The Sampsonia Way Green Alley Project is transforming this neglected, multi-use street into a model of sustainable urban design.

**Why? Reduce Pollution!**

With increasing urbanization, impervious surfaces like rooftops, roads, and parking areas funnel increasing amounts of stormwater into storm drains, which connect to Pittsburgh’s existing combined sewer system. During heavy rainfall events, the amount of water surpasses the system’s capacity, resulting in releases of untreated sewage into our local waterways, including the Allegheny, Ohio, and Monongahela Rivers. To prevent this, the City and region have embarked on a mixed strategy of reducing stormwater inputs into the system on the upstream end and building capacity for storage and treatment on the downstream end.

**What will the Green Alley do? Create Urban Sustainability!**

Sampsonia Way Green Alley will redirect stormwater away from the combined sewer system, allowing it to infiltrate locally. Excess water will be redirected (under Monterey Street) to help fill the redesigned Lake Elizabeth in Allegheny Commons Park.

In addition to saving wastewater treatment costs, the redesigned streetscape will beautify Sampsonia Way, improving quality of life for residents and visitors. In so doing, it will provide numerous environmental co-benefits like reduced air pollution, noise dampening, and reduced urban heat island (lower energy costs), as well as provide habitat for native plants, birds, and other wildlife.

**What will the new streetscape look like? Water Connects Us All!**

Residents have chosen the preliminary conceptual design depicted here. The major design element of the streetscape is “Sampsonia Run,” in which pervious paving materials will be combined in a meandering pattern that runs down the street, evoking a small stream or “run.” The design reminds us of the network of small streams that carried stormwater down the hillside historically, before the development of the neighborhood more than 150 years ago.

Three materials will evoke the three zones along streams: **A** the stream channel, **B** its floodplain, and **C** adjacent terraces and uplands.

It reminds us today that our land and water uses upstream are connected to our living waterways downstream, including the Allegheny, Ohio, and Monongahela Rivers – these are sources not only of our drinking water, but also of our identities as Pittsburghers.