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An Allegheny Land Trust Publication

Winter 2020





COMMUNITY CONSERVATION CARBON CREDITS & RESPONSIBILITY

by Alyson Fearon | Senior Director of Community Conservation & Resiliency

Earlier this year ALT certified our first project under the City Forest Carbon protocol, finishing an exciting new step in conservation support for our organization. Carbon is receiving quite a bit of media attention lately, and it's easy to see why.

This year has been clearly affected by global change, with the worst western wildfire season in recent memory, an active Gulf hurricane season, a drought in the Northeast, one of the hottest summer seasons on record for the United States, and other effects. Carbon monitoring, and by extension carbon credits, is a way to track how human activities are affecting atmosphere and climate, and how everything we do has an effect on carbon cycles.

The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) sets the international standard for carbon equivalents and determines the global warming potential for other emissions, like methane. Similar to how, internationally, we all have come to agree on a standard mass of a kilogram or energy as a kilocalorie, we needed a single standard of one tonne of carbon equivalent (tCO₂e) to simplify emissions tracking and mitigation.

By these IPCC standards, our Buena Vista Heights conservation area will sequester 13,966 tons of carbon over a 40-year period according to our calculations. More importantly, the approximately 124 acres we certified under the City Forest Carbon Plus (CFCP) protocol will sequester over 16 Million gallons of stormwater annually, ultimately improving air quality by reducing PM₁₀ particulate matter, ozones, nitrous oxides, and volatile organic compounds. By tapping into carbon markets, ALT is able to financially gain from natural services that our conservation areas provide,

which in turn allows us to support more involved stewardship on-site and pursue future land conservation projects. The reporting requirements within the CFCP protocol are similar to our annual monitoring and reporting ALREADY required as an Accredited land trust and by our Stewardship department.

We are already looking forward to our next project under this program and are reviewing Bethel Green's eligibility at the beginning of 2021 for the same program used at Buena Vista Heights. We will also start considering the tree planting protocol, to potentially earn revenue for tree plantings we conduct throughout the year.

Want to help? There are three ways to support ALT's entrance into the carbon markets:

1. **Let a business know.** If you work for or know of a corporation that has set climate goals, they may be considering offsets as part of their program. We have credits available.
2. **Use a Cloverly partner business.** Cloverly was our first credit purchaser. Using a business partner of Cloverly to offset your personal e-commerce shipping emissions could help support us in the future.
3. **Become an ALT Member or Donate to our Year-End Campaign.** Membership and year-end General Fund donations provide the financial support for staff to pursue innovative new opportunities like these.





science at home

5 Ways to Explore the Great Outdoors No Matter the Size of Your Backyard

by Julie Travaglini
Senior Director of Education & Curriculum

1. LOOK UNDERNEATH

Flip over a rock in your flowerbed or garden. Who is lurking under the rock? Why do they choose to reside there?

2. MAKE A HOME

Build or purchase a bug home, a place meant for insects to stay safe and perhaps spend the winter. Who has moved in?

3. STUDY WITH FOOD

Feed the birds! Place a few different types of feeders around your yard. What types of birds visit each feeder? Do you think some birds prefer one type of feeder while others may enjoy a different feeder?

4. OBSERVE THE CRITTERS

Watch a spider build a web. What shape web is it spinning? Why did it choose to spin its web in this spot and what is it hoping to catch?

5. PLAY DETECTIVE

Snow and mud are excellent mediums for animal tracks. Who has been there while you've been asleep?



(left) A crab spider Julie found in her backyard.
(below) A praying mantis rests on some greenery in Julie's backyard. Photos by Julie Travaglini.



THE GREAT BACKYARDS

by Julie Travaglini | Senior Director of Education & Curriculum

When thinking in the local and global scale, especially in environmental education, I tend to think of defining and placing the term nature into two buckets; “little” nature and “big” nature.

