending and bringing friends to environmental education programs, by contributing to land protection projects like those described in this issue, or by participating in our 2019 Day of Giving on September 26 to support us with operational funds.

Together, using land conservation as a tool, we can provide close-to-home outdoor space for current and future generations to appreciate, enjoy, and learn about the nature around us. Helping to protect these spaces can foster a sense of ownership and care of the health of our trees, trails, water, air, wildlife, and environment. The health and vitality of our region depends on us.

It's Our Turn to Teach

by Jessica Kester | VP of Education

How do we learn to be resilient? We've all heard the saying "kids are tough, they'll adapt" but how do we teach that ability to adapt, to change to our surroundings and to survive through it all? The answers vary widely. Add the idea of generational gaps, and you learn from experience. Hearing the term "generations", do you think Millennials and Baby Boomers act and react differently?

A product of Gen-X, I was raised by two Baby Boomers but with very strong ties to my grandparents from the Silent Generation. What does that have to do with resiliency? My grandparents lived through the Great Depression and together raised six children in a rural village in central PA. In my eyes, they were poster children for resiliency.

From their determination and connection to the land around them I learned the importance of owning land, keeping it healthy, and tending it so that it

would tend to us. We planted a garden and preserved vegetables we grew there. My father hunted, trapped, and fished to fill the freezers. But as years have gone by, many of us have lost that direct tie to our food and in turn to the land that provides it. Now it's our turn to be the teachers.

The water that sustains us flows around our city daily, and but for a few of us, it goes unnoticed until nature's destructive side appears.

ALT tries to bring water to the surface of awareness with positive experiences. We've partnered with Trout Unlimited's STREAM Girls program engaging girls 11-14 in experiential learning. Introducing them to a wide variety of science, technology, recreation, engineering, art, and math careers at a time when girls are shown to lose interest in those topics.

Through our partnership with Pennsylvania Master Naturalists and the Penn State Master

Watershed Stewards programs, we help train environmental stewards in communicating the importance and interconnectedness of our region's terrestrial and watershed resources.

The air that fills our lungs may be one of the 10 worst in terms of air quality in the nation, but we can improve. An acre of forested green space absorbs 4,132 pounds of carbon/year while removing sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and additional pollutant particles. We offer opportunities to study green space impacts on economics and ecological processes.

So, whether you're of the Silent Generation enjoying the fruits of your life, or a Generation Z who's just finding their way, it is time we learn from each to become not just better stewards of what we have, but to become more resilient.



(Top) Jessica's father and grandfather stand near their haul of potatoes at the farm. (Right) Jessica's daughter picks tomatoes at the farm. Photos by & courtesy of Jessica Kester.



(Left) Jessica's son sits in a cabbage patch at the farm. Jessica and her family continue to foster the same love for the land that she was shown in her childhood. Photo by Jessica Kester.



Backpacks with a Due Date

ALT Launches Nature Explorers Program with Partners to Equip Explorers

by Julie Travaglini | Director of Education

This summer, ALT worked in conjunction with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Allegheny County Parks, and Allegheny County Library Association to launch the Nature Explorers Program. This program provided more than 30 county libraries with backpacks chock full of items to help library patrons explore the green spaces around them with fewer barriers and more possibilities. Backpacks had themes such as birds, water conservation, insects, culture and art, and more! Within several days of dropping off the backpacks at local libraries, the packs were checked out and folks were signing up for the waiting list. We're looking forward to hearing how and where people used the backpacks. Check with your local library to see if they are participating in the Nature Explorers Program.

(left) Contents of the Nature Explorer Program backpacks that curious explorers can borrow from their local library. Photo by Julie Travaglini.



A Monarch stops through the Churchill Valley Greenway project site. Photo by Jim McCollum.



The former country club building prior to its closing in 2013 and its demolishing in 2016. Photo courtesy of the Churchill Valley Country Club Land Preservation Effort facebook group.



