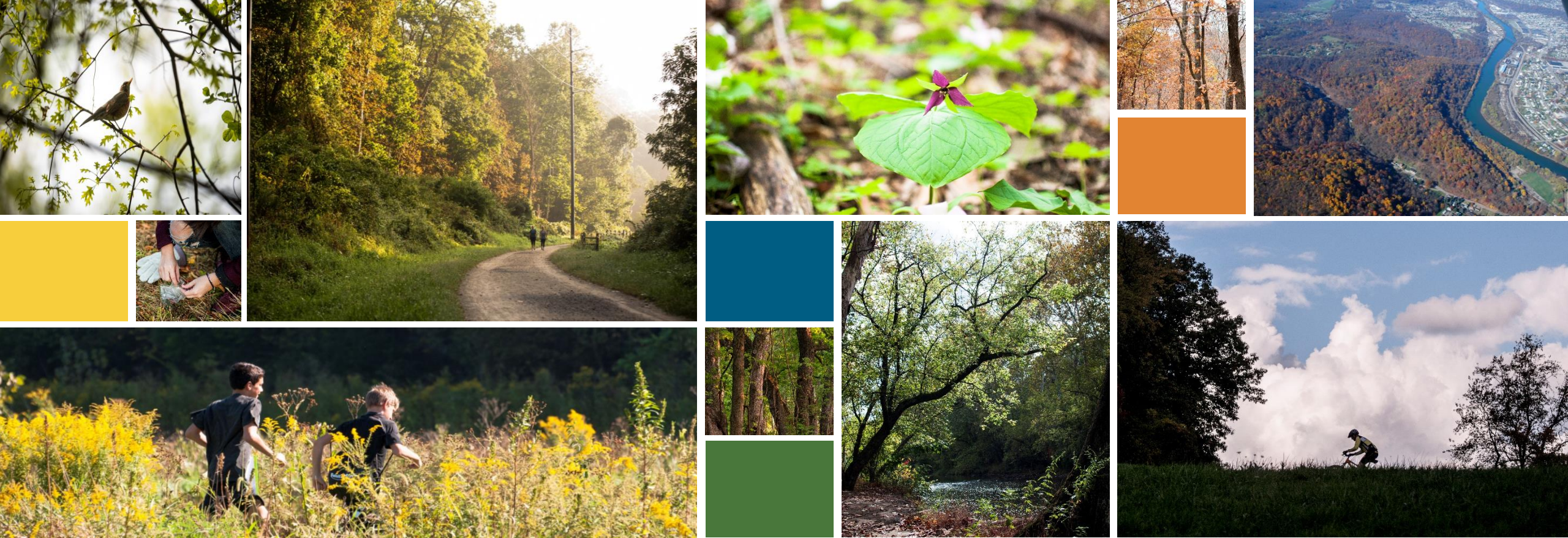




# The Urgency to Conserve Local Land

*The future of the region depends upon it*



**Western Pennsylvania is blessed with a unique, diverse and incredibly rich natural heritage and ample greenspace...**

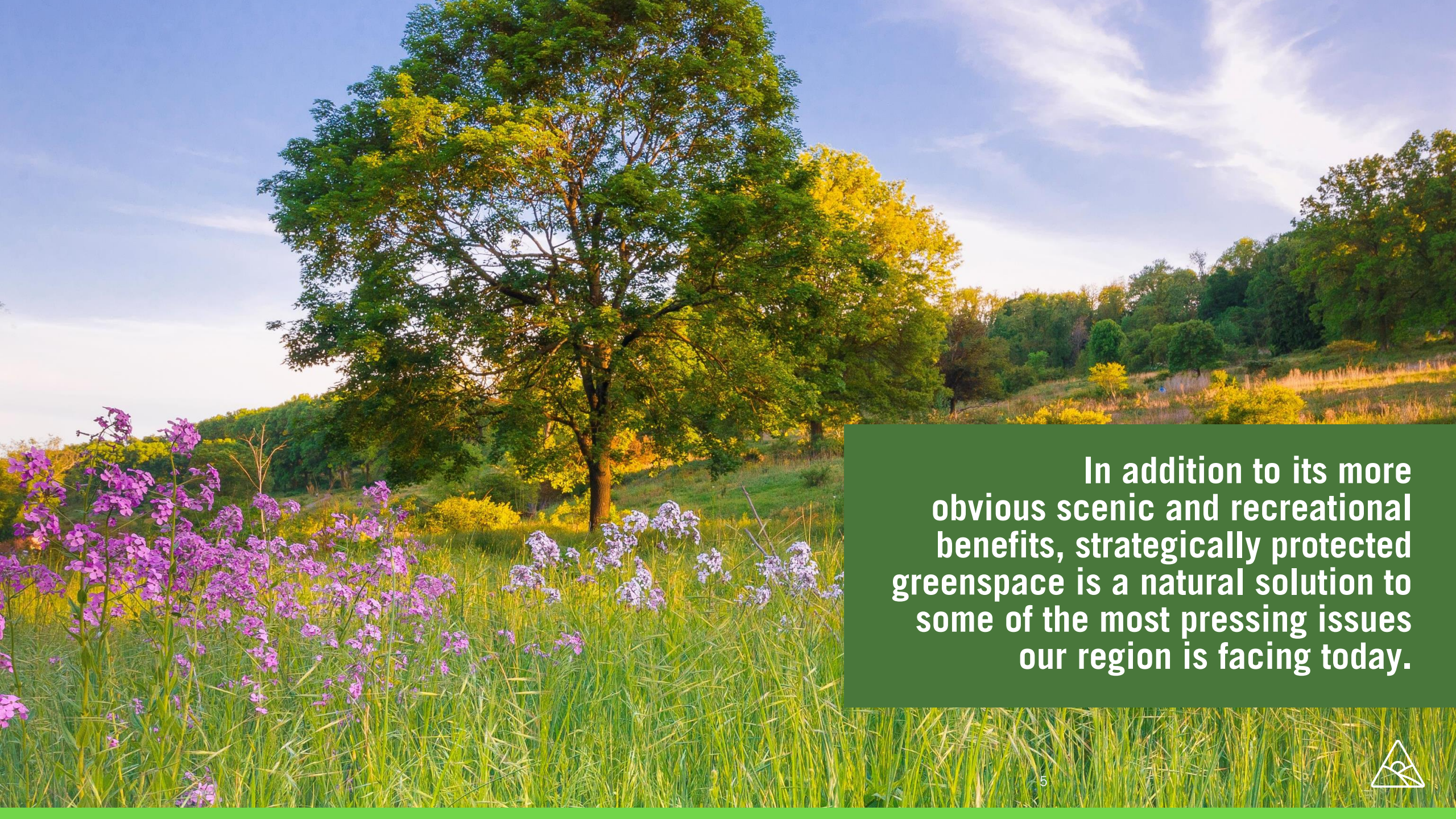


that provides the essential components...



of our region's much-heralded quality of life.

