

Restoring Pittsburgh's Parks: The Benefits

September 2019



Photo by Jeremy Marshall

- 1. Why Articulate the Benefits of Pittsburgh's Parks System?**
2. A Smart Investment
3. Increased Value for Homeowners
4. Economic and Cultural Diversity Preserved
5. Living Wage Jobs
6. Stronger Neighborhood and Commercial Centers
7. Healthier Communities
8. An Environmentally Sustainable Future
9. Appendix

WHY ARTICULATE THE BENEFITS OF PITTSBURGH'S PARKS SYSTEM?

PPC engaged HR&A Advisors, a consulting firm with decades of experience analyzing the transformative benefits of open spaces throughout North America.

Implementation Strategy: From Planning to Completion

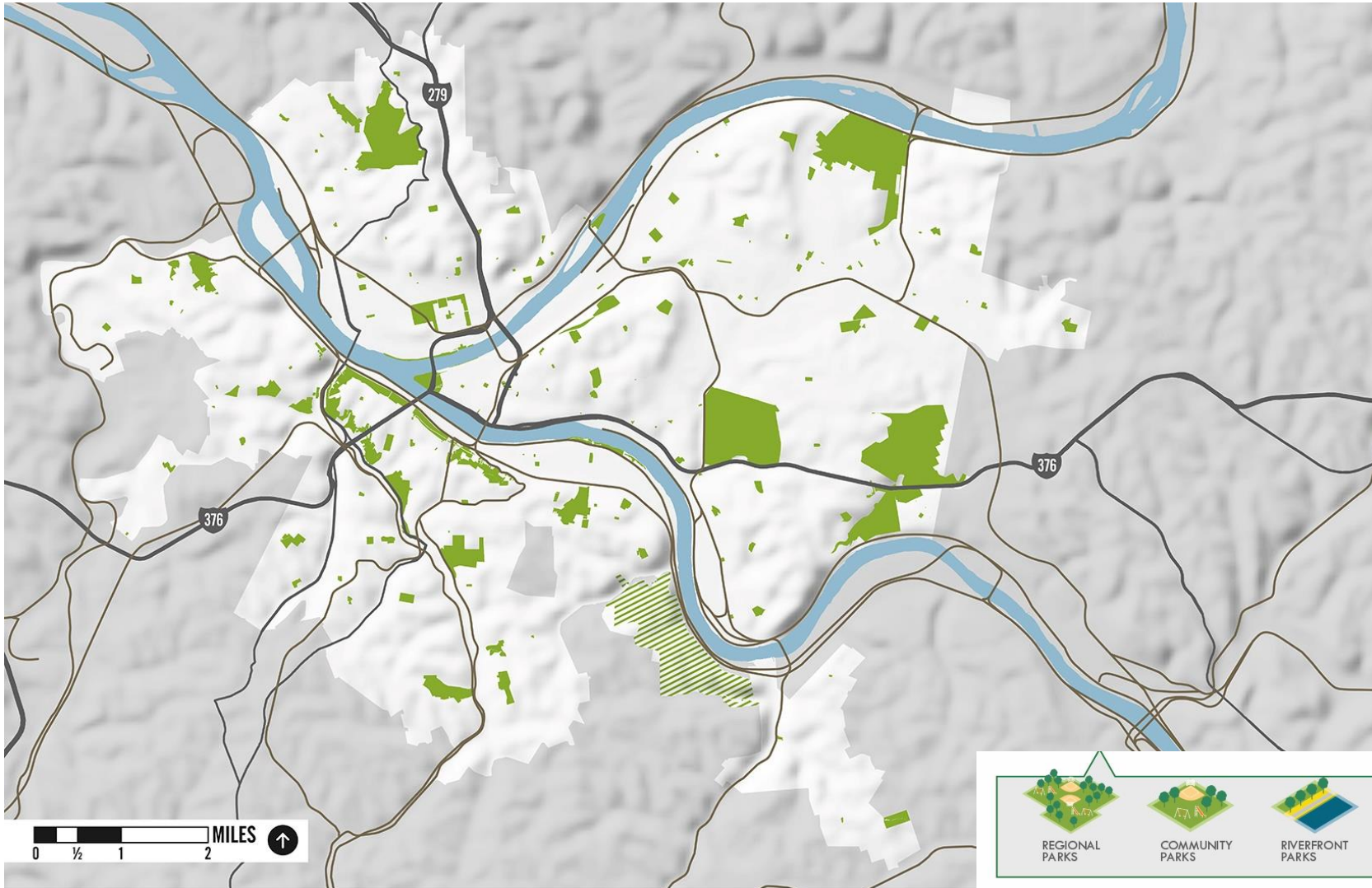


Benefits Cases for Parks & Park Systems



WHY ARTICULATE THE BENEFITS OF PITTSBURGH'S PARKS SYSTEM?

Pittsburgh is a city of parks and green space.



PGH PARK SYSTEM LEGEND

- Rail
- Hydrology
- Park / Open Space
- New Park

165
Parks & Rec
Sites



WHY ARTICULATE THE BENEFITS OF PITTSBURGH'S PARKS SYSTEM?

We compared the Pittsburgh parks system to that of similarly-sized cities in the region and cities with highly regarded parks systems.

Regional Peers

Baltimore, MD

Buffalo, NY

Cincinnati, OH

Cleveland, OH

Milwaukee, WI

Aspirational Peers

Arlington, VA

Boston, MA

Minneapolis, MN

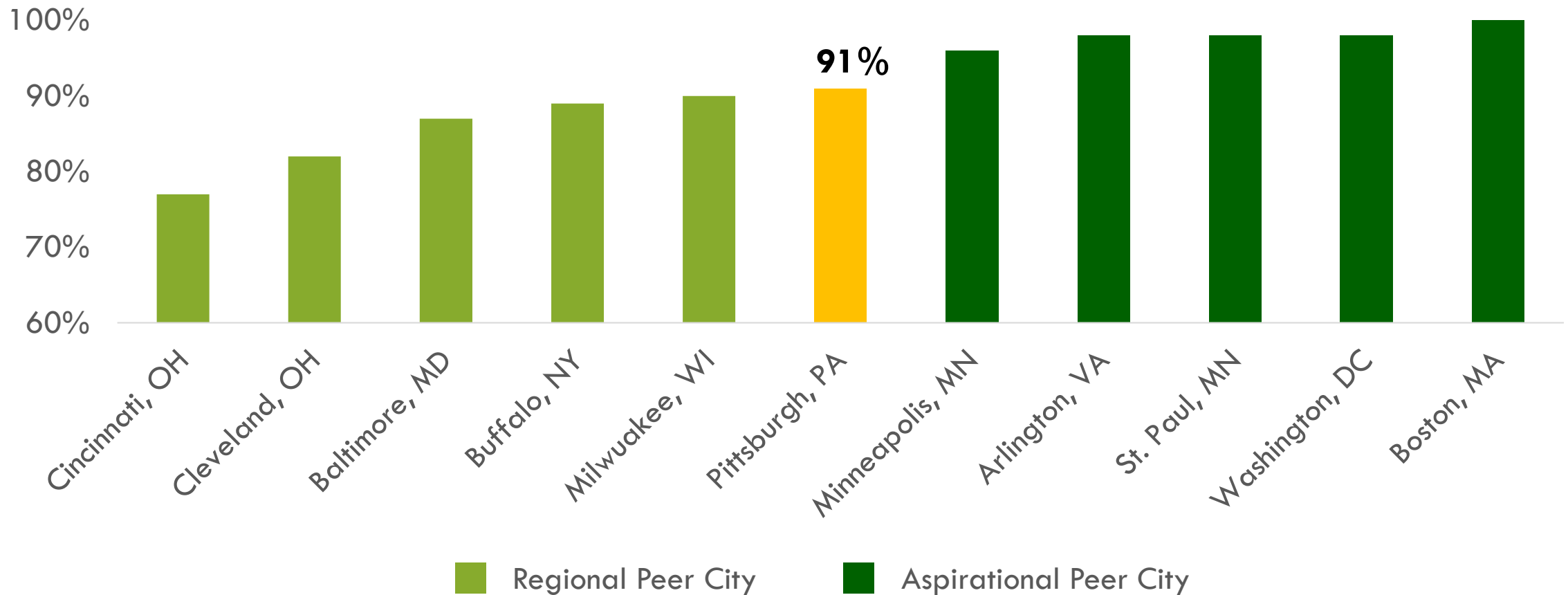
St. Paul, MN

Washington, DC

WHY ARTICULATE THE BENEFITS OF PITTSBURGH'S PARKS SYSTEM?

Pittsburghers have better access to open space than their regional peers. As in aspirational cities, 90+% of residents can walk to a park.

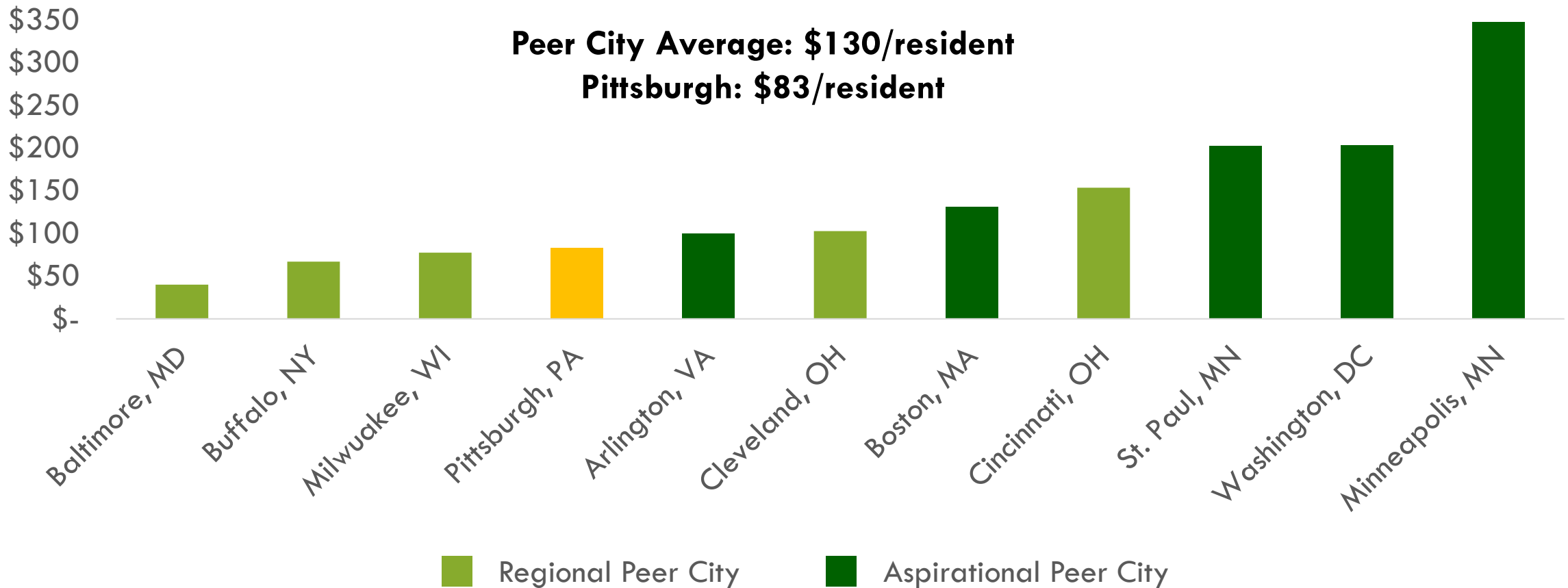
Percent of Residents within a Half-Mile Walk of a Park



WHY ARTICULATE THE BENEFITS OF PITTSBURGH'S PARKS SYSTEM?

Despite relatively good access to green space, Pittsburgh parks are underinvested in compared to both Regional and Aspirational Peers.

Park Spending (Operations & Capital) per Resident



WHY ARTICULATE THE BENEFITS OF PITTSBURGH'S PARKS SYSTEM?

With the City of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy is spearheading an ambitious effort to restore Pittsburgh's 165 parks.

PITTSBURGH PARKS

Pittsburgh's 3,683 acres of parks are maintained and operated by multiple entities, including CitiParks, DPW, and PPC.

