



**Pittsburgh
Parks
Conservancy**
PittsburghParks.org

Donor Newsletter
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PittsburghParks.org

photo credit Melissa McMasters

Speak up for your parks

Parks Listening Tour requests your input

There are 165 parks throughout Pittsburgh's 90 neighborhoods. For the last 22 years you've invested millions of dollars into many of these parks, resulting in some radical transformations. Now it's time to plan the next projects. The City of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy have created the Parks Listening Tour to learn what you love about your parks and what you would like to improve.

All 165 parks need to be brought to a high level of quality, which requires a lot of homework. This year, the Parks Conservancy has collected park and neighborhood data. Now we want your input. Your feedback will guide future investments in projects and programs across the city. Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Community Engagement Manager,



Park Listening Tour held at the "Let's Go Fishing" Club meeting at the Everyday Café in Homewood

Erin Tobin, is excited to interact with the public and gain their feedback. "Meetings have been well attended. People are committed to their parks

and they want what's best for their neighborhood. They've been surprised to learn how much investment is still needed."

These Parks Listening Tour events are scheduled through April at community meetings and local events throughout Pittsburgh. Visit www.PittsburghParks.org/Listening-Tour to find the meeting closest to you. 🌟

Can't make a Park Listening Tour meeting? See the presentation and take the online survey at www.PittsburghParks.org/Listening-Tour



ENGAGE

contact Harmony Hodges at hhodges@pittsburghparks.org or 412.682.7275 x240





Park champions like you

Lyft invests in your parks

Corporate partner cares about park health

A part of Lyft's Ride Smart initiative, the company served as the official ride share partner for the 2018 PNC Spring Hat Luncheon. Lyft provided discounted rides so attendees could enjoy

the luncheon's offerings knowing they had a responsible option for transportation home. "Lyft is always committed to providing responsible ride options to those in the greater Pittsburgh community,"

said Lyft's Market Manager, Josh Huber. "We are proud to support an organization that values our community and those who live in it." 🌱



Programs you make possible

Your dollar is at work in all seasons

Horticulturists focus on developmental pruning and woodland restoration

As plants lay dormant, you can find Parks Conservancy horticulturists bundled nose to toes in warm layers and heavy boots, tackling projects out in your parks. They concentrate on developmental tree pruning and woodland restoration.

The purpose of developmental tree pruning is to train the young, newly planted trees to have strong branch structure. It can take several years to train a tree to develop proper branch structure. Winter is the best time to remove dead or diseased branches - the chances of spreading disease and insects are low because they, like trees, are dormant.

Working as a group, you can find the horticulturists in different park woodlands week by week. Woodland restoration involves managing woody invasives such as vines, large bush honeysuckle, Norway maples, and other invasive bush and tree species. You can see their work along Upper Panther Hollow Trail in Schenley Park. It may



Gardener Jaci Bruschi clears limbs after pruning at the Schenley Park Visitor's Center

look like bird nests in the trees, but it's actually clumps of vine roots.

This year, Horticulturist Angela Yuele shared a new idea: planting native seeds as they cut vines. When we cut vines we disturb the soil and let in light, so this

is a great opportunity to plant seeds! This fall, we collected native flower seeds from several flowerbeds including milkweed, butterfly weed, coneflower, baptisia, northern sea oats, black-eyed Susan's and redbud." 🌱



Ecologist Bryan Dolney plants seeds after removing vines



You transform our cherished spaces

You support healthy ash trees

Inoculation stops the emerald ash borer

You may have noticed some trees with a band of white tape that reads, "Ash Tree Conservation Project." These hardy ash trees recently underwent another round of treatment that protects them from the destructive emerald ash borer (EAB).

First spotted in our woods in summer 2007, EAB has proven to be a serious ecological threat. The beetle deposits its tiny eggs along the trunk and lower branches of ashes, as well as inside cracks and crevices. Hatched EAB larvae then tunnel into the host tree, making S-shaped galleries. These galleries destroy the tissues needed to move water

and nutrients, eventually starving the tree. This invasive insect has killed approximately 68,000 ash trees in our park system - nearly 16% of the entire tree canopy.

