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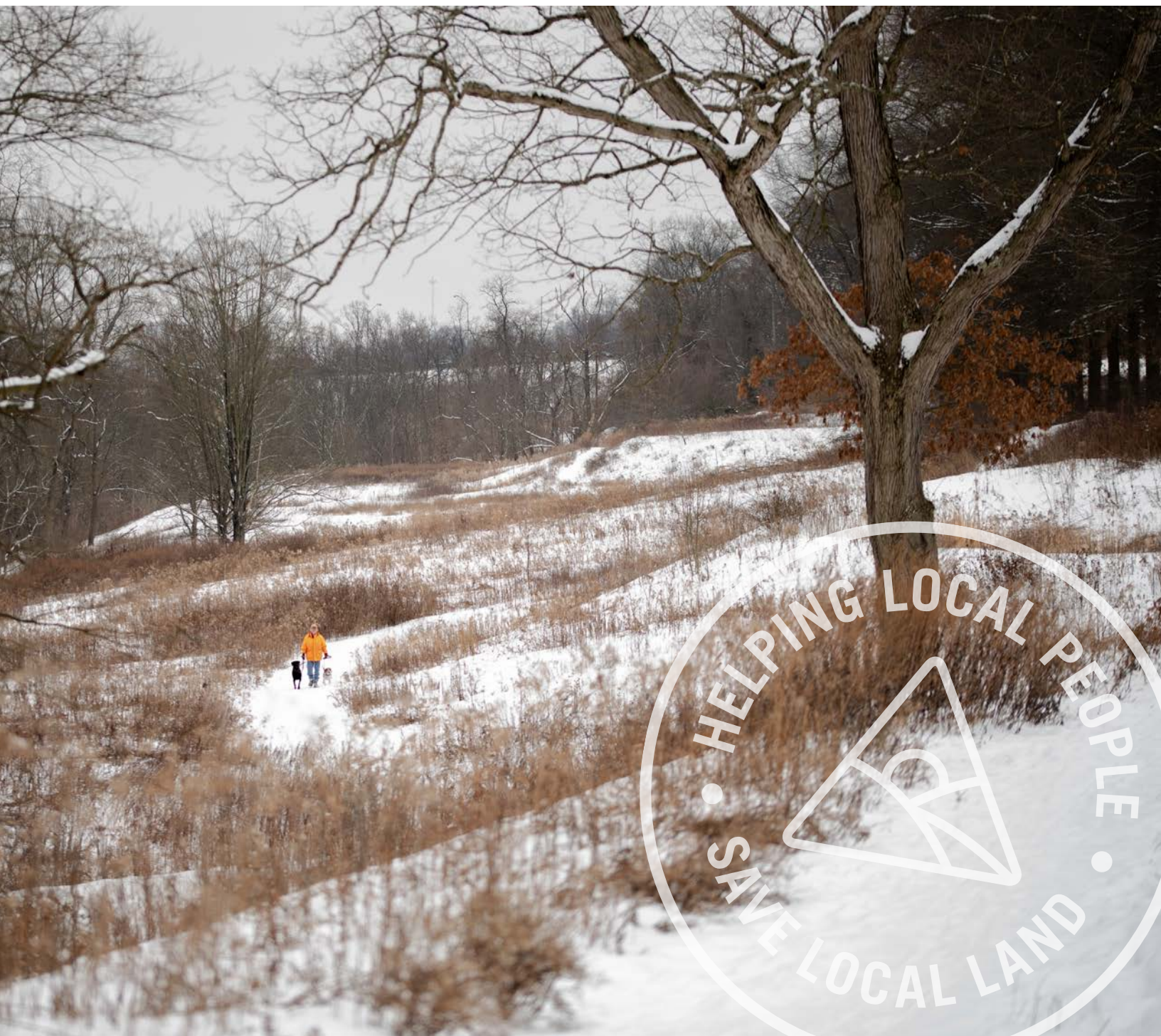
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VISTAS

An Allegheny Land Trust Publication

Winter 2021



notes

FROM THE LAND:

Honoring Those Who Once Lived on the Lands We Now Protect

by Roy Kraynyk | VP of Land Protection & Capital Projects

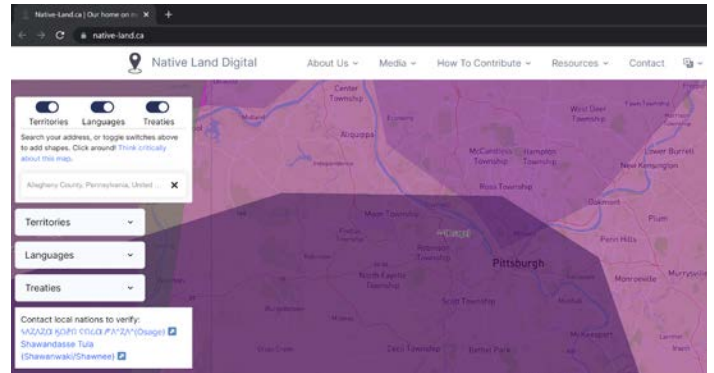
There is a movement in the land trust community and nationally to acknowledge the indigenous people who lived for 1000s of years in North America prior to European settlement. Some have replaced Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day as a tribute to those who inhabited North America well before Columbus and other explorers showed up. Approximately 500 nations of Native Americans co-existed across the United States.

According to the Native Lands mapping tool, the Osage Nation once occupied this region prior to European settlement. Knowing this gives deeper meaning to our work as we ponder the ecological, recreational, social, and historical benefits of protecting land.

Allegheny County doesn't have the number of physical remnants of Native civilizations as can be seen in the West. However, imagining scenes like the one depicted to the right by Nat H. Youngblood is thought-provoking. I implore you to look up the works of Nat H. Youngblood online, or of Robert Griffing at the Fort Pitt Museum.

It is hard to know exactly what may have occurred 200+ years ago on the 535 acres that ALT recently protected. In 2021, ALT protected land in Churchill Borough and the municipality of Penn Hills; Reserve, Hampton, Richland, and Indiana Townships in Allegheny County; Middlesex Township in Butler County; and the Garfield neighborhood in the City of Pittsburgh. However, we do know for certain that in our region settlements existed, game was hunted and trapped, streams and rivers were fished and used for transportation, and trails such as the Venango Trail from the Forks of the Ohio to Presque Isle were traveled well before Europeans arrived. Some of these or other activities and events must have occurred on the land ALT protects.

So, the next time you're in the woods pause for a moment, go back in time and imagine what the woods would have been like 225 or more years ago, and who you may have met while hunting, fishing, or foraging for the long winter. Or perhaps put yourself in the place of a Native American, who had never encountered anyone but a member of his or neighboring tribe, meeting you.



(top) "Arrival of the French" by Nat H. Youngblood (1916-2009). This painting depicts a circa 1760 view from present-day North Side of the French arriving at present-day Point State Park.

(middle) A screenshot of Native Land app's map of Allegheny County native territories, languages, and treaties. Read the info box at the end of this article to learn more.

(bottom) Explorers take a hiking break at one of ALT's newest green spaces Girty's Woods. Photo by Lindsay Dill.



Check out Native Land to find maps of Indigenous territories, treaties, and languages. Visit: native-land.ca/
Learn more about the Native American community in our region, visit the website of Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center (COTRAIC): cotraic.org/

Defining and Evolving the Work, Looking Ahead

by Christopher J. Beichner | President & CEO

Part of my work is to look towards the future of conservation, the future of ALT, and to the threats and opportunities that may impede or support progress. Part of the work is to question what defines “progress”, and then to determine how to measure it.

As I briefly look back on 2021, I am reminded by the immense community support in our shared effort to conserve two major properties – Girty’s Woods and Churchill Valley Greenway. Both are in PA Department of Environmental Protection designated Environmental Justice areas, both are situated in densely populated areas, both are accessible by public transportation, and both garnered tremendous community advocacy for their permanent protection.

Looking forward to 2022 and beyond, we will continue to conserve land urgently. We have to. The threat of green space loss in southwest Pennsylvania is alarming. The severe and local impacts of a changing climate are real, immediate, and dire. Our region’s resiliency is at stake as we continue to address our region’s abysmal air quality, poor water quality due to combined sewer overflows, and hillside erosion that reduces property values and wipes out local infrastructure.

There are opportunities to conserve local land and community gardens in under-resourced communities, and the collaborations we’ve had the opportunity to participate in have been inspiring. Our efforts to conserve land in Environmental Justice areas will continue. Our partnership with Grow Pittsburgh to preserve at-risk community gardens has gained momentum and will persist. Our interest in working with community groups to turn vacant lots into green space assets is just hitting its stride.

