VALLEY PARK PROJECTS

Many of the area's neighborhood parks are targeted for reinvestment and are ideal places for green stormwater infrastructure.

Many of the parks in the upper watershed were created in low valleys where development was less desirable. In some places, historic waterways still move through the buried sewer system, and the sound of flowing water can sometimes be heard underground—evidence that inflow and infiltration remain an issue.

These valley parks offer good opportunities for stormwater management. Some parks naturally receive runoff from surrounding areas and can store water during storms. In other cases, water from nearby streets and neighborhoods could be directed to the parks where it can be captured and managed.

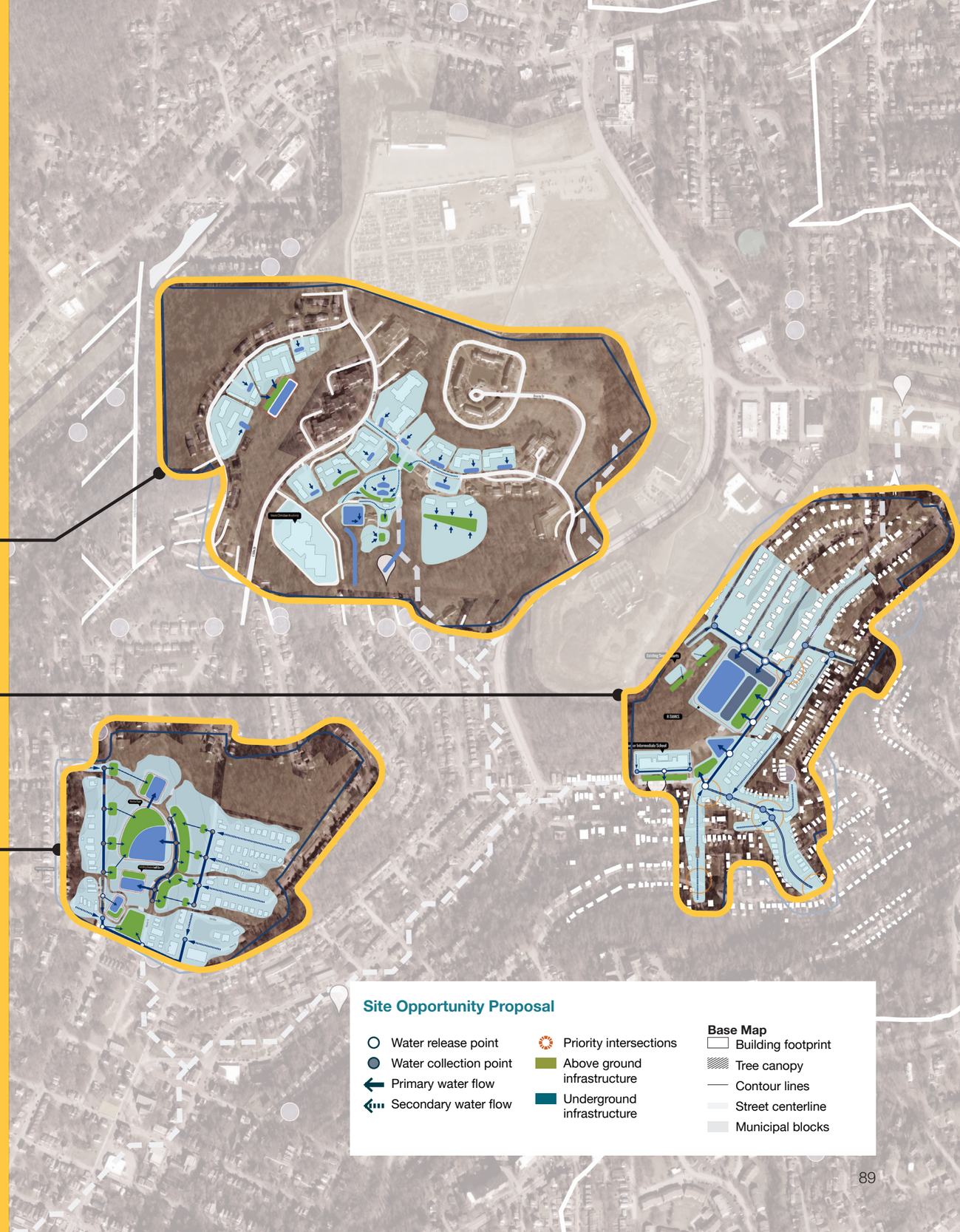
Most of these parks need reinvestment to meet current standards. Maintenance has often been limited, and some facilities have been abandoned, raising questions about long-term care. At the same time, the low level of disturbance has allowed strong ecological communities to grow, though invasive species are common.

