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# VISTAS

An Allegheny Land Trust Publication

Winter 2024





# Conserving Our Region Together

by Emilie C. Rzotkiewicz | Interim CEO

As 2024 ends, we can reflect on another year of incredible progress made possible by supporters like you. Your dedication to conservation has helped us conserve one of our region's most valuable, versatile assets: our close-to-home green space.

Since 1993, we have conserved 3,700 acres of green space across 41 municipalities, and we're aligned to make this year one of our most productive ever (we have an additional ~466 acres close to closing for permanent conservation!)

Our permanently protected lands annually absorb billions of gallons of stormwater, filter thousands of pounds of carbon and other pollutants from our air, protect wildlife habitat, connect adjacent green spaces and trails, and provide opportunities for outdoor education and recreation for all ages and abilities. As a result of these efforts, every community member in Allegheny County now lives within eight miles of an ALT conservation area.

Through our stewardship efforts, we work daily to maintain and improve the ecological health and recreational amenities of our

conserved lands, maximizing their potential to better contribute to regional resiliency.

To ensure these efforts are carried on by future generations, our environmental education team provides nature-based programs for learners of all ages on topics relating to the environment and our role in it.

Our work is more urgent than ever as 2,000 acres of woodlands and farmland in Allegheny County (an area six times the size of downtown Pittsburgh) continues to be consumed by rampant development each year, despite the County's ongoing population decline.

We need your help! Collectively, our work has the power to transform our communities. With your support, we can reach our \$90,000 year-end campaign goal to ensure the completion of our 2024 projects and move into 2025 with the momentum necessary to continue this work.

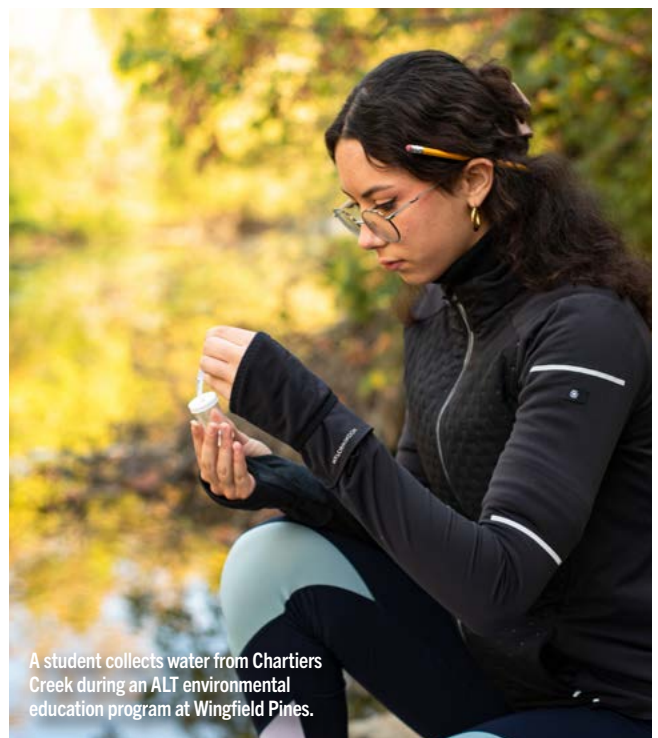
We hope you will include us in your year-end giving plans by using the enclosed envelope or visiting our website to donate today and make a lasting impact.



A volunteer lops away invasives for a new trail and a healthier habitat at Churchill Valley Greenway.



North Hills High School Band "The Spit Valves" perform at a black tie show to raise funds for the Ross Conservation Project. Photo courtesy of North Hills High School.



A student collects water from Chartiers Creek during an ALT environmental education program at Wingfield Pines.

