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An Allegheny Land Trust Publication

Fall 2021



notes

FROM THE LAND:

Collaboration Nets 850 Protected Acres Connecting Northwest Allegheny County Green Spaces

by Roy Kraynyk | VP of Land Protection & Capital Projects

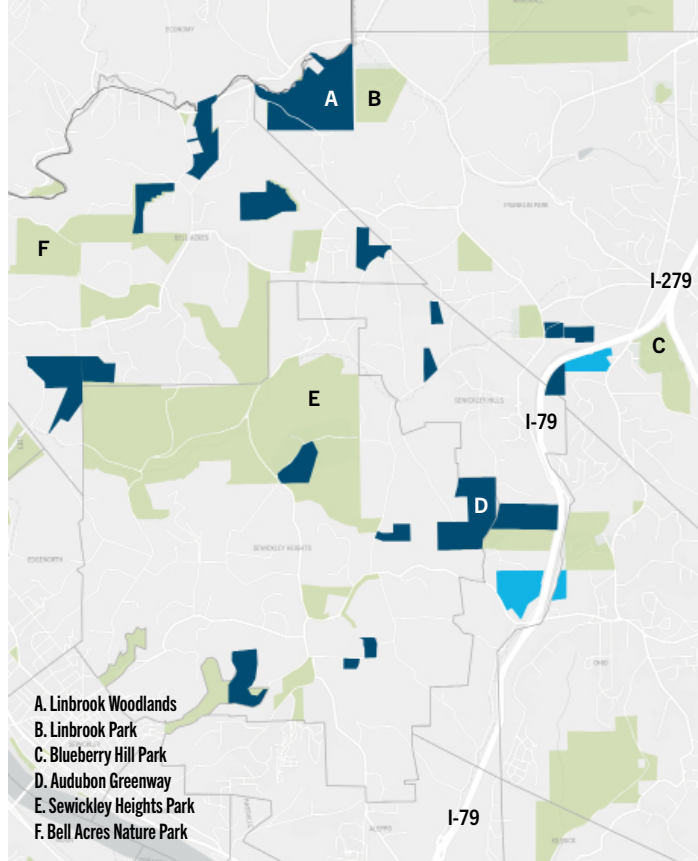
In 2002, ALT began protecting land in several municipalities comprising northwest Allegheny County including Sewickley Heights, Sewickley Borough, Franklin Park, Sewickley Hills, Bell Acres, and Marshall Township. In one way or another, these municipalities were a critical partner in the effort to protect this land whether it was direct financial support, providing mailing lists, being a fiscal agent for grants, providing letters of support to state legislators and Secretaries of state departments such as Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), or Community and Economic Development (DCED) where ALT's grant applications were pending, and providing contacts to potential businesses or individuals whom may be inclined to financially support the project.

The result is a growing greenway network intended to connect the lands of Blueberry, Acorn and Linbrook Parks in Franklin Park and Sewickley Heights Park, Sewickley Hills Park, and Bell Acres Nature Reserve. You can see on the map how our project parcels (dark blue) connect with other already-green parcels to create a greenway/park circuit.

The benefits of connectivity are migration corridors for wildlife, hiking, and off-road cycling trail circuits, protecting scenic beauty, water quality, and carbon sequestration. Many of the protected acres are steep, wooded slopes with 250 feet or more of elevation changes and riparian corridors that harbor a diversity of plant and animal habitat providing opportunities for them to migrate to wetter/drier, warmer/cooler conditions as climate change impacts their current habitat. Life has three reactions to changes in its habitat – adapt, migrate, or die.

2022 will be a good year for this project in that ALT has 4 parcels under contract to close in March totaling 91 acres in Franklin Park, Sewickley Hills, and Ohio Township (light blue). We have grants worth \$884,000 pending with DCNR and DCED, and this Fall ALT will be launching the campaign to raise the local match required for these grants.