Nature has started reclaiming the fairways surrounding the country club's former golf cart paths. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

notes

FROM THE LAND:

Country Clubs & Coal Mines

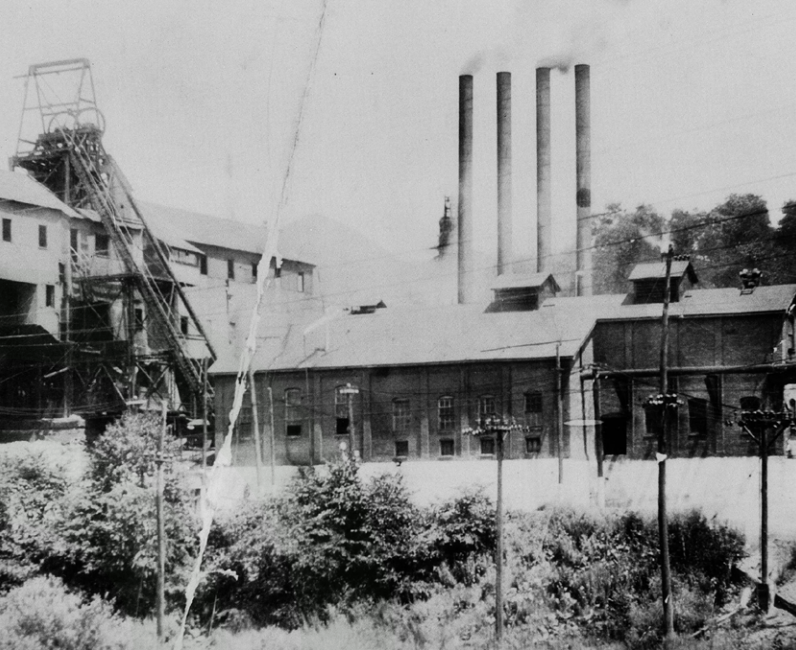
by Roy Kraynyk | VP of Land Protection & Capital Projects

This year ALT is involved with protecting two tracts of land with storied histories - The Churchill Valley Country Club in Penn Hills and Churchill and vestiges of the Pittsburgh Terminal Mollenauer Coal Mine #3 in Bethel Park.

The Churchill Valley Country Club (CVCC) was established in 1930 and operated for 82 years until closing in 2013. The facility and 148 acres were purchased at auction by a developer who explored a number of different residential and commercial development projects that, fortunately, were never implemented. The country club was a landmark in the East Hills of Allegheny County with its scenic valley fairways, two bridges over Beulah Road, and facility that hosted weddings, graduations, Christmas parties, and other events. There's hardly a resident of the area who doesn't have a memory involving the club, whether it was lifeguarding at the pool, the junior prom, or a hole-in-one.

The country club's time has come and gone, but ALT has an exclusive contract to purchase it and a vision for the site that will breathe new life into the Penn Hills and Churchill communities. Distinct from another strip mall, housing plan, or other commercial development (of which there are certainly no shortages of in the area), this publicly-accessible greenway will provide residents with a quiet respite from surrounding urbanization. The site has 5 miles of paved former golf cart paths that could serve as accessible trails for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy the outdoors. Research has found that convenient access to green space is a feature that homebuyers seek when considering a neighborhood to live in.

The former fairways are now scenic meadows that provide habitat for wildflowers, pollinators, and song birds, and include streams that could potentially support fishing after the aban-



Mollenauer Mine #3, which ceased operations in 1939, was adjacent to the “Bethel Green” site that ALT now has under contract for protection. The company utilized the green space site for mine tailings. Photo courtesy of the Municipality of Bethel Park.



An ALT staff member hikes the little remaining evidence of the mine tailings, which have largely been reclaimed by nature at Bethel Green. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

done mine drainage is cleaned up. ALT is investigating the feasibility to mitigate the mine drainage thanks to a grant from Trout Unlimited.

ALT is slated to close on the property by March 2020, but the necessary funding must be raised. To make protecting this land a reality, \$100,000 is needed from the local community to provide required matching dollars for pending state grant applications totaling \$1,788,750, and foundation grants that ALT is seeking. Local support is critical to demonstrate to our major funding partners that the community wants the land to be protected.

At 40.5 acres, Bethel Green is one of the last and largest remaining green spaces in Bethel Park. Beginning in 1902 until the operations ceased in 1939, the site was used by the Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Company as a place to dump mine spoils from their Mollenauer Mine #3 which generated up to 14,000 tons of coal daily.

The land has been slowly recovering over the 80 years since the mine’s closing. In that time, the site has been considered for a number of housing and commercial developments, including a Home Depot. Neighborhood trails circulate the flat-to-rugged topography where hidden remnants of its industrial past can be discovered among the birch and other species of trees thriving there today.

In addition to providing local community green space, another very important public benefit of protecting this land is the estimated 32,000,000 gallons of precipitation that is absorbed by trees and soils annually. Sequestering stormwater is especially important because of flash flooding that occurs frequently in the Saw Mill Run Watershed, downstream of where this green

oasis is located. Developing the site would exacerbate flooding with additional run-off and aggravate the existing traffic congestion of Library Road and network of local roads.