With thoughtful investment, these parks could provide significant benefits for both water management and neighborhood life.

East Hills Park and Park Hill Drive

Turner Intermediate School

Hunter Park



Valley Park Projects

Select Community Feedback

[Hunter Park] Many of the community members engaged were not concerned about flooding near and around Hunter Park, although there were a few homes experiencing issues. The primary concern people shared were the abandoned homes in the area and pests like raccoons. There are also opportunities to connect with local efforts to build a nature trail through alleyways in the area. Wilkinsburg Borough is planning to make updates to the park, which could be an opportunity to integrate green infrastructure with those changes.

[Turner] "Please visit our area (Laketon Montier Clark Wright intersection) and see for yourself what a heavy rain looks like at the corner. No one seems to care about this Ward."

"The intersection of Montier and Wright streets. Water floods down from that area onto our curbs unto yards and driveways constantly. Maybe the sewer system isn't working at Clark and Wright therefore water streams and floods us! This has happened for years and is getting much worse. Rocks and sediment live our sidewalks and driveways after each rain."

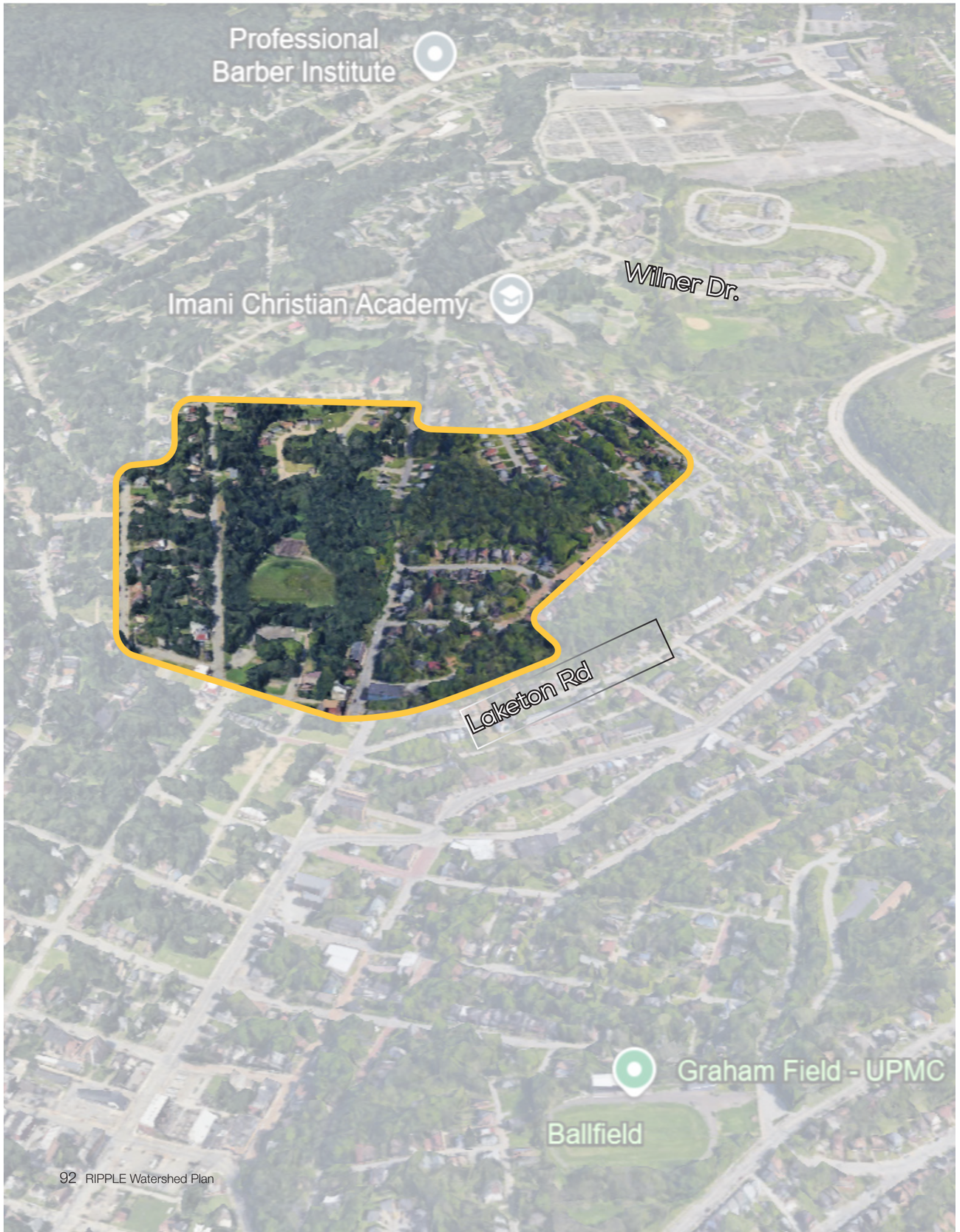
[East Hills] The Department of Public Works (DPW), in partnership with Ethos Collaborative and the East Hills community, is planning comprehensive upgrades to East Hills Park. Improvements include a new playground and picnic area, repairs to the basketball courts, pavilion, spray park, and athletic field, plus better accessibility, lighting, circulation, and stormwater management. Community feedback from the public survey and community meetings included prioritized safety, new amenities such as benches and tables, enhanced athletic facilities, and the addition of necessary bathrooms and water features (slip-and-slide, pool, and water park).

