

GREATER HILL DISTRICT

MASTER PLAN

Community Action Team Meeting #4 (Final)

Leadership Circle: Reverend Paul Abernathy, Marimba Milliones, Claudy Pierre

Staff: Ose Akinlotan (City Planning), Josiah Gilliam (Mayor's Office of
Equity/Citi Parks)

Guests: Office of Community Health and Safety

January 10, 2022

Overview

- Introductions
- Presentations
 - Overview of Community Action Team meetings/topics
 - Community Health & Services (Safety) - Office of Community Health and Safety
 - Next steps
- Discussion
- Q&A





Community Action Team Recap |



Updating and Adopting the Original Greater Hill District Master Plan

Community Goals

Community goals for the master plan were created based upon all previous planning efforts and revised to include additional community input. With these goals as a guide, a great variety of decisions can be made over time to create a vibrant neighborhood, while still ensuring a shared vision of the overall outcome.

BUILD UPON THE AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL LEGACY

The Hill District has been a setting for Black history-making from the 18th century to the present. Thus, the Hill will position itself as Pittsburgh's oldest African American neighborhood and retain its cultural and historical personality, which should not be lost due to market pressures and gentrification.

- Honor the historic and cultural legacy of African Americans in the Hill District with emphasis on the Lower Hill
- Include 'right of return' preferences for displaced individuals, families, organizations and businesses
- Use existing neighborhood resources first in revitalization
- Advance existing and create new relationships to move the Hill District forward
- Ensure that Hill District residents are empowered in planning for the community revitalization

FAMILY FRIENDLY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT WITHOUT DISPLACEMENT

Housing developments must include an appropriate level of family housing including rental and for sale units affordable to various income levels in order to prevent displacement.

- Establish a target housing mix for new projects including appropriate levels of family-friendly housing
- Provide quality rental and ownership housing opportunities for a broad range of family sizes and incomes
- Use housing development as a catalyst for economic and community development
- New housing developments will prevent displacement of existing residents and businesses
- Family housing developments will include play spaces in close proximity to housing developments
- Housing developments will consider the impact of new developments on children and population density for local schools

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Community residents, organizations, and businesses will gain social and economic benefit from neighborhood revitalization efforts.

- Support economic activity that directly benefits Hill District residents and existing businesses.
- Ensure jobs for community members, the retention of current businesses, new opportunities for entrepreneurship and equity stakes for Hill District organizations
- Restore commercial vibrancy and strength by concentrating market demand and resources to:
- Renew Centre Avenue as a great "main street"
- Redevelop the Lower Hill as a mixed-use neighborhood
- Leverage Uptown's proximity to Oakland and Downtown
- Encourage live-work and at-home innovation projects

MAKE THE HILL DISTRICT A GREEN AND WELL-DESIGNED COMMUNITY

The Hill District will have a comprehensive strategy for sustainability and quality design.

- Create a comprehensive strategy for vacant land including urban gardening
- Leverage the Hill District's natural features as an economic asset for neighborhood development
- Use Hill District trails as green connections with a larger city network
- Establish high-quality recreation and open spaces

MOBILITY, TRANSPORTATION, AND PARKING

Ensure viable and affordable transportation access to all members of the community.

- Improve transportation networks and services to the city and within the Hill District
- New infrastructure should promote walkability, street accessibility for the disabled, and access to work, retail, and social amenities
- Create a well-planned parking strategy that supports new development while minimizing negative impacts on residents

Community Discussion: What to Update, Expand, Add?

What Needs to be Updated or expanded?

Historic Preservation

Public Safety

Public Health

Public Facilities and Services

Public Art

What needs to be added?

Schools and Related Programs

Community Resilience



Neighborhood Plan Guide: <https://pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/neighborhood-planning-guide>

12

Community Resilience

"Resilience is the ability of a system (like a community) to absorb disturbance and still retain basic function and structure"

- Focus on growing the capacity to “bounce back” from disruptions
- Engage and benefit all community members
- Consider all the challenges the community faces
- Tells us how complex systems—like human communities—can adapt and persist through changing circumstances.



Resilient and Healthy Hill District

- Community members are physically and mentally well
- People can access health care, healthy foods, and services they need
- Folks are self-sufficient and can take care of each other during tough times
- Residents are engaged in the community and connected to each other



Objectives

- Build capacity
- Increase connectedness
- Foster cooperation



Foundations of a Resilient Hill District

- People
 - Nurturing
 - Empathetic
- Systems Thinking
 - Nurturing
 - Empathetic
- Adaptable
- Transformable
- Livable
- Co-powerment



What's in your Original Plan (Initiatives)

Build capacity

- Quality Education Initiative
- Hill district Arts Plan
- Neighborhood Safety*
- Hill History Center**
- Hill District Homeowner/Tenant Support

Increase connectedness

- Neighborhood Safety*
- Housing Innovation Zone
- Hill District Workforce Development
- Hill District Business Incubator
- Play Spaces
- Ride To Work
- StreetScape improvement
- Comprehensive Parking
- Strategy
- Complete Streets Pilot

Foster cooperation

- Neighborhood Safety*

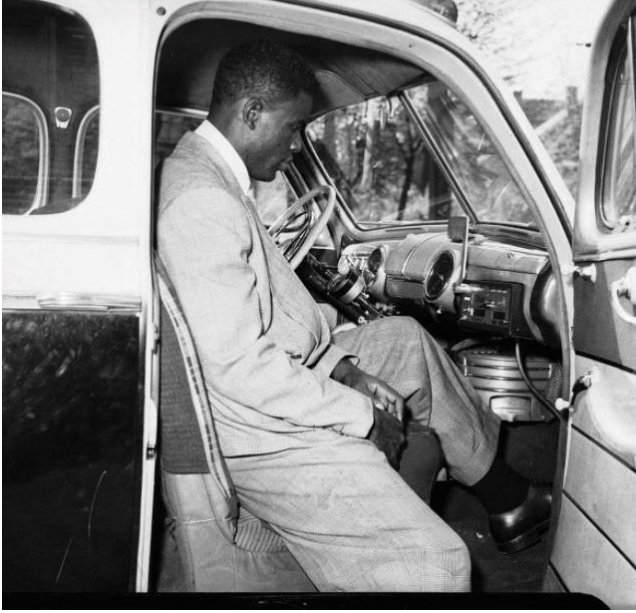


Neighborhood Stressors

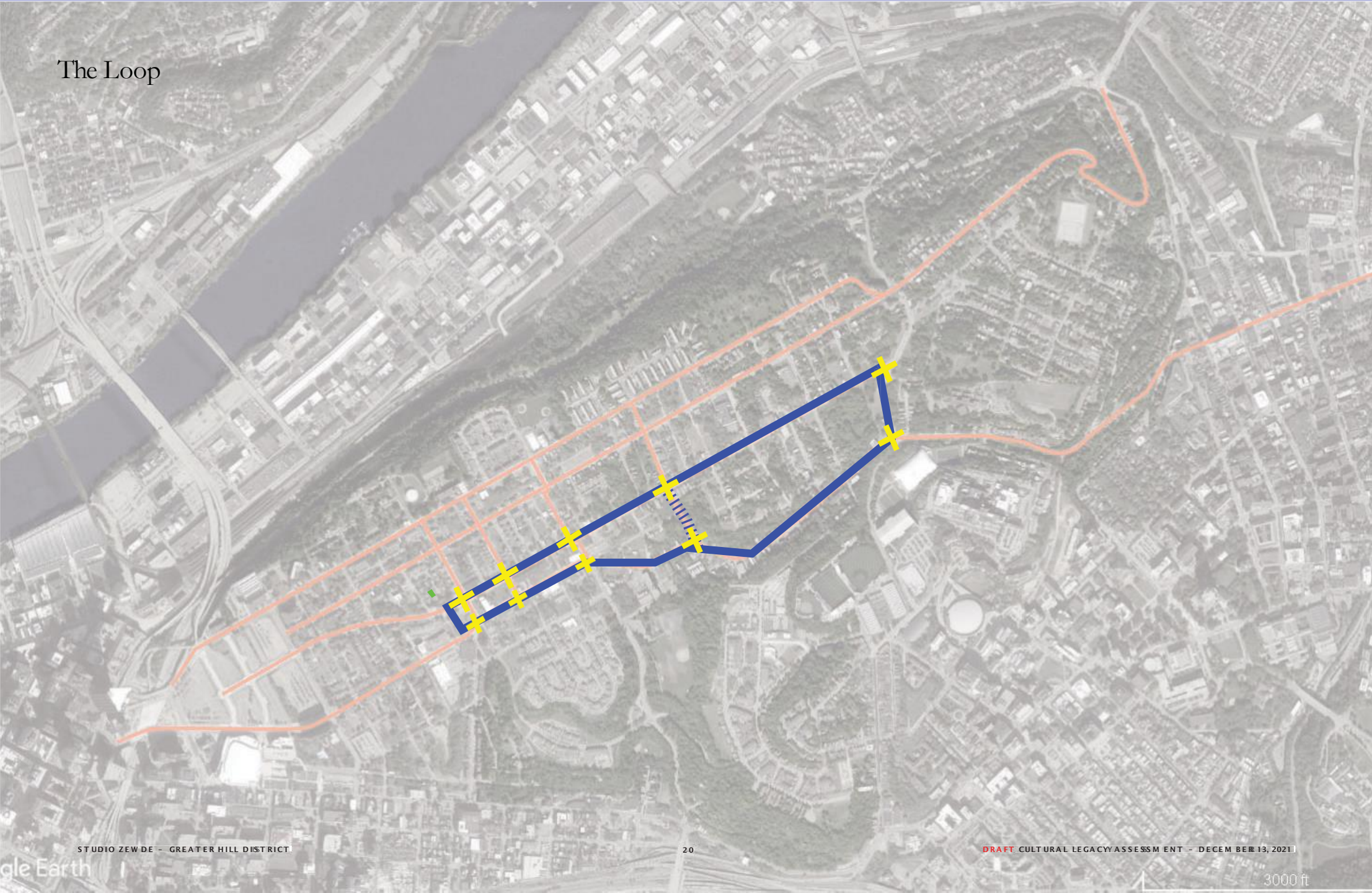
- Air quality - smoke and foul smelling air blowing into the community via business emissions up wind.
- Chronic illnesses like asthma
- Housing insecurity
- Presence of significant vacancy and poor conditions
- Economic factors that are pricing residents out and generally gentrification
- The process to access land owned by the City/URA/HA is too arduous and so it restricts opportunity
- Development process in the Lower Hill has caused internal community dissension due to the varying perspectives
- Lack of development at scale that responds to the needs of the community
- Residential stressors or that are missing: gap funding to achieve affordable housing and cover debt/financing, lack of access to capital from public sources due to bureaucracy and arduous processes and low wealth/no assets that precludes access to private capital
- Institutional barriers that are insurmountable for residents
- Mental health issues caused by chronic poverty
- Chronic Poverty
- Violence caused by chronic poverty
- Criminal justice system's effects
- Lack of affordable childcare
- Lack of quality/safe housing
- Varmints
- Lack of a collective voice that involves everyone - substantial community dissension
- There's a need and opportunity to include more of the community
- Drug Addiction
- Lack of access to quality healthcare-black maternal health
- Poor infrastructure-quality streets(sidewalks)
- Access to quality fresh food
- Schools and the pandemic
- Trauma caused by white-supremacy, institutional and systemic racism, Intergenerational Wellness, pathways and governance
- Lack of maintenance
- Lack of good public policy to protect Pittsburgh's vulnerable population (political involvement)
- Social services that do not include local residents