The third critical component of this successful collaboration is you – the resident or business-owner in these communities – who we need to contribute towards the local match the state grants require. Your financial support, regardless of the amount, is critical in two ways, it leverages the larger grants, AND it shows your local and state elected officials that their constituents support land conservation which can in-turn leverage their financial or political support. The absence of any one of the 3 components - ALT, municipality and community - of this successful collaboration makes the work of conserving important green space very difficult. Thank you for your past and continued support of ALT and local land conservation.



(top) A map showing Municipal parks (green), Allegheny Land Trust conservation areas (dark blue), and lands soon-to-be protected (light blue). (left) Researchers study the health of Big Sewickley Creek in relation to nearby protected green space. Photo by Lindsay Dill. (bottom) Young learners participate in educational programming at Linbrook Woodlands conservation area in Northwest Allegheny county. Photo by Beth Dutton.



Help Us Keep the Momentum Rolling

by Tom Dougherty | VP of Development & External Affairs

We - Allegheny Land Trust and supporters like you - are making our community and our world a better place today and for generations to come. That is what conservation is all about, and together we are making quite an impact!

So far in 2021, we've worked with inspiring, supportive communities to permanently protect land in six different municipalities, including the amazing Churchill Valley Greenway and Girty's Woods Conservation Areas.

Additionally, our land stewardship and environmental education efforts continue sustainably caring for more than 3,300 acres of green space and effectively teaching more of our neighbors about the natural world around them.

Together we have accomplished so much, yet there is so much more to do. Quite simply, preserving and caring for more land and growing future conservationists requires resources. We need your help.

Please help us ride our current momentum to greater conservation successes in the months to come by donating during our upcoming Day of Giving.

Participating in ALT's Day of Giving is a valuable way to double your support for local land conservation because every donation made on that day will be matched dollar-for-dollar by the members of our Board of Directors and staff. Because these dedicated, passionate Board members and staff understand how crucial the funds raised on this day are to the success of the organization, they have made individual pledges totaling \$39,000 to create a pool of matching funds for this campaign.

So, please mark your calendar and tell your friends, family, and neighbors: help ALT turn \$39,000 into \$78,000 for conservation by donating during our 2021 Day of Giving!

WAYS TO GIVE

CLICK

alleghenylandtrust.org/donate

MAIL

Using the enclosed self-addressed envelope, and check the "Day of Giving" box.
416 Thorn Street
Sewickley, PA
15143

MATCH

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



Hikers enjoy Girty's Woods conservation area at sunset.
Photo by Lindsay Dill.



Featured Supporters:



(left) A visitor hikes Irwin Run Conservation Area, the land where Ray and Ken are site stewards. Photo by Lindsay Dill. (right) Ray and Ken helped install new signage at Irwin Run Conservation Area. Photo courtesy of Ken Knapp.

by Lindsay Dill | Marketing Communications Director

In 2018, Allegheny Land Trust brought the Pennsylvania Master Naturalist Program (PAMN) to the western side of the state for the first time. The program provides a rich base of nature knowledge for those looking to learn more about the world around them. The program often attracts those looking to connect with their local ecosystems through intensive natural science training and local conservation service work.

Among the first 25 participants of the program were Ray Morris and Ken Knapp. Neither knew the other at the time, but through the months-long program they became close friends and partners in improving their local environment at ALT's Irwin Run Conservation Area.

"We slowly began to realize we had so much in common, and ALT's Irwin Run was actually halfway between our homes," Ken said. "During the program, we'd carpool together, and after the program ended, we started working on Irwin Run as a team. What's cool about that program is that you get to meet a lot of Ray-quality people who also appreciate the outdoors."

Together, they have managed native and invasive species, built and maintained trails, posted way-finding signage, installed bluebird and owl boxes, worked with Eagle Scouts on various projects, hosted clean up events, run stream health surveys, and have staked riparian corridor trees in wet areas at Irwin Run.