ALT has the land under exclusive contract to purchase as long as we are able to raise necessary funds by March 2020. To protect this wonderful green space, \$35,000 is needed from the local community to help match pending grant applications. As of the end of August, the community has donated about \$23,500.

These are just two examples of the seven land protection projects totaling 466 acres currently underway at ALT. Others are located in Moon, South Fayette, Elizabeth, and Hampton - and all need your support.

We need your help to impede the rapid loss of green space in Allegheny County which is occurring at the rate of 2,000 acres annually! No contribution is too small but please give generously to ensure these unique landscapes and more are protected forever.

WAYS TO GIVE

CALL 412-741-2750

CLICK alleghenylandtrust.org/donate

STOP IN 416 Thorn Street Sewickley, PA, 15143

MAIL Using the enclosed self-addressed envelope, and check either “Churchill Valley Greenway” or “Bethel Green”.

Check with your employer to see if they match your charitable contributions.

A tree blossoms in spring at Bethel Green. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Introducing Our Newest Board Members

by Christopher J. Beichner | President & CEO

At our last Board of Directors meeting, the board unanimously added five well-respected leaders to their ranks. Daniel Dickerman, Ashley DiGregorio, Joanne Foerster, Emily Mueller, and Edward Weller began their three-year terms on July 1st.



Daniel Dickerman

Dan works for the Institute of Sustainable Communities where he builds the resilience capacity of regional collaborations. He's passionate about people and the creation of healthy environments, especially for our most vulnerable. He spends much of his free time outside - backpacking, cycling, kayaking, and climbing - and often has strange tan lines.



Ashley DiGregorio

Ashley is an Environmental Program Coordinator for the PA Resources Council, coordinating programs in recycling and waste diversion for municipalities and businesses. She graduated from Pitt's Graduate School of Public & International Affairs (GSPIA) in 2018, where she studied sustainable economic development and environmental policy, as well as nonprofit management.



Joanne Foerster

Joanne is Allegheny County's Director of Performance and Analytics. With degrees from Penn State and CMU, her experience includes financial consulting and affordable housing development. She is a PA Master Naturalist and serves on its board, and volunteers with the County Parks, where she launched a stewardship program. She is passionate about land conservation, enjoys southwestern PA hiking and biking, and lives with her husband in Highland Park.



Emily Mueller

Emily is a Pittsburgh native and a graduate of Grove City College and Duquesne University's School of Law. She is a municipal solicitor and has practiced with the Goehring, Rutter and Boehm firm since 2010. She is honored and excited to join the Board and hopes to contribute not only her time and passion, but also her knowledge and experience with state and local zoning and land use laws.



Edward 'Ted' Weller

Ted is the Chief Accounting Officer for the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, a wholesale bank with over \$100 billion of assets. A native of western Pennsylvania, Ted is a CPA, graduated from Grove City College, and has an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh. He and his wife, Tracy, live in Wexford with their two daughters.

Make a Difference: September 26 Day of Giving

by Lindsay Dill | Marketing Communications Director

Green space is part of the solution to many of our region's pressing issues; from landslides and water quality issues to recreation access and scenic beauty, land conservation benefits all of us. ALT works to protect and maintain local land, and provide environmental education to all ages to support our region's quality of life.

Make a difference by marking your calendar, telling a friend, and giving for green space during our 2019 Day of Giving on September 26.

Our Board of Directors has generously created a dollar-for-dollar match pool! This means that your gift goes twice as far in helping us to protect more land, maintain our green spaces, and provide more environmental education in our communities.

WAYS TO GIVE

CALL 412-741-2750

CLICK alleghenylandtrust.org/donate

STOP IN 416 Thorn Street
Sewickley, PA, 15143

MAIL Using the enclosed self-addressed envelope, and check "Day of Giving"

Check with your employer to see if they match your charitable contributions.

Strategically Planning for a Resilient Region

by Christopher J. Beichner | President & CEO



A robin sings in a tree at the Churchill Valley Greenway in spring 2019. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Costly landslides, the nation's worst air quality, and unprecedented rainfall are just a few of the substantial challenges facing communities in Allegheny County.

Furthermore, our county will lose 10,000 acres of green space over the next five years. That much green space can absorb over 11.7 billion gallons of rainfall annually - an amount that could fill 18,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools! When that green space is gone forever, where will the water go? How resilient will our region be when municipal budgets soar, infrastructure crumbles, and private property is destroyed?