Even though we have not completed our current strategic plan, my goal is to revise our current plan now to refocus our efforts in 2022. Within the next few years, it is my hope we will achieve the following to increase our regional impact:

- Focus our land conservation efforts on ecologically-sensitive areas in priority watersheds
- Concentrate green space conservation in Environmental Justice and under-resourced areas
- Renew our national land trust accreditation for the third time in the past 12 years
- Recognize and celebrate Indigenous lands and culture
- Care for the land we conserve in a strategic and restorative way
- Provide learning opportunities that inspire planet-saving action
- Proactively address conservation in ways to become more diverse, inclusive, just, accessible, and equitable
- Build the resources and organizational capacity to address regional resiliency threats

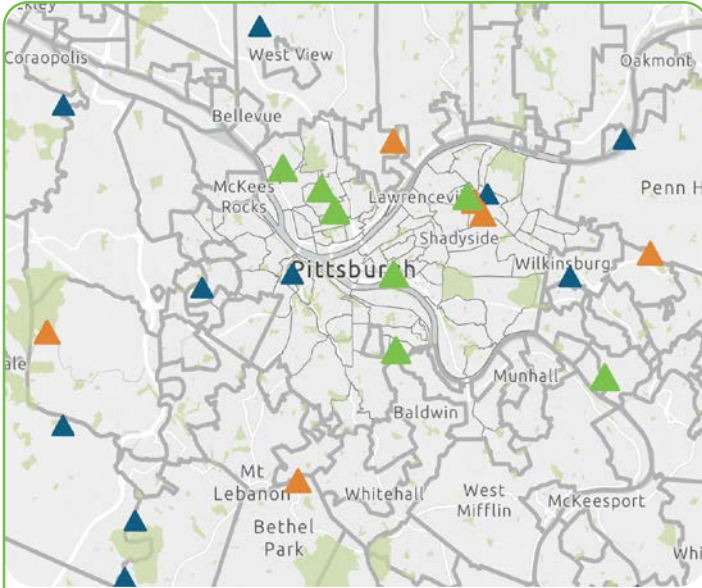
These points are only the beginning, and I look forward to leading this organization and passionate team to transform the way we look at conservation and define progress.

With our upcoming agenda becoming clearer, it is critical we grow the support of our existing and future supporters. We need members like you to maintain - and even increase - your yearly support of ALT, so we can achieve bold results. Your contributions are vitally important to springboard us into 2022. Please continue to give generously as we act urgently to conserve and care for local land for the health and well-being for all.

Community Conservation: Project Snapshots

by Alyson Fearon | Senior Director of Community Conservation & Resiliency

ALT has a strong history of working with community nominated projects, and our relatively new “Community Conservation” work aims to continue that stride. Through these efforts, ALT partners closely with communities to locate projects that revitalize their areas, increase access to green spaces, create conservation-focused plans, and provide additional needed services they’ve identified. We are excited to share our progress in two Community Conservation project areas: Three Rivers Agricultural Land Initiative (TRALI) and Urban Greening.



Three Rivers Agricultural Land Initiative (TRALI)

We have partnered with Grow Pittsburgh to identify strong community gardens that are threatened by the absence of long-term land control. These gardens are at risk of losing their spaces as city-owned lands become eligible for sale, must be sold to the highest bidder, and become attractive for other more lucrative purposes. We’re able to help acquire these lands to offer security for the gardens, creating permanence that allows for longer-term investments of time, effort, and money.

The first two projects of TRALI - Eastfield Garden and Garden Dreams were completed in December 2019, and we are happy to announce we’ve protected two more gardens this year! In June, we protected the first two parcels of the Kincaid Street Garden. In October, we protected the Enright Garden in East Liberty near the old Penn Plaza site. We’re also in active conversations around Tustin Garden in Uptown, and are working with partners on a vision for the street. Finally, a successful TRALI information session hosted by Hilltop Urban Farm (another ALT project in the works) in September resulted in new garden applications.



Healcrest Land Project is one community conservation project working to turn a once-agricultural space into a Garfield community gathering green space. Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Urban Greening

We are supporting the protection of the former Healcrest Farm in Pittsburgh’s Garfield neighborhood. ALT has been in conversation with the community members for over four years on succession planning for the space, and it was determined that protection by ALT would create the best partnership to allow community access in the future. Healcrest is fully incorporated into the updated Garfield Green Zone and new trails plan, and provides green space access in an area lacking in public outdoor green spaces.