[Nine Mile Run] "too many abandoned residential and industrial properties or with absentee landlords and or owners who live out of state or are not nationals. Too few local rehab contractors with awareness of available sustainable resources."

"Brick streets such as LaClair and Macon and Trevanian which are pitched toward Frick Park but do not divert much stormwater away from the combined sewer drains and into the park.

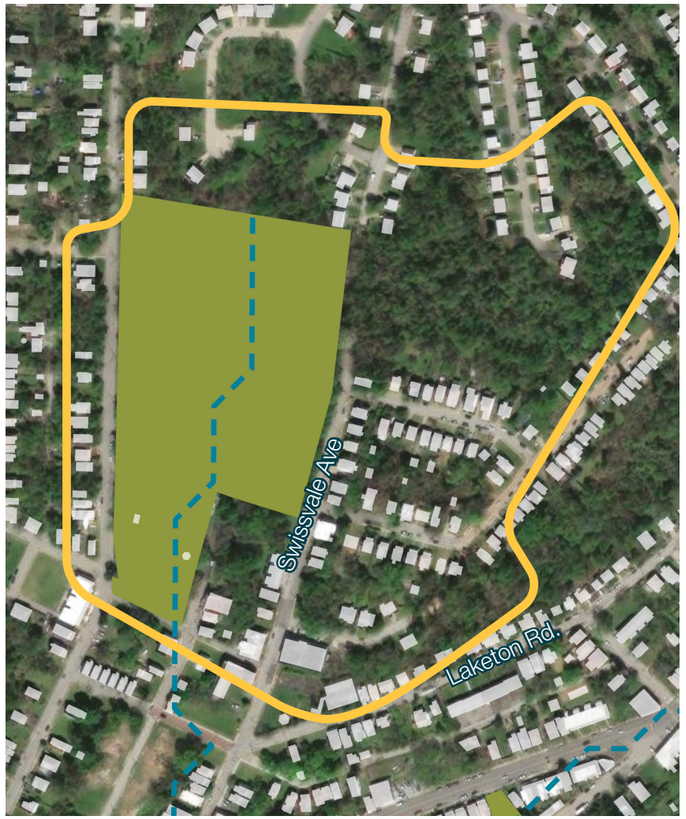
Hillsides with dead or dying trees such as Green Ash Black Locust that easily topple over in warm winter storms and do not effectively stabilize the hillsides from landslides.