Ask any young child what their favorite animal is and they will probably tell you something along the lines of tigers, polar bears, sharks, or elephants. They likely gravitate towards the fascinating creatures of the rainforest, or the mysterious beasts that roam the ocean.

The idea of those far-off creatures often featured in storybooks, movies, and toys are the “big” nature. The creatures that inhabit our own backyards and local habitats tend to be less favored by young children, even though they will encounter a Blue Jay far more than they will ever encounter a shark (unless they become Jacques Cousteau). The birds and insects and mammals that thrive in our own backyards are the “little” nature. Although the term “little” is not meant to take away the fact that they are just as fascinating and important as those beings we label as “big”.

With the pandemic still looming, our ability to see the big nature has been lessened, whether

our interactions came in the form of afternoons at the zoo and aquarium, or trips to exotic locations. We've been forced into our homes, spending more time in close proximity to little nature.

Many of us have embraced the chance to get closer to the living beings who share the bubble that is our homes and yards. Hopefully we've learned to appreciate the spiders spinning webs on our patios that keep mosquitoes at bay. Or perhaps you've seen a snake slithering across a pile of sticks, keeping rodents out of your basement.

I hope you've taken time to watch the bees dancing across flowers, spreading pollen to make more flowers for us to smell and more fruits and vegetables for us to eat. Perhaps our little nature isn't so little after all.

Whenever we return to some version of our “normal” lives, I hope that the lessons we learned and the appreciation we've gained from our backyard compatriots continues on. When we ask our children about their favorite animals, hopefully we begin to hear of their love for not only monkeys and zebras, but also Blue Jays, spiders, and bees.



A volunteer digs a hole for a new native tree at Wingfield Pines conservation area. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

YOU CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

by Christopher J. Beichner | President & CEO

Every minute of every day, the people of our planet face immense challenges, heartache, and loss. Virus, war, poverty, climate change, food shortages, corruption, and deforestation are just a few of the global threats we continuously face. The size and scale of these problems might feel overwhelming, and in some ways, one may feel powerless to fix them.

Let's look at one of these issues more closely – deforestation. As you probably know, we are losing the Amazon rainforest at a disturbing rate equal to 1.5 acres every second which is

47.3 million acres per year. Amazon deforestation is roughly the geographic size of Florida occurring every year.

The Amazon is home to nearly half of the world's species of plants and animals, and experts estimate we are losing 50,000 species a year. It is where 20% of our global oxygen comes from. It is an immense source of food and medicinal products; for example, 70% of the plants found in the rainforest are active against cancer cells.

And while only a few centuries ago, millions of Indigenous people inhabited the Amazon,

today it is estimated that less than 200,000 currently occupy its thick, dense forests after having been driven out by government and corporations.

Closer to home, the United States loses a football field of natural land every 30 seconds, which is about 20.8 million acres of land annually. This is equivalent to clear cutting all the forested land in Pennsylvania every single year. As a result, three billion birds (30% of the total avian population) have been lost in the last 50 years.

Locally, **Allegheny County is losing 2,000 acres of green**

space annually even though our population growth rate has remained flat. This global issue of deforestation and green space loss is a major threat to our livelihoods across the country and in our own backyards which will have a significant impact on our quality of life over the next ten years.

So, what can YOU do about this? Short of traveling to Brazil and standing your ground in the Amazon, what can you do to make an impact in your community? Below are a few ideas to consider.

A FEW IDEAS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY'S BACKYARD

1. Plant a tree on your property. Plant 10, 100, or even 1,000 trees! Trees clean the air, control hillside erosion, absorb stormwater, cool our land, increase property values, and are great for wildlife habitat.

Learn about the Trillion Tree Campaign at www.trilliontreecampaign.org. The world has enough land to plant 600 billion trees without impeding on farmland. Register with the campaign and do your part!

2. If you don't own property, plant a tree elsewhere. Organizations like ALT, Western PA Conservancy, Hollow Oak Land Trust, and more local nonprofits hold volunteer events each year to replace invasive plants with native trees like Eastern Redbuds, White Oaks, and Sycamores.