Allegheny Land Trust has been working to highlight these resiliency concerns over the past 18 months. We believe conserving and caring for green space for current and future generations is a critical regional resolve and a critical piece to combating development pressures, addressing climate change, and improving quality of life.

We are launching our new strategic plan with these beliefs in mind.

Our Renewed Mission is clear and concise: We will conserve and care for local land for the health and well-being of current and future generations.

Our Vision is to have a resilient region with abundant green space that is easily accessible and recognized as essential to the quality of life for all.

Over the next five years, these are ALT's four **Strategic Priorities**: Land Conservation, Land

Stewardship, Nature-Based Education, and Community Conservation.

Together, these priorities make up the nucleus of what our board, staff, and volunteer efforts will focus on to foster a robust, resilient, and green region.

We will work with all communities, at a grassroots level, to protect green space in all corners of the county. We will protect the most ecologically diverse land and green space in the path of development to ensure a high quality of life for everyone. We will care for our conservation areas for the benefit of the communities we serve and do it in the most sustainable way practical. We will create and share bold programs that educate and empower residents, and we will help all communities create equity through conservation.

Needless to say, we cannot do this alone. We need you to act urgently by sharing your concerns about green space loss to your elected officials, influencing public policy discussions and decisions, volunteering at one of our conservation areas, or contribute towards one of our many new and impactful conservation projects.

Without you, it will be impossible to achieve our forward-thinking goals. With you, our collective success will be evident for everyone in our region for generations to come. We hope you'll continue your support as we enact our renewed strategic plan by sustaining your membership, donating to our land protection projects, volunteering at green spaces, or by attending our environmental education programs.



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: alleghenylandtrust.org/our-sponsors

Please recognize and patronize our sponsors.

NEW

- Federal Home Loan Bank - Other
- REI - Other

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- Fort Pitt Capital - Silver

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

Featured Supporter:

Bob Hedin



(left) An aerial photo of the system Bob helped design. Photo by Bradley Piper. (right) Bob explains the AMD System to a group of students in fall 2018. Photo by Lindsay Dill.



by Lindsay Dill | Marketing Communications Director

Walking into Wingfield Pines conservation area, visitors are met with trails that guide them from a fountain of orange, sulfur-scented water to a creek, where the water flows out clear and clean.

This is the power of the Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) treatment system, which prevents 43 tons of oxidized iron from polluting Chartiers Creek annually. Downstream communities, Wingfield Pines visitors, and macroinvertebrates have Bob Hedin to thank for that.

Bob's company, Hedin Environmental, worked with ALT to design the 25-acre on-site passive treatment system that was installed a decade ago.

Around the year 2000, Bob learned of the site when a friend from the Upper St. Clair Citizens for Land Stewardship invited him for a hike of an 87-acre green space that had issues with abandoned mine drainage and was under contract for permanent protection by ALT.

"I knew we had the opportunity to do something there, and there was a great potential for beauty and wildlife," Bob said.

In 2001, ALT protected the land. In response to an RFP, Bob submitted a proposal and was chosen to work with our team to apply his expertise in mine remediation to design a system that would meet conservation objectives, and would incorporate education and natural beauty for visitors to witness as they walked through the green space.

"It's remarkable- it's a place where form follows function," Bob said. "It doesn't need pamphlets or an internet connection; you can look, see, and understand what's happening."

Since an underground mine blowout that redirected water from the AMD system in November 2017, Bob has been working with ALT to ensure the water is redirected back into the AMD system. He's taken the down-time to make improvements to it. Water is expected to be flowing back into the system by the time you're reading this story.

Over the years, Bob has gone above and beyond a hired consultant for the AMD system, by participating in community days at Wingfield Pines and leading tours of the AMD system on behalf of

ALT for all ages—ranging "from scientists to kindergarteners." He spends his free time visiting the 60+ AMD systems his company has designed across western Pennsylvania to see the change and to ensure they're working well.



Bob's work has helped to reclaim this wetland, and provide a healthy habitat for wildlife and a beautiful space for visitors. Photo by Wild Excellence Films.

Bob was raised in Sewickley, and spent much of his childhood playing in Little Sewickley Creek. He says that is when he developed a love for the outdoors and an appreciation for clean water.

