
ALLEGHENY
LAND TRUST





HELPING

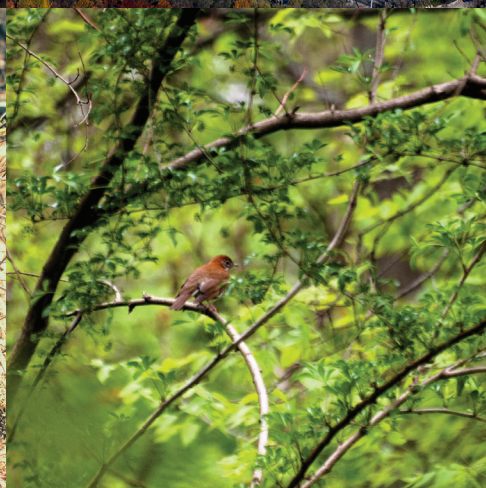
LOCAL

PEOPLE

SAVE

LOCAL

LAND.

Allegheny Land Trust (ALT) is a nationally accredited, 501c3 non-profit organization that has been helping local people save local land in the Pittsburgh region for nearly a quarter of a century.

Founded in 1993 in response to the rapidly declining amount of green space in our area, ALT has protected more than 4,000 acres that preserve our region's unique scenic character, biodiversity, and water quality as well as provide outdoor recreation opportunities and an enhanced quality of life for all. There is now an ALT conservation area within 8 miles of every resident of Allegheny County.

ALT has expanded its efforts to include innovative methods of land conservation in support of community needs for urban green space, and the addition of a professional environmental education team teaching people of all ages to understand and appreciate the natural world.



“Sprawl will move on relentlessly if there isn’t a conscious effort to curtail it. ALT plays a vital role in protecting open spaces because they are a ‘can-do’ organization.”

JOHN OLIVER III | Retired Secretary of PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Wingfield Pines

The Case for Conservation

WE ARE AT A CRITICAL POINT in Southwestern Pennsylvania as our open spaces continue to disappear at an alarming pace. It is up to all of us to ensure that our natural heritage of green hillsides, lush valleys, streams and rivers and places to relax and play survive today and for our children and their children.



"The more clearly we focus our attention on the wonders and realities of the universe around us the less taste we shall have for its destruction."

RACHEL CARSON

Allegheny County has lost 10,000 acres of tree canopy across the County in the past five years.

TREE PITTSBURGH

"I think having land and not ruining it is the most beautiful art anyone could want."

ANDY WARHOL

Allegheny County's population decreased by 25% between 1960 and 2014, but the pace of development dramatically accelerated during the same time period.

U.S. CENSUS

"Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you."

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

Southwestern Pennsylvania is losing green space at the rate of 40 acres per day.

BROOKINGS INSTITUTION

ALT STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



■ ALT protects lands that contribute to our region's biodiversity, water quality, and scenic beauty to balance the effects of development. These green spaces provide opportunities for recreation, community-building, and property value enhancement to improve the quality of life in our region.



■ Our small staff cares for our protected land in perpetuity. By maintaining healthy, sustainable conservation areas with corporate and community volunteers, ALT guarantees that our green spaces will continue to be an asset to communities, the wildlife that inhabit them, and the visitors who use them in a variety of ways.