For those visiting the site, you can see the impact Ken has had on the land by enjoying the 1-mile Wilson Trail loop, which Ken built and named after his dog that can be seen walking with him on site most days of the week.

If you're on-site and you notice a wealth of blue birds, they're likely there in response to Ray's work. He helps Ken build, maintain, and monitor hundreds of blue bird boxes across the county, some of which are placed at Irwin Run. And if you're walking along Wilson Trail and enjoy a seat on a bench, you'll have connected with Ray's daughter, Colleen.

When she passed away several years ago, Ray's family sponsored a bench in her memory at Irwin Run. Ray said she had a great love for the outdoors, and spent her career in the United States Department of Agriculture to

tend to a better world for future generations. He wanted to remember that as he stewarded Irwin Run.

For both Ray and Ken, the outdoors are a way to tune out from the world's distractions, tune into themselves and their history, and connect with what the natural world has to offer.

"Many focus on financial plan for retirement, and I tell people to remember their life plan for retirement. Having a place like this gives you a purpose – it's a way to do something meaningful that makes an impact," Ken said. "If everyone did a little bit of this, then it would be a much better world."

While they each spent much of their working lives outside of the lens of conservation, they both knew they'd seek out the outdoors in their retirement.

In his retirement, Ken works as an assistant naturalist at the Latodami Nature Center and volunteers as a land steward of Irwin Run.

Ray also spends most of his life in retirement on environmentally-focused missions. He is currently on the board of the Bradford Woods Conservancy, PAMN, and his local Environmental Advisory Council, and is also a land steward of Irwin Run.

"I want to use my time well. If I can't have an impact or if I'm not having fun, then I won't do it," Ray said. "With the time I have left on this Earth, I want to be useful."

While they've accomplished so much at Irwin Run, they look forward continuing to improve it. In the coming months, the two said they'll be focusing on ecological health by continuing to remove invasive species, stake and plant native species, and monitoring wildlife habitats on site. They know there's a lot to be done in the world, and their proud they can do something tangible and close-to-home.

"People shouldn't give up just because they can only do a little bit. The environment starts right outside your window," Ray said. "Let's do something to have an impact locally."



Supporting Education

Top 5 Program Materials Provided with Your Support

by Julie Travaglini | Senior Director of Education & Curriculum

1. Recycled Materials

Toilet paper tubes make mason bee homes and paper towel rolls turn into kaleidoscopes. Shoe boxes make excellent bug hotels!

2. Craft Supplies

We have several commonly-used items in our camps and outreaches, like: glue, construction paper, pipe cleaners, google eyes, and scissors.

3. Puppets

We see a large percentage of early childhood students, and utilizing educational puppets makes programming come alive.

4. Books

We read a story at most of our programming for early childhood students and utilize diverse nature storybooks in teach professional development.

5. Lamination Sleeves

Every lesson plan, visual aid, worksheets, etc. is laminated to increase durability and reduce paper waste.

Providing all-ages, hands-on programming requires resources. We're grateful to our members for their ongoing support of our work. We hope you'll donate during our 2021 Day of Giving to support our environmental education efforts in the region.

alleghenylandtrust.org/donate



(top left) Sewickley StoryWalk materials. (top right) Kids make a habitat with up-cycled Environmental Education program materials in use. Photos by Julie Travaglini. (bottom) Senior Director of Education & Curriculum Julie Travaglini runs an early childhood program at Fern Hollow Nature Center. Photo by Lindsay Dill.



Your Support Helps Our Programs

by Julie Travaglini | Senior Director of Education & Curriculum

Having an Education Team as a land trust puts ALT into an elite category among all land trusts nationwide. Having an Education Team, let alone one that sees thousands of individuals a year even in the midst of a pandemic, is a true rarity.