Learn more about our region's native trees by visiting the Audubon Society of Western PA at www.aswp.org/pages/list-natives, Tree Pittsburgh's website at www.treepittsburgh.org or PA DCNR at bit.ly/dcnrnativeplants.

3. Help protect land in your community by maintaining your membership with ALT and taking action when possible. If you see woodlands, farmland, meadows, defunct golf courses, or other large parcels of land for sale or in danger of development, contact ALT or your local land trust. It is our mission to protect green space in various locations for a variety of purposes. With the loss of 2,000 acres of green space every year in Allegheny County, we all need to work together to balance development and quality of life needs.

notes

FROM THE LAND:

Local Voices on the Land

by Roy Kraynyk | VP of Land Protection & Capital Projects

The idea of Think Globally, Act Locally applies to the work of ALT on several levels. Our land conservation work is focused on Allegheny and surrounding counties, and is certainly local as our slogan - Helping Local People Save Local Land - implies.

Protecting a local tract of land will certainly have more local impact than global impact, but so does every other land conservation, or other environmental project, in any other part of the world. Local projects throughout the world are all part of and contribute to the larger global ecology. A great example that many people are aware of is how the milkweed protected at one of ALT's Conservation Areas, or planted in your own back yard, provides critical habitat for the Monarch butterfly that migrates all the way to South America.



"I was born in 1941 and grew up in Bethel. There was never a scarcity of green space then. We were always able to find wooded places to explore and open areas for sports. It is encouraging to see efforts being made to expose future generations to what we enjoyed during Bethel's journey from coal town to flourishing suburb."

- ALAN C. | FEB. 2020

BETHEL GREEN



"We are just so excited about this project as it is a once-in-multiple-generations opportunity to save a beautiful forest that provides so many stormwater, air quality, and recreational benefits for our community."

- BRIAN W. | SEPT. 2020

GIRTY'S WOODS PROJECT



An ALT volunteer clears a trail at Bethel Green conservation area. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Although our work does contribute to and support the global ecology, our "global" view is of Allegheny and surrounding counties- where we fulfill our mission of land conservation. However, our actions occur locally in neighborhoods with the help of residents, community groups, businesses, and others that are critical to the success of projects.

So rather than me trying to articulate the thoughts and perspective of our partners at the local level whom have helped ALT accomplish many challenging and impactful land protection projects, we want to share the local perspective through their own words. Here are just a few excerpts we've received recently from our local partners helping with Churchill Greenway, Bethel Green, Girty's Woods, and the Hemlocks project.



CHURCHILL VALLEY GREENWAY PROJECT

"I used to look out my window at manicured greens; now I see rolling meadows, banks of goldenrod, deer, goldfinches, turkey, ducks and endangered species, like honeybees and Monarch butterflies, making a comeback. I enjoyed the sight of the golf course but I love the proliferation of flora and fauna that now make up these 148 acres. When I walk along the path, I marvel at the new varieties that are cropping up all over this magnificent place."

- PATRICIA M. | AUG. 2020



HEMLOCKS LAND

"When plans to build a home on our land fell through years ago, we had no choice but to let it sit. I feel relieved that it's going to ALT now who will preserve the land and keep it free from development forever."

- Steve K. | DEC. 2019

Addressing Our Region's Challenges: ADAPTING TOGETHER FOR CONSERVATION

by Lindsay Dill | Marketing Communications Director

For ALT as an organization and for our staff as individuals, this time of year is typically spent reflecting on a year of activity. We're usually looking back at how many volunteers we worked the land with, how many learners of all ages we interacted with through our nature-based programming, and how many communities we worked hand-in-hand with to protect more green space. The transition to a new year is our time to look back on what we set out to do, what we were able to accomplish, what surprises caught us along the way, and where we would like to be at this time next year.



A Bethel Green steward monitors the trails of his favorite green space. Bethel Green was permanently protected in early 2020 and has been a haven for this volunteer and neighbors like him. Photo by Lindsay Dill.



