NORTHSIDE ASSET INVENTORY AND MAPPING

GTECH STRATEGIES for One Northside

2015

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the Spring and Summer of 2015, GTECH Strategies worked with an interdisciplinary team of 11 Student Researchers to create a comprehensive inventory and map of assets found throughout the 18 neighborhoods of the Northside. The result was a comprehensive dataset that includes nearly 1800 assets, 1 interactive map and 21 static maps. A website, **www.northsideaim.org**, was created to ensure that the information is available in a user-friendly and accessible manner so that this effort can be a foundation for future initiatives. The purpose of this report is to communicate the process and findings of the investigation with an emphasis on the uniqueness of each of the Northside neighborhoods.

The community planning effort that developed the One Northside plan identified Quality of Place as a major focus of a revitalized Northside. In particular, that effort identified the importance of residents and visitors to have more links and options to move safely around the community. To move that vision forward, the community has encouraged, as a first step, the development of a trail system that would link neighborhoods physically and functionally while emphasizing access to the unique features of the 18 neighborhoods of the Northside.

In order to lay the groundwork for development of such a trail system, GTECH worked with our university partners to create an asset inventory and map to ensure that the envisioned trail system might have the opportunity to incorporate and impact as many unique features of the Northside as possible. This unique collaboration allowed us to maximize university student research, talent and creativity in coordination with existing community planning and outreach efforts to develop a foundational element of the envisioned trial system.

Specific project goals included:
- Identify, inventory, catalogue and map unique neighborhood assets that may serve as destination points along a trail or series of trails,
- Maximize community participation in research, idea generation and product development,
- Create an accessible database, inventory and map of neighborhood based assets,

- Establish designs, research and recommendations for a system of multi-modal connectivity or trails for linking Northside assets.
  - Establish an action plan for next steps of the connectivity system,
- Add capacity to existing community planning and implementation around land use and green infrastructure and
- Enable a rich learning experience for university students with the hope and aspiration that ongoing projects, research and partnerships are identified.

Our treasure-mapping process identified gems in each one of the Northside's 18 neighborhoods. As noted above, nearly 1800 assets were mapped throughout the Northside. This includes 351 Environmental, 419 Cultural / Entertainment, 497 Transit assets as well as over 500 assets in other categories such as Local Economy and Government. The Northside AIM team was able to engage nearly 300 community members, over 25 technical partners and 4 Community Mentors from the Northside to inform our process and build support for the project. Furthermore, an action plan for guiding next steps of increased connectivity was developed through benchmarking research, stakeholder input and analysis of the information collected during community engagement and field data collection.

This unique collaboration and approach yielded success in building the foundation for increased connectivity throughout the Northside while also developing a suite of tools to support related One Northside Quality of Place goals. This report provides the foundation for next steps in the development of the envisioned trail system as well as other projects that celebrate the uniqueness of the Northside, expand connectivity and wayfinding and improve Quality of Place.

INTRODUCTION

WHO WE ARE
GTECH STRATEGIES

GTECH Strategies (Growth Through Energy and Community Health) is a Pittsburgh based nonprofit social enterprise, whose mission is to cultivate the unrealized potential of people and places by creating opportunities to improve the economic, social and environmental health of communities. GTECH has worked throughout the 18 Northside neighborhoods for over 5 years through Ambassador programming, the Northside Vacant Land Inventory, and the NS AIM projects.

STUDENT RESEARCHERS

A key component of this project was the creation of a collaborative student workforce between three of the region's academic institutions. During Spring and Summer 2015, GTECH managed the efforts of 11 students – 7 students from Chatham University's Falk School of Sustainability, 2 landscape architecture students from Penn State University, 1 Public Policy and 1 Urban Design student from Carnegie Mellon University. This unique collaboration allowed for knowledge sharing across disciplines and institutions and bolstered the quality of investigation and analysis conducted during the 10 week process.

ONE NORTHSIDE

The One Northside initiative is a multi-year effort sponsored by the Buhl Foundation which aims to enable community-driven change across the 18 Northside neighborhoods. One Northside specifically aims to:
- Engage residents and community leaders in defining what's working and what's needed,
- Develop shared strategies across communities and specific strategies within communities,
- Begin near-term projects that will make a difference and
- Leverage additional resources and community-based assets.

APPROACH

CONTEXT

The community planning effort that developed the One Northside plan identified Quality of Place as a major focus of a revitalized Northside. In particular, that effort identified the importance of residents and visitors having more links and options to move safely around the community. That vision included: 1) safe accessible connection points between neighborhoods, 2) repairs to stairs, sidewalks, bus shelters and lighting, and 3) the development of a long-term plan for green infrastructure. That vision was also linked to the importance of recreational activity and parks, alternative use of vacant property, strong neighborhood business districts and emphasis on the Northside as a regional hub for quality art and cultural experiences.

To move that vision forward, the community has encouraged, as a first step, the development of a trail system that would link neighborhoods physically and functionally while emphasizing access to the unique features of the 18 neighborhoods of the Northside.

THE PROJECT

In order to realize the vision for the trail system and to lay the groundwork for development of such a trail system, GTECH worked with our university partners to create an asset inventory and map to ensure that the envisioned trail system might have the opportunity to incorporate and impact as many unique features of the Northside as possible. This unique collaboration allowed us to maximize university student research, talent and creativity in coordination with existing community planning and outreach efforts to develop a foundational element of the envisioned trial system. Specific project goals included:

- Identify, inventory, catalogue and map unique neighborhood assets that may serve as both destination points along a trail or series of trails,
- Maximize community participation in research, idea generation and product development,
- Create an accessible database, inventory and map of neighborhood based assets,

- Add capacity to existing community planning and implementation around land use and green infrastructure and
- Enable a rich learning experience for university students with the hope and aspiration that ongoing projects, research and partnerships are identified.

The project took place over 11 weeks from May to August 2015. During this time, GTECH managed interdisciplinary student researcher teams to execute the following 3 project phases: 1) Foundational Research and Project Development, 2) Community Survey and Asset Collection and 3) Data Analysis and Deliverables Development. Throughout the phases, student were engaged in a variety of activities such as: research design, community outreach and engagement, benchmarking, field data collection, data management, analysis, mapping and design.

NS AIM developed and applied innovative investigative approaches to inventory and map community assets throughout the 18 Northside neighborhoods. The results include a variety of tools which will support community and partner projects throughout the Northside.

METHODOLOGY
FORM A TECHNICAL EXPERTISE COMMITTEE

To ensure that the One NS AIM project integrated and synthesized with existing planning efforts, projects, initiatives and partnerships, a working Technical Expertise Committee (TEC) was formed. The vision for the TEC was to 1) inform the asset inventory and mapping effort, 2) provide practical knowledge for potential next steps in the realization of the inter-connectivity and/or trail system,and 3) facilitate collaboration, open dialogue, and maximize impact related to this and other Northside initiatives.

Two TEC meetings were held during the course of the project, including one at kickoff and one at the conclusion. For the duration of the project, regular communication was maintained with TEC members via bi-weekly emails and individualized contact for special topics.

Members from the following organizations participated in TEC:

- ALCOSAN
- Allegheny Cleanways
- Allegheny Land Trust
- Bike Pittsburgh
- Buhl Foundation / One Northside
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Chatham University
- Department of City Planning
- Design Center
- Envision Downtown
- Grow Pittsburgh
- GTECH
- Healthy Ride
- Hollow Oak Land Trust
- The Penn State Center
- Northside Cultural Collaborative
- Northside / Northshore Chamber of Commerce
- Northside Leadership Conference
- Northside Leadership Conference Bike / Ped Committee
- Pennsylvania Resources Council
- Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group
- Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
- Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority
- Riverlife
- Sprout Fund
- Tree Pittsburgh
- Urban Innovation 21
- Urban Redevelopment Authority
- Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Collaborating with TEC partners allowed the NS AIM project to maximize impact, synthesize with existing projects and priorities and begin to build key relationships that are critical for the envisioned connectivity system.

SELECT, CATEGORIZE, AND DEFINE ASSETS

Through benchmarking research and TEC input, the research team identified 47 types of assets for data collection. It should be noted that assets often serve multiple purposes and/or fall in a variety of categories depending on goal, need, or interpretation. *Table 1* lists the assets that were collected and their associated definitions. GTECH developed a survey on the LocalData platform that would collect detailed and practical information about assets. Tablet computers were set up to run the survey when it was finalized.

Table 1: List of Asset Types Collected

Asset	Definition
Alternative Energy	Infrastructure that produces energy without the use of fossil fuels.
Bike Lane	A designated lane in a roadway for bicycle use.
Bike Rack	A stationary fixture designed to secure a bicycle to.
Bike Trail	A trail specifically designated for bicycle use (may or may not allow other uses).
Brick Sidewalk	Sidewalks that have been improved with brick materials to fit the character of the neighborhood.
Bus Shelter	A covered shelter at a bus stop designed to protect users from the elements.
Business District	The commercial and business center of a city or community.
Cemetery	A burial ground or graveyard.
Commons	Developed areas in city or neighborhood "centers" used for public gatherings or events.
Community Flower Garden	Gardens planted mainly for city beautification and leisure activities.
Community Food Garden	Community Gardens planted mainly for food production.
Cultural Entertainment	A facility that draws visitors in for cultural leisure activities (i.e. museums, theaters, casinos, sports stadiums, etc.).
Farmers' Market	A food market at which local farmers sell fruit and vegetables and often meat, cheese, and bakery products directly to consumers.
Flower Garden	Private flower gardens.
Food Garden	Private gardens planted mainly for food production.

Asset	Definition
Food Pantry	A nonprofit, charitable organization that distributes food to those who have difficulty purchasing enough food to avoid hunger.
Food Production	Facilities where food is produced (e.g. coffee roaster).
Green Infrastructure	Approaches to water management that protect, restore, or mimic the natural water cycle.
Grocery Store	A specific business which sells food for customers to take home and prepare.
Higher Education Institution	Facilities that confer higher level degrees.
Hiking Trail	A trail specifically designated for pedestrian use (may or may not allow other uses).
Historic Site	Official location preserving a location or structure for its' cultural heritage value.
Informational Sign	Signs that provide detailed information to guide and/or educate visitors.
Landmark Sign	Signs that identify important community landmarks and points of interest.
Landmark	An object or feature of a landscape or town that is easily seen and recognized from a distance, especially one that enables someone to establish their location.
Library	Facility containing collections of books, periodicals, films, recorded music etc. for people to read, borrow, or refer to.
Little Free Library	Miniature libraries that can be freely used by anyone to take and/or leave a book.
Marina / Water Recreation	Marina and/or location that supports aquatic recreation.
Media Outlet	A publication or broadcast program that provides news and feature stories to the public through various distribution channels.
Museum	A museum is an institution that cares for (conserves) a collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance and makes them available for public viewing through exhibits that may be permanent or temporary.
Music Venue	Locations of live music.
Nightlife	Social activities or entertainment available at night in a town or city.
Nontraditional Trail	Any trail serving a unique purpose other than biking/hiking (i.e. self-guided trail stopping at certain points of interest).
Park	Green space set aside for public use, often featuring trails and picnic areas.
Picnic Area	Small spaces set up for the public to eat and rest outdoors.
Playgrounds	Spaces designed for youth recreation, often featuring equipment.

Table 1: List of Assets Collected (continued)

Asset	Definition
Public Art	Any media that has been planned and executed with the intention of being staged in the physical public domain.
Public Parking Lots/Garage	Any large area or structure that provides off-street parking to the public, either free or for a small fee.
Recreation and Sports Facility	Building or place that provides space for recreational activities or sports.
Religious Institution	Organized body providing a space for religious services and support within the community.
Restaurant	A specific business which sells individual meals to customers on-premise.
Retail	A specific business which sells good other than food to customers.
Service Industry	A business that does work for a customer, and occasionally provides goods, but is not involved in manufacturing.
Staircase	Structure that allows pedestrians to connect between differing elevations.
Statue	A three-dimensional representation usually of a person, animal, or mythical being that is produced by sculpturing, modeling, or casting.
Unique Structural Feature / Architecture	Unique structural feature such as a commercial or residential building.
Vistas/View	An area of a community that has a particularly pleasing view.
Water Access	Water access area.

Nearly 300 residents were engaged through our multi-tiered community engagement strategy. Above, Spring Hill resident and mosaic artist Linda Wallen points out some of her favorite community assets.

ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY
COMMUNITY MENTORS

To help ensure that the project successfully built upon community knowledge and networks that exist in the Northside neighborhoods, four Community Mentors were recruited from throughout the Northside. Community Mentors were asked to share knowledge of community assets, assist students in their efforts to gather community input, provide support to pop-up events that occured throughout the project and give general guidance on how to best reach the project goals.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Nearly 300 residents were reached through our multi-tiered community engagement strategy. Our approach included: attendance at community meetings, pop-up data collection events and participating in volunteer initiatives. Utilizing resident input to inform the NS AIM project was critical to ensure community buy-in for the NS AIM project and future related efforts.

Recognizing the value of and knowledge within existing Northside momentum and activities, the NS AIM research team attended as many community and related meetings as possible. In addition to providing a project overview, community input was solicited at each meeting. Community meetings that were attended include:
- Allegheny City Central Association Membership Meeting
- Allegheny Commons Initiative Steering Committee
- Allegheny West General Membership Meeting
- Community Alliance of Spring Garden / East Deutschtown Meeting
- East Allegheny Community Council Meeting
- Fineview Citizens Council Meeting
- Northside Leadership Conference Bike/Ped Committee Meeting
- Northside Leadership Conference Board Meeting
- Observatory Hill Incorporated Community Meeting
- Perry Hilltop Citizens Council Meeting
- Sprout Fund "Meet Your Neighbor" Event
- Summer Hill Community Meeting
- Troy Hill Citizens Council Meeting

In an effort to maximize engagement and community input, we held 6 data collection 'pop-up' events. These events allowed us to reach residents that may not participate in the more formalized events listed above. Each pop-up event had the goals of sharing information about the NS AIM project, gathering input on community-identified assets and building support for NS AIM and future related projects. Pop-up events took on a variety of formats in geographically diverse locations. Some events were held independently and some were integrated into larger events such as the Manchester Community Block Party. Pop-up events were held in Spring Hill, Perry South, Manchester, East Allegheny, Central Northside and Allegheny Center.

An additional aspect of our community engagement strategy was to support on-going volunteer efforts. This allowed us to add capacity to existing activities while also learning from the community and building support for NS AIM. Each Student Researcher attended multiple volunteer events throughout the Northside. Volunteer activities included: Neu Kirche vacant lot art installation work, Riverview Heritage Festival, Propel Northside Green Playce, and GTECH Ambassador vacant lot projects.

FIELDWORK

Data collection took place for 5 weeks from June - July 2015 and was prioritized based on community-identified assets. Assets identified by the community through the various types of outreach outlined above were logged in a master digital map. Student Researchers worked in teams of 2 to collect data. The Northside was divided into 4 groups of neighborhoods and a team was assigned to each neighborhood group. The AIM research team would meet weekly to discuss findings, strategies, and reallocate on the ground resources as needed.

