



GREENWAYS FOR PITTSBURGH

RESOURCE GUIDE

August 2017





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In Memoriam of William "Bill" Waddell, for his 47 years of service at the City of Pittsburgh and all his contributions to the Greenways for Pittsburgh Program.

This Resource Guide was created for existing and potential stewards and the general public, and can be used to learn about the Greenways for Pittsburgh Program.

In addition to this Resource Guide, the Consultant Team also produced an accompanying Policy Guide (created for City of Pittsburgh employees), Community Engagement Toolkit, and Online Resources.

This project was funded by the City of Pittsburgh with matching funds from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR).

The Resource and Policy Guides were produced with the input and ideas of many individuals and organizations. The project team would like to thank all of our agency and community partners who provided feedback and inspiration.

For more information about the Greenways for Pittsburgh program, please visit: www.pittsburghpa.gov/DCP/Greenways 

Cover Photo: Seldom Seen Greenway

LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

The health and wellness of Pittsburgh's hillsides are visual indicators of the City's health and wellness. When cared for, these spaces are lush forest ecosystems that support vitality in the surrounding neighborhoods. When they lack care or monitoring, these spaces can quickly become degraded through active destruction, illegal dumping, and the ecological decay of invasive species proliferation. The original 1980 Greenways for Pittsburgh program was ahead of its time in promoting management of the City's neglected open spaces.

In Greenways for Pittsburgh 2.0, we build on over 30 years of conservation-minded and community-lead stewardship of undevelopable open space. The Greenways Program is also an important component of the City's OpenSpacePGH plan and addresses OpenSpace Objective 2.3-A and Strategy U. The new Greenways program targets five key goals for greenways; Equity, Ecology, Economy, Placemaking, and Connectivity; and emphasizes grassroots capacity building. By providing strategic resources such as this Greenways Resource Guide and the Community Engagement Toolkit, Pittsburgh enables locally based stewards to build robust Greenway Stewardship Groups that can improve our neighborhoods and build stronger relationships within our communities.

Sincerely,



Mayor William Peduto

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WHAT IS THE GREENWAYS FOR PITTSBURGH PROGRAM?

Greenways for Pittsburgh is a program of the City of Pittsburgh, managed by the Department of City Planning, that helps communities designate and steward the City's greenways to become assets for their neighborhood and the City.



WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE?

This Resource Guide is a how-to manual for residents who are interested in becoming stewards of one of the City's greenways. The Guide explains the Greenway Program and provides useful information for stewards of existing greenways or those interested in designating a new greenway. The guide is an abridged version of additional material that is available online. [www.](#)

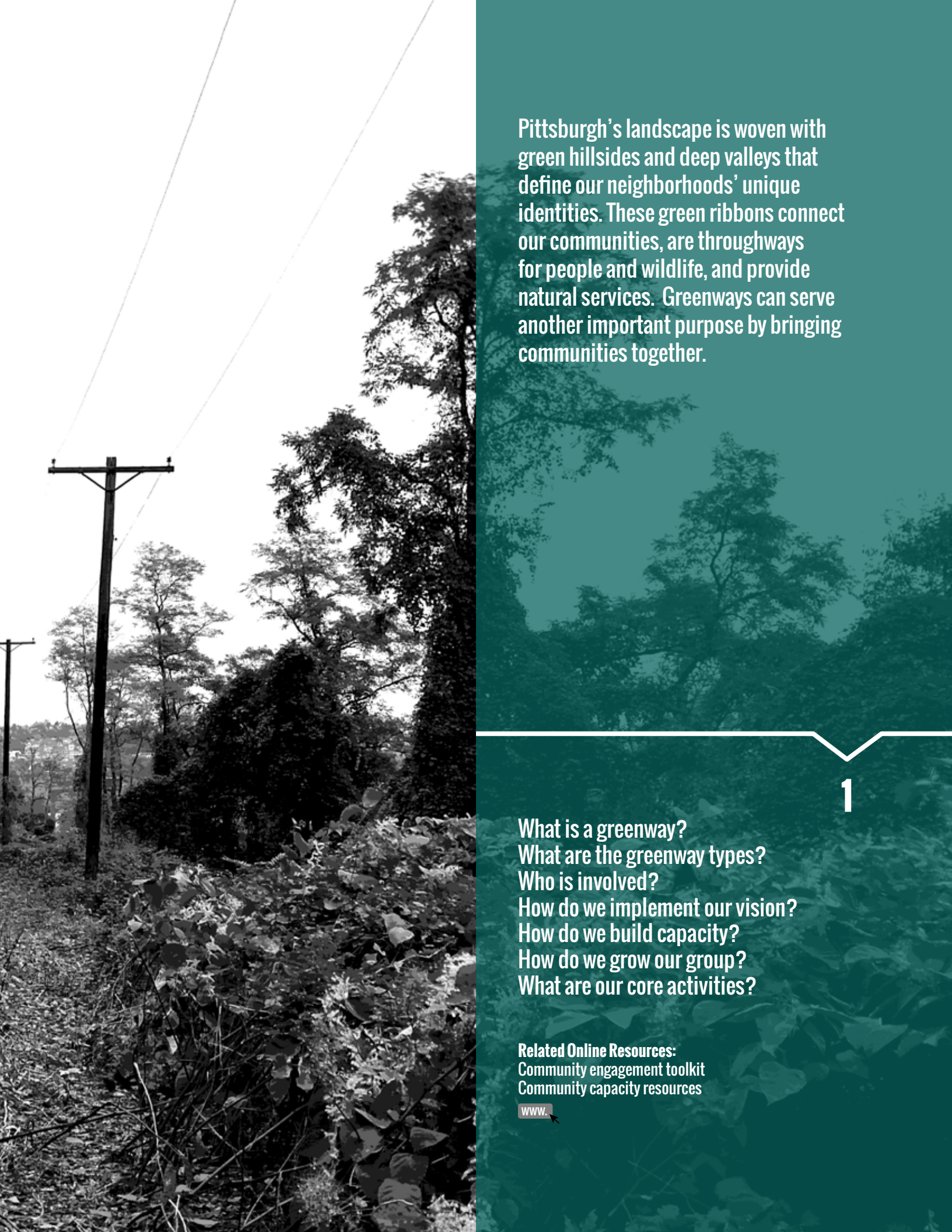


WHO CAN BE A STEWARD?

Anybody can steward Pittsburgh's greenways! Official community-based Greenway Stewardship Groups can coordinate volunteers and establish a greenway's vision with the community.



**PITTSBURGH'S
GREENWAY PROGRAM**



Pittsburgh's landscape is woven with green hillsides and deep valleys that define our neighborhoods' unique identities. These green ribbons connect our communities, are thoroughways for people and wildlife, and provide natural services. Greenways can serve another important purpose by bringing communities together.

1

What is a greenway?
What are the greenway types?
Who is involved?
How do we implement our vision?
How do we build capacity?
How do we grow our group?
What are our core activities?

Related Online Resources:
Community engagement toolkit
Community capacity resources

[www.](#)

What is a Greenway?

A **greenway** is defined as a permanently conserved, primarily passive open space that is stewarded primarily by the community and serves to benefit adjacent neighborhoods and the general public.

Goals for Pittsburgh's greenways

EQUITY

Greenways promote **social equity** in Pittsburgh by **improving access** to green space and passive recreation as well as by **helping communities grow through activities, tasks, and common goals**.

ECOLOGY

Greenways bolster Pittsburgh's ecology by **protecting habitats, improving air quality, managing stormwater, sequestering carbon, reducing heat islands, and improving human health**.

ECONOMY

Greenways offer economic benefits to the community by **improving property values** and providing opportunities for **workforce development**.

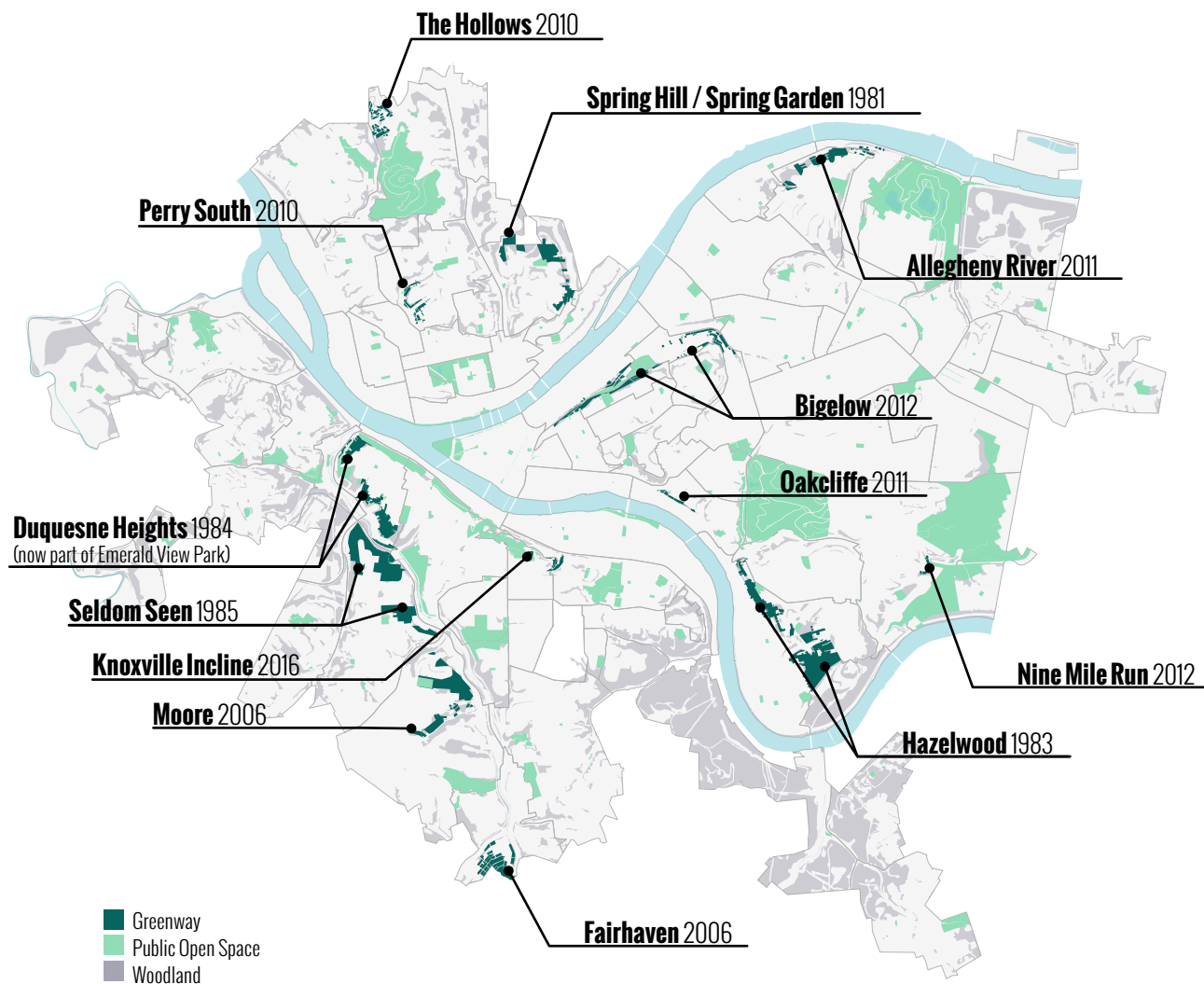
PLACEMAKING

Greenways **protect the beauty and integrity** of Pittsburgh's hillsides and **provide quality green space**. Greenways can also **preserve cultural and historic assets** of Pittsburgh's past.

CONNECTION

Greenways can **connect neighborhoods** with passages for pedestrians and cyclists. Greenways can also **stitch together parks and open spaces** to create contiguous ecological corridors.





