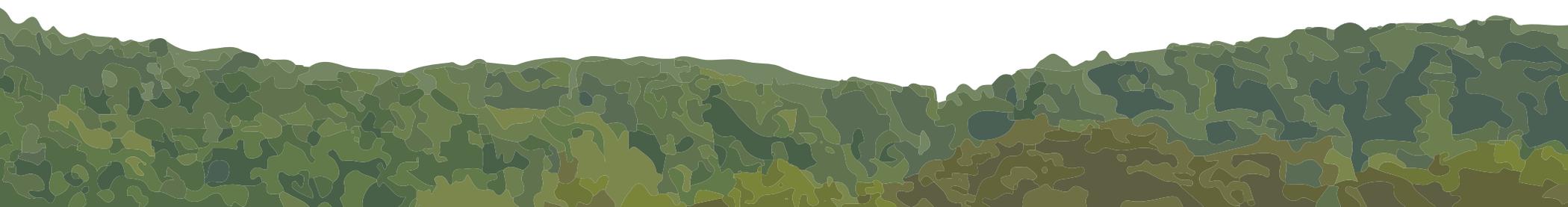


Appendix A:

Task Force Committee Reports



PROGRAMMING AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Members

Camila Rivera-Tinsley, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Director of Education

Joey-Linn Ulrich, Venture Outdoors, Executive Director

Jacqui Bonomo, Penn Future, President and CEO

Ross Chapman, City of Pittsburgh/Citiparks, Director

Committee Executive Summary

In full consideration of the proposed plan to develop and maintain Hays Woods as a publicly-owned asset, by which the region could actively engage and experience this dynamic open space, the Program and Education Committee feels it essential to cultivate educational opportunities, programs and activities that are welcoming to all. The successful creation of sustainable programming hinges, at least in some part upon the commitment and solidification of collaborations at all levels. National, state and local government agencies should be tasked to commit resources, but also collectively share in the long-term planning and vision for protecting the whole of the systems and services of this ecological open space. Local community groups, environmental educators, and private and public organizations should be sought after for, not only any resources which they can commit, but also for their expertise specific to each entity's area of primary focus. Engaging potential partners at the onset of establishing a master plan for the park seems vital, and would serve in the long-term interest of all relevant stakeholders, as well as any/all potential park system "end user."

Short-Term Goals

- Identify the communities surrounding the park that will be potential park users.
- Give communities the opportunity to shape the programming that falls broadly within the identified categories.
- Connect with existing programming organizations that share a common interest in using green space for programming and recreation, and identify what gaps Hays Woods could fill.

Medium-Term Goals

- Install phased Infrastructure to support park use
- Cultivate an advisory team
- Evaluate efficacy of park programming and implement changes as needs shift.

Long-Term Goals

- Solidify long term sources of funding/support for maintenance of park/site to ensure continued usage.
- Provide a park that is welcoming to all residents of Pennsylvania and Allegheny County and reaches a broad group of regional constituents that creates an environment that is conducive to connecting with nature in a variety of ways.

PROGRAMMING AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Potential Sources of Funding, Organizations, Policy Tools, Other Resources

Local:
City of Pittsburgh
Allegheny Regional Asset District (ARAD)

State:
PA DCNR
PA DEP
Oil and Gas Lease Fund
DEP/Driving PA Forward

Federal:
US Forest Service/Urban program

Private funders/partners for program and site protection/restoration:
Richard King Mellon Foundation
Heinz Endowments
Colcom Foundation
Tesla/Solar City

Partner Organizations for programming and site work:
PA DCNR
PA DEP
School districts
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
Outward Bound
Steinbrenner Institute for Environmental Education and research (CMU)
Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Tree Pittsburgh
Allegheny Land Trust

Next Steps to Inform the Scope of Work for the Master Planning Process

- Further review of maps identifying soil, mines, existing trails and infrastructure.
- Determining if buildings are going to be an option and included as part of the project, including both housing and the potential for a Center to serve as an indoor programming and/or community gathering space.
- Further research on the conservation easements, protection and regulations that are already in existence and/or have potential to impact future use of the area.
- Research other local, regional and national models that can be used as examples for programming.
- Public engagement to solicit ideas/input on use of the space and share ideas and what the potential is/could mean locally and regionally.

MANAGEMENT & ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Members

Karen Abrams, Program Officer, Equitable Development, The Heinz Endowments
Mike Gable, Director of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works
Hannah Hardy, Program Manager Chronic Disease Prevention Program, Allegheny County Health Department
Ryan Herbinko, President, 31st Ward Community Action Group
Jayne Miller, President and CEO, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
Tom Murphy, Senior Resident Fellow, ULI/Klingbeil Family Chair for urban development
Lisa Werder Brown, Executive Director, Watersheds of South Pittsburgh
Diane Ketter, Resident, 31st Ward

Committee Executive Summary

The Management and Organization Committee aligned our goals with the following overarching themes; which reflect the values voiced by the entire task force throughout the October workshop:

- Hays Woods will exemplify the highest level of environmental preservation and restoration of the flora and fauna and be a place to educate citizens on the importance of the environment.
- Hays Woods is a public asset and should remain publicly owned in perpetuity.
- Hays Woods is inclusive and serves all Pittsburgh residents and the surrounding communities.