Daily data collection routes were developed based on community-identified assets. Once in the field, student researchers would prioritize community-identified assets while also organically seeking and logging additional 'found' assets. Field teams aimed to maximize geographic coverage with careful consideration to 1) capture each community-identified asset and 2) explore and capture assets in areas with the least amount of known assets. For each asset, the following information was collected: Location (x,y coordinates), Type of asset, How was this asset found (community member or personal exploration), Name, Photograph and Notes.

A total of 6 data collection 'pop-up' events were held. This allowed us to reach residents that may not participated in more formalized events such as community meetings. Above is student researcher Kurt Lindsey at the Manchester Community Block Party engaging with residents about the NS AIM project.

FINDINGS

NORTHSIDE

We collected nearly 1800 community assets throughout the 18 Northside neighborhoods. For the purposes of this report, a focus has been placed on the following 3 asset types: Environmental, Cultural / Entertainment, and Transit; total assets collected in these categories were 351, 419, and 497 respectively for a total of 1266 assets. It is important to note that many of the assets serve multiple functions and could therefore be classified under multiple themes (e.g. vista/view could be classified as Environmental or Cultural). For the purposes of simplifying the presentation and summarization of the vast amount of information collected, we assigned each asset type to a single theme (e.g. vista/view was classified as Environmental).

The Northside is a geographically diverse area comprised of 18 neighborhoods across 8.2 square miles, stretching from the northern shore of the Allegheny River to the northern border of the City of Pittsburgh. The unique location of the Northside means proximity to waterways and green space, as well as the Pittsburgh suburbs, and downtown Pittsburgh. The southernmost neighborhoods are largely flat. Moving north the topography increases drastically in steepness, culminating in the hilly neighborhoods of Brighton Heights and Perry North.

The Northside is rich with a variety of historical sites, cultural destinations, green spaces, Pittsburgh's distinctive staircases, unique architecture, gardens and much more. Throughout the 18 Northside neighborhoods, 351 Environmental, 419 Cultural / Entertainment, and 497 Transit assets were collected.

NORTHSIDE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS

The 351 documented environmental assets include a diverse mix of parks, vistas and views, flower and food gardens, recreation and sports facilities, playgrounds, picnic areas, commons and much more. Environmental assets are displayed in graph form in *Figure 1* and in map form in *Figure 2*. 48 of the Environmental assets were identified by the community. A select group of environmental assets are highlighted below.

At a total of 73, vistas and views were the highest number of documented environmental assets. The Northside's unique and distinct geography creates a variety of beautiful views from locations such as the hills, tops of staircases and riverfront areas.
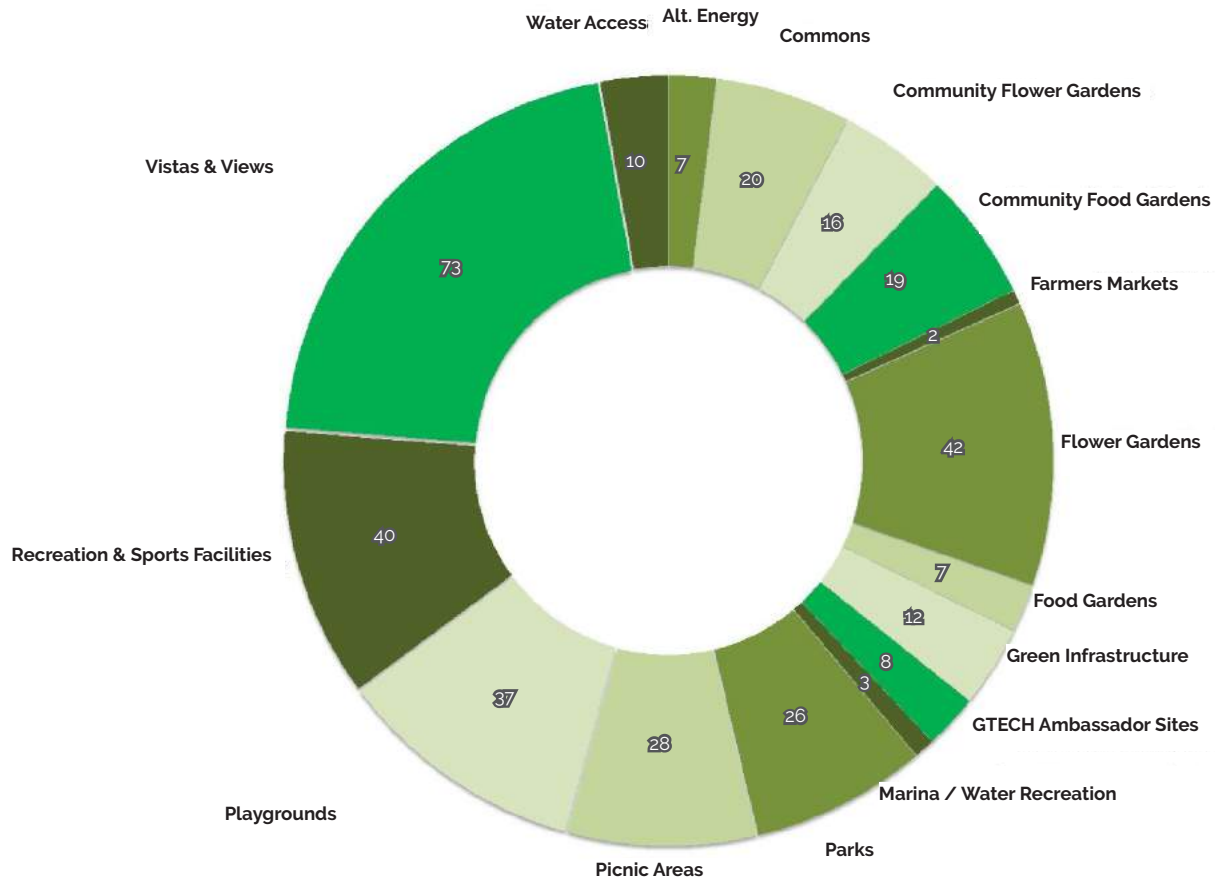
Parks, picnic area and commons are found throughout the Northside in various sizes, shapes and types. A total of 26 parks/parklets, 28 picnic areas and 20 commons areas were mapped. Large parks include Allegheny Commons in Allegheny Center, Riverview in Perry North and Northshore Riverfront Park. Small parks and parklets play a huge role in providing recreational and open space; small parks include Legion Park in Brighton Heights, Cowley-Goetman Park in Troy Hill and Spring View Park in Spring Hill.

Flower and food gardens are numerous throughout the Northside. A total of 58 flower gardens and 26 food gardens were documented. Together, they add beauty, green space, inspiration and opportunities to build community, grow local food, and provide education. Some notable food gardens include Food City in East Allegheny, Manchester Growing Together Garden and Ballfield Farm in Perry South. Some of the many flower gardens include Western Pennsylvania Conservancy gateway gardens, the Martha Graham Community Garden in California-Kirkbride and the garden at Peace Garden Park in Troy Hill.

Vistas and views, such as this one of the Ohio River in Chateau, were some of the many features mapped as environmental assets. A total of 73 vistas and views were mapped throughout the Northside.

Figure 1: Graph of Northside Environmental Assets

Pie chart segments (clockwise):
- Alt. Energy: 7
- Commons: 20
- Community Flower Gardens: 16
- Community Food Gardens: 19
- Farmers Markets: 2
- Flower Gardens: 42
- Food Gardens: 7
- Green Infrastructure: 12
- GTECH Ambassador Sites: 8
- Marina / Water Recreation: 3
- Parks: 26
- Picnic Areas: 28
- Playgrounds: 37
- Recreation & Sports Facilities: 40
- Vistas & Views: 73
- Water Access: 10

Food City in East Allegheny is one of the 26 food gardens that were mapped throughout the Northside.

Riverview Park in Perry North is the largest of the 26 parks and parklets mapped throughout the Northside.
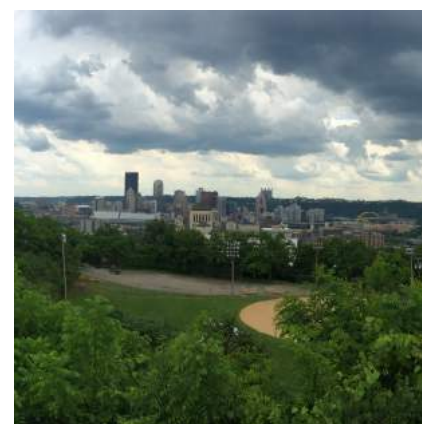
Of the 73 vistas and views mapped throughout the Northside, the Fineview Overlook is the most formalized.

Northside Environmental Assets

Legend

Environmental Assets

- ⬤ Alternative Energy
- ⬤ Commons
- ⬤ Community Flower Garden
- ⬤ Community Food Garden
- ⬤ Farmers Market
- ⬤ Flower Garden
- ⬤ Food Garden
- ⬤ GTECH Ambassador Site
- ■ Green Infrastructure
- ■ Marina / Water Recreation
- ■ Parks
- ■ Picnic Area
- ■ Playgrounds
- ■ Recreation / Sports Facilities
- ■ Vistas / Views
- ■ Water Access

— Major Roads

Parks

Neighborhoods

Rivers

December 2015

Asset data collected from May - August 2015 using LocalData as part of the One Northside Asset Inventory and Mapping (NS AIM) Project.

NORTHSIDE CULTURAL / ENTERTAINMENT ASSETS

The 423 Cultural and Entertainment assets that were mapped include a diverse mix of public art, landmarks, historical sites, restaurants, nightlife and music venues, cemeteries and much more. Cultural / Entertainment assets are displayed in graph form in *Figure 3* and in map form in *Figure 4.*. 101 of the Cultural / Entertainment assets were community-identified. A select group of cultural and entertainment assets are highlighted below.

There is a dense concentration of cultural destinations, including museums, throughout the Northside. A total of 30 cultural destinations were mapped, including great assets such as the Andy Warhol Museum, the Children's Museum, the National Aviary, the Carnegie Science Center, Randyland and City of Asylum.
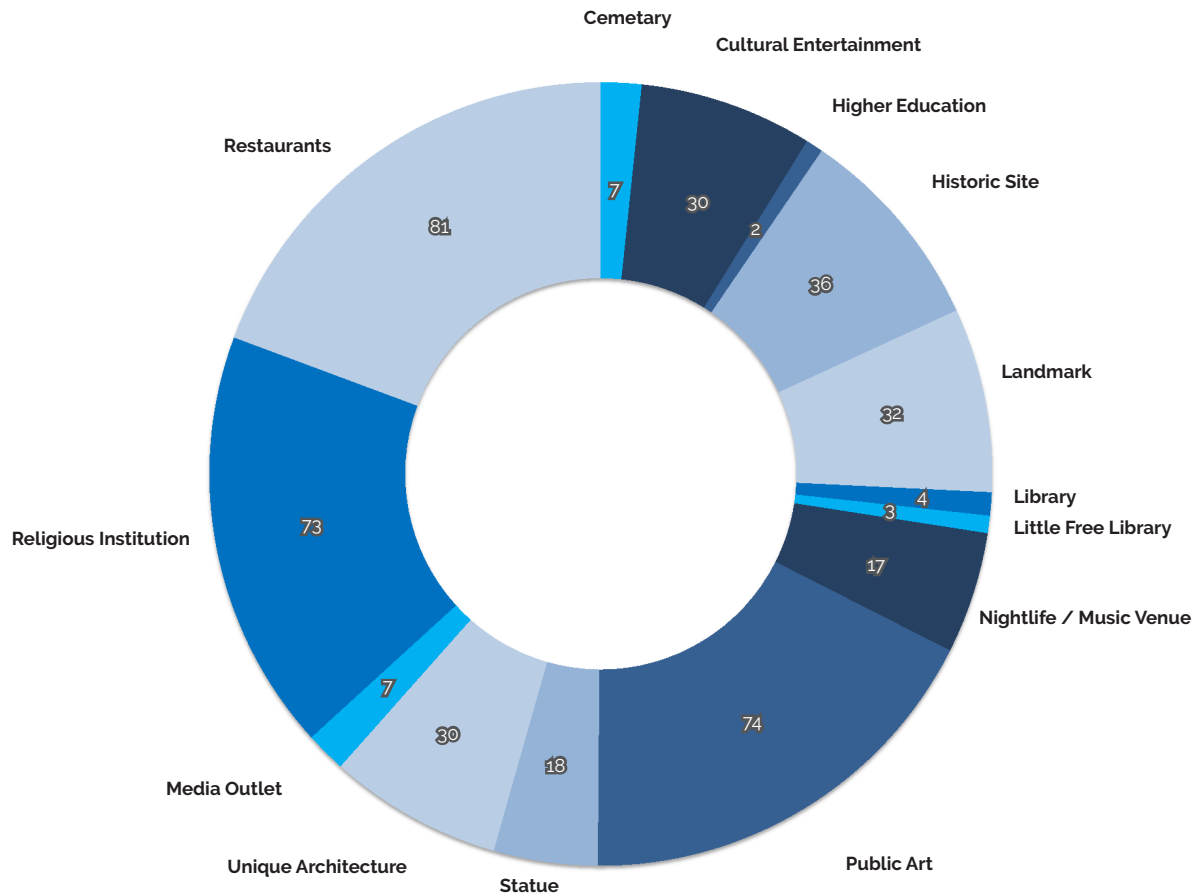
There is also a rich amount of public art throughout the Northside, with a total of 74 features mapped. Public art takes diverse forms such as the beautiful mosaics in Spring Garden, murals on buildings in neighborhoods such as Perry South and Troy Hill and the river of words art project throughout Central Northside.

Historical sites are another type of asset that are found throughout the Northside. Some are marked with historical markers, some with statues and some are not marked. A total of 21 historic sites and 18 statues (some of which denote historical figures and/or events) were mapped. A few of the notable historic sites include the birthplace of Martha Graham in California-Kirkbride, the Priory Grand Hall in East Allegheny and a historic Civil War fort in Northview Heights.

City of Asylum in Central Northside is one of the many unique cultural / entertainment assets in the Northside. It provides sanctuary for exiled writers and leads a variety of placemaking initiatives. One of their art houses is pictured above.