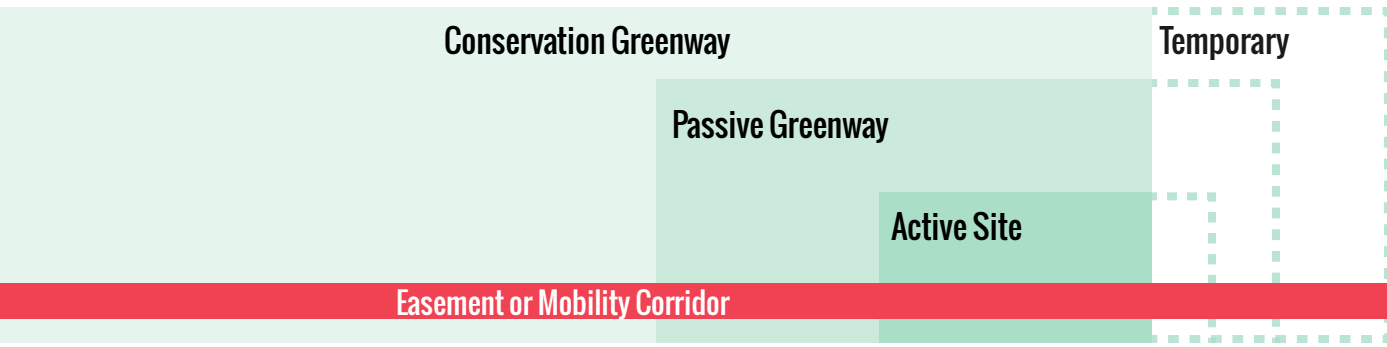
The Greenways for Pittsburgh program was established in 1980 to designate steeply sloped, unbuildable land for the purpose of protecting hillsides and preserving passive open space. This program has resulted in twelve designated greenways totaling 605 acres, accounting for 14% of Pittsburgh’s public open space. Almost 35 years later, the desire for greenways was expressed during the creation of Pittsburgh’s Open Space Plan (2013). Public input from across the City indicated that communities wanted more greenways to improve access to trails and natural areas, and to connect parks and other open spaces.

The importance of greenways has also been expressed by Mayor Peduto. The Mayor’s executive order committing the City to climate change initiatives (June 2017) recognizes protection of the natural environment as a key initiative to meeting the City’s climate objectives.

This Resource Guide was created as part of a Greenways 2.0 “refresh” of the Greenways program and describes the processes, policies, and stewardship guidelines for greenways. The new program will encourage stewardship, improve the quality, connectivity, and accessibility of greenways, and help the City reach its ambitious sustainability goals.



What are the Greenway Types?



There are three types of greenways:



CONSERVATION



PASSIVE



ACTIVE SITE



All greenways promote conservation, but some serve only that purpose.

Conservation greenways contain ecologically sensitive lands such as:

- Steep slopes
- Landslide prone slopes
- Undermined hilltops
- Stormwater management and floodplains

Conservation greenways provide:

- Ecological preservation
- Stormwater management

Most Pittsburgh greenways allow for passive uses.

Passive greenways contain:

- Trails
- Overlooks and scenic views
- Natural or cultural heritage assets

Passive greenways also allow uses that do not require permanent infrastructure, special equipment, or maintenance such as:

- Hiking
- Biking

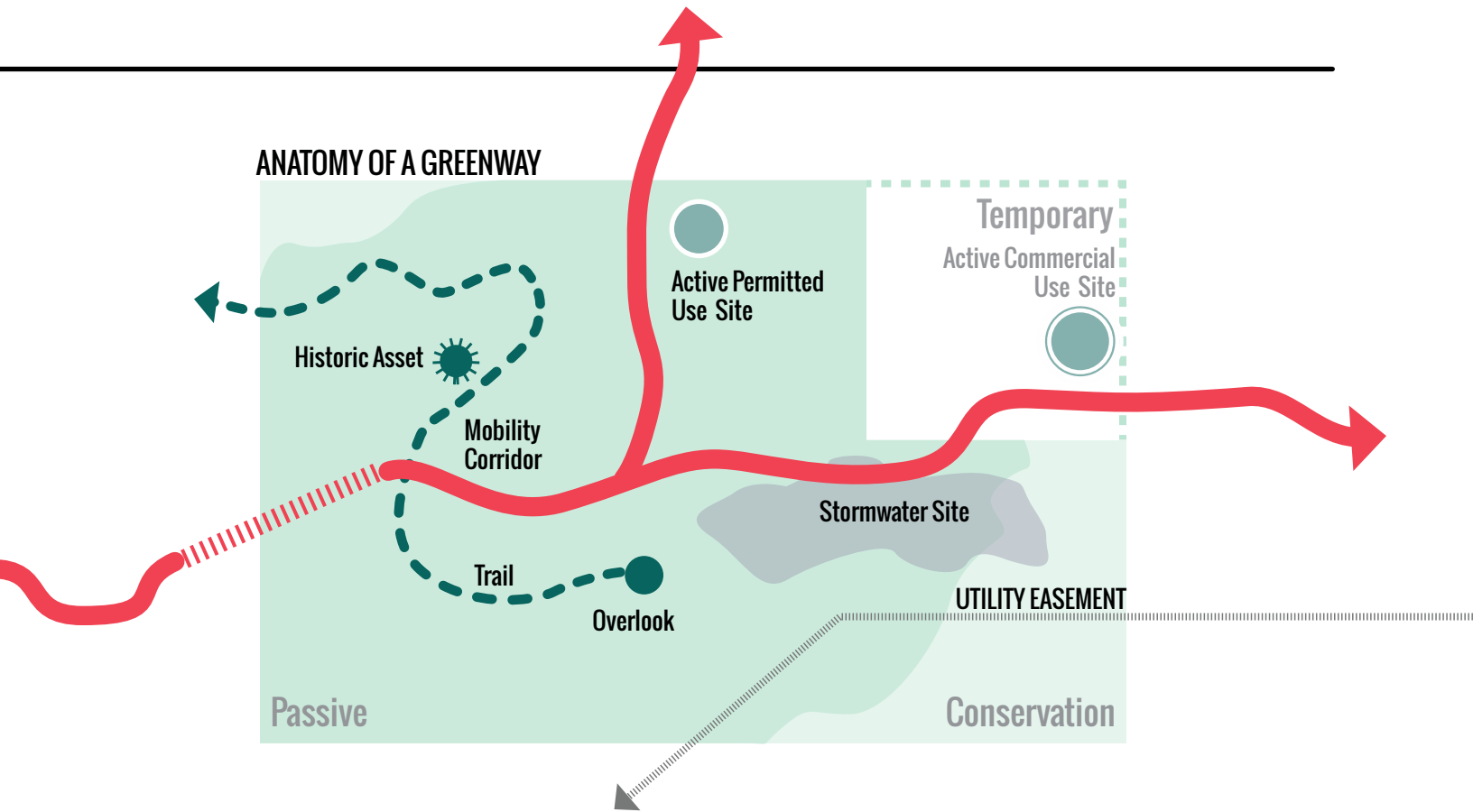
Some greenways include active sites with higher levels of recreational activity.

Any activities which require permanent infrastructure, special equipment, or specialized maintenance are limited to designated active sites. These activities must have a low impact on the environment, and would either be permitted by the City or administered by a vendor with a lease from the City.

These activities may include:

- Cross country skiing
- Horseback riding
- Mountain biking





Other elements such as a utility easement or mobility corridor may exist within any of the greenway typologies where appropriate:



MOBILITY CORRIDOR

Mobility corridors are easements through greenways maintained by the City. Mobility corridors provide improved connectivity to pedestrians and cyclists throughout the City. They include City steps, multi-use trails, or rights-of-ways.



UTILITY EASEMENT

Utility easements are locations where existing utility infrastructure passes through a greenway. These easements fall under the utility company's responsibility for routine maintenance.



TEMPORARY GREENWAY

Temporary greenway parcels are City-owned parcels that are located next to officially designated greenways. They are not officially part of the greenway but greenway activities may occur on them. Permanent and costly improvements should not be made to temporary greenway parcels because they can be sold in the future.



Who is involved?

Is there an area of hillside woodlands and/or vacant City-owned property in your neighborhood?

WE WANT TO START A GREENWAY!

Are you excited about the idea of having an officially designated greenway in your community?

Do you love the idea of preserving green space and creating trails?



Start by reading this guide to learn more about what it takes to officially designate and steward a greenway. Next, visit the greenways website to fill out an application. Having trouble? Contact the Greenways Program Manager for more information.

Do you want to improve your greenway but don't know how?

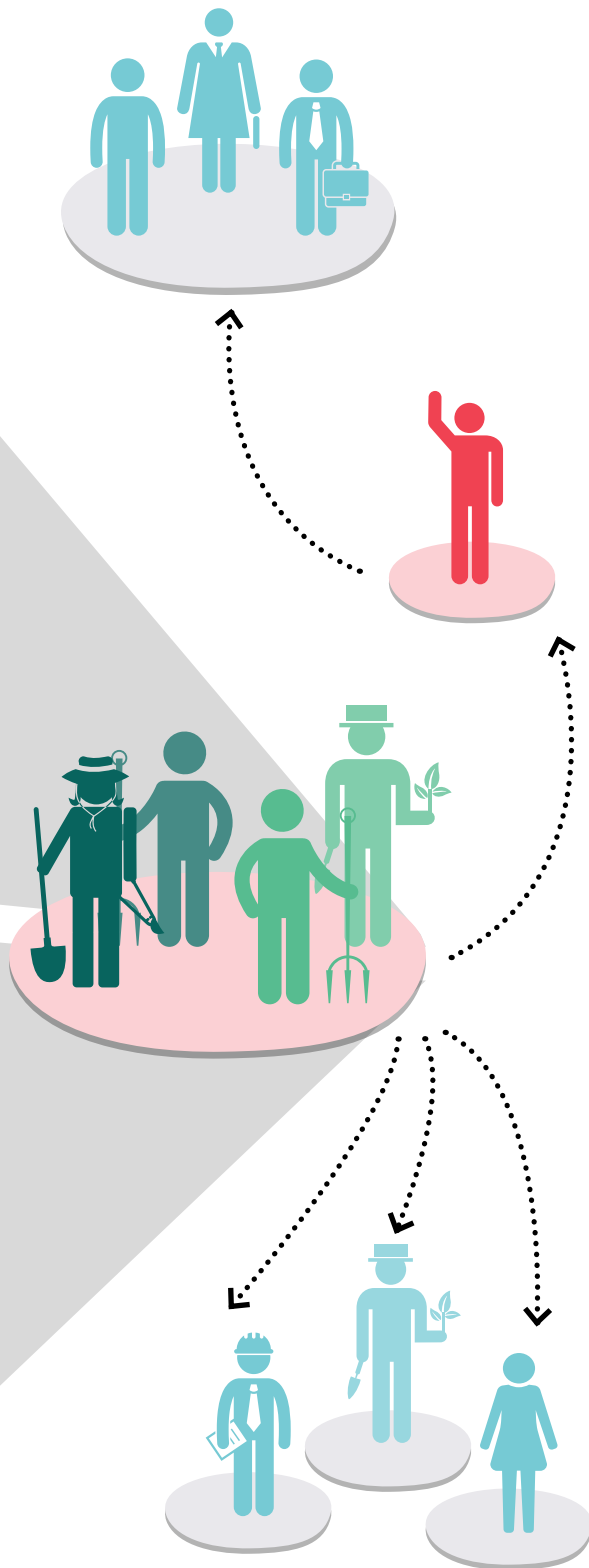
WE TAKE CARE OF AN EXISTING GREENWAY!

Do you steward an existing greenway?

Are you lacking capacity to maintain and operate your greenway?

The City strongly recommends that existing GSGs meet some of the requirements outlined in the five phase designation process as a way to find answers for these and other questions. Please reference the "existing greenways" column shown on the following process diagrams.





Greenways Advisory Panel (GAP)

The GAP is a group of individuals from the City of Pittsburgh who advise the Greenway Program Manager on efforts related to individual greenways.

Greenways Program Manager (GPM)

The GPM is the single point of contact for the Greenways Program. They provide oversight of the greenways program and are available to answer questions and guide you through the process.

Greenway Stewardship Group (GSG)

Every greenway has a community-based and community-lead GSG. The GSG is responsible for maintaining and operating the greenway, conducting community outreach, and implementing ongoing projects. Potential stewards should work with the GPM to join an existing GSG or start their greenway's GSG.

Greenway Volunteer

Greenway Volunteers are individuals or families who volunteer their time to assist in greenway stewardship. Anyone is welcome to become a Greenway Volunteer and participate in the GSG's efforts.

Greenway Partner (GP)

Greenway Partners are often non-profits or 501c3 organizations that have demonstrated experience working in greenways and are often the first choice to work with GSGs. Greenway Partners often specialize in specific topics or sites. GPs can also work at the system-wide scale, lead the greenway process and/or act as a GSG.



How do we implement our vision?

Greenways are a result of community-led efforts to thoughtfully preserve and connect otherwise overlooked open spaces, and create connections between our neighborhoods and our natural hillsides. In Pittsburgh, communities are the driving force for the designation and care of greenways. The long-term vitality of a neighborhood greenway depends on a robust and shared community vision.

It is important that you and your community create a forward-looking vision and goals for your greenway. Every community has unique opportunities, including connecting a greenway to nearby trails, preserving wildlife habitats, maintaining enjoyable views, or creating active use sites.

The success of this vision depends on coalitions and partnerships as you implement projects. You will need to ensure that the initial excitement for a plan or project is shared with others so that your greenway can be sustained and that the responsibilities of stewardship are shared by many and across generations.



How do we build capacity?