Young learners participate in ALT's nature-based programming adapted for a virtual platform. Photo by Christopher J. Beichner.



A father and son walk the trails of Audubon Greenway to participate in the conservation area's first StoryWalk, which served as a family-friendly, pandemic-safe public, outdoor activity. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

In looking back on 2020, we see a year of improvisation, resilient supporters, strong communities, and - with supporters like you - a tough but promising road ahead.

This year saw a marked increase in visitors to green spaces of all kinds - our conservation areas were no exception. This serves as further proof of the need for more permanently-protected, close-to-home green space; and despite this year's unforeseen challenges, we - with the support of community members like you - were able to make significant progress toward that need. We completed the permanent protection of 260 more acres of green space in five different municipalities, and made substantial progress in raising the funds needed to complete the high-impact Churchill Valley Greenway and Girty's Woods conservation projects, which together will protect another 303 acres upon their acquisitions targeted for early 2021.

In reflecting on our year of stewardship, the activities look different, but the passion of our volunteers looks the same - if not more pronounced. While we couldn't host as many or as high-capacity public volunteer days as usual, many individual volunteers, communities, and companies stepped up to ask, "What can I do?" The increased visitation caused more wear and tear than we're used to, and the support of volunteers like you ensured that our green spaces were cleared of trash, maintained when trees fell across trails, and improved with tree plantings - all the while helping new visitors find their way along ALT trails.

For ALT's learners of all ages, 2020 took our programming through a dramatic transformation. When hands-on learning was not a safe and viable option, our education team adapted our nature-based programming to a virtual platform. What's more: Many of you showed up with excellent questions, great suggestions for future programs, and a renewed vigor for environmental education. We're proud of the work Julie Travaglini, our Senior Director of Education & Curriculum accomplished with scouts seeking badges and patches, adults seeking tips for native backyard gardening, and little learners curious about backyard bugs that they became more familiar with this year.

With supporters like you, we feel confident in taking steps to protect more land, maintain and improve our green spaces, and provide more innovative, nature-based education in these uncertain times. Certainly, this year has underscored how protecting and improving more close-to-home green space and providing nature-based programming are all necessary and important for our individual and community resiliency.

To continue this work, we need your continued support. At this year's end, our goal is to raise \$40,000 toward our general fund. Your donation at this year's end makes it possible to operate our organization day-in and day-out so we can gain momentum and continue helping local people save local land into this next year.



To support ALT's efforts in helping local people save local land, use the enclosed envelope to mail a donation, or visit our secure website donation portal at: alleghenylandtrust.org/donate

ALT volunteers remove invasive vines from young trees at Audubon Greenway. Photo by Lindsay Dill.



GLOBAL RESTORATION, ONE LOCAL TREE AT A TIME

by Caitlin Seiler | Director of Stewardship & Volunteers

A stewardship effort that is consistent across most of our lands and is an ongoing effort across the globe is habitat restoration, specifically removal of nonnative invasive species and replacement with natives.

A nonnative invasive species is one which does not naturally occur in our region (think Pennsylvania over 150 years ago) but is able to grow successfully in our environment. Since it is not naturally growing here, it does not have any predators or other checks to keep it from spreading rapidly. It out-competes natives and can thoroughly take over an area, reducing the overall number of plant species, decreasing the biodiversity and resiliency of a green space.

In addition to growing aggressively, studies have found that nonnative plants have low value to wildlife and early leaf out and dense growth can confuse animal behaviors. This is especially significant to migrating birds as they rely on our green spaces to breed and get the nutrition necessary for travel.

Many invasive species start out in homes and gardens and are accidentally introduced to areas by animal droppings, the bottoms of shoes, and other ways that seeds end up travelling away from one's yard. Many of these plants are lovely to look at and grow quickly, making them a desirable addition to a garden. Japanese bittersweet is a twisting vine that has vibrant red and yellow

berries in the fall, perfect for climbing on a fence and wrapping into a holiday wreath. However, when introduced into the woods it can aggressively spread, girdling saplings and climbing up mature trees blocking sunlight and preventing photosynthesis; essentially starving the trees.

