

**NOTES FROM THE LAND**  
Saving Green Space Together

**2**

**COMMUNITY CONSERVATION**  
Our Projects in Action

**4**

**WHERE ARE WE NOW?**  
A Map of ALT Projects

**8**

**FUTURE OF OUR FORESTS**  
Study of Barking Slopes

**12**

# VISTAS

An Allegheny Land Trust Publication

Summer 2021



# notes

## FROM THE LAND:

### 303 Acres & the Hundreds of People Who Helped

by Roy Kraynyk | VP of Land Protection & Capital Projects

Children playing at Girty's Woods in Reserve. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

**T**wo projects, 303 acres, 2.5 years, \$3.8 million, and 1,450 people is what ALT's most recent land conservation projects, Churchill Valley Greenway and Girty's Woods, represent.

There were several nail-biting moments and many sleepless nights along the way for ALT staff and grassroots organizers who were closely engaged when both of these projects were in jeopardy due to funding gaps and necessary contract extensions. Fortunately, sellers of the lands provided the extensions that ALT needed. The staff used this time to hustle and raise all of the funding required to not only purchase the land, but also for due diligence such as boundary surveys, environmental assessments, and long-term stewardship.

The community support for both of these projects was outstanding. More than 1,450 individuals made contributions demonstrating how important protecting these local green spaces was to them. Keep in mind, that much of this fundraising was being done at the start of a novel coronavirus pandemic, which saw people flock to parks and green space for the physical and mental health benefits that nature has been proven to provide. Perhaps - in an odd way - the pandemic helped reintroduce some to outdoor recreation and nature, and helped

them to appreciate the value of locally-accessible green space.

The 155-acre Girty's Woods Conservation Area in Reserve Township is one of our larger purchases in recent years. What makes Girty's Woods unique is how close this much undeveloped green space is to the city; it is approximately 3 miles upstream from The Point on the Allegheny River. Unique views of the city's skyscrapers are available from the well-used trails that meander over ridges and down slopes into the densely-populated streets of Millvale. The value of this green space to the surrounding neighborhoods and the town of Millvale was demonstrated by the robust response the project received from students, businesses, community organizations and others to raise awareness and funding for the project - more than 650 individuals raised \$88,020 toward the protection of the land.

Girty's Woods provides convenient access to green space for the 100,000 living within a 3-mile radius, it can sequester up to 127 million gallons of precipitation, 11,000 pounds of pollutants and more than 600,000 pounds of carbon annually. These are extremely important statistics in a county with an "F" grade in air quality by the American Lung Association, and for downstream residents along flood prone Girty's Run. Development of the land could have been catastrophic for homes





Explorers enjoy Girty's Woods conservation project in Reserve. Photo by Lindsay Dill.



Evergreens standing at Churchill Valley Greenway in Churchill & Penn Hills. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

and businesses located close to Girty's Run due to the increased flooding caused by stormwater runoff from new roads, driveways, rooftops and other impervious surfaces.

The 148-acre Churchill Valley Greenway has many things in common with Girty's Woods. The outpouring of community support, that saw more than 800 people give a total of \$273,000, is one of them. Like Girty's Woods, several local residents stepped up to raise awareness and funding, which was critical in both cases. Were it not for a handful of energetic and motivated folks involved, neither of these projects would have been successful. Their acreage and location in densely-populated areas are two more similarities, as well are their important stormwater management and air quality benefits.

Beyond that, the Churchill Valley Greenway differs drastically from the rugged topography of Girty's Woods. It was graded for a golf course into a gently sloping, shallow valley meadow with Chalfant Run flowing through it. It doesn't offer dramatic distant views, but the views of the meadow and Chalfant Run are just as impressive in every season.

Stewardship and land management of Churchill Valley Greenway and Girty's Woods will be very different. Therefore, ALT will be raising funds for each conservation area to develop plans to manage the land, and prioritize a number of maintenance and enhancement projects that are on the radar. One project for example, is to address the abandoned mine drainage that is impairing the water quality of Chalfant Run.

In closing, a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who has supported these projects directly, or ALT in general. Your support is a critical to the success of ALT's land protection work. However, we need your eyes, ears, hands and feet on the land also, as we must properly care for these lands in perpetuity. We want them to be a community asset that we can all be proud of. So, please stay informed and keep an eye out for a variety of opportunities advertised in this newsletter, our e-blasts and website to pitch-in over the coming months and years as we Help Local People Save - AND Care for - Local Land.



