

ALT GREENPRINT Process

Step 1. Collect Information

The team located, collected, and reviewed information from 13 entities that provided 170 datasets, two reports and one survey.

Step 2. Filter and Compile

Data was filtered for relevance, consistency and reliability. Useable data was compiled into twenty-one GIS data sets representing Physical Features and interpretative studies that we refer to as Modifiers.

The plotting of natural physical features such as streams and woodlands revealed a pattern of remaining natural land across the county. Based on the team's professional experience and input from the Advisory Committee, Modifiers were interpreted and categorized into three categories: Biodiversity, Water Resources and Management, and Landscape Character.

Step 3. Analyze

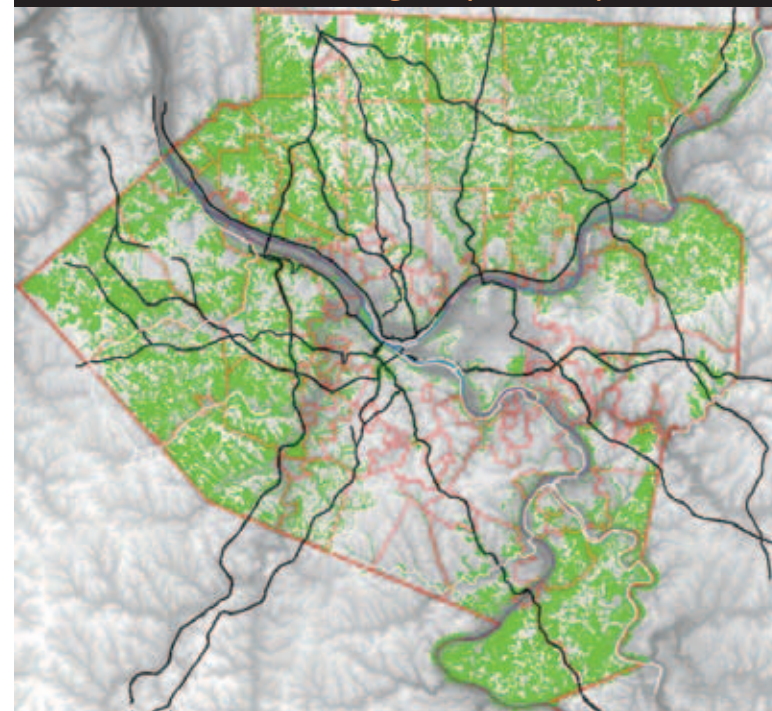
Physical Features were then overlaid with Modifiers to help rank or prioritize them. Where Physical Features and Modifiers overlap represents the highly functional lands. A composite representing Physical Features and Modifiers was created for each category: Biodiversity, Water Resources & Management, and Scenic Character.

Step 4. Synthesize

The final composite represents where all three categories overlap. These Greenprint Focus Areas are the highest functioning natural systems in the county. They are of primary importance to protect because they provide the greatest public benefits.



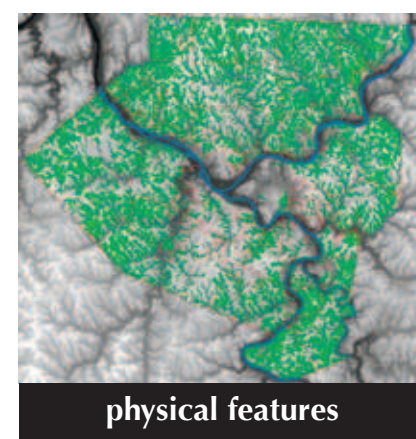
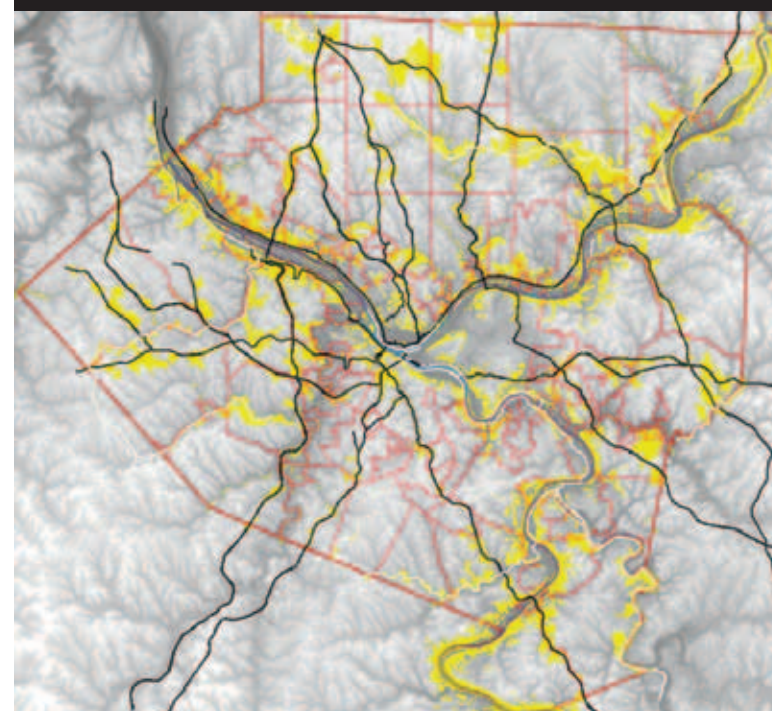
Land with the highest capacity for BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY in Allegheny County