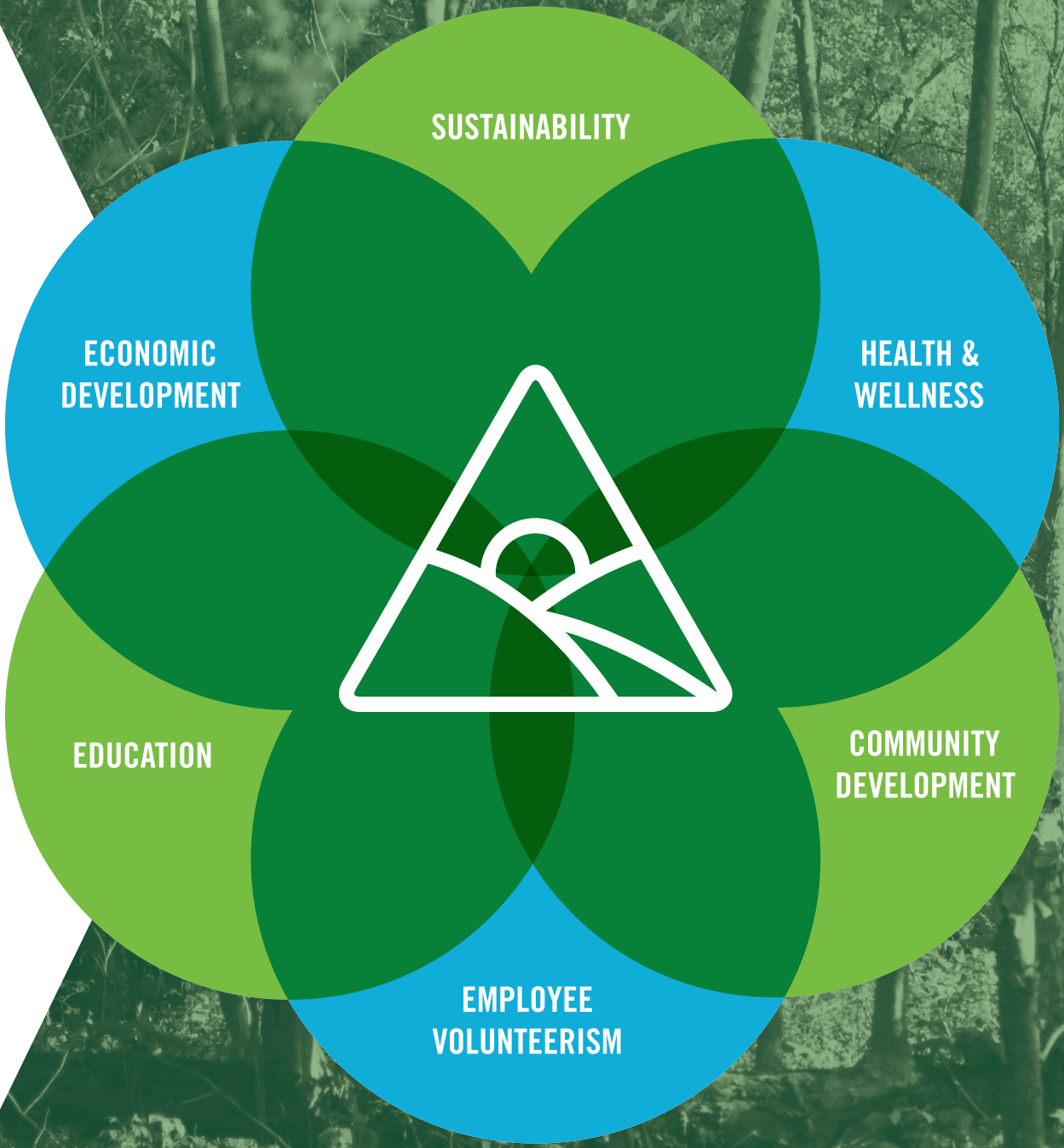


■ ALT works with municipal governments, community groups, and businesses to recycle distressed urban parcels into the highest and best use for our region's overall quality of life by providing more close-to-home green space. Buffering noise pollution, filtering air pollution, sequestering rainwater, implementing green infrastructure, and promoting health & wellness opportunities in accessible, natural spaces are vital to the sustainability of urban communities.



■ Our professional, certified educators shape the future by applying their knowledge and experience in environmental education to ALT's science-based curriculum. The environmental education team teaches the biology of the Earth to those who will one day help protect it, introducing children and young adults to the possibility of careers in science. We also reach the broader population with public environmental education events throughout the region.

ALT's Regional Impact



LAND CONSERVATION

Permanently protecting land from development.

ALT protects more than 4,000 acres of green space in Allegheny and Washington Counties. Using our GREENPRINT process, we evaluate, target, and prioritize for protection natural areas that provide the greatest public benefit, and contribute to our region's unique scenic quality, biodiversity, and water quality.

We protect land by . . .