To find more info on these and other ALT conservation areas, visit:  
[alleghenylandtrust.org/find-a-green-space](https://alleghenylandtrust.org/find-a-green-space)



A view from an urban ALT conservation area. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

# CONSERVING WITH COMMUNITY: OUR CURRENT URBAN PROJECTS

by Alyson Fearon | Senior Director of Community Conservation & Resiliency

Last edition, I introduced you to some efforts under our new Community Conservation Initiatives. Community Conservation is one of our four core strategic priorities. Through education, innovative programs, and resources, we aim to create equity through conservation by: Empowering community advocates to protect green space in their communities; Engaging municipal leaders on land use policy and best practices; and Creating unique partnerships to ensure all communities can benefit from conservation. Now, I'd like to dive into more detail on a few of the Community Conservation projects actively moving forward this year in three categories: Neighborhood Green Spaces, Stormwater Management and Three Rivers Agricultural Land Initiative (TRALI).

## Neighborhood Green Space

**Unity Corner**  
Perry North, Fineview, Central Northside

Photo courtesy of Google Street View.



This project consists of seven parcels that used to have residential houses, which were demolished by the City, and now sit vacant. The Perry North and Fineview Citizens Councils have already completed a cleanup and landscaping of the corner parcel and want to expand the area because it serves as an important welcome to the neighborhoods. The site also serves as an important pass through for residents catching a bus or walking down the hill into the Northside.

**Healcrest**  
Garfield

Photo by Lindsay Dill.



We have the benefit of working with the Bloomfield Garfield Corporation (BGC), which has been an amazing partner. The BGC has arranged clean-ups, hosted Allegheny Goatscape on-site and otherwise helped to ready the site for ALT ownership and for the Environmental Charter School to use it for outdoor education. The site is also important to the Green Zone Trail Plan, and will be a critical connection for residents to reach a bus stop on the other side of the site.



## Stormwater Management

### St. John's Project Brighton Heights



Photo by Alyson Fearon.



With a new site plan in-hand and approval to move forward from our community partners, the Brighton Heights Citizens Federation, we have started applications for several state grant programs and will follow up to local foundations this fall. We continue to stay current and conduct outreach with the community to keep them informed of the project status. This spring we created a community input mailer for residents to let us know what they would like to see at the site, and plan to hold community meetings as it becomes safe to do so with CDC guidelines.

## Three Rivers Agricultural Land Initiative (TRALI)

### Kincaid Community Garden Garfield



We are excited to share that we have two of the garden parcels under contract and plan to close in the June or July 2021, permanently protecting this garden in a rapidly gentrifying neighborhood. This will ensure years of community efforts in rehabilitating soil and growing food are not lost.

### Enright Community Garden East Liberty



Enright Community Garden is a new project located next to Enright Park behind the Park Plaza site in East Liberty. The area is experiencing changes and new development pressures, and we are pleased to work with East Liberty Development, Inc. (ELDI) to bring another garden under permanent protection.



To learn more about our community conservation efforts, contact Alyson Fearon at [afearon@alleghenylandtrust.org](mailto:afearon@alleghenylandtrust.org), or visit our website at [alleghenylandtrust.org](http://alleghenylandtrust.org).



# Addressing Our Region's Challenges: REFLECTING ON THE PAST YEAR

by Lindsay Dill | Marketing Communications Director

More Americans are getting vaccinated every day, and some semblance of normalcy is beginning to return to our lives – we can share time indoors with vulnerable-but-vaccinated friends and family, visit our favorite restaurants, bars, and gyms, and breathe easier – both literally and metaphorically speaking. As “normal” returns, we hope some silver lining “abnormal” habits remain. Namely: The valuation of green space.



A visitor hikes at Girty's Woods in December 2020 for the first time, enjoying what close-to-home green space has to offer.



Churchill Valley Greenway in Churchill & Penn Hills has seen full parking lots on a near-daily basis since the start of the pandemic.

Last year, we wrote one of our “regional challenges” articles about the importance of close-to-home green space in times of crisis, like the pandemic. Our green spaces experienced marked increases in visitation rates, as was evidenced by our small low-impact parking spaces at any time on any given day (not just weekends!).

In the spring and summer of 2020, according to a United States Mobility Report conducted by Google's location services, visitation to Parks saw an increase of 86% nationwide and of 152% in Pennsylvania. As we realized the impact the pandemic was having on green space visitation habits, we put together our own survey to get a better understanding of our explorers' experience on the land. More than 80% of participants in our survey about green space visitation during the pandemic said they themselves visited green spaces more regularly than they typically would at that time of year, and more than 75% said they noticed an increase in visitors to their regular green space locations.

Now, more than a year after our country's initial lock-down, the National Park Service conducted their own study of visitation and found surprising data. According to their tracking, “more than 237 million people visited national park sites in 2020. And while some parks saw significant increases in visitations during some months, the overall number of tourists at all sites decreased 28% from 2019.”

Initially, I found this shocking and contradictory to my experience as I found myself spending all of my new-found time – once spent commuting, going to restaurants, spending time with friends/family indoors – outdoors. Also, friends and family who were not previously “outdoorsy” were doing the same. So, anecdotally, that didn't add up. That is, it didn't add up until I realized where we were all spending this newfound outdoors time: At close-to-home green spaces. As we all needed to stay at home, we stopped looking for wild and wonder far away, and instead turned our adventure-seeking attention to our own communities.