Short-Term Goals

- The City of Pittsburgh should legislate the adoption of Hays Woods as a Regional Park. This goal is most readily achievable, utilizing processes that established other major city parks as regional assets.
- The City of Pittsburgh should conduct an extensive environmental survey of sensitive species both flora and fauna. By building on previous work conducted by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, The Allegheny Land Trust, The Urban Redevelopment Authority, Chester Engineers, and others, a more recent and comprehensive environmental site assessment will allow decision makers to adequately plan for habitat preservation and restoration in Hays Woods.
- The City of Pittsburgh will identify and use the existing best management practices employed for the design, development, and maintenance of existing regional parks to the benefit of Hays Woods. The master planning process for these three major parks will be used to inform the master plan for Hays Woods.
- Hays Woods will be inclusive and serves all City of Pittsburgh residents and the surrounding communities. The City of Pittsburgh will employ best practices of public engagement in the planning process for Hays Woods. All stakeholder groups should be included in the process, not only those that live within the City environs, but also those that exist outside of the City. These include residents of the adjacent neighborhoods in Baldwin Borough, the Bhutanese and Nepalese immigrant community, and conservation organizations such as the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Isaak Walton League and Trout Unlimited. Engaging a broader populace in the planning process offers more inclusive perspectives and provides opportunities for building a large cohort of advocates and volunteers.

MANAGEMENT & ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Medium-Term Goals

- Hays Woods will have a well-designed, well - maintained non- motorized trail system that is well marked and has ADA accessibility
- Hays Woods will be supported by Allegheny Regional Asset District (ARAD) funding in the City Parks Budget, without reducing budgets for existing ARAD-funded parks.
- A phased funding strategy will be developed to support Hays Woods by utilizing foundations, private, corporate, government, possible naming rights for the planning and maintenance of Hays Woods.

Long-Term Goals

- Hays Woods will provide a welcoming environment to citizens of all races, nationalities, creeds, abilities, genders and gender identities, and economic backgrounds.
- Hays Woods will have a Visitors Center that offers trail and asset maps for the safe exploration of the site. The Visitors Center will offer a robust environmental education for all ages.
- Hays Woods employs Park Rangers for the protection and safety of visitors.

Relevant Maps, Data, Plans

Hays Woods, like most of the City of Pittsburgh, was extensively undermined during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Any significant development of the site would expose the streams throughout Hays Woods to massive amounts of acidic discharge, endangering the fragile ecosystem regeneration occurring on the site.

<http://www.emappa.dep.state.pa.us/emappa/viewer.htm>
<http://www.dep.state.pa.us/msihomeowners/municipalitymappinglist.html>
<http://maps.psiee.psu.edu/preview/map.ashx?layer=257>

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Members

John Barrett, Borough Manager, Baldwin Borough
Darla Cravotta, Director of Community Relations and Special Projects, Allegheny County
Ray Gastil, Director, Department of City Planning
Roy Kraynyk, Vice President of Land Protection and Capital Projects, Allegheny Land Trust
Ilyssa Manspeizer, Executive Director, Landforce
Peg McCormick, Board Chair, Riverlife
Councilman Corey O'Connor, District 5, City of Pittsburgh
Sonya Tilghman, Executive Director, Hazelwood Initiative

Committee Executive Summary

The value of a site like Hays Woods within City of Pittsburgh limits cannot be overstated. An expansive, contiguous open space that has been largely undeveloped following its industrial history provides unequivocal benefits to an urban environment.

As a general principle for any future development—be it trails, structures, or otherwise—preserving continuity on the site and limiting the environment disturbance should be paramount. Forestation, vegetation, and existing topography should be maintained wherever possible. If a need for structures arises, it should be executed with minimal disturbance, and development of any kind should recognize the county-wide context of green space loss.

No matter the ultimate end use, the site should be accessible by any and all populations. Facilities and trails should be

ADA compliant and accessible for pedestrians and, when appropriate, bikes.

Short-Term Goals

A priority in the immediate future is solidifying a protocol for visiting and traversing Hays Woods, in an effort to promote public awareness and familiarity. It is important to increase community engagement and visits to Hays Woods. A parking lot and main access point should be established for site visitors. Currently, sanctioned site visits have utilized Agnew Road for parking and accessing the site.

The question of site ownership impacts the goal of increasing authorized site visits, and should be addressed as soon as possible. Public ownership should be finalized and the 85 acres currently proposed for residential development should be sold to a land trust and transferred back to the City with conservation easements or equivalent mechanisms. Ownership should be transferred to the City for a nominal fee.