This spring, we applied for over \$725,000 in state grants for the former St. John’s Hospital site in the Brighton Heights neighborhood to prepare the site for future community amenities, including a rain garden. We solicited community input via a mailed survey to maintain safety during the pandemic; all members of the Brighton Heights Citizen’s Federation and nearby neighbors received the survey and we received thoughtful responses. In September, our team was able to reintroduce ourselves to the community at their first public meeting in over a year. By the time you are reading this, we hope to have learned the value of the grant awards to enact our final push for fundraising so we can break ground next year!

We’re fortunate to have close partnerships with so many communities seeking to utilize land trust tools to address community needs and improve their quality of life. While this is a snapshot, it certainly doesn’t cover all of the tables we sit at listening, sharing, and dreaming up conservation solutions to local challenges. We are balancing the search for new projects with the effort to make our current ones successful. We hope to share good news on all our efforts in the next VISTAS.



Supporting Education

Top 5 Nature Explorer Backpack Themes

by Julie Travaglini | Senior Director of Education & Curriculum

Nature Explorer Backpacks are available for you and your family to check out in Allegheny and Washington County libraries. Coming soon to Greene County!

1. Wildflowers

They bloom almost year 'round, so get outside and learn about some of our native flowers.

2. Signs of Wildlife

Look for animal tracks and scat and create a story with animal tracks.

3. Trees

Count the rings in a tree to discover the tree's age and make a bark rubbing.

4. General

Look up close at bugs, flowers and leaves.

5. Air Quality

Did you know Washington County is the home of the clean air movement? Learn why with this backpack.



(left) An ALT environmental educator runs general nature education programming during a First Friday Hike at Devil's Hollow conservation area. (bottom) A young explorer examines rocks before enjoying ALT's StoryWalk at Audubon Greenway. Photo by Lindsay Dill.



Looking Back, Marching Forward

by Julie Travaglini | Senior Director of Education & Curriculum

I can't believe another year is coming to a close. This year has absolutely flown by, and I feel like I somehow missed out on most of the year! Where did it go? What did I accomplish?

While I certainly feel less accomplished this year on the home front (here's looking at you, Halloween wreath I started and never finished), I absolutely cannot say the same thing about my work at ALT.

These past two years have been full of ups and downs, canceled plans and new strategies, as well as new ways to educate and engage with our loyal ALT supporters like you. We've completed over 150 virtual programs as well as finally getting back to our green spaces for exploration and learning.

Some programs are old favorites such as birding and starlight strolls but we were also able to add some exciting new things such as virtual teacher workshops and webinars.

Believe it or not, I start planning for the next

calendar year's programming in July and August. It takes a lot of research, time, and energy to create ALT's calendar of educational events. It's like putting together a puzzle, except you always have more pieces (programs) than what fits into the puzzle (year).

Looking into 2022, I'm excited to introduce some new and exciting programs. Keep an eye out for celebrations of "holidays" like Pollinator Week, Moth Week, World Frog Day, World River Day, and many more. Also keep your eyes peeled for our new Sustainability at Home workshop series sponsored by EQT Foundation where attendees can learn about sustainable practices at home and then receive items such as composters and rain barrels to put your knowledge to practice.

As the year end approaches I'm hoping you'll choose to donate to ALT's Year End campaign. I have so many new and exciting programs in the works, and I can't do it without your support!

Addressing Our Region's Challenges: Off-Setting Carbon, Localizing Benefit

by Tom Dougherty | VP of Development & External Affairs

Carbon credits are instruments that can be purchased by companies who are striving to quantify for the purpose of mitigating and/or eventually eliminating their carbon emissions as part of their participation in the global effort to combat climate change.



Participating companies purchase carbon credits from qualified sellers to offset the portion of their carbon emissions that they are unable to physically eliminate at the present time. Each credit represents one metric ton of carbon emitted, and the proceeds generated by the sale of carbon credits must be certifiably used by the selling party to reduce one metric of carbon from the atmosphere. Simply stated, the selling party serves as a proxy, eliminating the one metric ton “for” the purchasing party.