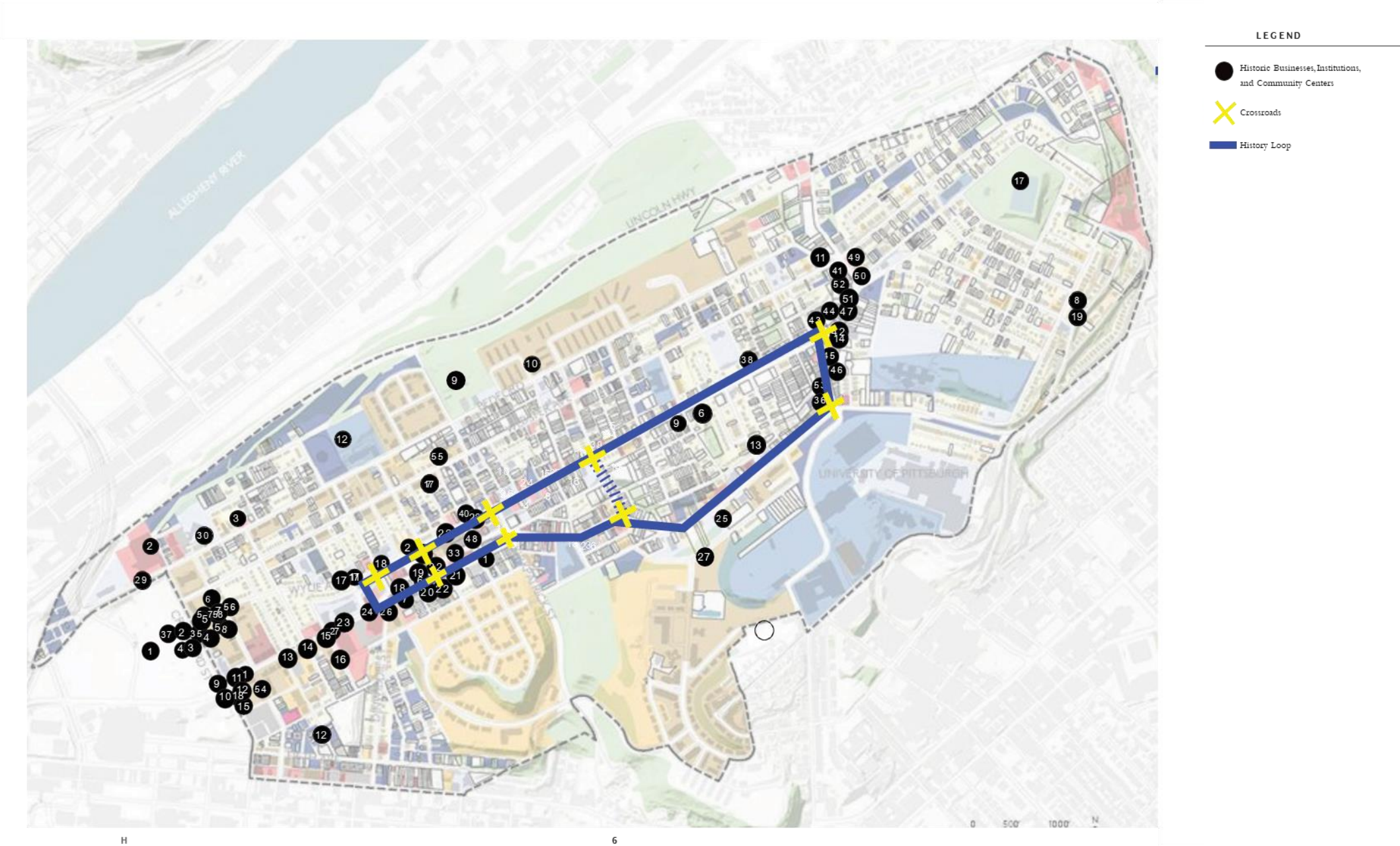
Cultural Legacy and Preservation



The Loop



At the Crossroads: A Cultural Legacy Loop





Hill District Health and Safety

Re-imaging community safety and health-
outcomes

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LEAD Community Engagement Coordinator

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*Office of Community
Health and Safety*



The Office of Community Health and Safety

What is the OCH&S

Our office was established to address longstanding health, safety, and justice issues in the City of Pittsburgh.

We are responsible for redirecting city resources to better address community needs by housing social services, public health, and social work experts who can assist community members and first responders in situations that require longer-term support, harm reduction approaches, and other services.

OCH&S Overview

- ✓ Community Engagement & Partnership
- ✓ Continuum of Support (COS)
- ✓ Translational Public Health

Community Engagement & Partnership

- ✓ Responsiveness to Community Members
- ✓ Neighborhood Health & Safety Academy
- ✓ Youth Leadership Board
- ✓ Community Listening Campaign
- ✓ Newsletter
- ✓ Social Media
- ✓ Community Office Hours

Continuum of Support [COS]

- ✓ AHN Program
- ✓ Diversion
- ✓ High Utilizer Program
- ✓ Crisis Response & Intervention Teams
- ✓ Post Engagement Response/Victim Assistance
- ✓ Fire Bureaus Stable Food Program
- ✓ LEAD- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion

Translational Public Health [PH]

- ✓ Community Paramedicine
- ✓ OD Prevention/Prehospital Buprenorphine/Fentanyl
- ✓ Swim Safe Expansion
- ✓ Co-Responder Academy



Q&A

WE APPRECIATE YOUR TIME.

**Please Subscribe to our newsletter and
take our Listening Campaign Survey.**





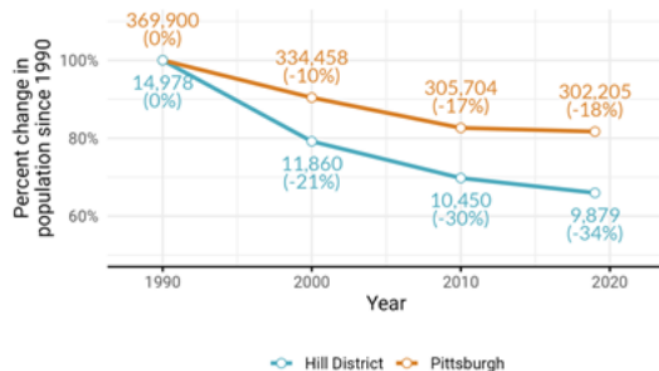
People

The Hill District has lost about 5,000 people since 1990, leaving the area with just two thirds of its population from 30 years ago.

Total population shrank in the City of Pittsburgh over this same period but to a much lesser extent. The Hill District lost 34 percent of its population since 1990, while Pittsburgh's overall population shrank by 18 percent.

Figure 3. Population Change, 1990-2019, Hill District and City of Pittsburgh, 2019

Source: NHGIS/US Census, 2019 ACS 5-year

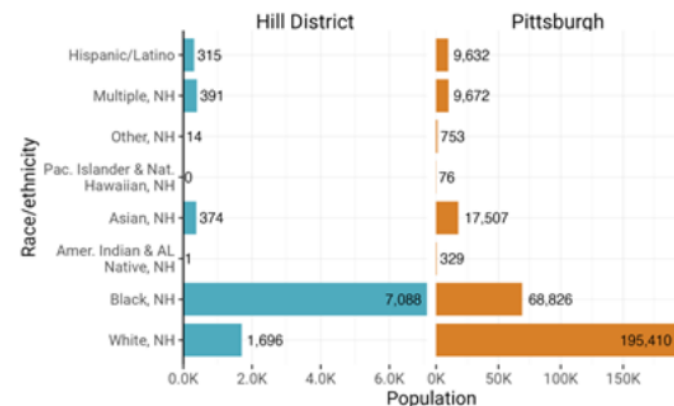


Just over 7,000 (about 72 percent) of Hill District's population identifies as Black, non-Hispanic/Latino.

The next-largest racial group, White, non-Hispanic residents, make up around 17 percent of the population. Apart from these two groups, the racial/ethnic make-up of the Hill District largely mirrors Pittsburgh.

Figure 5. Population by Race & Ethnicity, Hill District and City of Pittsburgh, 2019

Source: ACS 2019 5-year

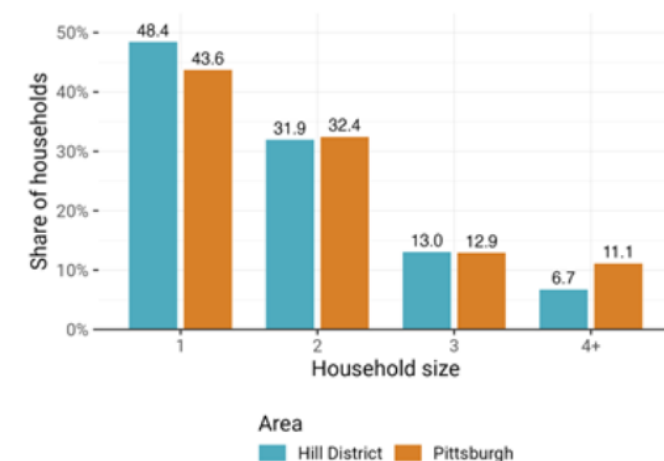


Nearly half of households in the Hill District are single-person households.