Thus far this year, that enthusiasm for close-to-home green space has not waned. Our conservation areas' parking lots are frequently filled, trail use is accompanied by polite “excuse me”s as we give fellow explorers space while passing, and curious learners of all ages are signing up for our environmental education events as we're all eager to explore the outdoors.

While I'm looking forward to many things returning, I also hope we all keep in mind what was there for us in times of need – whether it was bread-making, learning a new language, or taking up a new close-to-home green space as your gathering place.



Become a Member to support the protection of more close-to-home green space for all:  
[alleghenylandtrust.org/become-a-member](https://alleghenylandtrust.org/become-a-member)

An ALT environmental educator runs a guided hike during the pandemic at Devil's Hollow conservation area. Photos by Lindsay Dill.







## 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](http://alleghenylandtrust.org/our-sponsors)

Please recognize and patronize our sponsors.

### NEW

- Lanxess Corporation - *Platinum*
- Suncrest Homes - *Platinum*
- FedEx Ground - *Gold*
- evolveEA - *Bronze*
- Agile Rising - *Supporting*
- Enscoe Long Insurance Group - *Supporting*
- Lucky Sign Spirits - *Other*
- Jean-Marc Chatellier's French Bakery - *Other*
- Thornwood Veterinary Hospital - *Other*

### RENEWING

- Federal Home Loan Bank - *Gold*
- Fort Pitt Capital Group - *Silver*
- Michael Baker International - *Supporting*

If you're interested in becoming an ALT sponsor, please contact Tom Dougherty at [tdougherty@alleghenylandtrust.org](mailto:tdougherty@alleghenylandtrust.org)



## A Decade of the Hamm Internship

by Tom Dougherty | VP of Development & External Affairs

Every year since 2012, a passionate and knowledgeable student of the environment has worked with us at the unique Wingfield Pines Conservation Area. The intern helps maintain and enhance the land, improve plant and wildlife habitat, conduct educational and scientific programming and act as the face of ALT to the conservation area's many visitors during the busy summer season.

Far more than simply a good summer job, the internship provides a truly outstanding opportunity each year for one college or graduate-level student in an environmental field. The intern in this position can apply their classroom learnings and further explore their career interests through hands-on application in a working outdoor laboratory.

Wingfield Pines is a better place thanks to a decade of service from Hamm Interns, most of whom have leveraged their internship experience as a building block to successful conservation or environmental careers. The internship was established a decade ago in memory of John Hamm, a board member of the Pennsylvania Environmen-

tal Defense Fund (PAEDF) and a tireless advocate for Chartiers Creek. Generous donations at the time from PAEDF and Mr. Hamm's friends and family created the initial fund that enabled the internship to be established.

Unfortunately, that initial fund's investment proceeds do not cover the total cost of the internship each year, leaving ALT to cover more than \$1,500 of costs out of the organization's regular operating cash flow. This annual deficit could be permanently funded by an increase of \$30,000 in the Hamm Internship Fund.

On this, the 10th Anniversary of its creation, we're launching a fundraising campaign to raise the \$30,000 necessary to guarantee the sustainability of the Hamm Internship in perpetuity. We are respectfully requesting your assistance in reaching this goal.

We hope you will contribute today to ensure that this program will always provide deserving students with career-building opportunities while improving this cherished conservation area.



To help continue the Hamm Internship opportunity for years to come, please donate using the enclosed envelope or by visiting our website at [alleghenylandtrust.org/donate](http://alleghenylandtrust.org/donate).

## Meet Our 2021 Hamm Intern



### Alexander Wees

2021 Hamm Intern

Alexander Wees is a rising Senior at Waynesburg University majoring in both Biology and Environmental Science with a minor in Chemistry. He's a member of Waynesburg's Ecostewards Club, which focuses on environmental stewardship, and serves as the Secretary of the Biology Club. Raised in Irwin, Alexander has always been passionate about the outdoors as his family spent a lot of time outdoors. He was also a Boy Scout. He'll spend summer 2021 at Wingfield Pines maintaining and improving the green space for current and future visitors to enjoy.