The permanent conservation of the world's forests is increasingly recognized as an extremely impactful method of combating climate change due to the capacity of healthy forests to sequester carbon. Therefore, forest conservation projects are acceptable uses of the proceeds from the sale of carbon credits, and they enable qualified conservation organizations to use them to protect woodlands.

The use of the proceeds from the sale of carbon credits for protection of smaller urban and suburban forests is a new and growing application. ALT is at the leading edge of this conservation opportunity and has worked to certify some of its current conservation projects for participation in the City Forest Carbon Registry (CFC). CFC acts as a registry managing carbon protocols and impact standards to protect trees in metropolitan areas in the United States. This innovative approach

is one of the only programs currently being applied to bring natural carbon sequestration efforts to urban areas where populations often experience the negative outcomes of carbon emissions.

In early October, ALT completed the single largest sale of urban forest carbon credits in the nation to date through the CFC program. The proceeds from this sale will be used to directly support additional land conservation in the southwestern Pennsylvania. This ensures that more acres of permanently-protected woodlands will serve the region and the global fight against climate change by sequestering carbon, absorb stormwater, and improve air quality from the atmosphere.

Alyson Fearon, ALT's Director of Community Conservation, has worked over the past 18-months to enroll ALT into the CFC program. She says that “the sale of these credits increases our capacity to conserve more forest in southwestern Pennsylvania,” and added that the program “is bringing in private dollars from around the country that we are using to pursue additional regional conservation opportunities. This helps in our own small way to mitigate climate change and improve our region's resiliency.

ALT will continue working to identify and certify additional conservation lands for carbon credit eligibility through this program.

A majestic Oak stands tall at Buena Vista Heights conservation area, a 150-acre ALT green space hosting carbon credits. Photo by Tom Dougherty.

Fall colors shine at an ALT conservation area. ALT is utilizing carbon credit sales to contribute to the global effort to combat climate change while funding close-to-home conservation efforts. Photo by Lindsay Dill.



Featured Supporters:

GLADE RUN LAKE CONSERVANCY



A fall view of an island in Glade Run Lake. Photo courtesy of Glade Run Lake Conservancy.

by Lindsay Dill | Marketing Communications Director

Imagine this: you're going about your day working toward a personal goal; another person comes along with a similar goal and special skills that supplement your own tools.

Both Glade Run Lake Conservancy (GRLC) and Allegheny Land Trust (ALT) share the overarching goal of conservation in Western Pennsylvania, and each has a unique approach – one with the mission to protect a specific lake, and the other with proven experience in land conservation.

So, when faced with the above situation, GRLC and ALT chose to combine their efforts and create a plan to identify key parcels of land in the Glade Run Lake Watershed for permanent conservation to protect the lake, its water quality, and its wildlife habitat.

Together over the past year, GRLC, ALT, and a Middlesex Township resident worked together to conserve the first parcel of land by placing a conservation easement on 120 acres of woodlands and rolling meadows in the headwaters of Glade Run Lake in southern Butler County.

“Our members live in the community and know the lake intimately, but we don't have the necessary knowledge, expertise, and capacity in land conservation; so, we were pleased to find a willing partner in Allegheny Land Trust to help us protect Glade Run Lake,” GRLC President Siggy Pehel said.

The land will be preserved through a conservation easement donated by the landowner Joan Goswell to be held and monitored in perpetuity

by ALT, aligning with GRLC's dedication to the restoration, ongoing preservation, and improvement of Glade Run Lake and its adjacent lands.

GRLC was originally formed to ensure that the lake would be restored after it was drained in 2011 due to its unsafe earthen dam. Now that the dam has been rebuilt, GRLC is focused on the threat that encroaching suburban sprawl has on water quality.

“Protecting land in the lake's immediate watershed is the only way to keep the water clean and the habitat safe and productive for animals, birds and fish,” Siggy said.

The two organizations have identified and prioritized the most sensitive lands in the watershed and have created a plan to collaboratively pursue the conservation of those lands through a variety of conservation tools including conservation easements like the one on Goswell's property.

ALT and GRLC hope this is the first of many land conservation accomplishments in the watershed.

“We are extremely excited to be working with the Glade Run Lake Conservancy and the local community to protect the land around this unique lake in this rapidly developing area,” said ALT President & CEO Chris Beichner. “Conserving this land preserves the rural character and scenic beauty of the community and is essential to ensuring that the excellent water quality of the lake is maintained forever.”