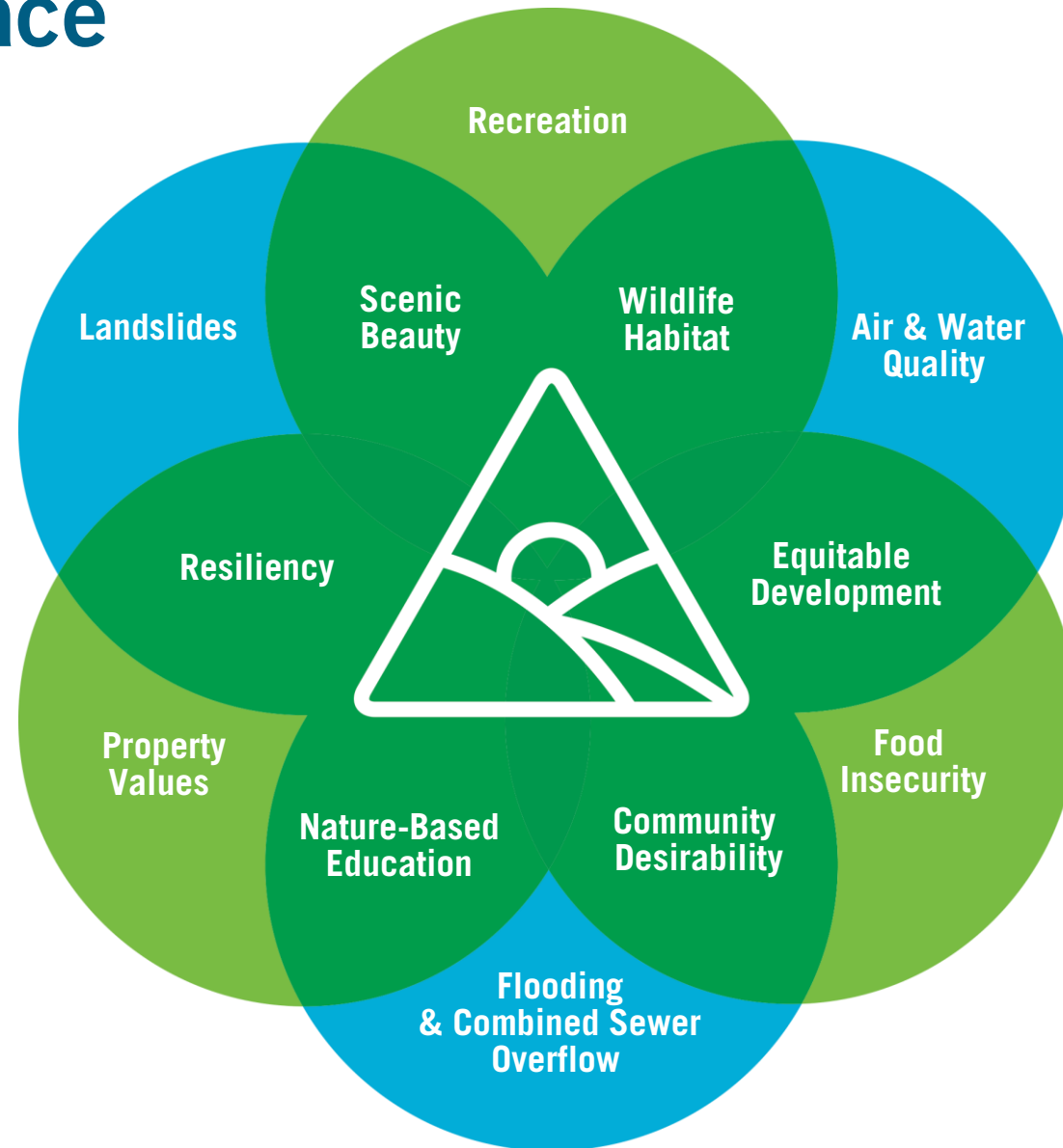


A scenic landscape featuring a large, leafy tree in the center, a field of purple flowers in the foreground, and a green hill in the background under a blue sky with light clouds.

