

You continue to improve Mellon Square downtown

Park edges get a facelift to frame a masterpiece

Last summer you completed the restoration of downtown’s modernist park masterpiece. Today, the improvement of the “Square in the Triangle” continues as the project moves to the streetscape of this unique city block. “Mellon Square was designed from curb-to-curb. It integrates a park, retail stores, and a parking garage,” says Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Parks Curator Susan Rademacher. “Every square inch of this world-renowned place should be special.”

Mellon Square’s streetscape on Smithfield Street will get a total facelift with brand-new curbing, sidewalk planters, benches, as well as trash receptacles. The storefronts along the street will be updated and streamlined.



photo credit Scott Roller

“People should be proud of a design that serves us all so well. We are.”

– Dylan, Talbott, and Henry Simonds

A new interpretive wall and an illuminated signband overhead have already been completed. It alerts people to Mellon Square’s presence above and provides a brief history of Pittsburgh’s first Renaissance and the park. Dylan, Talbott, and Henry Simonds, the grandsons of Mellon Square’s designer John Ormsbee Simonds, funded the creation of the interpretive wall. “This garden plaza is an oasis of calm and openness, where visitors

can experience relaxation, renewal and reunion with the natural world. People should be proud of a design that serves us all so well. We are,” they said.

Public and private partners continue to be identified to secure the needed resources for this plan to be accomplished. 🌱



ENGAGE

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Park champions like you

Volunteers like you brighten your parks

Janet's passion blooms in Riverview Park

Anyone who knows Riverview Park has seen Janet Pazzynski elbow deep in one of a dozen flower beds. "It started with one perennial garden," she

says. Janet volunteered to plant a flower bed with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy years ago. "If you're planting this bed, you gotta weed it," a volunteer leader told her, jokingly. Janet did just that and has volunteered countless hours to the park since. She says

it's the best feeling when neighbors and park visitors tell her how beautifully the gardens are growing. Please join us in celebrating this incredible park friend, who brings a stunning spring to Riverview Park year after year. 🌱



Volunteer Janet Pazzynski works in one of more than a dozen beds she maintains



Programs you make possible

You make our gardens flourish

Budding volunteers grow with Schenley Plaza

Every May for the last five years, the pre-K, kindergarten and first grade children of the Temple Sinai religious school have celebrated Mitzvah Day by planting flowers in Schenley Plaza. Aside from being very cute, the kiddos are counted among the more than 2,000 of you who volunteer with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy each year.

"I get asked a lot while I'm working in the gardens if I do all of this by myself," laughs Parks Conservancy Gardener Angela Yuele. "The truth is the volunteers and city workers are crucial. I



photo credit Scott Rollier

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Gardener Angela Yuele

could never do this by myself."

*"Volunteers and city workers are crucial. I could never do this by myself."
— Angela Yuele*

Alongside Angela are Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy gardeners Jaci Bruschi and Rosie Wise. They oversee the gardens at Schenley Plaza, Schenley Park Café and Visitor Center, Highland Park Entry Garden, Mellon Park Walled Garden, Mellon Square and the Riverview Chapel Shelter.

Last year you helped them plant more than 20,000 flowers in our parks as well as deadhead, mulch and maintain each of these gardens.

The largest horticultural display is the Highland Park Entry Garden with 18 flower beds covering 14,000

square feet. In 2014 the reopening of Mellon Square added new beds with 10,000 bulbs and more than 400 annuals.

None of it could be done without your support. Thank you for keeping our parks in bloom. 🌱



photo credit Mark Simpson

Tiny volunteers from Temple Sinai working in Schenley Plaza alongside Parks Conservancy gardeners Jaci Bruschi and Rosie Wise.