Figure 3: Graph of Northside Cultural / Entertainment Assets

Cemetary 7
Cultural Entertainment 30
Higher Education 2
Historic Site 36
Landmark 32
Library 4
Little Free Library 3
Nightlife / Music Venue 17
Public Art 74
Statue 18
Unique Architecture 30
Media Outlet 7
Religious Institution 73
Restaurants 81

74 public art features, such as Cloud Arbor in Allegheny Center, were mapped throughout the Northside.
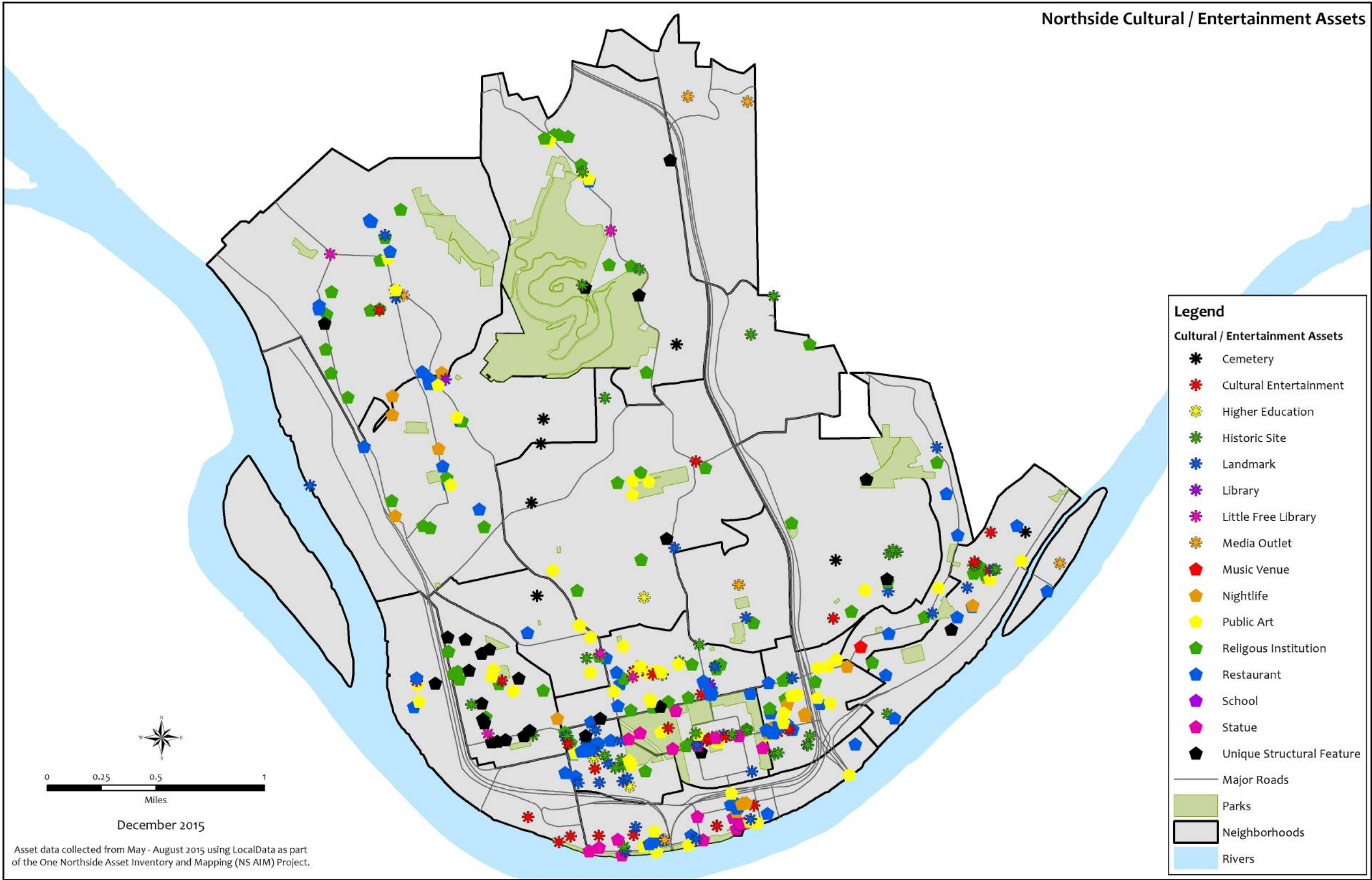

Historic architecture can be found throughout neighborhoods such as Manchester and Allegheny West.
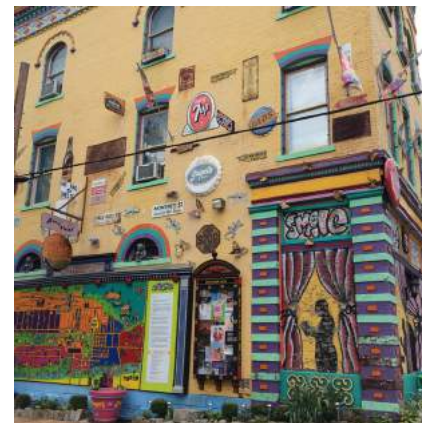
Randyland (Central Northside) is one of the 30 cultural destinations that were mapped throughout the Northside.

Northside Cultural / Entertainment Assets

Legend

Cultural / Entertainment Assets

✳ Cemetery
✳ Cultural Entertainment
✳ Higher Education
✳ Historic Site
✳ Landmark
✳ Library
✳ Little Free Library
✳ Media Outlet
⬠ Music Venue
⬠ Nightlife
● Public Art
⬠ Religous Institution
⬠ Restaurant
⬠ School
⬠ Statue
⬠ Unique Structural Feature
— Major Roads
▨ Parks
▨ Neighborhoods
▨ Rivers

December 2015

Asset data collected from May - August 2015 using LocalData as part
of the One Northside Asset Inventory and Mapping (NS AIM) Project.

0   0.25   0.5   1
Miles

NORTHSIDE TRANSIT ASSETS

The 497 Transit assets that were mapped include a mix of bike and pedestrian trails, stairways, bike share stations, bike racks, bus shelters, wayfinding signage and more. Transit assets are displayed in graph form in *Figure 5* and in map form in *Figure 6.* 15 of the transit assets were identified by community members, most of which were various types of trails. A select group of transit assets are highlighted below.

The various types of trails mapped include bike trails, hiking trails, unofficial footpaths and non-traditional trails for a total of 42 trail features. Notable trails include the 3 Rivers Multi-use trail along the Allegheny River, hiking trails throughout Riverview Park and the newly constructed East Ohio trail along Route 28.
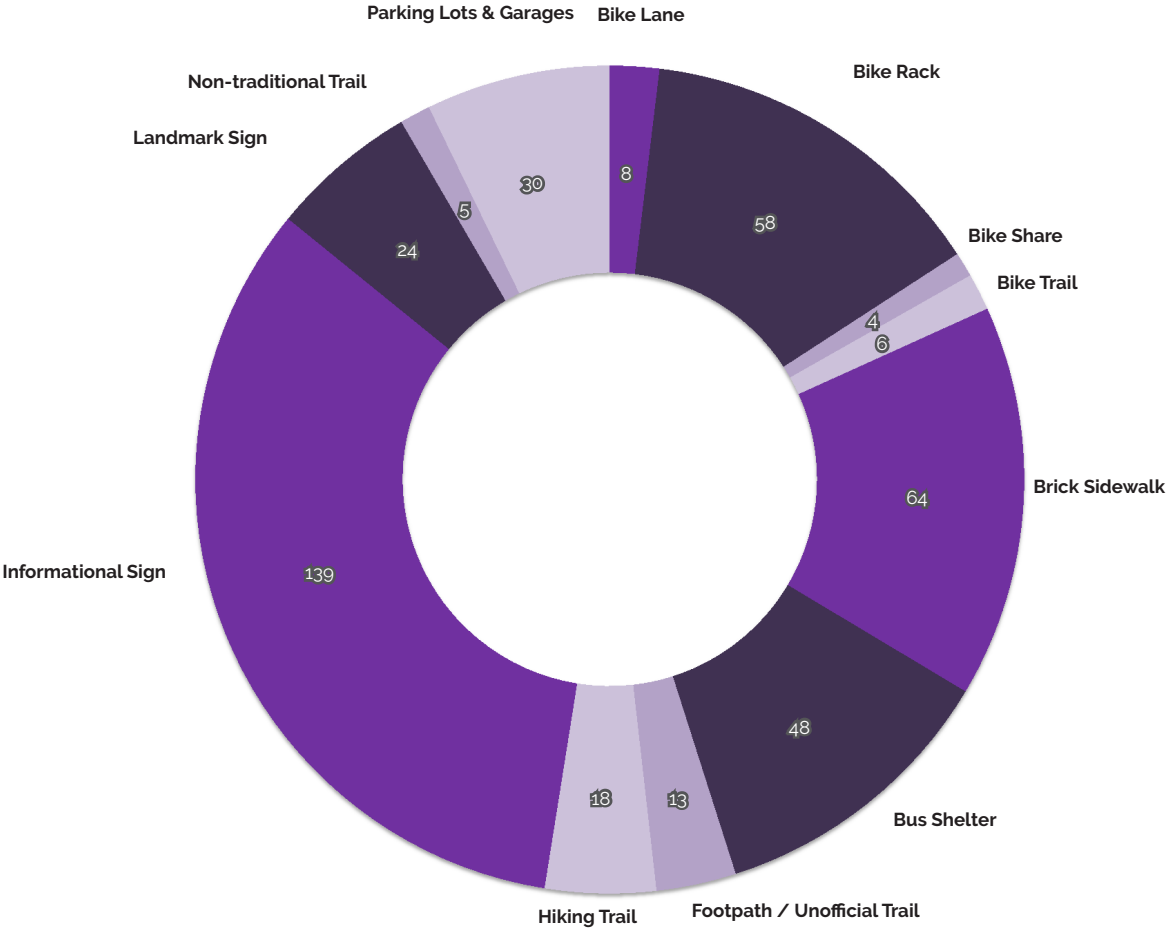
A review of transit assets must highlight the distinctive stairways that are found throughout the Northside as well as the greater Pittsburgh region. 80 stairways were mapped; the highest number of staircases were found in Marshall-Shadeland (16), Perry South (12) and Perry North (10). Stairways serve as key connection points between neighborhoods, direct routes connecting differing and challenging topography and even form a unique trail system in Fineview known as the Fineview Fitness trail.

Additional transit assets of note are the various types of bike infrastructure (including bike trails that are highlighted above) such as the 4 Healthy Ride / Bike Share stations found in Allegheny Center, Allegheny West, and the Northshore and the 58 bike racks found across 11 neighborhoods. Additional key transit assets include the 139 informational signs which are important wayfinding elements.

The Fineview Fitness Trail is made up of a series of staircases and wayfinding signage, both important types of transit assets. This trail is an example of a unique non-traditional trail found in the Northside.

Figure 5: Graph of Transit Assets

- Parking Lots & Garages: 30
- Bike Lane: 8
- Non-traditional Trail: 5
- Landmark Sign: 24
- Bike Rack: 58
- Bike Share: 4
- Bike Trail: 6
- Brick Sidewalk: 64
- Informational Sign: 139
- Bus Shelter: 48
- Hiking Trail: 18
- Footpath / Unofficial Trail: 13

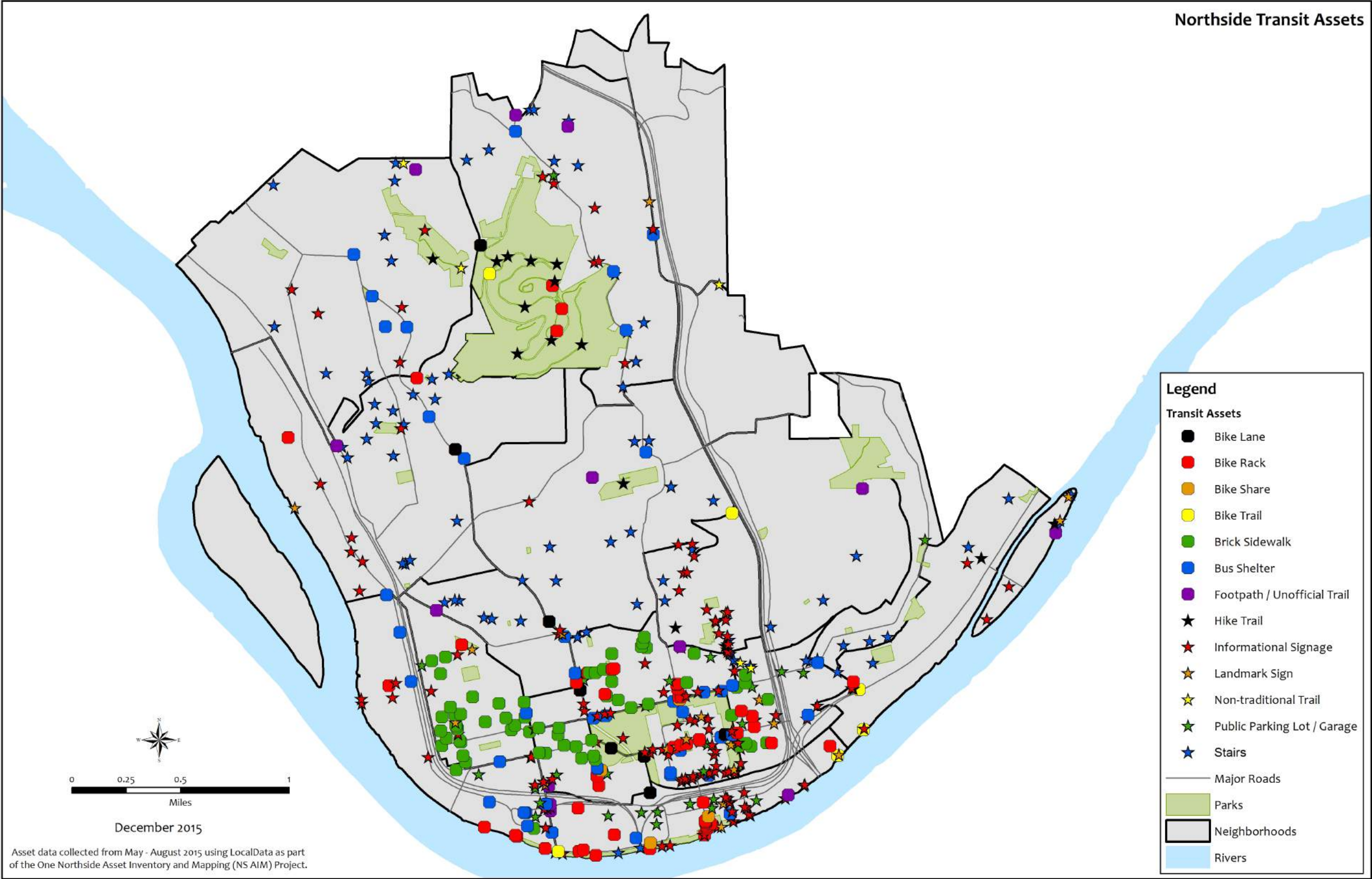This sign in Marshall-Shadeland was one of the 138 informational signs mapped throughout the Northside.

The Northside is rich with Pittsburgh's distinct staircases. Over 80 staircases were mapped.

