



**Pittsburgh  
Parks  
Conservancy**

**Donor Newsletter**  
June-July 2016  
PittsburghParks.org

## You made paradise and dug up a parking lot

### Schenley Plaza turns 10

**W**here do you spend sunny weekend afternoons, take visiting relatives, or go for unique date nights? A parking lot? We didn't think so.

**I**t's hard to imagine Oakland without the Plaza. Thanks to groundbreaking supporters like you, we don't have to.

**W**hen Mary Schenley gifted her land to the City in the 1880s, it was with two provisions: that it be made into a park bearing her name and that it never be sold. In 1891 the City purchased an additional 19 acre section (called Mt. Airy Tract) from Schenley and imagined a grand entrance to the park with a national design competition. In 1917 a plan for Schenley



photo credit: Scott Roller

Plaza was selected.

**T**he paved portion of Schenley Plaza grew along with neighboring institutions and the popularity of the Pittsburgh Pirates at Forbes Field until it became a parking lot.

**I**n 2006, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy in partnership with the City,

community partners, and supporters like you once again envisioned a grand entrance to Schenley Park. This time, that dream was realized. With a \$10 million renovation, the asphalt parking was restored to a reimagined Schenley Plaza, the green heart of Oakland, and welcomes more than 500,000 visitors each year.

**V**isit any major city, and you'll see people flocking to open, welcoming places where they can eat lunch in the sun, play checkers, listen to live music, and relax. Thanks to you, most of the people flocking to our "livable" city can't believe this paradise was ever paved. ☀️



### ENGAGE

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Park champions like you

# Donors make PNC Carousel possible

## Toofus the Tiger member of Scaife family

**"I** love the fact that Schenley Plaza is a beautiful spot of green in the middle of Oakland," says Sara Scaife. "The carousel makes it a destination for families with young children." The Scaife family adopted the tiger ten years ago, and named

him "Toofus" after their beloved snaggle-toothed dog at home.

**"M**y husband, David, and I were so excited to see the old parking lot developed into a park," Sara remembers. Their gift, along with you, PNC, and the other carousel donors, gave children in Pittsburgh a carousel close to home. 🌿



photo credit Lauryn Staller

Toofus is a popular ride in Schenley Plaza



Programs you make possible

# Free Schenley Plaza Programs

## You support favorite park activities

**Y**our support makes hundreds of free programs available in Schenley Plaza each year. In the spring and summer months there is something to do every day.

**T**he Farmers' Market in Schenley Plaza hosts approximately a dozen local vendors including Christoff's Farm, Dillner Farm and the uniquely beautiful A519 Chocolate. The market is open in the Library Bosque beside the lawn every Friday, starting on June 3rd and ending on October 21st.



photo credit John Altorder

**F**ree Kid's Days are offered the second Sunday of every month starting May 8th through October 9th. Families can enjoy free rides on the PNC Carousel and dozens of other kid-friendly activities.

**M**ore than 500 people take advantage of free yoga presented by Folding Space Yoga on

Mondays at noon and Saturdays at 10 am. Tai Chi is offered Sundays from 10-11 am.

**T**he WYEP Music Festival and Final Friday concerts are some of the most anticipated events of the year. This year's music festival was June 28th. There is still time to

enjoy the music. Final Friday concerts will be July 29th and August 26th. We are thrilled to have WYEP returning to the Plaza.

**O**n behalf of the thousands of people who love these free programs, thank you. 🌿



photo credit Melissa McWaters

Free yoga in partnership with Folding Space Yoga.



You transform our cherished spaces

# Then and Now: Schenley Plaza

Plaza restored to original purpose



Schenley Plaza 1914

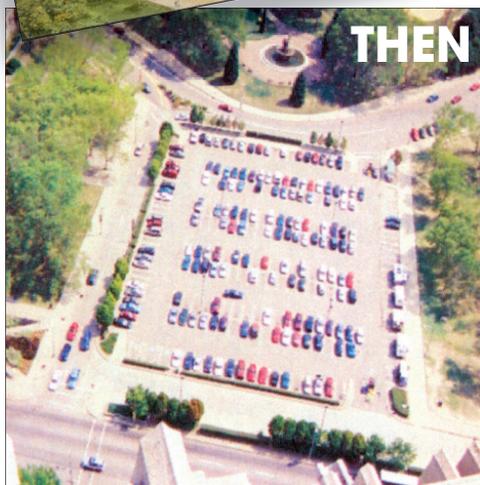


Photo credit: Jeremy Marshall

## PNC Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Spring Hat Luncheon

Event raised \$545,000 for your parks

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Photo credit: Mia Pink



Your parks, your stories

# Runners start a legacy in Schenley Park

## Schenley Oval Track Club

**I**n 1976 Tom Solomich and his friends struck up a plan to meet at the oval on a Saturday morning. The Schenley Oval Track Club (SOTC) was born. Over the years, every weekend, runners of all abilities would meet to run upwards of 10 miles at the track and throughout the trails of Schenley Park.

**"M**arathon runners hate looking straight ahead. Schenley provides spotless trails," says Tom, which gave these runners miles of "canopy from the summer sun and varied terrain." Even in the

middle of winter, "Life was beautiful in the freezing cold," says SOTC member Linda Ruckert. Tom laughs as he remembers his coldest run at 22 degrees below.

**T**he SOTC has witnessed the difference your support makes in Schenley Park, "The limestone trails, the carousel, the beautiful flowers and trees. It's



The Schenley Oval Track Club has existed since 1976.



After member Ray Olmo passed, the group dedicated bricks in Schenley Plaza.

really been well taken care of over the years," says Linda. "This is why the SOTC was able to maintain a steady running schedule for 30 plus years."

**I**n 2015, longtime member Raymond Olmo passed away and the group dedicated a brick in his name at Schenley Plaza. They held a memorial run

starting at the Oval, accompanied for the first time by Ray's daughter, and ending at his brick. Afterwards, they dedicated a brick for each SOTC member.

**A**lthough only two members still run, the group continues to meet at Schenley Plaza -where their names and the spirit of their group will live on for years. 🍁

## Schenley Plaza celebrates 10 years



\$10

Like most 10-year-olds we would love cash for our birthday

Support the beautiful gardens, carousel and free programming in Oakland's back yard with your gift

I would like to give \$10 to honor 10 years

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Or visit [www.pittsburghparks.org/donate](http://www.pittsburghparks.org/donate) and select Schenley Plaza