You transform our cherished spaces

Then and Now: Highland Park Entry Garden

You brought Pittsburgh's grand garden to life

Warm spring evenings find the grand Highland Park Entry Garden buzzing with vitality as a diverse neighborhood gathers in this iconic space. The Victorian gardens include a fountain, reflecting pool, and benches for relaxing. Individual and corporate donors played a key role with government in the 2005 restoration that brought the Entry Garden to its present-day glory, including 40,000 perennial plantings by partners like the Rosedale Block Cluster. Today, the garden is maintained through partnerships between the City, Parks Conservancy, and dedicated volunteers like the Men's Garden Club of Pittsburgh. ☘



Join us for Weeding Wednesdays in the Highland Park Entry Garden.

Tools, gloves and training provided for volunteers.

2015 Weeding Wednesdays Dates:

May 6th and 20th Aug 12th and 26th
June 3rd and 17th Sept 9th and 23rd
July 1st, 15th, and 29th



Your giving has new benefits!

Parks Conservancy donors enjoy Schenley Plaza discounts

10% discount

- The Porch at Schenley (discount does not apply to alcohol)
- Waffallonia (Schenley Plaza location only)
- Asia Tea House

Free fountain drink

(valid with purchase)

- Opa Gyro
- Conflict Kitchen



All 2015 Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy donors qualify for benefits. Don't have your supporter card yet? Get in touch at (412) 682-7275

www.pittsburghparks.org

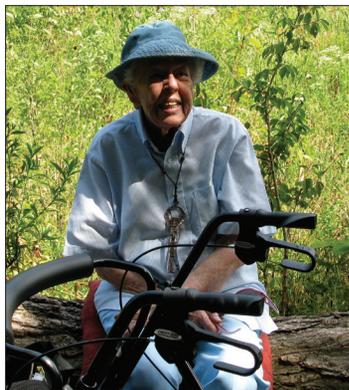


Your parks, your stories

A living legacy – Ed and Jacqueline Gerjuoy

Life and love celebrated in Schenley Plaza

You might see a flower bed in Schenley Plaza with a plaque in tribute to Jacqueline Reid Gerjuoy among the daffodils that reads, *She loved nature. We loved her.* A few feet away a circular bench also stands in her memory, *She lived with love for all and malice towards none.* “That was Jac,” smiles Ed Gerjuoy, her husband for 68 years.



Jacqueline Gerjuoy loved nature and gardening all her life

Gerjuoy met Jackie at UC Berkeley in 1938. He was a graduate student in physics, she was a junior undergrad. The couple married in 1940 and eventually had two sons while Gerjuoy went on to be a physics professor at the University of Southern California.

In the summer of 1952 Gerjuoy took a temporary position in the Westinghouse labs. He found Pittsburgh beautiful and told Jackie how nice it was in his calls to her. He accepted a permanent position at Pitt (where he is still professor emeritus), relocating Jackie and their boys to the steel city. “I didn’t know that there was a steel strike going on that summer,” Gerjuoy remembers. Two days after his wife’s arrival the mills again started churning steel and emitting huge clouds of



photo credit Mark Simpson

Ed Gerjuoy just celebrated his 97th birthday. He still has a desk in the Pitt Physics Department and visits Jackie’s space in Schenley Plaza often.

dust. “That almost ended my marriage,” Gerjuoy laughs.

The family stayed in Pittsburgh and when Jackie passed in 2008 Gerjuoy selected a garden at Schenley Plaza to commemorate her. He also established the Jacqueline Reid Gerjuoy Nature and

Environmental Resources Collection at the nearby Carnegie Library. “Half my money is hers and I wanted to spend it on her,” he says. “The only thing that makes me sad is that I didn’t tell her my plans before she died. She would have loved to be in Schenley Plaza.”

Create a tribute that will last generations for a birth, marriage, graduation or passing of a loved one

A \$500 donation will designate the planting of a larger (2” caliper) commemorative tree in the park of your choice. We will custom select the tree

location and type based on your wishes and park needs. For \$750 you can join us for a planting ceremony with as many family and friends as you would like.

To learn more visit www.pittsburghparks.org/plantatree or contact Kathleen at (412) 682-7275 x213