DIRECT PURCHASE / OWNERSHIP: Capitalized through local fundraising campaigns, and grants from private foundations, businesses and the state of Pennsylvania, ALT typically purchases land for conservation. Occasionally land is gifted to ALT by an individual, community group, developer or other business that can benefit from a federal tax deduction.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT: Tool used in partnerships between ALT and private land owners to permanently protect land without the landowner having to sell or move from the property. The easement stays on the land in perpetuity prohibiting future development by severing the development rights that are then held in trust by ALT. The value of the development rights transferred to ALT is eligible for a federal tax deduction if donated.

ESTATE PLANNING: Planned bequest of land or other assets to ALT. Often land owners choose to place a conservation easement on the property for the extent of their lives and bequest the property in its entirety upon their passing. ALT consults with land owners and their financial agents to create estate plans to best meet their conservation and financial goals.

TRANSFER OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (TDRs): Partnership between ALT and a municipality to create permanent green space while fostering sustainable development and maximizing municipal revenue. By formally transferring development rights from one site most suitable for protection to another site more suitable for development communities can responsibly and simultaneously protect valuable community green space, while encouraging targeted development, enhancing property values and raising tax revenue.

OTHER INNOVATIVE APPROACHES: Consulting and collaborating with governments, businesses and community groups to find creative approaches to conservation challenges. For example, ALT may work with various constituencies to develop and adopt eco-centric land use ordinances that result in higher-quality and more attractive development that compliments rather than degrades scenic beauty, water quality or sensitive ecosystems.

Regardless of the conservation method most suited to a particular situation, ALT can play a vital role in facilitating the process using its internal expertise and the coordination of contracted professionals including lawyers, surveyors, planners, inspectors and others as needed to ensure proper due diligence and precision in the permanent protection of conservation areas.

STEWARDSHIP

Responsibly caring for conservation areas.

ALT has a solemn responsibility to sustainably steward its conservation areas in perpetuity. ALT's small stewardship staff and dedicated volunteers monitor, maintain and improve our conservation areas, wildlife habitats and visitor amenities. As a nationally accredited land trust, ALT develops and implements multi-year management plans for each area that guide the on-going stewardship of that property and budget for completing the work.

In addition to self-performing much of the work, ALT's professional stewardship staff manages annual interns, recruits individual volunteers, conducts public volunteer days, and coordinates the efforts of corporate volunteer groups to build trails, remove invasive plants, clean up trash, document flora and fauna, plant trees and conduct many other activities. The effective management of these areas requires consistent funding and ALT is working to grow its overall stewardship endowment and to create dedicated stewardship funds for our larger conservation areas.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

Building strong and sustainable communities through conservation.

ALT has expanded its focus to include urban greening in response to the growing appreciation of and demand for sustainable land use among urban communities and their local governments. There is a strong movement afoot to "recycle" abandoned and distressed urban parcels for productive and community-strengthening uses including community green space and gardens, close to home outdoor recreation, spaces for outdoor education, urban farming, and as locations for green infrastructure to aid in storm water management. Small urban-scale greening facilitates responsible blight remediation and provides big and impactful financial benefits including social enterprise opportunities, and increased property values and tax revenues.

ALT with its expertise in creative land acquisition, innovative conservation methods, and stewardship is well-suited as a resource and catalyst for progress in this area. Recent examples include involvement it the Hilltop Farm and Hayes Woods projects in the City of Pittsburgh.




ALLEGHENY
LAND TRUST









EDUCATION

Teaching environmental responsibility across generations.

ALT's certified professional environmental education staff, dual-degreed in the biological sciences and K-12 education, brings decades of environmental education experience and a strong STEM curriculum to programs tailored to meet the needs of students of all ages.

Our education programs reach students through formal programs conducted at ALT conservation areas and in the classrooms of local schools. From early childhood and youth to adolescent and adult students, ALT provides hands-on science based programming to create awareness and understanding of the natural world and an appreciation of the critical need to protect it.

In its first year at ALT, the Environmental Education team taught more than 2,000 students (many in underserved areas) through their unique lesson plans in schools or at our conservation areas, and reached more than 5,000 people at public events.

