

# ALTERNATIVE USES

- ❖ Current successful examples of land preservation:
  - Urban green space + citizen science
    - Citizen science— voluntary researchers who collect key data to analyze ecosystems, ex. FrogWatch USA, monarch taggers
    - Partner with local schools, universities, neighborhood organizations to create programming and projects
    - Current existing example: Kent Stark's campus bog
  - Native Plant Community Orchard
    - Wetland/forest environment perfect for native Ohio fruits; ex. Pawpaws, service berries, spice berries
    - Many living examples, but one is the Mount Joy Community Orchard:  
[https://open.spotify.com/episode/1ZImYayuq41MQID7hk1IHq?si=x6Sl7YxTgKpeqHPI0kBIQ&utm\\_source=copy-link](https://open.spotify.com/episode/1ZImYayuq41MQID7hk1IHq?si=x6Sl7YxTgKpeqHPI0kBIQ&utm_source=copy-link)
    - Akron has already had great success and public interest in community food forests, such as the Elizabeth Park food forest project
    - Minimal maintenance required; can pay local Akronites a living wage to care for land/educate citizens
  - Green Cemetery
    - Macabre, but allows natural burial options for those who wish to return their own nutrients to the land without toxic embalming chemicals or wasteful caskets
    - Will prevent future development permanently
    - There are 6 active green cemeteries in Ohio
- ❖ Avenues for current property:
  - Local example of Kent Bog State Nature Preserve - successful preservation of bog/wetland
    - Was going to be a mall before citizens stopped it
    - Seed bank brought out unique, glacial, northern plants when restoration began
  - Property becomes a wetland credit site:  
[https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/OH\\_2022-OMP-Credit-Fee-Schedule.pdf](https://www.nature.org/content/dam/tnc/nature/en/documents/OH_2022-OMP-Credit-Fee-Schedule.pdf)
    - In Tuscarawas watershed per docs from the city, 2022 credits sell for 61,000 an acre - could the city make more \$?
  - Possibility of a land trust stepping in or grant funding, need time to evaluate those routes
  - If city is dedicated to “keeping Akron beautiful” and conservation, like the gorge dam, this should be a part of that mission