Regional and community parks are the anchoring nodes of the City’s open space system, with other green spaces clustered about them. The greenways are often linear because they follow hillsides, creating potential corridors and connections.
Typical of many steep areas in the city, this 1910 photograph shows a hillside devoid of vegetation. The 1980s greenways program recognized the value keeping steep sites vegetated and unbuilt and formalized a mechanism for doing so. Image source: BrooklineConnection.com
The project team did on-site observation of many of the existing greenways in Pittsburgh. Though they vary in size and character, most have extensive areas of non-native vegetation. Hazelwood Greenway is one of the greenways with an active stewardship group.
The genesis of the Greenways program in Pittsburgh was this guide, which focused on the consolidation of parcels for conservation and assigned responsibility for program management to the Department of City Planning. Greenways 2.0 builds on this guide.
POLICY GUIDE & RESOURCE GUIDE

The project team created a Policy Guide (165 pages) for the City and a Resource Guide (47 pages) for potential stewards. Print versions of both are available for anyone through an online printing service.
**1.3 GREENWAY TYPOLOGIES**

Greenways for Pittsburgh 2.0 identifies three major greenway typologies based on level of stewardship and management oversight. Other elements such as a utility easements or mobility corridors may exist in greenways where they are appropriate.

**CONSERVATION**

Conservation Greenways contain areas with ecologically sensitive lands such as steep slopes, landslide prone slopes, undermined hillslopes, stormwater, and floodplains. Conservation greenways allow for ecological preservation and restoration, stormwater management, or historical asset preservation. All Pittsburgh Greenways have a Conservation element.

**PASSIVE**

Passive Greenways contain community functions such as trails, overlooks, or other areas of respite. They allow for scenic views and access to natural or cultural heritage assets. Limited active uses such as hiking that do not require permanent infrastructure, special equipment, or maintenance may be allowed in some parts of a passive greenway. Most Pittsburgh greenways have passive use components such as trails and overlooks.

**ACTIVE SITE**

Active Sites are designated places within a passive greenway that allow higher levels of recreational activity. Any activities which require permanent infrastructure, special equipment, or specialized maintenance are limited to designated active greenway sites. Some activities at these sites would either be individually permitted by the City or administered by a vendor with a lease from the City.

**TEMPORARY**

Utility Easements are locations where existing utility infrastructure passes through a greenway. These easements fall under the operator’s responsibility for routine maintenance. Stormwater sites are locations with high hydrological value that contribute to the City-Wide Green Infrastructure network. These sites should be identified early in a Greenway’s lifecycle and are often an opportunity for cooperation with the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority’s Stormwater Division.

**MOBILITY CORRIDOR**

Mobility corridors are easements through greenways maintained by the City and administered by the Department of Mobility and Infrastructure. Mobility corridors are intended to provide improved connectivity to pedestrians and cyclists throughout the City. They include City Steps or Rights of Way that have been improved.

**ANATOMY OF A GREENWAY**

- Conservation
- Passive
- Temporary
- Easement or Mobility Corridor

Greenways serve a range of functions beyond conservation in Pittsburgh, and stewardship groups with varying desires and capacity exist in the City. Recognizing this, the project team developed a typology of greenways to guide management.
The Policy Guide has three levels of analysis for the City to use in evaluating its greenways portfolio, the potential benefits of adding new parcels to the system, and maintenance efforts. The scorecard shows the outcome of the parcel analysis.

**GREENWAYS ANALYSIS & SCORECARD IN POLICY GUIDE**

**CHAPTER 2.2  PITTSBURGH’S GREENWAY PORTFOLIO: MANAGING A GREENWAY PORTFOLIO | 19**

**NETWORK ANALYSIS**

How can greenways become the connective tissue within a larger networked system of open spaces?

**PARCEL ANALYSIS**

How can we understand growth and establishment strategies with regards to the city-wide vision?

**GREENWAY ANALYSIS**

How can real-time data collection and greenway typologies streamline management and stewardship?

**DISCLAIMER:** Above image is a graphic mock-up of the proposed greenway scorecard. For more information, please see the attached Greenway Scorecard information.
PROPOSED MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

Given the differences between conservation, passive, and active greenways, each type of greenway allows for the construction of certain elements, and each has its own responsible party.

CONSERVATION GREENWAY RESPONSIBILITIES

Greenway Uses: Ecological preservation and restoration, stormwater management, historical asset preservation, etc. Responsibilities: Conservation greenways’ primary purpose is conserve areas of ecological significance. They may help create larger areas of wooded habitat or corridors for species movement. The vegetation in conservation greenways also helps stabilize steep slopes. At a minimum, stewards should monitor conditions in the greenway to make sure they are not deteriorating. Monitoring includes walking the perimeter and accessible areas of the greenway and noting instances of encroachment, dumping, or significant erosion that could trigger a landslide. It also includes basic integrated pest management (IPM) monitoring for a few easily recognizable conditions such as oak wilt. Signage should be maintained at the edges of the greenway so that the public knows the land has a steward and a conservation purpose.