Sensitive environments and high-priority protection areas should be identified prior to any development and as a crucial part of long-term planning for the site. The existing “trail” system on the site is composed mostly of maintained utility easements and rights-of-way. When public usage and awareness increases, the trail system should be mapped and formalized to increase connectivity and accessibility while maintaining the site's integrity. If possible, use existing disturbed land for trail network; the utility easement could be utilized as a spine for a trail system. Emergency Management Services (EMS) will identify necessary trails for emergency response to site.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

- Get people to the site
- Establish protocol for visits and increase accessibility for public access
- Ensure public ownership
- The area proposed for development should be sold to land trust and transferred back to the City with a conservation easement or equivalent mechanism
- Assess parking needs and access points for initial demand
- Trail plan
- Public engagement
- Establish partnerships
- Use existing paths and trail network
- Improvements should be compliant with ADA accessibility guidelines to the greatest extent possible, given topography
- Ridge is the destination and should be fully accessible
- Ensure there are no concerns with utility easements
- Identify “destinations”
- Identify vehicular vs. pedestrian circulation and trails
- Invasive species management

Medium-Term Goals

Depending on the visitor demand and programming, a second parking lot/access point should be established. Non-structural spaces such as picnic areas or viewpoints can be constructed.

As the trail system is formalized, a hierarchy of networks may be established, with different trails for various levels of recreation. Partnerships should be fostered and for more programming, with third party vendors facilitating more active uses such as biking.

- 2nd parking lot/access point
- Picnic area: oak grove near ridge

Long-Term Goals

Allegheny County is forecasted to lose 20,000 acres of green space over the next ten years, according to the Allegheny Land Trust's analysis of the USGS National Land Cover Database, so it is vitally important to maintain large swaths of forested and vegetated land cover, like that found at Hays Woods. Long-term goals for the site are to generally maintain its ecological integrity, incorporate environmental educational programming, and provide for passive to active recreation, depending on public input and master plan recommendations. Any paving should be done using permeable materials, and full build-out should be a small percentage of the total site. Integrity of the ridgeline should be maintained as well as ensuring safe access for enjoying the views from Hays Woods.

In the first ten years of its public usage, visitor demand and on-site programming may warrant a visitor center or educational structure. It should be located in an easily accessible location, near the parking lot(s) and entry points. An ADA-accessible bathroom, environmental classroom or community gathering space could be:

- If demand exists, a visitor or education center/structure
- Outdoor meeting space
- Do not develop more than 5% of land area of Hays Woods

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Committee Members

Pat Bondi, Volunteer Representative, Baldwin Shade Tree Commission
Darla Cravotta, Director of Community Relations & Special Projects, Office of Allegheny County Executive
Dave Depretis, Mayor, Baldwin Borough
Michael Knoop, Land Protection & Planning Manager, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Sarah Koenig, Conservation Director, Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania
Heather Sage, Director of Community Projects, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
Kate St. John, Volunteer Naturalist, Steering Committee member Friends of Hays Woods
Michael Walsh, Deputy Secretary for Administration, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Meeting Dates

Task Force Workshop, Oct 26, 2018
Committee Meeting, November 28, 2018
Committee Meeting, December 21, 2018
Committee Meeting, January 9, 2019
Committee Meeting, January 14, 2019

Committee Executive Summary

Our goal for this document is to articulate our environmental vision for Hays Woods and describe its benefits to Pittsburgh. Our vision for Hays Woods is outlined below:
Hays Woods will be Pittsburgh's largest and least developed park (fewest roads, buildings, recreation facilities, and built amenities) providing quiet space and educational opportunities, habitat

for wildlife, climate and ecological benefits to Pittsburgh, and connectivity to local green spaces.

We recommend that the entire Hays Woods site becomes a park and we envision it not only as a park but as a living laboratory for urban forest conservation and climate resiliency. Hays Woods will be an innovative experiential environment where scientists, policy makers, and citizens can design, explore, experience and refine new policies and best practices, and evaluate potential impacts before they are implemented.

Successful techniques developed at Hays Woods will have an impact far beyond the park and will position Pittsburgh as an innovator in urban forest management and climate resiliency. The benefits of Hays Woods will be realized by adhering to these important values:

- Minimize development and fragmentation of core forest areas, intentionally keeping the property increasingly rugged from north (entrance) to south. Supporting values are:
- Large undeveloped size of Hays Woods is unique for eastern U.S cities,
- The site is valuable at the regional landscape level,
- Hays Woods represents 35% of the core forest in the City of Pittsburgh,
- Preserve the features that make Hays Woods a resilient provider of ecosystem services like improved air quality, microclimatic and hydrologic moderation, reduced noise and light pollution, carbon sequestration and storage, climate resiliency, and habitat for native species,
- Establish Hays Woods as Pittsburgh's Living Laboratory for urban forest conservation,

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- Preserve its value in community benefits, educational and research value, recreational opportunities, health and wellness values, aesthetic and cultural values, economic benefits, and space for all visitors.

Our vision aligns with the following Guiding Principles of the Hays Woods Task Force. More detail is provided in the Context section below.

1. Preserve forested areas, wooded ridgeline, and archaeological features by limiting site disturbance.
2. Plan within the context of the region's ecological and open space systems.
3. Adhere to resilience and sustainability goals and best practices to balance the needs of people and the environment.
5. Conserve and restore the ecology of the site through environmental management.
10. Establish long-term funding.

Vision Statement

Hays Woods will be Pittsburgh's largest and least developed park, (fewest roads, buildings, recreation facilities, and built amenities) providing quiet space and educational opportunities, habitat for wildlife, climate and ecological benefits to Pittsburgh, and connectivity to local green spaces.