Your support of the Park Tree Fund has protected a select population of about 130 ash trees through routine, three-year inoculations. Chosen for their health and age, these survivor trees are key to repopulating this native species in our region. Last spring, Parks Conservancy experts examined the health of these critical trees, and again inoculated them against EAB. The plan is to continue these efforts until it's possible for this unique native tree to once again take root in our region's woods. 🌳



Phil Gruszka, Director of Horticulture and Forestry, identifies an ash tree destroyed by the Emerald Ash Borer



Parks Conservancy employees pose next to a newly inoculated ash tree



Honorary Chairs

Meg and George Cheever

Crown Supporters

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Robert Levin & Kerry Bron
Jim Spencer

A tree stands tall because its roots are deep

Membership in The Roots Giving Society is as vital to the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy's existence as the life-giving roots of your favorite park tree. Members contribute an annual unrestricted gift of \$1,996 or more, in honor of the year the organization was founded by concerned citizens like you.

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Your parks, your stories

A park wedding and anniversary

Erin and Justin celebrate their love by planting trees

Erin Exley and Justin Lostetter first met at Riverview Park more than six years ago. Their love of the outdoors brought them together during a Venture Outdoors hike and they've been spending their time in the park together ever since.

"When we were planning our wedding several years later, we picked Riverview

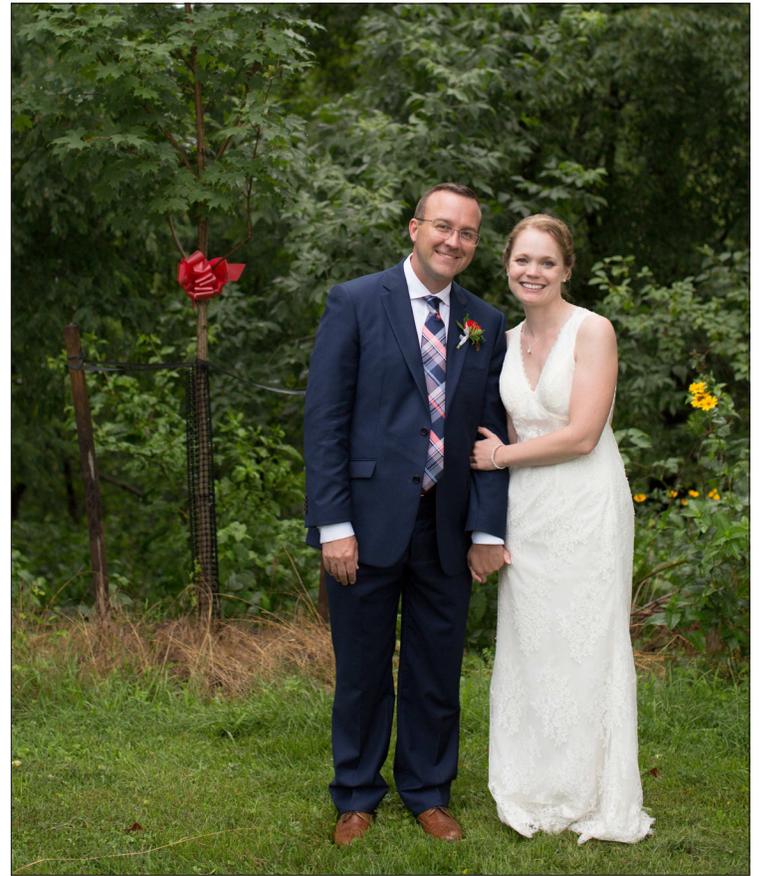


The Riverview Park Chapel Shelter is a beautiful wedding venue

Park as the venue, since our story began there. In honor of that day and as a thank you, we decided to donate a tree. Now, it can grow old with us!" The Parks Conservancy planted a sugar maple tree ahead of their wedding, which they adorned with a red bow for their special day.

Although their journey started at Riverview Park, they enjoy all of Pittsburgh's parks. "Justin's favorite park is Frick due to the topography, wooded trails, size and many dogs. Erin loves Highland Park due to the beautiful gardens, the friendliness of the other loop walkers and the amazing smells that waft from the family picnics!"

One year later, Justin and Erin planted another tree. "When our first anniversary rolled around, we read that a traditional gift was paper. Knowing



Justin and Erin pose with their tree on their wedding day

that, we knew we could do better and donated a second tree - this time at Highland Park - the park you can find us at most nights during the summer months!"

"We check up on our trees seasonally and celebrated our first anniversary 'by' the Riverview sugar maple. We can't say 'under' just yet."



Plant a restoration tree



Help restore our urban forest and donate to have a restoration tree planted by a Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy volunteer

\$75 Other \$ _____

My information:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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e-mail _____

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