PITTSBURGH PARKS CONSERVANCY

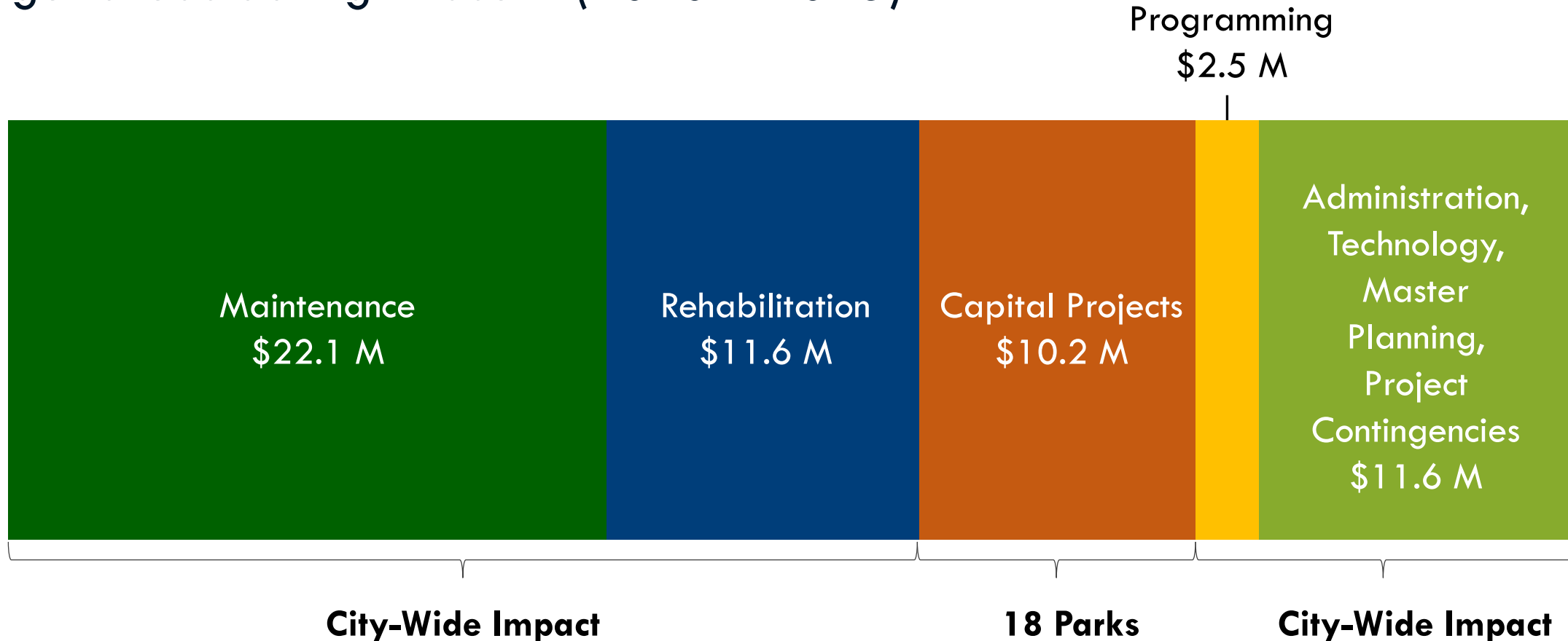
PPC is a non-profit committed to improving Pittsburghers' quality of life through parks. PPC has worked closely with the City of Pittsburgh since 1998 to restore Pittsburgh parks.

RESTORING PITTSBURGH PARKS (RPP)

The RPP initiative aims to increase funding across five budget areas – capital projects, rehabilitation, maintenance, programming, and administrative – to ensure quality parks in all neighborhoods.

WHY ARTICULATE THE BENEFITS OF PITTSBURGH'S PARKS SYSTEM?

The proposed referendum will allocate **\$57 million in new funds** across five budget areas during Phase 1 (2020 – 2025).



Over 80% of new referendum funds will be directed to improving **all parks in every neighborhood**.

WHY ARTICULATE THE BENEFITS OF PITTSBURGH'S PARKS SYSTEM?

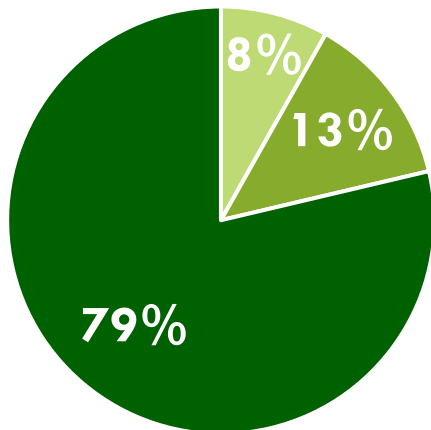
Increased funding for personnel, equipment, and park programming will **improve services across all Pittsburgh parks.**

65% of Pittsburghers believe maintenance is very important in their local park*

New Maintenance Funds \$22.1M**

+20% Increase Over Existing City Funds

■ Assessment ■ Equipment ■ New Personnel

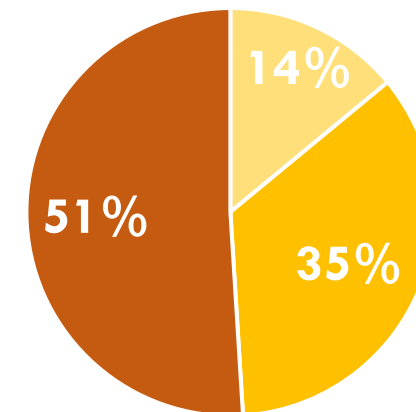


Over **1/2** of Pittsburghers want more parks programming for families and youth*

New Programming Funds \$2.5M**

+7% Increase Over Existing City Funds

■ Strategic Planning ■ New Personnel ■ Program Delivery



*Based on a citywide survey completed by 3,400 participants.

**In the first six years of funding.

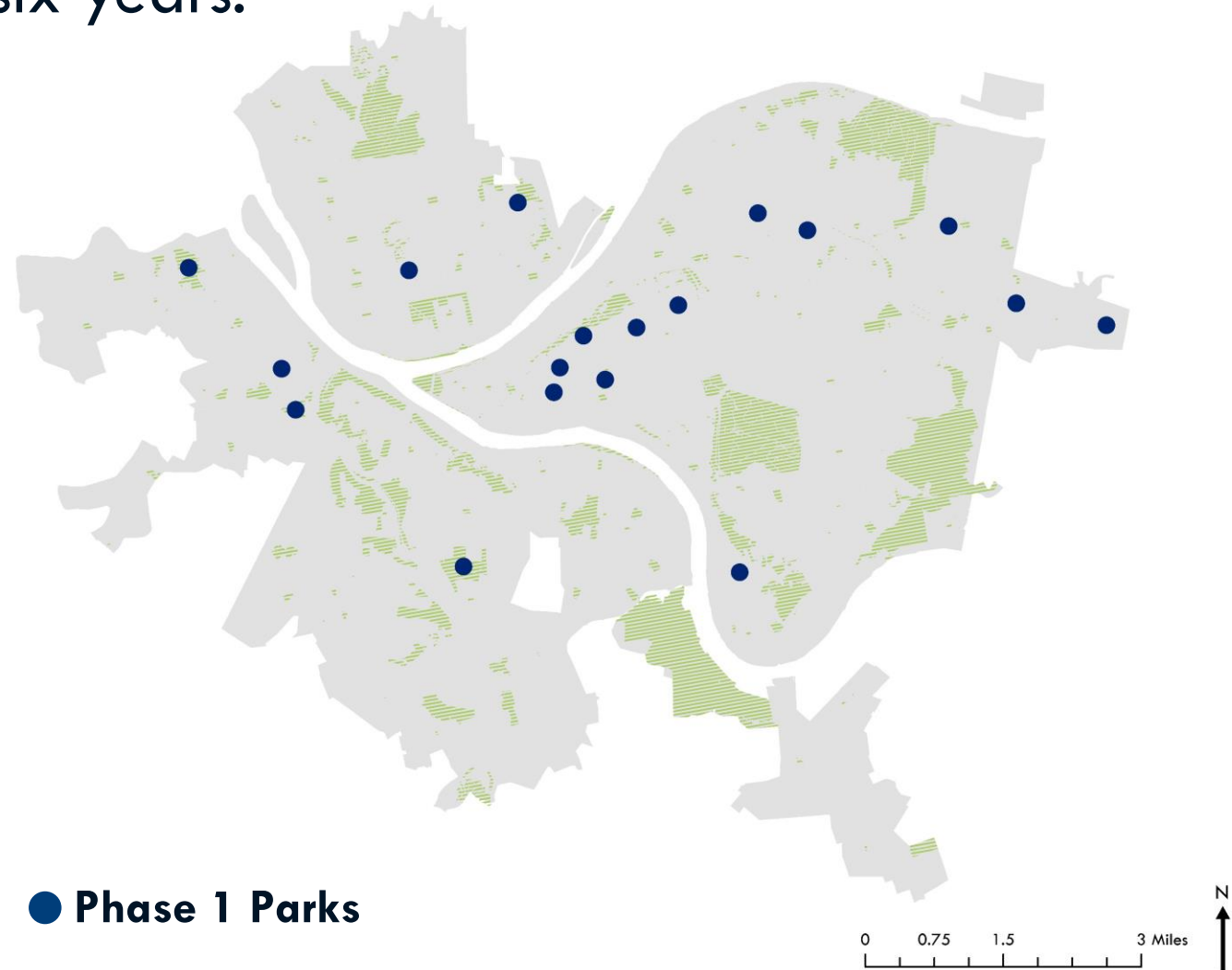
Source: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

WHY ARTICULATE THE BENEFITS OF PITTSBURGH'S PARKS SYSTEM?

Over \$10 million will target capital transformations in **18 neighborhood parks** across **15 neighborhoods** in the first six years.

Phase 1 Capital Allocation

1	Baxter Park	10	Albert Turk Graham Park
2	McKinley Park	11	West End Park
3	Spring Hill Park	12	Fort Pitt Park
4	Kennard Park	13	Robert E. Williams Park
5	Ammon Park	14	Vincennes Park
6	Paulson Rec Center	15	Granville Park
7	Kite Hill Park	16	Jefferson Park
8	East Hills Park	17	Sheraden Park
9	Lewis Park	18	Townsend Park



WHY ARTICULATE THE BENEFITS OF PITTSBURGH'S PARKS SYSTEM?

Restoring Pittsburgh Parks is **an opportunity to invest in neighborhoods that have historically been underserved.**

**Neighborhoods with Parks
Receiving Capital Investments
in First 6 Years**

City

**Families Living
Below Poverty
Line**

31%

15%

**Median
Household
Income**

\$30,236

\$44,092

**Non-White
Population**

70%

34%

The first 18 parks to receive major capital investment serve neighborhoods of greatest need.

** Park data based on census tracts*

Source: American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2013-2017), HR&A analysis

ANALYSES & AUDIENCES

In support of RPP, we conducted analyses that depict the range of impacts that parks have or could have on Pittsburghers.

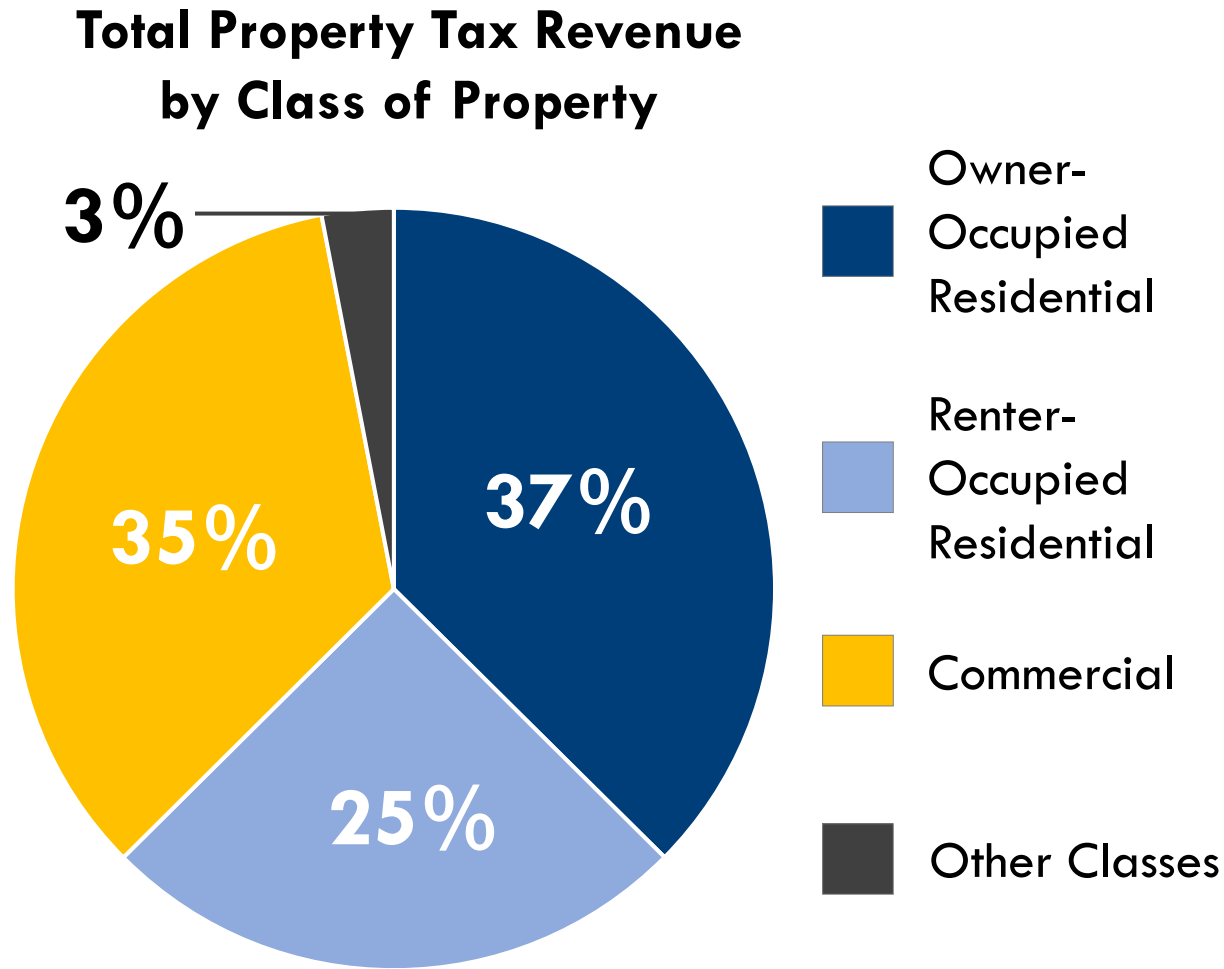
	Foundations	Policymakers	Renters	Homeowners
Why Articulate the Benefits of Pittsburgh's Parks System?	2-12	2-12	2-12	2-12
A Smart Investment	15-27	15-27	15-27	15-27
Increased Value for Homeowners	29-32	29-32		29-32
Economic and Cultural Diversity Preserved	34-43	34-43	34-43	34-43
Living Wage Jobs	45-53	45-53	45-53	45-53
Stronger N'hood and Commercial Centers	55-62	55-62		
Healthier Communities	64-69	64-69	64-69	64-69
An Environmentally Sustainable Future	71-73	71-73	71-73	71-73

