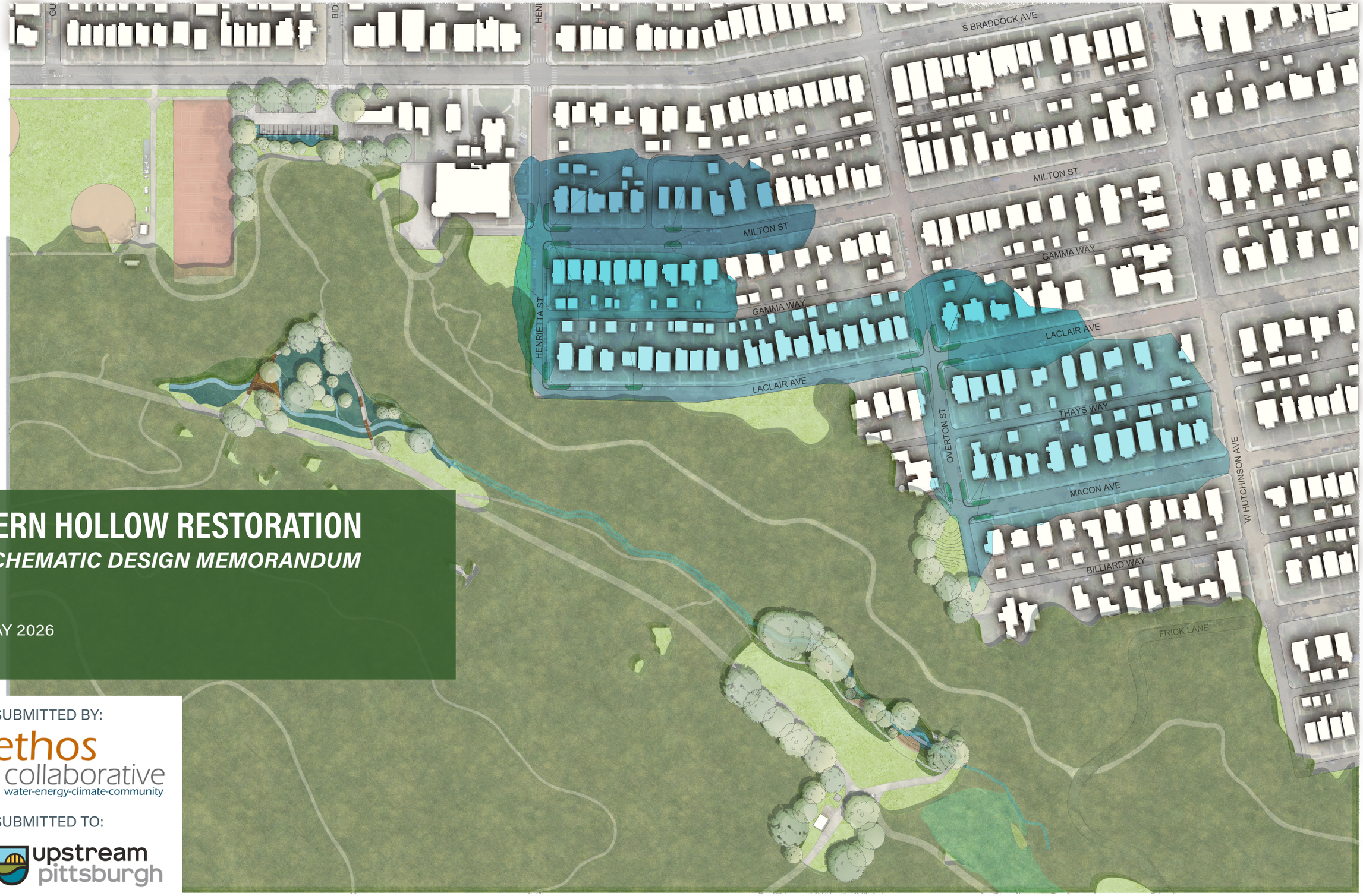


FERN HOLLOW RESTORATION

SCHEMATIC DESIGN MEMORANDUM

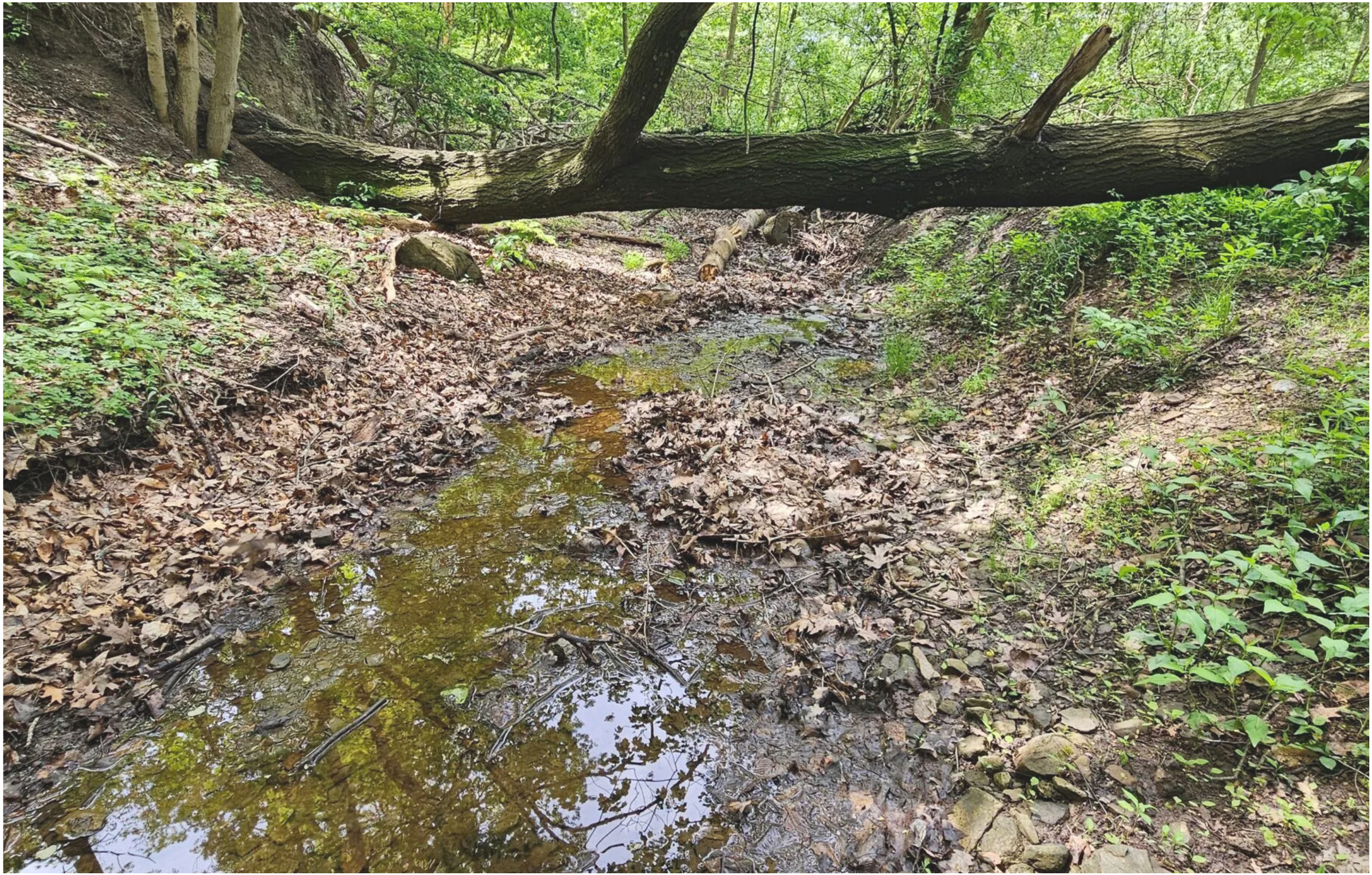
MAY 2026

SUBMITTED BY:

ethos collaborative
water-energy-climate-community

SUBMITTED TO:

upstream pittsburgh



Fern Hollow Creek, Image Credits: Upstream Pittsburgh

Project Team

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Planning and Environmental Branch
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Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