Greenways exist to serve the general public, but they cannot be sustained without the help of volunteers and Greenway Stewardship Groups. The Greenways for Pittsburgh process is intended to help build community capacity by consolidating support, knowledge, resources, and skills.

The Role of Community Engagement

Community engagement is an essential part of the greenways process, and should serve several purposes, including to:

Inspire interest in the greenway and in stewardship activities.

Build literacy of the greenways, including their purpose, uses, benefits, and maintenance.

Encourage the community to visit the greenway and/or participate in stewardship activities.

Share decision making regarding the greenway, including prioritization of projects.

ENGAGE

INFORM

ACTIVATE

COOPERATE

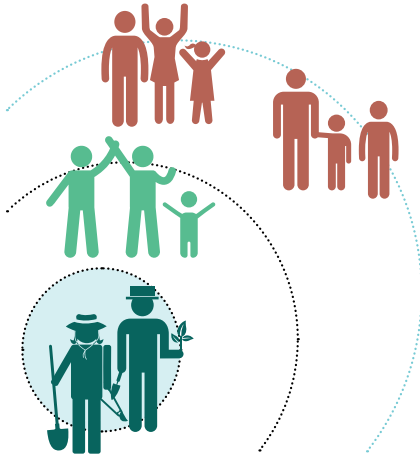
There are several ways to build community capacity, including direct engagement with individuals and creating partnerships with organizations. Both of these actions make it easier to cultivate the support of agencies and officials. If your group has low capacity, visit the Greenways for Pittsburgh website to learn more about partnering organizations. [www.](#)

For an extensive list and related resources such as suggested community meeting agendas, exercises, a greenway fundamentals presentation, and engagement methods; please refer to the Greenways Community Engagement Toolkit, found on the Greenways website. [www.](#)

DIRECT ENGAGEMENT
MEETINGS
VOLUNTEER EVENTS
CITIZEN SCIENCE
ART INSTALLATIONS
ACTIVITIES
SCAVENGER HUNTS
TOURS
GAMES
TRAINING
PRESENTATIONS
STEWARDS SYMPOSIUM
COMMUNITY DINNER
COMPETITION
WORKING GROUP



How do we grow our group?



Who is involved?

Core Stewardship Group
Leads stewardship activities and community engagement.

Supporters & Participants
Participates in stewardship.

Greenway Users
Visits greenway and attends engagement events.

GREENWAYS ARE INCLUSIVE!

Anyone is welcome to join a GSG and volunteer in a greenway! Greenways are inclusive spaces, where all people and ideas are welcome. The more volunteers a GSG has, the better the greenway will be! Greenways are wonderful spaces for everyone to connect with their community!

Cultivating Core Leadership

Both existing and new greenways need consistent leadership to ensure long term viability. Although there may be individuals or a small group of people who are most strongly associated with a greenway, it is helpful to have shared leadership to allow people to contribute as they are able.

Greenway leaders often cultivate skills that help them accomplish their goals such as:

- Strong communication skills
- Knowledge of the greenways process
- A commitment to transparency and seeking multiple perspectives
- Courage to make mid-course corrections
- Organized and a good manager of relationships
- Writing or graphic skills, legal or financial skills, environmental knowledge, and/or facilitation experience

The City and partner organizations may host events such as the Stewards Symposium that help GSGs learn from experts and their peers.

Ever Widening Circles of Support

The vision of a few community leaders can go a long way in building the enthusiasm of a larger group. Early excitement needs to be channeled into an inclusive coalition. To keep people engaged, community members should see their ideas reflected in the developing plan or projects. Community leaders should allow neighbors to participate in different ways and recognize that their neighbors' contributions can take many forms. Some neighbors may find the projects more satisfying while others may be interested in planning or financing. Strong leaders recognize that diverse skills are needed and they seek out people who can fill these roles.

Formalizing a Committee or Group

Ultimately the core group needs to channel broad support and enthusiasm into action. Each Greenway Stewardship Group shares knowledge, has effective ways of making decisions, gathers financial resources, and has legal standing (once they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding - MOU) to act on behalf of their individual greenway. Though not explicitly required, expectations for GSG participants should be clearly stated. By defining key roles and skills, the organization can better endure changes that occur when individuals transition on and off of the committee.



What are our core activities?

In addition to the establishment and planning of a greenway, a Greenway Stewardship Group has ongoing support activities that ensure the success of its Greenway and the implementation of its plan. The GSG's key tasks include **Outreach & Engagement**, **Fundraising**, and **Planning & Projects**.

Outreach and Engagement

Greenways are unique among Pittsburgh's open spaces because they are directly administered by community stewards, and to be successful they need outreach to invite visitors as well as gather supporters and participants. A deliberate outreach and engagement campaign is an essential task of the GSG, especially in passive greenways and active sites.

Although different messages should be crafted for each audience, the core information about the specific greenway vision and its assets should be consistent. Consider with the community what makes your greenway unique and how you might develop a brand that relates to your greenway's identity.

The frequency and scale of outreach will be different for each greenway. Your group may want to publicize milestone events such as a trail opening, greenway expansion, or recurring events like clean-ups. Many news outlets search for community interest stories, and greenways can capture their attention through informal social media releases and/or formal press releases.

In addition, your GSG may want to consider other outlets to reach neighbors who may not use social media. Distributing printed maps, newsletters, and brochures door-to-door or in local businesses helps connect people to the greenway in their neighborhood. Speaking at churches, schools, or other institutions brings the greenway to existing networks. Finally, non-traditional outreach, such as hosting exhibitions of photography taken in a greenway, can reinforce a greenway's identity and bring the magic of the greenway to those who may never be inclined or able to visit.

The way you brand a new or existing greenway can make it memorable and invite support. Consider the following when developing your greenway brand:

Is there a unique historic, cultural, or landscape feature that distinguishes the greenway?

Does your brand relate to the trail names that comply with the City's Trail Naming Guidelines?

[www.](#)

Is the brand part of a longer term or larger scale greenway vision?

Is the brand meaningful to all adjacent communities and not exclusive to one?



Fundraising

Greenway Stewardship Groups build excitement around the vision and hands-on projects. It is probably safe to say that no greenway was founded because community leaders were excited about fundraising! However, since greenways have limited direct funding, raising money is essential to greenway success.

Stewards should target specific goals for greenway funding, including money for:

PROJECTS

Acquisition and related legal services for private land
Planning-related design and engineering services

PROGRAMS

Activities and events
Community engagement and outreach

OPERATIONS

Operational funds for the sponsoring organization
Project and maintenance materials, supplies, and labor

In addition to community fundraisers, funding may be available through different types of sources. In the past, **public funding** has included sources at the city, regional, state, and federal levels, that target parks and open space improvements, environmental remediations, stormwater management, land acquisition, trail building, and mobility improvements. Please note that all GSGs must partner with a fiscal agent, such as an RCO or non-profit, in order to lawfully accept grant money. Sources could include:

- Pittsburgh Shade Tree Commission
- Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority and Alcosan
- PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
- PA Department of Environmental Protection
- PA Department of Community and Economic Development
- US National Park Service
- Community Economic Development Fund
- Community Infrastructure and Tourism Fund

National and regional **philanthropies and foundations** can be sources of greenway funding because they align with open space, environmental, or community development priorities. Foundation funding is often channeled through intermediate non-profit groups whose mission is compatible with the program.

Community-based funding can raise money through creative events and donations. It is also possible to raise money through “Adopt-a-Greenway” or “Friends of the Greenway” programs that have been used successfully with other open spaces. The steward or sponsor organization must be a registered non-profit to accept tax deductible donations and to maintain a donor program/database.

Crowdfunding through websites like IOBY or Kickstarter can help raise funds for specific projects or campaigns. Additionally, the organization IOBY currently has a regional focus centered around Pittsburgh.

The Greenways for Pittsburgh process prompts community organizations for the appropriate level of detail with regards to fundraising and encourages more sophisticated budgeting as the greenway progresses through the five step process.

Additional guidance can be found through the Greenways Program Manager, Greenway Partners, and online resources. [www.gwp.org](#)



Planning and Projects

The community's greenway vision is fulfilled through planning and projects.

Planning of some kind takes place at every step of the process. From community meetings to volunteer days, planning ensures that the Greenway Stewardship Group's efforts support the broader goals of the community. Successful planning requires a deliberate and open community outreach process. Your neighbors have valuable insights into how the greenway should function within the neighborhood. Planning is also a good way to help your neighbors get involved and invested in the greenway. Those involved in planning the greenway are more likely to volunteer later on.

For many greenways, the **implementation plan** will be the most important document to coordinate improvements and maintenance in the greenway (completed in phase 3). Other plans along the way could include an **acquisition plan** (phase 2) to acquire parcels for greenway designation, a **designation plan** (phase 2) to create a new greenway or expand an existing one, a **fundraising plan** (phase 4) for key projects, programs, or operations, or an **annual report** (phase 5) reporting on successes of the past year and upcoming plans. The Greenways Program Manager and Greenways Advisory Panel are available to guide your group along the way.

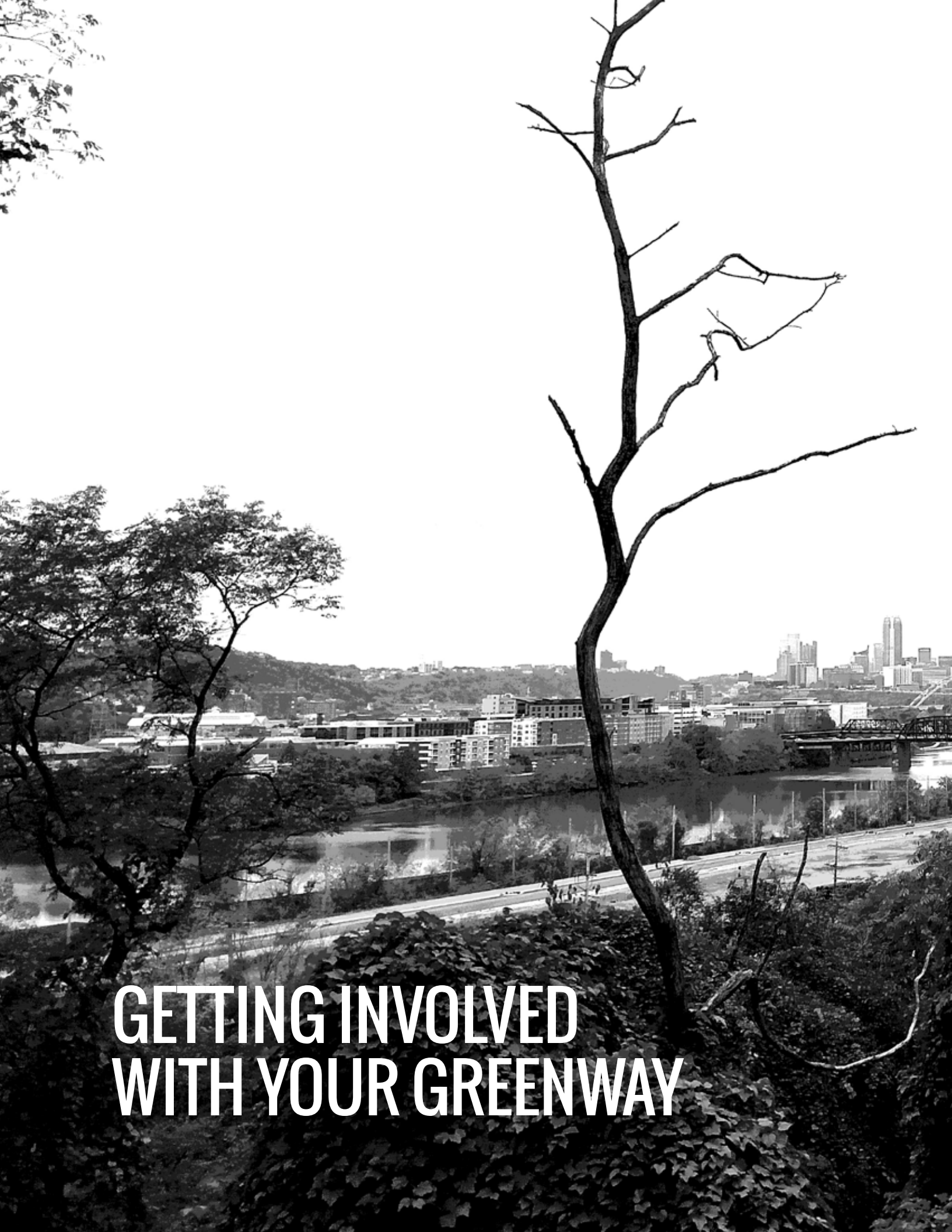
Projects are the most exciting part of being a greenway steward! Working with volunteers or Greenway Partners, projects can transform a greenway from neglected open space into a well-loved community asset. The implementation of projects can improve a greenway so that it becomes more respected in the community. Projects are identified and prioritized with insight from the community during the development of an implementation plan. Many projects could require fundraising to purchase materials or hire service providers and/or Greenway Partners.

