Rain Reclaim

A Joint Program of Pittsburgh Water and the City of Pittsburgh

Negley Run Watershed Task Force Meeting
3/20/25

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Agenda:

- Rain Reclaim Program Goals and Overview
- Community Engagement
  - Groundwork: Plans and Data
  - Input We Need
- Discussion
- Next Steps

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Rain Reclaim

Program Overview and Goals

Dornbush Green Infrastructure Project (before construction), Upstream Pittsburgh

- Partnership between City, Pittsburgh Water, and WaterNow Alliance
- Framework for cooperative projects between the City and Pittsburgh Water
- Implement stormwater infrastructure and community amenities on vacant lots
- Pilot focused in Negley Run Watershed

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Rain Reclaim

Program Overview and Goals

Dornbush Green Infrastructure Project (after construction), Upstream Pittsburgh

Goals:

- **Stormwater Management**: Reduce flooding, basement backups, and CSOs
- **Community Benefit**: Create usable green space for residents and manage vacant land
- **Building Resilience**: Develop organizational relationships for continued collaboration

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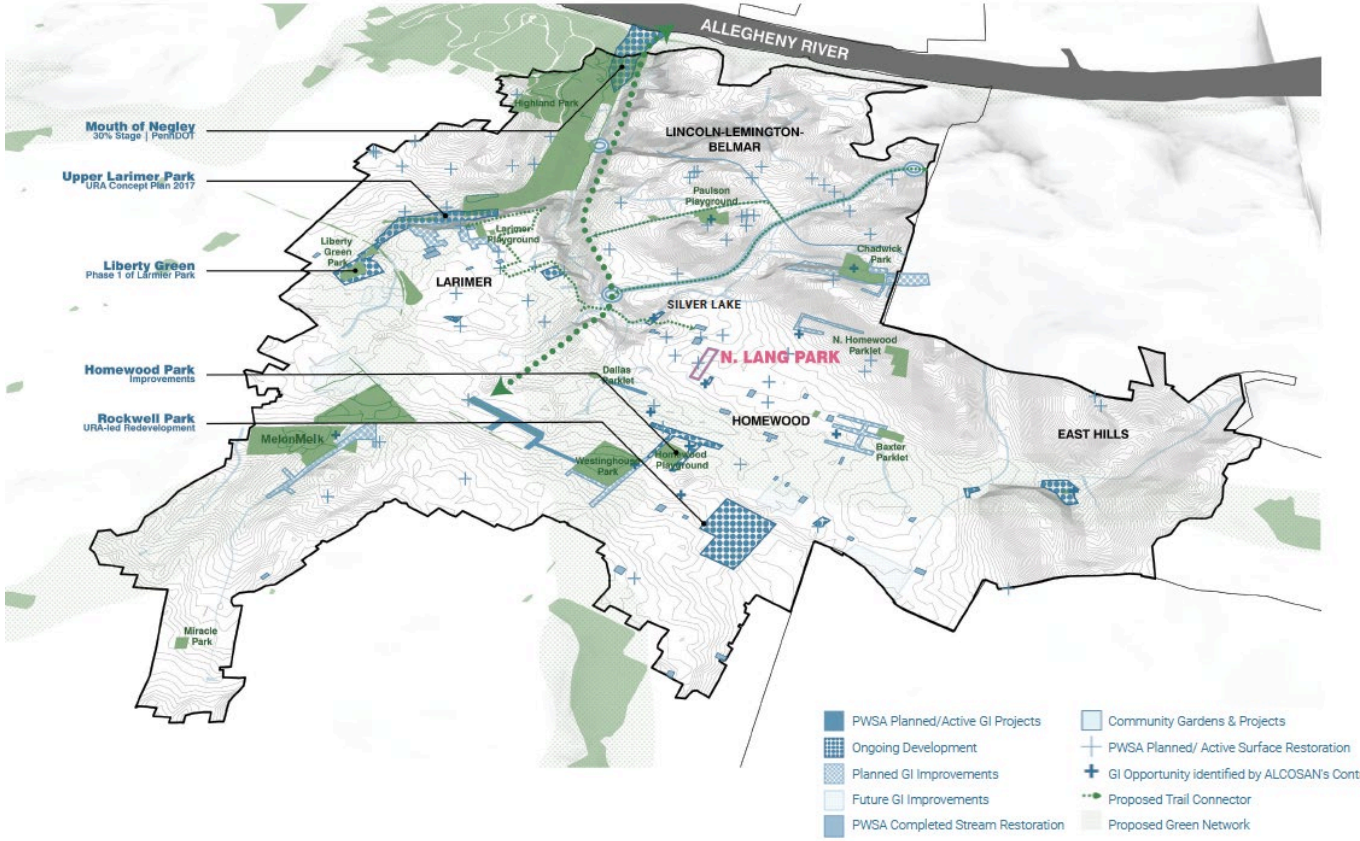
Groundwork: Plans and Data

- Pittsburgh Water Stormwater Strategic Plan: Negley Run as Priority Watershed
  - Significant flooding challenges
  - High amount of vacant land, much in contiguous parcels
  - Connected to existing parks and public spaces.



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Groundwork: Plans and Data

- Lincoln-Lemington-Belmar Community Visioning Plan
  - Goal I1: We want to build on our existing green infrastructure.
    - Strategy I1.1: Develop a plan for vacant lots.
- Larimer Vision Plan
  - Utilizing Vacant Lots:
    - Develop a "Checkerboard Green" pattern in the neighborhood core using greened vacant lots, providing ecological and economic benefits.
  - Green Stormwater Infrastructure:
    - Incorporate green infrastructure to manage stormwater sustainably, including strategies like urban forestry initiatives and rain gardens.