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The **return on investment** in park system restoration will be high. The cost will be **equitably distributed**.

- Three-quarters of *homeowners* will pay less than \$66 per year. Three-quarters of *renters* will pay less than \$30 per year.
- Commercial property owners will pay at least a third of the total cost.
- Investment will increase home values without displacing residents or altering community character.
- High-quality park systems attract employers, accelerate the pace of commercial development, and generate new tax revenue.
- Well-maintained and programmed parks cost-effectively provide entertainment, wellness and childcare.
- Timely maintenance reduces future costs and ensures safety.
- Cities that are home to this country's greatest parks systems are also its healthiest cities.

RPP will be funded by a small increase in the property tax.



The property tax is based on “assessed value,” not market (or sale) value. In many cities, assessed value is less than market value, and the ratio of assessed to market value may vary by class of property.* For instance, in Pittsburgh the average** market value of a single-family home, condominium or cooperative unit is 2.1 X the average assessed value.

* The actual ratio of assessed value to sale value for any given property depends on age, size, location, physical condition, market preferences, and other factors.

** Throughout this document, averages were calculated by reference to the median.

A SMART INVESTMENT

RPP will be funded by a .50 increase in the millage rate.

A “mill” is 1/1,000 of \$1.

2019 millage rates are:

City	8.06 mill
County	4.73 mill
School District	9.84 mill
Carnegie Library	0.25 mill
Current Total	22.88 mill

RPP proposes to add	0.5 mill
New Total	23.38 mill*

An assessed value of \$100,000

$$\text{\$100,000} \times 0.5 / 1,000 = \text{\$50}^*$$

Total tax bill increases from \$2,288 to \$2,338.

Average assessed value of all owner-occupied residential property

$$\text{\$82,500} \times 0.5 / 1,000 = \text{\$41}^*$$

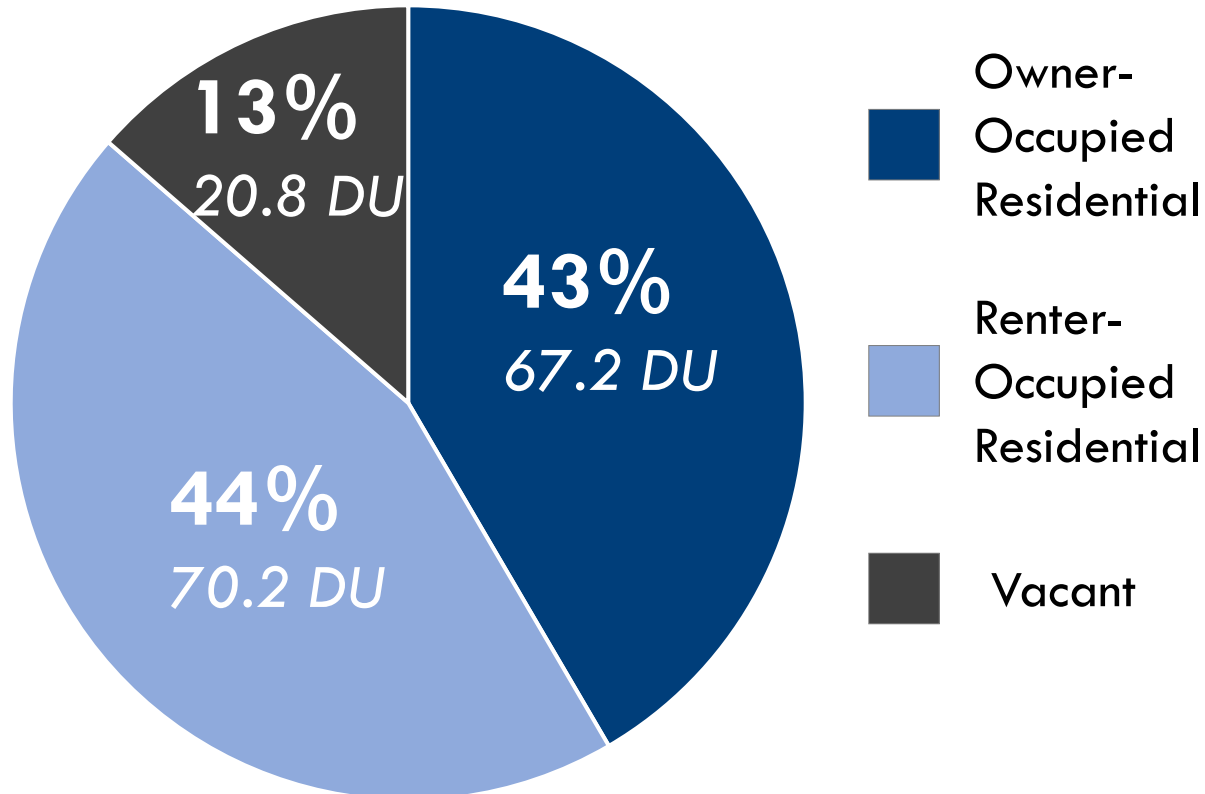
Total tax bill increases from \$1,888 to \$1,929.

* This calculation does not account for any exemptions, homestead deductions, or abatements that may apply to some properties.

A SMART INVESTMENT

As leases turn over and landlords adjust to the increased cost of RPP, renters may also pay a share of the cost.

Housing Units by Occupancy Type, 2017 (#dwelling units, 000)



\$925

Average Rent/Month in Pittsburgh
(2017)

\$17.50* / 12 mo. = \$1.46

Most renters' monthly cost would
increase by less than \$1.50.

* \$17.50 equals the annual cost of the 0.50 millage for a housing unit with the average assessed value of \$35,000.

A SMART INVESTMENT

As RPP reinvests in services traditionally provided by parks, it can cost-effectively supplement or substitute for current household costs.

\$10,000

Annual cost of full-day daycare for one child

\$480

Annual cost of a cable TV subscription

\$360

Annual fee of one adult fitness club membership

\$150

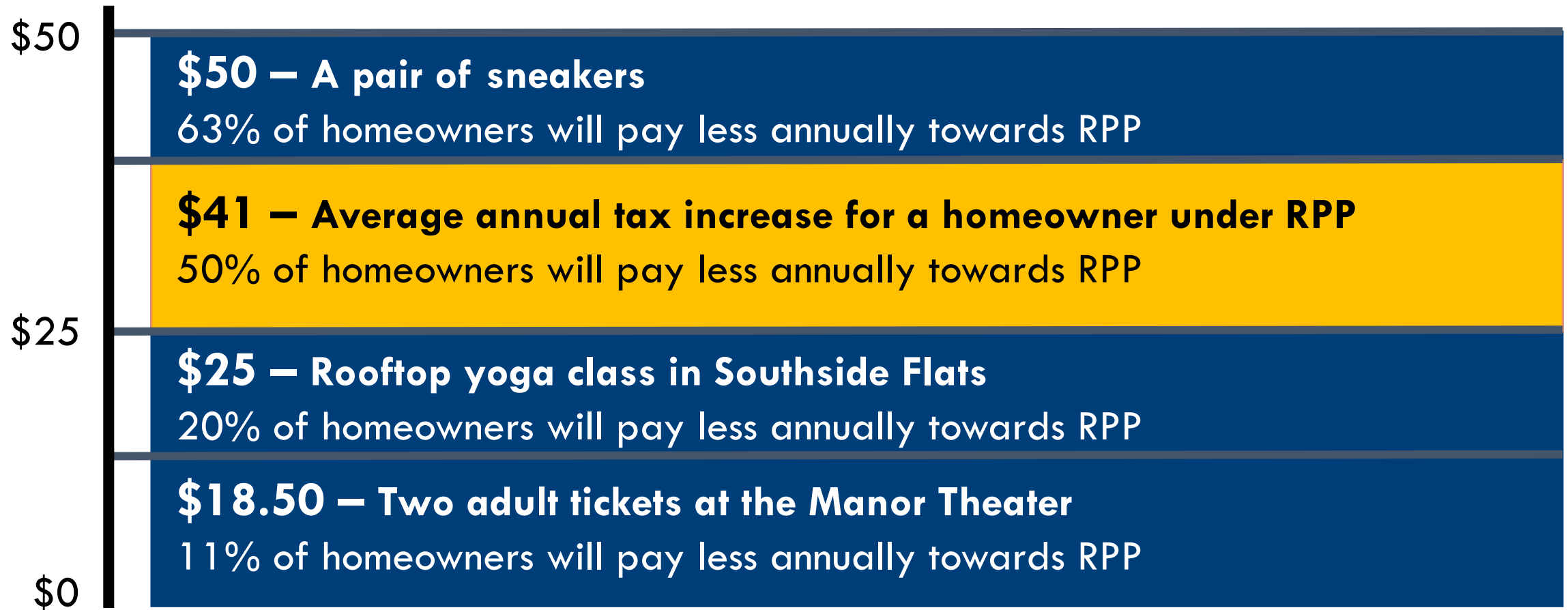
Annual Children's Museum family membership

\$41

Annual average tax increase for a homeowner for RPP

A SMART INVESTMENT

For most households,* the *annual* cost of RPP will be less than *one-time* costs of many common entertainment, wellness and childcare expenses.



* The chart compares the incremental annual cost of RPP to one-time expenditures of homeowners. The economics for renters will be more advantageous.

Source: WPRDC Property Assessments (2019), HR&A analysis

Continuing to defer park maintenance will increase costs for our children and other future Pittsburghers.

National experience suggests the proposed Phase 1 \$33.6M maintenance & rehabilitation expenditure **will become \$168M if deferred.**

Deferring maintenance can lead to:

- Liability from hazards (e.g. tripping)
- A rise in repair costs due to asset deterioration
- Increased capital replacement costs
- Greater labor costs from emergency labor and overtime
- A decline in public perception

A SMART INVESTMENT

Across the country, healthy parks and park systems are creating value and driving economic development.