We recommend that the entire Hays Woods site becomes a park and we envision it not only as a park but as a living laboratory for urban forest conservation and climate resiliency. Hays Woods will be an innovative experiential environment where scientists, policy makers, and citizens can design, explore, experience and

refine new policies and best practices, and evaluate potential impacts before they are implemented.

Successful techniques developed at Hays Woods will have an impact far beyond the park and will position Pittsburgh as an innovator in urban forest management and climate resiliency.

Context

Landscape-Level Value & Connectivity
When examining Hays Woods, it is important to consider both its role in the regional landscape as well its site-level value. Hays Woods is an important element of the ecological health of Pittsburgh's and Southwestern Pennsylvania's landscape and beyond. Networks of connected natural areas are important for "clean water, healthy ecosystems, cultural heritage, vibrant communities and economies, climate resilience, climate mitigation, flood and fire control, outdoor recreation, and local sense of place".¹ Hays Woods' landscape-level value is explored below from an avian and greenspace connectivity perspective. A more extensive analysis of its landscape level value is recommended as the planning process advances.

Birds are environmental indicators. What birds are present, or not present, is indicative of ecological integrity. According to eBird, a Citizen Science initiative run by Cornell, a total of 96 species of birds have been identified at Hays Woods. Fifteen of those birds are Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) as defined in the Pennsylvania State Wildlife Action Plan (2015-2025). The SGCN identified at Hays Woods include birds such as Wood Thrush, Hooded Warbler, Common Nighthawk, Peregrine Falcon, and Eastern Towhee. Hays Woods provides food and shelter, serving as important habitat during migration and breeding.

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Birds rely on large parcels of greenspace such as Hays Woods during their multiple-thousand mile migratory journey from North America to Central and South America.

On a regional level, there is extensive opportunity for greenspace connectivity from Hays Woods to other greenspace assets. Focusing on just the south side of the Monongahela River, Hays Woods could be connected to Hilltop Farm, Southside Park, Emerald View Park, and McKinley Park. Such a connectivity network would provide opportunities to experience diverse park settings and habitats in one centralized network. Benefits of such a network include improved quality of life for residents and increased tourism and economic development opportunities.

Core Forest Value

Hays Woods represents 35% of the core forest in the City of Pittsburgh, accounting for 590.9 of the City's 1,681 total acres⁴. Core forest is typically considered forest surrounded by forest for at least 100 meters without fragmentation. Core forests are important because they are more resilient than "edge forests" to disturbances like invasive species, forest pests and disease, and severe weather conditions. Because of their resilience, core forests are reliable providers of ecosystem services benefiting human well-being, like improved air quality, microclimatic and hydrologic moderation, reduced noise and light pollution, carbon sequestration and storage, and aesthetic and cultural values. Further, because many native species live primarily in core forest habitat, core forests are very important for biodiversity.

The value of the forest in Hays Woods is further enhanced when considering the challenges that urban forests are currently facing

including a variety of threats from pests such as Asian Long-Horned Beetle, extreme conditions from climate change, and development.

Furthermore, from 2011 to 2015, the City of Pittsburgh lost 1,007 acres of tree canopy which is equivalent to a 6% reduction (Tree Pittsburgh, 2018). The Hays Woods forest contains 'free' existing trees that Pittsburgh doesn't have to restore to the canopy.

Layout On Site

Determining the layout of Hays Woods will be the job of the Ecological Master Plan and the Park Master Plan. Our committee did not address interior layout except in the important values listed below:

- Avoid forest fragmentation,
- Intentionally keep the property increasingly rugged from north to south,
- Layout should preserve the features that make Hays Woods a resilient provider of ecosystem services like improved air quality, microclimatic and hydrologic moderation, reduced noise and light pollution, carbon sequestration and storage, climate resiliency, and habitat for native species,
- Layout should use best sustainability practices to balance the needs of people and the environment and support the needs of the Urban Forest Living Laboratory.

We recommend that the interior layout does not change during the pre-Park phase, before planning has been completed.

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Climate Change

Hays Woods plays an important role in the City's climate resilience. Because of its size this large park mitigates the effects of Urban Heat Islands (UHI). Specifically, large parks²:

- Moderate higher temperatures,
- Moderate local wind conditions (air is cooled over parks and reduces temperature of winds over developed areas),
- Mitigate the impacts of air pollution,
- Mitigate "local precipitation anomalies" that are exacerbated by effects of UHI, and
- Sequester carbon and other pollutants trapped by UHI.

Additionally, forested areas are effective at sequestering carbon. On average, an acre of forest is estimated to sequester approximately 1.925 metric tons per year³. According to Environmental Planning and Design (2018), 590.9 acres of Hays Woods is "Core Forest." These values indicate that Hays Woods annually sequesters an estimated 1,137.5 metric tons of carbon.

Living Laboratory for Urban Forest Conservation

An Urban Forest Living Laboratory is a place where location-based, yet transferrable, urban forestry research tests and refines best practices in the care and maintenance of urban street trees (in edge locations) and urban park trees (in the interior).

It also allows for research to occur over a long period of time on forest-related topics...