**In addition to its more obvious scenic and recreational benefits, strategically protected greenspace is a natural solution to some of the most pressing issues our region is facing today.**



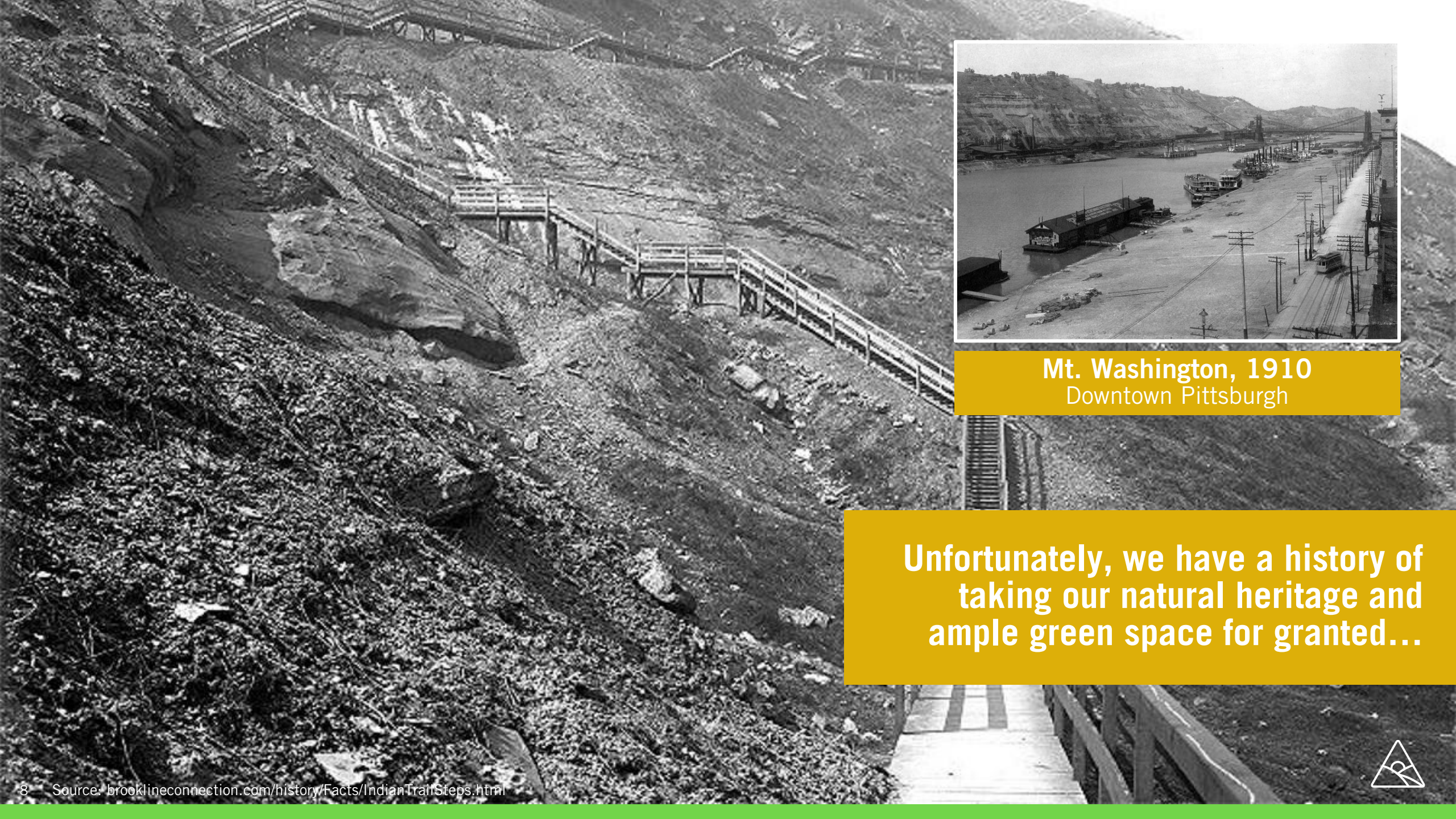
# Protected Green Space is at the Core of the Solutions