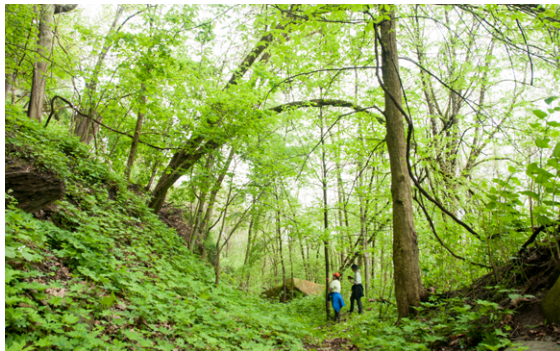
"I grew up when you couldn't see the other side of the Ohio River from all the smog; you wouldn't dream about going in that river. So, I grew an interest in restoring those things."

Bob said he spent his dissertation investigating strip mines, instead of "rainforests in Ecuador," like his peers seeking PhD's in Ecology.

"I've always wanted to be part of change, not just in studying and researching the environment—but in physically remediating it," Bob said. "I just hoped to be part of restoring water quality and a good environment in Western Pennsylvania."

A Friend of Wingfield Pines explores severe floodwaters that covered the conservation area's trails, presenting new challenges for ALT Stewardship & Education teams. Photo by Tom Dougherty.

Changing Land Management in a Changing Climate



Barking Slopes is comprised of steep hillsides. Ever-more frequent heavy rains caused a landslide that remains unstable. Photo by Lindsay Dill.



A dwindling bat population coupled with increasing floodwaters has presented new challenges in land management at Wingfield Pines. Photo by Tom Dougherty.



The trail leading to and from the ruins at Dead Man's Hollow has been severely damaged by a landslide that rerouted a stream over its surface. Our stewardship team is working diligently to remedy the issue. Photo by Jill Bejger-Frederick.

by Emilie Rzotkiewicz | VP of Land Resources

Our ALT Stewardship Team manages land to maintain and improve its quality for the benefit of visitors, wildlife, and the surrounding community.

Since the founding of ALT 25 years ago, we have seen changes on the lands we protect. Some can be attributed to land use changes upstream, but others we see as a result from a warming climate. Even in my time at ALT, I've needed to adapt several aspects of my land management techniques - such as maintenance timing, mapping expected water flow, trail planning in consideration of future landslides, etc. - as a result of a shift in climate. In general, we are seeing more rain, earlier and longer growing periods, and more catastrophic events that are a drain on staff and resources.

Looking at three of ALT's most popular green spaces, I can easily identify examples of how the shifting climate has forced us to change our tactics and our overall management plan.

In 2016, a small landslide occurred across the newly-established trail at Barking Slopes Conservation Area in Plum. Over the past 3 years, the slide has continued to move and shift creating challenges for trail maintenance. The trail is constantly "disappearing" while the water flow from the upper reaches changes direction and causes damage to other trail sections. We must adjust each time it changes, but ultimately will have to

wait until the slide stabilizes to establish a permanent trail.

At Wingfield Pines, we're seeing more water more often that lays stagnant. In combination with the drastic decrease in little brown bats who feed on small flying insects like mosquitoes, that has created an unpleasant experience for visitors. Frequent flooding has created excellent breeding conditions for mosquitoes, to the point that we've needed to alter our environmental education programs due to the mosquito population.

Landslide activity at Dead Man's Hollow has caused significant damage to the Ruins Trail, and required us to add a new component of trail repair and stream maintenance to our efforts. Changing weather patterns have also changed our species management timing at the Hollow. We've always hosted an annual volunteer garlic mustard pull in April, but in recent years, we've moved the event to late March, as the plants are emerging earlier and growing faster than in years past. It's important to manage these invasives at the right time to create better quality habitat for native species.

These examples are just a few of the challenges ALT now faces when dealing with natural lands and a shifting climate. Moving forward, ALT must alter our land management strategies to be smarter and more dynamic, and ultimately focus our land preservation efforts on fostering green spaces that are more resilient to coming changes.

UPCOMING EVENTS

E Education Events

V Volunteer Events



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Friends of DMH: Ruins Workday Dead Man's Hollow

September 22 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm

Do you consider yourself a friend of the Dead Man's Hollow? Help us improve the land by clearing trash, making repairs to infrastructure, removing or adding plants, and more. This workday will focus on the Ruins Trail, entering from the Boston Trailhead.

All Ages | Cost: Free to Attend



Photo Courtesy of Flickr User Meal Makeover Moms.

Organic Fiesta Bethel Park Library

September 25 | 6:30 - 7:30 pm

In this class, students will help to create fresh, organic salsa and compare it to store-bought salsa. A yummy science program you don't want to miss! Registration can be done on the Bethel Park Library website.