Street tree pits in residential and business districts that do not effectively capture storm water. For example there are approximately 20 tree pits along Braddock avenue with low curbs (due to roadway build up) that do not retain storm water but allow it to run over and across them washing dirt and mulch onto the sidewalk."



VALLEY PARK PROJECTS

Hunter Park



Time Frame
Mid term

Location
A micro network that direct water to the municipally-owned Hunter Park from on-site and the adjacent streets

GSI Strategy
Private parcel GSI, Public Right-of-Way Improvements, Public Parcel Integrated GSI

UpstreamPgh's Role
Support, advocate, partner

Potential Partners
Residents and the general community, Borough of Wilkinsburg, WPJWA, ALCOSAN

Further Investigation
Water modeling (eventually)

N

0.15 Miles

FAR LEFT Aerial photo of Hunter Park (UpstreamPgh)
LEFT Aerial photo of Site (UpstreamPgh)

VALLEY PARK PROJECTS

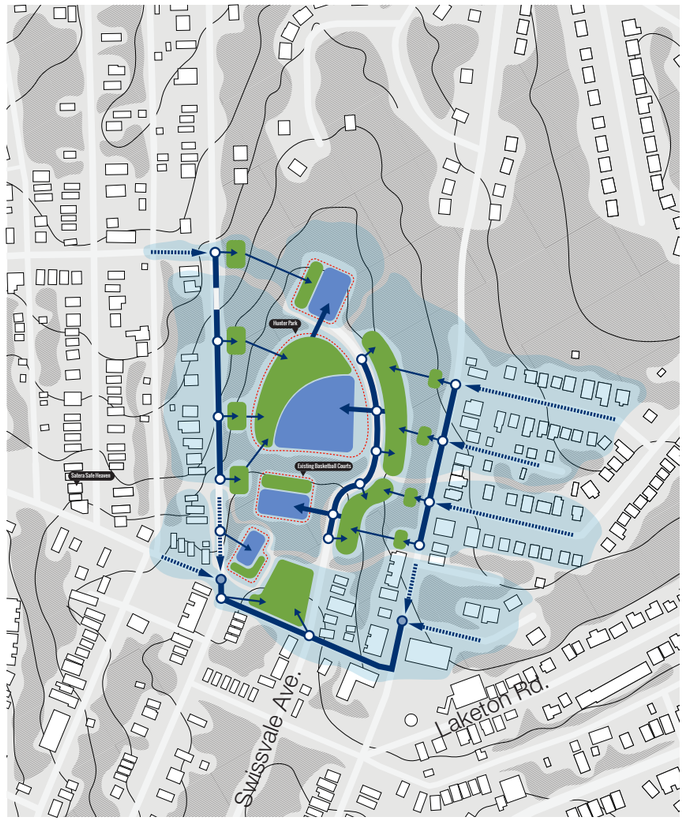
Hunter Park

Expanding recreational amenities to strengthen the ecological function of public open spaces and neighborhood character

Site Opportunity Proposal

- Water release point
- Water collection point
- Primary water flow
- Secondary water flow
- Priority intersections
- Above ground infrastructure
- Underground infrastructure

Base Map
- Building footprint
- Tree canopy
- Contour lines
- Street centerline
- Municipal blocks



Hunter Park is a valley park that was likely constructed as an green space over a stream because it would have been difficult to develop housing or other uses. The park receives surface water from a large catchment area and shows signs of erosion and slope instability. Flooding has been reported in the park.