A large, mature tree with dense green foliage stands in a grassy field. A wooden fence runs across the middle ground, and a line of trees is visible in the background under a clear sky. An orange text box is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**How we treat our remaining green space will determine whether we mitigate or further exacerbate these issues and impact the quality of life in our region today and for future generations.**





**Mt. Washington, 1910**  
Downtown Pittsburgh

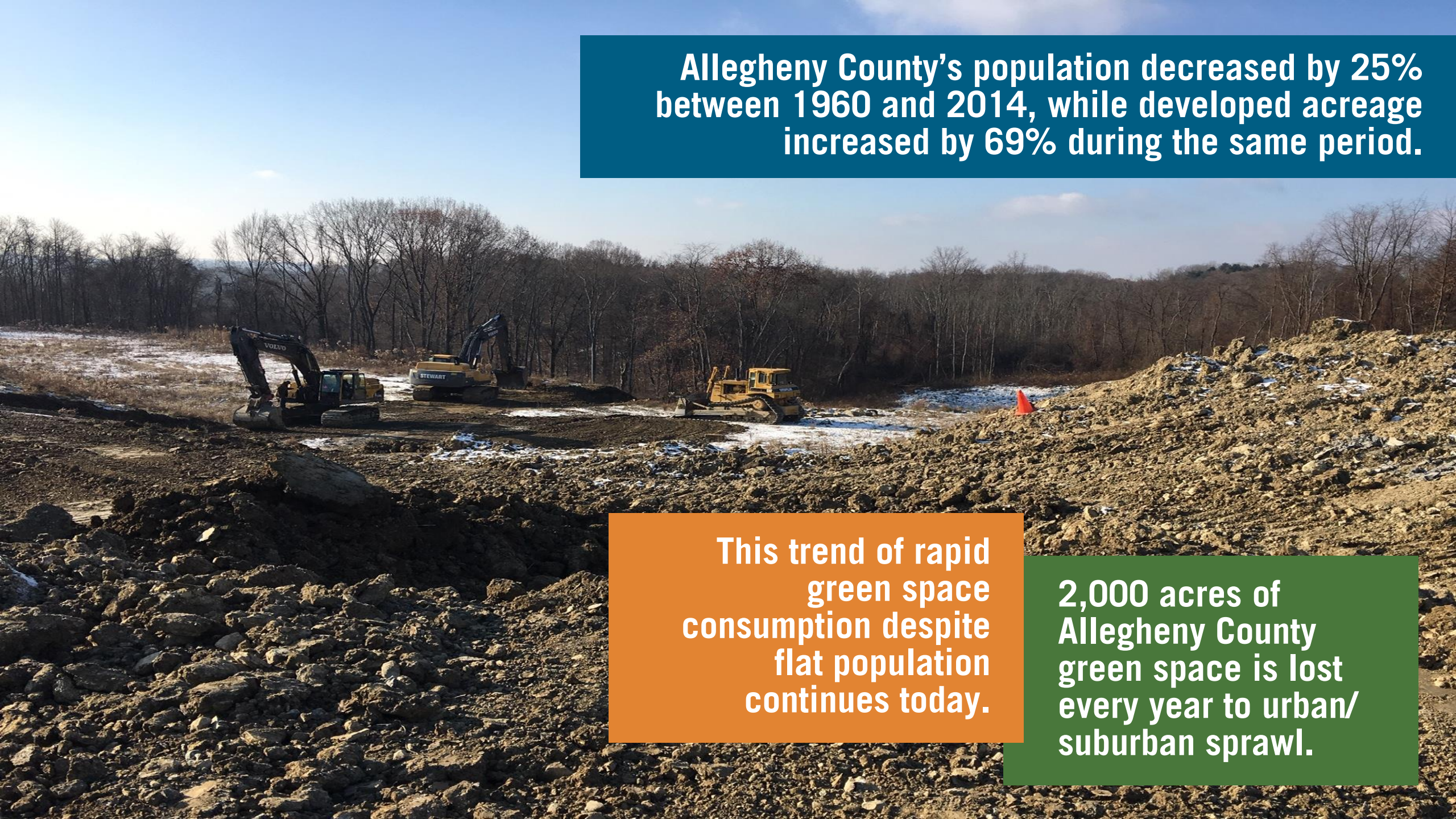
**Unfortunately, we have a history of  
taking our natural heritage and  
ample green space for granted...**





that continues today.



A wide-angle photograph of a construction site in a wooded area. In the foreground, there is a large pile of dark, rocky soil. In the middle ground, two excavators and a bulldozer are working on a cleared plot of land. The excavators are yellow and black, with one labeled 'VOLVO' and the other 'STEWART'. The bulldozer is yellow. The background shows a dense line of bare trees under a clear blue sky. A small orange traffic cone is visible on the right side of the cleared area.