Science Sprouts

Students ages 2 – second grade will be engaged in STEM based programs on over a dozen topics at your location.

Investigation Nature

Students in grades 3 – 12 will gain an appreciation for nature and local green spaces through hands-on environmentally focused programs on one of our feature conservation areas or at your location.

Nature Nearby

Adults will be introduced to more in-depth programming on conservation and natural history interest topics at an ALT conservation area or your location. Great for social gatherings, garden clubs or other organizations looking for a different type of adult enrichment programming.

University Programming

As stewards of over 2,100 acres of land we are looking for ways to quantify the biodiversity, economic value and other wonderful benefits of green space. To better gather this data ALT is currently looking to expand our work with higher education researchers and students.



“Pittsburgh’s Hilltop Farm Project will be a national model of community planning with sustainable agriculture, smart urban design, active open space, and conservation. We truly appreciate having ALT as a partner in this exciting project layering in their land conservation expertise with our community planning to achieve an inclusive neighborhood reinvention.”

AARON SUKENIK | Hilltop Alliance

Sycamore Island

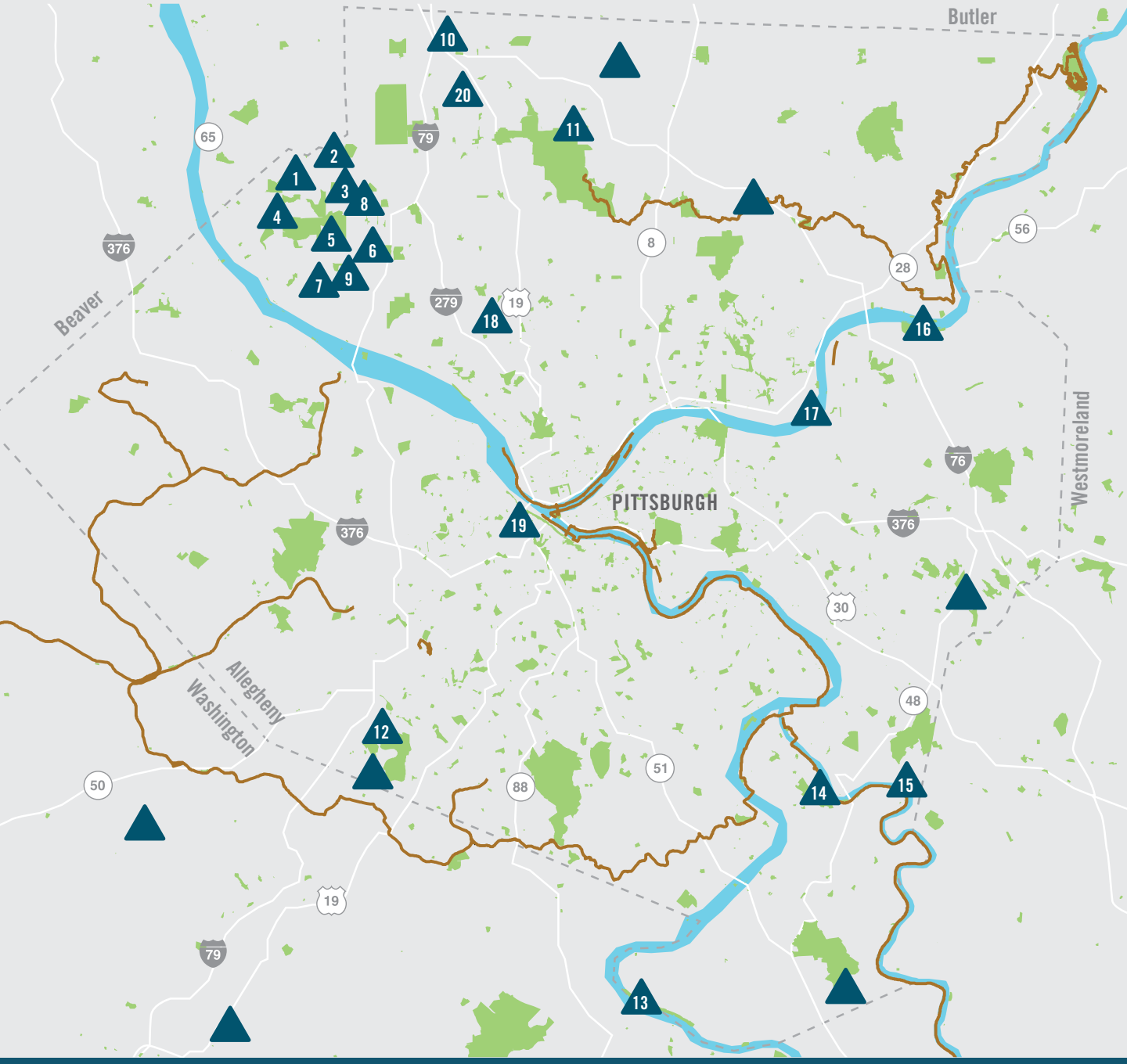




Barking Slopes

“I stumbled upon ALT while searching for escapes from bricks and concrete, and was amazed to find the amount of property and geographical diversity of ALT lands, and that some are even open to hunting.”

RYAN | Avid Outdoorsman & Hunter



ALT Conservation Areas Open to the Public

1 Beadnell Slopes
2 Linbrook Woodlands
3 Hunt Road
4 Devil's Hollow
5 Fern Hollow Greenway
6 Audubon Greenway
7 Waterworks
8 Logan's Meadow
9 Meadowview
10 Venango Trail
11 Irwin Run
12 Wingfield Pines
13 Whetzel Preserve
14 Dead Man's Hollow
15 Yough Slopes
16 Barking Slopes
17 Sycamore Island
18 Lowries Run Slopes
19 Emerald View Park
20 Bradford Woods Reserve

ALT Conservation Areas
Regional Trails
Other Protected Land

Top Ten Conservation Areas



Audubon Greenway 6

