



A Note from Jayne

# Your parks are here for you



The urban forest serves as a place for relaxation and reflection.



Lake Elizabeth in Allegheny Commons Park is a Pittsburgh treasure.

Dear Friends,

As we continue through these unprecedented times, we want you to know that your parks are here for you. Our leadership team

is closely monitoring the rapidly evolving coronavirus (COVID-19) global health emergency. Our first priority is always the health and safety of our park supporters and visitors, Conservancy staff

and volunteers, friends and neighbors.

We know that this is an uncertain time for so many who are being impacted by this pandemic. Remember, parks are a wonderful outlet in our daily lives. They are even more important during these challenging and stressful times, as the stress and anxiety of the current situation weighs heavily on each of us and our loved ones. Be sure to spend time outdoors to help decompress; explore a new trail, listen to the birds; read a book; play catch with your children. Be sure to follow all social distancing recommendations, avoid surfaces where the virus can

live such as handrails and playground equipment.

Parks are our most democratic spaces and they are always here for us. Please join me in protecting, supporting and cherishing these spaces that have served us so well during this crisis, so no matter what, our parks will continue on.

Sincerely,

Jayne Miller  
President and CEO,  
Pittsburgh Parks  
Conservancy



Pittsburgh  
Parks  
Conservancy  
PittsburghParks.org

Donor Newsletter  
March - April 2020  
PittsburghParks.org

## Growing Up Near the Gatehouse

### Will Rodman: From Frick Park Neighbor to Pittsburgh Parks Supporter

Long before Will Rodman became a supporter of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, he was just a young boy growing, exploring and learning in his neighborhood park: Frick.

“I was born in 1954. Growing up, my family and I lived at 300 South Homewood Avenue in a house right down the street from the Frick Park gatehouse. As a toddler, my sisters and brother would take me for walks and later tricycle rides almost daily through the park. Our most popular path led directly



Will Rodman learning and growing in Frick Park.



through the gatehouse. I remember when we would follow the path all the way to where you could watch the bowling on the green,” Will said.

The experiences and memories created in Frick

Park are vivid and endearing as Will reflects on his time growing up in Pittsburgh.

“I still remember when my grade school pals and I would go on adventures in Frick Park, and sometimes bike all the way to the playground at Forbes and Braddock. My favorite memory, however, is when I got the nerve to venture through an unlocked door in the Gatehouse one morning as I waited for the school bus to pick me up. That’s where I found a true treasure: a book borrowed from the Carnegie Library



in 1902!” Will simply couldn’t contain his excitement as he recalled his memory.

Will currently resides in Texas, but it’s his love for his former neighborhood park that continues to inspire him to give back and support the Parks Conservancy, so others may have the same opportunity to create their own special memories as he did many years ago.

Simple treasures are discovered and lasting memories are made every day in the parks you support.



The historic Frick Park Gatehouse.



#### Make a pledge to plant flowers!

- \$50 plants 25 bulbs     \$100 plants 50 bulbs  
 Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

#### My information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Please return with enclosed envelope or call 412.682.7275 for more information

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy does not solicit contributions from persons or entities in states other than Pennsylvania, New York, or Florida.



#### ENGAGE

contact Julie Segner at  
jsegner@pittsburghparks.org or  
412.682.7275 x240



You Transform Our Cherished Spaces  
**Celebrating 10 Years of the Walled Garden**



An art installation honors the memory of Ann Katherine Seamans who frequently visited the park.

**W**hat once was part of the Richard Beatty Mellon estate is now a beloved neighborhood gathering place, the Mellon Park Walled Garden. Ten years ago, generous donors like you came together to support this restoration project

that honored the memory of Ann Katharine Seamans, who visited the garden often during her life. An art installation, created by artist Janet Zweig, pays tribute to Annie by bringing the pattern of the night sky on the day of her birth into the lawn through fiber optic "stars." Seeing kids jump from star to star as they light in the grass – with the beautifully restored fountain in the



The transformation of the Mellon Park Walled Garden builds community in the East End.

background – is a joyous park experience.

**T**he Parks Conservancy is honored to have friends like you to support our community and park improvement projects year-round. 🌻

Programs you make possible  
**AEO Pledges Support to Young Naturalists**



Frick Environmental Center's Young Naturalists explore and learn in Pittsburgh's parks.

**T**he American Eagle Outfitters Foundation awarded the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy's Young Naturalist program a \$10,000 grant to support this five-week long paid internship for high school students. **T**he program focuses on environmental stewardship, team building, developing a

conservation ethic, and learning about careers in the environmental field. Each summer, a diverse team of 12 teens ages 14 to 18 spend five weeks working and learning outdoors in your city parks. These students gain hands-on environmental restoration and field study experiences and develop self-confidence, communication skills, and leadership experience.

**T**his serves as an opportunity to bring together teens from neighborhoods across the city who share a common interest in the environment. For many,

this is their first real work experience. The program promises meaningful, paid work and mentoring by experienced naturalist educators and other environmental professionals.

**T**hank you to the American Eagle Outfitters Foundation for its dedication to environmental education and supporting Pittsburgh's youth through learning and exploration opportunities. 🌻



Your Parks – Your Stories  
**Honoring Loved Ones Through Tree Plantings**



A vibrant tree brightens one of Pittsburgh's many parks.

**L**osing a loved one is never easy, but Debbie Demchak has been able to find comfort and happiness by honoring those who have passed through her love of parks.

**"I** love to go to our beautiful parks and know that someone I love

has been remembered by planting a living, growing part of nature that will be here long after we are all passed. There is something comforting in visiting that tree and seeing it bloom and bring happiness to others who might enjoy its beauty or shade."

here and I planted a tree for him and each of his two best friends near each other so I could remember them as they were in life, laughing together on a sunny day."

**N**ot only will the tree planting serve as a way to honor her late father, but it will also help



Volunteers planting trees in Pittsburgh's parks.

Debbie explained.

**D**ebbie has been able to remember her father in the most special and endearing way by planting a tree in his honor. "My father loved walking in the parks

strengthen the parks that Debbie loves, supports and champions for year-round.

**"W**e are so lucky to have so many parks here in Pittsburgh. It is part of what makes this city truly special on a warm Spring day! Whether you are there for a walk, to take your kids to play, or a trail ride, our parks provide us with the most exciting opportunities to see the beauty in our region."

**I**f you would like to plant a commemorative tree in honor of a loved one, please contact Julie Segner (jsegner@pittsburghparks.org) or visit [pittsburghparks.org/plant-trees](http://pittsburghparks.org/plant-trees) to learn more. 🌻