## WAYS TO GIVE

### CLICK

[alleghenylantrust.org/donate](https://alleghenylantrust.org/donate)

### MAIL

Use the enclosed, self-addressed envelope to send your gift:  
416 Thorn Street  
Sewickley, PA, 15143

### MATCH

Ask your employer if they match charitable contributions







# science at home

## Top 5 Ways to Learn Close-to-Home in 2025

by Julie Travaglini | Senior Director of Education & Curriculum

### 1. SUMMER CAMPS

In summer of 2025, join ALT for hands-on summer camps at both Churchill Valley Greenway and Meyer Farm.

### 2. SUSTAINABILITY AT HOME

Back again by popular demand and supported by EQT Foundation, our Sustainability at Home series returns with six more workshops.

### 3. MEYER FARM PROGRAMMING

Supporters loved picking apples and blueberries with us in 2024, so keep an eye out for those activities and more farm-related, nature-based programming in 2025!

### 4. MUNICIPAL EDUCATION

Let your local leaders know, ALT is running a program series targeted to municipal leaders to engage their communities in environmental education and action.

### 5. OUR CLASSIC & NEW PROGRAMS

We'll continue our classic programs (like webinars and science strolls), while also crafting new programs to excite learners of all ages! Keep an eye on our upcoming events. See you outside!

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

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



(left) A young explorer runs through ALT's St. Johns community conservation project in Brighton Heights.

(right) Explorers look through proposed plans for stormwater retention work at St. Johns.



## Programming for Our Leaders

by Julie Travaglini | Senior Director of Education & Curriculum

**W**e pride ourselves on creating programming for all ages. From age two to 92, we have something for you! Year after year, we're working to expand our reach and get more voices around our table. This year, we continued this approach and are excited to be partnering with several organizations to improve our region through a systemic, nature-based workshop series.

Together with Allegheny County Conservation District, Tree Pittsburgh, Sustainable PGH, and the Green Building Alliance, we crafted the "Building Vibrant Communities" workshop series to engage municipal leadership. The workshops, running through March 2025, provide the tools and resources needed to increase natural resource outcomes in communities across our county's municipalities.

Local leaders play a pivotal role in implementing policies that directly impact their communities' ecological health - from waste management and stormwater capture to energy use and urban planning. Each workshop will educate municipal leaders on environmental issues that are crucial for fostering sustainable communities.

By equipping these leaders with knowledge about climate change, resource conservation, and environmental justice, we empower them to make informed decisions that promote increased resilience and sustainability.

Furthermore, educated leaders can engage their constituents in environmental initiatives, driving community participation and awareness. Ultimately, investing in the education of municipal leaders ensures that environmental considerations are integrated into all aspects of local governance, paving the way for healthier, more sustainable communities for future generations.

As a next step, we'll also offer workshop packages for municipal leaders to schedule at their community gathering places. Ranging from sustainability topics to backyard nature, these workshops will connect their community members with our nature-based programs. We look forward to engaging with these local leaders so that they, in turn, can engage their communities in environmental education programs and actions that improve our region's resiliency.



Find an upcoming Building Vibrant Communities workshop: [bit.ly/buildvibrantcommunities](https://bit.ly/buildvibrantcommunities)