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Groundwork: Plans and Data

- Homewood Community Plan
  - Strategy 21.3: Collaborate with Pittsburgh Water, Upstream Pittsburgh, Negley Run Task Force to assess block-by-block approach for micro-shed small-scale green infrastructure
- East Hills Community Visioning Plan
  - Goal I.1: We want to build on our existing green infrastructure.
    - Strategy I1.2: Activate our vacant lots.

HOMEWOOD
COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY PLAN

EAST HILLS
Community Visioning Plan

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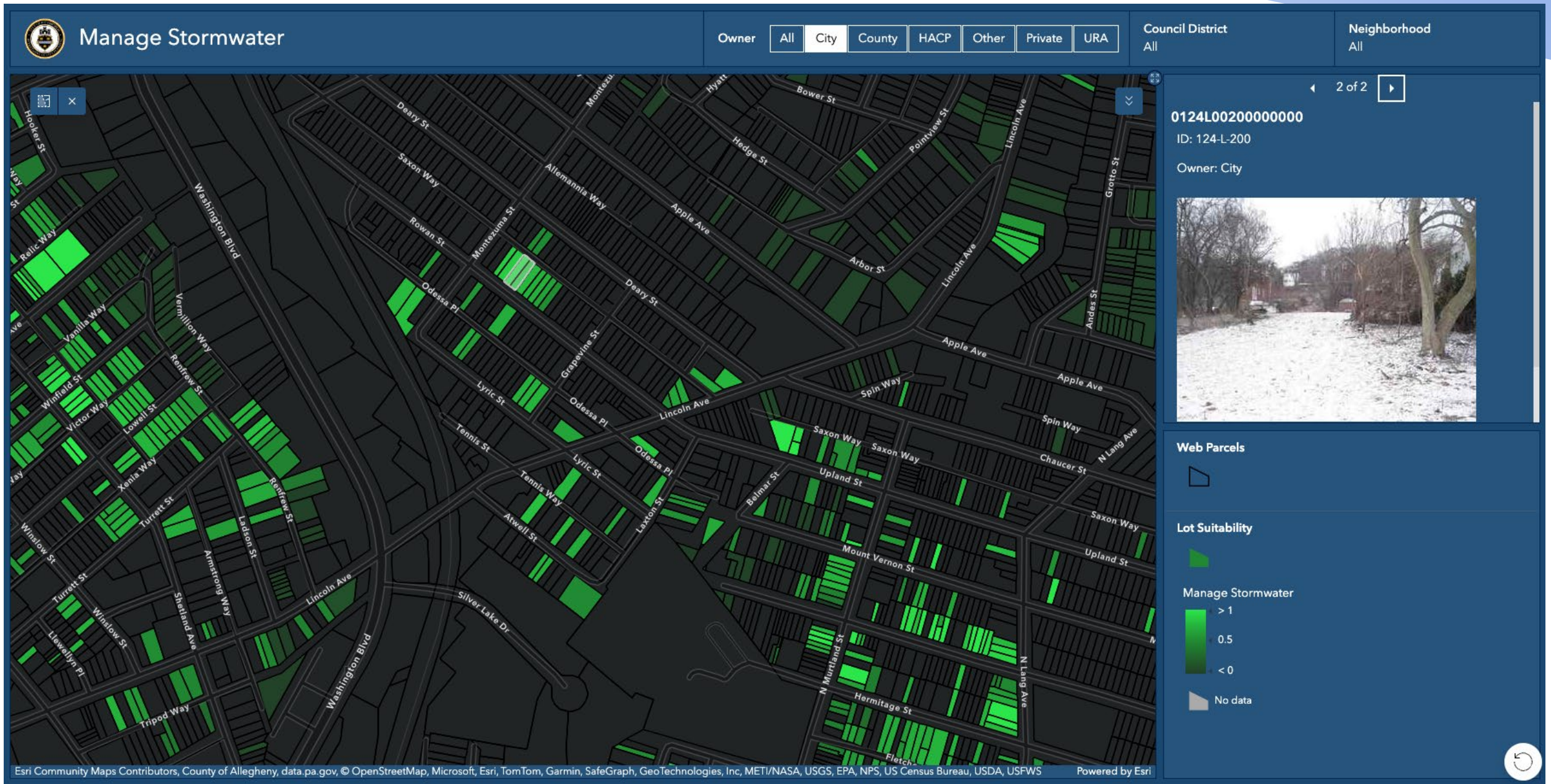
Groundwork: Plans and Data



Input We Need

- Specifics: Which vacant lots align with which community purposes?
- Ground-truthing: Do the roads and basements that mapping studies expect to flood really flood regularly?
- Understanding Stewardship: How can community members contribute?

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Input We Need

- Long-term Goals: What else should we be aiming for in Negley Run and beyond?
- Additional partners: Who else should be part of the conversation? How can we reach them?
- Deeper Understanding: What plans, groundwork, and inputs are we not considering yet?

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Discussion

- What are your initial impressions of this approach and its goals?
- What's exciting?
- What concerns might this raise?

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Multiple Ways to Report a Water Issue

- Call Pittsburgh Water's 24/7 Emergency Dispatch (412) 255-2423
- Call City's 311 Response Center (or 412-255-2621)
- Email PGH311@pittsburghpa.gov (Non-emergencies)

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Next Steps

- More Opportunities for Conversations
  - Brief presentations to community groups
  - Pop-up activities at community events
- Beyond Community Engagement
  - Identifying particular sites and developing designs
  - Developing funding opportunities for these efforts

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Next Steps

- Engage PGH page
- Watershed-wide Community Meeting this Summer!
- Contact us:
  - Emerson O'Donnell, eo@waternow.org
  - Beth Dutton, bdutton@pgh2o.com
  - Kyla Prendergast, kyla.Prendergast@pittsburghpa.gov

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