- stormwater management,
- health and well-being of local residents compared to residents that do not have a view of or access to green space,

- pollution reductions,
- carbon sequestration,
- money saved by the community through reduced infrastructure density,
- how people connect with nature, and
- how to best prepare for climate change.

... and can provide practical answers to urban forestry issues such as:

- how to best handle invasive species in cities,
- testing of native cultivars in urban settings,
- avoiding the spread of tree diseases and pests during urban forest care,
- ways to increase community utilization of open/green space, and
- utilization of dead trees: durable, useful, beautiful, valuable goods can be made out of dead trees (goods that continue to store carbon) with many more benefits than sending trees to a landfill, an incinerator, or even mulch (mulch is not a bad use but it releases its carbon sooner). There could be opportunities for partnerships with local artisans or other wood-users.

Health and Wellness Value

Extensive research documents the myriad of health and wellness benefits that trees, parks, gardens, and exposure to nature bring to people. Because of Hays Woods' size and its relatively intact forest canopy, it offers great value in this regard. "Urban green spaces provide environmental benefits through their effects on negating urban heat, offsetting greenhouse gas emissions, and attenuating stormwater. They also have direct health benefits by providing urban residents spaces for physical activity and social interaction, and allowing psychological restoration to take place⁶."

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Alignment with City Sustainability Initiatives

Pittsburgh has committed to taking bold measures to ensure the City's resilience. Hays Woods has immense current and potential ecological, resilience, carbon sequestration, health and wellness, and core forest value which align with many of the City's sustainability plans. Alignment with some of the key plans is briefly summarized below.

- OnePGH Resilient Pittsburgh (2017): The resilience framework outlined in this plan is based upon the P4 model, developed by the City of Pittsburgh and the Heinz Endowments, which focuses on four core areas -- People, Place, Planet, and Performance. The following OnePGH goals are important to highlight in this context; some actions/sub-actions are included where applicable.
- Place: Pittsburgh will use land to benefit all residents; to increase social cohesion, connectivity, public and ecological health; and to protect against current and future risks.
- Action: Repurpose underutilized land and building stock in vulnerable places for community benefit. Sub-action: Hays Woods, with the purpose of addressing shocks and stressors that include inequity, aging infrastructure, environmental degradation, and climate change (flooding and extreme heat).
- Action: Ensure that each community in Pittsburgh is connected to nature.
- Planet: Pittsburgh will achieve long-term environmental health through wise stewardship, improved use of our resources, and a reduced carbon footprint.
- Action: Maintain and improve natural infrastructure assets. Associated description: "... Invasive species and increased development threaten the health and survival of Pittsburgh's

natural assets, so strategic conservation efforts are warranted."

- Performance: Pittsburgh will work closely with neighbors and partners for improved planning and decision-making.
- Pittsburgh Climate Action Plan, 3.0 (2017): The Pittsburgh Climate Action Plan identifies "Increase carbon sequestration by 100% by 2030" as a goal under the Urban Forest, Natural Systems & Carbon Sequestration section. Strategies include:
- Halt tree canopy loss due to development and
- Support sustainability in park design, development, maintenance, and management.

Some of the associated objectives include:

- Increase Urban Forest Canopy to 60% by 2030 and
- Protect 200% more open space by 2030 (100 acres / year).
- Stormwater (Saw Mill Run and Green-First): The City is utilizing green infrastructure, where possible, for stormwater management in order to realize the triple-bottom line benefits associated with this management approach. Preserving existing green spaces and tree canopy are in alignment with the philosophies outlined in these plans.

Short-Term Goals

Before a park is officially established, listed in chronological order:

- Final decision regarding acreage reserved for possible development: incorporated into the park? As long as this is an open issue it is hard to make plans for Hays Woods.
- Pre-Park access phase:
- Identify existing access points and trails (map, guidelines for potential public access),
- Work with Baldwin and PA Game Commission regarding pre-park access including rules for the Bald Eagle exclusion zone,

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- Create guidelines for sensitive use of existing site, and
- Build a publicly-accessible "library" of documents, maps, guidelines, plans.
- Build awareness and support for Hays Woods by identifying stewardship, volunteer, education/constituency-building opportunities
- Complete transition to city parkland/zoning changes.
- Retain task force/advisory committee.
- Park Plan Phase:
- Develop Ecological Master Plan: incorporate adaptive management and Living Laboratory concept, build a framework for long-term, incremental change,
- Conduct an economic analysis of existing ecosystem services,
- Explore opportunities for long term legal protection, and
- Develop a Park Master Plan (layout and connectivity) that considers adjacencies and context and minimizes impacts on neighboring areas.
- Establish medium- and long-term goals.

Medium-term Goals

- Establish the park
- Create partnerships to establish vision and governance for living lab,
- Enhance wildlife habitat, conserve and improve forest habitat, management stormwater and improve water quality (headwater and ephemeral streams) through park improvements.
- Implement Park Master Plan
- Implement opportunities to monetize ecosystem service values.