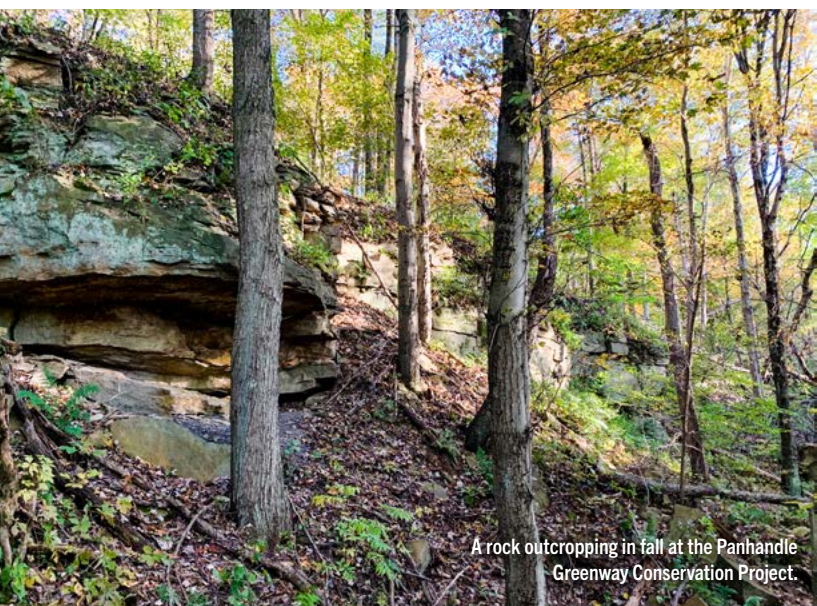


## Helping to Connect Lands Across the Region

by Casey Markle | Conservation Easement Director

ALT team members explore the Deer Creek Conservation Project.

**A**s we approach a new year, we are looking back at all the conservation successes we had in 2024. Last March, ALT protected phase I of the Panhandle Greenway (91 acres in Collier), Gateway Woods (98 acres in Monroeville), and expanded our Lowries Run Slopes green space (24 acres in Ross). But our work in 2024 is not over; three very exciting projects totaling more than 466 acres are coming closer to being permanently conserved!



A rock outcropping in fall at the Panhandle Greenway Conservation Project.

### PANHANDLE GREENWAY CONSERVATION PROJECT

The Panhandle Greenway Conservation Project is a multi-year landscape-scale effort to bridge Settler's Cabin Park, Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, Collier Township Park, South Fayette's Preservation Park, other public and private conserved lands, and the Panhandle and Montour Trails. ALT is working to conserve phase II of this project, which hosts more than 159-acres of woodlands and meadows. This is a conservation cornerstone for the region that can absorb 131 million gallons of rainwater each year that would otherwise cause flooding and erosion in the watershed. The land also provides magnificent views of wooded hills that make up the scenic character of this region. Unfortunately, many green spaces in this area face a severe risk of development. With your continued support, we can protect this land and more in the years to come.





Sustainability students from North Hills & Shaler Area High Schools lead a hike during their fundraiser for the Ross Conservation Project.

### ROSS CONSERVATION PROJECT

In partnership with Ross Township, we saw early success in garnering the necessary resources to protect the 27-acre Ross Conservation Project! Our teams worked hard to raise funds and complete the due diligence needed to conserve this land. Upon closing on the land, ownership will be transferred to Ross Township for permanent conservation.

In addition to expanding the Township’s municipal park, the land will benefit the community by absorbing over 14 million gallons of rainwater each year in the flood-vulnerable Girty’s Run watershed. The land also provides clean air and combats climate change by sequestering 119,000 pounds of carbon and 2,000 pounds of air pollutants each year. We are thankful to the supporters who helped us save this land. We’re also incredibly grateful for the teachers and students of the North Hills and Shaler Area High School sustainability classes who helped raise the awareness and funds needed to protect this land. They are the future, and it was an honor to work together in this effort to save their local land.



Rachel Carson Trail Conservancy volunteers pose at the Deer Creek Conservation Project along the trail.

### DEER CREEK CONSERVATION PROJECT

This year we collaborated with partners to conserve the 280-acre Deer Creek Conservation Project in the rapidly developing Indiana Township. These woodlands host a 1-mile section of the Rachel Carson Trail and form a key connection to the adjacent 59-acre Emmerling Community Park. What’s more, conserving this land would protect the health of the Deer Creek Watershed by allowing the continued absorption of 231 million gallons of rainwater annually. It would also ensure maintained air quality by annually sequestering over 1 million pounds of carbon and removing 20,000 pounds of other pollutants. Through a partnership with the Rachel Carson Trail Conservancy, we’ve raised significant awareness and funding needed to conserve this land. The Pennsylvania Game Commission also dedicated significant funds to the project and committed to accepting the land for permanent conservation. We’re not done yet! ALT has extended our contract to March 2025 to allow for more time to raise the remaining funds needed to protect the land. We hope you’ll consider supporting this project.