One-person households are the most common size of households in the Hill District, and they are somewhat more common here than they are in the city overall, while large households (4 or more members) are likewise less common. Two- and three-person households are roughly as common in the Hill District as they are in Pittsburgh.

Figure 8. Households by Household Size, Hill District and City of Pittsburgh, 2019

Source: ACS 2019 5-year

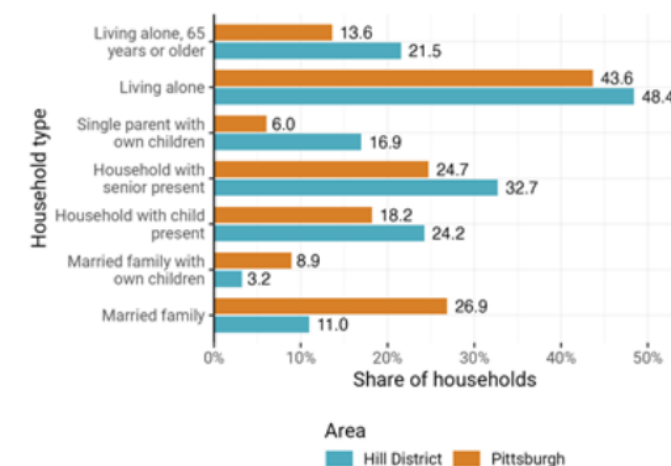


Single-parent and households with senior residents are more common in the Hill District than in the city as a whole.

Single-parent households are almost three times as common (17 percent of households) within the Hill District as they are in Pittsburgh as a whole (6 percent of households). Households with seniors (65 years or older) present, including those with a senior living alone, are more common in the Hill District than in Pittsburgh as a whole.

Figure 9. Household Composition, Hill District and City of Pittsburgh, 2019

Source: ACS 2019 5-year



Existing Conditions: How are We Doing?

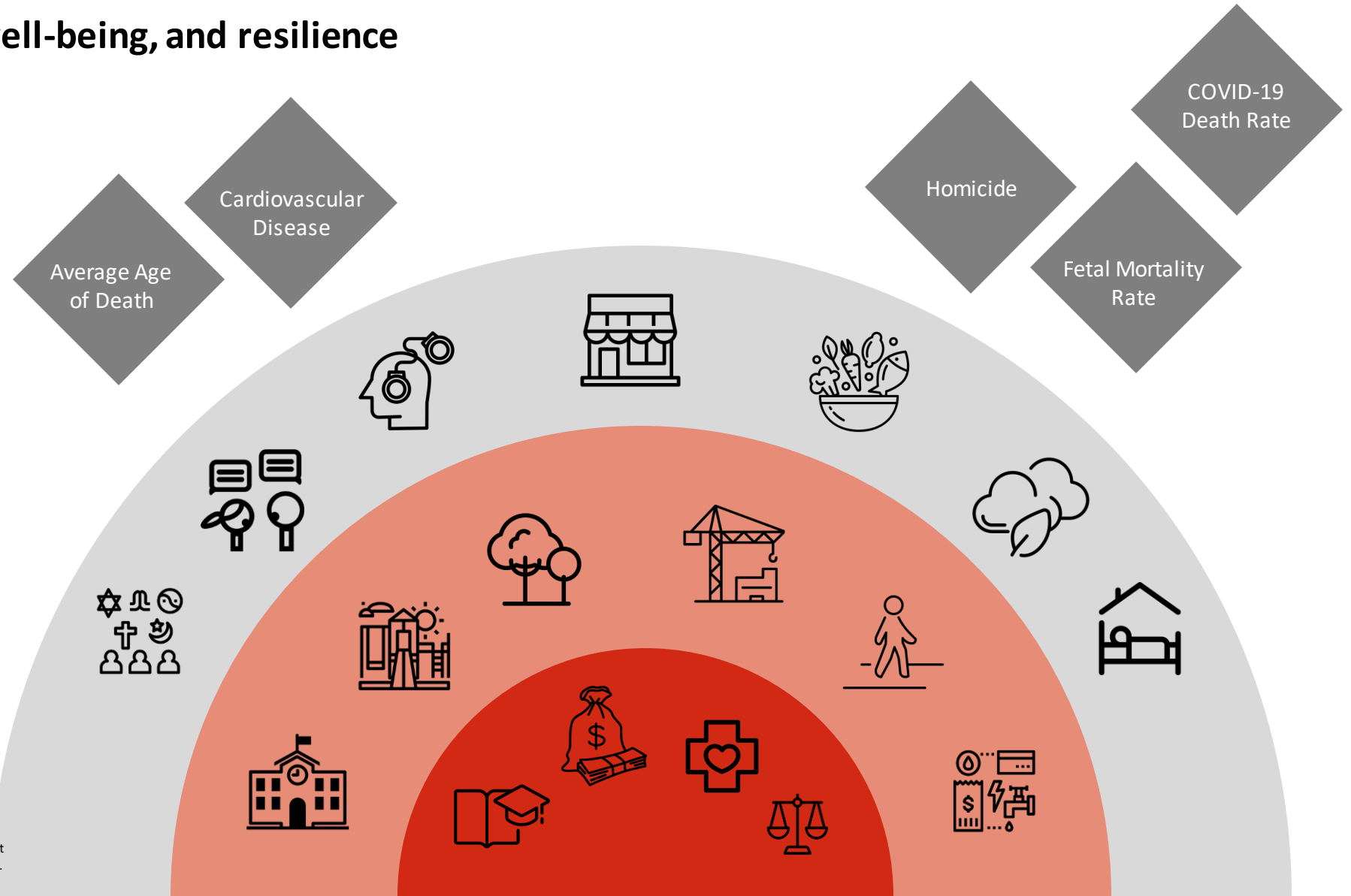
Outcomes are our health, well-being, and resilience

Root Causes whether Stressors or Change Agents can be chronic, or sudden...and happen at different levels.

Individual
cooperation and inclusion
in fundamental resources

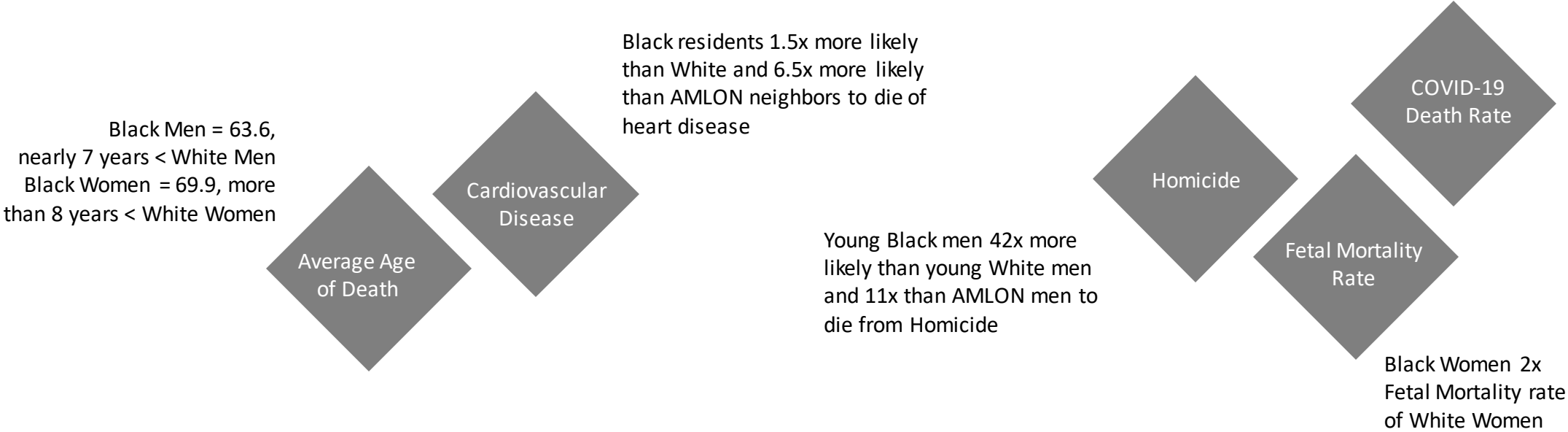
Communal
connectedness
to infrastructure and
living environment

Structural
capacity within
policies and systems

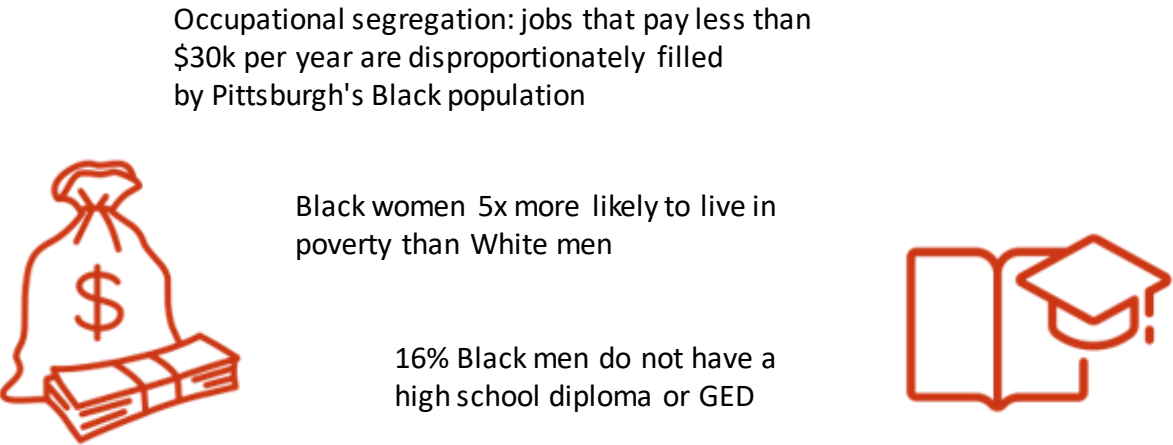


How are We Doing as a City?