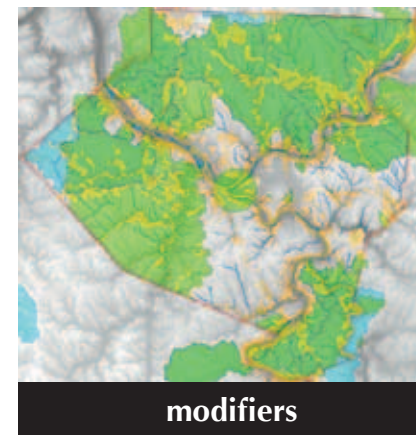
Land with the highest capacity for WATER MANAGEMENT in Allegheny County



Highly visible lands that define SCENIC CHARACTER in Allegheny County



combined with



Data Layers Used:

Physical Features

- County Main Rivers, Streams, Wetlands
- County Biological Diverse Areas
- 3R-2N Woodlands Contiguous to Riparian Vegetation
- LBS Riparian Woodlands (within 75' of both streambanks)
- LBS Non-riparian Woodlands

Modifiers

- 3R-2N Watersheds Ranked on Biotic Integrity
- 3R-2N Watersheds Ranked on Eco Ratings
- WPC Natural Heritage Inventory Program

Existing datasets located and screened for ALT GREENPRINT (May 2007)

3 Rivers - 2nd Nature (3R-2N): Watersheds Ranked for Preservation and/or Restoration; Watersheds Ranked for Biotic Integrity; Watersheds Ranked for Eco-ratings; Forested Hillsides Visible from Rivers; Woodlands Contiguous to Streams

3 Rivers Wet Weather (3RWW): Watersheds; Combined Sewage Overflows; Sanitary Sewer Overflows

Allegheny County: Base layers from Comprehensive Plan; Greenways; Wetlands; Agriculture Reserve Parcels Report

City of Pittsburgh: Physical and Ecological Investigation of Pittsburgh's Hillsides, 2004 (aka The Hillside Report)

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): 100- and 500-year floodplains

Landbase Systems (LBS): Riparian Woodlands within 75' of Stream; Woodlands not touching streams; Woodlands Visible from Highways

Pennsylvania American Water: Drinking Water Intakes

PA Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP): Public Drinking Water Intakes; PA Integrated Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment Report (Streams Attaining Some Uses, Approved TMDLs); Act 167-Stormwater Management Plan for Pine Creek

PA Dept. of Transportation (PennDOT): Highway Traffic Counts

Southwest Planning Commission / Pennsylvania Environmental Council: Natural Infrastructure

U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS): Pomeroy & Davies Landslides

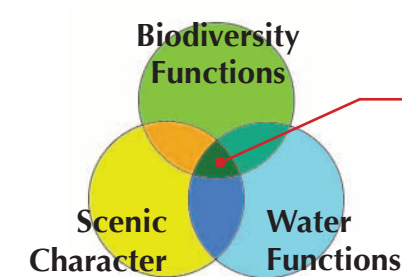
University of Pittsburgh: Public Opinion Poll on Water Treatment Facilities

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC): Natural Heritage Inventory; Aquatic Classification Project; Upper Ohio River Ecosystem Information System; Conservation Blueprint & Forest Block Analysis; Interior Forest Patches; Vernal Pools

DISCLAIMER: The best available data were collected. ALT did not verify the accuracy of the datasets used in the ALT GREENPRINT. There are areas of the county where no data were available.



ALT GREENPRINT A REGIONAL CONSERVATION AGENDA Prioritizing Land Conservation for the Public Good



Greenprint Focus Areas
Biodiversity + Water + Scenic
(9.5% of county or 70.4 sq. miles)

This map shows wooded slopes adjacent to and visible from major highways, river corridors and trails (in white).

