photo credit Melissa McMasters

Elsie and Henry Hillman Summer Program

Free programs in the Hill District

Diamond shows off the story-time book with environmental educator Chastity and Director Camila

Summer break should mean playtime for kids. Thanks to the generosity of Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Board Member and Community Advocate, Ritchie Battle, the Elsie and Henry Hillman Summer Program is now at August Wilson Park. All children in Pittsburgh deserve access to the world-class education programs offered at the Frick Environmental Center.

Ritchie shares, "I am so very proud of the wonderful work being done by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy at Cliffside Park, now known as August Wilson Park. To be able to enrich it with a Life Sciences – Nature-Based and Art-Focused – Program named in honor of Elsie and Henry Hillman, whose dedication to that community is legendary, is particularly gratifying. The park, and now this program, are among the happiest experiences that I have had the pleasure of being involved with in our Pittsburgh Community."

Supported by the Parks Conservancy staff, the six-week engagement is focused on children K-5. Children explore the park for clues about the critters around them and make artwork inspired by nature. Diamond enjoys the daily story time. After reading *Every Little Thing* by Cedella Marley she says "I really liked that book. It showed me that, just like the birds, I don't have to worry."

Register for the free Elsie and Henry Hillman Summer Program at August Wilson Park at PittsburghParks.org/blog/summer-fun-august-wilson-park.

"The new Elsie and Henry Hillman Summer Program at August Wilson Park provides engaging nature and arts programming during the park's first full season of operation. What a generous gift for the neighborhood."

– Terri Baltimore, Hill House Association

ENGAGE

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

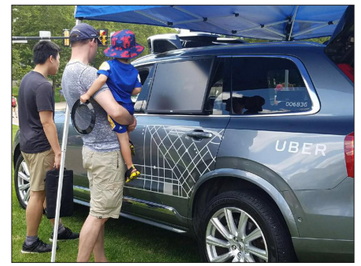
Park champions like you

Free Kids' Days presented by Uber ATG

Self-driving cars on display at Schenley Plaza

Head of Uber Advanced Technologies Group Eric Meyhofer says "the city of Pittsburgh has received the ATG, and our technology, with open arms and I think it's critical that we pay it forward and share this technology with everyone, especially the city's youngest residents. Kids' Days gives us an opportunity to do just that, while celebrating the conservation of our city's parks, which we hope to see more of as we bring our technology to scale."

Remaining Kids' Days are from Noon – 4PM on September 10th and October 8th.



Families check out the driverless car

Programs you make possible

You expand programs across generations

Healthy, Active and Green programs for older adults

Spending time in the park is healthy for the mind, soul and body which is why we knew we had to act when our community asked for adult programming. Thanks to you, Healthy, Active and Green programs are now available.

Walking for thirty minutes every day in nature is linked to lowered blood pressure, elevated moods, and reduced cases of heart disease. Hikes are led on trails around the Frick Environmental Center, all are welcome and hike pace is determined by the hike leader based on the group. Fall courses are Discover Nature through Journaling, and Sustainability Pioneers. Additional programs at the Frick Environmental Center include guided nature walks, fitness hikes and tai chi.

Art in the Park encourages older adults to use the park as inspiration

"You get the benefit of the physical activity and social interaction, but the real benefit is the learning experience."

– Jim Delaney

Park supporter and Volunteer Naturalist Jim Delaney invites you to join these hikes. "Most people like physical activity, but every time I go out on a hike I learn a little bit of facts, interesting tidbits about the forest in our backyard."

Art in the Park at August Wilson Park encourages older adults to relax outside in their local park. This fun social gathering is held every Thursday from 9am – 10:30am and art supplies are provided.

For more information on upcoming events at the Frick Environmental Center and August Wilson Park visit PittsburghParks.org/calendar.

Hikers learn about their urban backyard forest

You transform our cherished spaces

Your new Frick Environmental Center reaches more children

Expanded programs doubles participants

Your support reaches more children. After the nature center burned in 2002, Frick Environmental Center education classes were held out of trailers in Frick Park. Unfortunately, this limited the number of education opportunities we could provide. In the 2012-2013 school year, environmental education programs reached 555 kids from 13 schools.

Now, thanks to you, last school year 1,229 kids from 25 schools participated in environmental education programs with an average class size of 25 students. All programs of all ages include classroom time and multiple park experiences. The textbook comes to life in the park.

It is important that all students, no matter their economic status, have access to excellent environmental education. More than 70% of schools served by these education programs qualify as Title 1 schools, with a high percentage of students on the free or reduced lunch program.

photo credit John Altdorfer

Aerial Silks perform at July's Kids' Day in Schenley Plaza

Free Schenley Plaza programming scheduled through October

Cinema in the Park
in partnership with Citiparks
Sundays (through August 27th): 8:45pm

City of Play
Tuesdays (through August 29th): Noon – 2pm

Farmer's Markets
Fridays: 3pm – 6pm

Kids' Days
sponsored by Uber ATG
Sundays: Noon – 4pm
September 10th & October 8th

Yoga
sponsored by Green Mountain Energy
Mondays: Noon – 1pm

Your parks, your stories

Student becomes the teacher

High School Urban EcoSteward now camp counselor

Michael Rogers latched onto the hands-on approach to learning as a Young Naturalist. "We would learn about a topic, then visit a place that specialized in that field and we would bring back knowledge we learned from those places to apply them to the parks. It was like getting paid to have fun learning about things I was interested in."

Sixteen-year-old Mike was part of the first Young Naturalist class in 2014.

The Young Naturalists program is a fun, paid opportunity for students to get outdoors and learn about the environment and gain unique work and leadership experience. "When you spend time in nature, you tend to see some things that can change the way you think." All first-year participants are currently seeking their bachelor's degree in a STEM related field.

This is Mike's first summer as a Survival Camp counselor. His positive experience as a Young Naturalist serves as a good basis for teaching today. "I love taking what I know and using it to engage the minds of the youth. What we do as counselors, getting kids outside and interested in not only outdoor play, but outdoor learning as well, is very important."

Mike is now a sophomore at Robert Morris University studying Biology with a concentration in pre-med

"It's always great to see a kid who didn't even want to come to the camp leave at the end of the week sad because they did not want the program to end but also happy because the experiences that we have left with them were life changing." Thank you for supporting growing minds and changing lives.

☐ $50 (value $100) ☐ $100 (value $200)

☐ Other amount $

Name

Address

City State Zip

Phone E-mail

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