Ecologists discover new invasive plants all the time and often it's not known whether a plant has invasive properties until it has escaped. It's also not always widely known that a species is invasive. Some you may find today at your local nursery: Norway Maple, Callery or Bradford Pear, Winged Euonymus, and Japanese Barberry.

We can't possibly replicate the conditions or maintain what the forests and meadows looked like 150 years ago. However, we can improve the overall quality of an area by protecting the healthiest existing native species, preventing new infestation in high quality habitat, and diversifying where an invasive plant is present. Many invasive species can be removed and replaced with native trees and shrubs that can support a wide variety of species. Even planting one Oak tree in place of a Honeysuckle shrub will support hundreds more species of insects and birds.

Help our efforts by learning common invasive species, be attentive to what you grow in your own yard, and lend a hand at an ALT event to improve our conservation areas.



To learn more about native and invasive species management, habitat restoration, and other more land management topics, visit our website: alleghenylandtrust.org/altsteward/

OUR BUSINESS 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, see page 10 or visit: alleghenylandtrust.org/our-sponsors

Please recognize and patronize our sponsors.

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- Howard Concrete - *Silver*
- LANXESS Corporation - *Silver*
- Goehring Rutter & Boehm Law - *Bronze*
- Northwestern Mutual - *Bronze*

RENEWING

- Fort Pitt Capital - *Silver*

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

Featured Supporter:

The Barnes Family



(left) Richard Barnes opens his barn doors. The barn and surrounding land attracted Richard and his wife to the property decades ago when they made it their home. (right) Richard and Tingle Barnes pose for a photo in their field; they donated a conservation easement to ALT on their land to ensure it would remain forever green. Photos by Lindsay Dill.



The Barnes' land is comprised of small tracts of woodlands, tall grasses, and mowed walking and horseback riding trails.



Tingle Barnes clears twigs from her field. She's managed her land for decades, ensuring invasives are in check, natives are thriving, and wildlife have ample sources of food and shelter.

by Tom Dougherty | VP of Development & External Affairs

Tingle and Richard Barnes had been married a few years and had just welcomed their first child to the family in 1972 when they started thinking they might like a little more open space around them than their suburban neighborhood offered.

"It was just a thought for the future, something to talk about," according to Tingle. "We had a nice house in a nice neighborhood so there really was no urgency, but one day I was perusing the real estate section in the paper and a listing caught my eye, so we decided to just check it out."

It took only minutes for the bucolic 27-acre farm and its small, aged farmhouse in Indiana Township to capture their hearts. "We knew it was the place for us immediately," she said.

The nearly half-century of life lived there since that fortuitous visit has only deepened the Barnes' connection to the special land that has been so good to their family. "Living on this land has kept us young," Tingle said as she walked through the fields pointing out the regular tasks that both she and Richard relish.

There was a time a decade or so back with their two children newly out of the home and living out of state that the couple gave some brief consideration to moving elsewhere, but

that notion was short-lived. "We were arriving home from a trip at dusk and we pulled up the lane to find our meadows and tree line absolutely aglow with millions of fireflies. We looked at each other immediately and said why would we go anywhere else?" remembers Richard.

And they were inspired to find a way to protect their special land forever. Tingle was familiar with the concept of conservation easements and contacted Allegheny Land Trust to learn more. In 2013 the Barnes' donated a conservation easement to ALT to ensure the permanent preservation of their land.

"Over the years we have seen development dramatically change the character of the North Hills and we just don't want that for the remaining pocket of farms. We felt it was important to do something today so that our land will be protected even after we're not here to protect it ourselves," the couple explained.

"Working through the easement process with ALT was simple and straight forward and knowing that our land will be protected forever gives us a deep sense of satisfaction. Now we encourage others in our area to look into protecting their land to help preserve the rural character that makes our area so special."