There are 4 bike share stations in the Northside. Pictured above is a North Shore station.
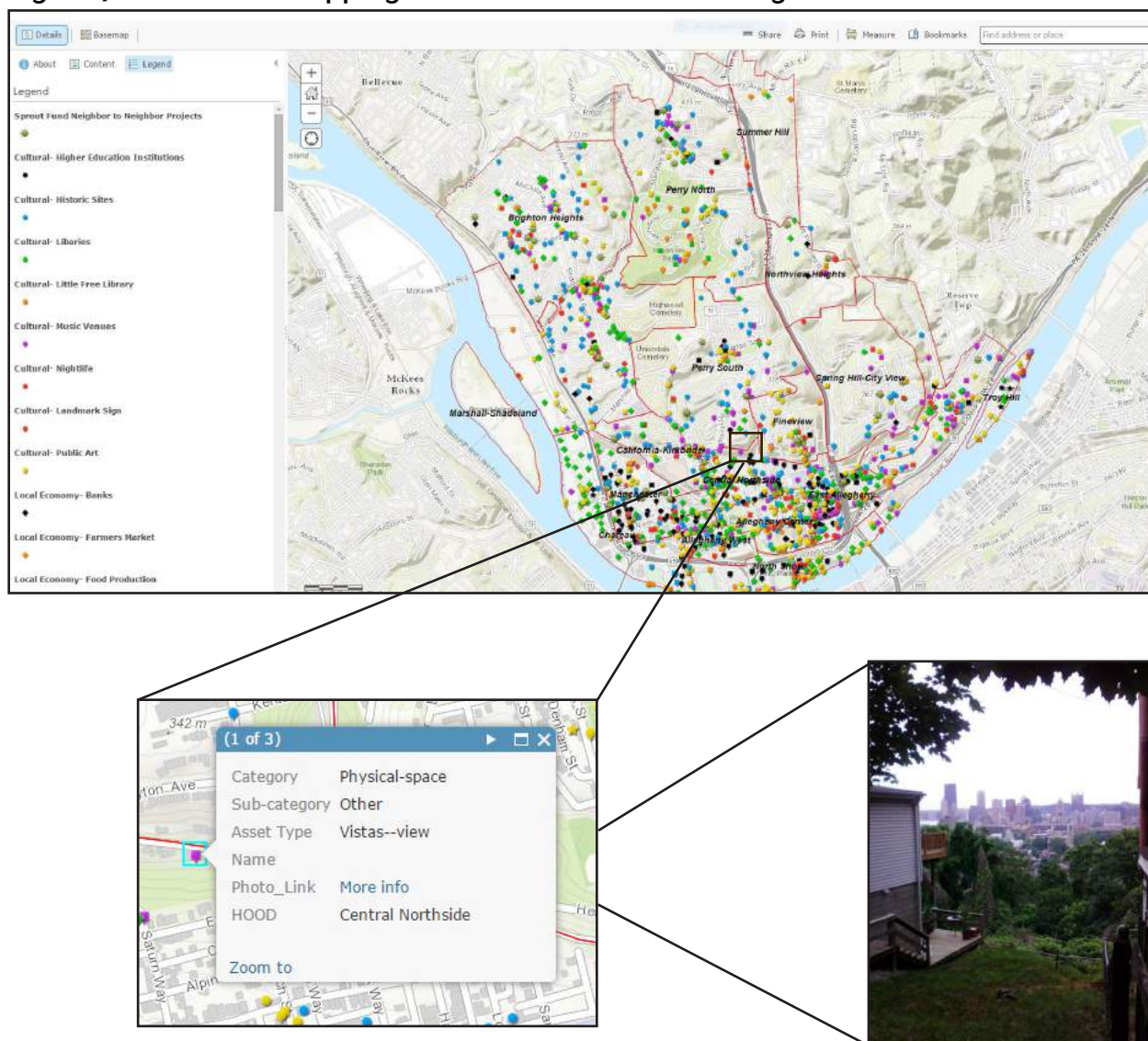
Northside Transit Assets

0   0.25   0.5   1
Miles

December 2015

Asset data collected from May - August 2015 using LocalData as part
of the One Northside Asset Inventory and Mapping (NS AIM) Project.

Legend
Transit Assets

■ Bike Lane
■ Bike Rack
■ Bike Share
■ Bike Trail
■ Brick Sidewalk
■ Bus Shelter
■ Footpath / Unofficial Trail
★ Hike Trail
★ Informational Signage
★ Landmark Sign
★ Non-traditional Trail
★ Public Parking Lot / Garage
★ Stairs
— Major Roads
▨ Parks
▢ Neighborhoods
▨ Rivers

SHARING ASSET DATA

In order to maximize the use and application of the asset inventory, the northsideaim.org website was created. This website houses an interactive map, static themed maps (Environmental, Cultural, and transit), stylized neighborhood maps, a stylized Northside map, an overview of our process, definitions of key concepts, additional resources and more. Our hope is that this accessible and user-friendly dataset will be used by a variety of partners across diverse projects in the One Northside initiative and beyond.

Figure 7: Interactive Mapping Feature of Northsideaim.org

The birthplace of Mary Cassat is one of the many historic sites found throughout Allegheny West.

NEIGHBORHOOD PROFILES

Each of the 18 Northside neighborhoods has it's own unique character, history and assets. The diversity of character ranges from large open green spaces in Allegheny Center and Perry North, beautiful historic architecture in Manchester and Allegheny West, opportunities for employment in Chateau, unique art and placemaking in Central Northside, cultural destinations in the North Shore, beautiful views and rich history in Troy Hill and much more.

Next steps of trail development and/or other related connectivity projects should carefully consider and incorporate the unique features of each neighborhood. The following Neighborhood Profiles highlight the assets and character of each neighborhood that were found in our exploration of the Northside.

The Troy Hill Spray Park and Playground is one of the neighborhood's many assets. More features of Troy Hill are highlighted in it's neighborhood profile.

ALLEGHENY CENTER

Allegheny Center is a cultural and destination neighborhood that serves as a core for connectivity in the Northside. Allegheny Commons, Pittsburgh's oldest park, covers 80 acres and accounts for a majority of the area in the neighborhood. A total of 132 assets were mapped, including 29 Cultural / Entertainment, 39 Environmental and 64 Transit features.

Cultural destinations such as the National Aviary, the New Hazlett Theater, and the Children's Museum are all within Allegheny Commons Park. Public art and statues are numerous; the inventory noted 4 and 8, respectively. Public art features include Cloud Arbor, which periodically creates 'clouds' in Buhl Community Park and Cubed Tension which is a red modern sculpture in Allegheny Center pedestrian mall. Sculptures include the Iron Deer, which is an icon of the Allegheny Commons and Al, Mon and Oh - The Three that Got Away.

The neighborhood offers numerous places for picnics (6) and outdoor play (8 playgrounds). The trees in Allegheny Commons are more mature than many others found in throughout Pittsburgh. A seasonal farmers' market is located at the corner of North and Cedar Ave. A density of transit assets reflect the role of Allegheny Center as an important element of connectivity. A total of 1 bike share, 5 bike racks, 1 bike lane, 11 covered bus shelters and 48 informational / landmark signs were mapped.

Allegheny Commons Park, Pittsburgh's oldest park, is an 80 acre park that is found mostly in the neighborhood of Allegheny Center. Within the park, visitors will find mature trees, a dog park, a variety of playgrounds, cultural destinations and more.

Our inventory identified 4 instances of public art and 8 statues throughout Allegheny Center. Above is the Al, Mon, and Oh - The Three that Got Away.

ALLEGHENY WEST

Although the smallest neighborhood in the Northside at 0.1 miles^2, Allegheny West has a variety of unique features such as an abundance of Victorian architecture and a thriving business district. The Community College of Allegheny County's main campus is located here as is the western portion of Allegheny Commons Park. A total of 36 Cultural / Entertainment, 16 Environmental and 24 Transit assets were mapped.

Historic and unique architecture is common throughout Allegheny West. Their annual house tour showcases many of these features.

Historic features such as brick sidewalks, Victorian and historic homes and historic sites such as the birthplace of Mary Cassatt and the Gertrude Stein house. The Allegheny West house tour is a very popular annual event which allows visitors to experience the interior beauty of some of the historic homes.

Allegheny West's business district is the second largest business district in the Northside. A variety of cuisine is offered at the 10 restaurants, such as Thai, Italian, classic Pittsburgh hoagies at Peppi's, and more. The 8 picnic areas found throughout Allegheny Commons West offer great opportunities to enjoy take-out from these establishments.

The business district found in Allegheny West is the second largest in the Northside. It offers a variety of cuisine, nightlife, and retail establishments.

BRIGHTON HEIGHTS

Brighton Heights is a hilly neighborhood in the northern part of the Northside with variety of gardens, a small business district and dense residential housing. Jack Stack Park is an important asset that offers a variety of amenities such as a pool, basketball courts, baseball fields and open green space. Throughout Brighton Heights, a total of 28 Cultural / Entertainment, 28 Environmental and 22 Transit assets were mapped.

Environmental assets found throughout the neighborhood are a mix of food gardens (2), flower gardens (6), GTECH Ambassador projects (1), green infrastructure such as rain barrels (3), parks (2), playgrounds (4) and more. There is one Little Free Library found at the Allegheny Mountains Lot (GTECH Ambassador project).

The business district on California Ave is one of the few in the Northside and includes Nick's Place (gyros, etc), a coffee shop, a butcher and more. There are also businesses along Brighton Road that include service industry establishments, bars, etc.

Garden features such as this gateway garden are common in Brighton Heights. A total of 6 flower gardens and 2 food gardens were mapped.

Tom Friday's Market, established in 1955, is part of Brighton Heights' business district. Other assets include a coffee shop, a pizzaria, and a hair salon.

CALIFORNIA-KIRKBRIDE

The northern part of California-Kirkbride offers a variety of great views. A total of 6 vistas and views were mapped throughout the neighborhood.

California-Kirkbride has a variety of beautiful gardens, delightful views and row-houses that were built for workers in the late 1800s. The southwest portion of Uniondale Cemetery (est. 1846) is located here. A total of 11 Cultural / Entertainment, 14 Environmental and 12 transit assets were mapped.

The Brighton Road corridor includes a variety of notable gardens such as the Martha Graham Community Garden and the Northside Common Ministry Food Garden. There are 4 instances of public art which include a variety of murals. There is 1 Little Free Library which is part of a garden. There are 2 playgrounds, one of which is a Kaboom playground and one which is located near the Uniondale Cemetery.

The neighborhood is a mix of flat areas and hills; this allows for a variety of staircases to connect different elevations. A total of 6 vistas and views of downtown were documented.

The Brighton Road corridor includes a variety of gardens such as the Common Ministries garden (above), the Martha Graham Community Garden, and more.
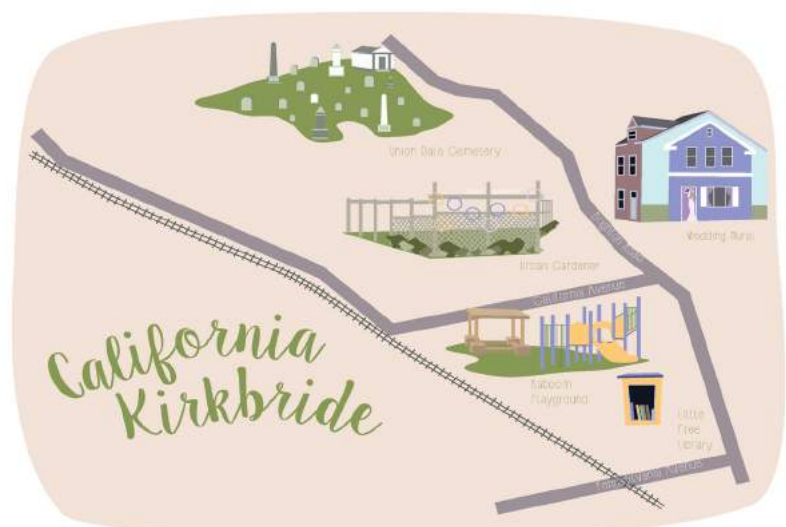
CENTRAL NORTHSIDE

Central Northside is home to the Historic Mexican War Streets, unique cultural destinations, and is rich with placemaking, public art and gardens. Additional features of note include a new Carnegie Library and Allegheny General Hospital. A total of 51 Cultural / Entertainment, 26 Environmental and 56 Transit assets were mapped.

The diverse and unique cultural destinations of Central Northside include 1) the Mattress Factory, an installation art museum, 2) City of Asylum, which provides sanctuary for exiled writers, leads placemaking initiatives and transforms blighted spaces into community assets and 3) Randyland, a series of once-vacant houses that are now brightly colored and offer a unique publicly-accessible courtyard that is surrounded by art, vintage finds and eccentric garden features. The historic Garden Theater, built in 1915, is also located in this neighborhood but is currently vacant.

The Mexican War Streets is a designated historic district. The houses are beautifully restored and maintained and the streets are tree-lined. Throughout Central Northside, much of the public art (16), gardens (12) and placemaking features are associated with the cultural destinations noted above.

Randyland is one of the many unique cultural destinations in Central Northside. The courtyard (above) is publicly accessible for free.

Olde Allegheny Community garden is one of the 12 gardens mapped throughout Central Northside. The garden was started in the 1980s and is absolutely beautiful.

Central Northside

Chateau is a hub of employment, offers access to the Ohio River and is home to the 3 Rivers Heritage Trail. It is also has 3 unique cultural destinations including the 3 Rivers Casino, Bicycle Heaven (a bicycle museum) and the Carnegie Science Center. A total of 10 Cultural / Entertainment, 12 Environmental and 35 Transit assets were mapped.

Chateau not only offers employment opportunities at places such as the UPS Customer Center and the Port Authority of Allegheny County but also offers career training at the Manchester Bidwell Corporation (MBC). Job training opportunities at MBC include Horticulture Technology, Medical Coding, Culinary Arts and more.

The 3 Rivers Heritage Trail is a multi-use trail that starts at the most northern tip of Chateau and continues through the Northshore and upstream along the Allegheny River. Along the trail are several water access points, marinas and great views of the Ohio River.

Bicycle Heaven, a bicycle museum, is one of the 10 cultural / entertainment assets mapped throughout the Chateau neighborhood.

There are a variety of commons and picnic areas long the 3 Rivers Heritage Trail in Chateau. The photo above is along the trail in front of the 3 Rivers Casino.

EAST ALLEGHENY

East Allegheny, also known as Deutschtown, contains the Northside's largest business district and includes a National Historic District. Other notable features include Food City, a large community food garden and Neu Kirche, a contemporary art center. A total of 51 Cultural / Entertainment, 25 Environmental and 36 Transit assets were mapped.

The business district includes many restaurants (15), nightlife (6), and a variety of retail and service industry establishments. Restaurants and nightlife include a variety of cuisine and settings such as Bistro to Go, which offers it's space for community meetings, Arnold's Tea Room which offers unique activities such as yoga and tea, the Park House, the oldest tavern in Pittsburgh and Max's Allegheny Tavern, a German style tavern.

Seven historic sites were mapped, including Pittsburgh's Grand Hall at the Priory, which was built in 1848 and currently serves as a boutique hotel and venue for special events. An abundance of gardens were mapped (13), including small pocket gardens, community gardens, and Food City, which is a Children's Museum project that transformed 7 vacant lots into a large community garden that also offers educational programming.

The Park House, the oldest tavern in Pittsburgh, can be found in the diverse business district along East Ohio Street in East Allegheny.

