



**Pittsburgh  
Parks  
Conservancy**

**Donor Newsletter**  
March-April 2016  
PittsburghParks.org

## Sustaining gifts help improve your parks one month at a time

### Martha Mannix and Stephen Massey

**You'll** find Steve and Martha walking Buddy, their 10-year-old Wheaton, along the tranquil trail in Frick Park, or down in Nine Mile Run to watch the fireflies. "We are so blessed to have such a natural asset – a place to escape, refresh and find solitude – in the middle of a city," says Steve.



Martha calls the Reynolds Street Gatehouse, "a welcoming gateway to an urban treasure. It's restoration was a signal about how important our parks are to the city."

**The** pair have been Point Breeze residents for more than 25 years and became early Parks Conservancy supporters after seeing the transformation of the first restoration you made possible – the Reynolds Street Gatehouse in Frick Park. "Just like our cultural and educational assets, the parks are a crucial asset to ours and this region's quality of life," says Martha. "How could we not support the Parks

Conservancy and all the work that it does? This nonprofit public-private partnership makes the parks – and our lives – better."

**In** 2010 the couple moved to a sustaining gift. "It's easy," says Steve. "You just set it and forget about it and feel good that you are helping however modestly to support a great urban treasure

– our parks. And because the payments stretch out monthly, you don't really notice, making it easier to perhaps dig a little deeper."

**Martha** and Steve are looking forward to the future you help them make possible in the

parks. "We are excited about the imminent opening of the new Frick Environmental Center," says Martha. "Not just because it is such a green building, but because the Center was an important part of introducing our now grown girls to the outdoors." 🌟

If you'd like to "set it and forget it" like Martha and Steve and become a sustaining donor, contact Allison Hall at 412.682.7275 x240 or visit [www.pittsburghparks.org/donate](http://www.pittsburghparks.org/donate)



### ENGAGE

contact Kathleen Gaines  
at [kgaines@pittsburghparks.org](mailto:kgaines@pittsburghparks.org)  
or 412.682.7275 x213





Park champions like you

# A new generation of volunteers

## The Reitzell Family

**E**very person deserves a clean park, at least that's what Matt and Jenny Reitzell are teaching their two young children, Melanie and Isaac.

**T**he entire Reitzell family frequently volunteers in Riverview, Frick, and McKinley Park. "It's just part of what we do, it's normal to stop and pick up trash. If more people had

this approach we wouldn't have the litter issues that we do," says Matt.

**"A**s spring returns and the parks are coming back to life, the kids are excited to see the results of their work from last year and proudly show it off to their grandmother," says Jenny. For volunteer opportunities, visit [www.pittsburghparks.org/volunteer](http://www.pittsburghparks.org/volunteer). 🌱



For Melanie and Isaac helping out in the parks is second nature



Programs you make possible

# Art at your Frick Environmental Center

## Pittsburgh's new rainy day destination

**T**his year your new Frick Environmental Center will become Pittsburgh's rainy day destination. The Center will celebrate the art in nature with *Rain Ravine*, an installation piece by environmental artist Stacy Levy, which will come to life when it rains.

**T**he art piece will be installed beside the building at the top of the new amphitheater. Rain



Rain Ravine artist Stacy Levy

*"The building is alive", says artist Stacy Levy of the Frick Environmental Center.*

water will be channeled from the roof and then will flow freely though the installation and into the wetlands below. Stacy's design mimics the erosion and creek formation found in Frick Park. Visitors will

witness the journey of water and how it molds the earth, but get out your umbrellas, because you can only see it in the rain.

**T**his site-specific work of art is possible because of

your support and a generous grant from The Fine Foundation. "The building is alive," says Stacy. "Water typically is stuck in pipes, but this is a place that water likes and can flow freely giving you the ability to see it in action." 🌧️



Rain Ravine will make it fun to be in the park during a downpour

photo credit Mark Simpson



*You transform our cherished spaces*

# Schenley Park Visitor Center and Cafe

**You revitalized a beloved welcoming space**

**I**n 2001 a dilapidated former park shelter was transformed into the Schenley Park Café and Visitor Center. Careful restoration of the over-one-hundred year-old building's masonry, windows and roof – as well as an interior design that includes a café, park maps, and gathering spots – has made the Center a gorgeous, welcoming entrance to the rolling hills of Schenley Park. Your support made this possible. A partnership with Parkhurst Dining brings top-notch food and service to the Café, as well as income sharing that goes toward maintenance of the Center. With a back deck that looks over the treetops of Schenley Park, your generosity has made these wonderful views possible for generations to come. 🌿



photo credit: Susan Rademacher



photo credit: Jeremy Marshall

## Your legacy will live in the parks

### Bequests to the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

**B**y listing the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy as a beneficiary in your will you can make an impact on the parks the next generation will inherit. Please contact Kathleen at 412.682.7275 x213 for more information on how simple it can be to give such a great gift. 🌿

*"We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children."*  
– Native American Proverb



Your parks, your stories

# Schenley Plaza's vitality energizes Pittsburgh

## Ethel Olmsted Hansen

**E**thel Olmsted Hansen's love for the parks began in New York City watching the diversity of people who were drawn to the spectacular green spaces of Central Park. When she moved to Pittsburgh she fell in love with Schenley Park while playing tennis at the Oval. "I gamely tried to win matches, often to no

avail," she laughs. "Then there was Flagstaff Hill, a peaceful place to study the often imponderable topics graduate school at Carnegie Mellon tossed on my plate."

**T**wenty years ago, when your Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy was known as "the Schenley Park Conservancy", Ethel's husband connected her with founder and CEO Meg Cheever and she became a member of the organization's first board of directors. "I believe parks, all types of parks, are vital to the viability of a city," Ethel says. "Most importantly, they provide an oasis and are entirely democratic and non-discriminatory."



photo credit: Scott Roller

Ethel Olmsted Hansen is a descendent of the Landscape Architect who designed Central Park



Schenley Plaza is Ethel Olmsted Hansen's favorite park

**E**thel loves Schenley Plaza because its vitality matches New York City's Bryant Park. "Bryant Park, a pocket park, attracted a wide range of people all engaged in different activities," she says. "Not just enjoying food venues, but also socializing, playing backgammon and chess. Plantings around the park were dazzling,

just as they are now at Schenley Plaza."

**A**s one of the Conservancy's first donors, Ethel has seen the tremendous change your gifts have enabled. "I continue to support the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy today, because I am extraordinarily impressed by their twenty years of progress." 🌻

## 2016 PNC Carousel Passes

### \$30

(save \$20 off regular price of \$50 through May 1)

You and your family can ride the PNC carousel in Schenley Plaza without tokens all season with a **Family Season Pass**.

**Purchase your 2016 Season Pass** (valid for two adults and up to four children) today.

**Purchase online** at [www.pittsburghparks.org/PNC-carousel](http://www.pittsburghparks.org/PNC-carousel)

**Use Code: GO4ASPIN** to get your pass for \$30 before May 1st.