Residential property values:
+25% in 7 years



Commercial owners:
invested \$150M after renovation



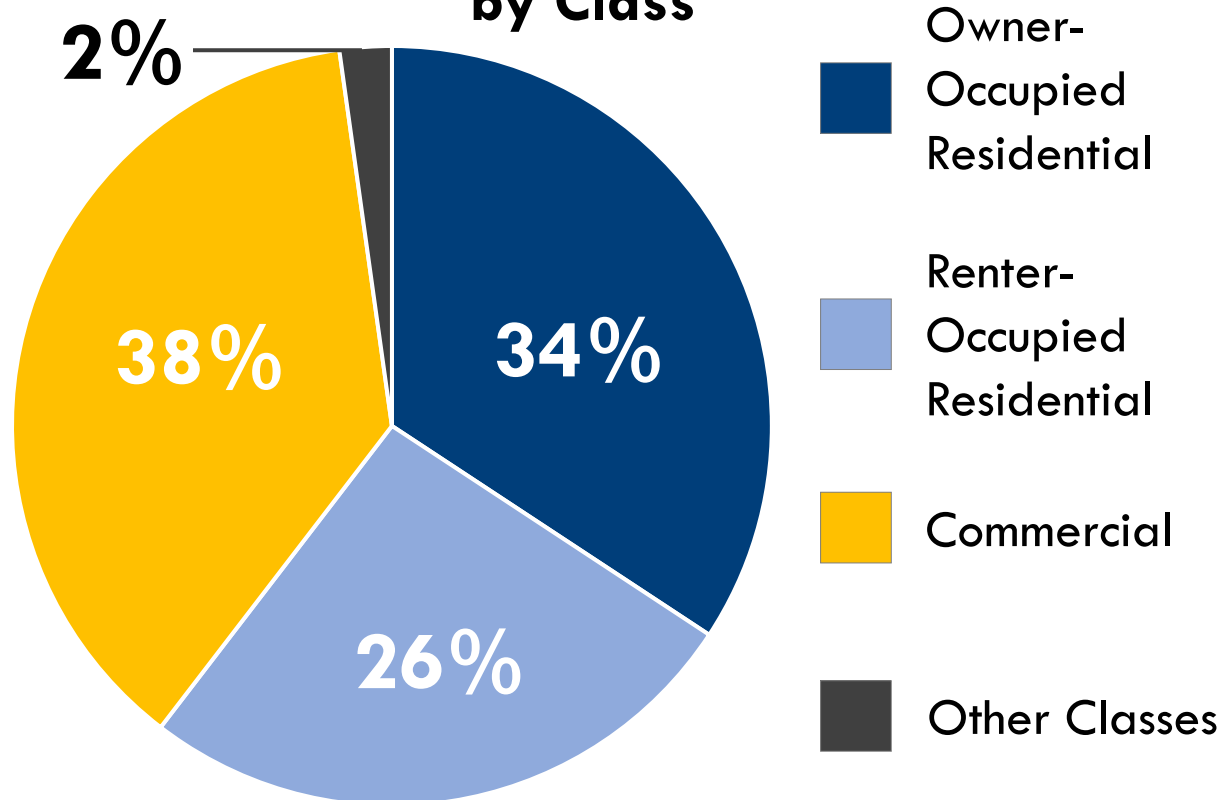
Major employers:
nationally, the #5 driver of site selection

A SMART INVESTMENT

74% of overall Pittsburgh property tax revenue comes from properties in park walksheds.

Sources of Tax Revenue in *Park Walksheds**

by Class



Uses of Tax Revenues in Park Walksheds

City	\$117M
County	\$63M
School District	\$138M

* Compare this chart to the chart on page 17: note that park walksheds, perhaps as a consequence of **being** park walksheds, are somewhat more commercial and less residential than the city as a whole.

Source: WPRDC Property Assessments (2019), HR&A analysis

A SMART INVESTMENT

In residential neighborhoods, investment and reinvestment in parks increases home values by 5-25%, depending on location and analytic methodology.



~5% premium, condo resale prices compared to the city over 8 years



~12% premium, home value compared to nearby over 2 years



~25% premium, home prices compared to the city over 3 years

In established neighborhoods protected by zoning, neighborhood plans, and/or effective community advocates, the Park Premium is mostly due to increases in value of existing properties, *not* new development.

A SMART INVESTMENT

Investment in parks in commercial corridors and downtowns supports new jobs, increases the pace of development, and boosts tax revenues.



8X
pace of other
development



\$500M
net new development

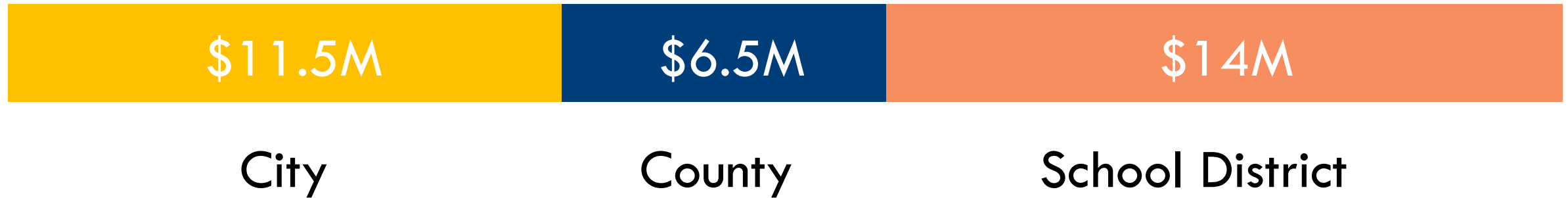


6,000 new jobs
(12% growth vs 10%
citywide)

In commercial areas, increments in value are mostly a function of new development.
Therefore, Park Premiums are larger than in residential neighborhoods.

A SMART INVESTMENT

Conservatively, implementation of RPP may yield a 10% increase in property values within park walksheds, mostly from commercial property appreciation.



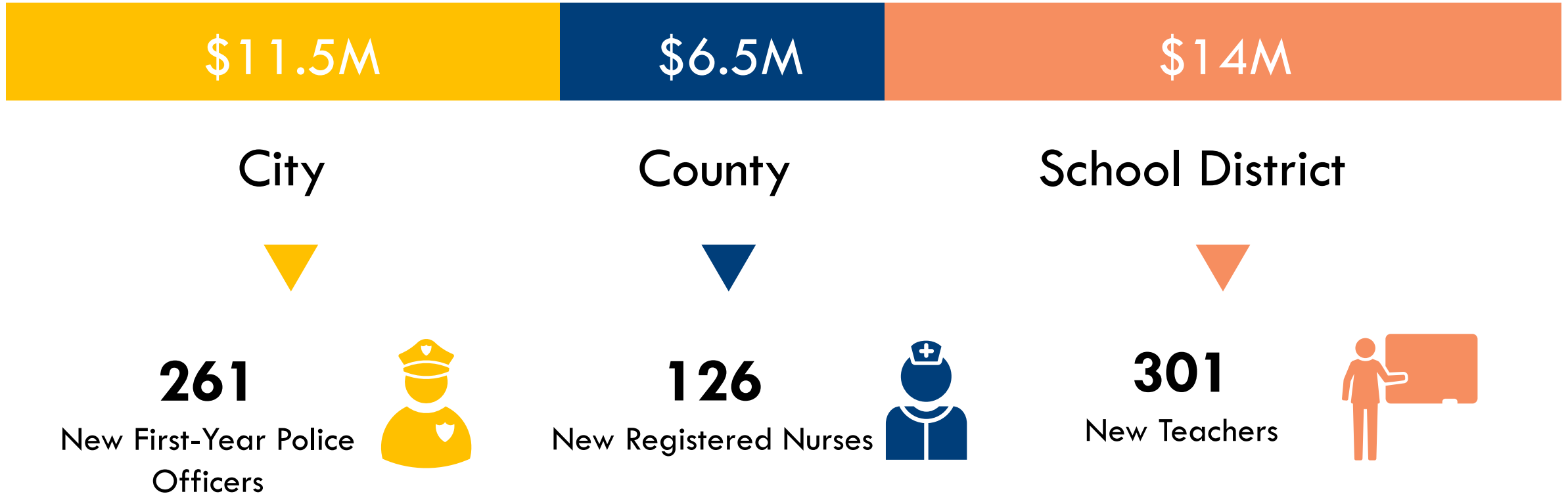
- From 2016 to 2019, as Pittsburgh has continued to reinvest in itself, growth in commercial value has been 3X+ residential value growth.
- RPP will strengthen both residential and commercial areas, but fiscal impact is likely to be greatest in commercial areas.
- Led by job-creating commercial development, \$32 million in new tax revenues are plausible.

* Assumes a 10-year time horizon.

Source: WPRDC Property Assessments (2019), HR&A analysis

A SMART INVESTMENT

\$32M in new public revenues could provide a variety of benefits.



* Assumes a 10-year time horizon.

Source: WPRDC Property Assessments (2019), Pittsburgh Gov't Payroll, HR&A analysis

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INCREASED VALUE FOR HOMEOWNERS

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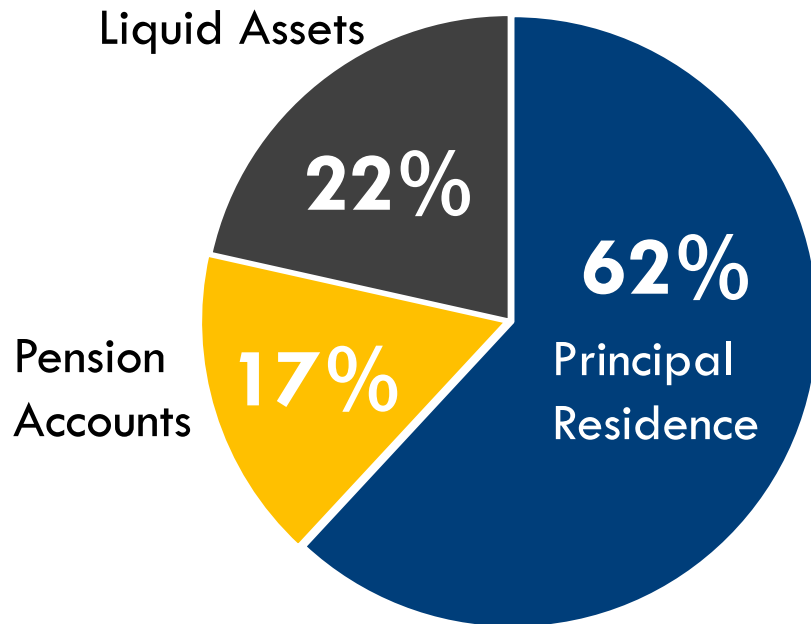
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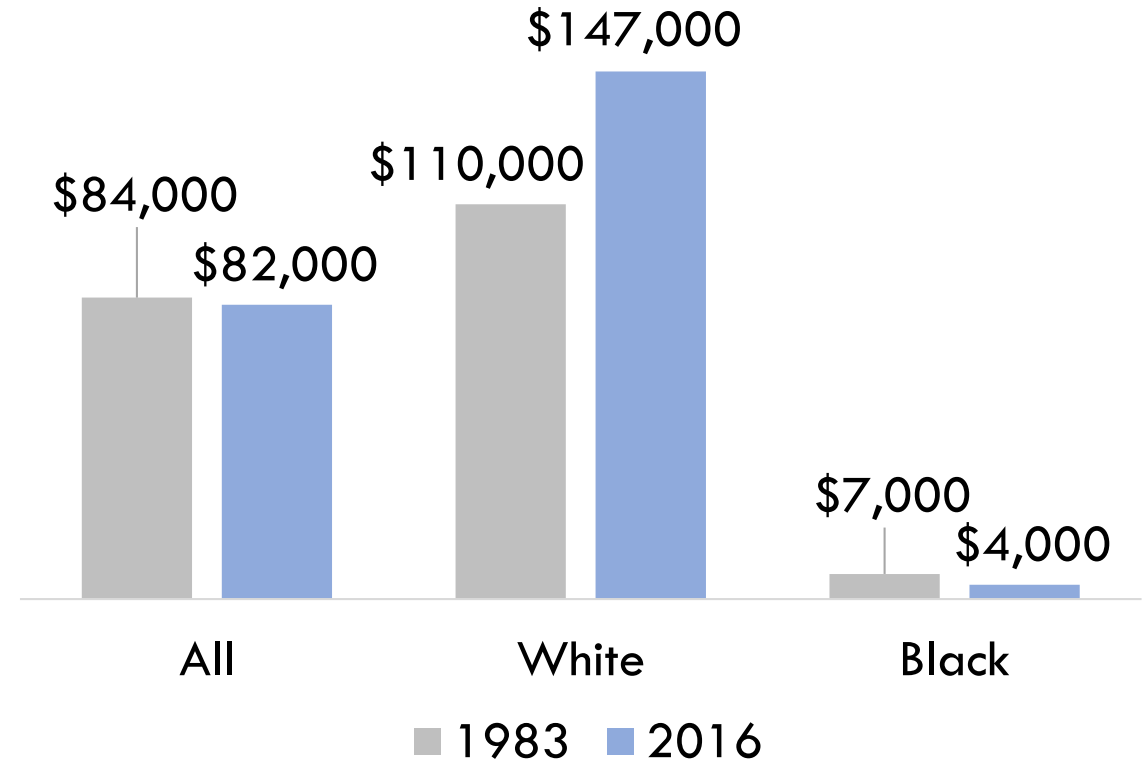
INCREASED VALUE FOR HOMEOWNERS

Home value is the main source of wealth for most middle-class households. Stabilizing home value is a highly effective way to combat inequality.