PASSIVE GREENWAY RESPONSIBILITIES

Greenway Uses: Trails, overlooks, historical site preservation, agriculture, education, etc. Responsibilities: Passive greenways allow for views and experience of natural and cultural heritage assets. They may be defined by higher-elevation overlooks and large viewsheds. They generally contain earth trails and overlooks. Other built elements like access controls or litter and recycling receptacles may be present at the edges but passive greenways are largely “wild” areas with limited present-day intervention. Passive greenways may include remnant structures like old foundations or curbs from former streets but new structures are discouraged. Passive greenway maintenance includes all the tasks of maintaining a conservation greenway in addition to the tasks in the accompanying chart.

ACTIVE SITES RESPONSIBILITIES

Greenway Uses: Rock climbing, kayaking, swimming, sledding, off-trail hiking, agriculture, etc. Responsibilities: Active sites within greenways have purpose-built elements to support recreation activities, such as rock climbing tie-ins or picnic tables. These sites may be maintained by the greenways steward or by a third party. The third party could be a not-for-profit group whose mission includes promoting this type of activity or a vendor who charges a fee to use the site. Active sites may also include historic or cultural assets that have been restored and function as destinations with interpretive signage. Active sites require all the maintenance tasks of conservation and passive greenways, as well as additional tasks specific to the infrastructure required for the recreational activity or asset they contain.

GREENWAYS MAINTENANCE IN POLICY GUIDE

Stakeholders identified knowing when and how to relate to the City as one of the biggest challenges when stewarding City-owned land. The maintenance table compiled by the project team describes activities and responsibilities for greenways maintenance.
GREENWAYS FOR PITTSBURGH 2.0

WHAT IS A GREENWAY?

A greenway is a linear park, trail, or linear green space designed to connect and protect a variety of other lands, including parks, natural areas, or other green spaces. Greenways can be used for recreation, nature conservation, and other purposes.

GREENWAYS PROCESS

1. Initiation
2. Planning
3. Implementation
4. Maintenance
5. Stewardship

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

ABOUT PITTSBURGH’S GREENWAYS

This phase focuses on analyzing the preliminary concept for a greenway, including a community and stakeholder engagement process. This phase also includes the development of a greenway plan, which outlines the greenway’s goals, objectives, and strategies for implementation.

GREENWAY PLAN APPROVED

GREENWAY IMPROVEMENTS

GREENWAY MAINTENANCE

GREENWAYS FOR PITTSBURGH 2.0

Greenways Overview

Greenways are linear parks, trails, or linear green spaces designed to connect and protect a variety of other lands, including parks, natural areas, or other green spaces. Greenways can be used for recreation, nature conservation, and other purposes.

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GREENWAYS ONLINE APPLICATION FORM MOCK-UP

ABOUT GREENWAYS

ABOUT PITTSBURGH’S GREENWAYS

GREENWAY PLAN

GREENWAY IMPROVEMENTS

GREENWAY MAINTENANCE

GREENWAY STewardSHIP

FEATURED EVENTS

Nine Mile Run Birthday Party!

Come celebrate Nine Mile Run’s 15th birthday with food, music, and fun!

Saturday, April 20th @ 1-5pm

1-5pm

Hazelwood Greenway Planning Meeting

How about the Hazelwood greenway? Plan plant and sign-up to participate!

Wednesday, June 1st @ 6-8pm

TWEETS

Outdoor Adventures @NineMileRun

Family visit to Seldom Seen this weekend!

3d

EXISTSING PHYSICAL ASSETS

Does the proposed greenway include any of the following?

Check all that apply:

EXISTING PHYSICAL ASSETS

Does the proposed greenway include any of the following?

Check all that apply:

GREENWAYS IN POLICY GUIDE

The appendices of the Policy Guide have draft templates and forms for the Greenways Program Manager to use when implementing the policy recommendations. Above is a mock-up of the online application form to be hosted on the City website.
The re-designed greenways process has five phases, each building on the documentation and engagement from the previous one. The Resource Guide provides an overview of the documents needed, whom to contact in the City, and the outcome of each phase.
1 INITIATION
Preliminary work completed by a community to test if a group of parcels would be viable as a greenway.

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

SAMPLE PAGES FROM RESOURCE GUIDE
The Resource Guide includes a one-page description of each phase of the greenways lifecycle. Icons denote communication with the City, documents to prepare, and community engagement needed.
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.

Greenways for Pittsburgh 2.0 PA-DE ASLA 2018 Awards Submission: Analysis & Planning
The project team created a set of standard elements for greenways. The benches and fences are designed to use readily-available materials and be easy to construct by stewards. These elements were pre-approved by the Art Commission, shortening the approvals process.
The kit of elements works with many types of greenway, from a steep hiking trail to the entry area of a shared-use trail. They assist with wayfinding and access control and provide seating. Icons indicate ease of construction and cost.
Each greenways element has a one-page sheet with materials, dimensions, and instructions. The project team prototyped these for ease of construction and durability. The bench, for example, can be built for around $40 and put together in under an hour.
The Community Engagement Toolkit includes materials for the community meetings required during the process of creating a new greenway.

A kit is available from the City for any group to use.