Looking back at all we have accomplished, this has been another prolific year for land conservation, and we owe it to members like you. We are inspired and grateful for all we have accomplished together. We hope you’ll consider donating to our Year End Campaign so we can maintain the momentum needed to complete these projects and build a resilient future in 2025 and beyond.



To learn more, follow along with each project’s status, and donate, visit [alleghenylandtrust.org/current-projects](http://alleghenylandtrust.org/current-projects)



# COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

## Partnering to Conserve Ballfield Farm

by Tom Mulholland | Community Conservation Director



(left) A map of Ballfield Farm.  
(right) ALT Board and staff explore Ballfield Farm.

In 2018, Grow Pittsburgh and Allegheny Land Trust announced a partnership to protect and preserve selected urban agricultural lands in perpetuity called Three Rivers Agricultural Land Initiative (TRALI).

By safeguarding land through TRALI, we can ensure the sustainability of these community-led projects, allowing them to continue enhancing neighborhood health and well-being without the threat of displacement or discontinuation.

One of the earliest projects to join TRALI was Ballfield Farm, located at the corner of Danbury and Crispen Streets in the Perry South Neighborhood of Pittsburgh's North Side. The Ballfield Farm property existed as a vacant and abandoned ballfield until 2008, when community members and the Pittsburgh Project worked together to reclaim and transform the space into an organic farm.

For 16 years, Ballfield Farm has thrived as a grassroots collective, producing healthy food for its members and the wider community. The farm is nestled within a larger contiguous green space that spans approximately 7.5 acres. Members of the farm learn and practice sustainable and cost-effective ways to grow food.

The farm also focuses on environmental restoration, such as planting trees and maintaining walking trails throughout the larger green space.

For the last 5 years, ALT has been working with the City of Pittsburgh, the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), and local partners to try and find a path forward for the permanent protection of this property. After pursuing a variety of strategies to acquire the property to no avail, we joined other community groups and residents in support of proposed amendments to legislation related to the Pittsburgh Land Bank (PLB). Finally, last year, Pittsburgh City Council approved a long-awaited "tri-party" agreement with PLB and the URA. This action set into motion ALT's partnership with PLB and, since that time, we have made significant progress on community conservation projects that have been stymied for years.

We are excited to finally close on the Ballfield Farm property to permanently protect this sustainable, thriving community farm. This project is a vibrant example of how urban spaces can be transformed into productive and educational community hubs. We hope you will explore Ballfield Farm, keep an eye on our TRALI efforts, and follow along with PLB news as we continue collaborating where opportunities exist.

A sign marks the location of a gardener's beets at Ballfield Farm.





# Leaving a Legacy Through Planned Giving

by Tom Dougherty | VP of Development & External Affairs

ALT and our supporters share in the belief that permanently conserved and sustainably stewarded land is one of the greatest gifts we can leave to future generations. Many supporters have chosen to continue their commitment to local conservation beyond their lifetimes by making a planned gift to ALT.

These special supporters have designated a monetary gift or gift of land to ALT in their will or have named ALT as a beneficiary on their life insurance policy, retirement plan, or other investments.

If you are considering making a planned gift to ALT, you can learn more by visiting our website or by sending me a note at [tdougherty@alleghenylandtrust.org](mailto:tdougherty@alleghenylandtrust.org). I'd be more than happy to discuss ideas with you.

We have created "The Conservationist Society" to express our appreciation to the special supporters who have chosen to include us in their estate plans and have made us aware of their intentions to do so. If ALT is already included in your estate plans, please let us know by completing and returning the simple form found at the link below so that we can recognize you as a member of The Conservationist Society.