Long-term Goals

- Park is established and operating
- Ongoing laboratory for urban forest conservation
- Unique urban park

Relevant Maps, Data, Plans including Background Information: The following is a list of related important considerations, maps, data, and plans along with links:

Challenges of Site History

Extensive geotechnical analyses were conducted in the past for undermining, landslide zones, etc. Find and consult these records for insight into problem areas on site. For example, this 2003 PA DEP map shows subsidence and a former mine fire, which has since been reclaimed, in the zone presently reserved for the URA's residential access road. See PA0031 on: <https://friendsofhayswoods.files.wordpress.com/2019/01/pamap-problem-areas-hays.pdf>

Additional Considerations

Important considerations when planning for Hays Woods:

- Access to the bald eagle nesting zone at the southern end is off limits December to (as late as) early September every year, regulated by the Pennsylvania Game Commission;
- Landslide risk with earth moving on site;
- Existing utilities on site including multiple transmission lines, multiple types, and various legal arrangements with existing utility ROWs;
- Mine subsidence;
- Pennsylvania American Water drinking water intake proximity to site;

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- Major transportation corridor including East Carson, 885, and railroads; and
- Potential to intensify acid mine drainage if on-site infiltration is encouraged.

Legal Considerations

Legal considerations that affect Hays Woods range from site-specific to municipal ordinances. Listed below with links where available/appropriate.

- DCNR buffer per grant to URA
- Western PA Conservancy memo on existing protections (December 2017)
- City of Pittsburgh ordinances affecting Hays Woods:
- Timber & Slopes: https://conservationtools.org/library_items/759-Pittsburgh-Steep-Slope-Ordinances
- Landslide overlay district: http://pghgis-pittsburghpa.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/c5b8bed5963746d4844dcfea7c2053e7_0
- Undermined planned overlay district: http://pghgis-pittsburghpa.opendata.arcgis.com/datasets/428f48cd3ba540339ab3d2afc94d65a9_0
- Hillsides zoning https://conservationtools.org/library_items/759-Pittsburgh-Steep-Slope-Ordinances
- Baldwin ordinances

Additional Related Maps, Plans, and Resources

- Hays Woods Ecological and Conservation Analysis (Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, 2017) https://friendsofhayswoods.files.wordpress.com/2018/05/hays-woods-ecological-assessment-report_final-v2-july-2017.pdf
- Geotechnical historical documents https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1u5-VUx2w_QYytaHnYOhcjPrXH1U0w0uS?usp=sharing

- Chatham landscape architecture students - history from 2003-2006
- Studio for Creative Inquiry at CMU (Constance and Thomas Merriman, 2006) <http://studioforcreativeinquiry.org/projects/community-forest-project>
- Baldwin Borough Comprehensive Plan (2014-2015) <https://www.baldwinborough.org/DocumentCenter/View/180/Comp-Plan-2015>
- Pennsylvania State Action Plan (Draft, 2018) <https://www.dep.pa.gov/Business/Energy/OfficeofPollutionPrevention/climatechange/PublishingImages/Pages/CCAC/2018%20PA%20CAP%20Draft%20112018.pdf>
- Allegheny County Comprehensive Plan (2008) http://www.alleghenyplaces.com/comprehensive_plan/comprehensive_plan.aspx
- Allegheny County Green Web

Potential Sources of Funding, Organizations, Policy Tools, Other Resources

Hays Woods' large forest tract has the opportunity to provide financial benefits at three scales, including 1) the value of existing ecosystem services and quality of life benefits, 2) cost savings for avoided issues associated with loss of these valuable resources such as increased stormwater challenges and flooding downstream, and 3) potential revenue from Living Laboratory grants, carbon sequestration credits, and the various other local, state, and national funding opportunities.

A short list of opportunities for ongoing resources and partnerships

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include:

- NRPA/Trust for Public Land/Urban Land Institute/City Parks Alliance
- City Forest Credits (Urban Forest Project Resource)
- Green Web

The scale, importance, and diversity of opportunities at Hays Woods opens up a wealth of possibilities for local, state, and national funding opportunities. A short list of potential national funding opportunities includes:

- Environmental Grants -local and national opportunities
- Grants for living laboratory research in urban forest conservation
- Healthy Watersheds Consortium Grant - U.S. Endowment for Forestry & Communities, Inc. <http://www.usendowment.org/healthywatersheds.html>
- Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program - National Fish and Wildlife Foundation <https://www.nfwf.org/fivestar/Pages/home.aspx>
- National Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program - Department of Agriculture <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=300327>
- Participatory Science - National Geographic <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/grants/grant-opportunities/participatory-science>
- Advancing Informal STEM Learning - National Science Foundation https://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=504793
- Climate Resilience Fund - Coordination and Collaboration Grants <http://climateresiliencefund.org/grants/>

Next Steps to Inform the Scope of Work for the Master Planning Process

- Ensure key stakeholder involvement in steering committee;
- Plan ecological management first; plan park second (as overlay to ecological management plan). It is very important that the ecological management plan is developed by an entity with successful track record of conservation land management experience; and
- Follow Short-Term Goals, as listed above, in chronological order.