**Allegheny County's population decreased by 25% between 1960 and 2014, while developed acreage increased by 69% during the same period.**

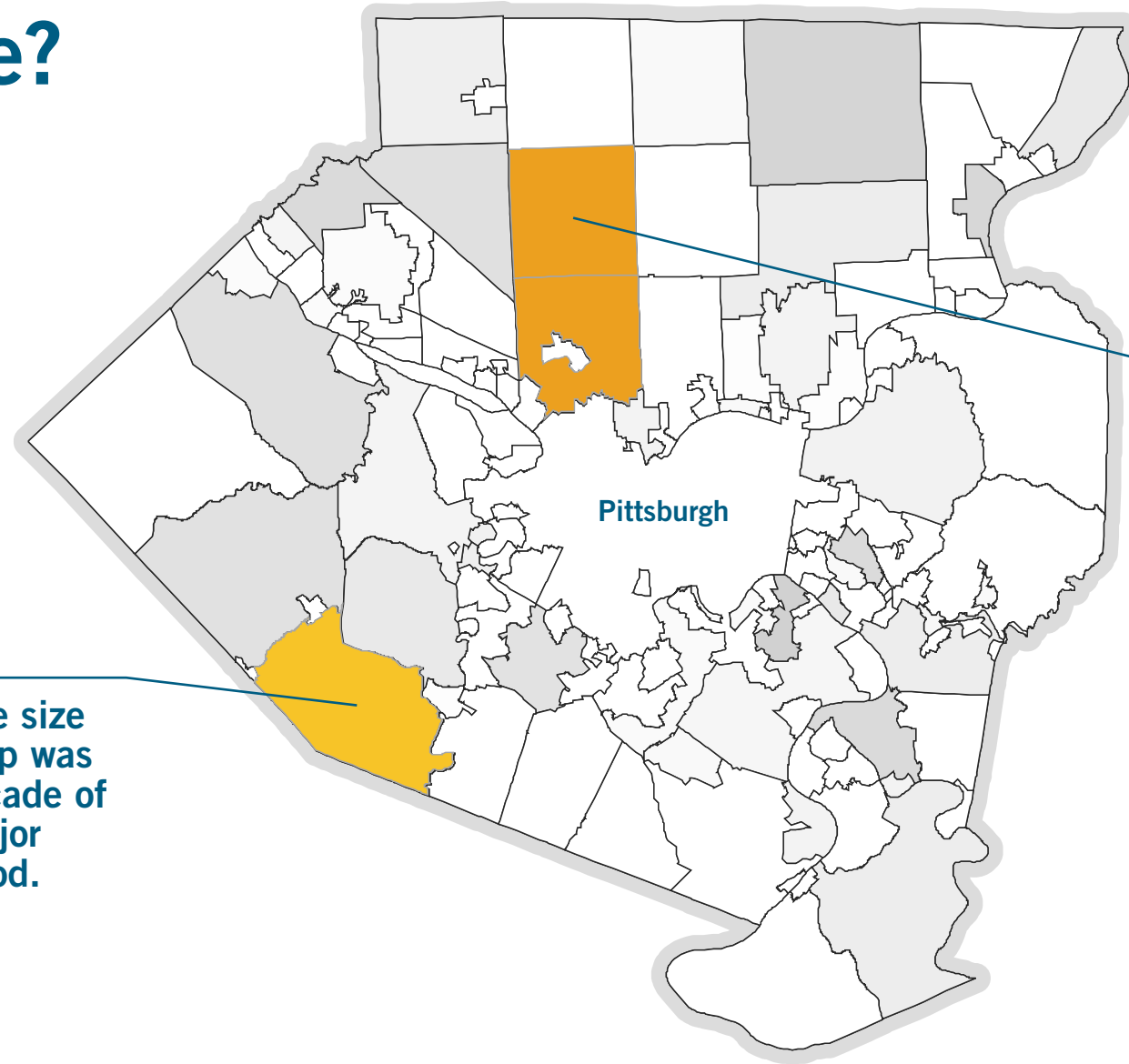
**This trend of rapid green space consumption despite flat population continues today.**

**2,000 acres of Allegheny County green space is lost every year to urban/suburban sprawl.**

# What does that look like?

## 2001-2011

An area of greenspace the size of South Fayette Township was consumed in the first decade of this century despite a major recession during the period.