Composition of National Middle-Class Wealth in terms of % of Gross Assets



National Average Wealth By Race



INCREASED VALUE FOR HOMEOWNERS

As in the rest of the country, reinvestment in Pittsburgh parks increases property owners' home values and long-term wealth-building.

50%

2009 – 2019 value growth in residential properties within 3 blocks of August Wilson Park



37%

2009 – 2019 value growth in residential properties within the entire August Wilson Park walkshed



INCREASED VALUE FOR HOMEOWNERS

After RPP, we should expect a market response in other Pittsburgh neighborhoods similar to that seen in the Hill District.

\$185,000

Average market value in West End walkshed for single family, condominium and cooperative units

13%

Potential premium above baseline growth, following investment in West End Park

\$209,000

Potential average market value supported by investments in West End Park



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ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY PRESERVED

Increasingly, cities are creating equitable investment strategies to provide quality amenities and neighborhood parks that benefit all.



Minneapolis, MN

Equity-based criteria
inform investments



Miami-Dade, FL

Master Plan identifies
underserved
communities



Los Angeles, CA

Needs assessment
highlights funding
inequities



Washington, D.C.

11th Street Bridge Park
planning engages
vulnerable communities

ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY PRESERVED

An equitable park strategy focuses on addressing equity in all phases of park planning, funding, and implementation.

Planning

Park Equity Assessments

Premise: Equal access to parks and outdoor space

Broad Engagement

Tool: Continuous engagement with community partners

Funding

Equitable Investment

Goal: Address historic disinvestment by seeking equitable investment outcomes

Implementation

Equitable Outcomes

Implementation: Ensure park-catalyzed development benefits existing community

ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY PRESERVED

The successful restoration of August Wilson Park is an example of an equitable park planning and implementation process in Pittsburgh.



2009



2019

ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY PRESERVED

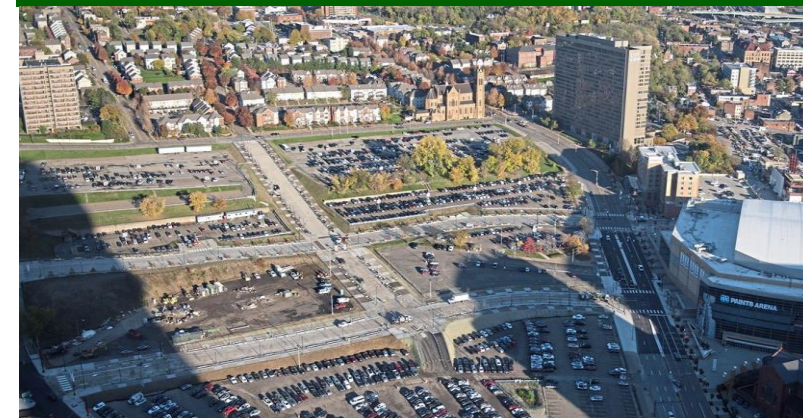
The park is located on the edge of the Lower Hill, the site of both urban renewal activity and more recent, community-focused thinking about revitalization.



Pre-1960s, Historic Hill District



1961, Civic Arena Constructed



2000- Redevelopment

ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY PRESERVED

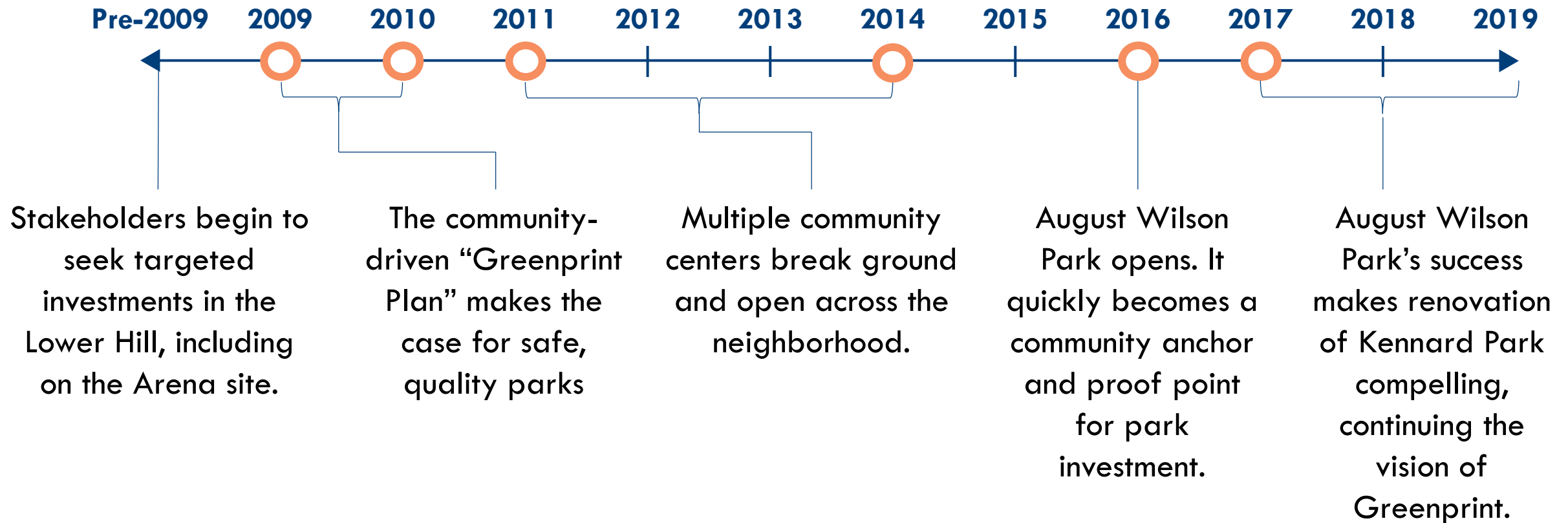
As the Arena site planning progressed, local institutions made complementary investments in social and community assets.

1. Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (2008)
2. **Greenprint Plan (2010)**
3. Kauffman Center (2011)
4. Thelma Lovette YMCA (2012)
5. Jeron X. Grayson Community Center (2014)
6. Energy Innovation Center (2014)
7. **August Wilson Park (2016)**



ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY PRESERVED

Throughout this period, the community stressed the importance of public open spaces to neighborhood stabilization and prosperity.



ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY PRESERVED

August Wilson has become an important hub and anchor location for local organizations that:

Keep children, youth, and seniors active and engaged.



Ozanam Basketball Clinic

Provide opportunities for community members to learn and create.



Art in the Park for Seniors

Bring the community together.



Hill District Block Party

ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY PRESERVED

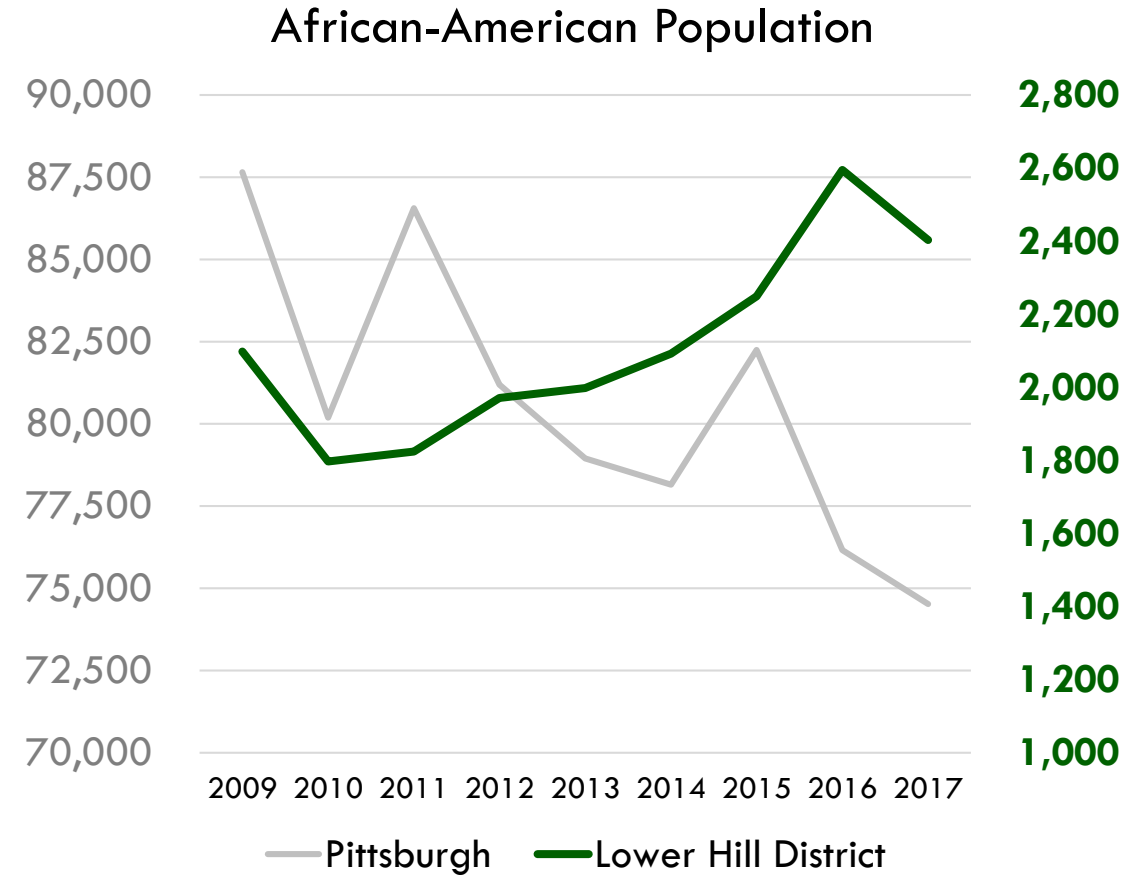
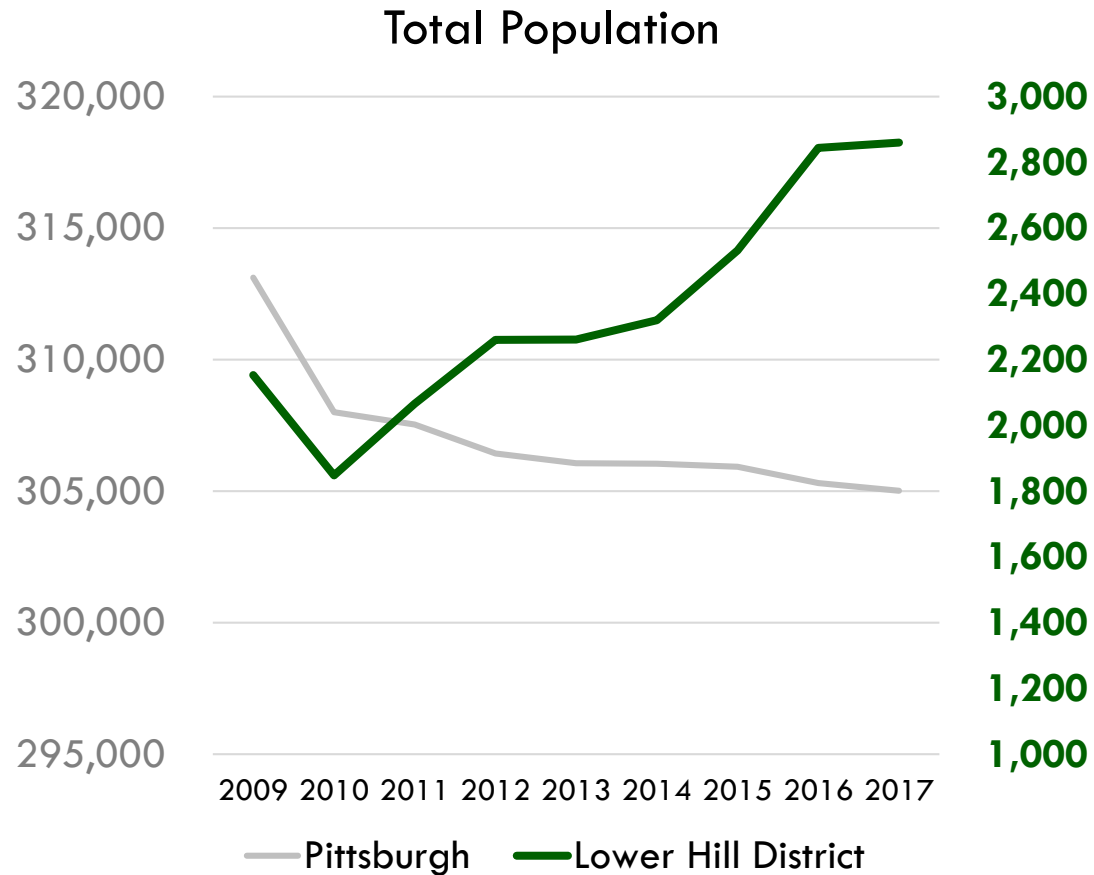
A high-quality park provides opportunities for community members to give and receive. Since it opened 3 years ago, August Wilson has become a home for:

- Afterschool programs attracting more than **20 children**/session, providing safe, organized activities in the park.
- More than **50 volunteers** from the neighborhood who run community events in the park.
- Other events attended by **hundreds of families**, coming together for 4 seasons of recreation.