Stewardship projects range from regular clean-ups with volunteers to construction of trails and ecological restoration with Greenway Partners. Key projects like signage and fencing help to establish the greenway's identity while maintenance projects like clean-ups and trail monitoring ensure the greenway is clean, healthy, and safe into the future.



Let's get to work!





**GETTING INVOLVED
WITH YOUR GREENWAY**



Greenways for Pittsburgh offers a chance for existing greenways to re-establish GSG commitments and for other neighborhoods to consider sponsoring a new greenway.

The following chapter explains a multi-step process to guide both existing and new greenways.

2

The lifecycle of a greenway
Initiation
Designation
Implementation Plan
Projects & Stewardship

Related Online Resources:
Greenway process resources
Form templates

[www.](#)

The Lifecycle of a Greenway

PHASES		NEW GREENWAYS	EXISTING GREENWAYS
1	<p>INITIATION</p> <p>This phase contains the preliminary work completed by a community or the City to test if a group of parcels would be viable as a greenway.</p> <p>OUTCOME: PRELIMINARY DESIGNATION PLAN ENDORSED BY THE GAP</p>		Complete an abbreviated version, including documentation and community engagement.
2	<p>DESIGNATION</p> <p>This phase focuses on acquiring property, planning, and preparation of documentation, to successfully complete the legal designation process.</p> <p>OUTCOME: GREENWAY OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED BY CITY COUNCIL</p>		Complete an abbreviated version, including documentation and community engagement.
3	<p>IMPLEMENTATION PLAN</p> <p>This phase focuses on creating a master implementation plan for the greenway.</p> <p>OUTCOME: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN ENDORSED BY THE GAP</p>		Same as for new greenways.
4	<p>PROJECTS</p> <p>This phase focuses on completing projects outlined in the master implementation plan.</p> <p>OUTCOME: GREENWAY LAUNCHES</p>		Same as for new greenways.
5	<p>STEWARDSHIP</p> <p>This phase focuses on operating and maintaining the greenway, completing new projects, and annual reporting.</p> <p>OUTCOME: CONTINUED OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE</p>		Same as for new greenways.



This five step process describes the stages by which a new greenway is designated. It is highly recommended that existing greenways complete an abbreviated version of this process.

Each step along the way adds more detail to the documentation of the greenway, helping future stewards to understand what has been done so they can continue implementation.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION NEW & EXISTING GREENWAYS

Vision and goals
Proposed location
Existing physical assets
Historic information



**Greenway
Application**

Updated information from the **Greenway Application**

- + Community meeting 1 summary
- Acquisition strategy
- Stewardship model
- Partners
- Funding sources
- Desired typology



Designation Plan

Updated information from the **Designation Plan**

- + Environmental assessment
- Greenway uses
- Overall Greenway visioning map
- Project phasing



**Implementation
Plan**

Updated information from the **Implementation Plan**

- + Project description, location, and design
- Related uses
- Cost and funding
- Partners and project management
- Timeline
- Insurance
- Approvals



**Project Approval
Forms**

Updated information from the **Project Approval Forms**

- + Maintenance tasks completed
- Projects occurring in upcoming year
- Changes in greenway statistics
- New MOU (if there are changes to the GSG)

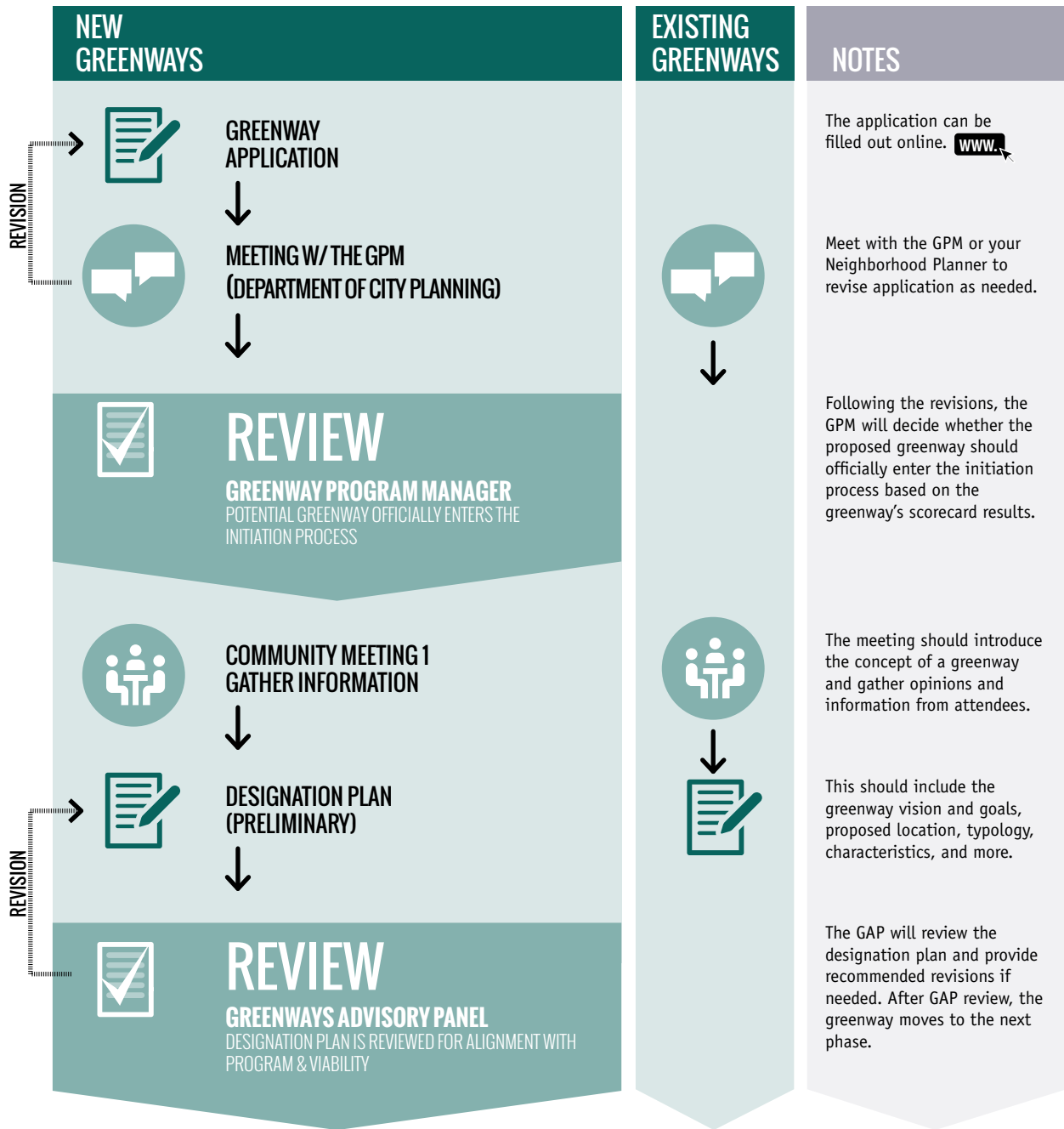


Annual Reports



1 INITIATION

Preliminary work completed by a community to test if a group of parcels would be viable as a greenway.



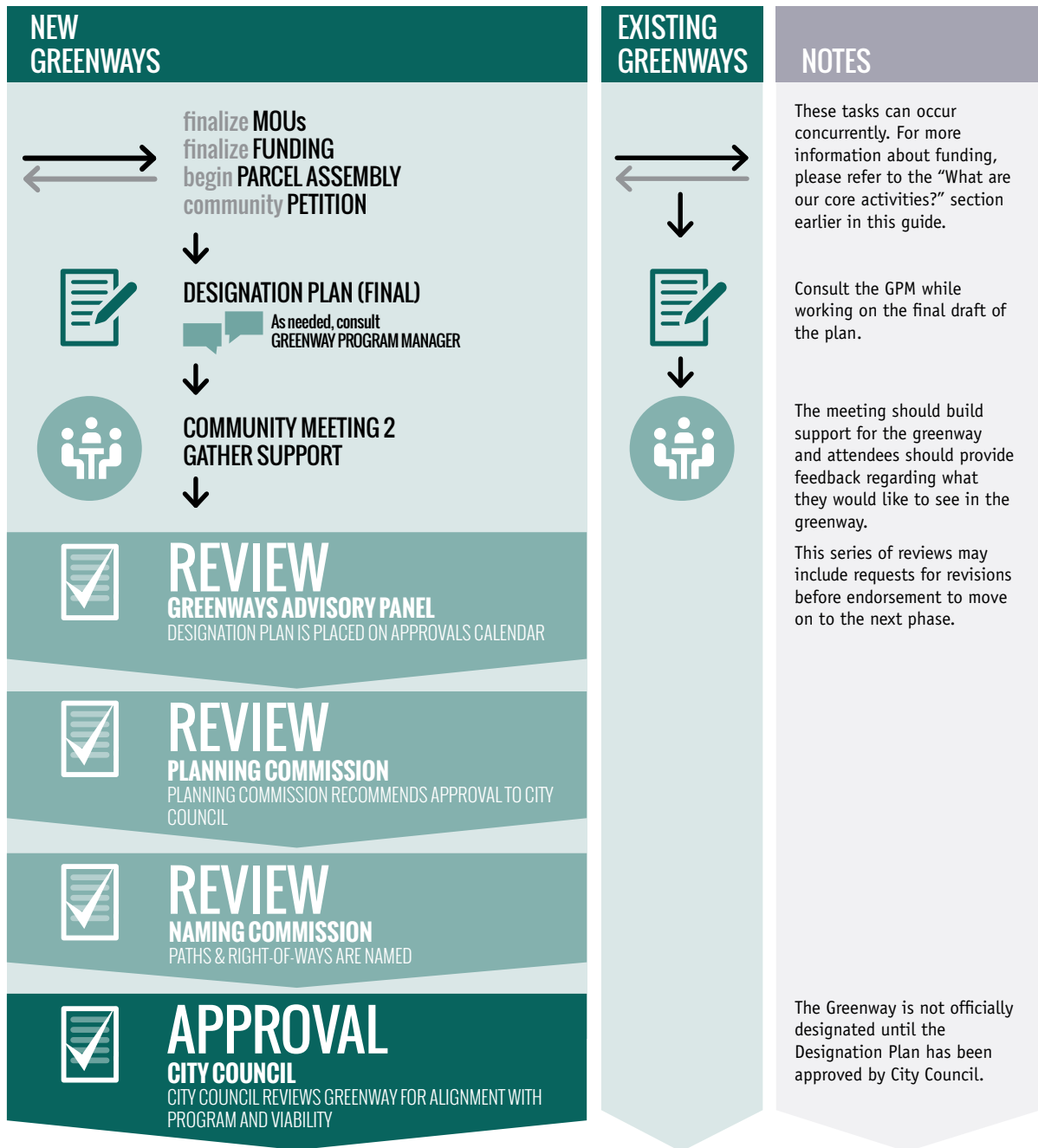
OUTCOME | 4-6 months

Candidate (or existing) greenway is advanced to the designation phase.

NOTE: Time ranges are estimates and the actual length of time per phase will depend on capacity, funding, and other factors.