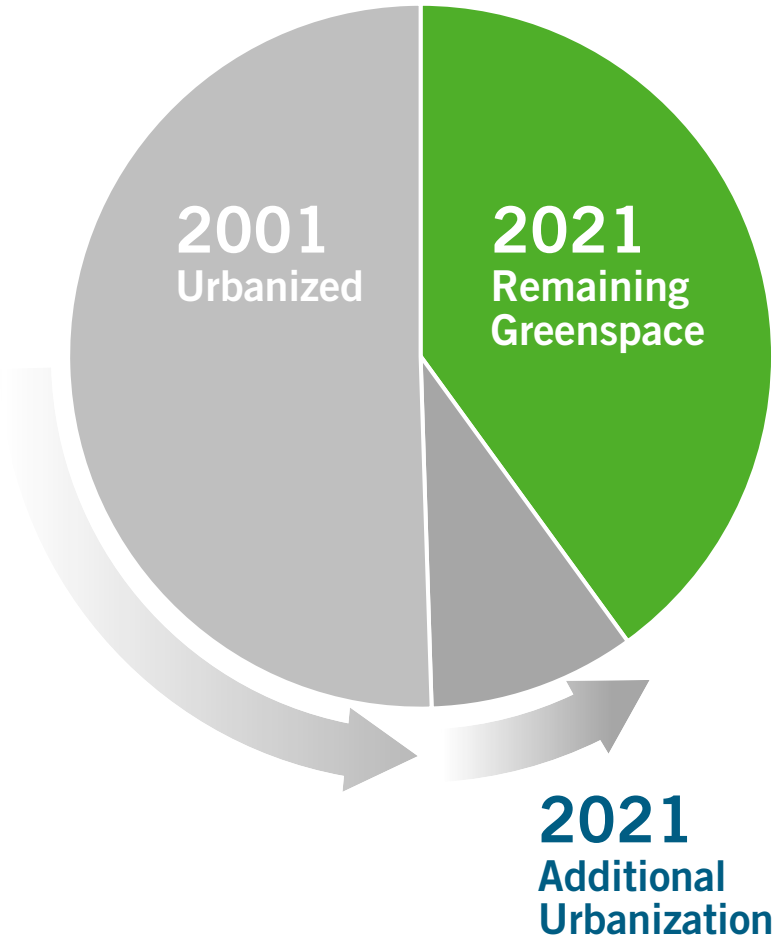
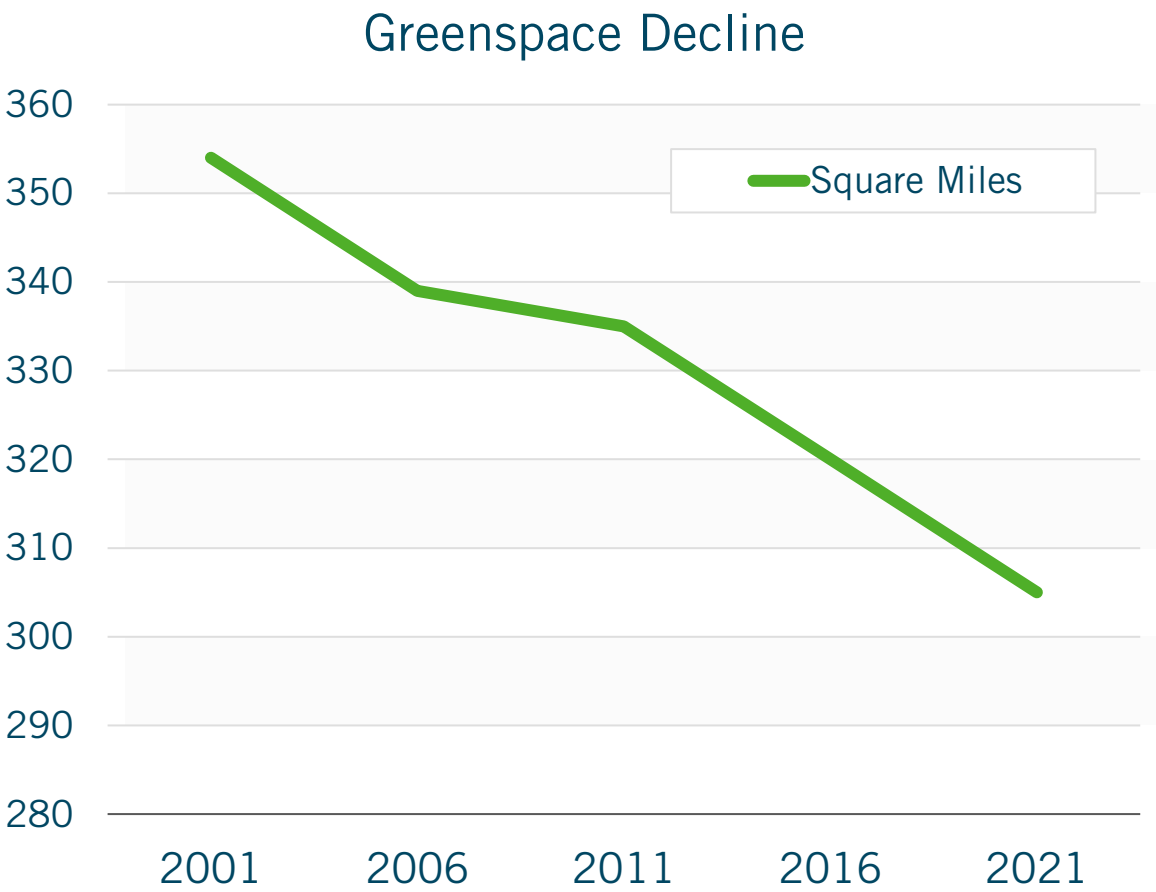


## 2011-2021

And an area of green space the size of Ross and McCandless Townships combined will have been consumed between 2011 and the end of this year.