# Where Are We Now?

Allegheny Land Trust's newly-protected and long-owned lands, and current conservation projects

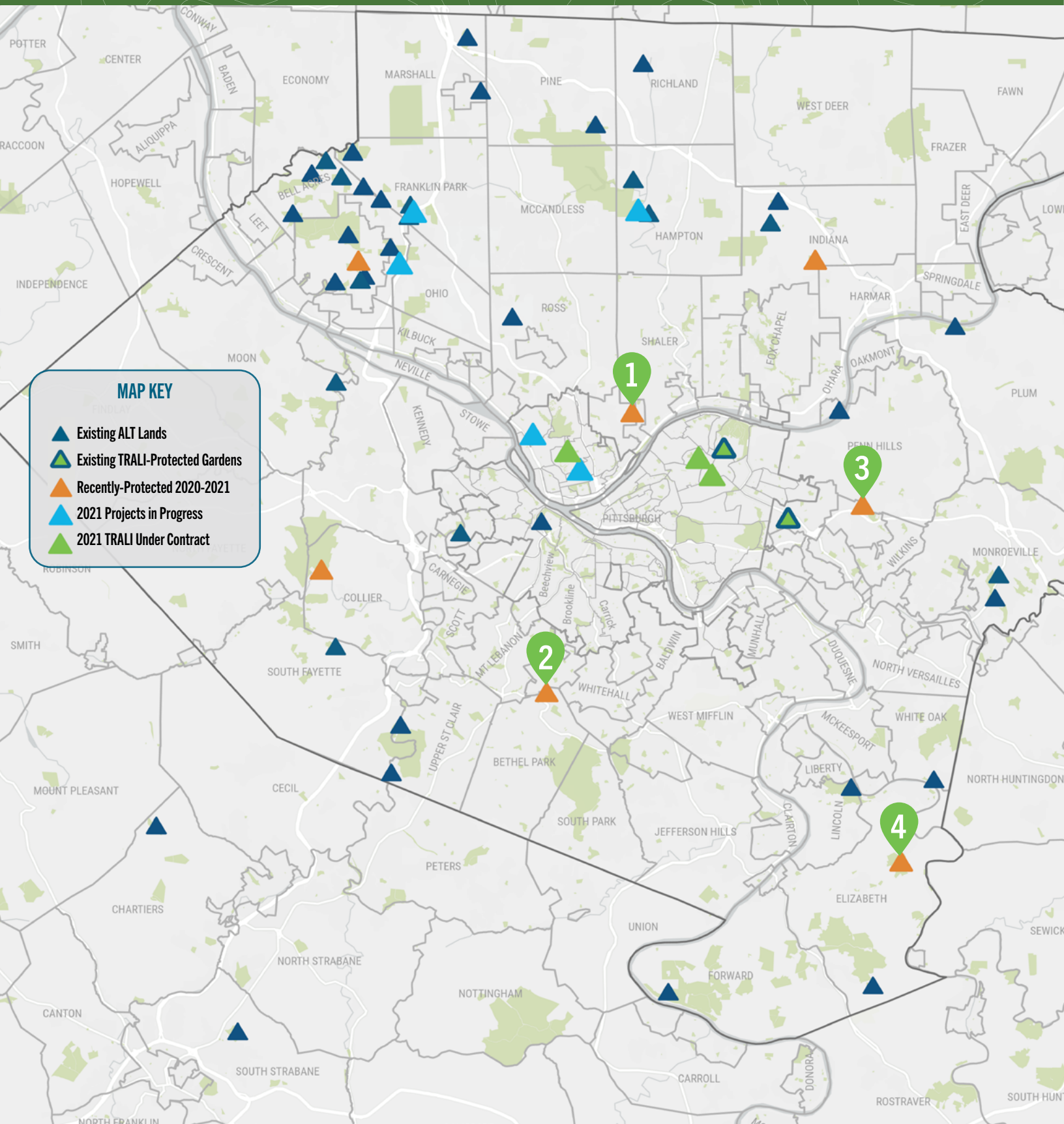






Photo by Lindsay Dill.



1

### **Girty's Woods | Reserve, PA** **Protecting Central Green Space**

The community came together to protect this rare 155-acre tract of green space that connects Reserve, Millvale and Shaler. This unique land will absorb 127 million gallons of rainwater annually, provide green space access for 100,000 residents living within a 3-mile radius, and preserve not only the character but also the habitat unique to this area.

Photo by Lindsay Dill.



2

### **Bethel Green | Bethel Park, PA** **Former Mine Land on the Mend**

We closed on this 40.5-acre project right on the outset of the global pandemic, and we didn't let that hold back our activity. With help from local volunteers and three Eagle Scout-led groups, stewardship efforts have not only maintained but also improved the quality and health of this new green space's habitat and trails.

Photo by Lindsay Dill.



3

### **Churchill Valley | Churchill & Penn Hills, PA** **A Green Oasis in an Urban Landscape**

As stated throughout this issue, we're excited to now protect this 148-acre green space. Once an exclusive country club, this land will now serve as an inclusive, publicly-accessible green space with paved trails for all to enjoy. We hope you'll check it out on your own or view our event calendar to find an ALT-led volunteer or environmental education event.

Photo by Tom Dougherty.



4

### **Buena Vista Heights | Elizabeth, PA** **Protecting Quintessential Green Space**

We were able to protect this 124-acre highland woods to preserve unique scenic character, biodiversity, the water quality of a small tributary, and the peace of the surrounding communities last year. We have certified our forest's carbon capture with City Forest Carbon and had our first sale of credits to Cloverly. This is a unique partnership, and one that ALT hopes to continue.