Spare Change is part of Neu Kirche's Fallow Grounds for Sculpture series. Neu Kirche is a contemporary arts center in East Allegheny.

FINEVIEW

The neighborhood of Fineview offers many fine views of the city and surrounding areas. It is a residential neighborhood with a series of steep grades and a staircases that total over 1600 steps. The Fineview Fitness Trail winds throughout the neighborhood's many staircases; Wayfinding signage is robust to guide visitors to the trail. The neighborhood also holds an annual Step-A-Thon, which celebrates the unique views and stairs.

Fineview offers a variety of family-friendly amenities, which include 2 playgrounds and 3 recreational / sports facilities. Three gardens were mapped, including the Biggs Hillside Garden, which is a GTECH Ambassador project and the Fineview Community Garden. One small market, Mercy Street Express, is present.

Fineview Field is one of the many family-friendly amenities in Fineview. A total of 3 recreational / sports facilities and 2 playgrounds that were mapped.

The Fineview Fitness Trail takes advantage of the neighborhood's 1600 staircases, fine views, and wooded hillsides.
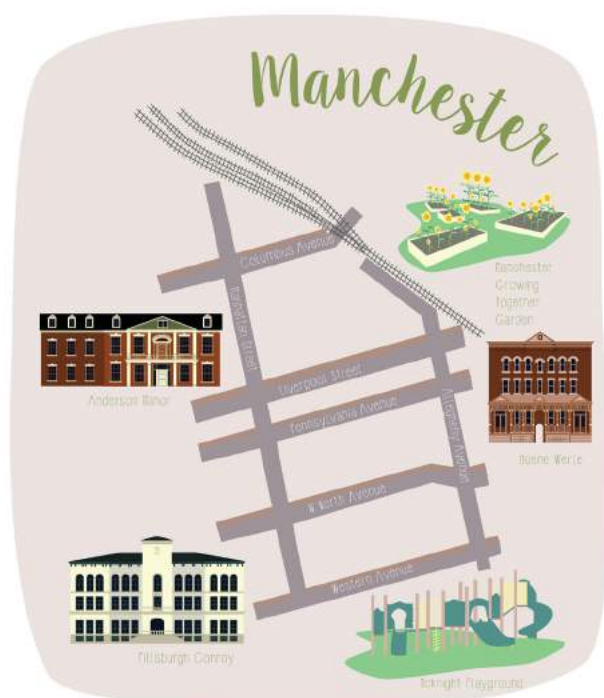
MANCHESTER

Manchester is home to the largest historical district in Pittsburgh. It includes many historical Victorian homes, historic churches and brick sidewalks. Manchester is also home to a variety of gardens (8), such as the Manchester Growing Together Garden which hosts educational programming for kids. A total of 32 Cultural / Entertainment, 18 Environmental and 35 Transit assets were mapped.

Many of the structures in Manchester were build in the mid-to-late 1800s. Historic buildings include the Conroy Education Center, the Colonel James Anderson House, the Margaret Courte House, a variety of historic homes and more. There are a number of large historic churches that have been preserved which serve as historic landmarks and local religious institutions. A total of 26 brick sidewalks were inventoried, which is indicative of the historical nature of the area.

Outdoor spaces include the 8 gardens (community gardens, pocket gardens, etc), Manchester Field, Manchester Park, and McKnight Playground. In addition to the historical assets discussed above, cultural features include 1 Little Free Library, 4 instances of public art and 8 religious institutions.

Historic buildings are found througout Manchester. The Margaret Courte house (above) was built in 1890.

The Manchester Growing Together Garden is one of the 8 gardens mapped in Manchester. The garden offers a variety of children's programming.

MARSHALL-SHADELAND

Marshall-Shadeland, also known as Brightwood and/or Woods Run, is a mix of residential areas and some businesses. It is home to a variety of green spaces, access to the 3 Rivers Heritage Trail and is directly adjacent to Riverview Park. It is also home to the Woods Run branch of the Carnegie Library. A total of 26 Cultural / Entertainment, 21 Environmental and 30 Transit assets were mapped.

Green spaces include the Highwood Cemetery, part of Uniondale Cemetery (est. 1846), the 3 Rivers Heritage Trail, Young Field, Washburn Square Park and 5 gardens. Water access is also available at the 3 Rivers Heritage Trail.

There are 8 restaurants, 1 nightlife establishment, and a variety of service industry and retail businesses. Additional sources of employment include the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority (ALCOSAN) and the State Correctional Institution.

Unique Pittsburgh-style stairs are amongst the 30 transit assets that were mapped in Marshall-Shadeland.

Shadeland Neighborhood Garden is one of the 5 gardens that were mapped in the neighborhood.
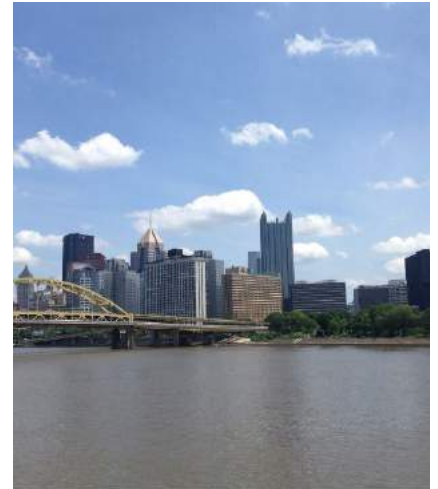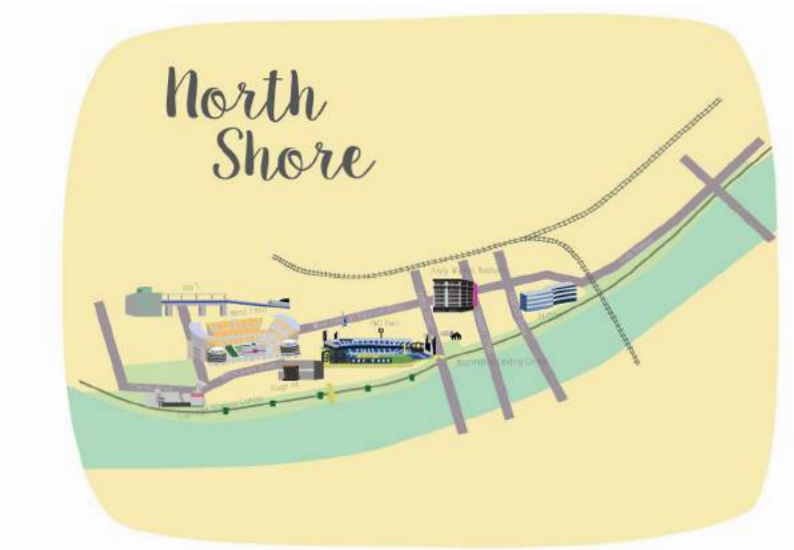
NORTH SHORE

The North Shore is a destination neighborhood for many Pittsburgh-region residents. It includes large destinations such as PNC Park, home of the Pittsburgh Pirates, and Heinz Field, home of the Pittsburgh Steelers. There are a variety of restaurants and nightlife establishments, access to the river via the 3 Rivers Heritage Trail as well as North Shore Riverfront Park.

In addition to PNC Park and Heinz Field, other destinations such as the Andy Warhol Museum and Stage AE (a concert and event venue) are found in the North Shore. Wayfinding signage is more common here than many other neighborhoods in the Northside. A total of 26 informational / landmark signs were mapped. Four commons areas for gathering were mapped.

Two of the Northside's bike share stations are located in the North Shore, along with 19 bike racks. Thirteen vistas and views were documented, which offer beautiful views of downtown, downstream on the Ohio River and upstream on the Allegheny River. The Riverfront park is 11.25 acres and is a mix of trails, public art and interesting features such as waterfall steps for kids of all ages to interact with.

The North Shore offers a variety of opportunities to view the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers from the 3 Rivers Heritage Trail and North Shore Riverfront Park.

Public art is one of the many features of North Shore Riverfront Park which is a total of 11.25 acres. Other features include interactive waterfall steps, trails and more.

NORTHVIEW HEIGHTS

The Northview Gym is one of the places for recreational opportunities in Northview Heights. Additionally, the Bethany House organizes recreational activities.

Northview Heights is a mix of multi-family public housing and green space. A large portion of the neighborhood is comprised of wooded areas. There is a high population of Somali immigrants living in Northview Heights. There are 2 historic sites in the neighborhood, including a Civil War Fort and the Northside Drive-In Theater. Edna's Market and Deli is the one business in Northview Heights. A total of 3 Cultural / Entertainment, 4 Environmental and 1 Transit Asset(s) were mapped.

The neighborhood offers a playground, a community garden, a commons area and a recreation / sports facility. The community garden is a Bethany House Academy initiative. The Bethany House Academy provides food service programs, pre-school, after school programs, recreational activities, tutoring, gardening classes and arts and crafts programs for community members.

Features of the neighborhood include a playground (above), a community garden, and a recreational / sports facility (above left).
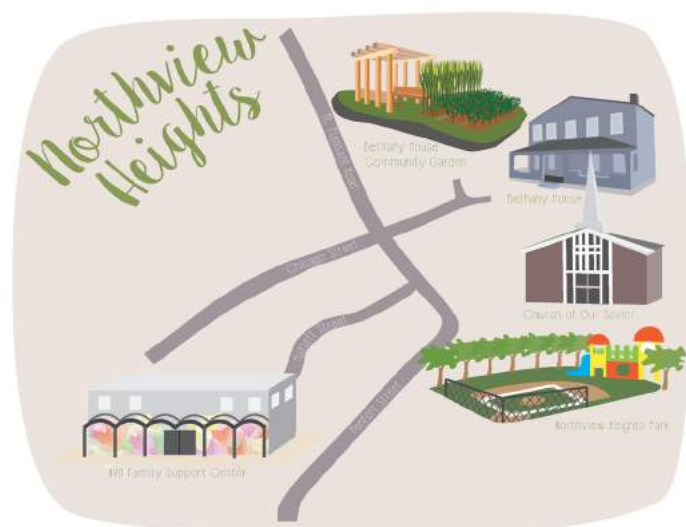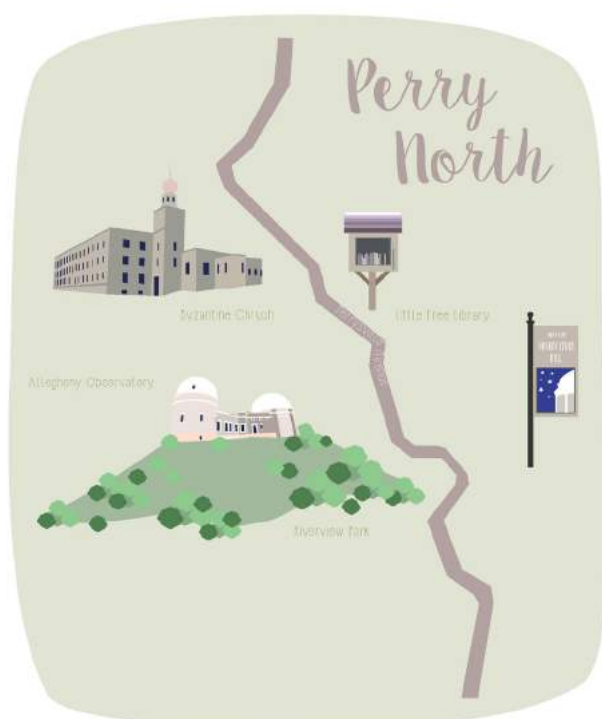
PERRY NORTH

Perry North, also known as Observatory Hill, is dominated by the beautiful Riverview Park. Riverview park is 259 acres, offers a variety of amenities and events and contains the historic Allegheny Observatory. The remainder of Perry North is primarily residential. There is a small business district present. A total of 22 Cultural / Entertainment, 32 Environmental and 41 Transit assets were mapped.

Riverview Park is truly a gem and offers vast green space, biking and hiking trails (11), picnic areas (7), 1 dog park, 1 swimming pool, 1 playground, a number of beautiful gardens, views and much more. It is the largest park on the Northside. Within the park is Allegheny Observatory, an astrological research institution and is owned and managed by the University of Pittsburgh.

Other features of Perry North include a small business district, 9 religious institutions, 2 GTECH Ambassador projects, 3 murals, 10 staircases and a variety of other assets.

Riverview Park is a 259 acre park in Perry North. It offers a variety of features such as picnic areas (above), dog park, swimming pool, playground, gardens and more.

Given the hilly nature of Perry North, a variety of staircases and views and views were mapped.

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Perry South, also known as Perry Hilltop and/or partially as Charles Street Valley, is a hilly neighborhood that boasts a lot of vistas and views (12), stairways (12), wooded hillsides and green spaces. Many of the major roads that connect the various parts of the Northside travel through this neighborhood (Brighton Road, Marshall Road, Federal Street, Perrysville Avenue, and North Charles Street). A total of 18 Cultural / Entertainment, 31 Environmental, and 20 Transit assets were mapped.

The stairways, vistas and views and wooded hillsides are representative of the steep topography of the neighborhood. Green spaces include Fowler Park, part of Uniondale Cemetery (est. 1846), 2 GTECH Ambassador sites and 6 gardens. Fowler Park, owned and operated by the Pittsburgh Project, offers a variety of amenities such as a pool, a Kaboom! playground, basketball courts, a seasonal farmers market and more. Ballfield Farm, also a Pittsburgh Project initiative, is an organic community garden. Additional mapped assets include 4 instances of public art, 8 religious institutions, 1 unofficial trail, 1 covered bus shelter and 4 wayfinding signs.

The Star Meditation Garden in Perry South is a GTECH Ambassador project. It was once a vacant lot and is currently a public meditation garden.

Fowler Park, run by the Pittsburgh Project, offers a variety of amenities such as a pool, a playground, basketball courts, a farmers market and more.
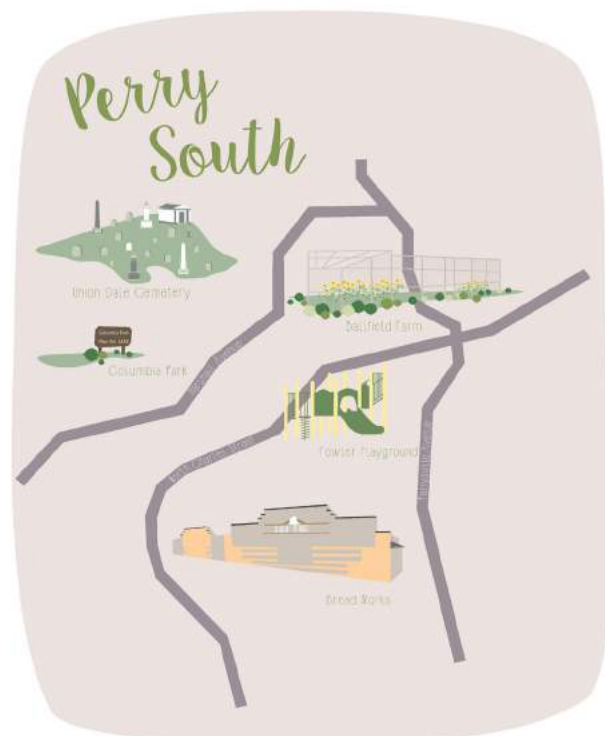
SPRING GARDEN

Spring Garden is a small neighborhood that primarily falls in a valley and its neighboring slopes. It is characterized by Pittsburgh-style houses seemingly 'sprinkled' on hills and wooded hillsides. Some original buildings from the mid-1800s are still standing as well as the trolley tracks from the historic street car. The Wigle Whiskey Barrelhouse was established in 2014 and has a garden, live music and community events. A total of 11 Cultural / Entertainment, 4 Environmental and 7 Transit assets were mapped.