For more information, visit [alleghenylandtrust.org/conservationistsociety](https://alleghenylandtrust.org/conservationistsociety) or scan the QR code to the right. To discuss, contact Tom Dougherty at [tdougherty@alleghenylandtrust.org](mailto:tdougherty@alleghenylandtrust.org).



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.

An explorer looks out over a meadow at Churchill Valley Greenway.



# Our Growing, Changing ALTeam

by Lindsay Dill | Senior Director of Marketing & Community Engagement

As we wrap up another successful year, we are excitedly looking to the future and preparing for organizational evolution. Last month, our President & CEO Christopher J. Beichner gave a fond farewell as he and his family moved to Maine, and Sarah Costlow joined ALT as our new Vice President of Land Conservation. While we will miss Chris, ALT's leadership, staff, and new staff are primed for a bright future. Learn more about our evolution below.



## Christopher J. Beichner | A Fond Farewell to Our President & CEO

After 12 years of organizational growth and transformative projects, Allegheny Land Trust President & CEO Christopher J. Beichner has departed the organization to set off for new ventures in Maine, where he will begin as the President & CEO of the Forest Society of Maine (FSM).

Under his leadership, ALT grew from a small-but-mighty staff into a talented team of leaders advancing innovative and challenging projects to conserve more land, increase the ecological health of streams and habitats, and enhance nature-based learning opportunities. ALT expanded their strategic priorities from two to four, now including land conservation, stewardship, environmental education, and community conservation. The nonprofit's budget increased from \$500,000 in 2012 to \$8.8 million for this budget year.

Under Chris' tenure, ALT focused on equity in conservation, having recently completed a diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and accessibility plan and having launched their community conservation program in 2015. The organization maintained a high standard of excellence, earning national re-accreditation multiple times since 2010.

"As I embark on a new professional and personal path, I will never forget and will always value my time at ALT," Chris stated. "It has been an amazing journey and tremendous privilege to work alongside passionate, unwavering folks who care so much about conservation, and I look forward to learning about the many impressive achievements the ALT team will reach in the months and years ahead."

ALT Board Chair Ted Weller expressed his appreciation by saying, "On behalf of Allegheny Land Trust's Board of Directors, I want to thank Chris for his years of service and collaborative leadership in helping ALT to reach new heights. I am confident with the strong foundation we have achieved together; ALT is poised to have an even greater impact. We wish Chris tremendous success moving forward."

Long-time staff member Emilie Rzotkiewicz is serving as ALT's Interim CEO. ALT has a CEO Search Committee that will launch a nationwide search for the next leader in the first quarter of 2025. Keep an eye on our website for the opportunity.



## Sarah Costlow | Welcoming Our New Vice President of Land Conservation

ALT is excited to welcome Sarah Costlow as its new Vice President of Land Conservation. With 14 years of experience in conservation, Costlow will play a pivotal role in advancing ALT's mission. She comes to ALT from her role as the Land Protection Director of the Western New York Land Conservancy, where she led the organization's land protection efforts. Costlow's expertise in environmental law, policy, community engagement, and fundraising are well-aligned with ALT's mission.

She will lead ALT's land conservation efforts, deploying various methods to help the organization meet its regional conservation goals. As a member of the senior leadership team, she will collaborate with landowners, government agencies, and other stakeholders to identify, secure, and protect green space in our region.

"I'm honored to join the team at Allegheny Land Trust, and am excited to return to Western PA, where I grew up," said Costlow. "I look forward to working alongside the team to build on the momentum of the great work they've already done, and to strategize and implement new ways to protect the region's natural resources."

Costlow holds master's degrees in environmental law and policy from Vermont Law School and global communication and civil society from The American University of Paris, a certificate in water law from Vermont Law School and a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and a minor in French from Lafayette College. She has served on the board of the Buffalo Niagara River Land Trust and volunteered with Standing Up for Racial Justice Buffalo Chapter, Ranked Choice NY, Genesee RiverWatch, Genesee Finger Lakes Chapter of Air and Waste Management Association. Sarah is a passionate advocate for land protection and is committed to fostering a culture of conservation in the community.