## Featured Supporters:



## FRIENDS OF CHURCHILL VALLEY GREENWAY

(left) Explorers hike Churchill Valley Greenway in Churchill and Penn Hills.  
(right) A tree in afternoon light along Chalfant Run at Churchill Valley Greenway.  
Photos by Lindsay Dill.

by Lindsay Dill | Marketing Communications Director

Sure, we say the following words over and over again because it's our slogan, but it became our slogan because it's true to the core of our existence: we are Helping Local People Save Local Land.

As we faced a goal of \$3 million to protect the 148-acre Churchill Valley Greenway in Churchill and Penn Hills, we took a big gulp and got to work. Worry about gaining local awareness and support faded, however, as many individuals showed up to community meetings, as dozens asked how to

help, and as a few helped form a grassroots team that stuck with us from the start to the finish of the fundraising effort.

We've never raised \$3 million for one project before, and it was possible thanks to many – state, foundation, private, and individual funders- but especially thanks to a few who served as our grassroots community organizers. We have words from a few folks below so they can tell you in their own words their story about helping us protect the Churchill Valley Greenway.



### Rick Duncan

As a Penn Hills resident, I drove past the Churchill Valley Country Club hundreds of times, barely noting the mowed, rolling fairways or the golfcarts scooting along the asphalt paths and bridges. I never dreamed that it would one day become a beautiful, peaceful, natural greenway – a place where the area's communities can come to walk, run, bike, birdwatch, walk dogs, roll strollers, splash in the stream, and freely enjoy 148 acres of easily accessible meadows and forest.

Now, as I walk the old but still intact golfcart paths (which makes the greenway wonderfully accessible to small children and those with disabilities), I think how much I'm going to enjoy the seasons in this place: perhaps lazing away a hot summer day in a hammock between two shady trees; or watching the flowers and leaves change with the fall; or gliding over the snowy paths on cross-country skis; or ... just dreaming.

Photo by Lindsay Dill.



### Renee Dolney

When the Country Club shut down, it was sold at Sheriff's Sale and the new owners' original intent was to frack it. Churchill quickly outlawed it, the land sat, and nature came roaring back.

Before long, the old country club became a beloved community green space, re-wilded with a wildflower meadow and a beautiful stream. Dozens of locals loved this little slice of heaven, but its fate was uncertain and we felt there was not going to be a good outcome unless we could find a way to save it for generations to come.

Now, after two years of hard work, the land is forever protected, and becomes more popular every day. We are forever grateful and delighted for this saved local land. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, ALT.

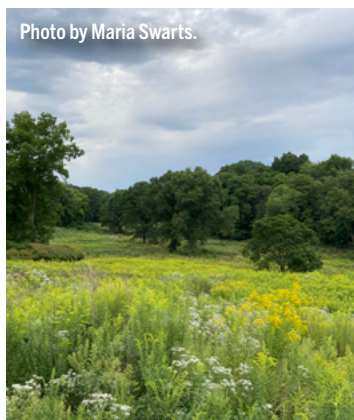


### Emily Golling

[Churchill Valley Greenway] is one of the few amenities within walking distance of hundreds of homes.

Now, more than ever, the community is taking a renewed interest in being in nature, and [Churchill] provides an accessible way for people to do so that is close to their homes.

Photo by Maria Swarts.



### Maria Swarts

Through perseverance and partnership, nearly 150 critical acres of my watershed is now protected. ALT recognized the economic, environmental and social value of this unique suburban green space.

When several dedicated members of the local community brought their vision of what this former country club could be to ALT, they listened and acted. They were aided by state and local community leaders who advocated tirelessly for funding. I cannot overstate how much the successful conclusion of this project means to me personally and to those who walk the trails of this gem of a park.

The Churchill Greenway is a four-season park with a living stream that is surrounded by meadows and hillsides bursting with life, and it is accessible to everyone.





# science at home

## 5 Unexpected Places to Seek Wildlife in Your Backyard

by Julie Travaglini | Senior Director of Education & Curriculum

### 1. Under Tree Leaves

Flip over a tree leaf, as you never know what caterpillars are munching or what insects have created galls on the leaf.

### 2. Under Rocks

Tons of arthropods and insects make their homes under garden rocks!

### 3. In Mulch Beds

Lots of insects burrow into mulch beds to make a home. In addition, many species of mushrooms will grow from mulch as a substrate.