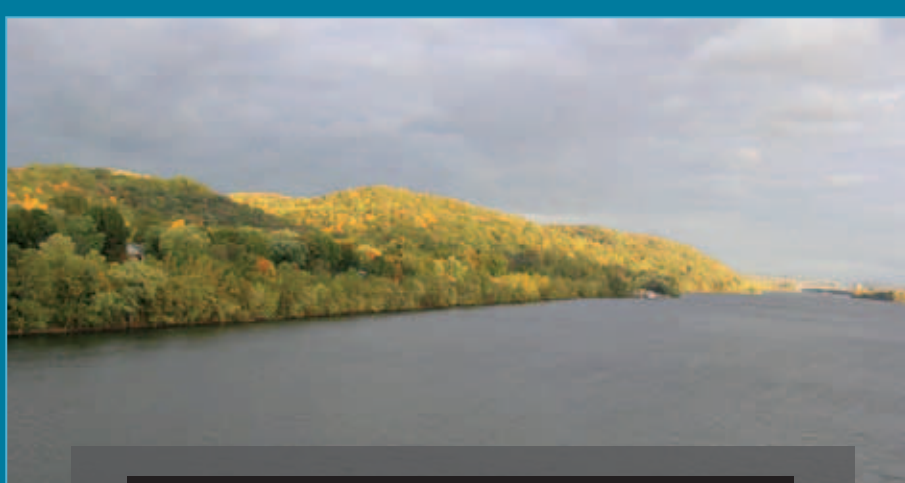


Dead Mans Hollow is a 434-acre parcel protected by ALT that exemplifies a Greenprint property with all three criteria: recorded biological diversity, water management capacity, and wooded riverfront slopes visible from the Youghiogheny River, Great Allegheny Passage Trail and highways.

forested hillsides—the landscape that defines our region's scenic character...

A survey by ALT revealed a strong demand for the preservation of scenic character afforded by wooded slopes next to rivers and along highways. What is unseen are all the other things wooded hillsides do, such as stabilize steep slopes, prevent landslides, intercept large quantities of rainwater, and provide wildlife habitat.

In defining Allegheny County's prototypical scenic landscape, we open a dialog toward protecting this vital natural system—we call it the Ridge to River Continuum.

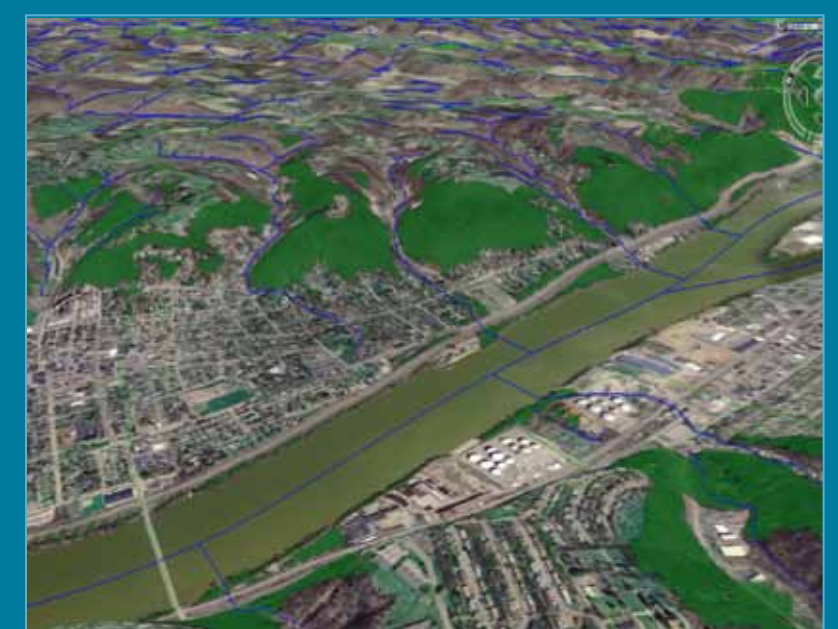


Ridge to River Continuum:
The visual continuity of uninterrupted forests from ridgeline to riverbank

Within the views one sees from major highways following rivers in Allegheny County are developed and natural lands—44% and 37% respectively. This tenuous balance is vulnerable to over-development.

Development of highly visible ridgelines and unstable wooded slopes permanently alters the region's visual character, Pittsburgh's green image, and can aggravate major landslides.

To the right in green is a sample of the remaining tracts of undeveloped natural lands that are visible from the Ohio River and highways adjacent to the Ohio River.



3R-2N's data layer, "Forested Hillsides Seen from Rivers" is overlaid onto a Google Earth perspective. Sewickley Bridge bottom left. Image credit: Landbase Systems.