References

- 1 Pathways Forward: Progress and Priorities in Landscape Conservation. The Network for Landscape Conservation. 2018
- 2 Parks and the Urban Heat Island: A Longitudinal Study in Westfield, Massachusetts, 2010. Bristow, R., Blackie, R., and Brown, N. Proceedings of the 2010 Northeastern Recreation Research Symposium
- 3 Carbon Sequestration Through Changes in Land Use in Washington: Costs and Opportunities, 2007. Dushku, A., Brown, S., Petrova, S., Winsten, J., Martin, N., Pearson, T., and Kadyszewski, J. California Energy Commission.
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Appendix B:

Feedback

COMMUNITY MEETING FEEDBACK ACTIVITY RESULTS

Why is Hays Woods Important to You?

- Tree canopy, incredible views, opportunities for engaging new and diverse users
- It's important to have woods in the City of Pittsburgh
- The wildest nook in Pittsburgh
- Hays = wilderness in the City, within walking distance
- Habitat, habitat, habitat! –Bear
- Hiking opportunities but more importantly, wildlife habitat (un-fragmented)
- Close hiking and wildlife habitat and opportunity for environmental education trips
- Green space, green space, green space
- Open space, nice views – need better access trail from Glenwood bridge
- An urban wilderness
- We moved to Pittsburgh because of the great combination of urban and wild areas. Having a wild park that is accessible and ecologically conscious would be great!
- I was born and lived in Hays for 21 years (now South Hills), still a member of Holy Angels. It would be nice to have an ARAD park in South Hills (Hays Woods)
- The prospect of well-managed green space right in my backyard seems great – as long as it's taken care of
- Where is the best place, overlook to sit and breath and pray?
- Wildlife conservation! Eagles, eagles, eagles, trees.
- Trails! Deer management will be needed. Please seek a PGH variance for this unique park. Controlled options exist, e.g. Philadelphia
- It is my viewshed, and provides Hazelwood with a uniquely wild skyline. Clean air, climate mitigation, habitat.
- I enjoy breathing. This piece of forest is critical to keeping our air quality from getting any worse than it already is!
- Why? Downhill biking. For safety you need connectivity and flow. A 15 foot wide graded main trail down to the bottom to a parking lot.
- Wildlife conservation + greenspace
- Undeveloped land, that is untouched! Forestry.
- Habitat! Eagles!
- Close proximity! Wildlife. Hiking! Preservation of wooded area within the City
- I'm excited to see a green space in this area. Travel to Schenley & Frick Parks have been nice. Seeing this happen on this side of the Mon is great!!
- Make it beautiful –place to go and be proud of – try to keep natural
- Hays Woods is the last undeveloped wooded area in Pittsburgh. It is the lungs of the City.
- Accessible environmental education / experience for City youth
- I grew up and live in Hays! Natural beauty and oxygen is provided –cleaner air and decarbonizing. Stopping capitalism from ruining our land.
- Conservation, recreation
- Hays Woods is the lungs of the City of PGH.
- Easy access to the outdoors
- Keep to preserve for my grandchildren
- It's a remnant of the natural pre-industrial native ecosystem and it's very important to maintain biodiversity
- Seeing the eagles up close
- Another green space near my home
- Hunting is a state-wide right
- It's important because it's the nearest natural feature to my home

COMMUNITY MEETING FEEDBACK ACTIVITY RESULTS

What Future Activities Might You Like to Explore?

- Nature Center to engage all people. Engaging our local schools in the City to participate in the environment. Getting urban young people excited about nature. Native plants and trees. [Picture of flower]
- Water Div (?)
- Leave No Trace
- Rate some trails as biking single track
- Bridge from Three Rivers Heritage Trail
- Zip line
- Trails, biking, hiking, nature walks, zip lines, aviary?, game preserve?
- Biking from GAP trail & Glenwood Bridge up Glass Run Rd to enter the park
- Dark Sky awareness
- Maybe some limited bow & arrow hunting – keep deer in balance
- Cross county skiing
- Hiking [up arrow], biking [down arrow], stewardship [up arrow]
- Manage as “urban wilderness” to protect sensitive areas. Opportunities for service learning and citizen science in partnership with Pittsburgh Park Conservancy. Research in partnership with universities.
- Sustainable trails -not just what's there now. Opportunity for volunteer engagement.
- Wild park, wild life, eagles, natural park, trees
- Your current site map does not reflect the trails currently in place, but Google Maps is not accurate either
- Environmental education, hiking
- Hiking, environmental education, scout programming e.g. merit badges in sustainability, wildlife management, forestry, geology, etc. (for scouts and the public)
- Ban biking in the woods –nothing tears the woods up faster – Frick Park is totally in ribbons and eroding. Hiking only.
- We need a well-graded continuous downhill trail for activities such as biking, running, cross-country ski or boarding?, long boarding, walking, etc.
- Trails that have loops! Keep it wild! Green infrastructure learning stations, small-scale renewable to power any buildings, like solar overlook spot
- Education about local plants and animals on site
- Water diversion around Glass Run Rd trail is critical – currently muddy and inaccessible about 80% of the year
- Why not collaborate with local high schools, boy/girl scouts, etc. to remediate trails –and reduce project spending
- Is there any way we can keep mountain bikers out of here when it becomes a park? They are ruining Frick Park!
- Foxes!
- Hiking, picnic area, mountain biking!
- Hiking Trails! Exercise machines next to playground that is minimally invasive
- Ensure that the power (utility) right-of-way area maintained in an environmentally-sensitive way.
- Free environmental education for local schools, stormwater interpretation
- Hiking and biking trails
- Access to overlook of the Mon River
- Just a park is fine

