



**Pittsburgh  
Parks  
Conservancy**

**Donor Newsletter**  
September - October 2015  
PittsburghParks.org

## You are transforming Cliffside Park

Children help develop art for Hill District park

**B**ecause of you, art and public space will intertwine at the Hill District's Cliffside Park. The neighborhood produced or inspired some of Pittsburgh's greatest artists, such as playwright, August Wilson, and photographer, Teenie Harris. The restored park will incorporate a new work, inspired by today's community.



Artist Leslie Ansley flanked by neighborhood children

photo credit: Michael Belgov

**Pittsburgh** artist, Leslie Ansley, was selected to create an art piece inspired by the neighborhood and the children who will play there. Her murals can be seen all over Pittsburgh including at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, on Jacksonia Street in Central Northside, and at Forbes and Murray in Squirrel Hill.

**I**mages generated by neighborhood kids in a series of workshops will be incorporated into her design.

**A**nsley's work for Cliffside will go beyond a mural, covering a retaining wall and spilling onto the walkway. Inspired by the

park's Cliffside setting and by the dreams of local children, Leslie has developed designs that

celebrate the idea of flight and soaring visions—peregrine falcons, kites and dandelion fluff.

*"I hope that the artwork gives the community a sense of pride and ownership of the park."*  
- Leslie Ansley

**L**eslie also took great inspiration from

the story of Ammon Cashmere Battle, an 8 year old child from the community who died from a congenital heart condition. His dream was to visit Paris, France, so French design styles will be used. "My hope is that the piece energizes the space and introduces a unique art experience for visitors to the park", she says.



### ENGAGE

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Park champions like you

# Legacy gifts protect your parks

## Gary and Greer Mulholland

**Pittsburgh** Parks Conservancy board member Gary Mulholland and wife Greer have been park advocates since the late 70s when they fell in love with Frick Park. Recently they listed the

Parks Conservancy as a beneficiary in their will. "We have supported the parks during our lifetime because we believe in the tremendous value they bring to our community. We will be happy if our bequest makes a positive impact on future initiatives after we're gone," says Gary. 🌿



Gary and Greer took on a plot of land in Frick Park to manage as Urban EcoSteward volunteers in 2014

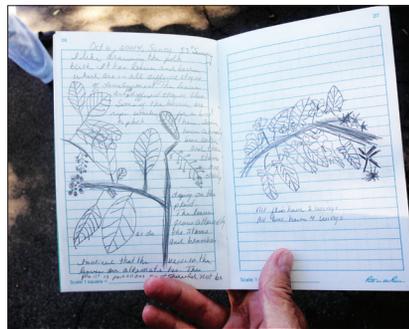


Programs you make possible

# You make our education program reach grow

## Osher program creates lifelong learning opportunities

**T**hanks to you education does not stop after childhood at the Frick Environmental Center. The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy has partnered with the University of Pittsburgh's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to offer adult learning opportunities. Naturalist educator Mike Cornell leads a class called "The Story of Pittsburgh's Forests." It focuses on tree identification and the evolution of Pittsburgh's forests from pre-historic to present.



A nature journal

**T**his partnership began last year with "Discovering Nature Through Journaling" and was a huge success. "I recently ran into a former student in Panther Hollow while she was journaling," Mike beams. "She has kept it up for a year."

*"There's always something new to see or connect with in nature."*  
- Mike Cornell

**P**arks Conservancy supporter Jim Delaney jumped at the

opportunity this year. "Mike has challenged us to adopt a tree for the class and he gives us assignments to experience something about it," Jim says.

**T**his year's course is 5 weeks long and has 30 students with another 30 on a waiting

list. "The demand for adult education is definitely there," says Cornell. "The Osher program has been a great opportunity for piloting different topics so that we can hopefully expand adult education at the new Frick Environmental Center on Beechwood Boulevard when it is completed." 🌿



Mike Cornell, center, with Osher students in Frick Park

You transform our cherished spaces

# Then and Now: The Mellon Park Walled Garden

## The garden you made glow

**T**he Walled Garden was created as part of the Richard Beatty Mellon estate in 1929 and features masterfully crafted iron gates, an ornate fountain and beautiful stone and brick work. By the late 2000s the space had deteriorated and large trees in the garden were infected with canker disease.

**I**n 2009 Elizabeth and Joe Seamans offered a leadership gift to restore the space in memory of their daughter. They motivated many to join them and the garden was fully restored in 2010. The transformation of the space became an emotional investment for all involved. "There was a lot of heartfelt care to everything we did," remembers Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Director of Parks Management and Maintenance Phil Gruszka. "All the city crews who worked on the project got it too. That connection lives on with the people who continue to care for the garden today." 🌟



## Claim your place in the galaxy

Dedicate a star in the Walled Garden for someone you love

There are only a few stars left to be dedicated.  
Celebrate someone who makes your heart glow. Visit  
[pittsburghparks.org/sponsorastar](http://pittsburghparks.org/sponsorastar) or call 412.682.7275 for more  
information on what's still available.



# Creating light - Elizabeth and Joe Seamans

## The generous hearts behind Mellon Park's Walled Garden

**E**lizabeth and Joe Seamans saw the magic in the Mellon Park Walled Garden even when it was overgrown. In 2009 they adopted the space when they made a leadership gift to the restoration of the garden in memory of their daughter Annie. "We had gone there since the children were little, and like many people, had found it both expansive and embracing," says Elizabeth.



Joe and Elizabeth Seamans

**A**fter Annie passed unexpectedly, the garden took on even greater meaning to the Seamans. The constellations of LED lights in the grass which glow at night, by artist Janet Zweig, show the position of the stars over Pittsburgh the day that Annie was born. "We love to think of people coming there in the evening and finding magical lights in the lawn," says Elizabeth. "The art piece is a discovery and a little bit of mysterious magic. Just like the Walled Garden itself."



photo credit Melissa McMoisters

Every night at dusk the Walled Garden casts its magical glow

*"Our intention was, because of a private grief, to make an attempt to add light back into the world, rather than to just sit helplessly in the dark."*

**T**he garden's turtle fountain hadn't run in years and was considered beyond the scope of the project, but while the lawn was under construction, City crews found that the plumbing was intact and repairs were made. "The running water in the

fountain was a gift to us all from the wonderful workmen of our city," smiles Elizabeth.

**T**he Seamans don't wish for anyone to focus on their loss, and they have created great joy, as the Walled Garden has become a favorite space for weddings, graduation portraits, and family picnics. 🌟

## Camperships for kids in need

Beginning in 2016 summer camp fees will be offset for children in need by a new summer Campership fund. You can make summer camp possible for one child for as little as \$75. Return your check with this coupon or visit [pittsburghparks.org/donate](http://pittsburghparks.org/donate) and select "Summer Camp Campership" as your designation.

I would like to send a child to summer camp **\$75**

I would like to contribute another amount to the Campership fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return with enclosed envelope or call 412.682.7275 for more information



2015 campers

photo credit Mark Simpson

