



Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

Donor Newsletter
August-September 2016
PittsburghParks.org

photo credit: Nic Lehoux

Frick Environmental Center is nearly finished

Meet your new Director of Education

Brilliant places attract brilliant minds. We are proud to welcome Camila Rivera-Tinsley to the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and Frick Environmental Center as your Director of Education.

After 14 years managing school camps, summer programming, and developing environmental curriculum at The Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education in Philadelphia, Camila was drawn to our work in Pittsburgh. "I wanted to be a part of an organization that valued both the land and the people that worked to interpret and preserve that land. I truly like that the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy has a strong commitment to cultural and economic diversity, and is willing to



Parks Conservancy education programs will reach more than 1,300 students from 23 schools in 2016/17

take actionable steps towards that goal."

Camila is preparing for the opening by "crafting programs that focus on solutions to some of our toughest environmental problems." This Center will serve as a basecamp, Frick Park is the classroom. Curriculum was developed with

classroom teachers and mapped to Pennsylvania state education standards.

As we enter the last phase of fundraising, donors like you make this facility possible. Dr. Quintin Bullock, CCAC President and Parks Conservancy Board Education Committee Chair believes your gift supports good

work. "CCAC commends the Frick Environmental Center for the work the Center is doing to inspire people of all ages to delve into the complex and important issues concerning the region's ecology, environmental conservation and sustainability." 🌟



ENGAGE

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





Park champions like you

Frick Park Camp Counselor to Board Member

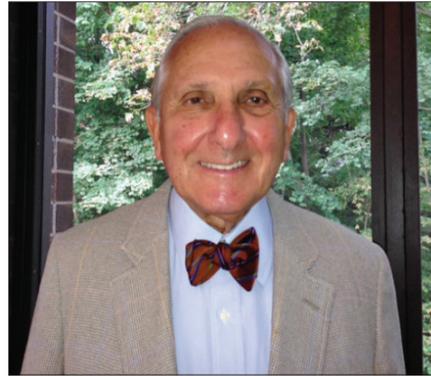
Alan Ackerman is dedicated to your parks

Many people cherish the memories they've made at the Frick Environmental Center, going all the way back to the "Nature Center" from the 1950s.

Alan Ackerman recalls, "We would spend the afternoon

showing snakes and toads to children and fish in the small pond at the bottom of the nature center."

Alan is excited about the opportunity the new Center provides, "it will be an even greater resource to those who use the park." His longtime support, as well as yours, makes this possible. 🌿



Parks Conservancy Board Member worked as camp counselor in 1951



Programs you make possible

Ecosystem Investigators

You bring the minds of middle schoolers outdoors

For many students, this may be one of the longest stretches of time they have spent outdoors exploring nature. They often surprise themselves with how well they react to braving the bugs, the mud and steep hills," says Naturalist Educator Taiji Nelson.



Wilkesburg students

ecosystems. Students analyze the data to link ecosystem health to both positive and negative human impacts.

Ecosystem Investigators teaches 7th and 8th graders to use the scientific method to evaluate the health of forest and stream

Frick Environmental Center educators work with local teachers to develop curriculum. Beginning with classroom

"Some students who struggle to focus in the classroom thrive in outdoor settings that allow them to be active and independent."

-Taiji Nelson, Naturalist Educator

activities and lessons, their learning concludes outside with a 5 hour field study. They search streams for parasites and observe local trees for invasive species and disease. Scientific concepts come to life before their eyes.

Thanks to you, this program reached

more than 300 students in 2015; 61% qualified as economically disadvantaged. These children have the opportunity to live a day in the life as a scientist. "Through this experience I observed many of my students take a greater interest in ecology," a participating teacher said. 🌿



Students learn about ecosystems in their backyard



You transform our cherished spaces

Then and Now: Mike Cornell

You create the naturalists of tomorrow

A kindergarten school field trip to the Frick Environmental Center sparked Naturalist Educator Mike Cornell's lifelong passion for the outdoors.

For his Eagle Scout project Mike worked with the Environmental Center and the American Chestnut Foundation to plant American Chestnuts and install signs explaining their history and decline due to chestnut blight.

During the completion of my Eagle Scout project I learned that people make a career out of working in Frick Park and I realized that's what I wanted to do. As a result I pursued a degree in Environmental and Forest Biology specializing in Natural History and Interpretation from the SUNY college of Environmental Science and Forestry."

After working at the Center seasonally for 5 years, Mike joined the staff as a Naturalist Educator. "Frick Park has been my home close to 30 years, and the people at the Center are part of my family." 🌿



Photo courtesy Mike Cornell

Frick Environmental Center by the numbers

232 native trees planted

7,000 native plants expected to absorb approx. 26,000 gallons of storm water in their first year

15,500 sq. ft. total usable space in the building with the same footprint as the old one

15,000 gallon cistern to collect and reuse rainwater

18 geothermal wells to regulate building temperature

588 solar panels, expected to produce 153,870 kilowatt-hours per year



Environmental Center Zone Gardner Rosie Wise posing with the cistern before it was installed underground

40% less energy consumed than other buildings of similar size and location, attempting the Living Building Challenge - net zero carbon footprint

Photo credit: Scott Rolter



Your parks, your stories

Volunteer Naturalists prepare to say hello

Carmen is dedicated to your Frick Park experience

You asked for a welcoming face in the park at our community meetings and now your Volunteer Naturalists are prepared to say "hello." Filled with passion for nature and park history, these volunteers will be the first face you see when you visit.

Carmen Mokhiber has been training for this role since March. "I have been very excited about the construction of the new building and the idea of being able to contribute in some way to the Frick Environmental Center community."



photo credit Carmen Mokhiber

Carmen wants to be part of the history of Frick Park

Becoming a volunteer naturalist is no easy task. Training takes 8 sessions over a course of 4 months. Once complete, they must volunteer at the Center every month. They all want to be a part of what you have helped to build.

Carmen explains it best, "Helen Clay Frick wanted to create a space where children could escape the pollution of their everyday life. A place where they could breathe fresh air and be a part of a natural setting. We may now

live in a less polluted environment, but our children need to escape in a different way. We must encourage them to leave their electronics behind and get outside to explore their natural environment. This Center will help make that possible." 🌻

To learn more about becoming a volunteer email Judith Koch at jkoch@pittsburghparks.org



photo credit Jeremy Marshall

The Beechwood Blvd. entrance into the Frick Environmental Center

Butterflies in the Frick Environmental Center

Take this opportunity for permanent recognition by purchasing a butterfly

Sealed in a round, crystal-clear acrylic bubble, these butterfly images will create a permanent art display in the Frick Environmental Center



Common buckeye



Easter tiger swallowtail



Painted lady



Red spotted purple admiral



Regal fritillary

\$1,000 per butterfly

Contact me to set up a payment plan _____

Please print the name of the individual or organization this butterfly is dedicated to (limit to 30 characters):

Use the enclosed reply envelope or call Harmony Hodges 412.682.7275 x 240 to make your gift. Or visit www.pittsburghparks.org/donate/frick-environmental-center