# Allegheny County's On-Going March Toward Urbanization

(Source: USGS National Land Cover Data Base)

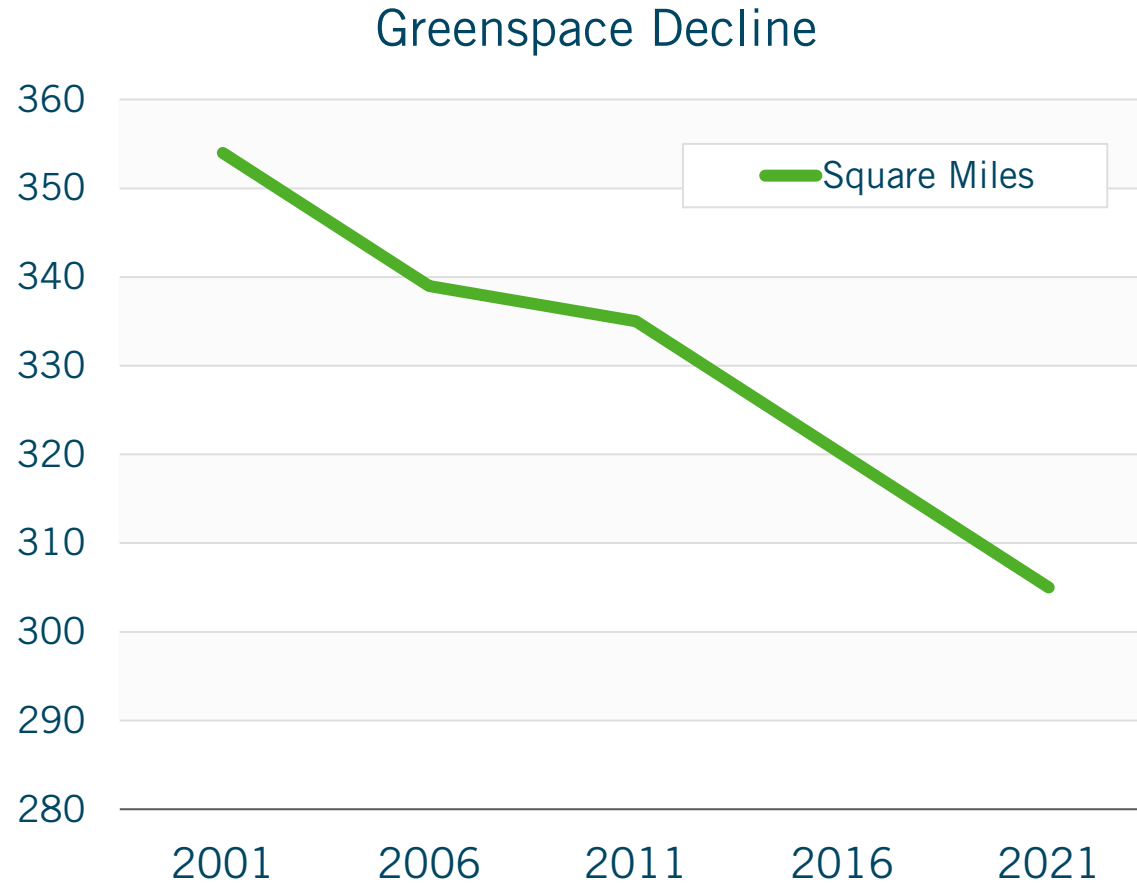


Note: Total Area of Allegheny County = 745 Square Miles (640 acres in a square mile)