2 DESIGNATION Acquire property, plan and prepare documentation, to successfully complete the legal designation process.



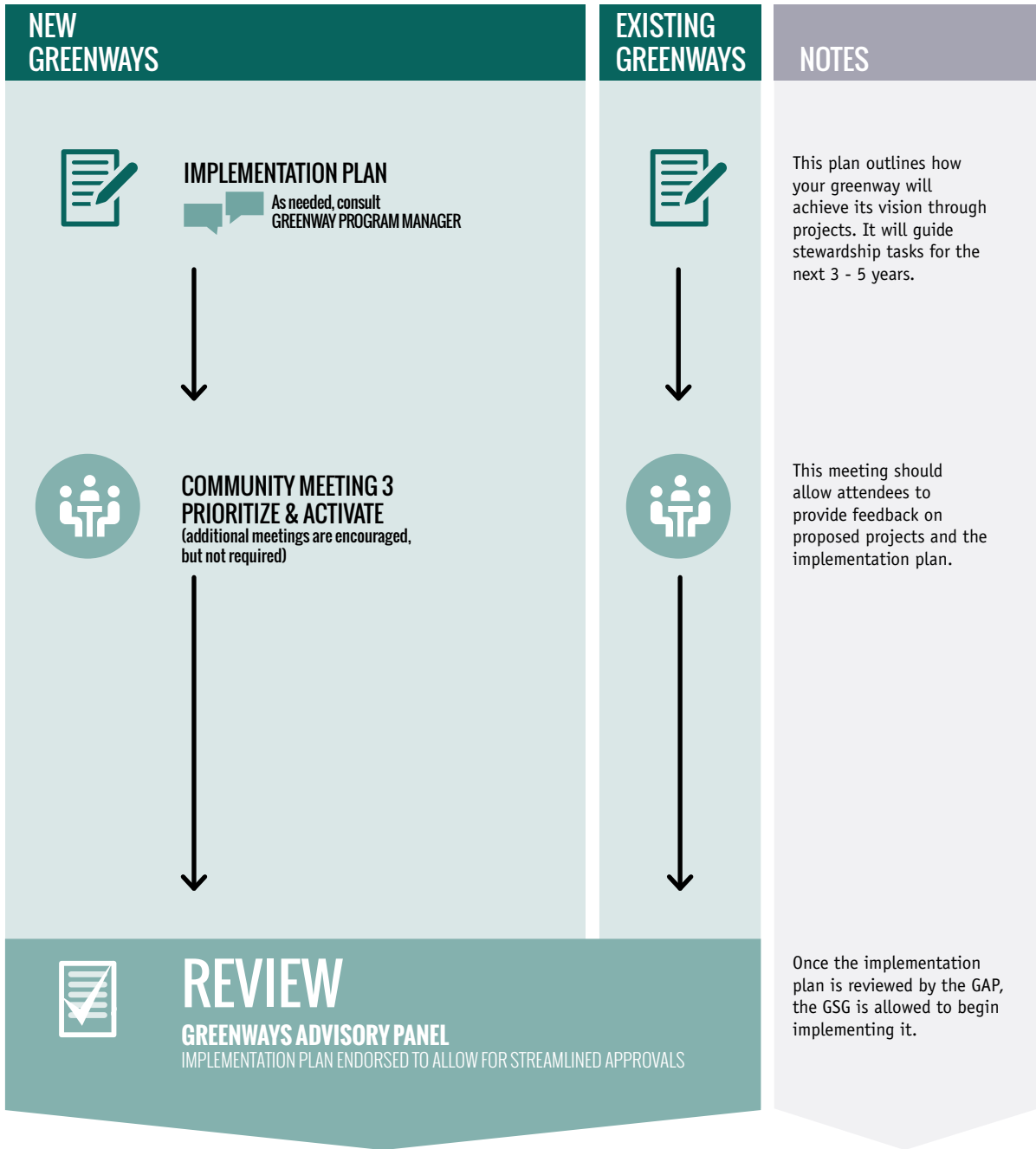
OUTCOME | 4-6 months

Greenway is officially designated and celebrated in a community launch!

NOTE: Time ranges are estimates and the actual length of time per phase will depend on capacity, funding, and other factors.

3 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

This phase focuses on creating a master implementation plan for the greenway.



OUTCOME | 4-6 months











The greenway has a plan that organizes action for 3 - 5 years!

NOTE: Time ranges are estimates and the actual length of time per phase will depend on capacity, funding, and other factors.



4+5 PROJECTS & STEWARDSHIP

Complete projects outlined in the master implementation plan, and operate and maintain the greenway.

NEW GREENWAYS	EXISTING GREENWAYS	NOTES
 <p>REVISE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN EVERY 3-5 YEARS</p>		<p>Revise or create a new implementation plan every three to five years.</p>
 <p>IMPLEMENT PROJECTS EVERY YEAR</p>		<p>Implement projects from the plan. Work with the GPM to acquire appropriate approvals. Work with partners as needed.</p>
 <p>PERFORM ONGOING STEWARDSHIP TASKS EVERY YEAR</p>		<p>Tasks vary by greenway typology.</p>
 <p>ANNUAL REPORT EVERY YEAR</p>		<p>The annual report includes which tasks and projects were performed in the past year, and which are planned for the upcoming year. This is accompanied by a walk-through with the GPM.</p>
 <p>ATTEND STEWARDS SYMPOSIUM & CELEBRATION! EVERY YEAR</p>		<p>This event is organized by the City and will provide stewards with resources to improve their greenways.</p>

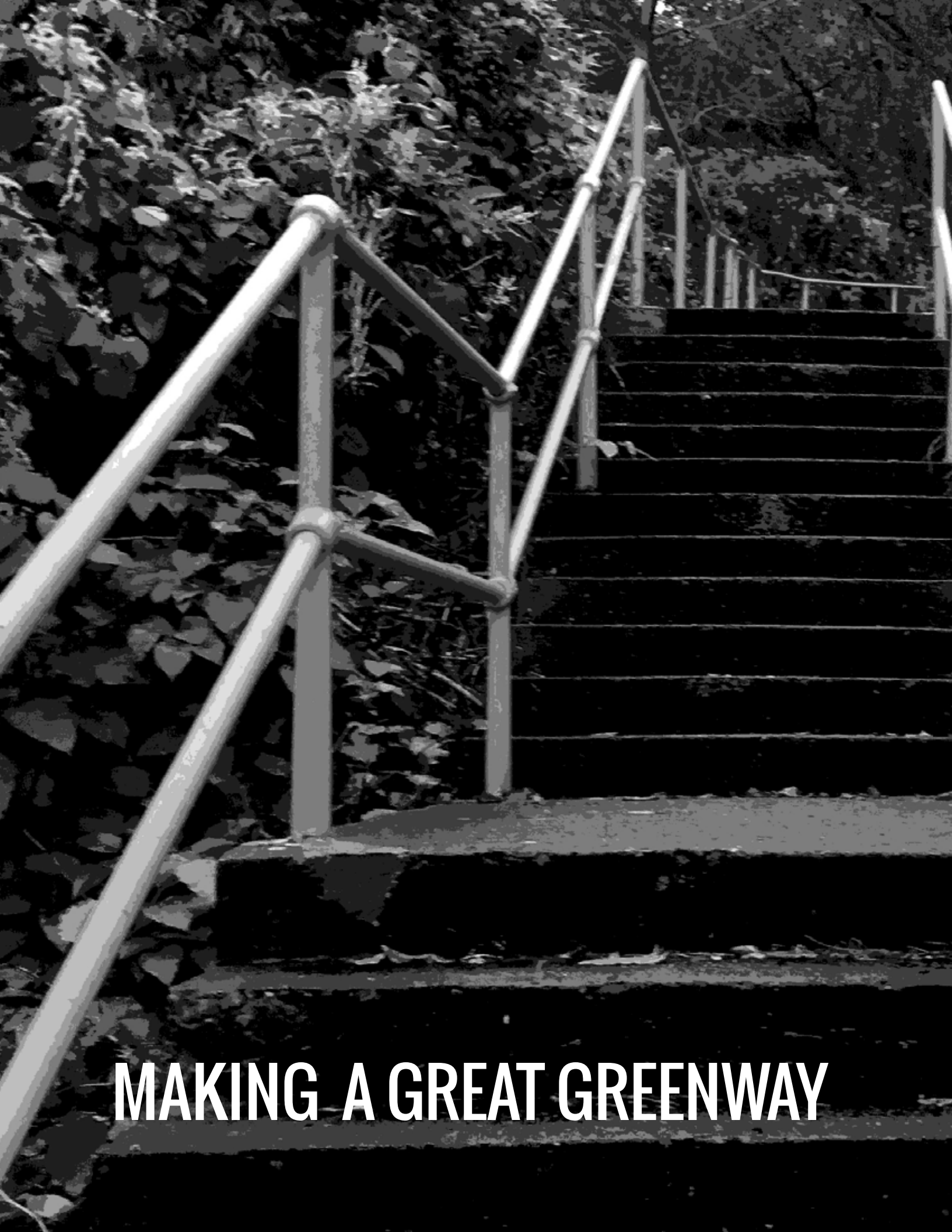
REPEAT

OUTCOME | every year

Ongoing maintenance, outreach, and projects.

NOTE: If a GSG fails to submit their annual report two years in a row, they do not perform the duties outlined in the Greenways Resource Guide, or are showing signs of blatant disregard for their responsibilities, the GPM and the GAP have the right to put the greenway on probation. The GAP and the GPM will then begin soliciting for a new GSG through RCOs as well as GPs.





MAKING A GREAT GREENWAY



Successful greenways are inviting places to walk through and to linger. They may have spectacular views, contain historic artifacts, or may just be pleasant and convenient passages from one place to another.

This chapter helps communities understand how to plan and design an inviting greenway.

3

What makes a great greenway?
Greenway elements
Greenway responsibilities

Related Online Resources:
Community capacity resources
Greenway elements resources
Form templates

[www.](#)

What makes a great greenway?

Greenways are often inspired by someone imagining a trail, overlook, or other amenity in the wooded area in their neighborhood. However, greenways are more than just a collection of inspired projects. Greenways artfully organize different elements to make enjoyable spaces that are available to all. To make a truly fantastic greenway, consider the following principles when developing your implementation plan:

I WANT OUR GREENWAY TO BE AWESOME!



Connect to other green spaces and surrounding neighborhoods

CONNECTIONS

Integrate community ideas, needs, priorities, participation, and actions

COMMUNITY

Use clear signage and information to encourage visitors and raise awareness

VISIBILITY

Choose appropriate plants and materials to increase lifespan and reduce maintenance

RESILIENCE

Protect from illegal activities such as dumping, motorized vehicles, hunting, and encroachment

PROTECTION

Create enjoyable projects to keep the community active and engaged.

FUN!

How to Make Planning Decisions

There are many options to consider when developing an implementation plan for your greenway, and it can sometimes be difficult to cooperate when establishing priorities. Consider the following when making decisions regarding your greenway's implementation plan priorities:

What did the community members say?

Use voting or other techniques to quantify community wishes for the greenway.

Does this support our vision and goals?

If suggested projects are not in support of the greenway vision and goals, they should not be a first priority.

How much funding do we have available?

Choosing low or no cost projects first can help build momentum with a small budget.

Can we use workforce development or another benefit?

Choosing projects that create jobs or training opportunities for community members provides the greenway with a dual benefit.

Can everyone use it?

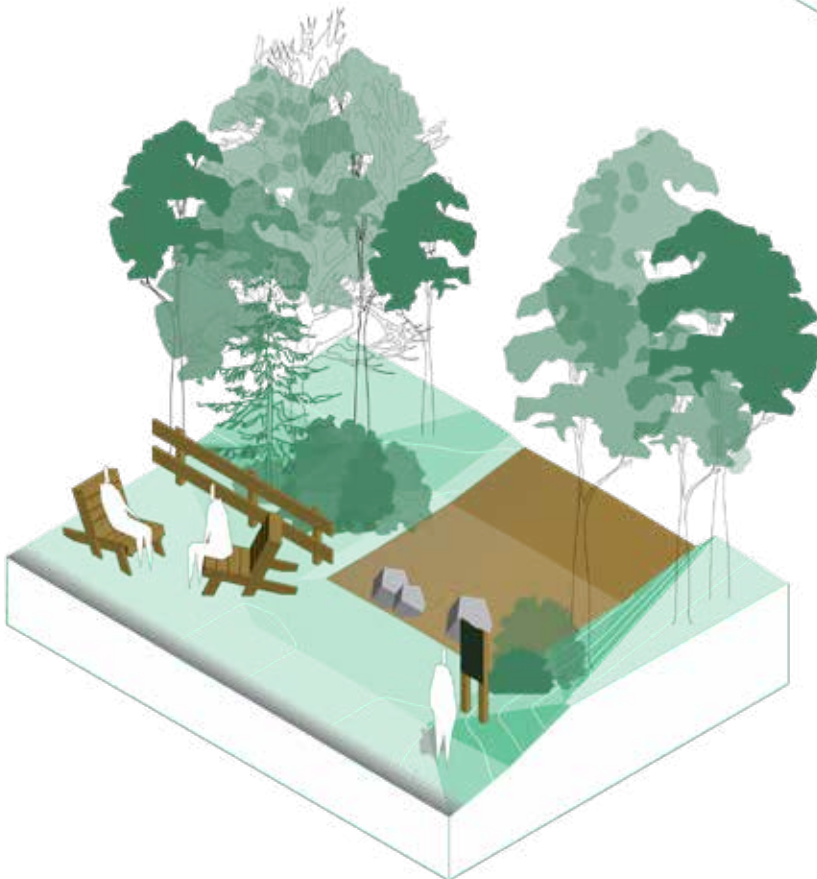
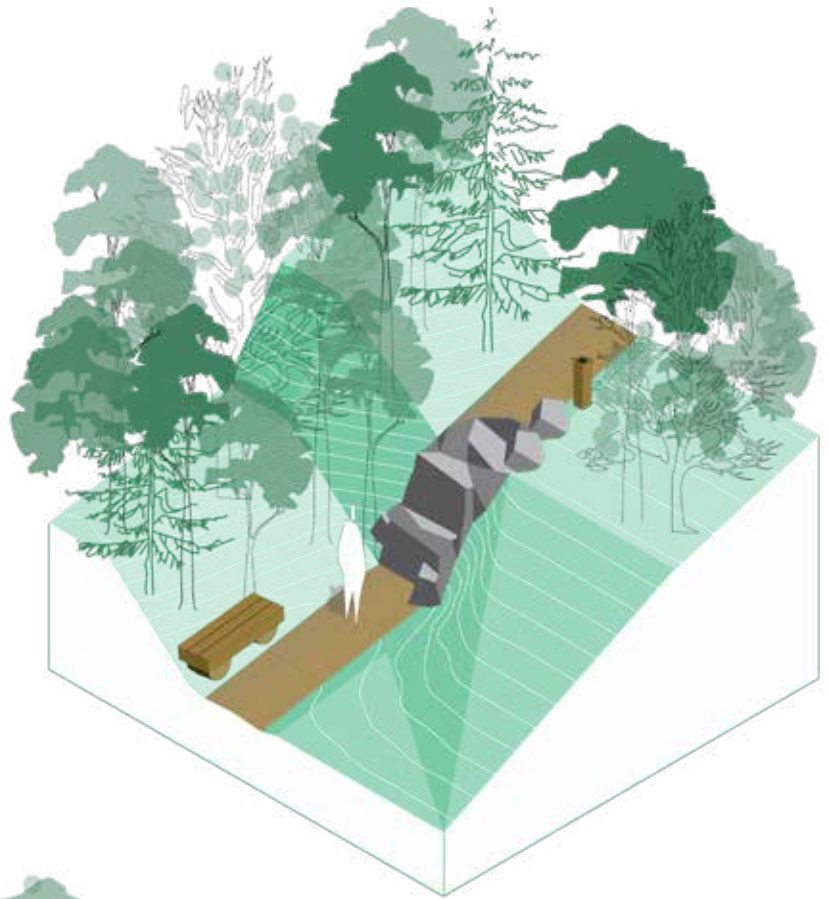
Who can utilize the project once it is complete should be considered when making decisions (can only able bodied individuals use it?).