## STEWARDSHIP



A volunteer helps clear invasives to make way for a new trail and healthy habitat during a workday at Churchill Valley Greenway.

## NEW & RENEWING BUSINESS SPONSORS

Many thanks to the sponsors who have joined us or renewed their support with us since our last edition of Vistas. 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

- CanonDesign - Platinum
- Giant Eagle - Gold
- Dougherty Construction Services - Silver
- Two Frays Brewery - Other

### RENEWING

- Athletic Brewing - Platinum
- Bayer - Platinum
- EQT Foundation - Platinum
- First National Bank - Platinum
- PNC Foundation - Platinum
- PPG - Platinum
- Williams Coulson Johnson Lloyd Parker & Tedesco LLC - Platinum
- BNY Mellon - Gold
- DICK'S Sporting Goods/Public Lands Foundation - Silver
- Grist House Craft Brewery - Bronze
- Hillman Company - Bronze
- Insulwise - Other

If you're interested in becoming an ALT sponsor, please contact Tyler Chilcott at [tyler@allegHENYlandtrust.org](mailto:tyler@allegHENYlandtrust.org).

## Restoring Our Native Habitats

by Dani Kramer | Field Coordinator

It was a big year for ALT habitat restoration. We not only planted trees to restore forest canopy, but we also improved our waterways and meadows. Habitat restoration is a long game that requires big-picture planning. The forests, meadows, streams, and ponds that make up ALT's footprint support a huge diversity of insects, birds, and other wildlife. It can seem like a small thing to plant a seedling in the ground, but you must see the forest for the trees. This year, we planted more than 1,500 trees and shrubs on our conservation areas!

In areas near bodies of water, we've planted trees that like to get their feet wet. Red Osier Dogwood, Willow Oak, and River Birch are some of the trees now calling the north shore of Sycamore Island and the creeks of Dead Man's Hollow "home." In Girty's Woods, we've planted a variety of fruit-bearing trees and shrubs on the forest edges of the upper plateau. Persimmon, Hackberry, and Nannyberry will protect and feed the migratory birds who use the woods to rest and recharge on their long journeys. Bethel Green has welcomed a variety of new oaks, maples, and pines to give the forest canopy a fighting chance against invasive plant species in the decades to come. Finally, we can expect to see Churchill Valley Greenway's deer-fenced hillside blooming next spring with hundreds of young Black Elderberry, Flowering Dogwood, Red Chokeberry, Eastern Redbud, and Sweet Bay Magnolia.

We have also been live staking (inserting stem cuttings taken from dormant trees directly into stream banks) at Irwin Run and Linbrook Woodlands to prevent erosion and strengthen the creek and wetland habitats. At Meyer Farm, two wildflower meadows were re-seeded in the spring and selectively tended to remove invasive plants. Pollinators have enjoyed the meadows through the seasons, and birds will help to spread the next generation of seeds.

At Wingfield Pines, Bethel Green, and Dead Man's Hollow, volunteers cleared thickets of invasive plants to make space for the new native trees. Elsewhere, our especially wet spring followed by the flash summer drought led to natural tree fellings that made way for new growth.

Some falling trees managed to target benches, signs, and trails, but many others graciously opened the canopy for new growth! All told, it's been a beautiful year of collaboration between ALT staff and nature's processes. Being mindful of what the land will tend to do on its own and working harmoniously to keep things growing in the right direction is how ALT intends to keep improving habitats for years to come.

Now that the trees are dormant, we're looking forward to spring of 2025 and another year of habitat restoration. Keep an eye on the ALT event calendar to stay informed about getting involved in the next planting season.



Does your workplace offer volunteer workdays? Contact us to organize an outing to maintain and improve close-to-home green space to do team-building while making a lasting difference on the land! Email us to get started: [stewardship@allegHENYlandtrust.org](mailto:stewardship@allegHENYlandtrust.org).