In 2016, I had the opportunity to travel to Minneapolis for the Land Trust Alliance's national conference called RALLY, where thousands of land trust professionals gather to network and learn. Over the course of my 4 days there, I never met another educator from a land trust. Most people I met were shocked - and excited! - to learn how ALT was incorporating thousands of people a year into the conservation conversation through education programming. It was then I realized how unique and special my role was within not only ALT, but land trusts as a whole.

ALT's Education Team is an asset, and it certainly doesn't come cheap. Besides the cost of staffing our programming, creating and maintaining high quality programming for all ages costs money. The cost of goods such as paper, pen-

cils, scissors, glue, tape, etc. adds up as items are used up by camps and outreaches. Books and identification guides get wet and torn and need replaced. Tools such as compasses, GPS units, binoculars, and even bug boxes and creek nets wear out and need mended or replaced. Luckily, I can sew and have breathed new life into many nets and puppets, but even the cost of thread and twine would surprise you! New technology emerges that makes something we use in programming obsolete. Educational standards change and programs need complete overhauls. It all adds up but is worth it to educate a next generation of Earth and land stewards.

Your support on the ALT Day of Giving could dramatically improve our programming by allowing us to enhance lesson plans to new state educational standards, create new lessons focusing on local resiliency issues, mend existing materials or replace what has been "over-loved" by students. Please consider supporting ALT this fall to help not only the Education Team, but also the whole organization reach even more learners of all ages in the coming year.

Addressing Our Region's Challenges: How Partnering with the Allegheny Regional Asset District Improves Our Communities

by Roy Kraynyk | VP of Land Protection & Capital Projects

Since 1995, ALT has been leading collaboration between private non-profit trail organizations and municipalities to seek Allegheny Regional Asset District (RAD) grants to build, maintain, and improve the Regional Trail System throughout Allegheny County.



Early morning hikers take to the Montour Trail near protected ALT green space. The trail and the green space are RAD-supported efforts.



A volunteer walks along a Dead Man's Hollow (DMH) trail in fall. RAD has supported projects to help improve this green space.

ALT has been acting as the applicant, grant administrator, and fiscal agent for the private and public trail project sponsors. On average, the combined application represents 5-6 organizations and projects that are submitted under the name of ALT. This year, projects sponsored by ALT, Hollow Oak Land Trust, Friends of the Riverfront, Pine Township, Rachel Carson Trail Conservancy, and Steel Valley Trail Conservancy are represented in the RAD Capital grant application requesting a total of \$290,000 to improve trail safety by eliminating flooding, line painting, creating dedicated road crossings, and acquiring more land or easements to move trails off of public roads.

ALT has a request in for funds to re-deck the pedestrian bridges at our newly-acquired Churchill Valley Greenway. Maintenance equipment and enhancements to the trail experience such as restrooms, water fountains, benches, and maps have also been funded by RAD over the years.

RAD grants help to leverage other foundation and state grants and other contributions. The combined value of the match for all projects this year is \$1,188,000, for a total project value of \$1,478,000.

To date, RAD has invested \$3,678,000 in the Regional Trail System making it a recreational destination drawing people from all over the world. RAD was a critical early funder back in the day when iron rails and gravel ballast were still in place, rather than the bikes, strollers, roller blades, and people of all ages that you see on the trails today. According to a 2021 study by Dr. Andrew R. Herr of St. Vincent College, in 2020 an estimated 1.4 - 1.6 million people visited the Great Allegheny Passage - the trail from Pittsburgh to D.C.

Were it not for the early support of the RAD staff and Board of Directors, we wouldn't have convenient access to 80+ miles of Rail Trails meandering throughout and beyond the valleys of Allegheny County on former railroad beds. Not to mention the 36-mile Rachel Carson Trail and other local "single track" hiking and biking trails that RAD has supported.

Thanks to the visionary leadership of RAD in the beginning and for their sustained commitment to expanding, enhancing, and maintaining our southwestern corner of Pennsylvania's world class Regional Trail System.



