



STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2023

Allegheny Land Trust is a nationally-accredited, land conservation non-profit that has been “helping local people save local land” in the Pittsburgh region for more than 25 years.

Since 1993, ALT has protected thousands of acres of green space in dozens of municipalities to preserve our region’s unique natural beauty, provide expanded outdoor recreational opportunities, protect and improve water and air quality, sustain biodiversity, and enhance the overall quality of life in the region.



**ALLEGHENY
LAND TRUST**



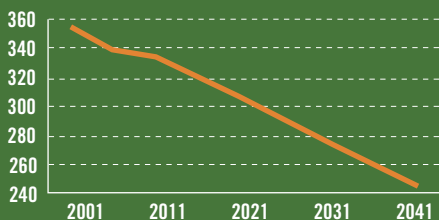
AN ALARMING TREND

Our abundant natural heritage must not be taken for granted, but instead must be valued and protected as a vital regional asset. The amount of green space in Allegheny County continues to decline at an unsustainable rate.

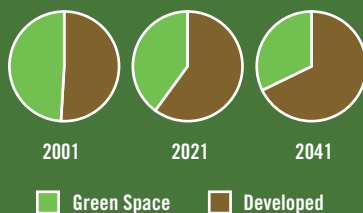
- Allegheny County's **population declined by 25%** between 1960-2014, while the amount of **developed land increased by 69%** during that same period.
- Despite flat population and a severe economic recession, **19 square miles of green space were lost to development** between 2000-2010 – an area the size of South Fayette Township.
- Allegheny County continues to **lose three square miles of green space per year**.
- An estimated **30 square miles of green space will be lost to sprawl between 2011-2020** – an area the size of McCandless and Ross Townships combined.

Today, less than 43% of the County remains as green space, and even the most conservative development scenarios forecast the amount of green space falling below 40% by 2021.* Without a change of course, less than a third of the County will remain as green space by 2041. This will irreversibly change the character of our region. ALT seeks to address this situation throughout the course of this Strategic Plan.

Allegheny County Green Space Decline*
(Square Miles per Year)



Allegheny County Land Use
(%)



* Source: ALT analysis of U.S. Geological Survey data.



WHO WE ARE

OUR MISSION is to conserve and care for local land for the health and well-being of current and future generations.

OUR VISION charts a path for a resilient region with abundant green space that is easily accessible and recognized as essential to the quality of life for all.

OUR VALUES are part of our core existence and are practiced daily in our conservation efforts:



Collaborative

We welcome unique and diverse partnerships to build stronger communities.

Diverse

We vary the way we do business, who we work with, and who we hope to serve.

Innovative

We adapt to changing environmental needs and develop creative solutions.

Accessible

We believe everyone should have close-to-home access to green space.

Equitable

We serve everyone regardless of their location, demographics or resources.

Ethical

We are transparent with our stakeholders and accountable to our communities.

Quality

We strive for the highest standards of national accreditation excellence.

Flexible

We respond to the ongoing and changing needs of our communities.

Responsible

We make evidence-based decisions and act with integrity.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Land Conservation

We will act urgently to protect rapidly disappearing green space for the overall well-being of the region by:

1. Focusing our efforts on ecologically sensitive lands that are at the greatest risk of development and connect existing green spaces
2. Expanding the use of unique conservation tools like conservation easements
3. Responding to demand for affordable local farmland
4. Pursuing additional funding resources needed to expand conservation efforts

Land Stewardship

We will manage and care for our conserved green spaces for perpetual community benefit by:

1. Prioritizing stewardship investments at our conservation areas for strategic purposes
2. Enhancing recruitment and retention of educated, skilled, and committed volunteers
3. Evaluating future capacity needs as the amount of land under ALT protection expands
4. Refining non-conservation management guidelines
5. Identifying new and diverse funding opportunities to meet growing demands

Nature-Based Education

We will teach bold programs that foster an understanding of regional issues and solutions for current and future generations by:

1. Creating new curriculum highlighting the importance of conservation as it relates to climate change, regional resiliency, and quality of life
2. Focusing on expanding STEM-based, hands-on curriculum to engage our youngest future scientists
3. Providing educators with the knowledge and skills to effectively teach environmental awareness through professional development programming

Community Conservation

We will empower the community through education, innovative programs, and resources to create equity through conservation by:

1. Empowering community advocates to protect green space in their communities
2. Engaging municipal leaders on land use policy and best practices
3. Creating unique partnerships to ensure all communities can benefit from conservation