### 4. In Your Lights

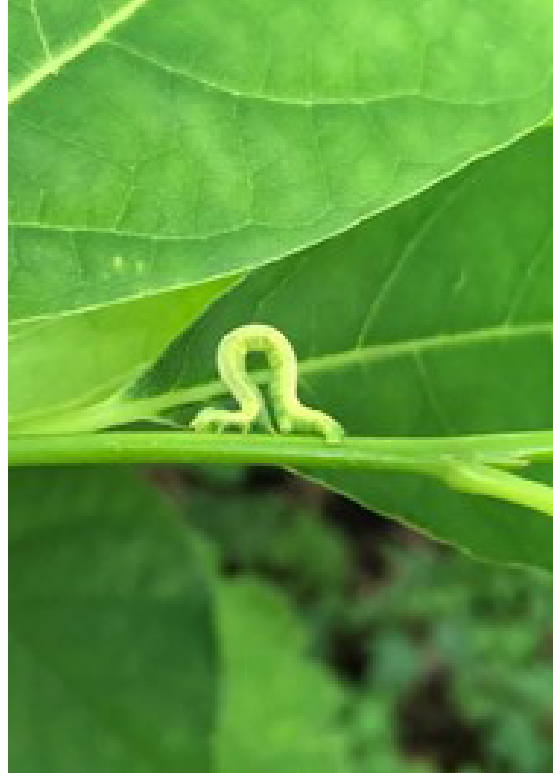
Many creatures like moths and spiders hang out in light fixtures and sconces.

### 5. Fence Posts

Aside from often attracting jumping spiders (my favorite!), many lichens will form on wooden fence rails and posts.

Learn more about the outdoors with Julie in webinars or on the land by attending an event:

[alleghenylandtrust.org/events](http://alleghenylandtrust.org/events)



(top left) Geometer moth caterpillar, i.e. "inch worm".  
(top right) Baby zebra jumping spider. Photos by Julie Travaglini.  
(bottom) North American giant millipede. Photo courtesy of Chris Wightman via Flickr Creative Commons.



## From Screens Back to Greens

by Julie Travaglini | Senior Director of Education & Curriculum

**W**hat is "green space" anyway? By the Oxford Language Dictionary, a green space is an area of grass, trees, or other vegetation set apart for recreational or aesthetic purposes in an otherwise urban environment.

When we think of green space, we may think of large meadows, county parks, or maybe even one of ALT's newly-protected properties such as Girty's Woods or Churchill Valley Greenway. However, this past year it seems like we got way more "screen space" than green space.

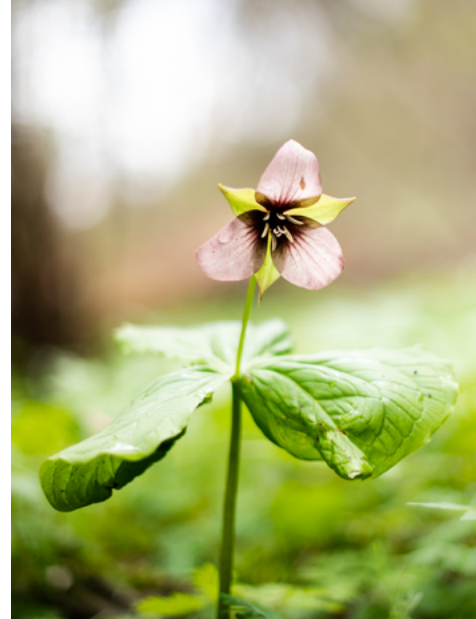
This past year certainly taught us all to appreciate what we have, and what's around us. Without being able to get out and hike as much around the country, I learned to appreciate and know my own backyard green space. And I thought I knew it pretty well already; after all, I had logged over 300 species of plants,

fungi, insects, etc., on an iNaturalist project for my backyard! But when it comes to the great outdoors, there's always more to learn and more to see. That is probably my favorite part of being a naturalist and an educator, that no matter how much time I spend outdoors, there is always more to learn.

It was Darwin who once said that a naturalist could not walk more than 100 yards without spotting "some new and wondrous creature". I certainly feel that way not only about my own backyard, but certainly the green spaces ALT considers all of our backyards.

I hope this summer you'll come out and continue to learn with ALT. We are so excited to finally be back in person with you out on the land. Come explore OUR backyard green spaces!





(left) University of Pittsburgh graduate student Cheyenne Moore analyzes light availability at Barking Slopes. (right) Trillium in bloom at Barking Slopes, which is host to numerous native wildflowers. Photos by Lindsay Dill.

## Studying the Future of Forest Health at Barking Slopes

Introduction by Caitlin Seiler | Director of Stewardship & Volunteers

Article by Researchers Dr. Sara Kuebbing, Dr. Mason Heberling, and Cheyenne Moore

Along Coxcomb Hill Road in Plum Borough sits a sign for the Barking Slopes Conservation Area, behind which is a steep, earthen path under a utility power line. For many, this is the most they see of the 150-acre green space. However, there is much more to experience and discover at this wild area.

It's unique habitat has attracted the interest of local researchers who are examining how forests may change in the future in response to changing climates and plant invasions. With a grant from the National Science Foundation starting in 2020, Dr. Sara Kuebbing, an Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh, and Dr. Mason Heberling, Assistant Curator of Botany at Carnegie Museum of Natural History, are leading a team of student researchers in a multi-year project to study how changing climates and invading plants might affect forest wildflower diversity at Barking Slopes. Please find an excerpt from an article written by the researchers below.