To learn more about RAD-supported projects in our area, visit:
www.radworkshere.org/assets

A hiker uses a bridge crossing Beulah Road at the newly-protected Churchill Valley Greenway. Re-decking this bridge is a project ALT submitted to RAD for support. 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

Please recognize and patronize our sponsors.

NEW

- Woehler Landscaping- *Supporting*

RENEWING

- Insulwise - *Bronze*
- Sisterson & Company - *Supporting*

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



A fall view of Churchill Valley Greenway conservation area.
Photo by Jeff Pepper.

The Value of National Accreditation

by Chris Beichner | President & CEO

Allegheny Land Trust (ALT) is one of about 450 conservation land trusts throughout the United States (out of 1,360 land trusts) that has achieved national accreditation standards by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. We have retained national accreditation since first earning the designation in 2010. Only about 80 land trusts nationwide have earned accreditation longer than ALT. Eleven years later, we continue to strive for the highest standards of conservation excellence as only a modest percentage of the land trust community have been able to achieve over the past decade.

In July 2021, our board of directors formally passed a resolution authorizing our efforts to seek re-accreditation, but our work began a year earlier in August 2020, when staff and board discussed the desire and benefits of seeking re-accreditation. After pursuing guidance from our key funders, it became clear there are numerous benefits to accreditation and overwhelming support to continue achieving the national standard.

We know maintaining accreditation keeps us at the top of our game. As an organization, we must continually maintain certain Standards and Practices that embodies an accredited land trust. Staff's actions during every property

transaction must be meticulously documented. We must develop, update and retain policies, flowcharts, primers, management plans, appraisals, surveys, sales agreements, environmental assessments, settlement statements, bank statements, solicitations, acknowledgment letters and the list goes on and on. But we do this because we know accreditation keeps our standards high, and it tells landowners, partners and donors that ALT is an organization to be trusted.

The re-accreditation application process really started in May 2021 when our pre-application was due. The next milestone was August 5, 2021 when our full application was due. Our application fee was paid this past July. Once the application is submitted, we wait for up to three months while the accreditation commission reviews our materials and potentially seeks additional information. We hope to be officially reaccredited no later than August 2022.

ALT wants to continue serving the Pittsburgh region as a trusted partner and as an organization that instills confidence with everyone we work with. We hope our latest re-accreditation bid will reaffirm our commitment to upholding high standards of excellence in everything we do.



To learn more about National Accreditation for land trusts, visit:
<https://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/>



(left) A bridge crosses Chalfant Run at Churchill Valley Greenway. Photo by Tom Dougherty.
(right) A volunteer attends a native seeding event hosted by the ALT stewardship team at Girty's Woods Conservation Area. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

What Does “Forever Protected” Mean on the Ground

by Emilie Rzotkiewicz | VP of Stewardship

In the past 6 months, ALT has been busy protecting many lands, including Churchill Valley Greenway and Girty's Woods. Together these two parcels exceed 300 acres of protected green space just minutes from Pittsburgh that will forever remain open space as it is protected from development. Forever is a long time and I often ask myself: “How do I plan for forever?”. The best answer we've come to is: By starting today.

With each acquisition, ALT accepts responsibility to protect that land and its conservation values in the future. The Stewardship Team is designed to make sure that we meet that responsibility through a number of programs and tactics. In general, this includes management plan development, monitoring, community relations and enforcement and defense of the land.

As each parcel is unique, so is the process we develop to best protect and steward it into the future. That begins with prioritizing the conservation values of the land and addressing any threats. For Girty's Woods, recent uses including logging and intense trail use have damaged the land so we quickly communicated the new rules and began the restoration of the woods. We have been working with partners and consultants to develop a trail plan that will meet the needs of the community while also addressing the concerns of the ecological values and how we can improve them. We expect that in 2022, Girty's Woods will have a detailed management plan that will enhance the recreational and conservation values which we can implement through the efforts of volunteers and partners.