Project Stakeholders

Pittsburgh Water
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Pittsburgh, PA 15222

City of Pittsburgh, Department of Public Works
414 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy
West Tower, 317 E Carson St
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Allegheny County Sanitary Authority
2200 Preble Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15233

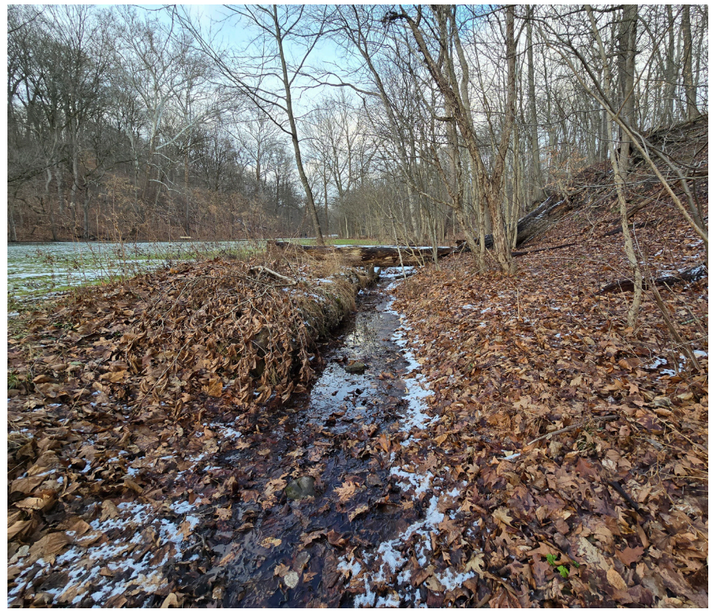
Table of Contents

Introduction and Background

This memorandum builds on a decade of visioning, community engagement, and technical study in the Fern Hollow Creek corridor—including most recently the Fern Hollow Vision Plan, the USACE Water Resources Masterplan, and Upstream Pittsburgh's RIPPLE Watershed Plan—to advance the most constructable and actionable restoration framework developed for the valley to date. Where prior efforts established the foundation, this document provides the roadmap: a clear, site-specific path from planning to tangible project execution.

The central goal of this work is to restore sustainable flow and ecological function to Fern Hollow Creek. Decades of urbanization have severed the creek from the majority of its natural drainage area, leaving it intermittent through much of its length and vulnerable to the erosive forces of unmanaged stormwater. The five project areas described in this memorandum address this condition through a coordinated set of interventions: mitigating erosion and sedimentation that degrade the stream channel and its banks; improving and restoring natural stormwater flow pathways; rehabilitating riparian and wetland ecology; and increasing sustainable baseflow to the creek by reconnecting captured drainage through green stormwater infrastructure.

Rather than treating Fern Hollow as a single, monolithic restoration challenge, this document breaks the work into five discrete, right-sized projects—each independently implementable, each representing meaningful progress toward the larger restoration vision. For every project area, the document presents a schematic design, identifies the key barriers and constraints that must be resolved before construction, and outlines the next steps needed to move from this schematic framework to permitting, funding, and implementation. Taken together, these five projects constitute a credible, phased strategy for achieving lasting restoration of Fern Hollow Creek.



Timeline

WHERE WE CAME FROM:

2024

Fern Hollow Vision Plan, Neighborhood Allies

2025

Fern Hollow Vision Plan: Public Art Recommendations, Shiftworks

WHERE WE ARE:

2026

Fern Hollow Restoration Schematic Design Memorandum, Ethos Collaborative

2026

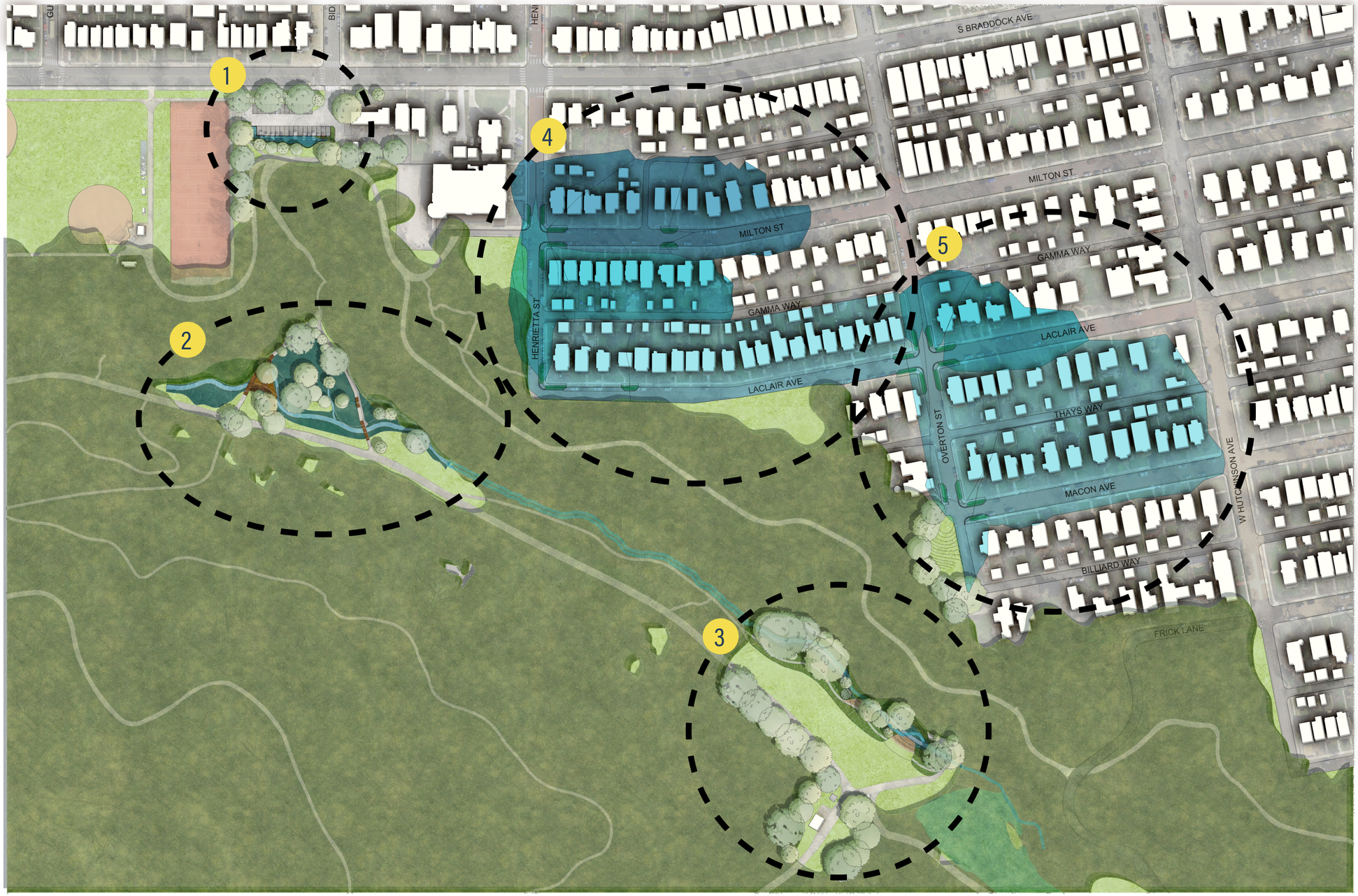
RIPPLE Environmental Justice Watershed Plan, Upstream Pittsburgh

2026

Fern Hollow Creek Water Resources Masterplan, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District, Planning & Environmental Branch

WHERE WE ARE GOING:

- Fundraising
- Continued stakeholder engagement
- Site investigations (Geotech, Survey, SUE, Stream and Wetland Delineation)
- Final design & Permitting
- Bidding & Construction
- Long-term O&M



PROJECT SITES

1. BIDDLE LOT GSI
2. WETLAND
3. CONFLUENCE
4. HENRIETTA STREET GSI
5. OVERTON STREET GSI

Master Plan Overview