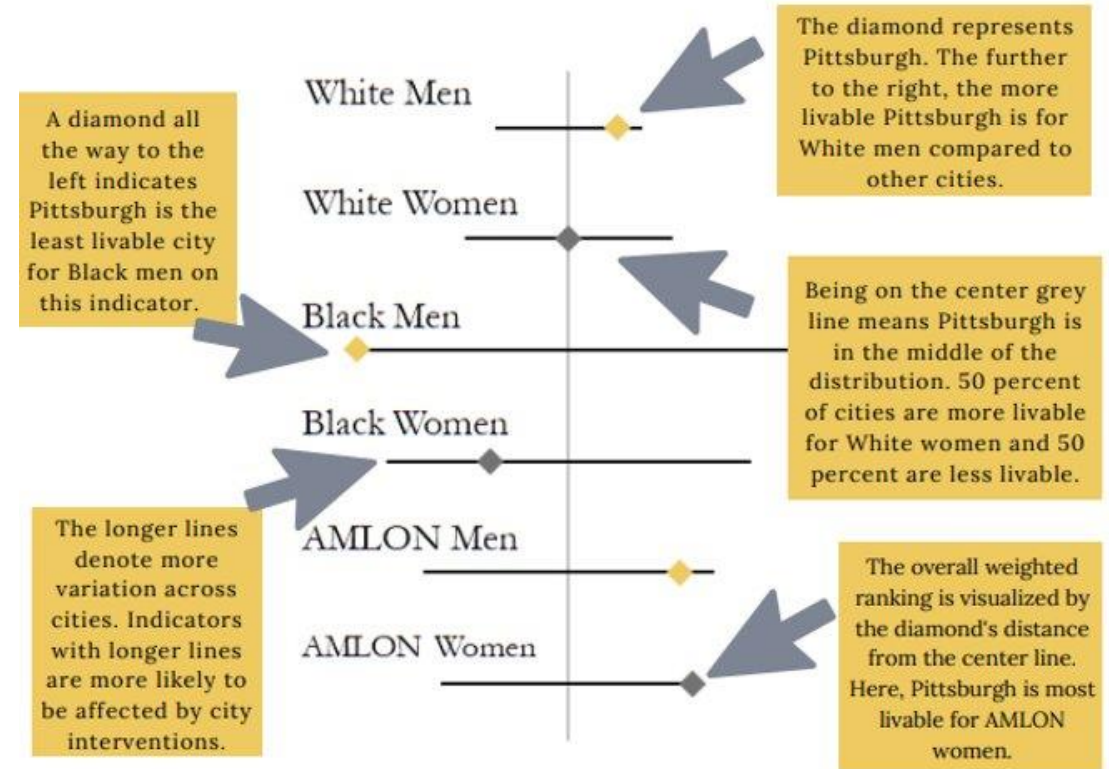
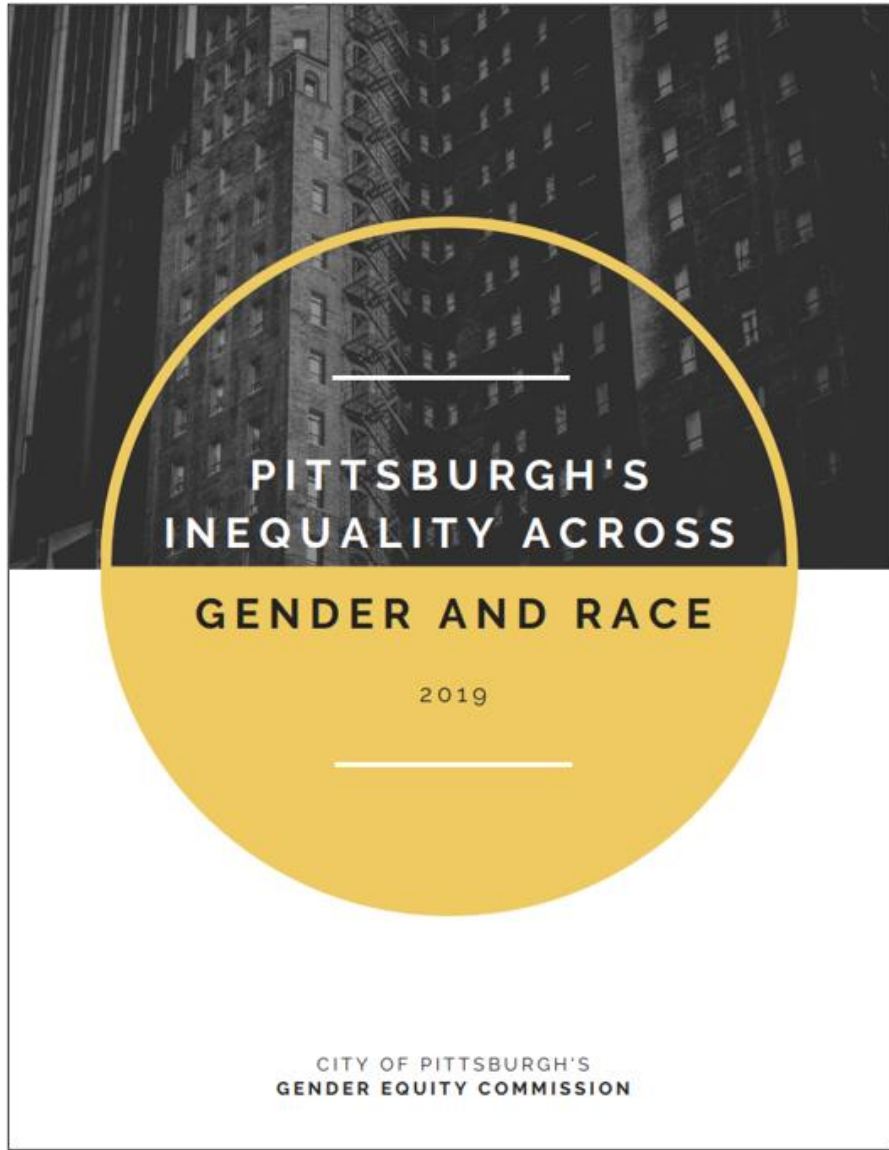
Outcomes



Root Causes



Racism is a public health crisis.



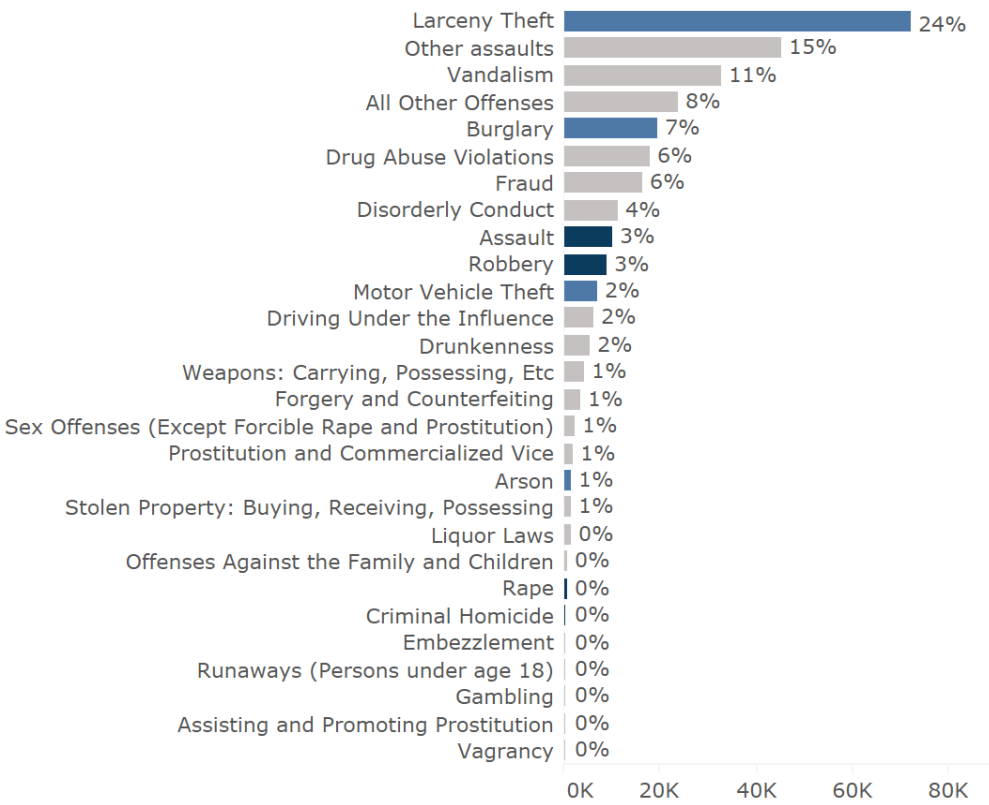
Outcomes are consistently different based on dimensions of identity: race/ethnicity, gender, language, immigration status, age, and ability.



Crime Statistics

City of Pittsburgh

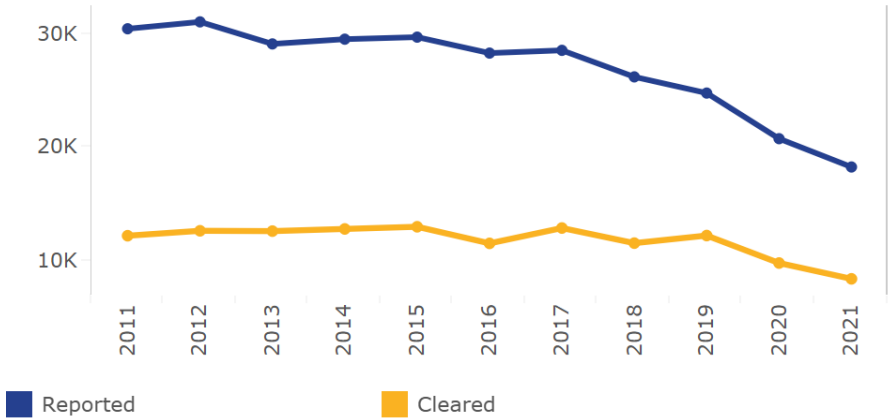
What are the offenses?