has a classic Western Pennsylvania landscape with fields, rolling hills, mature oak groves, and beautiful waterways. The green space also encompasses the headwaters of Little Sewickley Creek. Miles of trails used by hikers, bikers, birders, and equestrians connect to adjacent parks including the Sewickley Hills Borough and Sewickley Heights Borough parks.

161 Acres | **Sewickley, PA**



Barking Slopes 16

is characterized by a steep-walled and forested valley, and is enhanced by the wide range of exposed bedrock, soils, and moisture conditions resulting in a unique forest community that supports a wide range of flora and fauna. It is located along the Allegheny River, and its trails boast gorgeous views of the river valley and Springdale – the childhood home of Rachel Carson. This conservation area is open to hunting.

151 Acres | **New Kensington, PA**



Dead Man's Hollow 14

is marked by its dense woodlands, abundant wildflower population, winding trails that lead hikers and bikers to vistas that tell of a rich and mysterious history. Time and nature have reclaimed this once-thriving industrial site, and it's now the largest privately protected conservation area in Allegheny county. The hollow is popular with hikers, birders, historians, and bikers who explore its 8-mile trail network, which is being expanded to 10 miles. This conservation area is open to hunting.

450 Acres | **Boston, PA**



Emerald View Park 19

is unique in this list, as ALT donated ownership to the City and maintains a conservation easement on the land to ensure its permanent protection as green space. Adjoining downtown, the green way connects with Grandview Overlook Park, Mount Washington Park, Olympia Park, and the Duquesne Heights Greenway creating a 257-acre ring of green space. Its winding, wooded trails offer fantastic views of the City and its Three Rivers.

25 Acres | **Pittsburgh, PA**



Fern Hollow 5

consists of wooded slopes, trails, spring seeps, and tributaries to Little Sewickley Creek. Its trails connect to the extensive trail system of neighboring Sewickley Heights Park, and both green spaces are host to abundant plant and wildlife habitat. The green space is popular with equestrians and hikers. This conservation area is open to hunting.

34 Acres | **Sewickley, PA**



Irwin Run 11

is adjacent to North Park providing expanded hiking trails and a natural buffer from development. It's wooded slopes, wetlands, and natural stream valley protect the water quality of North Park Lake.