Although we often look to appreciate forests for their trees, some of the most exciting plants are not trees at all. Trees may take up more space in forests, but over 80% of the plant diversity in forests are less than a few feet tall, living near the forest's floor. Barking Slopes Conservation Area is a great example of how incredibly diverse a forest in this region can be, even beyond its trees.

A coal mine for many decades until the 1970s, this land is now home to a huge array of beautiful native wildflowers, such as trillium, wild ginger, delphinium, hepatica, toothwort, violets, and so much more. Researchers and community scientists have documented over 76 native forest wildflower species at the site, including rare species found in very few other parts of the state.

While the wildflower habitat is permanently protected by ALT, the population faces significant ecological threats from changing weather patterns and encroaching invasive species. Human combustion of fossil fuels is increasing carbon dioxide in our atmosphere and changing the climate, causing significant challenge to native wildflowers not

accustomed to these warmer winters and springs. Humans have also introduced many non-native plant species; these plants migrate from yards to forests, and change the patterns and processes of the forest ecosystems. Together, changing climates and these new, nonnative invasive shrubs represent two of the most dominant human-caused ecological threats to biodiversity around the globe.

Warming climates means shorter winters and earlier springs. Researchers around the world have tracked how plants and animals are changing the timing of seasonal events, like the flowering of cherry blossoms and daffodils, the arrival of the first migratory robin, or the first cicada's song are occurring earlier than they were decades ago. However, recently, Heberling and colleagues discovered another disturbing aspect of this trend. By comparing historical records—including Henry David Thoreau's journals of spring flowering plants—to contemporary observations of flowering and leaf-out times for the same species, the researchers surprisingly found that wildflowers were leafing out about one week earlier than they had in the past, but trees were leafing out two weeks earlier than they were 160 years ago.



Read the full article written by the researchers at: [www.alleghenylandtrust.org/green-space/barking-slopes](http://www.alleghenylandtrust.org/green-space/barking-slopes)



# 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's 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 Devil's Hollow Conservation Area enjoys the scenery of the green space. Photo by Lindsay Dill.



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



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**E** Education Events

**V** Volunteer Events



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

## First Friday Hike Series

**July 9 | Audubon Greenway**

**August 6 | Bethel Green**

**September 3 | Churchill Valley Greenway**

Every first Friday of the month (barring holidays) you can join an ALT education staff member for a guided walk on one of our green spaces. Each hike takes place from 10-11:30 a.m.

**All Ages | Cost: \$5**

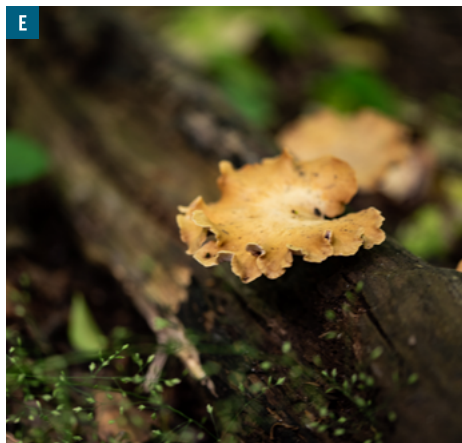


Photo by Lindsay Dill.

## Beginner's Mushroom Walk

**Bethel Green**

July 16 | 10 am - 12 pm

New to mushrooming? Join our introductory walk and ID session. Learn how and where to look for mushrooms, general family and order identification tips, and the common names of the mushrooms we encounter.

**All Ages | Cost: \$5**



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

## Mushroom Walk with WPMC

**Sycamore Island**

July 31 | 9 am - 12 pm

Join ALT staff and Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club identifiers for a mushroom hunting trip to Sycamore Island. We'll shuttle attendees to and from the island.

**All ages | Cost: \$25**



Photo by Caitlin Seiler.

## Trail Tuesday Series

**Dead Man's Hollow**

3rd Tuesdays | June - October | 6 - 8 pm

Lace up your boots, get outside, and lend a hand in helping improve Dead Man's Hollow! Join us every third Tuesday (June-October) as we work to improve the Hollow.

**All Ages | Cost: Free to Attend**



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

## ALLEGHENY LAND TRUST 2021 DAY OF GIVING | SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

Your gift will go twice as far in supporting our efforts to protect more land, maintain our green spaces, and provide nature-based education to more communities during our upcoming Day of Giving.

Why give during our Day of Giving? Conservation of local land has become ever-more important as our regional challenges, coupled with the need for close-to-home green space in times of crisis, have made local protected land more indispensable. So, please, help support Allegheny Land Trust as we continue helping local people save local land in our region.