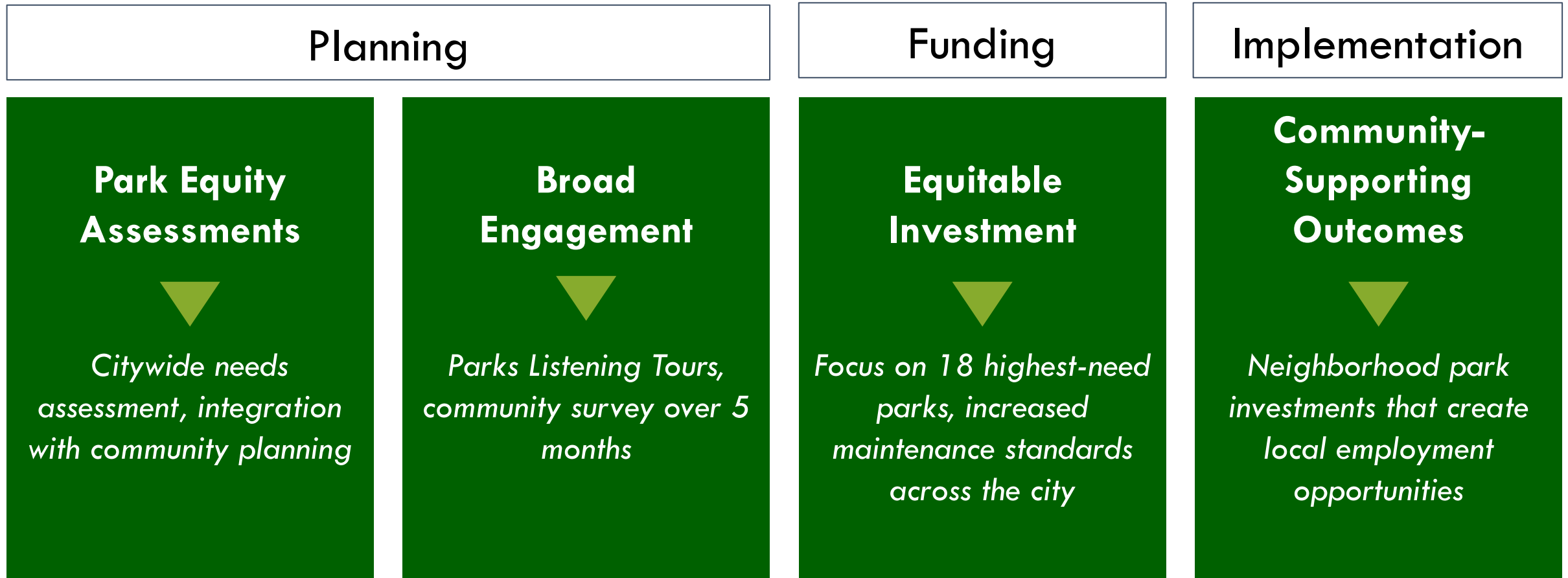


ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY PRESERVED

Neighborhood stabilization, led by smaller projects including implementation of the Greenprint Plan, is well underway.



The RPP initiative aims to benefit all communities, following on the example of August Wilson Park.



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Working for Pittsburgh parks provides Pittsburghers with quality public sector jobs and benefits.



The people who keep Pittsburgh's parks clean and safe receive high quality benefits, including:

- Health coverage
- Life and disability insurance
- Retirement plan
- Tuition reimbursements*
- Transportation benefits

* *Tuition reimbursements apply to City employees only. City employees also receive municipal pension plan.*

Source: City of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.

LIVING WAGE JOBS

Working for Pittsburgh parks is an opportunity for career growth and to learn new skills.

“Working as a lifeguard has honed my public speaking and conflict resolution skills. I’ve learned to manage people. My confidence has grown a lot in my seven years here.”

Veronica, 24, Head Lifeguard

“With my promotion, I’ve absolutely learned new skills, including managerial and leadership skills. I am responsible for coordinating across multiple sites and teams in the city.”

Sara, Site Monitor, CitiParks Food Program

Example DPW Career Trajectory

Laborer

Mowing lawns, doing weed work, etc.

Salary

\$42k

Foreman

Overseeing laborers

\$47k

Operations Manager

Handling park team logistics

\$72k

Assistant Director

Overseeing all operations

\$99k

LIVING WAGE JOBS

The people behind Pittsburgh parks are proud of the work they do for their communities.



“When we work with young men and women, we realize that our center is like a home. It takes a community to raise a child, and watching these children grow into adults is really rewarding.”

Hakeim, 46, Phillips Community Center Director

“Our program is essential for the children of Pittsburgh. Sometimes the meals we provide these kids is the only one they’ll get in the day. I’m proud to have worked here for 33 years and to be a part of this impactful work.”

Flo, 87, Administrative Assistant, CitiParks Food Program

LIVING WAGE JOBS

Taking care of Pittsburgh parks is enjoyable and meaningful work.

“Everyday is enjoyable because we’re spending it outside in these beautiful parks.”

Keith, 47, Foreman

“I get to see a lot of firsts. People learn to drive in the park. Kids learn to ride bikes here. I get to see wedding, graduation, and prom photos. I see people from all over the community coming together.”

John, 50, Laborer



LIVING WAGE JOBS

Park improvement projects provide opportunities to partner with organizations to meet local workforce development goals.

The redevelopment of **McKinley Park**, underway since 2016, sought partnerships with **community organizations** and bids from **neighborhood contractors** to support **local employment**.*



GO SUPREME ➔



* 10% of total McKinley Park contracts were awarded to GoSupreme and Landforce, local organizations with workforce development missions.

LIVING WAGE JOBS

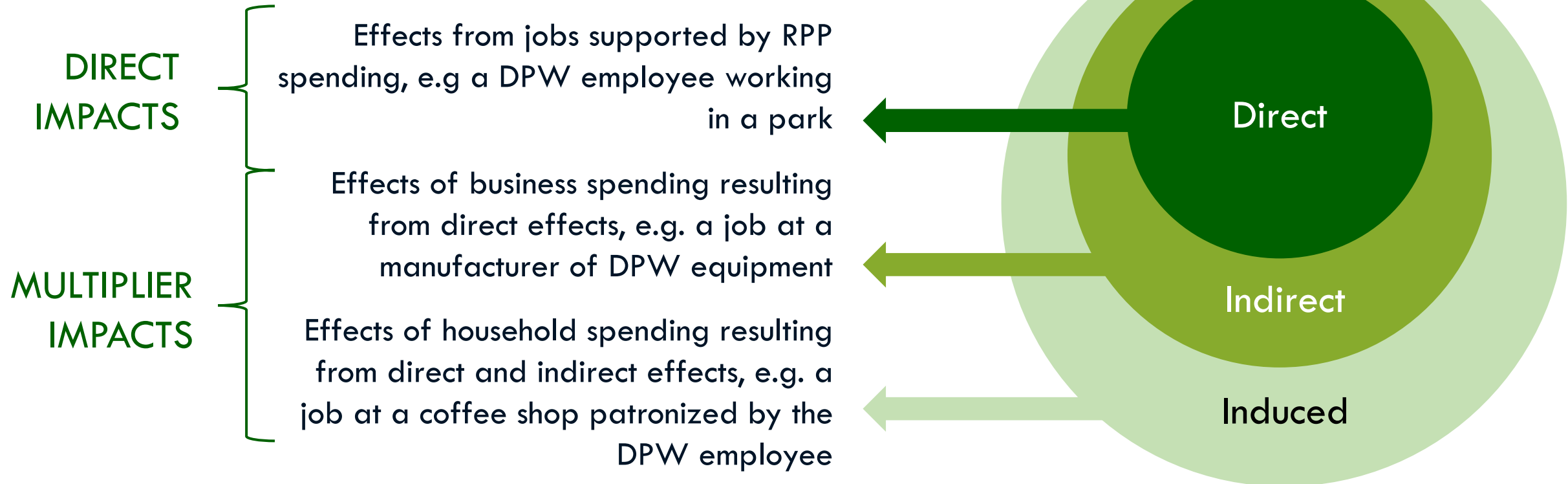
Collaborations between workforce development organizations like Landforce and Pittsburgh parks create economic opportunities and foster career growth.



- Deron had thousands of dollars in fines tied to a suspended driver's license.
- While a Landforce crew member, Deron worked in **three of Pittsburgh's parks** and saved diligently.
- Landforce helped Deron stay on track with his payment plan, **identify potential career pathways**, and secure a spot in a plumber's **apprentice training program** with a clean driver's license.
- Deron has been employed ever since, **supporting his family and setting new goals for himself**.

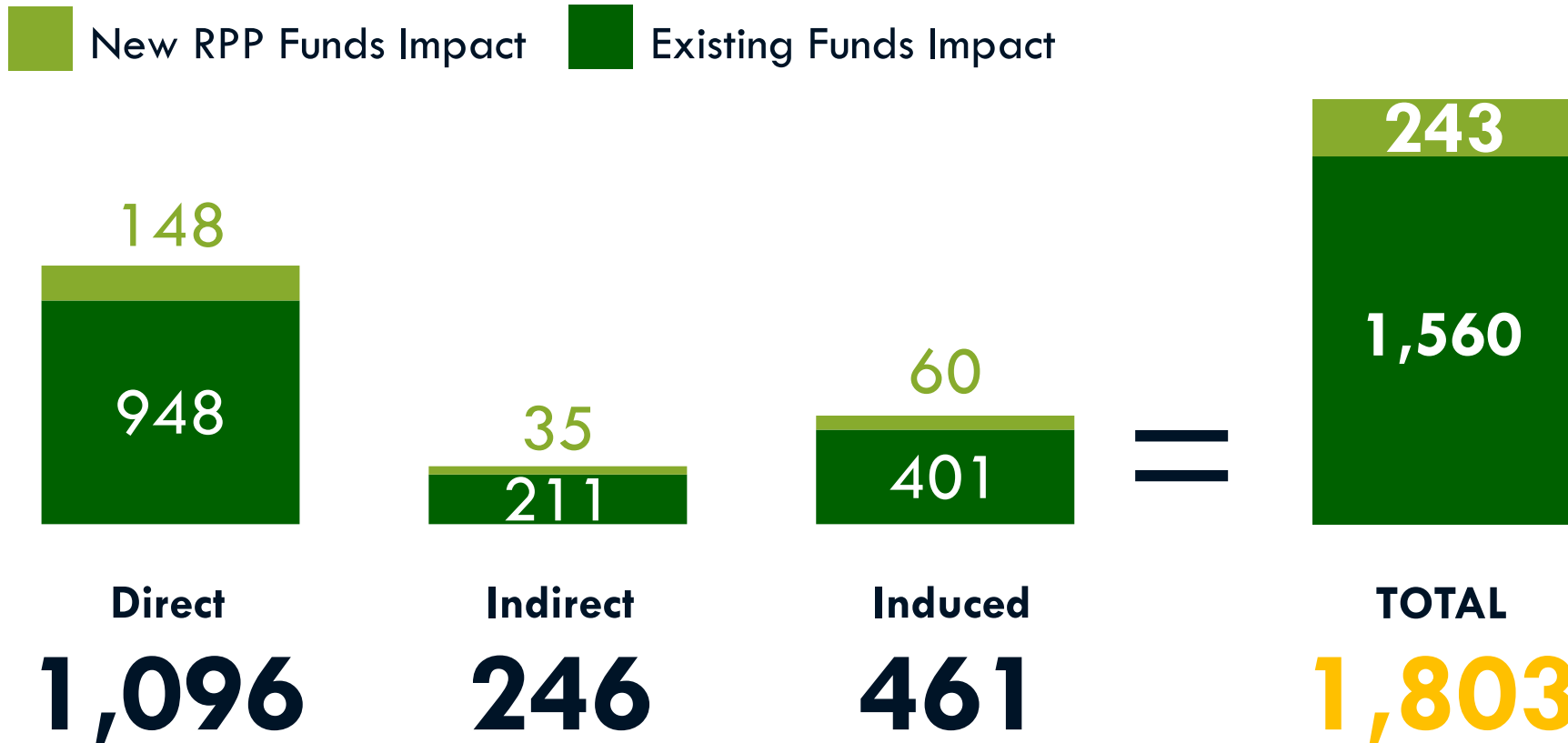
Economic impact analysis estimates the multiplier effects of direct impacts in the economy.