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

- Dick's Sporting Goods/Public Lands - *Platinum*
- Oboz Footwear - *Supporting*

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



(left) Partners in Stewardship from BNY Mellon pose after a hard day's work at Dead Man's Hollow conservation area. (above) ModCloth employees plant native trees at Wingfield Pines conservation area as part of a Partners in Stewardship effort. Photos by Lindsay Dill.

Business Play A Key Role in Caring for Local Land

by Tom Dougherty | VP of Development & External Affairs

One of the questions that I field the most often is “Where does ALT get the resources to do its work?”

ALT followers and regular VISTAS readers know that the support to protect and care for land, engage communities, and provide high-quality environmental education comes from a broad coalition of donors. If you are reading this article today, it is very likely that you are one of these supporters. Your donations of money and time are critical for us to build the talent and capacity to conduct our daily operations and continually take on new and impactful conservation projects. Thank you.

There are no better examples of this broad coalition of supporters coming together to create significant conservation wins than this year's Girty's Woods and Churchill Valley Greenway acquisitions. Like our work in general, these projects would never have been accomplished without inspiring support from individuals, civic and community organizations, foundations, state and municipal government, and businesses large and small.

With the addition of the Girty's Woods and the Churchill Valley Greenway in 2021, followed on the heels of Buena Vista Heights, Bethel Green, and the Historic Walker-Ewing Log House, and the continued expansion of ALT's conservation footprint—we now care for more than 3,400 conserved acres in 35 different municipalities.

Sustainably stewarding this conserved land also requires the help of a coalition of donors, but the land stewardship also presents a unique opportunity for businesses to provide a very different kind of support through ALT's “Partners in Stewardship” program.

Partners in Stewardship is a hands-on opportunity for local companies and their employees to work side-by-side with ALT to support the

health and well-being of Western Pennsylvania communities by helping to restore and care for local green spaces. Caring for our conservation areas requires financial resources and much hard work, and ALT relies heavily on volunteers who generously donate their time to make this happen. Much of this volunteer time is donated by corporate groups who donate time and funding by “adopting” an ALT conservation area. These partnerships provide ALT with much needed-stewardship support and our corporate partners with an opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to the community while providing a team-building volunteer opportunity for employees.

ALT tailors the Partners in Stewardship arrangements to meet the needs of the partnering business—programs vary greatly in the number of events and length of volunteer days, the number of employees participating, and the financial contribution requested—but all involve a business and its employees working with ALT to improve a green space in the community!

Companies such as American Eagle, Apple, Bending Branches, BNY Mellon, CEC, Centria, Dick's/Public Lands, Giant Eagle, Google, Hayes Design Group, Highmark, and RBC Wealth Management are among those who have been ALT Partners in Stewardship in recent years.

If you are a business owner or work for a company seeking to contribute to the community, please contact me (tdougherty@alleghenylandtrust.org). I'd really like to discuss your goals and ALT's stewardship needs to see if there is an opportunity for us to work together. I look forward to discussing the possibilities with you.



To learn more and become an ALT Partner in Stewardship, contact Tom Dougherty at tdougherty@alleghenylandtrust.org, or visit alleghenylandtrust.org/partners-in-stewardship/

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.

GIFTS OF CRYPTOCURRENCY

Donating cryptocurrency is tax deductible, helping donors reduce their tax obligations while supporting organizations whose missions they care deeply about.

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

By making a gift in your will or revocable trust, you can make a lasting impact on our region's future without impacting your immediate finances. These pledges are able to be adjusted 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

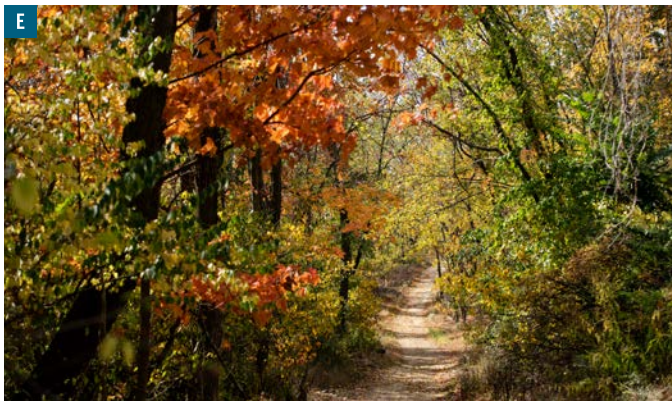


Photo by Lindsay Dill.