# Allegheny County's On-Going March Toward Urbanization

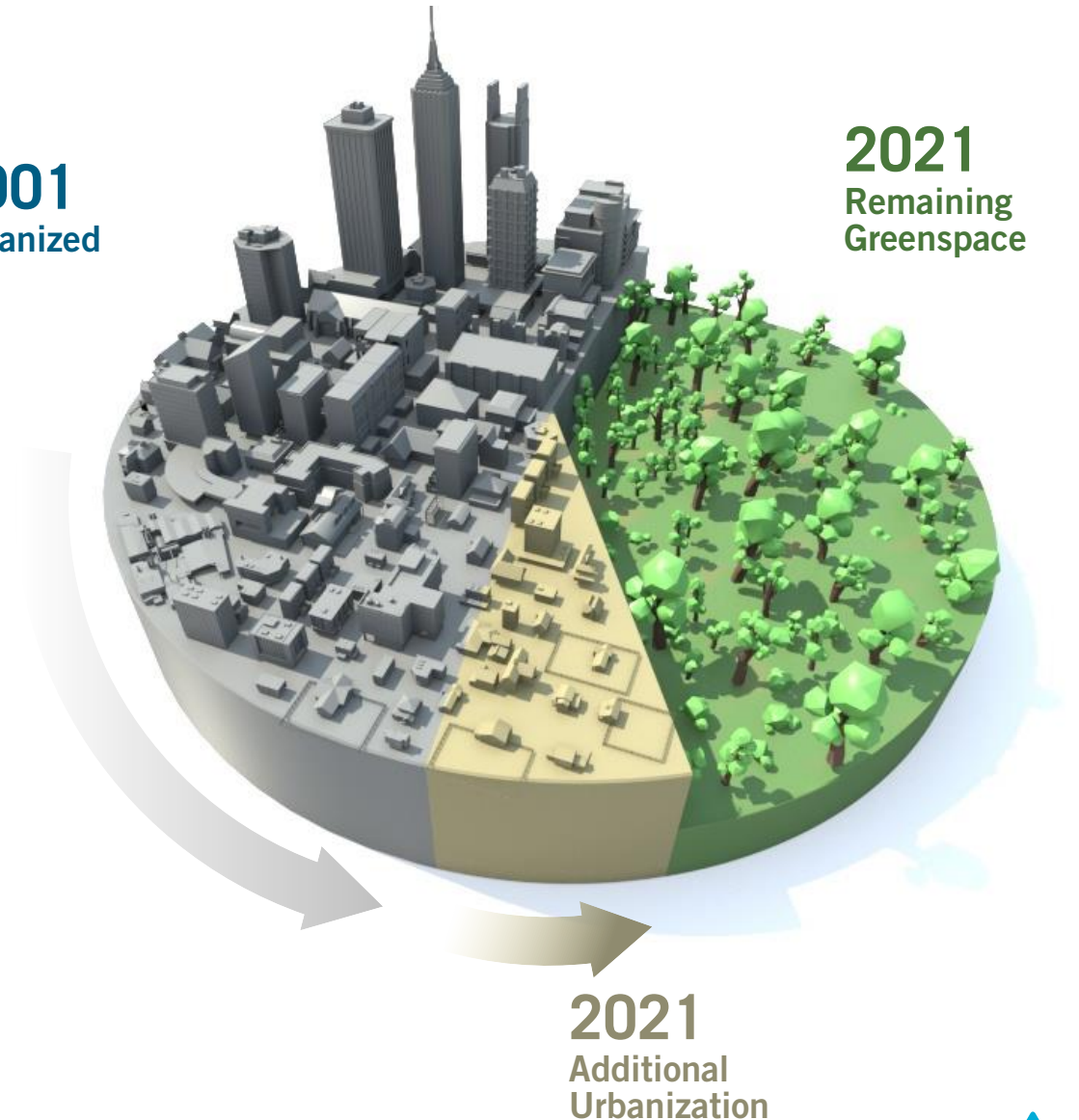
(Source: USGS National Land Cover Data Base)



Note: Total Area of Allegheny County = 745 Square Miles (640 acres in a square mile)

**2001**  
Urbanized

**2021**  
Remaining  
Greenspace



# So Why Conserve Local Land?



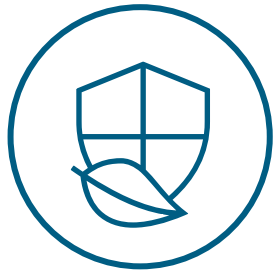
## Preserve scenic beauty

- Central to unique character of Western Pennsylvania



## Clean the air and filter the water

- Acre of woodlands removes 72 lbs. of pollutants from the air per year and captures sediment and absorbs harmful nutrients from runoff



## Protect native plants and animal habitat to foster biodiversity

- Habitat destruction #1 cause of the On-going catastrophic species loss



## Mitigate flooding, landslides, and combined sewer overflow

- Acre of green space absorbs 825,000 gallons of water per year preventing flooding, avoiding land destabilization, and reducing the overwhelming of sanitary sewers



## Provide ample and permanent close-to-home places for exercise and outdoor recreation for people of all communities

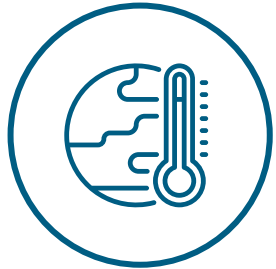
- Physical and mental health outcomes depend upon it





## Remediate past environmental abuse

- Heal the scars left by the region's mining and industrial legacy



## Combat climate change

- Acre of woodlands sequesters 4,030 lbs. of carbon from the atmosphere annually



## Build Resiliency

- Flood mitigation, wildlife sustainability corridors, cooler public places



## Address food insecurity

- Preserve land for local food production, eliminate food deserts



## Enhance the desirability of our communities

- Proximity to green space is “Top-Three” factor cited by families looking for a community to call home



## Increase property values

- Proximity to public green space drives 5%-30% increase

# Preserve and Enhance

THE OVERALL QUALITY OF LIFE TODAY AND

**for Generations to Come!**



# Protecting our rich natural heritage

---



A nationally accredited, non-profit organization dedicated to “helping local people save local land”

---

FOUNDED IN  
**1993**

IN RESPONSE TO  
RAPIDLY DISAPPEARING  
**Green Space**

OPERATING ACROSS  
**Allegheny County**  
AND SURROUNDING  
COMMUNITIES

**>3,000 Acres**  
**32 Municipalities**

---

**4.7 Square Miles Protected**

AN AREA THE SIZE OF  
Scott Township and Carnegie Combined

**400 Additional Acres**

Under Contract for Closing  
in 2021



A scenic landscape featuring a calm pond in the foreground, reflecting the surrounding autumn foliage. The trees in the background are in various shades of yellow, orange, and green, with two prominent evergreen trees standing out. The foreground is filled with tall, green grasses. A dark green rectangular box is overlaid on the lower left side of the image, containing white text.

**We have much urgent work to do.  
Please join us.**





**ALLEGHENY  
LAND TRUST**