HR&A's analysis considers **the one-time and ongoing impacts of RPP's proposed budget spending**, in terms of **additional spending and jobs supported across Allegheny County**.



LIVING WAGE JOBS

RPP's capital investment may create **243 new construction-related jobs, a 16% increase** over the impact of existing funds.



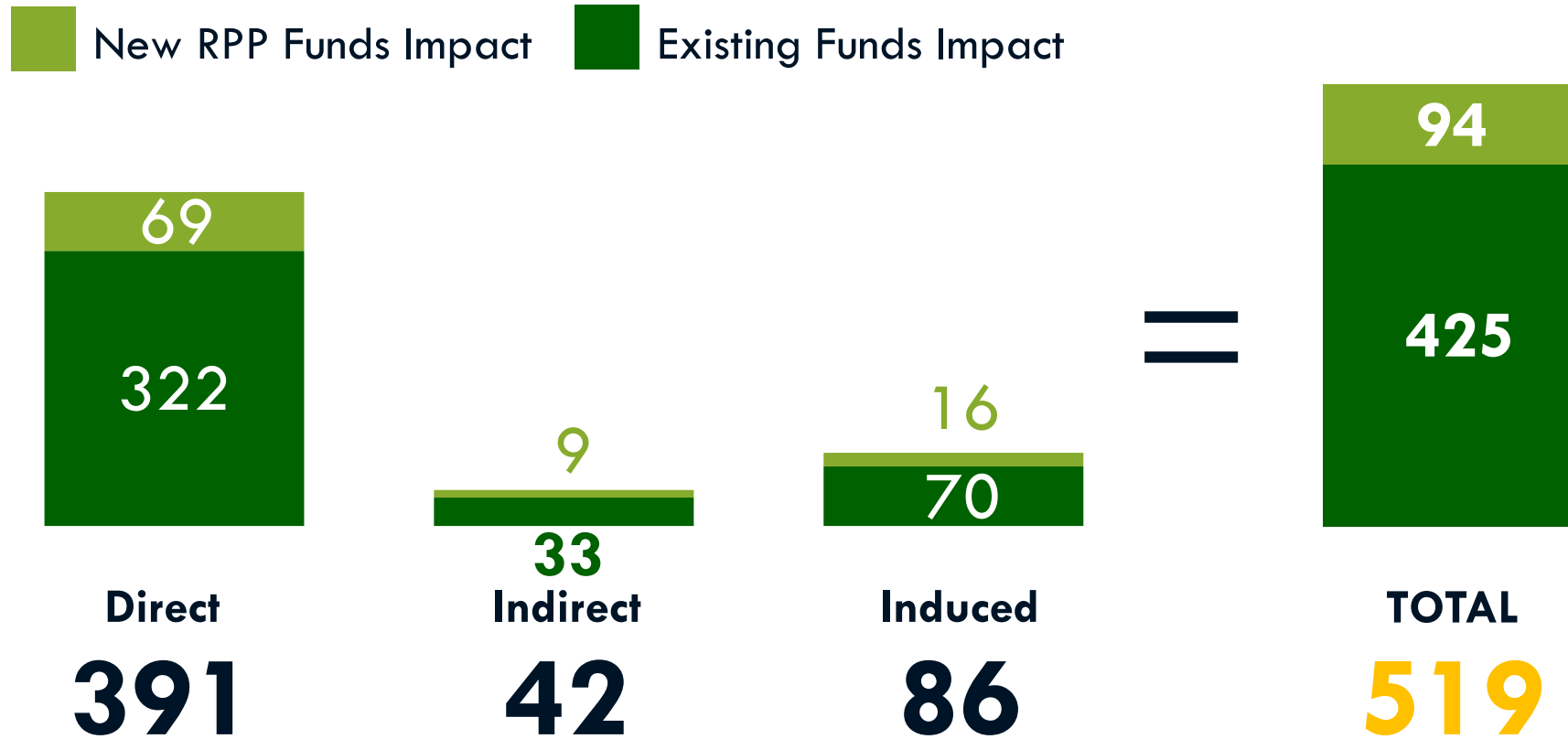
With a matching commitment from foundations, the impact could be more than doubled, supporting a total of 559 new jobs.

* Although the calculated impacts are across Allegheny County, most of the direct and induced impacts are expected to be within the City of Pittsburgh, due to residency requirements.

Source: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, IMPLAN, HR&A analysis

LIVING WAGE JOBS

The referendum will also support additional maintenance and programming, creating **94 new permanent jobs in the local economy.**



With a matching commitment from foundations, the number of new permanent jobs supported could increase to 176.

* Although the calculated impacts are across Allegheny County, most of the direct and induced impacts are expected to be within the City of Pittsburgh, due to residency requirements.

Source: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, IMPLAN, HR&A analysis

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STRONGER NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMERCIAL CENTERS

Investment in parks in commercial corridors and downtowns supports new jobs, increases the pace of development, and boosts tax revenues.



8X
pace of other
development



\$500M
net new development



6,000 new jobs
(12% growth vs 10%
citywide)

In commercial areas, increments in value are mostly a function of new development.
Therefore, Park Premiums are larger than in residential neighborhoods.

STRONGER NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMERCIAL CENTERS

Major improvement efforts in Mellon Square and Highland Park strengthened the local commercial centers adjacent to these parks.

Highland Park

In 2005, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and the Highland Park community restored this grand park entry garden.



Mellon Square

Mellon Square reopened in 2014 after a six-year restoration, bringing urban revitalization through historic preservation.



STRONGER NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMERCIAL CENTERS

Both on neighborhood “Main Streets” and in the heart of downtown, investment in parks spurs investment in commercial activity.

Highland Park

80%

2009 – 2019 value growth in commercial properties within 4 blocks of Highland Park entrance (half of the entire walkshed)

49%

2009 – 2019 value growth in commercial properties within the entire Highland Park walkshed

31%

Premium above baseline growth

Mellon Square

87%

2009 – 2019 value growth in commercial properties within 1 block of Mellon Square

34%

2009 – 2019 value growth in commercial properties within the entire Mellon Square walkshed

53%

Premium above baseline growth

* Commercial properties include mixed-use and multifamily buildings (with 5 and more dwelling units), which are a part of the commercial real estate stock with institutional investors, as opposed to the smaller owner-occupied and -rented stock.

Source: WPRDC Property Assessments (2009, 2019), HR&A analysis

STRONGER NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMERCIAL CENTERS

Allegheny Commons is well-positioned for development to support a more vibrant and active neighborhood.

The recently restored Northeast Fountain anchors a prominent corner of Allegheny Commons, in the Allegheny West Historic District.

Together with pathways, signage, benches and other amenities, the fountain is the first step towards the transformation of the park.



STRONGER NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMERCIAL CENTERS

After RPP, growth in commercial property values similar to that seen in Downtown or on Bryant Street could be seen around Allegheny Commons.

\$275M

Current total assessed value of commercial properties within 3 blocks of Allegheny Commons

31% - 53%

Range of potential premiums above 10-year baseline growth, following investment in Allegheny Commons

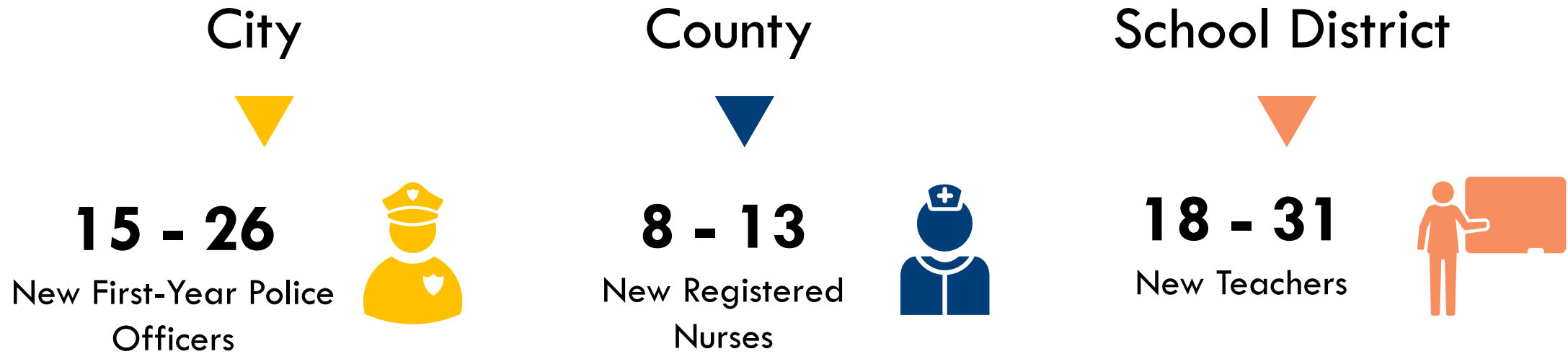
\$85M - \$146M

Potential total range of Park Premium over 10 years, within 3 blocks of Allegheny Commons



STRONGER NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMERCIAL CENTERS

The increased property tax revenues from commercial properties around Allegheny Commons could cover the yearly cost of the following amenities:*



* Assumes 2019 millage rates and a 10-year time horizon.

Source: WPRDC Property Assessments (2009, 2019), HR&A analysis

STRONGER NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMERCIAL CENTERS

The commercial Park Premium often comes from new development; there is **±2M SF of as-of-right* development potential** within 3 blocks of Allegheny Commons.

1.5X – 8X

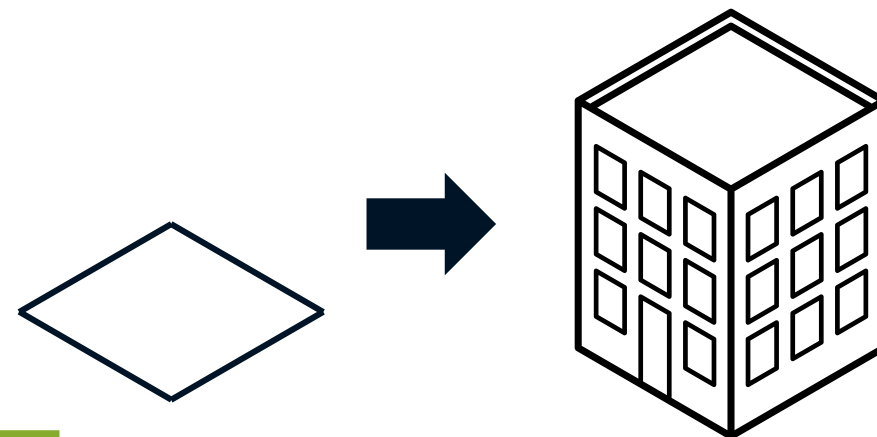
Potential increase in the pace of development due to park investment

700K SF

Potentially developable land within 3 blocks of Allegheny Commons (existing vacant land and parking lots)

±2M SF

Potential new development given existing zoning, factoring in historical preservation requirements



* The new development potential is calculated based on existing zoning (as-of-right), which accounts for historic preservation requirements. To be conservative, 75% of the full development potential is assumed to be viable for build-out in the 10-year time frame assumed.

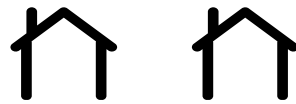
Source: WPRDC Property Assessments (2019), Pittsburgh Zoning Data, HR&A analysis

STRONGER NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMERCIAL CENTERS

The buildout of the $\pm 2M$ SF could lead to the construction of **a combination of new housing and offices**, creating a more vibrant neighborhood.

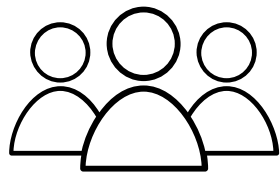
950 – 1,270

New Housing Units



3,400 – 4,600

New Office Workers



* Assumes a 10-year time horizon.

Source: WPRDC Property Assessments (2019), Pittsburgh Zoning Data, HR&A analysis

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3. Increased Value for Homeowners
4. Economic and Cultural Diversity Preserved
5. Living Wage Jobs
6. Stronger Neighborhood and Commercial Centers
- 7. Healthier Communities**
8. An Environmentally Sustainable Future
9. Appendix

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Pittsburghers experience health risks typical of the country, but at higher rates than in Aspirational Peer cities.