First Friday Hike Series

December 3 | Wingfield Pines

January 7 | Devil's Hollow

February 4 | Wingfield Pines

March 4 | Bethel Green

April 1 | Churchill Valley Greenway

Every first Friday of the month (barring holidays), you can join an ALT environmental educator for a guided walk of one of our green spaces. Each hike takes place from 10 - 11:30 a.m. Join us in December to seek out winter wildlife at Wingfield Pines. Enjoy the peaceful wooded valley of Devil's Hollow as we discover what nature is up to in the winter season. Take to the open landscape of Wingfield Pines in February to see our Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD) system hard at work and winter wildlife still at play. Join us at Bethel Green in March to learn how to identify common invasive plants and understand how they impact native flora and fauna. Learn how to use iNaturalist during a walk around the newly-protected Churchill Valley Greenway. Each hike's content is unique to the green space, so join us each month to discover something new!

All Ages | Cost: \$5/person/hike



Photo by Lindsay Dill.

Seasonal Starlight Strolls

December 18 | 5 - 6 pm | Wingfield Pines

March 20 | 7:30 - 8:30 pm | Wingfield Pines

See what our green spaces are like after dark on hikes led by ALT Environmental Educators. Join us at Wingfield Pines for each starlight stroll to see how the flora and fauna change through the seasons at night.

All Ages | Cost: \$5/person/stroll



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: All | Cost: \$5



Photo by Chris Beicher.

Webinar Series to Learn More from the Indoors

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

January 19 | 5 - 5:45 pm | Owls of Pennsylvania

February 9 | 5 - 5:45 pm | Winter Warriors

February 23 | 5 - 5:45 pm | Spring Ephemerals

March 2 | 5 - 5:45 pm | Invasive Species of Pittsburgh

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.

Sustainability at Home Series

February 16 | 6 - 8 pm | Ohio Township Nature Center | Backyard Chickens

February 19 | 1 - 3 pm | Frank Sarris Public Library | Backyard Beekeeping

March 8 | 6 - 8 pm | Ohio Township Nature Center | Rain Barrels with PRC

March 12 | 1 - 2:30 pm | Frank Sarris Public Library | Composting 101

April 6 | 6 - 7:30 pm | Ohio Township Nature Center | Air Quality

April 12 | 4:30 - 6 pm | Frank Sarris Public Library | Gardening with Native Plants

Join ALT for this new series of workshops; The Sustainability at Home Series! These workshops will focus on living a more environmentally friendly lifestyle through at home sustainability practices. Masks are required for each workshop. No walk-ins will be permitted. ACT 48 credit hours are available for educators - bring your PPID number with you to the workshop.

BACKYARD CHICKENS - ALT Environmental Educator Jen Pruszyński will be teaching us best practices on raising and managing a healthy flock. All participants will receive a backyard chicken starter kit valued at approximately \$100 (no chickens provided).

BACKYARD BEEKEEPING - Learn the art & best practices of backyard beekeeping from local beekeeper Mike Zewe. All participants will receive a beginners beekeeping kit valued at \$100 (no bees provided).

RAIN BARRELS - Learn about our watersheds, problems associated with stormwater runoff, ways to conserve and preserve water in their landscapes, and watershed friendly landscaping techniques. Participants will receive a pre-made 55-gallon rain barrel.

COMPOSTING 101 - Join us to learn about composting - how to start and maintain it properly. All participants will receive a compost tumbler to take home.

AIR QUALITY - Improve the quality of your indoor air. What causes indoor air pollution and how can we regulate it? Each participant will receive an air quality monitor to utilize in their home, valued at approximately \$120.

GARDENING WITH NATIVE PLANTS - Better understand the importance and value of gardening with local native plants for both sustainability purposes and ecological benefits. All participants will take home a \$100 gift certificate to purchase native plants from Arcadia Natives Native Plant Nursery in Washington.

Generous funding and support for this series provided by the EQT Foundation.

All Ages | Cost: \$10/person/workshop



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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 3,400 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 35 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.



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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 enjoys the rolling hills and fall colors at Audubon Greenway conservation area.

BACK COVER: A wintry wetland peeks through the snow at Girty's Woods conservation area.

Photos by Lindsay Dill.



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