Churchill Valley Greenway will require a bit more time investment as there is significant infrastructure to address in addition to the conservation values that affect the experience and safety of site users. For example, the 2 Core 10 steel bridges that cross Beulah Road are in need of new decking. ALT immediately contracted with an engineer to understand the required elements and approximate cost. This enabled us to submit a funding request to hopefully fix the bridges in 2022. This was simultaneously happening with some on the ground activities including temporary parking lot improvements, small bridge repair and sign installation. Communicating the rules of the site are important to begin the restoration, development and protection of the conservation values. Concerns included dogs off leash, littering and removal of plants or vegetation, all currently affecting the conservation values of the land.

A Conceptual Vision Plan is underway to give guidance to Stewardship to understand the needs, opportunities and desires for the site. This will allow for future fundraising and management, along with understanding the major elements needed for the site including treating the abandoned mine drainage issues and stream corridor challenges. This process will feed into a larger management plan with significant community and partner input addressing the details of the trails, habitats and other amenities of the site.

As mentioned above, this relationship with the land has just started and forever is a long time. Starting off with the right plan and clear communication is critical to the long term protection of the site.



To learn more about our lands, visit: alleghenylandtrust.org/find-a-green-space/

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.



Visitors of Devil's Hollow Conservation Area enjoy 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

E Education Events

V Volunteer Events



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Mushroom Walks with ALT & WPMC

September 10 | 5 - 7 pm | Wingfield Pines

October 5 | 10 am - 12 pm | Audubon Greenway

Join an ALT staff member and an Identifier with the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club for a mushroom walk and ID session. New to mushrooming? Join the October mushroom hike - it's geared toward beginners! Learn how and where to look for mushrooms, general family and order identification tips, and the common names of the mushrooms we encounter. Please note we will not be foraging on these hikes.

All Ages | Cost: \$5



Photo by Chris Belchner.

Webinar Series to Learn From Home

September 15 | 5 - 5:45 pm | All About Salamanders

October 13 | 5 - 5:45 pm | The Science of Spiders

November 10 | 5 - 5:45 pm | Fall & Winter Gardening

December 8 | 5 - 5:45 pm | Winter Warriors

Join ALT Senior Director of Education and Curriculum, Julie, to stay connected and continue learning from home. These free webinars are excellent continued learning opportunities for learners of all ages. Watch live from your computer, or find an archive of recordings on our Facebook page. Those watching live have opportunities to participate in Q&A via Zoom.

All Ages | Cost: Free

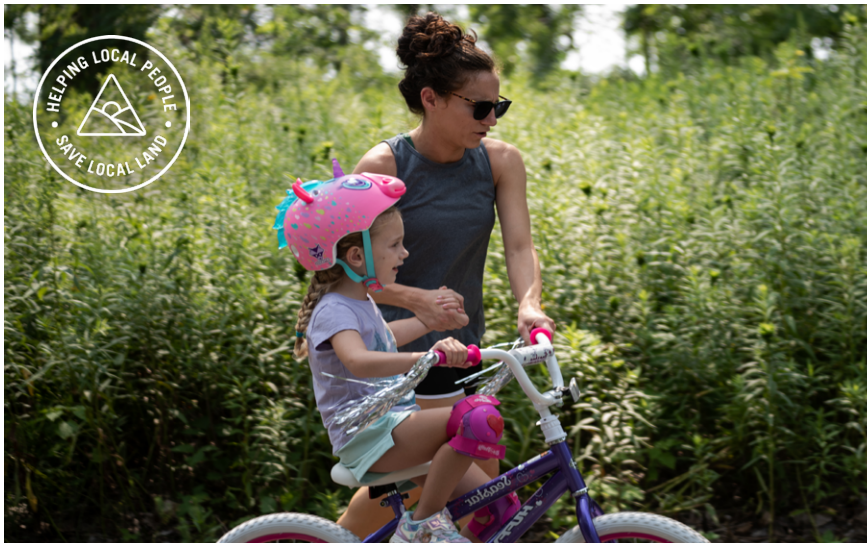


Photo by Lindsay Dill.