**You can contribute to our 2021 Day of Giving by using the enclosed VISTAS envelope and mark the "Day of Giving" checkbox, or by visiting [alleghenylandtrust.org/donate](https://alleghenylandtrust.org/donate) and checking the "Day of Giving/General Fund" box.**





## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Sally Wade**  
Chair

**David Hunter**  
Vice Chair

**Joanne Foerster**  
Secretary

**Alex Lake, CPA**  
Treasurer

**Patricia DeMarco, Ph.D.**  
**Daniel Dickerman**  
**Ashley DiGregorio**  
**Tony DiTommaso, Esq.**  
**Beth Dutton**  
**Christine Graziano, AICP**  
**Brian Jensen, PhD.**  
**Sherwood Johnson, M.D.**  
**Emily Mueller, Esq.**  
**Bryan Ritti**  
**Lauren Terpak**  
**Jennifer Thoma**  
**Edward Weller, CPA**

## STAFF

**Chris Beichner**  
President & CEO

**Lindsay Dill**  
Marketing Communications  
Director

**Tom Dougherty**  
Vice President of Development  
& External Affairs

**Alyson Fearon**  
Senior Director of Community  
Conservation & Resiliency

**Guido Girimonti**  
Land Manager

**Roy Kraynyk**  
Vice President of Land  
Protection & Capital Projects

**Megan Orient**  
Development Associate

**Jaclyn Rosenbaum**  
Bookkeeper

**Emilie Rzotkiewicz**  
Vice President of Stewardship

**Caitlin Seiler**  
Director of Stewardship & Volunteers

**Julie Travaglini**  
Senior Director of  
Education & Curriculum

**Alexander Wees**  
2021 Hamm Intern

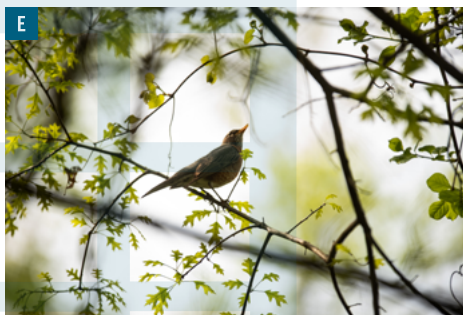


Photo by Lindsay Dill.

### Professional Development: WILD about Birds Workshop

#### Wildbird Recovery Center

August 13 | 9:30 am - 4 pm

Join us and a DCNR State Parks Educator for a Project WILD workshop all about birds! Project WILD's mission is to provide wildlife-based conservation and environmental education that fosters responsible actions toward wildlife and related natural resources. All curriculum materials are backed by sound educational practices and theory, and represent the work of many professionals within the fields of education and natural resource management from across the country.

All Ages | Cost: \$10



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

### Webinar: Butterflies 101

#### Zoom (Virtual)

August 25 | 5 - 5:45 pm

Join Senior Director of Education and Curriculum, Julie, for a look at some of the amazing biology of butterflies. Also, learn how to ID some of our more common butterfly species.

All Ages | Cost: Free



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

### Mushroom Walk with WPMC Churchill Valley Greenway

August 20 | 10 am - 12 pm

Join an ALT staff member and an Identifier with the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club for a mushroom walk and ID session at ALT's newest green space

All ages | Cost: \$5



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

### Campfire Cooking 101 Wingfield Pines

August 31 | 5:30 - 7 pm

August 31st is National Eat Outside Day, so join ALT and PA Master Naturalist Kristen Haas in a campfire cooking class! We'll learn and cook some unique recipes over the fire, and participants will take home a list of recipes to make on their next camping trip. Kristen will be demonstrating some great ideas, tips and tricks that the whole family will love.

All Ages | Cost: \$5

For registration & more information, visit: [alleghenylandtrust.org/events](https://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. To stay up-to-date, visit: [alleghenylandtrust.org/coronavirus/](https://alleghenylandtrust.org/coronavirus/)







## ALLEGHENY LAND TRUST

416 Thorn Street, Sewickley,  
Pennsylvania 15143  
phone | 412.741.2750  
email | [info@alleghenylandtrust.org](mailto:info@alleghenylandtrust.org)  
web | [alleghenylandtrust.org](http://alleghenylandtrust.org)



# 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 3,200 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 33 municipalities, there is now an ALT conservation area within 10 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.



KEEP IN TOUCH

### FOLLOW US:



Please recycle or reuse this newsletter when you're finished — use it to help start a fire and eat some s'mores! Email us with your creative reuse of Vistas.

Vistas is underwritten by an anonymous donor. Thank you!

©Allegheny Land Trust 2021.

**FRONT COVER:** A May Apple in bloom at Girty's Woods conservation area in Reserve.

**BACK COVER:** An ALT environmental educator flips over a fern leaf to reveal its spores at Devil's Hollow conservation area in Sewickley.

Photos by Lindsay Dill.



Printed on  
Recycled  
Material.



EFP's Combined  
Federal Code  
is 62348