



**Pittsburgh
Parks
Conservancy**
PittsburghParks.org

Donor Newsletter
August- Sept 2019
PittsburghParks.org

photo by Renee Rosensteel

You Create Parks for the Next Generation

Dear Friends of the Parks Conservancy,

Our City is at a unique crossroads. While the place we call home continues to go through an amazing transformation, we still face challenges in ensuring this change benefits every Pittsburgher in every community. Our wonderful parks are a way that we can make this happen. As a supporter of the parks, your contributions have made a dramatic impact to so many and together, we have accomplished so much. However, more work needs to be done.

Our public park system, neglected during our most troubled times, is in dire need of significant financial investment. A recent audit conducted by the City of Pittsburgh and the Parks Conservancy identified a minimum of \$400 million in capital needs in our parks and an annual \$13 million maintenance shortfall.

To begin to address this need, we recently visited more than 70 Pittsburgh neighborhoods, sharing data and gathering community input on the condition of the parks. From this process, the City and



Parks Conservancy have created an equitable investment plan, which I am presenting at various public meetings this fall. I invite you to engage with me personally at these events so we can have productive conversations about an issue that means so much to us all. Meeting dates and times, as well as our plan, can be found at www.pittsburghparks.org/parksplan

to your support, we will extend our commitment to more than 160 very special public spaces, ensuring our children and grandchildren have safe, accessible, and well-maintained places to learn and grow. **Together, we can leave a lasting legacy for generations of Pittsburghers to come.**

Sincerely,

Jayne Miller

I am grateful for all you have done and continue to do for the parks. Thanks



ENGAGE

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





Park champions like you

Macy's Supports Kids' Day

During the summer months, Schenley Plaza comes alive with community days, festivals, live lunchtime music, and the once-per-month Kids' Day events. Kids' Day events occur one Sunday per month in Schenley Plaza from May through October, noon - 4:00 p.m. During Kids' Days, children are invited to enjoy free rides on the PNC Carousel, balloon artists, face-painting, giant

lawn games, and more. Kids' Day events are made possible by the generous support of Macy's. We extend our thanks to Macy's for their continued support and for bringing joy to the families who participate in Kids' Day. 🍀



photo by John Altendorfer

Kids' Days occur one Sunday per month in Schenley Plaza from May through October



Programs you make possible

You Help Young Naturalists Grow

The Young Naturalist program is a paid, five-week opportunity for high school students to earn work and leadership experience and to interact with other teenagers who share common interests. The 2019 Young Naturalist group consisted of students from Pittsburgh Westinghouse, Alderdice, Colfax, Obama, City Charter High School, and the Western PA School for the Deaf.

assessed water quality in the Falls Ravine stream. Thank you for your continued support of this program and all educational programs hosted by the Frick Environmental Center. 🍀



photo by Renee Rosenstiel

2019 Young Naturalists

This group cut, hauled, and installed logs to control erosion, tended to trees, removed invasive species, performed path maintenance, and



photo by Taji Nelson

2019 Young Naturalists explore Frick Park



You transform our cherished spaces

Clearing Paths in Frick Park

The Parks Conservancy is very pleased to share with you that Frick Park has a beautiful new boardwalk, thanks to a partnership with the City of Pittsburgh and individuals from the Student Conservation Association of Pittsburgh. The boardwalk is located on the Nine Mile Run Trail in Frick Park. Previously, this section of trail had been severely damaged by stormwater overflows that resulted in extensive erosion issues. The construction of this new boardwalk was made

possible by the generous support of a park donor. We thank you for your

continued support of our favorite local green spaces and for making Nine Mile

Run Trail more accessible to our neighbors, families, and friends. 🌿



A new boardwalk is framed and completed on Nine Mile Run

5 Tips for Getting the Most Out of Your Next Hike



1 Be present! Leave your phone or headphones behind and enjoy the sounds of nature. Studies show that walking in a park space where you cannot hear the sounds of traffic is more effective in reducing anxiety.

3 Be creative! Bring your notebook or camera on your next trip to the park. Taking the time to notice photo-worthy details in your park spaces may help you to be more mindful of your experience. Resting during your trip to journal, or journaling afterward, will bring you clarity.

4 Check your senses! We have five senses. Use them all on your next hike! To practice mindfulness and to be more present on your next trip to the park, evaluate your senses at the beginning of your walk and again during.

2 Try a guided hike! Not sure which trail to walk? Try adventuring through our local parks with guided hikes. Currently, guided hikes are offered in Frick Park and in Allegheny Commons Park. Visit pittsburghparks.org/park-events to register for one of these free hikes (Restorative Hikes, Meet Me at the Fountain, First Friday Nature Walk, Third Friday Hikes, Hike with a Naturalist).

5 Bring a friend! Spending alone time in nature helps us to better connect with ourselves to reduce stress. Spending time in nature with others helps us to deepen our connections and strengthen our relationships with each other. Invite your friend to the park for a walk or enjoy your next date with a photography trip through the park.

photo by John Altendorfer

photo by Renee Rosensteel

photo by Taffi Nelson



Your parks, your stories

Volunteers Keep Mellon Park Beautiful

“Volunteers keep our parks going for generations to come. IDL Worldwide has been volunteering for more than five years at the walled garden in Mellon Park. We have an office in the Bakery Square area, close to the garden, which gives us the opportunity to volunteer a few times per year. We take on various jobs like weeding, mulching, and deadheading. We feel a stronger connection to the community in volunteering at the garden and using the parks for events such as “Kickball for a Cause” and “A Fair in the Park.”



Photo provided by IDL Worldwide

I am happy to be the organizer of the after-work volunteer garden events. I think gardening is a great way to de-stress, get outside, and take out your aggression on the weeds! You are able to look, see, and

feel your accomplishment at the end of the day, while some typical work projects may take months to reach completion. It is also a great time to connect with co-workers out of the office, sharing

passions beyond the work desk.

In 2018, volunteers spent more than 4,300 hours in our parks. Pittsburgh Parks cannot maintain the parks alone and are so grateful to our

volunteers for their efforts! If you or your organization would like to volunteer, please contact us at info@pittsburghparks.org

Deidre Gula
Park Volunteer with IDL Worldwide



Help Us Maintain Our Parks

Your Support Ensures that the Parks Conservancy Has the Necessary Garden Tools to Upkeep Our Parks

\$25 \$50 Other \$ _____

My information:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____