77 Acres | **Gibsonia, PA**



Linbrook Woodlands 2

is a sloping, wooded property with frontage along Big Sewickley Creek, deep wooded ravines, trails that connect to Linbrook Park, and many springs. A crumbling cemetery and church foundation alongside Hopkins Church Road are reminders of earlier developments on the land. It is a distinctive natural area that is unique to Allegheny County due to its range of plant and wildlife. This conservation area is open to hunting.

178 Acres | **Franklin Park, PA**



Wingfield Pines 12

is forested floodplain along Chartiers Creek, with trail access through a passive mine treatment system for Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD). Initially, a priority for protection due to its ability to hold and filter water during periods of heavy flooding, Wingfield Pines is now a community hub for recreation and education in the wetlands that offer an outdoor laboratory for students from local high schools, universities, and educational programs. There is also a one-mile loop of flat trail at the bottom of the access road attracting four- and two-legged visitors alike.

80 Acres | **Upper St. Clair, PA**



Sycamore Island 17

is one of few undeveloped, forested islands in the Allegheny River hosting a 1-mile publicly accessible, looped trail around its perimeter. The island's floodplain hardwood forest is recognized as among the rarest plant communities of its type, both regionally and globally. The island is accessible by boat only.

14 Acres | **Blawnox, PA**



Venango Trail 10

is a forested valley with large majestic oaks, a small unnamed tributary, and a portion of a historic Indian trail. The conservation area is at the headwaters of the Brush Creek watershed, and is home to a variety of wildlife. Venango Trail is a great spot to plan a moderate hike exploring the valley where you may come across the giant Sycamore and old spring house foundation. Restricted hunting is permitted at this property.

88 Acres | **Warrendale, PA**



Going Forward

WHILE ALT HAS BUILT A STRONG RESUMÉ of accomplishment over its 24-year history, the importance and urgency of its mission have never been greater. Irresponsible development practices continue to consume an increasing amount of greenspace even as local residents desire more accessible outdoor recreation opportunities, and other environmental and societal issues pose challenges to the region's long term sustainability goals. With these challenges in mind, ALT has set an aggressive agenda for 2017 and beyond in each of its strategic priorities.

LAND CONSERVATION

ALT will identify, evaluate, prioritize and pursue targeted conservation opportunities in the Pittsburgh Region to grow its total number of protected acres. Using the GREENPRINT and other regional planning tools for guidance, ALT will work in tandem with com-munity groups, municipal governments, businesses and other regional stakeholders to:

- Protect more green space
- Enhance connections between existing trails and green spaces
- Address other environmental and infrastructure concerns
- Facilitate sustainable community development

STEWARDSHIP

ALT will continue to utilize the most advanced and scientifically accepted stewardship practices to manage its existing and future conservation areas to:

- Restore land to its natural condition
- Create and maintain healthy habitat for native plants and animals
- Provide the best possible recreational experience for visitors
- Maximize opportunities for other community benefit
- Ensure long-term sustainability
- Monitor boundaries

ALT will need increased support from aligned business sponsors to sustain and accelerate the pace of its progress toward achieving these strategic priorities.

ALT plans to complete new management plans for four key conservation areas, build a minimum of ten new miles of trail, and complete two large-scale habitat restoration projects over the next two years.

EDUCATION

ALT will expand its capacity to provide award-winning, science-based environmental education programs to increase knowledge of the natural world among students of all ages. These programs have immediate impact on our world today and equip the next generation to be prudent stewards of our environment. It is ALT's goal to increase the number of students participating in our formal sessions each year by 68% to a targeted 4,000, and to double our total annual public educational interactions to 10,000 by 2018.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

ALT will actively support the growing interest among urban communities and their municipal governments in creating and utilizing urban green space in support of a number of community development initiatives. ALT seeks to expand our capacity to leverage our expertise in land acquisition and stewardship to work closely with the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County and various community groups.