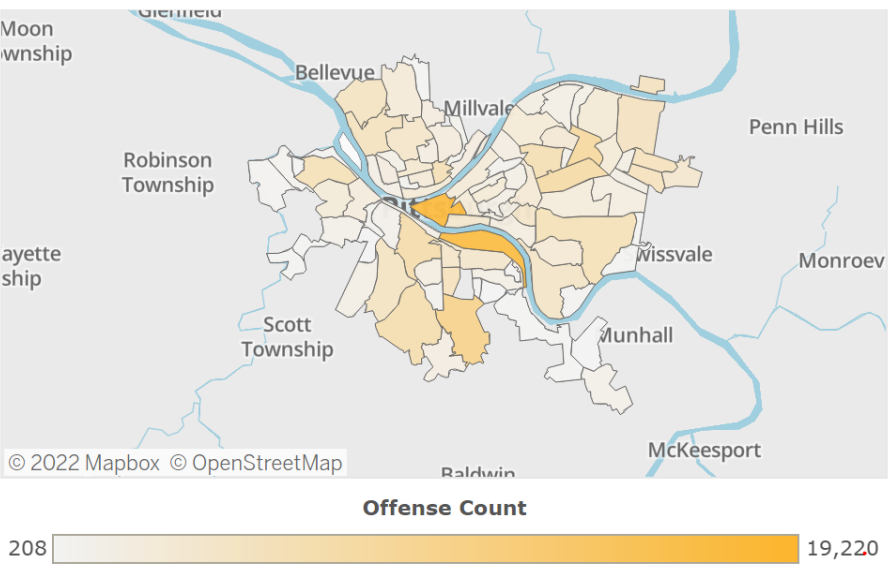
When do the offenses occur?

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
Morning (5AM-11AM)	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	15%
Afternoon (11AM-5PM)	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%	3%	29%
Evening (5PM-11PM)	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	32%
Night (11PM-5AM)	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%	5%	5%	25%
Total	14%	14%	14%	14%	16%	15%	14%	100%

How many offenses are cleared with an arrest?

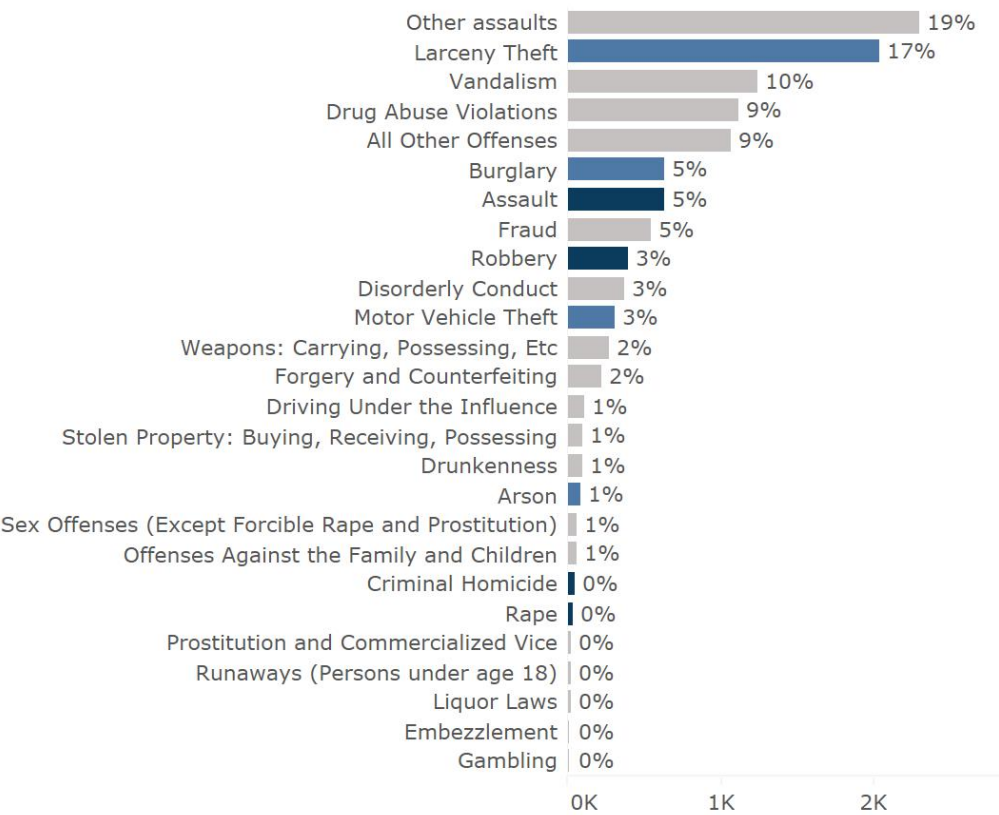


Where do the offenses occur?



Hill District

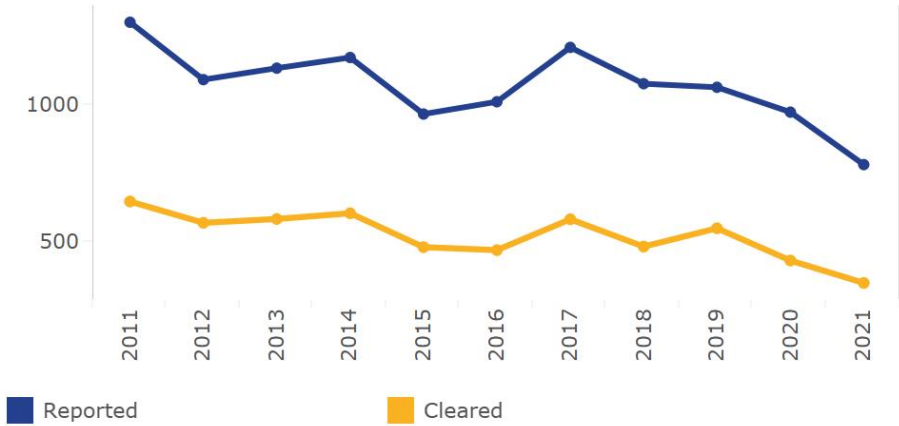
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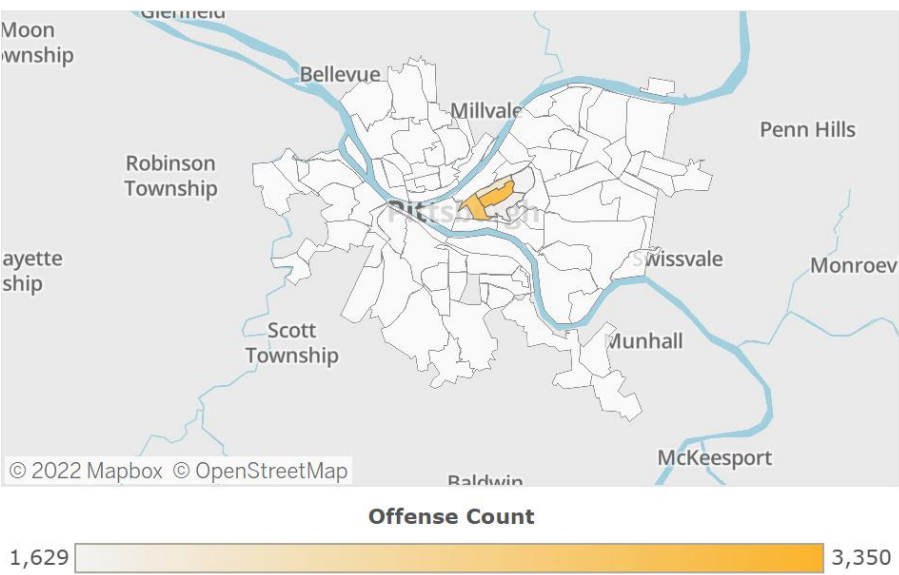
When do the offenses occur?

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
Morning (5AM-11AM)	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	17%
Afternoon (11AM-5PM)	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%	3%	28%
Evening (5PM-11PM)	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%	32%
Night (11PM-5AM)	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%	4%	23%
Total	14%	14%	15%	14%	15%	15%	13%	100%

How many offenses are cleared with an arrest?

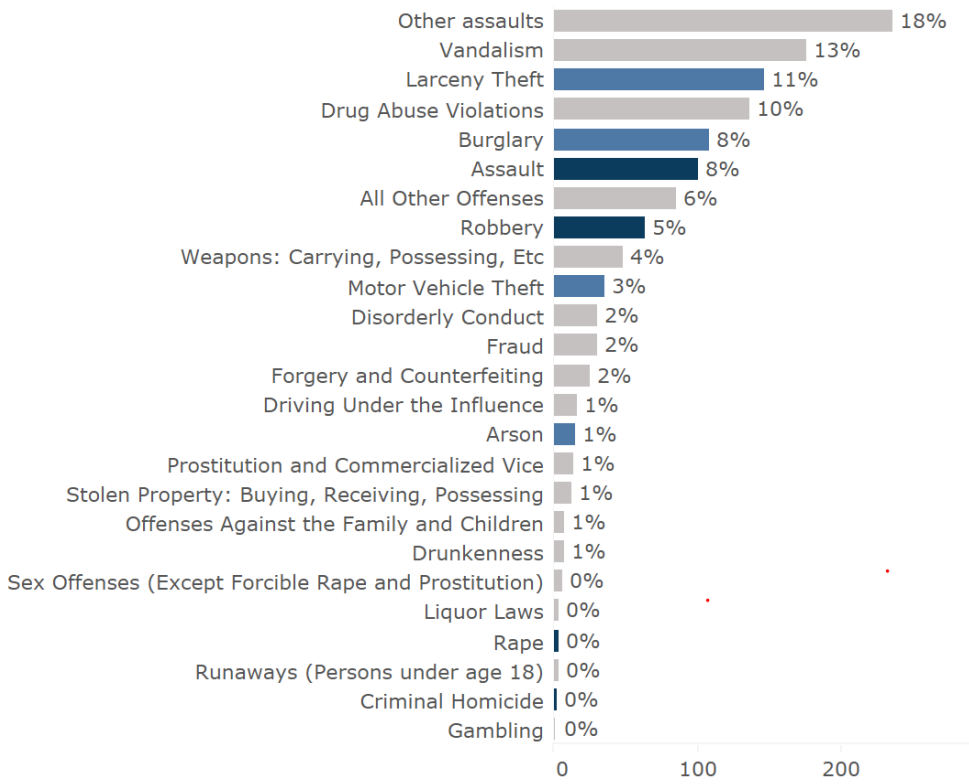


Where do the offenses occur?