Choosing Greenway Elements

The greenway elements can work **together** in support of the greater greenway vision and goals. For example, benches can be placed at overlooks to give visitors the opportunity to sit and take in the view, or signage can be mounted near to entry points on access control fencing to save materials.

As your group decides which elements to choose and where to place them, make sure you are **thinking about the greenway as a system**. The elements are meant to work together and the stewardship group should consider the best way to phase projects when selecting them.

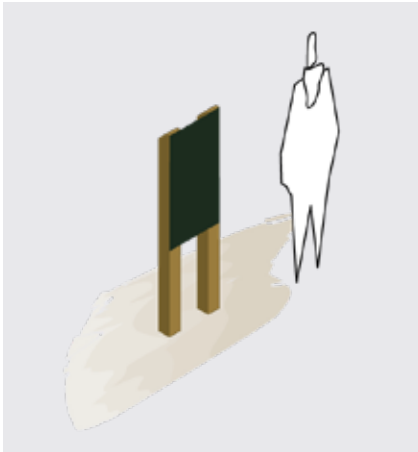


After collaborating and establishing the greenway's vision and goals, it is time to select and prioritize projects and greenway elements. The elements included on the next page are pre-approved by the City, and details such as the cost, construction documents, and more can be found on the Greenways website. If your group chooses to pursue a project or element that is not included in this Resource Guide, please discuss this with the Greenways Program Manager. [www.](#)



Greenway Elements

The following greenway elements can be built and/or acquired for a greenway, depending on whether it is a passive or conservation greenway.



ENTRY SIGNAGE

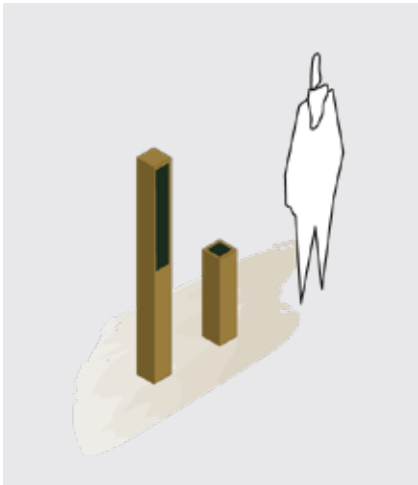
Greenway signage is standardized and should follow the City's Open Space Signage Standard. Signs should be located at every major entry and can either be freestanding or attached to access control fencing.

The signs should:

- Identify the greenway (name)
- Provide regulatory information
- Provide directional information (maps)

Who is responsible for this?

DCP is responsible for designing the signs. Stewards are responsible for purchasing, mounting, and installing the signs.



TRAIL AND MILE MARKERS

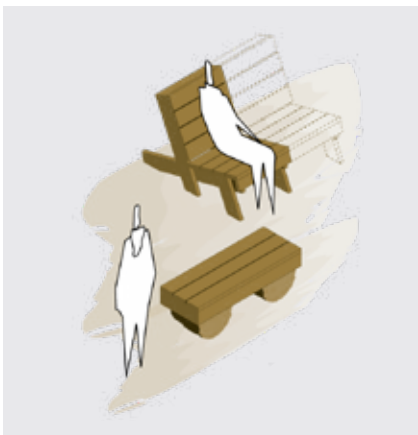
Greenway trail markers are standardized and should follow the City's Open Space Signage Standard. At the least, trail markers should be located at every trail intersection. Trail markers are only required for trails that exceed 2 miles in length. Trail blazing and/or adding attachments to trees is prohibited.

The markers should:

- Identify the trail name and difficulty
- Identify the mileage
- Provide directions

Who is responsible for this?

DCP is responsible for designing the trail markers. Stewards are responsible for purchasing, mounting, and installing the signs.



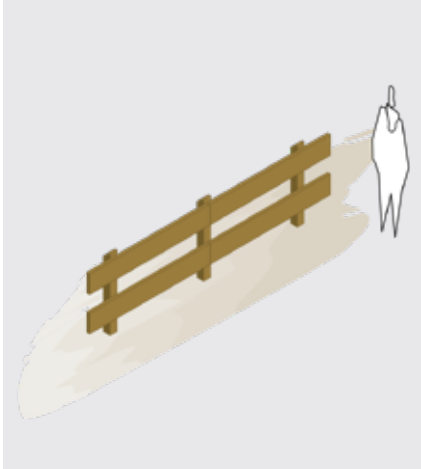
BENCHES

Benches provide a nice resting place for visitors. They should be placed along trails, near to entry points, and at points of interest (such as overlooks). Benches should be set back from a trail by more than 3 feet but less than 10 feet to ensure that the bench does not encroach within the trail or encroach within the naturalized greenway interior. Along a trail, distance between benches should be at least 200 feet.

Who is responsible for this?

Stewards are responsible for purchasing, building, and installing benches. All benches must follow DCP standards.



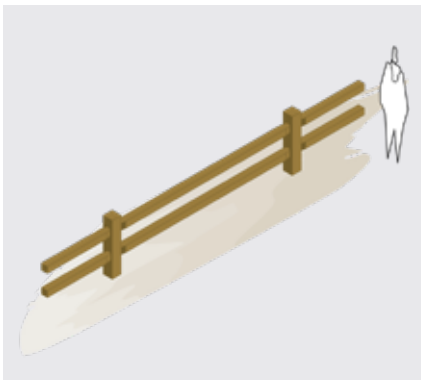


ACCESS CONTROL FENCE

Access control fences are taller than other greenway fences to make it more challenging for individuals to access the greenway. This type of fencing should be used to prevent individuals from illegally dumping or using ATVs. A 36" opening may be provided if there is a greenway walking trail access point. Access control fencing should be used along roads, at the ends of roads, and along parking lots to control vehicle access (including ATVs and motorized vehicles), and dumping.

Who is responsible for this?

Stewards are responsible for purchasing, building, and installing access control fencing. All fencing must follow DCP standards.

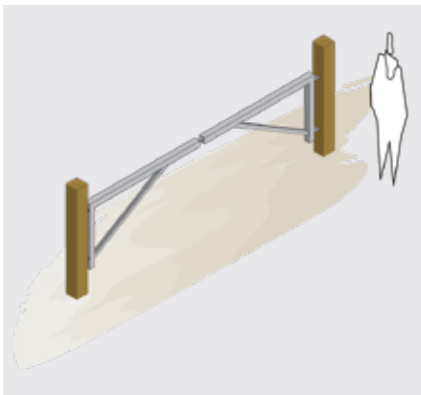


ENCROACHMENT FENCE

Encroachment fences are designed to prevent property owners from expanding their lawn or other property into the greenways, but should not discourage visitors from entering the greenway from their homes. This type of fence should be installed between the greenway and private property and parks.

Who is responsible for this?

Stewards are responsible for purchasing, building, and installing encroachment fencing. All fencing must follow DCP standards.

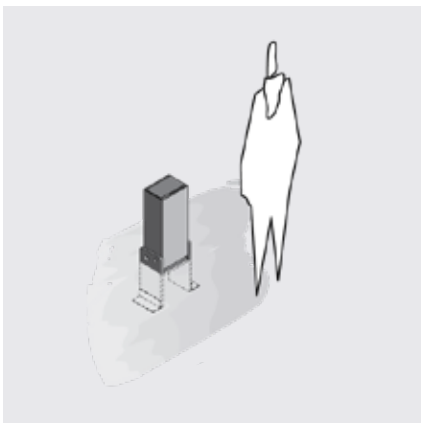


SWING GATE

Swing gates should be used at major entry points where a utility, City department, or Authority requires vehicular access through or to the greenway. Swing gates should be flanked by access control fencing and should stand adjacent to a 36" gap that allows for pedestrian access.

Who is responsible for this?

The City is responsible for purchasing, building, and installing swing gates.



COLLAPSIBLE BOLLARD

Collapsible bollards should be used at major entry points where a utility, City department, or Authority requires vehicular access through or to the greenway. Swing gates should be flanked by access control fencing where the total entry width is 8 feet to 11 feet. Collapsible bollards are desirable when there is not enough room for both a gate and a 36" gap in the fence to allow pedestrians through.

Who is responsible for this?

The City is responsible for purchasing, building, and installing collapsible bollards.





PLANTINGS

Stewards are encouraged to include additional plantings in the greenway to highlight entries, create boundaries, contribute to their greenway's identity, and restore ecologically sensitive areas. Additional plantings in the greenway should be native to Western Pennsylvania. For more information about plant selection, planting strategies, and protecting your greenway from invasive species, please see the Greenways website. [WWW.](#)

Who is responsible for this?

Stewards are responsible for choosing, purchasing, and planting additional vegetation.



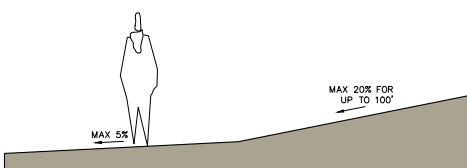
TRAILS

Trails should connect greenway entry points to neighborhood amenities, other communities, other trails, or other points of interest. It is suggested that trails should be constructed where there is an existing walking path or along routes that do not require extensive removal of existing vegetation and wildlife habitat. The ecological integrity of proposed trail corridors should be considered when locating trails. Trail entries should be marked with signage indicating their name and level of difficulty.

Trails should be created with an expert trail partner (such as GPs) and should be reviewed with the Greenways Program Manager. Before construction, trails need to be walked with a GPS to record the alignment and need to be approved by the Naming Commission.

Who is responsible for this?

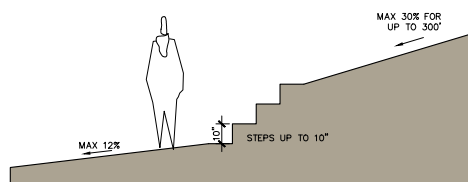
Stewards, with a qualified trail building partner, are responsible for identifying and constructing trails. All trails should be built to the trail-building guidelines found in *Pennsylvania Trail Design and Development Principles*, published by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). Stewards need to coordinate with the Greenways Program Manager and are encouraged to work with Greenway Partners (see the Greenways website for potential partners). [WWW.](#)



UNIFORM SMOOTH SURFACE, NO OBSTACLES IN TREAD.



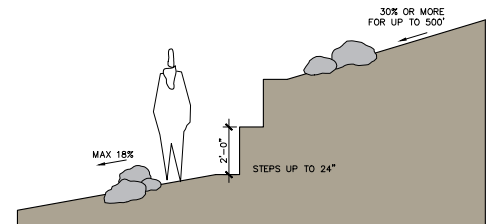
EASY TO TRAVERSE



NATIVE SURFACE, WITH SOME IMPORTED MATERIAL. GENERALLY CLEAR OF OBSTACLES.



MORE DIFFICULT TO TRAVERSE



NATIVE SURFACE. ROCKS, ROOTS, AND OBSTACLES.