Hunter Park was one of the original sites identified in the 1999 Nine Mile Run Watershed Association report. Little has been done since then, as the municipality has had few resources to move forward with the original vision. **The park can be structured with nested catchment areas, enabling phased implementation. Six receiving areas can provide varying levels of capacity:**

- Public works: PROW capture and below-grade storage
- Pearl/Sherman: PROW capture and storage
- James: PROW capture and storage
- Coal: PROW capture and storage
- Play area: onsite capture and storage, possible networked storage for upslope bioswales
- Field: PROW capture and storage

Planned municipal renovations currently focus on the field and playground areas, though it is unclear whether stormwater improvements are included. The park would benefit from a comprehensive master plan to coordinate these efforts, integrate GSI enhancements, align capital investments, and establish a long-term maintenance framework.

Integrating green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) into the public right-of-way—such as along streets and intersections—could improve safety, performance, and neighborhood character. Sidewalk and curb reconstruction is needed, and James Street will require full rebuilding at the park frontage.

Park improvements can enhance on-site stormwater management through planted conveyance and both above- and below-grade storage. Research indicates that combining technologies—such as pairing below-grade storage with a bioswale—improves overall system performance and longevity. In addition to managing on-site runoff, parks can receive water from the public right-of-way and adjacent parcels. Storage and retention elements should be constructed first, followed by streetscape improvements to capture and convey runoff into the system. Investment in streetscape and right-of-way improvements will be needed to maximize capture capacity.

Because these systems function as active infrastructure, they require maintenance routines that differ from those currently performed by the municipality. The Borough already struggles to maintain existing assets, so long-term care and maintenance planning must accompany any approved GSI design.

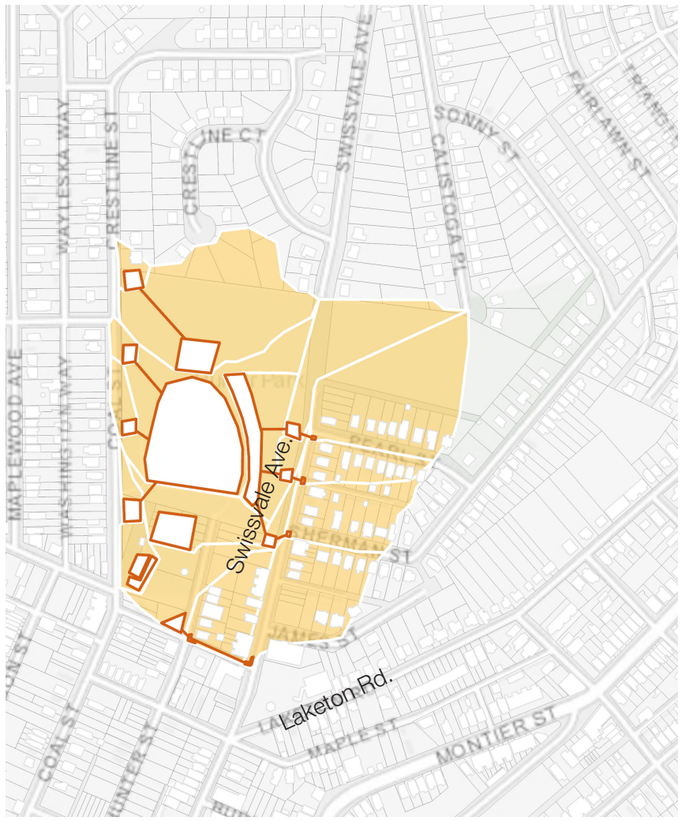
The Borough's forthcoming borough-wide parks master plan offers an important opportunity to explore stormwater strategies in greater depth. UpstreamPgh could play a valuable role by helping the Borough leverage GSI funding sources to support these improvement projects.

Subshed Structures

- Subshed Structure Area
- Nodes
- Connections

N

0.1 Miles



973,936
cubic feet managed

335,810
cubic feet bypassed

Environmental Justice Considerations

within a 5-minute walk of this project

38%
% Employed

73.8%
% Renter

$37,388
Median Income

100
# of Residents

100%
% of Area Historically Redlined

47.6%
Cost Burdened

Water Capture Opportunities

within a 5-minute walk of this project

0
Vacant lots

93,000
Impervious area (sqft)

4,324
Streetscape (ft)

1
Parks & open space

0
Parking lots

0
Parcels in Public Ownership