Homewood

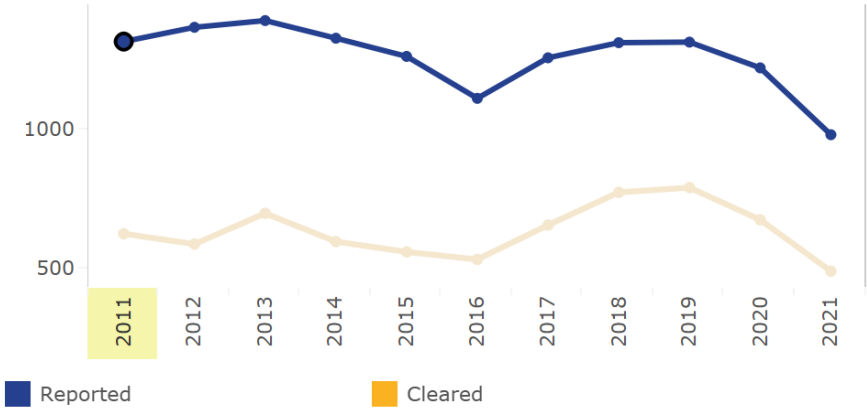
What are the offenses?



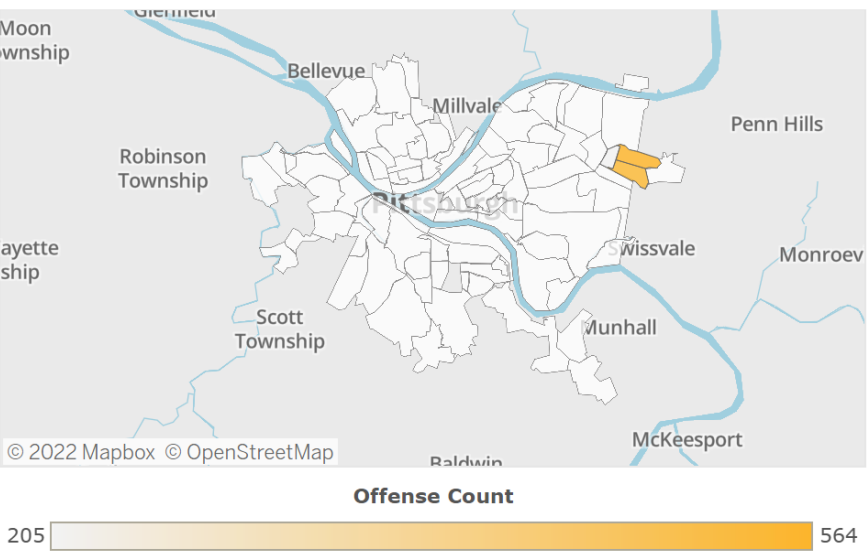
When do the offenses occur?

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
Morning (5AM-11AM)	3%	3%	3%	2%	2%	1%	1%	15%
Afternoon (11AM-5PM)	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%	2%	26%
Evening (5PM-11PM)	4%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	33%
Night (11PM-5AM)	3%	3%	5%	4%	3%	4%	4%	26%
Total	14%	14%	17%	16%	15%	13%	11%	100%

How many offenses are cleared with an arrest?

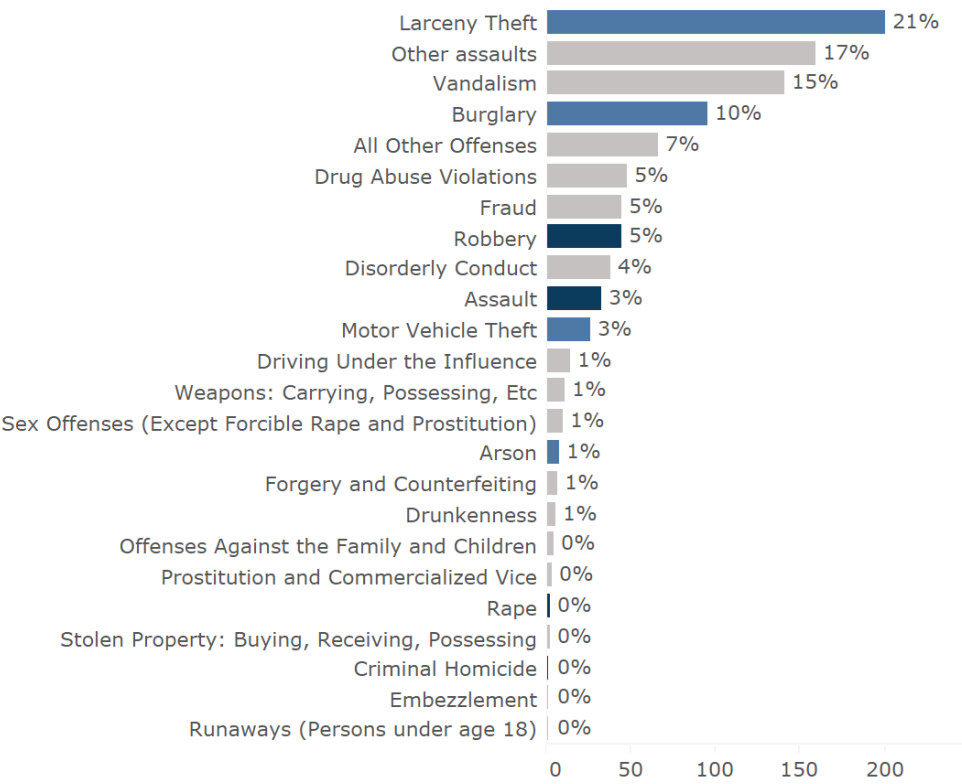


Where do the offenses occur?



Lawrenceville

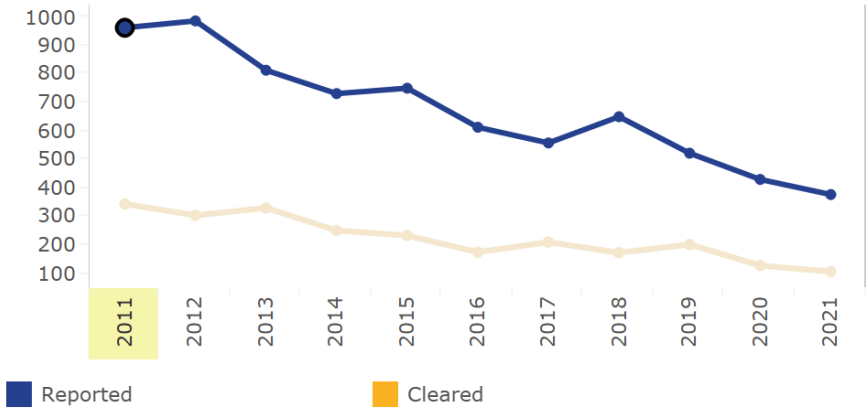
What are the offenses?



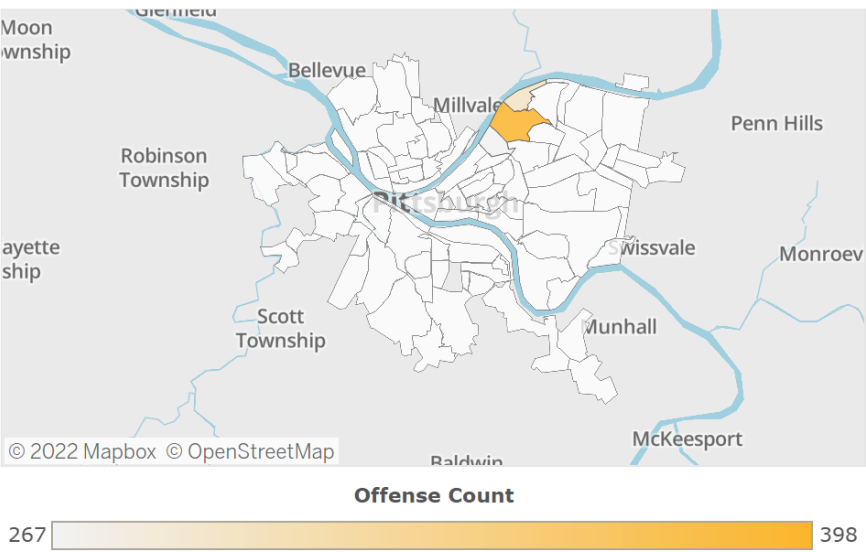
When do the offenses occur?

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Total
Morning (5AM-11AM)	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	11%
Afternoon (11AM-5PM)	5%	4%	4%	4%	4%	3%	4%	29%
Evening (5PM-11PM)	4%	4%	5%	6%	5%	5%	4%	33%
Night (11PM-5AM)	3%	3%	3%	3%	5%	6%	5%	27%
Total	14%	13%	14%	15%	16%	15%	13%	100%

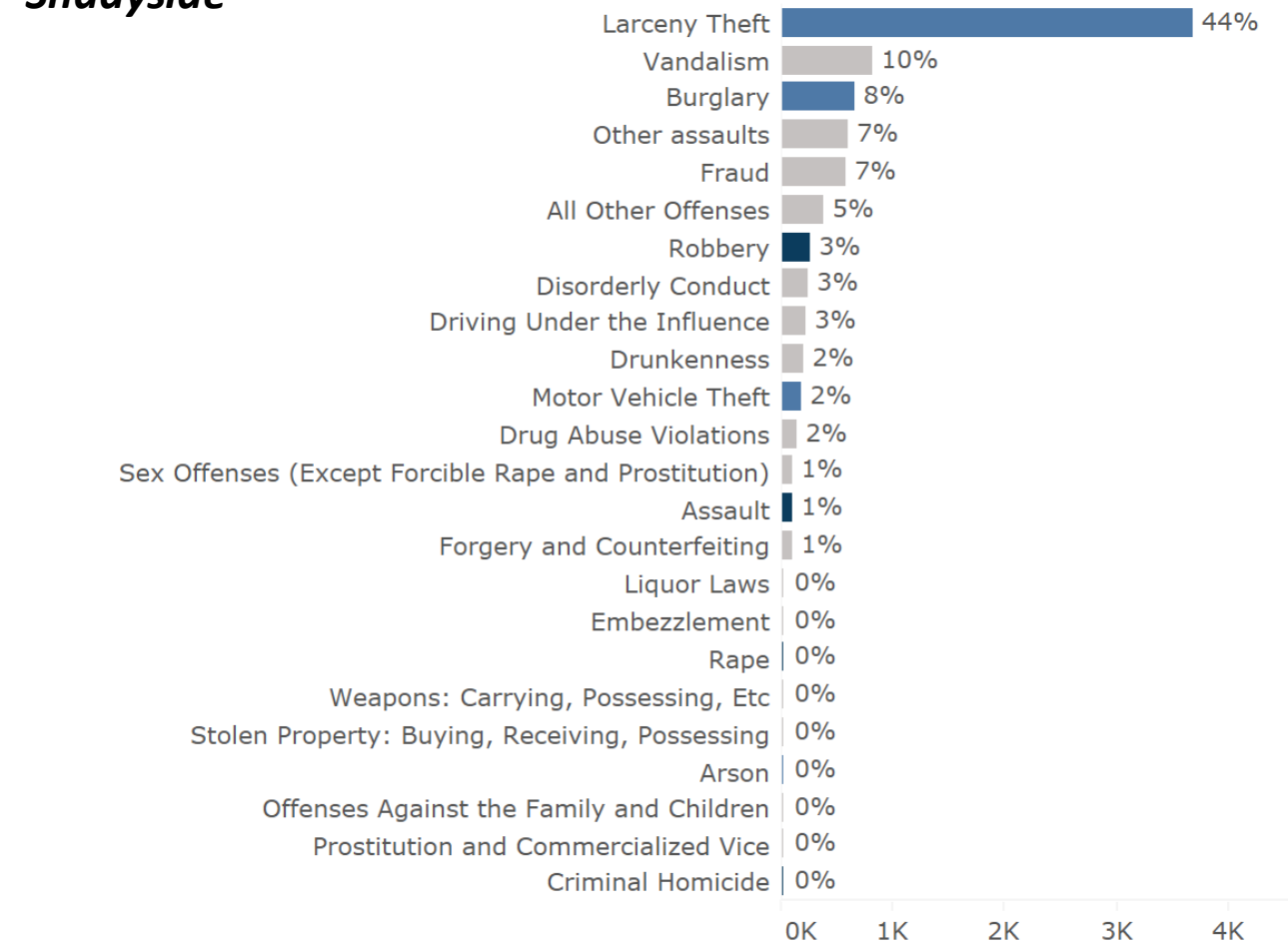
How many offenses are cleared with an arrest?