MOST DIFFICULT TO TRAVERSE





GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Greenways may contain areas that manage stormwater with natural formations such as wetlands or constructed bioswales. This green stormwater infrastructure mimics the natural water cycle to encourage stormwater infiltration and/or detention. Often this infrastructure will be part of a utility easement, especially if it is part of a municipal stormwater control system. In some cases, greenway stewards may want to create small biohabitats that assist in stormwater control. Check with the Greenways Program Manager for the appropriate size and location for green infrastructure in your greenway.

Who is responsible for this?

Stewards may identify projects and may be able to do some construction. Stewards are encouraged to work with the City, PWSA, and other partner organizations and non-profits on how to best implement green infrastructure (see the Greenways website for potential partners). [www.](#)



ART INSTALLATIONS

Environmental art or eco-art is an artistic expression that focuses on ecological themes. This may include conservation of flora and fauna, or it may integrate elements of the natural environment (such as stones, branches, or sand), all without contributing to ecological degradation. This type of art advocates for a harmonious co-existence between human beings and nature.

Who is responsible for this?

Stewards may identify projects and sites and will work with the Public Art and Civic Design Division at the City to understand how to best implement the project and how to best present proposals to the Art Commission.



Greenway Responsibilities

Greenway stewards are responsible for certain monitoring, maintenance, and optional management tasks. See below for more information about what stewards are responsible for in conservation and passive greenways.



GSGs have access to the Cartegraph tracking system via their smartphones or tablets? This program is used to track greenway operations and management through the City's Asset Management System and helps GSGs and the GPM to communicate.

The purpose of conservation greenways is to conserve areas of ecological significance. Every greenway is a conservation greenway, and stewards must complete the following tasks:



Walk the perimeter of the Greenway. Report encroachment, dumping, and other damage to the GPM.
Walk the interior of the Greenway and report signs of significant erosion, and struggling/diseased vegetation.



Repair or replace signage and fencing immediately, as needed.
Perform dumpsite clean-ups immediately, as needed.



Perform invasive species removal and restoration planting. Consult GPs as needed.
Perform waterway restoration. Consult GPs as needed.
Protect unique intact habitats. Consult GPs as needed.



UNIQUE CONDITIONS
 Conservation greenways may have unique conditions, such as streams and waterways, areas of rare or preserved habitats, acid mine drainage, or legacy dump sites. These conditions will require additional monitoring and maintenance. Partner organizations are particularly helpful to work with when unique conditions exist in your greenway.

AS CAPACITY ALLOWS (optional)





Monitoring

Monitoring activities ensure that there are eyes on the greenways regularly and can help address potential issues early on. This includes documenting the condition of the greenway and reporting issues to 311 and Cartegraph.



Maintenance

Maintenance activities keep the greenway safe and helps them fulfill their essential functions. Maintenance activities can include repairing a sign or picking up trash.



Management (optional)

Management is a commitment to guiding the long-term development of a greenway. Management is always done with specific goals in mind. For management guidelines, please refer to the Guidelines for Urban Forest Restoration. [www.](#)



Passive greenways include everything described in conservation greenways, but also include trails, benches, overlooks, and other elements in support of passive activities. Stewards of passive greenways must perform all tasks for conservation greenways, plus the following tasks:

PLUS

Walk all trails and report potential hazards along trails such as erosion, dead trees, or hanging limbs to Cartegraph.

Walk interior of greenway and monitor integrity of overlooks, benches, and other greenway elements.

PLUS

Clear/prune trails and view corridors as needed.

Repair or replace trail markers, benches, overlooks, boardwalks, and other greenway elements as needed.

PLUS

Perform cultural heritage and historic asset preservation (historic structures, culturally significant greenway elements, etc.). Consult GPs as needed.

PLUS

UNIQUE CONDITIONS

Passive greenways may have unique conditions, and stewards may choose to manage them for user experience. This may include environmental education or maintaining sites of interest. Partner organizations are particularly helpful to work with when unique conditions exist in your greenway.

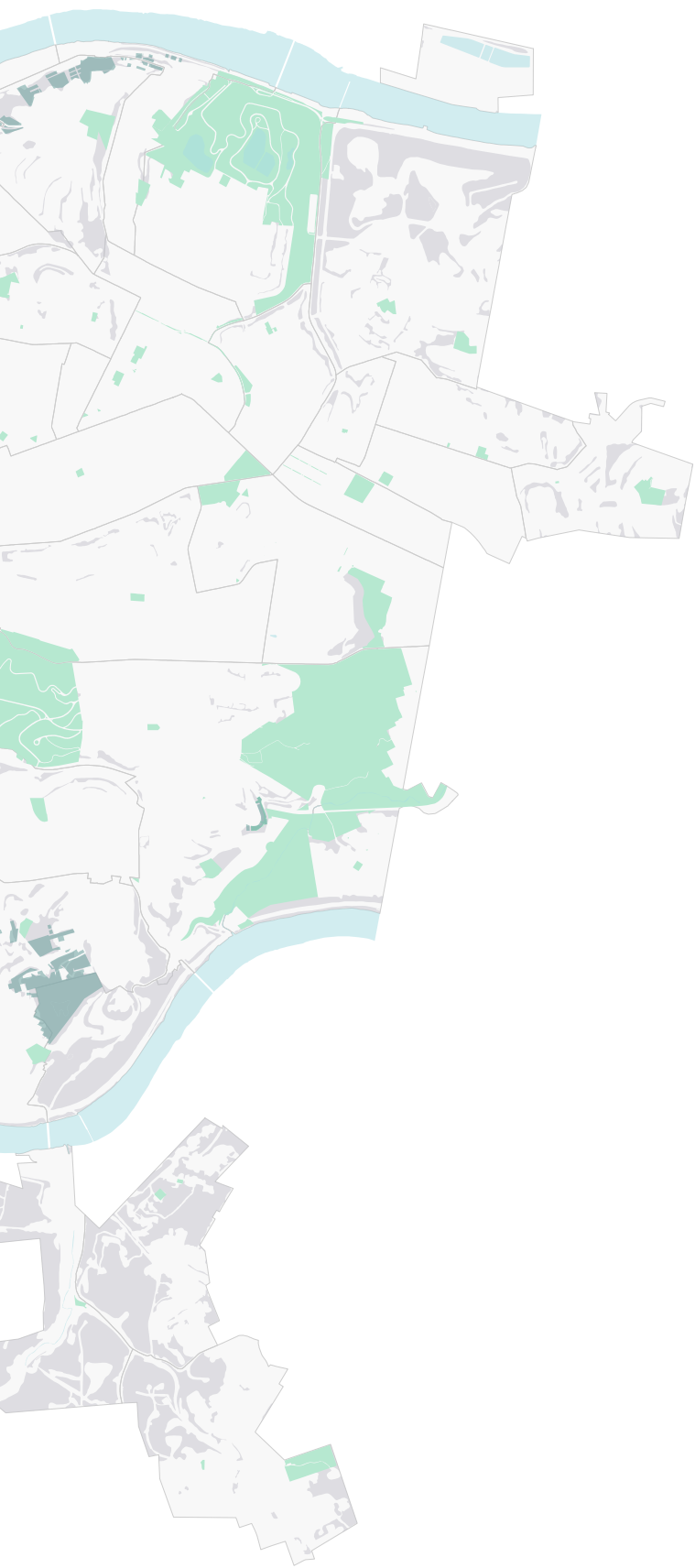




HOLLOWS
(CONSERVATION GREENWAY)

SELDOM SEEN
(PASSIVE GREENWAY)

GREENWAYS IN ACTION



Each greenway has distinct opportunities and priorities that must be balanced by the community. This chapter compares two types of greenways, a conservation greenway and a passive greenway, and shares some of the concerns that would be typical for these greenway types.

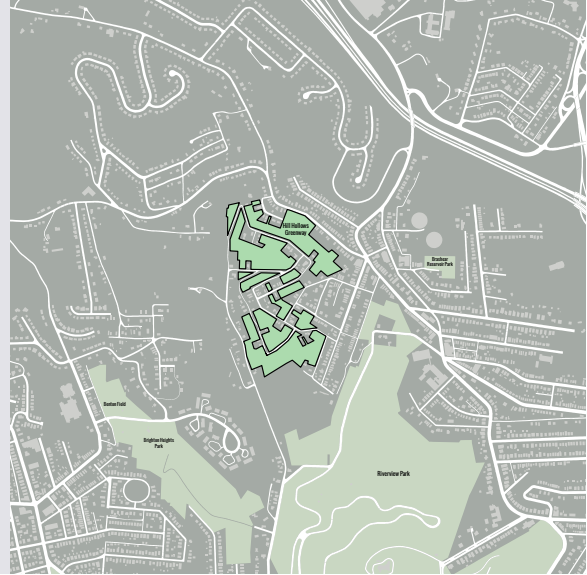
Greenways in Action: Two Examples

CONSERVATION GREENWAY

Hollows

18 acres designated in 2010

Located in Perry North, the secluded Hollows Greenway currently has no active stewardship group and suffers from problems with illegal dumping and encroachment.



WHY CONSERVATION?

Hollows' role within the community is primarily to protect natural spaces that are in-between houses from environmental degradation caused by illegal dumping and invasive species proliferation. In its present condition as a series of disconnected greenway parcels, the Greenway is also not able to support an attractive Greenway trail system. By classifying Hollows as a conservation greenway, the Greenways Stewardship Group should focus its efforts on addressing the environmental challenges that this greenway faces.

IMMEDIATE STEWARDSHIP PRIORITIES

- Identify a GSG or RCO to steward the greenway.
- Mitigate existing greenway dump sites.
- Restrict greenway access at potential dump sites.
- Mitigate invasive species proliferation and restore ecological vitality.
- Identify encroachments and demarcate boundary.
- Install signage at visible locations to make clear the greenway extents and use restrictions.

ALLOWABLE USES AND RESTRICTIONS



FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

- Adjacent vacant hillsides, such as in Brighton Heights, could be designated as part of Hollows Greenway.
- Some privately owned properties surrounded by Hollows could be purchased by or given to the City and designated as part of the greenway.
- Unused streets could be removed and/or naturalized.
- An expanded greenway could support a trail network and be elevated from conservation to passive with a connection to Riverview Park.



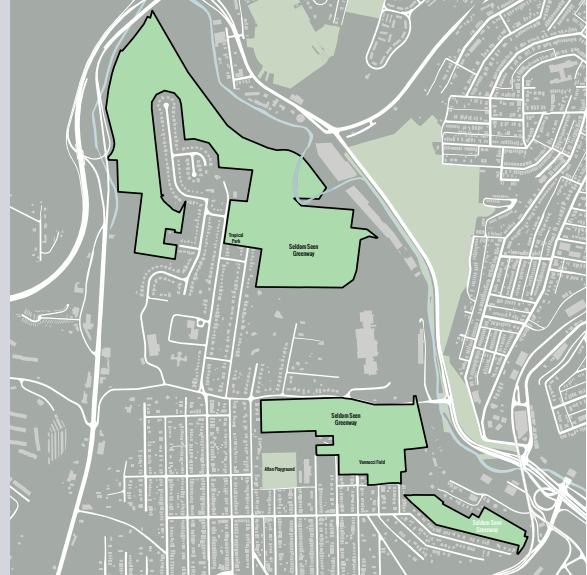
These two examples of existing greenways illustrate some of the key concepts of the Greenways program. They are purely illustrative and are not intended to take the place of community-driven greenways planning.

PASSIVE GREENWAY

Seldom Seen

130 acres designated in 1985

Located in Beechview, the Seldom Seen Greenway is one of the City's largest and includes lush hillsides, striking historic assets, and ecologically sensitive Saw Mill Run. The Seldom Seen Greenway currently has no active stewardship group.



WHY PASSIVE?

Seldom Seen's role within the community is primarily to provide access to the wooded hillsides that surround the neighborhood of Beechview. Trails within the greenway allow hikers to visit Seldom Seen's unique natural and historic assets. By classifying Seldom Seen as a passive greenway, a potential Greenway Stewardship Group should focus its efforts on improving the quality of Beechview's iconic open space.

IMMEDIATE STEWARDSHIP PRIORITIES

- Identify a GSG or RCO to steward the greenway.
- Install signage at visible locations to make clear the greenway extents and use restrictions.
- Officially name trails with the Naming Commission, identify with signage as appropriate.
- Identify encroachments and demarcate boundary.
- Restrict greenway access at potential dump sites.
- Mitigate invasive species proliferation and restore ecological vitality.
- Improve existing trails in need of attention.

ALLOWABLE USES AND RESTRICTIONS



FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

- Adjacent vacant hillsides, such as in Ridgemont, could be designated as part of Seldom Seen Greenway.
- A multi-modal mobility corridor through Seldom Seen could connect the greenway to regional trails and utilize a former railroad right-of-way to the West End.
- Stormwater management through watershed planning (with PWSA).