# UPCOMING EVENTS

**E** Education Events

**V** Volunteer Events

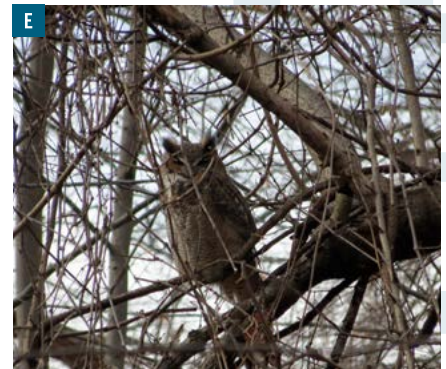


Photo by Brian Henderson via Flickr.

Photo by Wild Excellence Films

## Science Stroll Series

**January 4 | 5 - 6:30 PM | Owl Prowl | Wingfield Pines**

**February 7 | 5:30 - 7 PM | Owl Prowl | Dead Man's Hollow**

**March 28 | 7 - 9 PM | Woodcock Walk | Churchill Valley Greenway**

Attend our Science Stroll Series to expand your nature knowledge on a different topic during each stroll! Our educator will lead the hike, and attendees can learn more about the outdoors at different ALT green spaces.

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

## Webinar Series

**January 8 | PA's Birds of the Night**

**February 12 | Creative Courtships & Mating Madness**

**March 19 | Wonderful Woodcocks**

Each Webinar Runs 5 - 5:45 pm

Gain nature knowledge from wherever you have an internet connection with our webinar series on a variety of topics.

**All Ages | Cost:Free**



## Sustainability at Home Series

**January 9 | 6 - 7:30 pm | Reducing Food Waste**

**January 22 | 6 - 7:30 pm | Creating Small Space Sanctuaries**

**February 6 | 6 - 7:30 pm | Preserving Edible Mushrooms 101**

**February 27 | 6 - 7:30 pm | Foraging the Forest's Foods**

**March 6 | 6 - 7:30 pm | Raining to Saving: Using Rain Planters**

**March 20 | 6 - 7:30 pm | Bird-Friendly Yards**

Location | Washington County Conservation District

Back by popular demand is our Sustainability at Home event series! Learn from experts about how to apply sustainable practices in your home and leave with ~\$100 in tools per session to help getting started.

**REDUCING FOOD WASTE** - This workshop will focus on reducing, food waste from seed saving and scrap gardening to composting.

**CREATING SMALL SPACE SANCTUARIES** - Learn about small space gardening: from best native plants for containers, pots and small yards or balconies, to maximizing vegetable gardening space in creative ways.

**PRESERVING EDIBLE MUSHROOMS 101** - Join ALT & Flannel Roots to discover ways to preserve and enjoy your foraged and cultivated mushroom finds (it also applies to other produce)!

**FORAGING THE FOREST'S FOODS** - Join ALT and Barbora Batokova aka "fungiwoman" to learn how to spot and identify commonly foraged plants and mushrooms in our area.

**RAINING TO SAVING: USING RAIN PLANTERS** - Create rain planters with Washington County Conservation District and ALT to learn how to absorb stormwater runoff for a more lovely yard and sustainable community.

**BIRD-FRIENDLY YARDS** - Nick Liadis of Bird Lab will be discussing the components of a bird-friendly yard. Central to this discussion is the crucial role of native plants in providing habitat for local bird populations.

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

**All Ages | Cost: \$15/person/workshop**







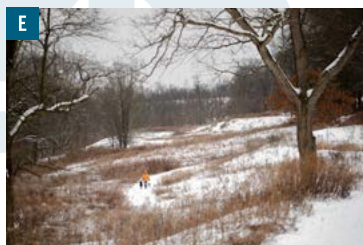
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### Winter Wander

**January 11 | 10 am - 12 pm**

Dead Man's Hollow

Join ALT and Audubon Society educators to observe some PA cold season birds and learn to identify leafless trees while admiring winter scenery and historic tales!