Where do the offenses occur?



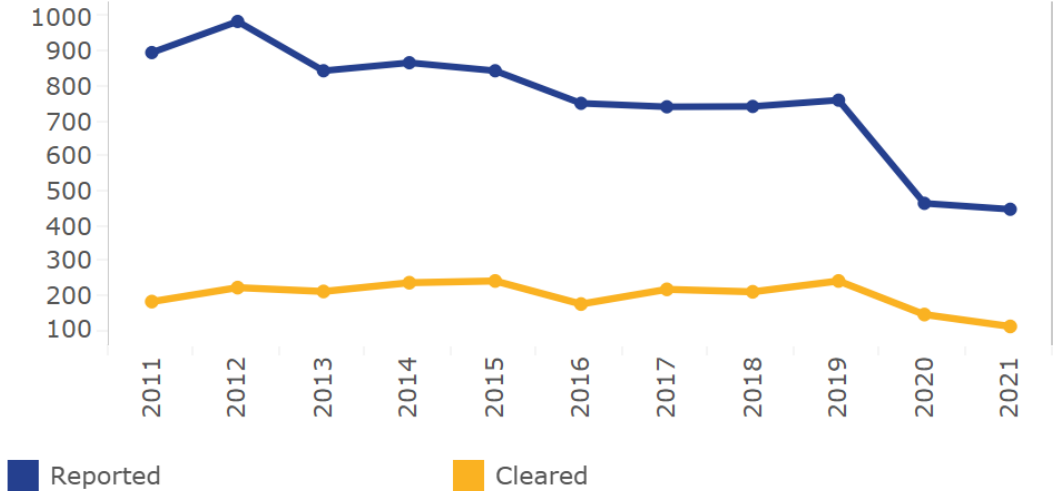
What are the offenses?
Shadyside



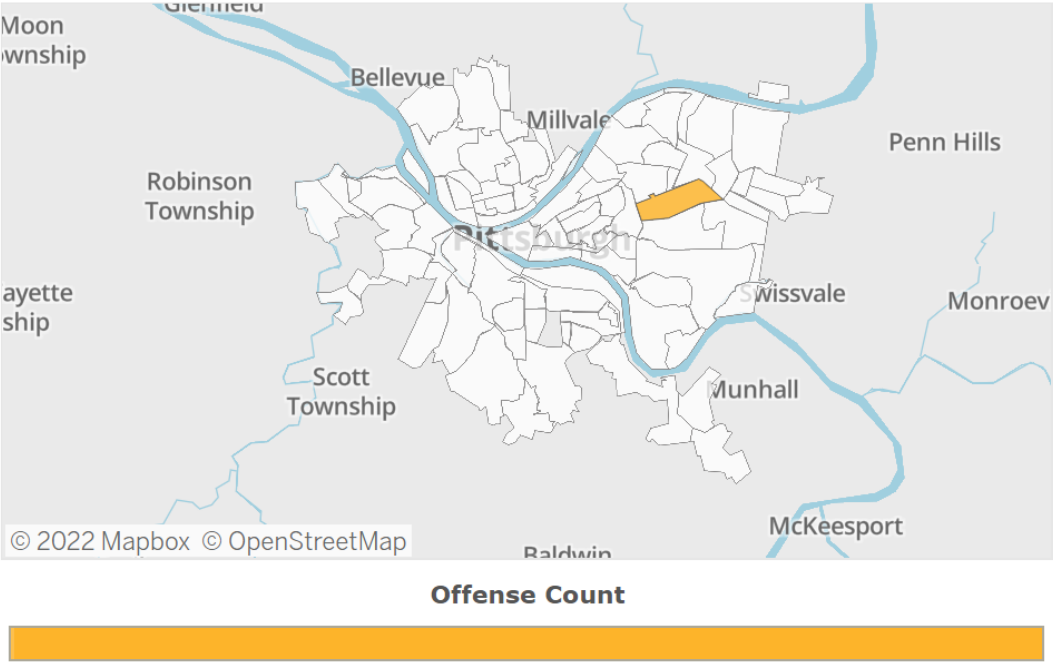
When do the offenses occur?

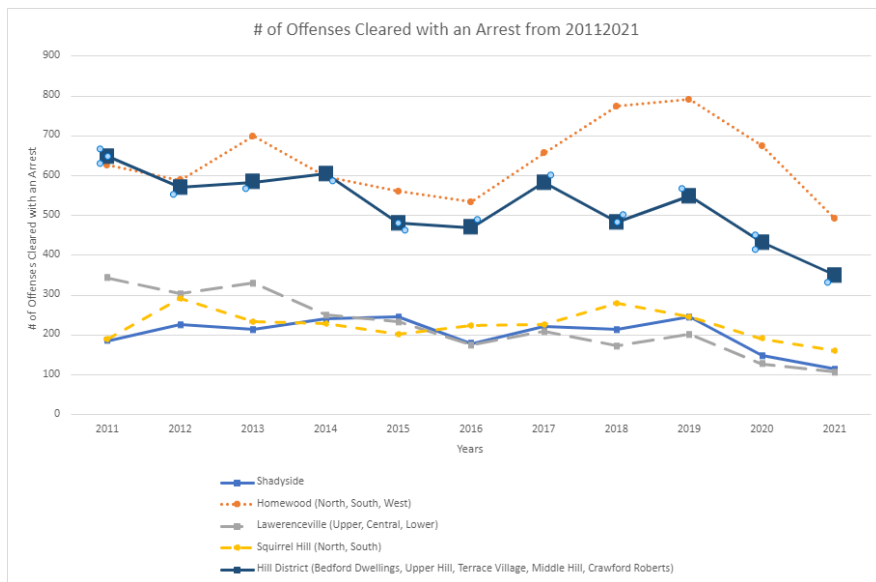
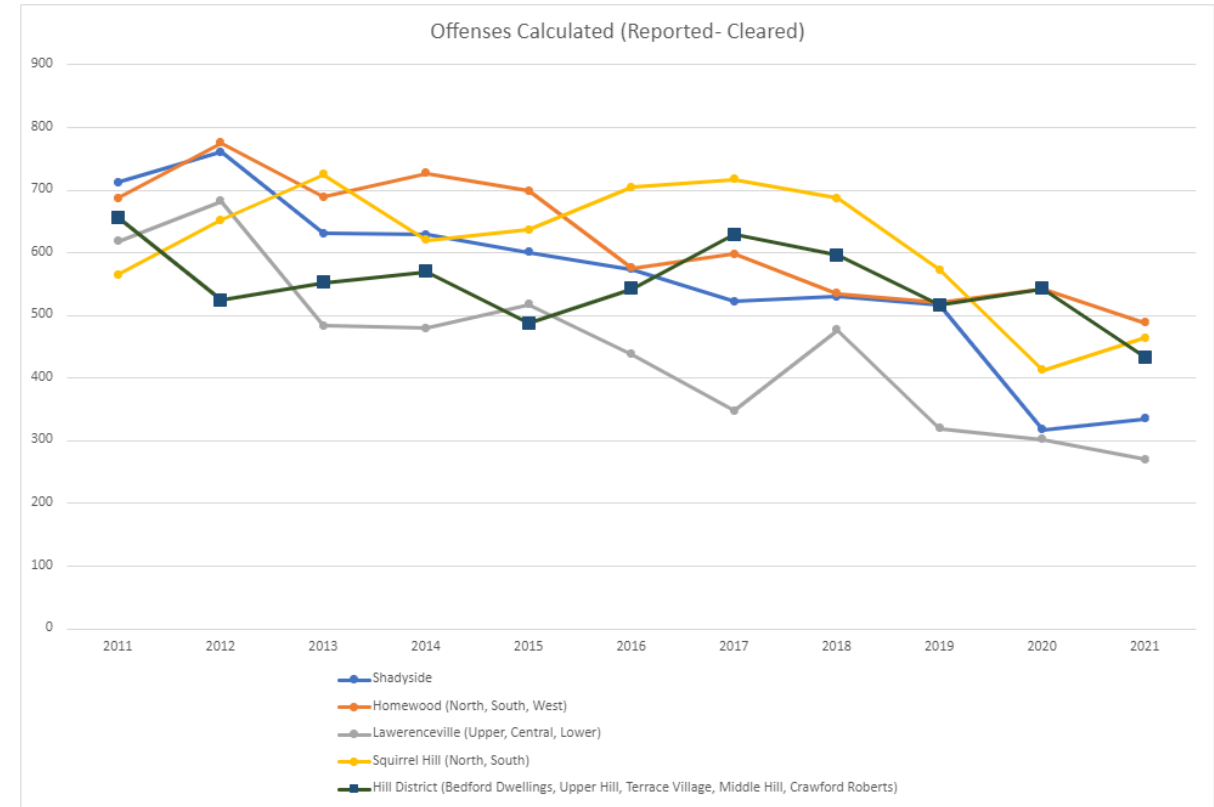
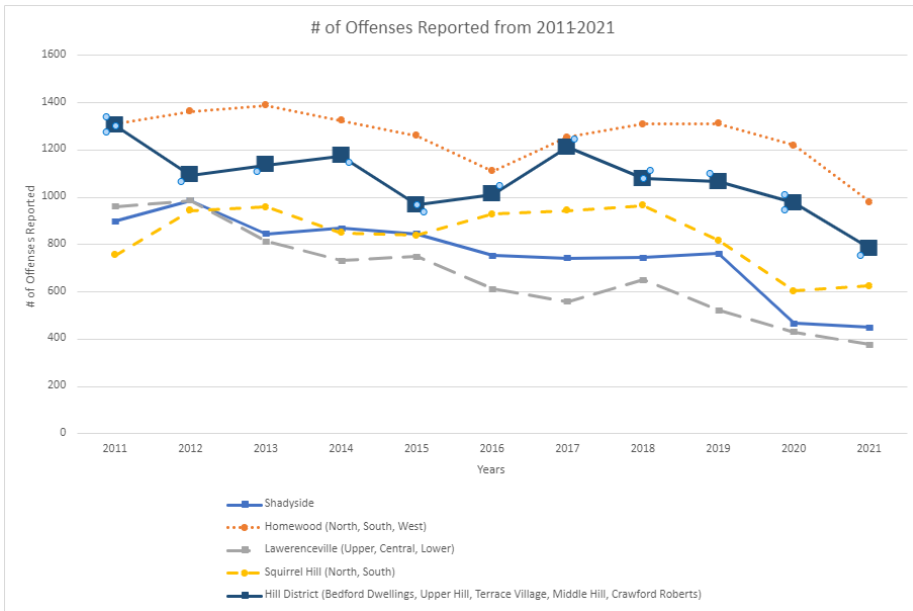
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Total	13%	13%	14%	14%	17%	16%	13%	100%