Ages: Grades K-4 | Cost: \$5



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Starlight Strolls: RADical Days & OPT Outside September 28 | 8 - 9 pm | Wingfield Pines November 29 | 7 - 8 pm | Dead Man's Hollow

Ever wonder what nature is up to at night? What does the full moon bring to green space? Join our environmental educators for a stroll under the stars to find out. Topics vary depending on the evening's leader and can include nocturnal and crepuscular creatures, astronomy, lore, and much more! The September program is being offered for free as part of the Regional Asset District's (RAD) RADical days-- Thanks, RAD! The November program occurs on Black Friday to offer an opportunity for folks to #OPTOUTSIDE! We hope you'll join us for one or both hikes to see these two stunning green spaces at night.

All Ages | September Cost: Free for RADical Days | November Cost: \$5

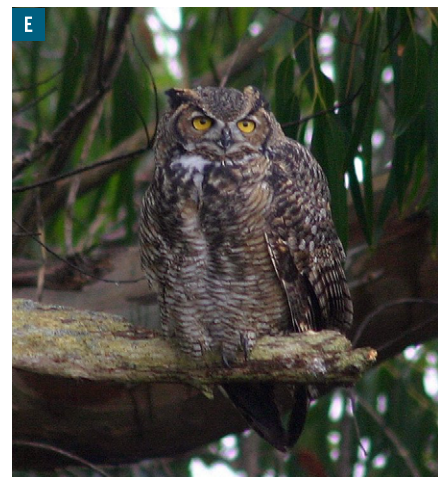


Photo courtesy of David A. Hofmann via Flickr.

Owl Prowl with ALT & The Aviary Oct 24 | 7 - 8:30 pm | Irwin Run Oct 30 | 7 - 8:30 pm | Emerald View Park

Join National Aviary Ornithologist Bob Mulvihill for a guided, after-dark nature walk to look and listen for owls in Pittsburgh's parks. Bob will lead you into the woods as you search the treetops for Eastern Screech Owls, Great Horned Owls, and Barred Owls. Information and registration are available on the National Aviary's website.

All Ages | Cost: \$10



To register and find more information, visit this case-sensitive link:
bit.ly/altoutside



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Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Not So Spooky Hike Dead Man's Hollow

Oct 19 | 6 - 8 pm

Ever wonder why pirates wear an eye-patch or how an owl can hunt in the dark? Join us on this not-too-scary night hike where we'll explore the science and stories behind many of our favorite fall creatures! Explore myths and legends and learn about the creatures of the autumn night. We'll also tell stories around a campfire where you can roast a s'more.

Ages: All

**Cost: \$15/person,
\$40 for a Family Pass,
Free to Infants**

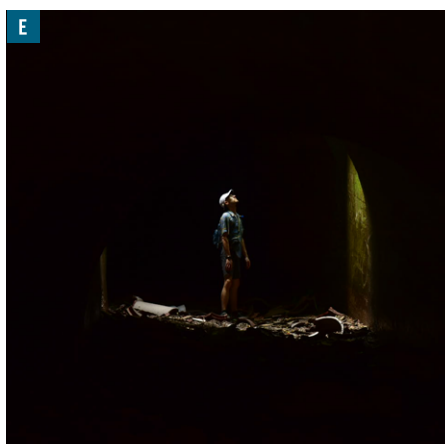


Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Paranormal Investigation Hike Dead Man's Hollow

Oct 26 | 7 - 9:30 pm

Get with the Ghouls! ALT and Cripple Crick Paranormal will be joined by the renowned team Pittsburgh Paranormal Investigators at Dead Man's Hollow to explore the lore of the Hollow.

We'll hike the lower portion of the conservation area through the ruins in search of communicative spirits that may be lingering on the Hollow's haunted trails; also, two of our environmental education experts will review the history and lore of the conservation area.

Ages: 14 & Older | Cost: \$20/person



Photo courtesy of Becky Matsubara via Flickr.

Twitter in the Trees: Christmas Bird Count Wingfield Pines

December 14 | Hike: 8 - 10 am, 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



ALLEGHENY LAND TRUST

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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 2,500 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, which provides programming for all ages to foster future generations of stewards.

With conservation areas in 30 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: Milkweed in the fall at Dead Man's Hollow conservation area. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

BACK COVER: A hawk gazes from a tree at the site of the former Churchill Valley Country Club, land which ALT currently has under contract for protection. Photo by Jim McCollum



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