Leave a Conservation Legacy

Inspired by the Barnes' story? Learn more about options for conserving your land by contacting ALT's Vice President of Land Protection Roy Kraynyk at rkraynyk@alleghenylandtrust.org.

INNOVATIVE WAYS TO GIVE BACK

by Tom Dougherty | VP of Development & External Affairs

We are thankful for the committed and growing group of people who choose to support our work by making personal financial contributions. Most of these supporters make standard “cash” donations made through check or credit card.

Depending upon your personal financial situation and goals, there are other creative ways that you can provide financial support now or in the future. Here are some additional opportunities to discuss with your financial advisor, tax professional, or other advisor:

GIFTS OF STOCK

A gift of appreciated stock is a tax-wise way to support ALT because the full value of the stock can be donated without you or ALT paying taxes on its appreciated value.

GIVING FROM A DONOR-ADVISED FUND

Give to ALT during your lifetime from an established donor-advised fund and/or designate ALT as a future beneficiary of your fund.

GIFTS OF LAND

There are many ways for a real estate gift to support ALT's efforts. These include direct conservation of the land if suitable, resale to generate funds (if land is not appropriate for protection), or to generate on-going revenue. Gifted land value is eligible for a federal tax deduction.

BARGAIN SALE OF LAND

Selling your land for less than the appraised value allows ALT to raise grant dollars to pay the balance for the land, and the gifted land value is eligible for a federal tax deduction.

GIFTING FROM YOUR IRA

If you are 70½ or older, you may make direct charitable contributions from your IRA. Legislative changes to the rules governing retirement plans went into effect January 1, so check with your financial planner or tax advisor for details.

ALT AS YOUR BENEFICIARY

Another popular way to make a planned gift is to name ALT a beneficiary of all or a portion of your retirement plan assets, other investments, or bank accounts. It can provide tax benefits, and is as simple as filling out a form.

ALT IN YOUR WILL OR REVOCABLE TRUST

Anyone can make a gift in their will or revocable trust. The benefit of this method of giving is that you can make a lasting impact on the future of our region without impacting your immediate finances. You can adjust this pledge of support during your lifetime should circumstances change.

Please note that the above suggestions are not intended to be financial planning, legal, or tax advice. Please consult your planner, lawyer, or accountant to determine if these forms of giving would be appropriate for your circumstances.



A visitor of Wingfield Pines Conservation Area takes in the scenery of the green space.
Photo by Lindsay Dill.



Please contact Tom Dougherty, ALT's Vice President of Development, at tdougherty@alleghenylandtrust.org to discuss possible gifts of these types.

SPONSORING LOCAL CONSERVATION

by Tom Dougherty | VP of Development & External Affairs

One of the questions I often field after making an Allegheny Land Trust presentation to a new audience is: "Where do you get the money?"

I love making these presentations because people are often surprised and impressed by what our small but mighty organization has accomplished, and by the multitude and magnitude of the projects we work on at any given time.

It doesn't take very long for the audience to realize that our work in land conservation, stewardship, and environmental education takes

significant funding, which leads to that common question. So, where do we get our funding?

The short answer is that we rely on four main pillars of support to accomplish our mission: Individuals, Foundations, State and Local Government, and Businesses. Every year in our March issue of *Visitas*, we recognize the generosity of donors from each of these groups.

In this Year-End issue I want to call specific attention to our business sponsors. We are thankful for the contributions of these organizations and hope that you will recognize them for their support of ALT.

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We are working hard to expand our business sponsorship program and would appreciate your help. If you own or work for a business that understands the importance of giving back to the community, I'd love to discuss how we can support each other's goals. Please contact Tom Dougherty, ALT's Vice President of Development, at tdougherty@alleghenylandtrust.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

E Education Events

V Volunteer Events



Photo by Wild Excellence Films.