Spring Garden's character includes historical industry and manufacturing mixed in with the residential housing. Some businesses remain such as a screen printing business and a candy manufacturer. Additional assets include 6 staircases, 1 garden, 4 restaurants / nightlife establishments, 1 park, 1 baseball field and a Port Authority Park and Ride lot.

St. Peter's Church is one of the 11 cultural / entertainment assets that were mapped in Spring Garden.

A total of 6 staircases were mapped in Spring Garden. The neighborhood primarily falls within a valley but also includes neighborhing slopes.

SPRING HILL

Spring Hill, also known as Spring Hill-City View, is a unique neighborhood with distinctive features that are not found anywhere else in the Northside. Examples include a series of mosaics, a retaining wall in the style of a castle, a historic (but now plugged) spring, beautiful views and wooded hillsides. A total of 12 Cultural / Entertainment, 10 Environmental and 4 Transit assets were mapped.

Like many of the other unique features found throughout the Northside, many of the distinctive assets of Spring Hill were created by residents. The series of mosaics were created by local artist and resident Linda Wallen. The castle wall was built in the 1930s by a resident now known as 'Mr. Bill.' There is 1 GTECH Ambassador site, Asylgarten Park, which has picnic tables, a shed and raised garden beds; Phase 2 of this project plans to expand the amenities.

Additional mapped features include 3 stairways, 1 footpath, 2 parks, 2 playgrounds, 1 garden, 1 cemetery and 3 recreation / sports facilities.

Spring Hill resident and artist Linda Wallen has created a series of mosaics in the neighborhood and beyond.

This castle wall was built in the 1930s by a resident now known as 'Mr. Bill.' This is both a historic feature as well as a unique structural / architectural feature.
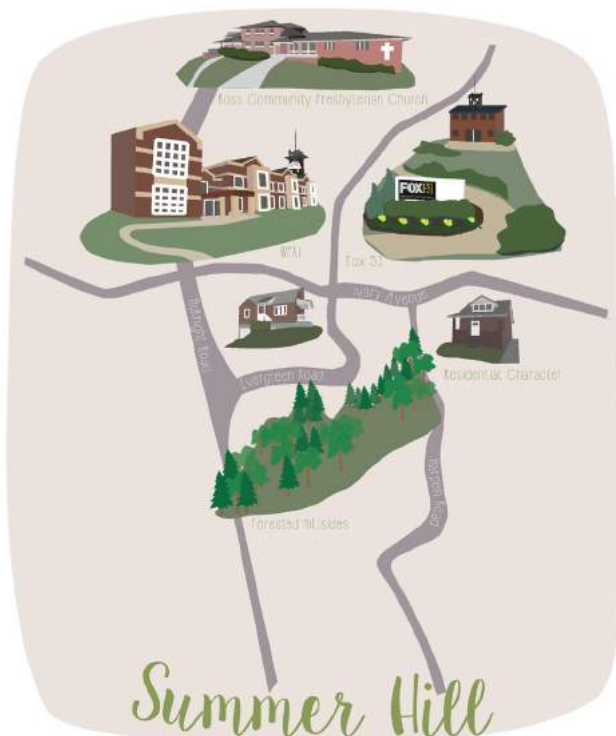
SUMMER HILL

Summer Hill has a unique suburban tone to it that the other neighborhoods of the Northside do not have. The neighborhood does not feature any sidewalks, and is entirely residential except for the two news stations housed there (WXPI and Fox 53). Summer Hill residents value and embrace their identity as the suburbs in the city. A total of 1 Environmental asset (a garden) and 2 Cultural / Entertainment (2 news stations) were mapped.

The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy garden is the 1 Environental asset that was mapped in Summer Hill. It should be noted that the neighborhood has a mostly suburban tone that the other Northside neighborhoods do not have.

Two news stations are located in Summer Hill. They are Fox 53 and WXPI. These account for all of the Cultural / Entertainment assets that were mapped in the neighborhood. It has a purely residential feel other than these 3 assets.

Troy Hill is the most eastern of the Northside neighborhoods. It includes Washington's Landing (also known as Herr's Island). Troy Hill is rich with history and has a variety of assets such as St. Anthony's Chapel, a Catholic church built in the 1880s that has over 5,000 relics. One of Pittsburgh's 5 steepest streets, Rialto Street (aka Pig Hill) is found in Troy Hill. A total of 27 Cultural / Entertainment, 26 Environmental and 20 Transit assets were mapped.

Historical features of the neighborhood include the Troy Hill incline building and the Most Holy Name of Jesus Rectory, among others. The Penn Brewery (est. 1980s) is a popular cultural destination. A total of 6 restaurants and 1 nightlife establishment were mapped. Environmental features include 4 gardens, 2 parks, 4 playgrounds, 1 GTECH Ambassador site and 3 commons areas. A total of 6 vistas and views were mapped.

Although officially a part of Troy Hill, Washington's Landing has it's own unique style. Once a brownfield, Washington's Landing is now home to a park, a variety of businesses / non-profits / government agencies and new residential development. Washington's Landing offers beautiful views of and access to the Allegheny River.

Washington's Landing (aka Herr's Island) is officially part of Troy Hill but has a very different feel than the mainland neighborhood.

St. Anthony's Chapel was built in the 1880s and has over 5,000 relics. It is one of the many historic assets found in Troy Hill.
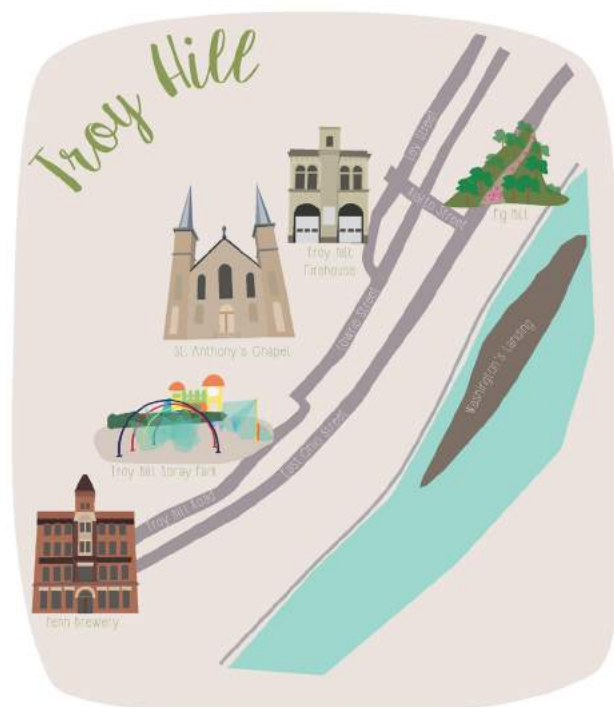
NEXT STEPS

ACTION PLAN FOR CONNECTIVITY

An action plan for guiding next steps of the plan was developed through benchmarking research, stakeholder input and analysis of the information collected during community engagement and field data collection. The action plan includes

1. Asset prioritization,
2. Identification of primary route(s) which enables maximum asset and neighborhood connectivity,
3. Identification of pathways and mechanisms to realize increased connectivity via benchmarking research and creation of Urban Trail Case Studies (see Appendix A) and
4. Assessment of challenges, opportunities and specific project goals associated with the implementation of a connectivity system in the Northside.

Execution of this action plan will determine next steps in realizing increased Northside connectivity. Upon completion of steps 1 - 4, further analysis should be conducted to outline specific geographical opportunities, challenges and infrastructure needs.

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

As noted above, our hope is that this effort will be used by a variety of residents and partners across projects and initiatives. Below are some potential next steps for uses of the data and additional analysis. These were generated from national and local benchmarking research as well as input from local stakeholders.

SIMPLE & LOW-COST OPPORTUNITIES

The following represents some potential uses for the data that would require relatively minimal effort. The success of related Northside events such as house tours and Northside Sandwich Week indicate a high likelihood of positive outcomes if some of the options below were to be implemented.

- Tourist in Your Own Town / Scavenger Hunt
- Neighborhood Tours (e.g. Cookie Tour, Historic Asset Tour)

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- Self-guided Themed Walking and/or Bike Tours
- Themed Races (bike and/or foot)
- Competitions
    - Concepts for local events that celebrate the Northside
    - Art / Design competitions
- Placemaking initiatives
- Promote the Northside as a hub for quality arts, culture, food and more

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER OPPORTUNITIES

The following represents some potential uses for the data that would likely require muli-year planning and implementation in coordination with a broad range of stakeholders.
- Enhance wayfinding with the support of local artists
- Increase connectivity and recreation options
- Connect urban greenways with parks on the Northside
- Enhance bike/pedestrian infrastructure
- Remove and/or mitigate barriers that restrict inter-neighborhood connectivity and connections to assets
- Improve existing infrastructure such as lighting, stairways, bus shelters, etc.
- Expansion of Bike Share network
- Incorporation of placemaking into initiatives such as bike share, connectivity, etc.

CONCLUSION

Through a collaboration with some of our region's leading academic institutions, this initiative surveyed nearly 1800 community assets, of which 1266 fall into the focus categories of Environmental, Cultural / Entertainment and Transit. Nearly 300 community members, 4 Community Mentors and 25 technical partners were engaged during this process. The resulting unique products include an accessible online database and 21 maps that range from traditional GIS maps to stylized maps of each neighborhood's unique assets. All of these tools and more can be found at www.northsideaim.org.

Our treasure-mapping process identified gems in each one of the Northside's 18 neighborhoods and opportunities for enhanced Quality of Place. Through the creation of an asset inventory and action plan for connectivity, this unique collaboration and approach yielded success in building the foundation for increased connectivity throughout the Northside. Furthermore, the suite of tools that were developed can support related Quality of Place One Northside goals such as increasing awareness of the Northside as a regional hub for quality arts and culture experiences .

APPENDIX A
URBAN TRAILS CASE STUDIES

There are a growing number of cities that have built unique urban trail systems to showcase their cultural and geographical assets. Most of these systems have been developed through partnerships between local government and nonprofit organizations, which help to raise the funding and public awareness necessary for implementing the trails. Cities have been successful in using federal funds (e.g., TIGER grants) with private donations in order to build trail systems, rather than relying on taxpayer money and then designating a dedicated entity to managing the trail for years to come. A common thread throughout these urban trails is the importance of a comprehensive, multi-year community planning process.

Urban trails give people a chance to explore a city while performing physical activity. Trails can be built to encourage ridership through business districts, as studies have linked biking and pedestrian traffic to positive economic impact. Given the wealth of cultural amenities in the Northshore and the Northside, Pittsburgh could incorporate an urban trail in those areas to encourage residents and visitors to bike in those areas. Pittsburgh's position at the head of the Greater Allegheny Passage (GAP) trail, which receives hundreds of thousands of visitors a year, presents an opportunity to promote an urban component of the trail system. The following case studies showcase urban trail systems that exist in cities across the country.

INDIANAPOLIS CULTURAL TRAIL

LOCATION: Indianapolis, Indiana

STATUS: Completed

COST: $62.5 Million

FUNDING MECHANISM: $35.5 Million of total federal transportation funding ($20.5 million TIGER grant), and private donations

PARTNERS: Central Indiana Community Foundation, the City of Indianapolis, and several not-for-profit organizations

OVERVIEW: The Indianapolis Cultural Trail includes an 8 mile linear bike and pedestrain path, and connects 6 cultural districts and neighborhoods. The trail is lined with stormwater planters that act as buffers for the road. Running through the heart of downtown, the trail connects residents and visitors to the history and culture of Indianapolis through signage and public art.

The trail is spotted with public art and historical markers, as well as and signage to direct users. *Photo from www.indyculturaltrail.org.*

In some sections, the trail contains separate paths for pedestrians and bikers. Each section is divided by stormwater planters. *Photo from www.reasite.com/projects/indianapolis-cultural-trail.*

TRAIL INFRASTRUCTURE:
- Dedicated bike/ ped lanes
- Green stormwater infrastructure features line the trail, buffering it from the street

PITTSBURGH REGION APPLICATION:
The estimated economic impact of the Indianapolis Cultural Trail is $864.5M.
- Various funding sources were used due to the incorporation of green stormwater infrastructure, multi-modal transportation and art.
- For the Indianapolis Cultural Trail, foundation seed funding of $15M was able to leverage significant federal funding.
- Bike share stations are found along the trail allow both residents and visitors easy bicycle access.
- The trail was specifically developed with the goal of showcasing the City's assets.
- The trail successfully integrates art, cultural features, ecosystem services, enhanced bike/ped infrastructure and more.

POTENTIAL PITTSBURGH-REGION CHALLENGES:

- Streets in Indianapolis are typically very wide and therefore had plenty of space to accommodate both the trail and the existing vehicle traffic. Pittsburgh's narrow streets would provide a challenge.
- The City of Indianapolis granted full access to the public right of way to build trail.
- Trail design and concepts cost $4M to develop.
- Winter safety requires an annual budget and extensive property owner education. The trail is plowed by a maintenance contractor after any snow event over 2". Adjacent property owners are responsible for snow removal in any snow events under 2". Specific de-icing materials are required to protect the green stormwater infrastructure vegetation from being damaged.
- Vegetation maintenance requires an annual budget and a contractor experienced in maintaining green stormwater infrastructure.