**All Ages | Cost: Free**



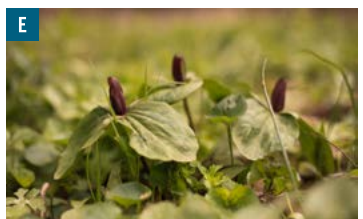
### National Seed Swap Day

**January 25 | 10 am - 12 pm**

Frank Sarris Public Library

Celebrate National Seed Swap Day by joining fellow fans of native gardening for a seed swap. Attendees can bring anything garden-related to swap: pots, books, tool, etc.

**All Ages | Cost: Free**



### Lunch & Learn Webinar: Spring Wildflower Phenology

**February 5 | 12 - 1 pm**

Join a certified, local phenology leader to learn more about some of our region's early spring ephemerals. You'll also learn about recent observations at a project underway at Barking Slopes examining plant phenology.

**All Ages | Cost: Free**



### The Bethel Park Historical Society Series

**January 13 | Better for Bees (kids)**

**January 13 | Owls of PA (adults)**

**February 10 | Apex Animals (kids)**

**February 10 | Cunning Canines (adults)**

**March 17 | Bug Olympics (kids)**

**March 17 | Native Bees of PA (adults)**

Location | Bethel Park Historical Society

Time | Kids: 5 - 6 pm; Adults: 6:30 - 7:30 pm

The Bethel Park Historical Society has generously supported a fall 2024 – spring 2025 event series with ALT to offer community members great, free programs to learn more about the outdoors.

**All Ages | Cost: Free**



### Virtual Volunteer Meetup Series

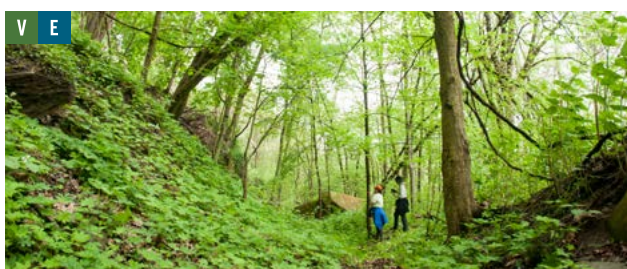
**January 29 | 6 - 7 pm**

**February 26 | 6 - 7 pm**

**March 26 | 6 - 7 pm**

We love our volunteers and are so grateful for the help and care you provide for ALT green spaces. Join our Stewardship and Education teams for monthly, virtual open "office hours" to chat about upcoming opportunities and to share your thoughts and ideas!

**All Ages | Cost: Free**



### Wildflower & Turtle Monitoring: Phenology Volunteer Training

**March 29 | 9 am - 12 pm**

Barking Slopes

Join a certified, local phenology leader to learn about phenology (the study of seasonal changes and life cycle events) and how to become a phenology volunteer while collecting data on wildflower and box turtles!

**All Ages | Cost: Free**



For registration & more information, visit:  
[alleghenylandtrust.org/events](http://alleghenylandtrust.org/events)







# ALLEGHENY LAND TRUST

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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 3,700 acres of green space in dozens of municipalities to preserve our region's unique natural beauty, provide expanded outdoor recreational opportunities, protect and improve water and air quality, sustain biodiversity, and enhance the quality of life for all in our region. ALT's areas of strategic priority include Land Conservation, Land Stewardship, Community Conservation, and Environmental Education.

With conservation areas in 41 municipalities, there is now an ALT conservation area within 8 miles of every Allegheny County community member. 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 light your Yule Log or create your own holiday collage greeting cards! Email us with your creative reuse of Vistas.

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**FRONT COVER:** Snow covers the fields, woodlands, and bridges of Churchill Valley Greenway.

**BACK COVER:** Dormant wildflowers at Churchill Valley Greenway.

All photos by Lindsay Dill unless otherwise noted.



EFP's Combined Federal Code is 62348