- 1** in **10** Pittsburghers suffer from asthma compared to... **8%** of St. Paul residents
- 1** in **10** Pittsburghers have diabetes compared to... **6%** of Minneapolis residents
- Nearly **1** in **3** Pittsburghers are obese compared to... **22%** of Bostonians

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

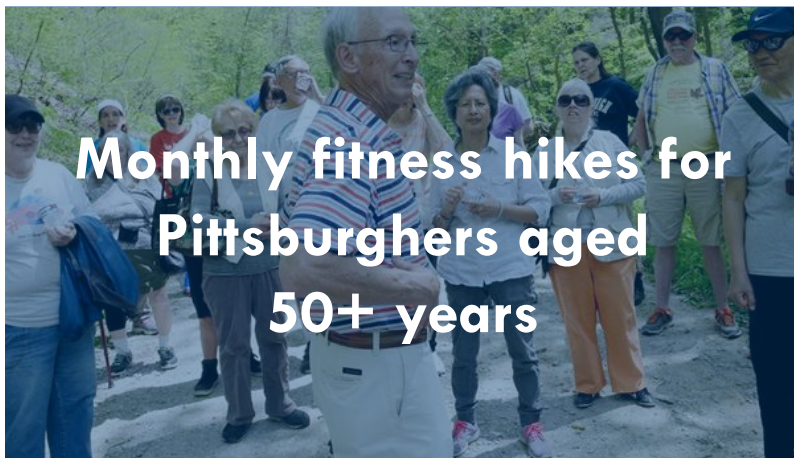
Cities that invest more in their parks and recreation facilities are healthier and more active.

		Aspirational Peers					Regional Peers					
		Pittsburgh	Arlington	Minneapolis	Washington	St. Paul	Boston	Milwaukee	Buffalo	Baltimore	Cincinnati	Cleveland
Healthy Outcomes	Fitness Index Ranking	16	1	3	6	7	19	25	41	52	57	65
	Percent of Population in Excellent or Very Good Health	56%	71%	57%	66%	53%	54%	49%	51%	47%	49%	45%
Park Quality and Investment	TPL Park Score Ranking	22	4	3	1	2	13	24	47	66	8	35
	Park Spending per Resident	\$83	\$100	\$347	\$203	\$202	\$130	\$77	\$67	\$40	\$153	\$103

Source: Trust for Public Land, 2019; ACSM, American Fitness Index, 2019.

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

Pittsburgh's investments in programming and facilities already support residents of all ages to stay active and healthy.



The Parks Rx program “prescribes” outdoor activity in the city’s parks, one of many programs that promotes healthy living using park resources.



PPC, The Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh, and community partners promote and prescribe outdoor time in the city’s parks for improved health and wellness.



Since launching in 2015:

- **2,900+** families and children received Parks Rx materials
- **600+** park prescriptions given by physicians
- **24** group programs enabled **2,300+** hours of outdoor activity

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

The referendum will raise over \$19 million* in funding for programming, facility improvements and new personnel, supporting more fitness opportunities.

Examples of investment in health programs and facilities include:

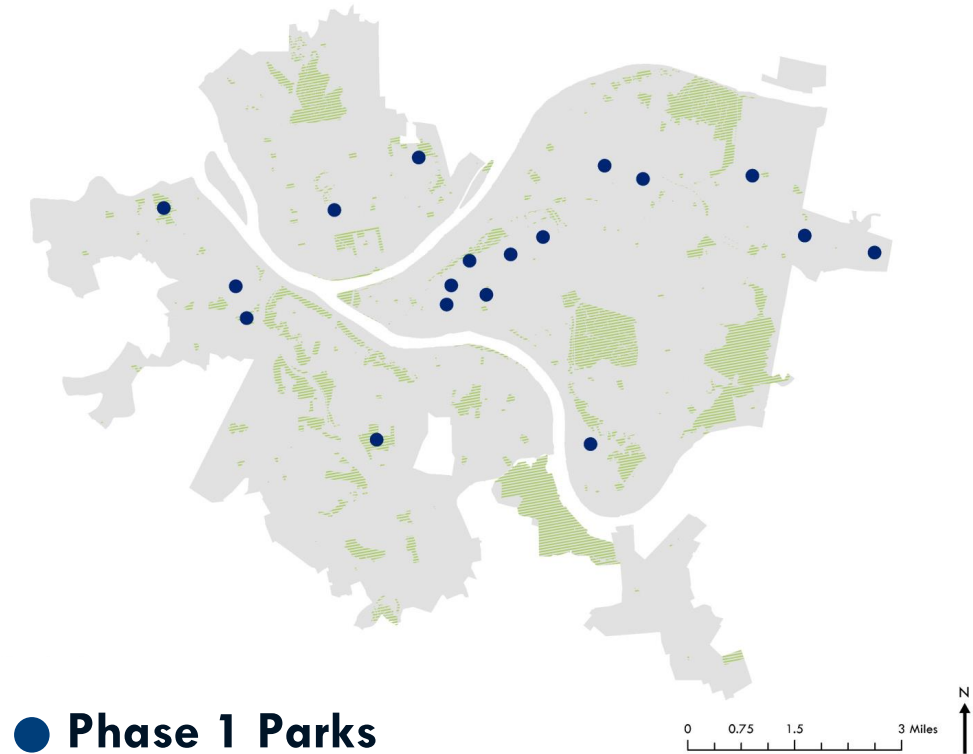


* \$19 million is the combined total of programming and rehabilitation funds that would be allocated in the first six years, as well as the allocated funding for capital improvements to the Paulson Rec Center.

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

The referendum will also deliver capital improvements directly to neighborhoods with higher rates of unhealthy conditions.

	Asthma	Diabetes	Obesity	Poor Physical Health	Poor Mental Health
Pittsburgh	11%	10%	30%	12%	13%
18 Parks	13%	17%	41%	17%	17%



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Investment in parks is an investment in Pittsburgh's ability to manage flood risk and stormwater.

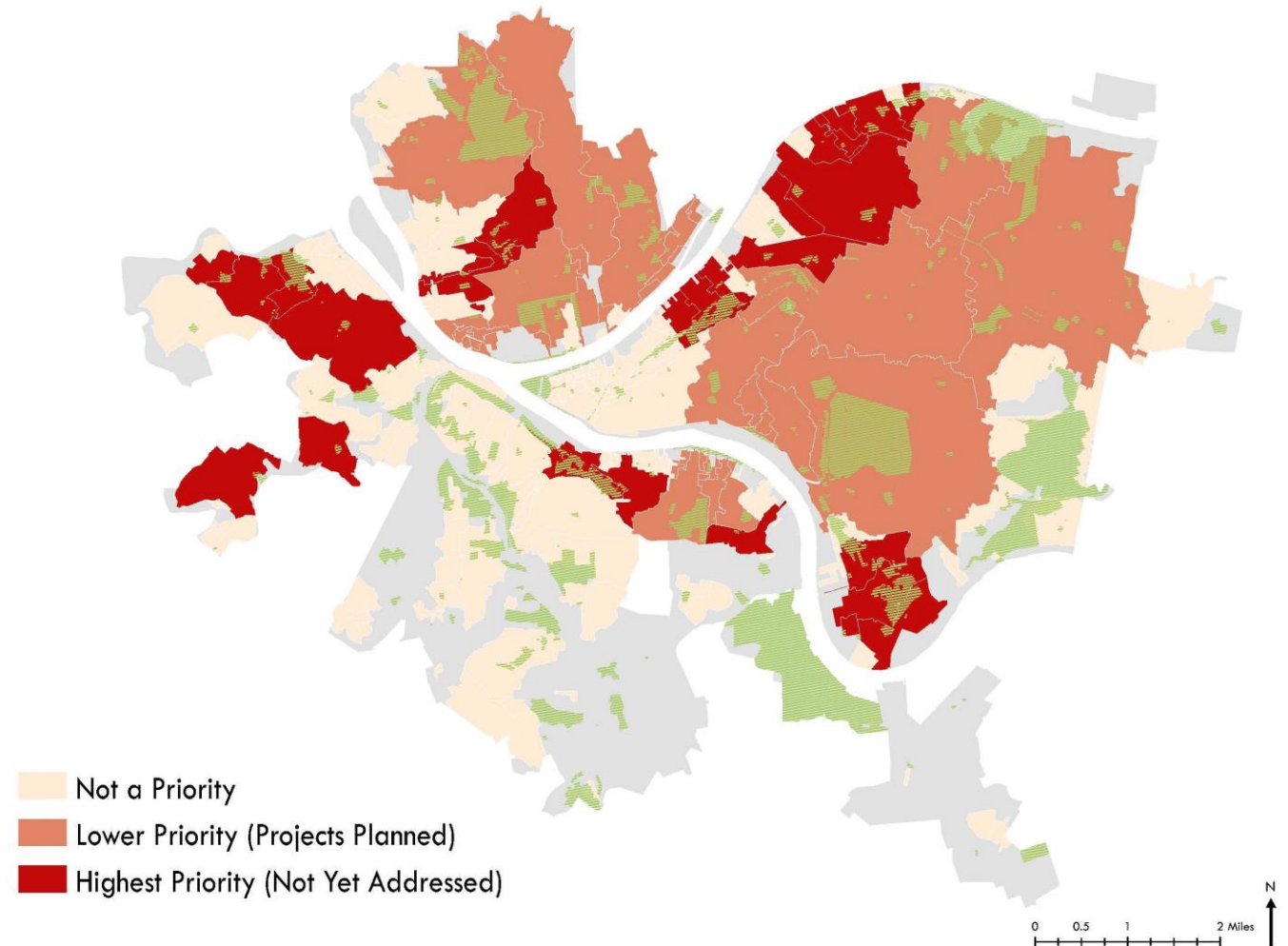
Almost **90%** of Pittsburgh parks are located in the city's sewersheds*

Over **80%** of Pittsburgh's CSO* reductions can be addressed in just six of the 30 highest priority sewersheds

These 6 priority sewersheds include **36** Pittsburgh parks with potential to mitigate stormwater flooding

Source: Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, PWSA

* A sewershed is an area of land where all the sewers flow to a single point. A combined sewer overflow (CSO) occurs when rain causes the sewer system to reach capacity and overflow, discharging a mix of stormwater and sewage.



AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The Green First Plan is already positioning the city's **parks as a solution** to Pittsburgh's historic and ongoing flooding issues.

The plan proposes **green infrastructure designs and interventions** to achieve CSO reduction in the following parks:

Schenley Park



7.5% annual CSO reduction

South Side Park



12.5% annual CSO reduction

Riverview Park



14.5% annual CSO reduction

Highland Park

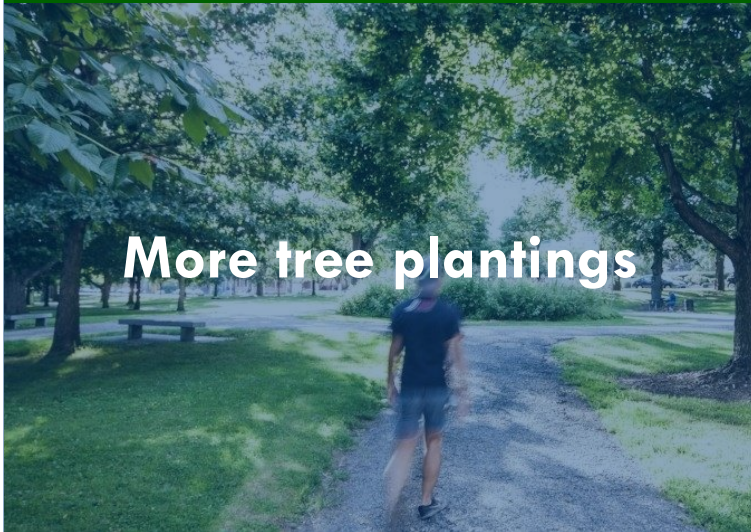


22% annual CSO reduction

AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

RPP will allocate over \$44* million more that could support green infrastructure improvements in parks throughout the city, leading to a more resilient Pittsburgh.

Maintenance



More tree plantings

*Capture rainwater and reduce
CO2 emissions*

Rehabilitation



**Increasing permeable
surfaces in park paths and
trails**

Mitigate stormwater runoff

Capital Projects



**Alignment with citywide
green infrastructure
initiatives in 4 of the first
18 priority parks**

*Make park improvements in
highest priority sewersheds*

* \$44 million is the combined total of maintenance and rehabilitation funds that would be allocated in the first six years, as well as the allocated funding for capital improvements in 4 priority parks located in highest priority sewer sheds.

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6. Connecting Families Across the City
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We took both a city-wide approach and a park-specific approach.

CITY-WIDE

- Economic impact of the projected funds within Allegheny County, using the input-output modeling software IMPLAN
- Comparison of the impact of the 0.5 mill levy to other household budget items
- Estimation of potential additional public revenue from increased property taxes due to investment in parks
- Comparative analysis between Phase 1 parks and city averages across multiple datapoints (e.g. demographic, health risk)

PARKS

- Analysis of department programming data across PPC, DPW, CitiParks
- Interviews with community partners and park employees
- Case studies of select park improvement projects (e.g. August Wilson Park, McKinley Park)
- Analysis of potential new development activity due to investments in parks