



**Pittsburgh
Parks
Conservancy**
PittsburghParks.org

Donor Newsletter
October - November 2019
PittsburghParks.org

Thank you for making parks possible!

As the cooler temperatures return to us, we are reminded to slow down and to reflect upon what 2019 has brought to us. "Gratitude" comes front and center--gratitude for the abundance that our parks provide to us year-round and gratitude for our generous supporters who make our parks and Pittsburgh a better place to live. Without

you, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy could not continue its work in restoring, conserving, and protecting the City's most cherished public spaces--parks!

In our Fall reflections, we also have time to appreciate all that we have accomplished, this year and since our start. Together, we have



McKinley Park

breathed life into McKinley Park and provided children with safer places to play. Together, we have restored century-old fountains and cleared paths to make our parks more accessible. Together, we have made parks spaces where many choose to spend time, enjoy nature, make

memories and rejuvenate their spirits.

You are a friend and a hero to the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and to the city of Pittsburgh. You make parks possible! We are sincerely grateful for your support and we cannot wait to see what we accomplish next—together. 🌟



Northeast Fountain (Allegheny Commons Park)



ENGAGE

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Sincerely, The Staff
at Pittsburgh Parks



New Section!

A Letter from Jayne



Jayne Miller, PPC President and CEO

The Fall season has always been a personal favorite. With the changing colors of the leaves, their smell as they fall onto paths and decorate our parks like confetti, with the cooler temperatures and the quieter mornings, Fall has a way of renewing my amazement and love for nature.

This Fall season is a unique one. With the Parks on the ballot, the Conservancy has been busier than ever, and our staff even more passionate.

To balance this energy and find a bit of peace, I have been taking to the parks more frequently—outside of work—for casual walks and bike rides. I hope you too have experienced the calming effects of spending time in nature.

Now that the leaves are beginning to bring a new vibrancy to the park paths, there's no better time to treat yourself to a few moments of peace in the parks. I've included a small list of ideas for you to get the most out of your

next park visit, whether you're there on your own on a crisp Saturday morning, or with the entire family in tow.

I want to sincerely thank you for your support of our parks.

I'm wishing you and your loved ones a peaceful Autumn,

Jayne Miller



Park champions like you

Shadyside Nursery Supports Conservancy in Pop-up Yoga Series

Year-round, you make possible a wide variety of indoor and outdoor fitness classes throughout Pittsburgh's parks. From Tai Chi and yoga, to guided walks and fitness hikes, your support enables park lovers to live healthier, happier lifestyles.

Chelsea Bodamer, daughter of the Conservancy's Executive Assistant, Beth Bodamer, recently collaborated with Shadyside Nursery to instruct three pop-up yoga events in a benefit series throughout August and September. When determining which local organization would receive the funds from this series, the Parks Conservancy naturally came to Chelsea's mind.

"Chelsea grew up attending park events and spending time in nature. She's carried this passion for the outdoors and for the natural world with her through her adolescence and into adulthood and it warms my heart to see how the Conservancy—and the events our supporters make possible—have helped her to find her passions," Beth Bodamer said.

Chelsea began practicing yoga in 2010 as a way to shift her perspective both



photo by Shadyside Nursery

Shadyside Nursery hosts pop-up yoga series benefitting PPC

mentally and physically. In 2014, her love for yoga led her to complete her 200-hour yoga training at Southtown Yoga in St. Louis, MO and in 2019, she completed her 300-hour advanced yoga training at Yoga Oasis in Tucson, AZ.

Chelsea instructed the first two of the three events held at Shadyside Nursery. The series was a hit, raising more than \$200 in donations from participants for the Conservancy. 🌿



Programs you make possible

Fall's Harvest Full Moon Party in Frick Park was... Full!

It's fair to say that most park-lovers are also nature-lovers, and most nature-lovers have a fascination with the night sky. This September, the Harvest Full Moon made its return on September 14. Conservancy staff and park-lovers—more than 150 of them!—met at the Frick Environmental Center to celebrate and observe the orange-colored full moon that filled Pittsburgh's night sky.

The event included observations of different star clusters, as well as Jupiter and Saturn. Six telescopes—one manned by a staff member from the Carnegie Science Center—allowed Pittsburghers of all ages

to observe the night sky. In addition to exploring the sky by telescope, attendees were invited to participate in one of three guided hikes throughout Frick woods. With 75 spots available, all three hikes were reserved within the first 15 minutes of the event.

Individuals across generations—including families with young children, grandchildren and grandparents, and local college students—dotted the FEC's pathways for hours—a perfect example of how crucial are our parks in building senses of community within our city.



all photos by Mike Miller, Amateur Astronomers Association of Pittsburgh

Your support continues to bridge the gaps between Pittsburghers.

It is through your continued support of the Pittsburgh Parks

Conservancy that we can continue to introduce people of all ages to our parks (and our universe!) in new ways. Thank you for your support. 🌟

photo by Shadyside Nursery





Your parks, your stories

Allegheny Commons Park: Bridging Pittsburgh's Past and Present

Allegheny Commons park, which galvanizes Pittsburgh's North Side neighborhood, has a storied past.

The park was originally designed in 1867 to provide "breathing places" for the citizens of Allegheny City. It was one of many parks throughout the country that reflected the 19th century movement to beautify American cities. Simply walk the paths of the park under the canopies of centuries-old trees, and you'll feel the timelessness



Christian Zeitler, park police officer.

of one of our city's most beautiful places.

Recently, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy caught up with Bette McDevitt, a North Side resident of more than 21 years, whose parents and great-grandfather also hailed from the neighborhood. Bette shared her thoughts on how a community park can be a centerpiece for families and their legacies. In fact, it was her own great-grandfather, Christian Zeitler, a retired Civil War veteran, who was employed as a park policeman in 1870, just after the park opened (picture included to the left).

Bette also shared her parents' love story—anchored by Allegheny Commons park—and celebrated their shared love of the North Side with her family.

“They both used to walk the promenade. The boys

went one direction and the girls went the other. He caught her eye and he would drop in on her when she taught dance at the social hall above what used to be the Kenyon theater,” Bette said.

In the early 1900's, the promenade in Allegheny Commons park—now seen as the wide-set pathway where North Siders walk their dogs and commuters traverse to work—was a fashionable public social scene. Although Bette's family moved to New Castle in the 1930's for work, she recalls how her parents would pack her and the rest of the family in the car to visit the North Side frequently. When Bette herself moved to the North Side in the early 1990's, she became aware that local neighborhood organizations were raising funds to plant trees in the park. Bette raised funds



Norma and Louis Leddy, Bette's parents who met in the park.

from her family to plant a tree in honor of her family's multi-generational connection to the park and the trees that make the space so beautiful.

“It was my cousin David Lawrence who brought my great-grandfather's story to life and when I walk through park, past the tree that we planted in his and my parents honor, I imagine them walking the same path, decades earlier and that makes me smile,” said Bette. 🍁



Your donation of a restoration tree will help to restore our urban canopy, clean our air, and keep Pittsburgh beautiful.

\$75 Other

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