COMMUNITY MEETING FEEDBACK ACTIVITY RESULTS

- Interpretive stormwater education
- Pond & family fishing
- Use rainwater and (?) for funding
- Climbing, trails, hiking, adventuring, large exposed rocks for climbing and recreation, camping (maybe)
- Treatment of abandoned mine drainage and reclamation of abandoned mine features
- (Limited) camping, suitable for small school groups for educational purposes
- Try to avoid primary parking lot on Becks Run Rd – people in this area will not appreciate traffic. Glass Run Rd is far more accessible / convenient for public transit
- Mountain biking – single track, hiking trails, conservation and children's education programs similar to Frick
- Opportunities for volunteer stewardship, invasive species removal, trail maintenance, restoration plantings
- Create trailhead that connects to the GAP trail (current distance approx. 250 yards)
- Multi-use low impact single track trails for mountain biking, trail running, hiking. Keep park as natural as possible –minimal infrastructure
- Educational opportunities, ecological restoration, invasive species removal, bonfires
- Trail access: Bridge over railroad tracks and East Carson, access at Becks Run
- I would like to hike and view eagles. I would also like the area to facilitate education for young children about habitat and ecology.
- We need a well-graded continuous downhill
- Birdwatching hikes, teaching trails, videos / materials on the wisdom of the woods – Thoreau
- Large exposed rocks for climbing and recreation [smiley face]
- Mountain biking, hiking, geocaching
- Trails for hiking, running, and mountain biking
- Hiking, biking
- Wilderness camping, medicinal forest plants – ginseng, goldenseal, etc. – possibilities with university med departments
- Hiking – need access trails from Glenwood Bridge & GAP trail and from Becks Run Rd & GAP trail

Which Guiding Principles are Most Important?

Preserve forested areas, wooded ridgeline, and archaeological features by limiting site disturbance. (50 VOTES)

- Don't make it another busy park – leave it peaceful
- Manage whitetail deer for forest health
- Plant native fruit trees
- Manage deer population
- Protect nest buffer zones
- This is critical! Definitely #1!

Conserve and restore the ecology of the site through environmental management. (28 VOTES)

- Invasive species removal and treatment
- Stormwater and tree management!
- Mine remediation, abandoned mine runoff

Adhere to resilience and sustainability goals and best practices to balance the needs of people and the environment. (12 VOTES)

Establish long-term funding. (9 VOTES)

- Very important. It would be an embarrassing failure to see this park decline the way other Pittsburgh parks have due to lack of money and city commitment.

Plan for a variety of transportation options so people without a car can get to the park and to reduce ecological impact. (9 VOTES)

- Trail access from GAP trail at Becks Run Rd
- Trail access from GAP trail at Glenwood Bridge

Provide accessible trails to key park amenities and wherever feasible, given the steep terrain. (8 VOTES)

- Access from trail over railroad tracks
- Create sustainable trails
- Get the eagle watchers off bike trail with trail / sites of their own

Make Hays Woods a City Park. (7 VOTES)

- Possibility of being greenway in perpetuity?

Make partnerships and community engagement a priority. (6 VOTES)

- Partner with universities to study ecology of site
- Non-environmental groups

Provide inclusive programming to a diversity of user groups. (6 VOTES)

- Get school groups and children outside learning about ecology
- Connect the GAP trail via a bike/ped bridge over the railroad tracks & Carson St. Then a multi-use sidewalk up Becks Run Rd to opposite Wagner Rd [Symbol] easy grade into park

Plan within the context of the region's ecological and open space systems. (5 VOTES)

Who Should We Work With?

- Tree Pittsburgh
- Audubon Society and Hays Woods Bald Eagles
- Pittsburgh Building Trades
- Public Utilities Commission (Duquesne Light)
- Trout Unlimited Abandoned Mine Drainage Technical Assistance Program
- PA DEP Pilot Program (AML Reclamation)
- Trail Pittsburgh
- Pittsburgh Public Schools – partner on service learning / environmental science
- Greenspace Alliance
- The Sierra Club
- Non-environmental groups
- Access Mob Pittsburgh
- Bike Pittsburgh
- Steel Valley Trail Council
- Boys & Girls Clubs – Girl Scouts & Boy Scouts
- REI, Patagonia, 3 Rivers Outdoor Co.
- Venture Outdoors
- National Wildlife Federation
- Friends of the Library, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
- Residents with relevant skills & interests
- Friends of the Riverfront
- Student Conservation Association
- Urban Astronomers
- People whose property border Hays Woods!
- Pennsylvania Game Commission – nest buffer enforcement
- Park Rangers
- Pennsylvania Environmental Council
- Allegheny Land Trust, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

- Pennsylvania Outdoor Corps
- ME! How do I get involved?
- Volunteer teams
- Local community groups
- Rachel Carson (Council)?