MORE INFORMATION: www.indyculturaltrail.org.
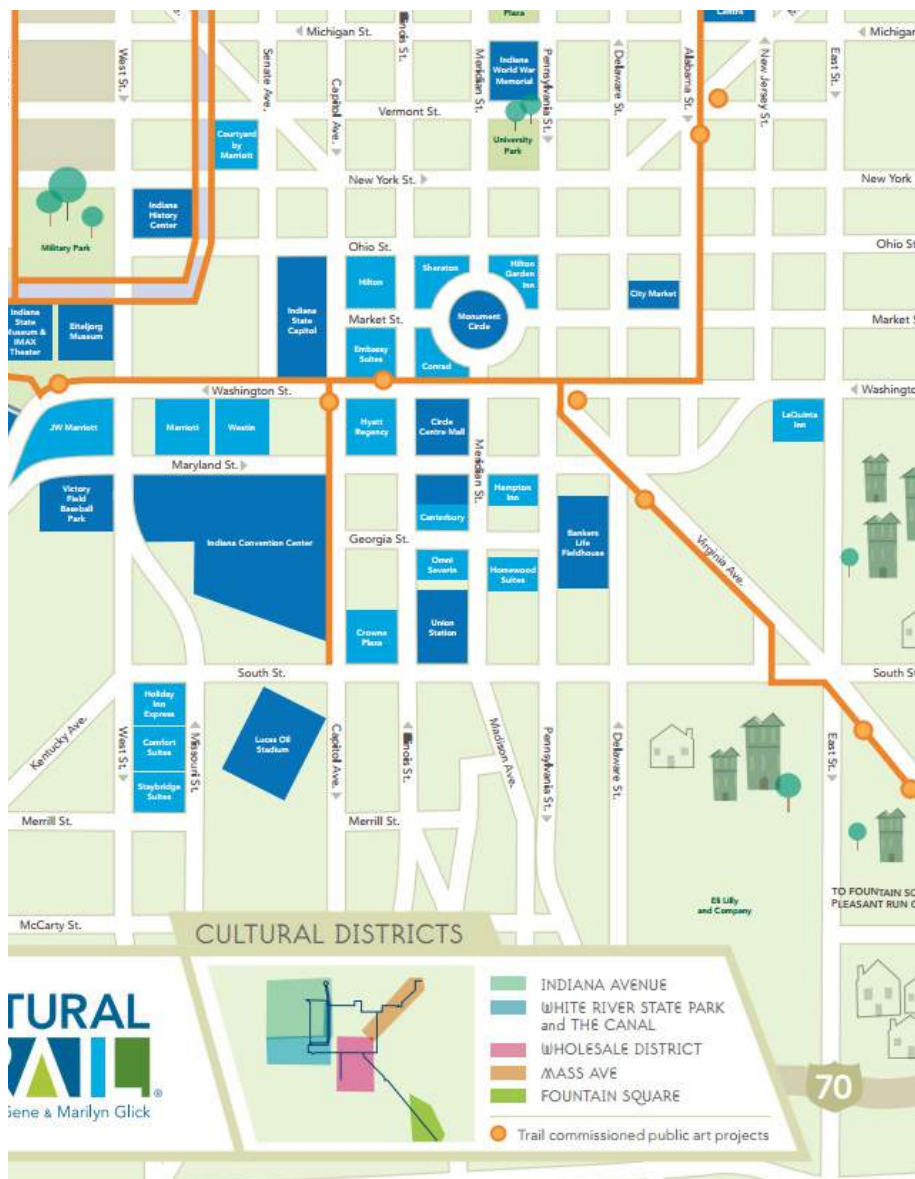
As the trail was being built, local artists were commissioned to design public art pieces for the trail. Some point to historic or cultural events, while others stand alone.

The Indianapolis Cultural Trail is not a loop, but has branches that reach out into the various neighborhoods.

The trail, as highlighted by the map, runs through 6 distinct cultural districts throughout Indianapolis.

View map at www.indyculturaltrail.org/map

BOSTON FREEDOM TRAIL

LOCATION: Boston, Massachusetts

STATUS: Phase I Complete, Phase II in construction

COST: Phase I - unknown, Phase II - $23.7M

FUNDING MECHANISM: Phase I - Freedom Trail Foundation, Phase II - Federal transportation grant ($15.5M) and other unknown funding sources

PARTNERS: City of Boston, National Park Service

OVERVIEW: The Freedom Trail was created in 1953 as a way to showcase and preserve 16 historic sites throughout Boston. The 2.5 mile trail is marked with a red line on the ground (made of bricks or paint) to guide visitors to each destination. Destinations include the Massachusetts State House, King's Chapel, Granary Burying Ground, Old Corner Bookstore, and the Bunker Hill Monument among others. Phase II of the project includes a dedicated bicycle lane that is separated from traffic by a physical barrier, sidewalk widening, ADA upgrades and more.

A line marked in the brick sidewalk with occasional marking emblems helps direct trail users. *Photo from www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freedom_Trail.*

The trail intersects with sites of historical importance throughout the heart of Boston. *Photo from www.foodtoursboston.com/images/old-state-house.jpg*

TRAIL INFRASTRUCTURE:
- Phase I is a red line, made of bricks or painted coupled with wayfinding mechanisms.
- Phase II includes a dedicated bike lane and a variety of infrastructure upgrades.

PITTSBURGH REGION APPLICATION:
- Phase I did not require significant infrastructure investments.
- Phase II builds off of the success of Phase I, ultimately modernizing the trail with bike/ped infrastructure.
- The trail connects residents and visitors with historic assets of Boston, including churches, cemeteries, museums and more.
- Marketing materials connect visitors with information on the Freedom Trail as well as additional Boston assets such as waterfront trail, additional historic sites and other destinations.

POTENTIAL PITTSBURGH-REGION CHALLENGES:

- The painted line and wayfinding signage is a simple effort in comparison to building the infrastructure for a physical trail, though there are still local public policies that can make such trails difficult.
- Phase II required parking spaces to be removed near some of the historic features on the trail.
- The Freedom Trail Foundation was created in 1963 with the official charge of preserving and marketing the trail.
- There is a dedicated preservation fund (managed by the Freedom Trail Foundation) for maintenance of the trail and 16 historic sites along the trail.

MORE INFORMATION: www.thefreedomtrail.org, www.cityofboston.gov/freedomtrail/
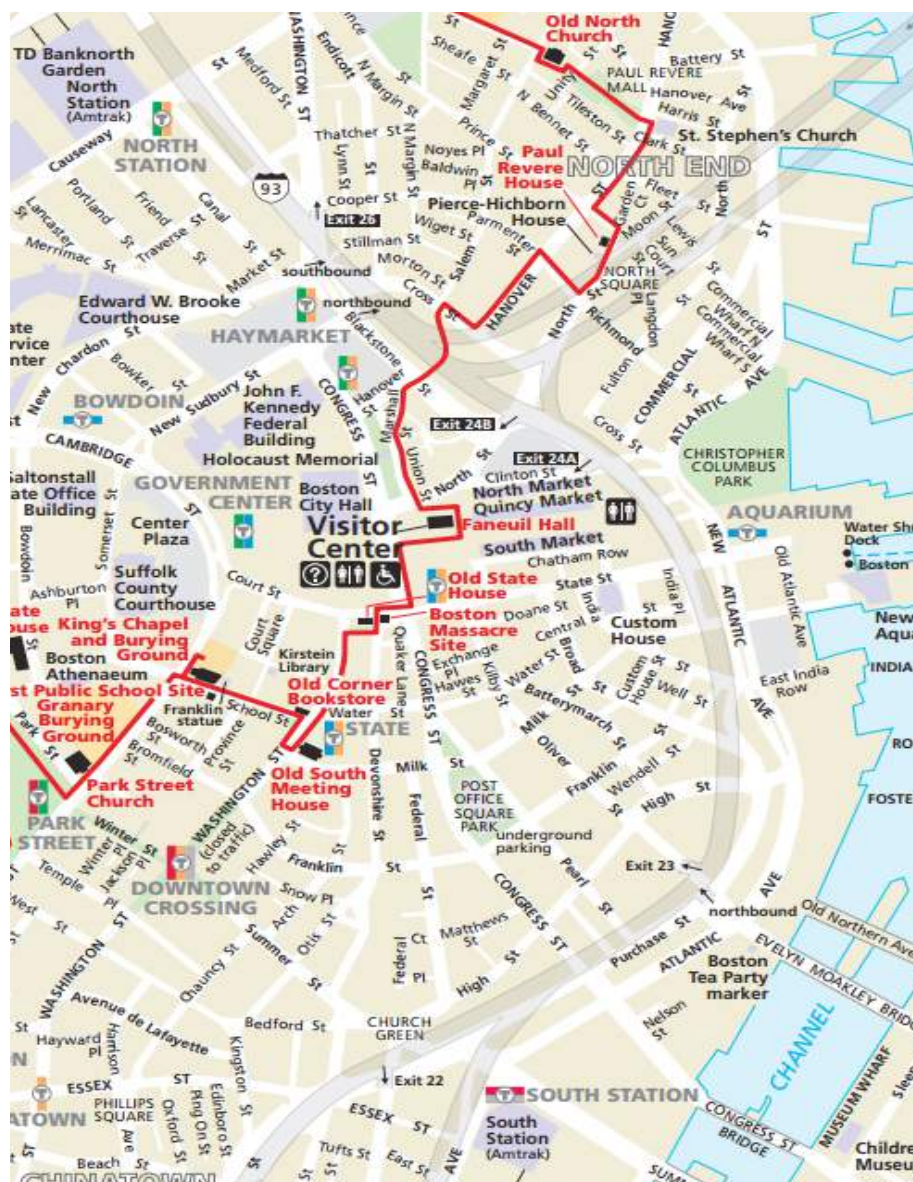
The Freedom Trail highlights places of historical significance. While visitors can enter some of the sites and get more in-depth tours, others can only be appreciated from the outside.

A centrally located visitor center is where visitors can start their exploration of the Freedom Trail. There they can find maps, book tours, and purchase souvenirs.

Train stations are marked along the trail to ensure visitors from out of town can easily find their way.

View map at www.thefreedomtrail.org/pdfs/boston-nps-map.pdf

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE TRAIL

LOCATION: Washington, D.C.

STATUS: Completed

COST: Unknown

FUNDING MECHANISM: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service Historic Preservation Fund, District of Columbia, Office of Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor

PARTNERS: Office of Planning, Historic Preservation Office, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, District Department of Transportation, National Park Service

OVERVIEW: The purpose of this trail is to highlight African American historic and cultural sites in Washington, D.C. The trail has over 200 waypoints (100 of which are marked with official plaques) through 15 neighborhoods. While the trail is not physically marked on the streetscape, there is a map for a self-guided tour.

The trail includes historic and cultural sites like Howard University, a historically black university. *Photo from www.stayadayseeourusa. com*

Some sites along the trail are the homes of black historical figures, like the house in the image above which belonged to Mary McLeod Bethune, a life rights leader. *Photo from www.nps..gov.*

TRAIL INFRASTRUCTURE:
- The trail is not physically marked.
- Maps available in hard copy throughout the city as well as online.

PITTSBURGH REGION APPLICATION:
- A relatively low investment has yielded a successful trail system that relies entirely on wayfinding and maps.
- The trail information is available by the entire system or by neighborhood.
- Sites were chosen by a committee.
- Additional sites can be nominated for the trail by the public through a formal application which is based on publicly-available criteria.

POTENTIAL PITTSBURGH-REGION CHALLENGES:

- The trail is maintained and marketed by a non-profit, Cultural Tourism DC, whose mission is to deliver memorable experiences and learning opportunities in the areas of heritage, international exchange, and humanities. Cultural Tourism DC also manages several other cultural trails throughout Washington DC.

MORE INFORMATION: www.culturaltourismdc.org
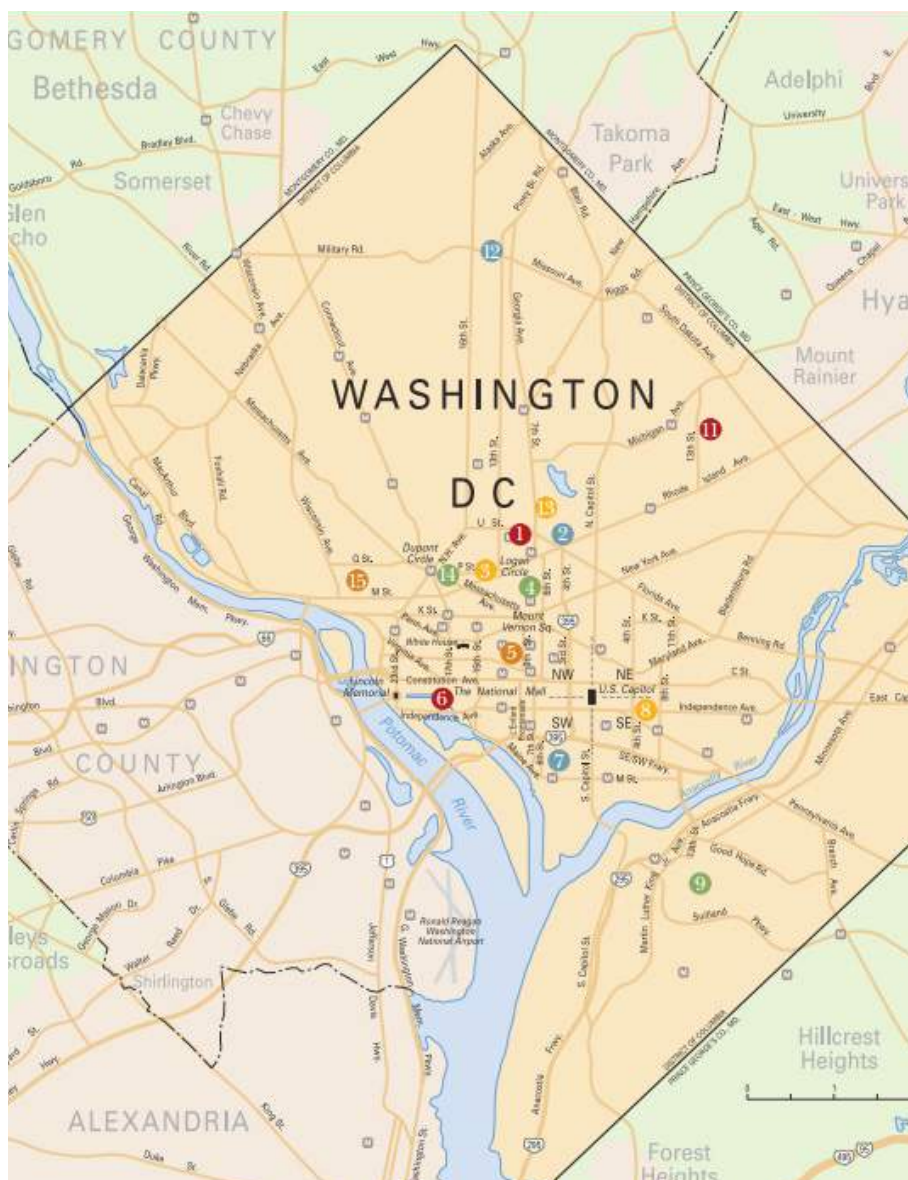
15 neighborhoods in Washington D.C. contain sites along the heritage trail, including at least one in each larger region of D.C.

The map does not show directions to get to each site. The route taken is up to the visistor.

View map at www.culturaltourismdc.org/portal/african-american-heritage-trail

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LOUISVILLE LOOP

LOCATION: Louisville, Kentucky

STATUS: Construction in progress

COST: $100 million to date

FUNDING MECHANISM: $60 million in private and corporate donations, $35 million in federal funding, other funding unknown

PARTNERS: Louisville Metro, Commonwealth of Kentucky

OVERVIEW: 40 miles are completed of the planned 100 miles of trail. The trail is divided into five regions based on distinct geological, topographical, and ecological regions to showcase the varied landscapes of Louisville. The Louisville Loop has consistent material and design throughout the trail. This helps to brand the Louisville Loop, ensures quality, and makes it stand out among other trails. The trail is meant for pedestrians and non-motorized transportation. The width of the trail allows for both pedestrians and faster-moving non-motorized transportation to coexist.