ALLEGHENY LAND TRUST 2021 DAY OF GIVING

September 16

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. Our Board of Directors has created a dollar-for-dollar match pool, so mark your calendar, tell your family, friends, and colleagues, and support conservation on September 16.

Contribute by using the enclosed envelope and marking the "Day of Giving" check-box, or by visiting alleghenylantrust.org/donate and checking the "Day of Giving/General Fund" box.



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Seasonal Starlight Strolls

September 24 | 7 - 8 pm | Girty's Woods

October 23 | 6 - 7:30 pm | Dead Man's Hollow

December 18 | 5 - 6 pm | Wingfield Pines

See what our green spaces are like after dark on hikes led by ALT Environmental Educators. Join us in September to celebrate the Autumnal Equinox at one of our newest conservation areas, Girty's Woods. If you have little ones and want to get into a family-friendly fall spirit, join us for October's "Not So Spooky" stroll. Take in the crisp air of winter with our Winter Solstice stroll in December. Each hike's content is unique, so join us for one or all three to experience green spaces at night.

All Ages | Cost: \$5



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

First Friday Series

October 1 | 10 - 11:30 am | Barking Slopes

November 5 | 10 - 11:30 am | Audubon Greenway

December 3 | 10 - 11:30 am | Wingfield Pines

Join us for the final three First Friday Hikes of 2021! This brand new series has led explorers through various ALT green spaces each month. Join us in October to enjoy Barking Slopes fall wildflowers (NOTE: the October hike is free to attend as part of RADical Days!). Take to the trails of Audubon Greenway to enjoy quintessential fall foliage in November. Join us in December to seek out winter wildlife at Wingfield Pines. Each hike's content is unique to the green space, so join us for one or all three!

All Ages | Cost: \$5*

**The October hike is free to attend as part of RADical Days; Registration is still required.*



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

#OptOutside Hikes at ALT's Newest Green Spaces Churchill Valley Greenway & Girty's Woods

November 26 | 9 - 10:30 am

Skip the long shopping lines and join an ALT Environmental Educator for an #OptOutside hike. Join us at either of our newest green spaces: Churchill Valley Greenway or Girty's Woods. These guided hikes will feature general nature-knowledge, and are geared toward all ages.

All Ages | Cost: \$5



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Scouts Find Your Way Day Wingfield Pines

October 16 | 10 am - 12 pm

Boy and Girl Scouts can join ALT staff on this day to learn the basics of compasses, maps, and orienteering! Map your home or neighborhood, create a compass, and complete a basic orienteering course. At the end of the program you'll be able to find your way!

Ages: Scouts | Cost: \$15



Photo by Wild Excellence Films.

Christmas Bird Count Wingfield Pines

December 18 | 8 - 10 am

Become a citizen scientist; no experience or equipment needed! During this hike you'll learn how to use field guides and iNaturalist to identify and catalogue birds in conjunction with the Audubon Society's annual Christmas Bird Count. Then, submit your data to Audubon to help scientists track and monitor bird migration.

Ages: Scouts | Cost: \$5



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For registration & more information, 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. To stay up-to-date, visit: alleghenylandtrust.org/coronavirus/





ALLEGHENY LAND TRUST

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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 3,300 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 Environmental 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 stuff a decorative fall scarecrow. Email us with your creative reuse of Vistas.

Vistas is underwritten by an anonymous donor. Thank you!

© Allegheny Land Trust 2021.

FRONT COVER: An explorer crosses a stream at Devil's Hollow conservation area during a First Friday Hike with ALT.

BACK COVER: A cyclist rides the trails of Girty's Woods conservation area.

Photos by Lindsay Dill.



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