Conservation Greenway

Nearby community groups that may be interested in partnering with a Hollows Greenway Stewardship Group could be Brighton Heights Citizen’s Federation, Observatory Hill Inc., and/or One Northside.

PHASES **Hollows Milestones**

1

INITIATION

- Get to know the **Greenways Program Manager** and local **Registered Community Organizations**.
- Reintroduce the greenway to the **community** and gather opinions.
- Identify who is interested in creating or joining the **Greenway Stewardship Group**.
- Identify nearby parcels for expansion with the **Greenways Advisory Panel**.

2

DESIGNATION

- Finalize a Memorandum of Understanding with the **Greenways Program Manager** to become the official **Greenway Stewardship Group**.
- **Collect signatures with a community petition** to document support for greenway expansion.
- **Designate new parcels for greenway expansion with help from the Greenways Program Manager**
- Begin to pursue funding for additional greenway expansion and for future projects.
- Reaffirm the vision and goals of the greenway at a **community meeting** to build excitement.



Important Hollows Milestone

3

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- Identify key concerns and opportunities with the **community**.
- Prioritize key projects for volunteers and partners with the **community**.
- Establish a **volunteer** schedule for greenway stewardship tasks.
- Mitigate illegal dumping, remove invasive species, resolve encroachments, and install signage.

4

PROJECTS

- Organize **volunteer** days! They are a fun way to get to know your neighbors.
- Build projects identified as priorities in the implementation plan.
- For more advanced projects, work with **Greenway Partners** who can help get the job done.
- Let your neighbors know about the exciting progress in your greenway.

5

STEWARDSHIP

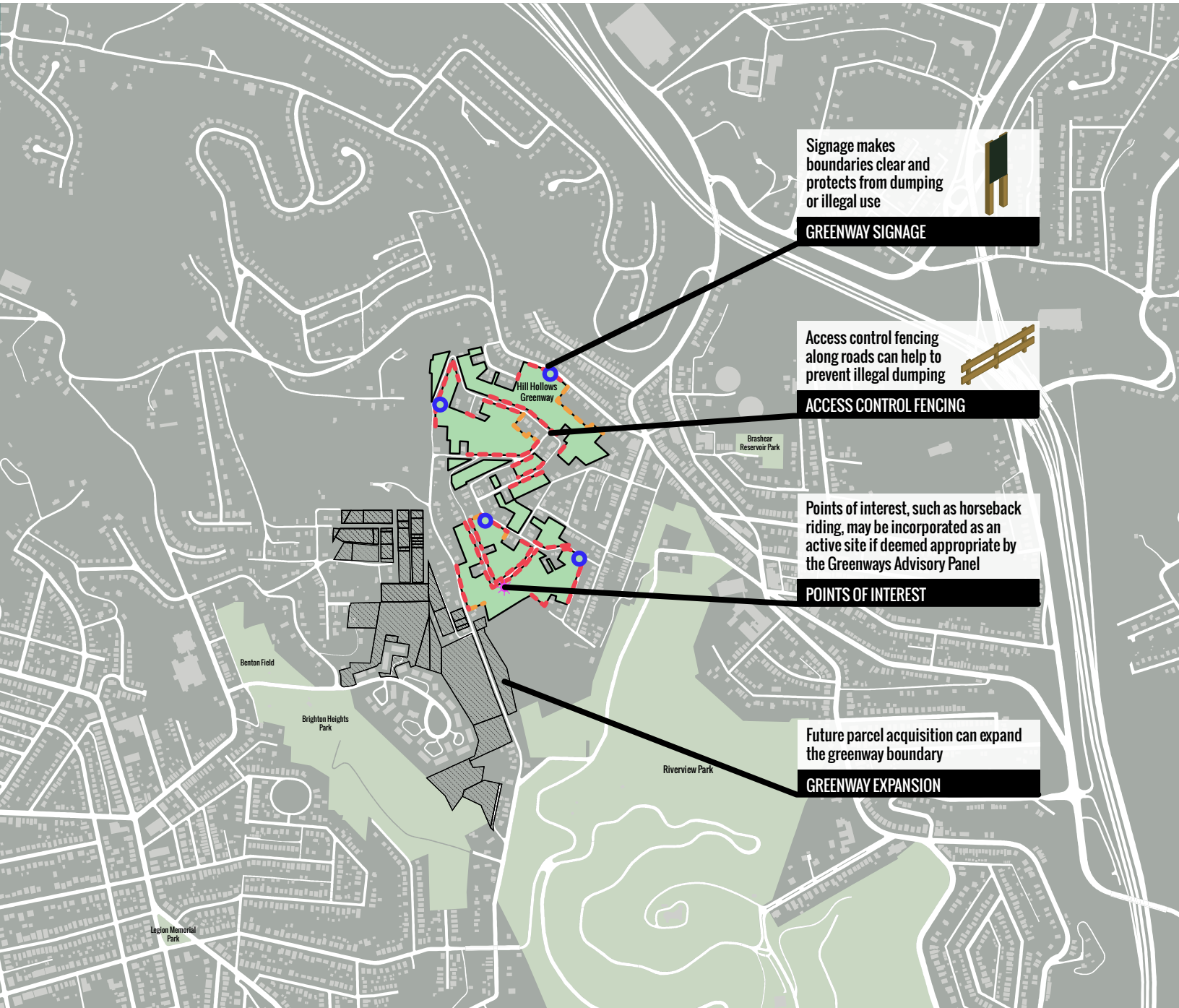
- Organize **volunteer** days! They are a fun way to get to know your neighbors.
- Work with **volunteers** to monitor and maintain the greenway, keeping it clean, healthy, and safe.
- Look at how far you have come and keep planning for the future. The **Greenway Stewardship Group** for Hollows could decide to expand the greenway and change its typology.



USING THE GREENWAY ELEMENTS

- Wooded Area
- City-owned Open Space
- Greenway Boundary
- Encroachment Fence
- Access Control Fence
- Trails
- Identification Signage
- B Bench
- P Parking
- Point of Interest
- City Owned Vacant Parcels

1000 ft



Passive Greenway

Nearby community groups that may be interested in partnering with a Seldom Seen Greenway Stewardship Group could be Beechview Citizens Council, Economic Development South, and/or other groups.

PHASES	Seldom Seen Milestones
1	INITIATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get to know the Greenways Program Manager and local Registered Community Organizations.• Reintroduce the greenway to the community and gather opinions.• Identify who is interested in creating or joining the Greenway Stewardship Group.
2	DESIGNATION <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalize an MOU to become the Greenway Stewardship Group.• Begin to pursue funding for future projects.• Reaffirm the vision and goals of the greenway at a community meeting to build excitement.
3	IMPLEMENTATION PLAN <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify key concerns and opportunities with the community.• Prioritize key projects for volunteers and partners with the community.• Establish a volunteer schedule for greenway stewardship task.• Maintenance of existing assets and installation of signage are the most immediate concerns for this greenway.
4	PROJECTS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organize volunteer days! They are a fun way to get to know your neighbors.• Build projects identified as priorities in the implementation plan.• For more advanced projects, work with Greenway Partners who can help get the job done.• Let your neighbors know about the exciting progress in your greenway.
5	STEWARDSHIP <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organize volunteer days! They are a fun way to get to know your neighbors.• Work with volunteers to monitor and maintain the greenway, keeping it clean and healthy.• Look at how far you have come and keep planning for the future. The Greenway Stewardship Group for Seldom Seen could decide to introduce active sites at key locations.



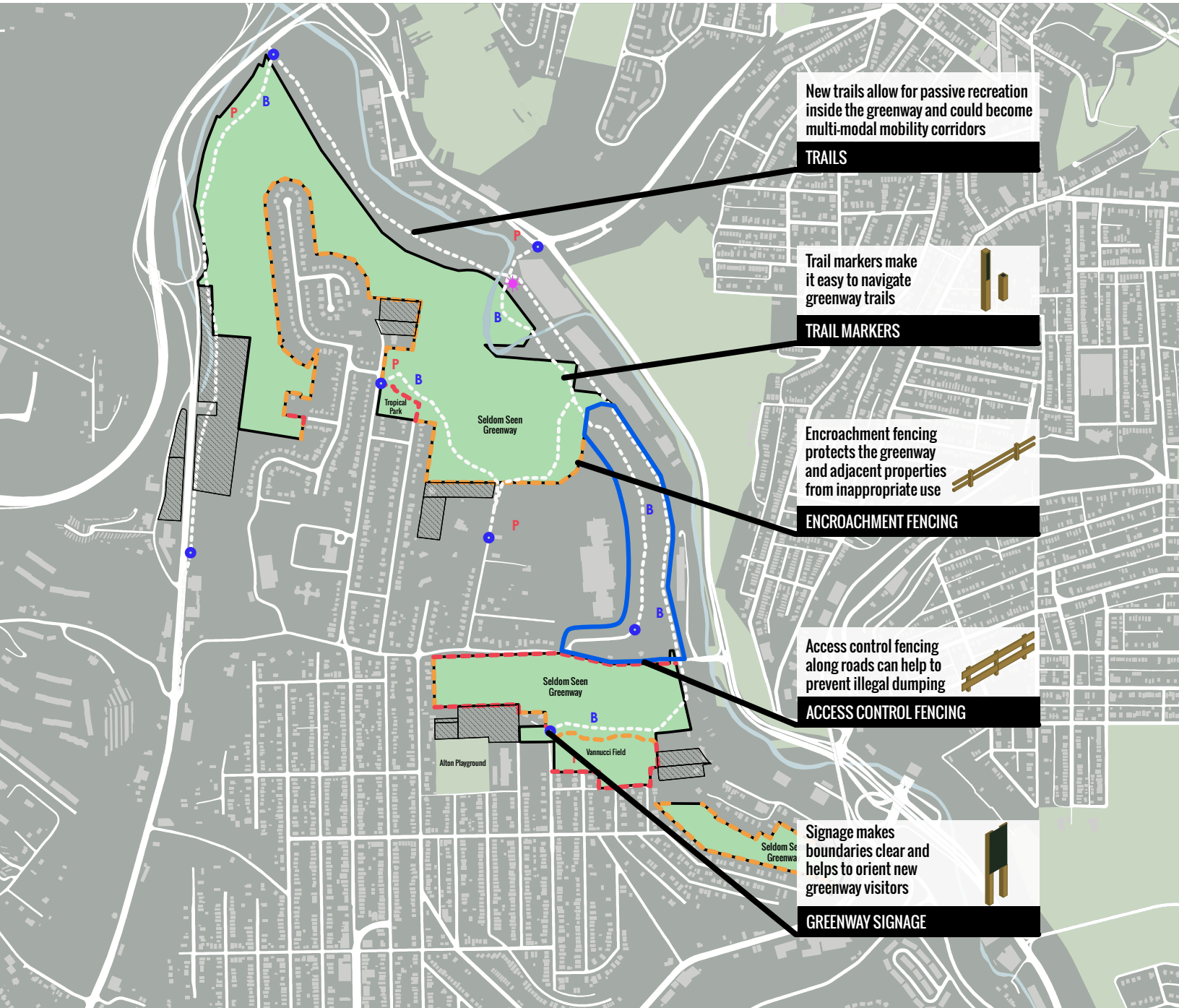
Important Seldom Seen Milestone



USING THE GREENWAY ELEMENTS

- Wooded Area
- City-owned Open Space
- Greenway Boundary
- Encroachment Fence
- Access Control Fence
- Trails
- Identification Signage
- B Bench
- P Parking
- Point of Interest
- City Owned Vacant Parcels

1000 ft



New trails allow for passive recreation inside the greenway and could become multi-modal mobility corridors

TRAILS

Trail markers make it easy to navigate greenway trails

TRAIL MARKERS

Encroachment fencing protects the greenway and adjacent properties from inappropriate use

ENCROACHMENT FENCING

Access control fencing along roads can help to prevent illegal dumping

ACCESS CONTROL FENCING

Signage makes boundaries clear and helps to orient new greenway visitors

GREENWAY SIGNAGE



ARE YOU IN?

Get involved in your greenway!

Visit your greenway!

Start a Greenway Stewardship Group!

Invite your neighbors to the greenway!

Contact the Greenways Program Manager!

Give a presentation about greenways at your local school!



For more information,
visit the Greenways for
Pittsburgh Website at
[www.pittsburghpa.gov/
DCP/Greenways](http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/DCP/Greenways)

www.

Join an existing GSG!

Recruit new stewards to your GSG!

Identify potential greenways in your neighborhood!

Host a community meeting about greenways!

Attend the City's annual Stewardship Symposium!



GREENWAYS FOR PITTSBURGH
RESOURCE GUIDE