Business Sponsorship Program

ALT NEEDS AND APPRECIATES SUPPORT of all types and amounts from its business community partners ranging from employee volunteer programs, to in-kind services, to various levels of financial sponsorship. ALT proudly recognizes its business sponsorships using all available means to provide visibility and encouraging members and supporters to patronize sponsoring businesses.

Annual Standard Sponsorship Program

Supporting	**$ 500**	Full year recognition listing at appropriate level on website and on all quarterly newsletters
Bronze	**$ 1,000**	All above recognition + use of logo and link on website and logo in newsletters
Silver	**$ 2,500**	All above recognition + sponsorship announcement paragraph (100 words) on website, in newsletter, and via email
Gold	**$ 5,000**	All above recognition + sponsorship announcement article (300 words) on website, in newsletter, and via email + up to 25 ALT water bottles for employees, 50% employee discount on ALT educational programs
Platinum	**$10,000**	All above recognition + joint press release + company mention on ALT printed literature + 50 ALT water bottles for employees, conservation area tour/event for up to 25 people with ALT staff + other TBD upon request

Special Project Sponsorship

Some businesses prefer to support a specific and finite organizational need. Given the broad scope of ALT's activities there are typically 1-3 special projects in need of this kind of support at any given time. These projects provide unique opportunities for businesses to solve a vital ALT need and receive the extra recognition associated with doing so. Please inquire with ALT for details on current projects available for this type of sponsorship.

Cornerstone Sponsorship

Limited opportunities exist for the right business partner or partners to make a multi-year, title sponsorship commitment in support of the highest profile ALT conservation areas. The sponsorship of these more heavily visited and visible properties would facilitate longer-term stewardship needs of the conservation areas while positioning the sponsor as an ardent supporter of Western Pennsylvania recreation, conservation and community development. Sponsorship details would be customized in the spirit of partnership to fully meet the needs of both the sponsor and ALT. Please contact ALT to discuss the possibilities.


Dead Man's Hollow

ALLEGHENY LAND TRUST

Mission

Serve as the lead land trust conserving and stewarding lands that support the scenic, recreational and environmental well-being of communities in Allegheny County and its environs.

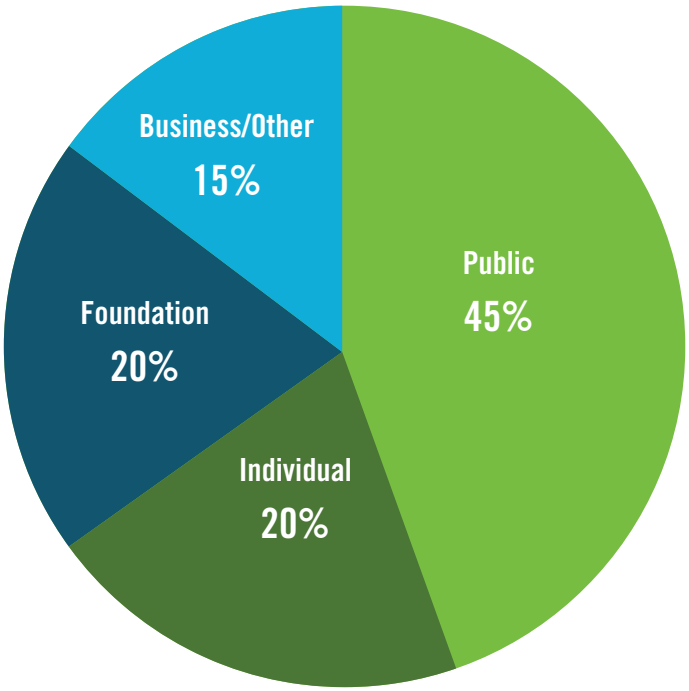
Non-Profit Standing

Allegheny Land Trust (ALT) is a 501c3, independent Pennsylvania Corporation.

Governance

ALT is directed by an active 13-member board of Allegheny County residents each bringing their own set of professional and personal talents and passions to the organization. Board member terms are three years in duration.

Funding Sources



Accreditation

ALT is nationally accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

- ☑ Sound Finances
- ☑ Strong Transactions
- ☑ Excellent Stewardship
- ☑ Effective Governance

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