Twitter in the Trees: Christmas Bird Count Wingfield Pines

December 19 | 8 am - 10 am

Listen to the sounds of the forests, meadows, and streams as we venture into our green spaces to count the wide variety of birds that call Wingfield Pines home. Stay after for the annual Christmas Bird Count with several partners! Generous support from PPG enables us to provide this one-of-a-kind environmental education programming.

All Ages | Cost: \$5



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Girl Scout Fairy Garden Day

Dead Man's Hollow

May 1, 2021 | 10 am - 12:30 pm

Join us for a flower-filled day where Junior Girl Scouts can earn both their Flowers and Gardener badges! Scouts will even make their very own mini fairy garden to take home with them. Other levels of Girl Scouts and children not enrolled in scouts are welcomed to attend as well! Generous support from PPG enables us to provide this one-of-a-kind environmental education programming.

All Ages | Cost: \$20

We're currently developing our 2021 program calendar.

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

EVENTS & THE PANDEMIC

The health, wellness, and safety of all ALT visitors, volunteers, and staff are our top priority. As we continue to follow this fluid situation with COVID-19, we will adhere to recommendations from the PA Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control, and local authorities.

At the time this newsletter was created, the above events are scheduled to occur. We'll update event attendees as the situation develops to protect the health and safety of the public. We will make efforts to reschedule events, and cancel when necessary. We look forward to gathering at our green spaces as soon as it's safe to do so. To stay up-to-date, visit: alleghenylandtrust.org/coronavirus/



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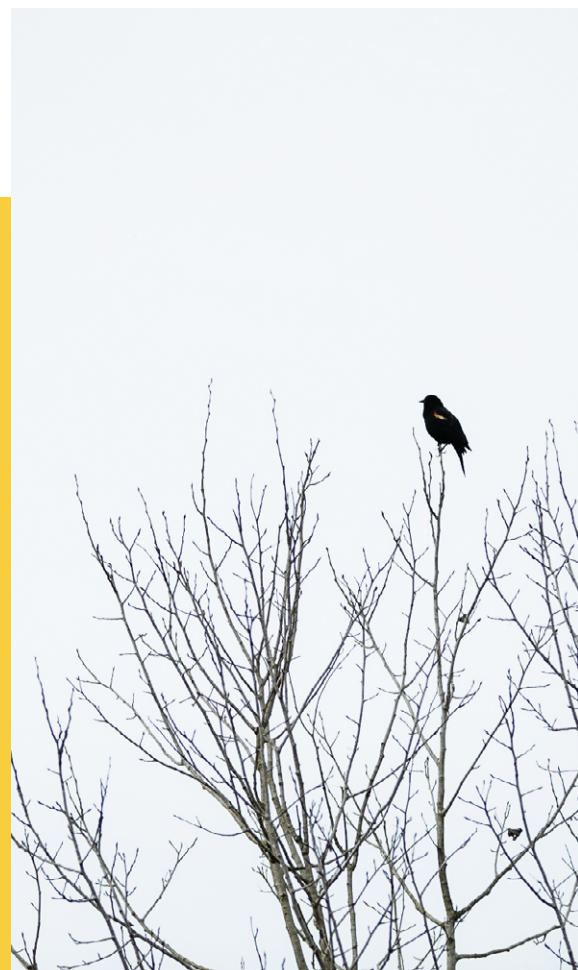


ABOUT ALT

Allegheny Land Trust is a nationally-accredited land conservation nonprofit that has been helping local people save local land in the Pittsburgh region since 1993.

ALT has protected more than 2,700 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 quality of life for all in our region. ALT's areas of strategic priority include Land Conservation, Land Stewardship, Community Conservation, and Nature-Based Education.

With conservation areas in 31 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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Vistas is underwritten by an anonymous donor. Thank you!

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FRONT COVER: A winter snapshot of Audubon Greenway Conservation Area.

BACK COVER: A Red-Winged Black Bird rests on a tree at Wingfield Pines Conservation Area in winter. Photos by Lindsay Dill.



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