The trail is popular for use by bikers, but is also used by pedestrians and other forms of non-motorized transit. *Photo from www. louisvilleky.gov*

An old railway bridge over the was opened up as a pedestrian and bike way as part of the trail. LED lights operate daily on the trail from twilight to 1:00am. *Photo from www.louisvillewaterfront.com*

TRAIL INFRASTRUCTURE:
- The trail surface is asphalt, 12 feet wide, and structurally sound for emergency vehicles.
- Signage helps to regulate the trail and direct visitors through the Loop.

PITTSBURGH REGION APPLICATION:
- The trail is used to educate the public about Louisville's physiography and ecosystems, creating a greater sense-of-place for the region.
- The trail makes multiple communities accessible to pedestrians and faster-moving non-motorized transportation.
- A goal of the Louisville Loop was to grow community engagement throughout the City.

POTENTIAL PITTSBURGH-REGION CHALLENGES:

• The City of Louisville played a significant role in creating the trail, and now in maintaining it.

• The Louisville Loop connects to all modes of transit, from popular bike routes to existing public transit routes.

MORE INFORMATION: www.louisvilleky.gov/government/louisville- loop

This map shows the stages of progress along the trail as of 2015.

The five physiographic regions of Louisville are highlighted on the map (see link below for expanded view)

Some of the trail runs through undeveloped areas or adjacent to the river, while other sections run through the heart of the city.

View map at www.louisvilleky.gov/government/louisville-loop

Map Legend:
- EXISTING • 38.8 MILES (includes Bea...
- PLANNING COMPLETED • 44 MILES
- PLANNING UNDERWAY • 10 MILES
- CONSTRUCTION START 12/14-12/15 •
- DESIGN COMPLETE 12/15 • 24.5 MILE
- CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE 12/15 • 1
- ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

FORT CIRCLE PARK TRAIL

LOCATION: Washington D.C.

STATUS: Completed

COST: $3,059,000

FUNDING MECHANISM: National Park Service, National Capital Region, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

PARTNERS: Washington Area Bicyclist Association, City of Alexandria, Fairfax County, and Arlington County

OVERVIEW: This 19.5 mile trail runs along the Anacostia River through woodland areas, connecting historic Civil War Forts and parks into one comprehensive trail. Guided tours of the trail and forts are available, in addition to a self-guided tour map.

Photo from www.panoramio.com. The Fort Circle Trail runs through historic forts around Washington D.C., like the fort pictured above, Fort Stevens.

Photo from www.nationalparklover.com. Much of Fort Circle Park is a simple earth trail running through wooded areas.

TRAIL INFRASTRUCTURE:
- The trail contains paved and natural trails and uses old roads in certain sections.

PITTSBURGH REGION APPLICATION:
- The trail uses a narrow strip of parkland and greenway used to connect historic sites that fit a particular theme.
- There was a relatively low investment in infrastructure to develop trail system because it runs through undeveloped areas.
- The trail connects to a larger trail system outside of DC, the American Discovery Trail which runs from the Chesapeake Bay to Georgetown.

POTENTIAL PITTSBURGH-REGION CHALLENGES:

- Because much of the trail runs through undeveloped areas, land acquisition was a key part of its creation.
- The Fort Circle Trail is managed by the National Capitol Parks, a division of the National Park Service.

MORE INFORMATION: www.americantrails.org

The map highlights picnic areas as well as restrooms, encouraging visitors to stay for a while.

The trail runs through wooded areas, similar to Pittsburgh's Greenways.

The primary purpose of the trail is tourism and recreation rather than transportation.

View map at www.nps.gov/cwdw/planyourvisit/upload/hiker%20biker%20trail%20map.pdf

FLAGSTAFF URBAN TRAIL SYSTEM

LOCATION: Flagstaff, Arizona

STATUS: Completed

COST: $40,000 in Phase I (1988), $750,000 annually

FUNDING MECHANISM: Grants funded 40% of capital budget, Annual cost covered by transportation sales tax and Better Business Bureau

PARTNERS: City of Flagstaff

OVERVIEW: The Flagstaff Urban Trail System (FUTS) is very variable in location and condition; it crosses through a variety of regions, from urban areas to natural areas outside of the city. Where it runs through town, it is paved and follows along streets. However, much of the trail travels through parks and quieter locations where it is made of crushed gravel or natural earth. The trail is 3.9 miles total, but intersects with three other trails and is part of a much larger system, the Arizona Trail.

Consistent signage throughout the trail helps to brand the system as it crosses over several other trails. *Photo from www.jrcdesign. com.*


Paved, separated lanes make the trail feel safe and easy to follow for pedestrians and bikers. *Photo from www.flagstaff.az.gov.*

TRAIL INFRASTRUCTURE:
- Much of the trail is paved in concrete or asphalt, though sections of it run along existing sidewalks and roads.

PITTSBURGH REGION APPLICATION:
- A variety in types of trail surfaces were used in the FUTS because existing infrastructure posed significant challenges to building a consistent trail.
- 78% of Flagstaff residents have used the trail in the past year.
- The trail goes through a variety of areas, giving users an opportunity to get out of the city, and to access the assets within the urban areas as well.

POTENTIAL PITTSBURGH-REGION CHALLENGES:

- In order to create the trail, land had to be acquired with varying ownership and tax statuses.
- The trail was founded and is now maintained by the City of Flagstaff.

MORE INFORMATION: www.flagstaff.az.gov
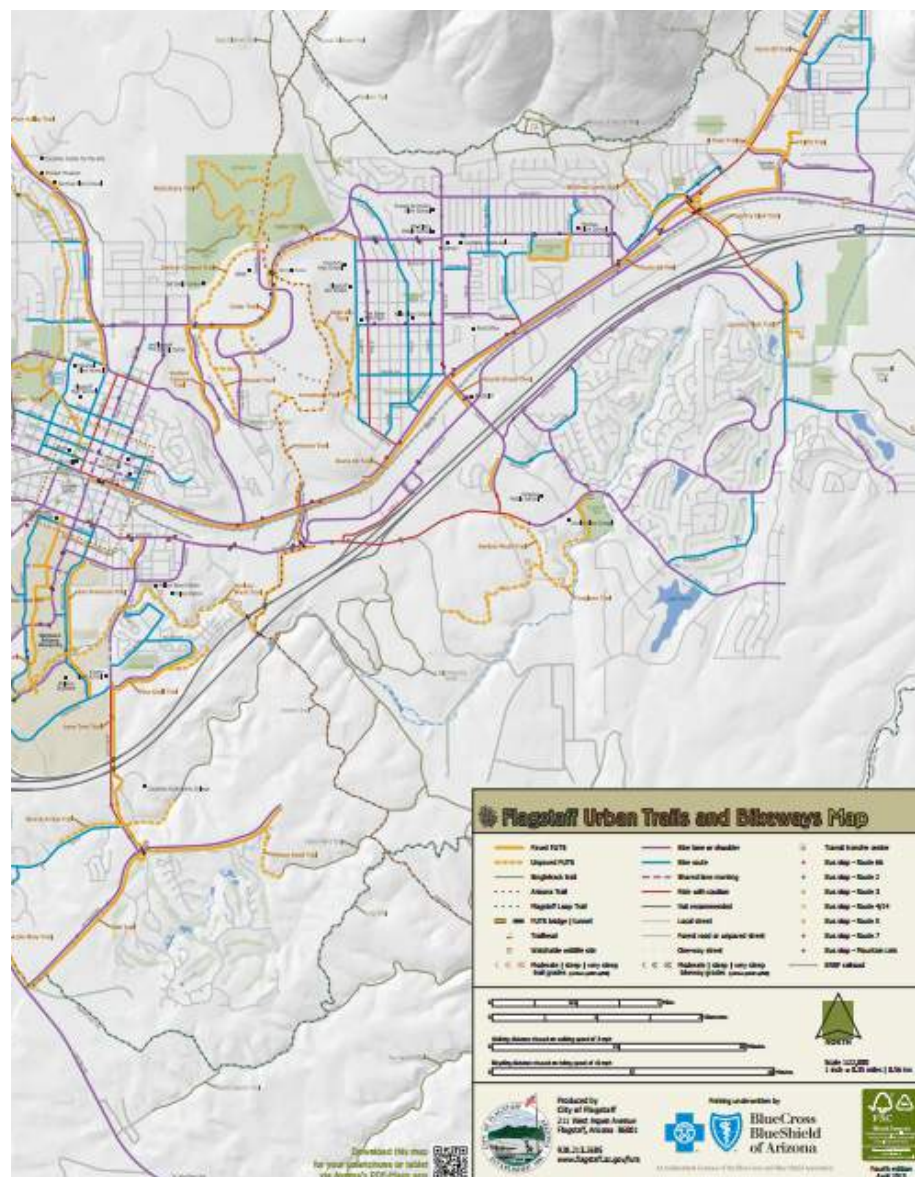
◁ The map shows how the trail is not just one single trail, but a network of different types of trails.

◁ Similar to Bike Pittsburgh's Bike Map, this map shows what type of trail users can find throughout the system.

◁ The trail runs along main transit routes with the ultimate result of supporting a multi-modal transportation network.

◁ View map at www.mobilemaplets. com/thumbnails/4378_ thumbnail-1024.jpg

RAZORBACK REGIONAL GREENWAY

LOCATION: Northwest Arkansas

STATUS: Completed

COST: $38 million

FUNDING MECHANISM: $15 million TIGER Grant, $15 million private funding (Walton Family Foundation), Home Depot Foundation Grant, National Urban Forestry Grant, EPA 319 Water Quality Grant, USDOT TCSP Grant, USDOT TAP Grant, the Endeavor Foundation, various city governments.

PARTNERS: Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission and Northwest Arkansas cities

OVERVIEW: 36 mile, mostly off-road trail, that connects 6 communities in Northwestern Arkansas. The project was designed to connect existing trail systems in the area. The trail includes a comprehensive set of signage, from mile markers, to information kiosks, to interpretive signs.

Where the Greenway crosses roads, infrastructure like crosswalks, traffic lights, and yield signs help to keep trail users safe. *Photo from www.arkansasoutside.com.*


The length and quality of the trail makes it popular for bikers. *Photo from www.theintertwine.org.*

TRAIL INFRASTRUCTURE:
- The trail is primarily off-road and paved.
- The trail runs along rivers and streams, adjacent to the road, and on the road in some segments.

PITTSBURGH REGION APPLICATION:
- The Razorback Regional Greenway connects to the broader system of trails in Northwest Arkansas.
- The Razorback Regional Greenway was designed throughout a series of public meetings in order to get full community support.
- To create a primarily off-road trail, the trail used undeveloped areas like parks, greenway, and areas along streams and rivers.
- The Razorback Regional Greenway connects to several business districts.

POTENTIAL PITTSBURGH-REGION CHALLENGES:

- Because the trail is primarily off-road, it requires significant effort in acquiring land.

MORE INFORMATION: www.nwatrails.org/trail
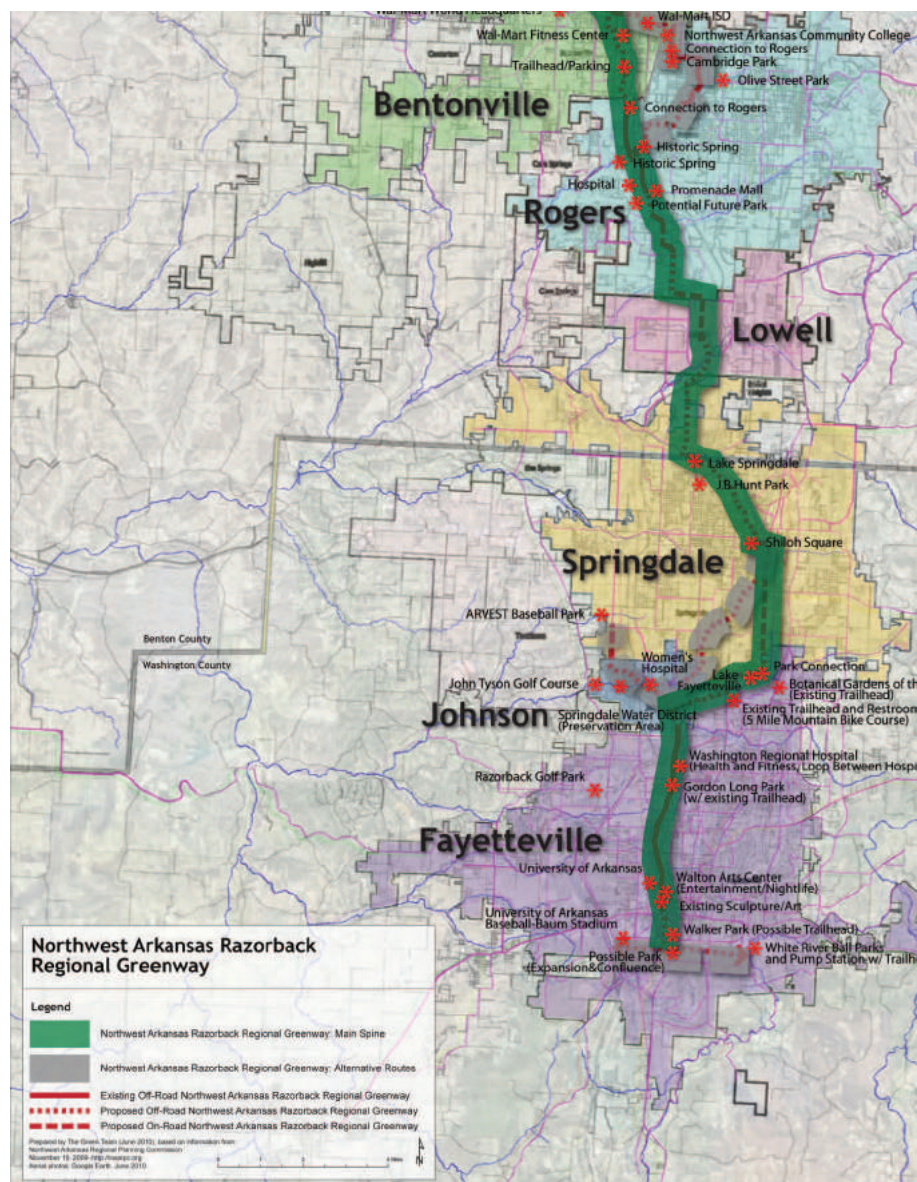
The trail includes some alternative routes, marked on the map in gray.

Red astericks highlight points of interest, like cultural and historic sites.

The trail runs through many communities throughout Northwest Arkansas.

View interactive map at www.trails.cast.uark.edu

CASE STUDY REFERENCES

Trail information found at:

www.indyculturaltrail.org, www.thefreedomtrail.org, www.cityofboston.gov/freedomtrail, www.culturaltourismdc.org, www.louisvilleky.gov/government/louisville- loop, www.americantrails.org www.flagstaff.az.gov, www.nwatrails.org/trail