How many offenses are cleared with an arrest?



Where do the offenses occur?







Health and Safety Discussion

- Consider the extremes; include the complete spectrum (students to elderly to parents with strollers)
- Passive forms of exercise with safe mobility options (waking to/from bus stop, grocery store, etc.)
- Equity in open spaces
- Vacant Property maintenance/development
- Acknowledging and leading with racial and social justice



Health and Safety Discussion

- Getting help to those who need it from properly trained professionals.
 - What is the help the Hill District Needs?
 - What is type of training do professionals need to serve your community?
- Changing the rules of engagement.
 - How would you characterize healthy engagement with Hill District residents?



Figure 45. Tree Canopy and Vegetation

Source: City of Pittsburgh, Google Street View

Tree Canopy



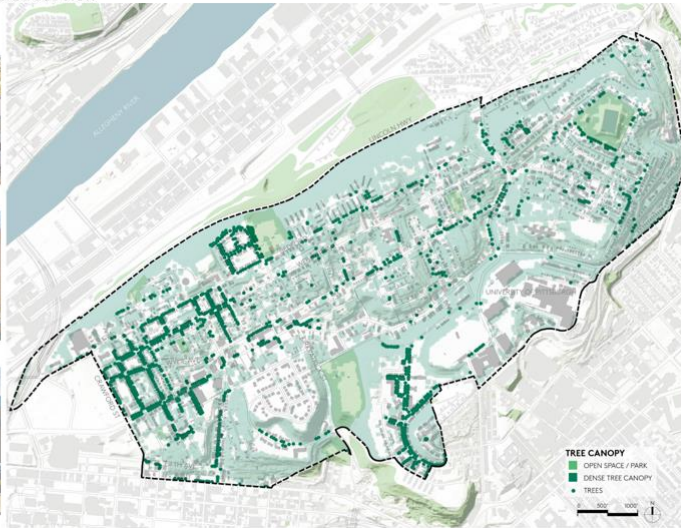
Street trees in newer redevelopments



Dense tree canopy on properties



Commercial districts without shade



The Hill District has significant natural areas, but features like parks and tree canopy are unevenly distributed within the study area.

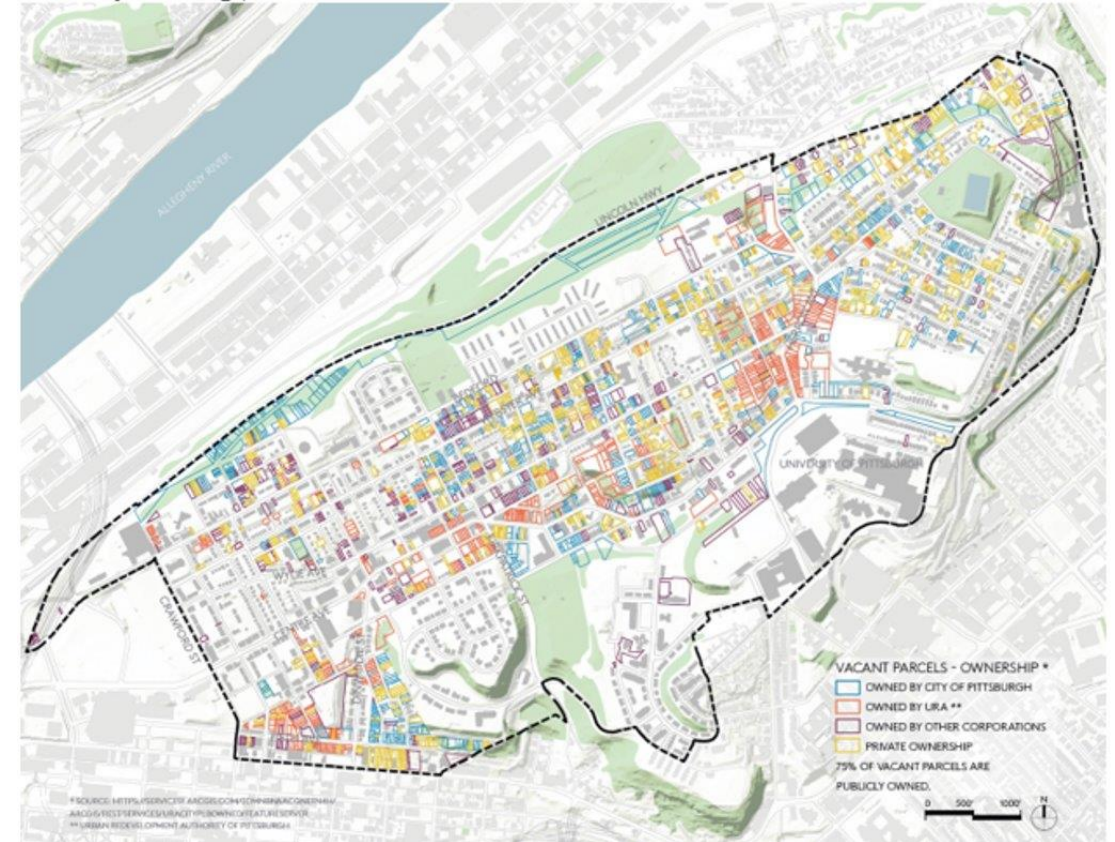
Tree canopy is a critical resource: it forms important habitat areas, provides shade for pedestrians, can improve mental health and well-being, supports pervious cover that can absorb water and potentially improve air quality, and can improve property values. Previous plans like the Hill District Greenprint (2009) identified that the study area has substantial wooded areas along the steep slopes and hillsides. These wooded areas, as well as trees on parcels throughout the district, constitute the majority of the tree canopy for the area. The Hill District's street tree canopy is focused at places that have seen major redevelopment over recent decades such as Crawford Square and Bedford Terrace. This deficit of tree canopy, particularly in the Middle Hill and commercial areas like Centre Avenue, could become a significant constraint as climate change increases summer temperatures and shade becomes increasingly important for pedestrians. Similarly, mature trees on parcels will be important to protect as new development takes place.

Vacant parcels continue to be an important issue for the Hill District as a whole.

There are over 600 acres of vacant land in the Hill District, which reflects the decades of disinvestment following mid-century urban renewal. Much of this vacancy is concentrated in the Middle Hill and along Herron Avenue. Over 75% of these vacant parcels are publicly owned by the URA or City of Pittsburgh.

Figure 47. Vacant Parcels by Ownership

Source: City of Pittsburgh, Mithun



Hill District Parks Master Plan 2022

Hill District Public Parks: A Need for Unprogrammed Public Space



FRANK C. RIZZO PARK
SIZE: 7.2 ACRES



ARMON RECREATION CENTER
SIZE: 6.1 ACRES



BARRON PARK
SIZE: 12.3 ACRES



BERNARD PARK
SIZE: 15.4 ACRES



GRAHAM PARK
SIZE: .4



GRANT HILL PARKLET
SIZE: .8



HILL PARK
SIZE: 3.5



VINCENNES PARKLET
SIZE: 1.8

Resilient Hill District

- Greater Hill District Master Plan -> Update and Adopt
- Programs and Livability – October (Housing) & November
- Cultural Legacy & Historic Preservation – December
- Public Health, Facilities & Services (Safety) -January



Next Steps

- Steering Committee reviews your recommendations
- Plan Development
- Community Review – Public Meeting/Plan unveiling
- Adoption by planning Commission

*Thank
you*



Where can you find us?



Pittsburgh City Planning



@PLANPGH
@resilientPGH



@planpgh

Online at engage.pittsburghpa.gov/ghdmp



Project Team

Economic Development and Urban Design Consultants

- Firms: ECONorthwest, Mithun, Inc; Ideas and Actions and Studio Sewde
- Urban Design Study, Economic Development Study, Centre-Heldman Site Activation Plan, Implementation Plan

Transportation Consultants

- Firms: Kittelson & Associates, NspireGreen, and Langan
- Curbside and Parking Management Strategy, Transportation Study, Transportation Demand Management
- **Parks Master Plan Consultants**
- Firms: Groundswell and Deep Dive Detroit



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- Information about the plan and process
- Upcoming meetings
- Future Action team information
- Receive updates/Follow the project
- Engagement opportunities

Scales of Planning

Types of Plans

