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Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy News
For immediate release
Editor's note: high-res images available upon request

Allegheny Commons partnership announcement on Monday March 30 to unveil details about new park projects

Pittsburgh's oldest park will have new collaboration to build on recent successes; Mayor Peduto, Mrs. Rooney to attend

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Allegheny Commons Initiative, and North Side Leadership Conference invite the public to attend the **2:00PM Monday, March 30, 2015** announcement of a new partnership that will bring new energy to projects in Pittsburgh's most historic park. The event will take place at the George Washington statue in Allegheny Commons Park, with parking available at the National Aviary. The unveiling of a major fountain restoration and North Commons phase will be among the project announcements.

Speakers and guests scheduled to take part include Pittsburgh **Mayor Bill Peduto**, long-time Allegheny Commons advocate **Patricia Rooney**, City of Pittsburgh Parks and Recreation Director **Jim Griffin**, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy founder and CEO **Meg Cheever**, District 1 Councilwoman **Darlene Harris**, Allegheny Commons Initiative chair **John Francona**, The Buhl Foundation Vice-President **Diana Bucco**, and Northside Leadership Conference Board President **LaShawn Burton-Faul**.

A special avian appearance to commemorate the partnership announcement will take place compliments of the National Aviary.

Inclement weather location is the National Aviary.

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About the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy:

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy was founded in December 1996 by a group of citizens concerned with the deteriorating conditions of Pittsburgh's historic city parks. A nonprofit organization, the Parks Conservancy works closely with the City of Pittsburgh under an official public-private partnership agreement to restore and improve the city's park system to its full potential. Originally including Highland, Schenley, Frick, and Riverview Parks, the scope of the Park Conservancy's work

now includes a focus on community parks including Allegheny Commons, Arsenal Park, Cliffside Park, McKinley Park, and Mellon Park.

About Allegheny Commons:

Allegheny Commons is Pittsburgh's oldest park, dating to 1867 when it was designed to provide "breathing places" for the citizens of what was then the City of Allegheny. It was designed as a Victorian landscape for strolling, graced with fountains, monuments, and elaborate flower beds. In the 1930's, with federal resources from the Civil Works Administration, modifications were made to the path system, plantings, and other details throughout the Commons, with an emphasis on new play areas.

In the late 1960's, a park plan by renowned landscape architecture firm Simonds & Simonds plan proposed numerous adventuresome changes. While few of these projects came to realization, one notable one that did was the distinctly modern Lake Elizabeth.

Today, the park's layout, large trees, and many public sculptures define it as historic, while its green space, fresh air, and recreational opportunities keep it vital. Its linear, pedestrian-oriented character is well-suited to serving the extraordinarily diverse mix of neighborhoods, institutions, public attractions, and businesses that surround it today. Allegheny Commons was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2013.

The Master Plan for Allegheny Commons, completed in 2002 by the Allegheny Commons Initiative, aims to protect the historic integrity of this important open space, while recognizing the evolution of its design and uses.

For additional historic background on Allegheny Commons, please click here.

About Allegheny Commons

Pittsburgh's oldest park, Allegheny Commons, dates to 1867 when it was designed to provide "breathing places" for the citizens of what was then the City of Allegheny. The name derives from its previous use as public, or “common,” grazing land. Reflecting the 19th century movement to beautify American cities and improve urban living conditions, Mitchell and Grant’s plan created a Victorian landscape for strolling, graced with fountains, monuments, and elaborate flower beds.

A new era was ushered in during the 1930s, when Pittsburgh’s Superintendent of the Bureau of Parks, Ralph Griswold, rethought the design of the Commons. With federal resources from the Civil Works Administration, Griswold modified the path system, plantings, and other details throughout the Commons, with an emphasis on new play areas.

In 1966, the renowned landscape architecture firm Simonds & Simonds produced “A Proposed Long Range Development Plan” for Allegheny Commons. An effort of the City of Pittsburgh Department of Parks and Recreation under Director Robert J. Templeton, the plan was sparked by pressures on the Commons due to surrounding urban redevelopment projects, proposed highway construction, and the expansion of what was then known as the Pittsburgh Conservatory-Aviary. It was thought that the park must also be revitalized to complement and ensure the success of these new investments, and to generate further growth. The Simonds & Simonds plan emphasized open spaces for recreation, new flower and water gardens, a lake complex with waterside amphitheater and band shell, and play areas to serve all ages. Only a portion of their plan was realized, with the distinctly modern Lake Elizabeth as its most notable improvement.

Today, the park’s layout, large trees, and many public sculptures define it as historic, while its green space, fresh air, and recreational opportunities keep it vital. Its linear, pedestrian-oriented character is well-suited to serving the extraordinarily diverse mix of neighborhoods, institutions, public attractions, and businesses that surround it today. Allegheny Commons was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2013.

The *Master Plan for Allegheny Commons*, completed in 2002 by the Allegheny Commons Initiative, aims to protect the historic integrity of this important open space, while recognizing the evolution of its design and uses. The *Master Plan* is a guide for physical treatment according to the standards of the Secretary of the Interior, while calling for ongoing management and maintenance components to improve its value. The *Master Plan* provides a comprehensive framework to inform decision making in the future while preserving the historic continuum of the Commons.

Improvements completed to date include:

- Restoration of the East Common Pilot Project, Phase 1;
- Restoration of the East Common Phase 2;
- Planting and care of 230 new trees;
- Pruning and maintenance of mature tree canopy with certified arborists; and
- Improved park stewardship through partnerships with Tree Pittsburgh, Student Conservation Association, and countless volunteers.

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Allegheny Commons Partnership Announcement Media Event

2:00PM

Wednesday, March 30, 2015

George Washington Statue in Allegheny Commons

SCHEDULED SPEAKERS

- Meg Cheever, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Founder and CEO

- Mayor Bill Peduto, City of Pittsburgh

- Mrs. Patricia R. Rooney, North Side advocate

- Diana Bucco, Vice-President, Buhl Foundation

- Jim Griffin, Director Parks and Recreation, City of Pittsburgh

- Darlene Harris, Councilwoman District 1

- John Francona, Steering Committee Chair, Allegheny Commons Initiative

- LaShawn Burton-Faul , Northside Leadership Conference Board President

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East End Park, Allegheny, Pa.

I. & M. OTTENHEIMER BALTO., MD.

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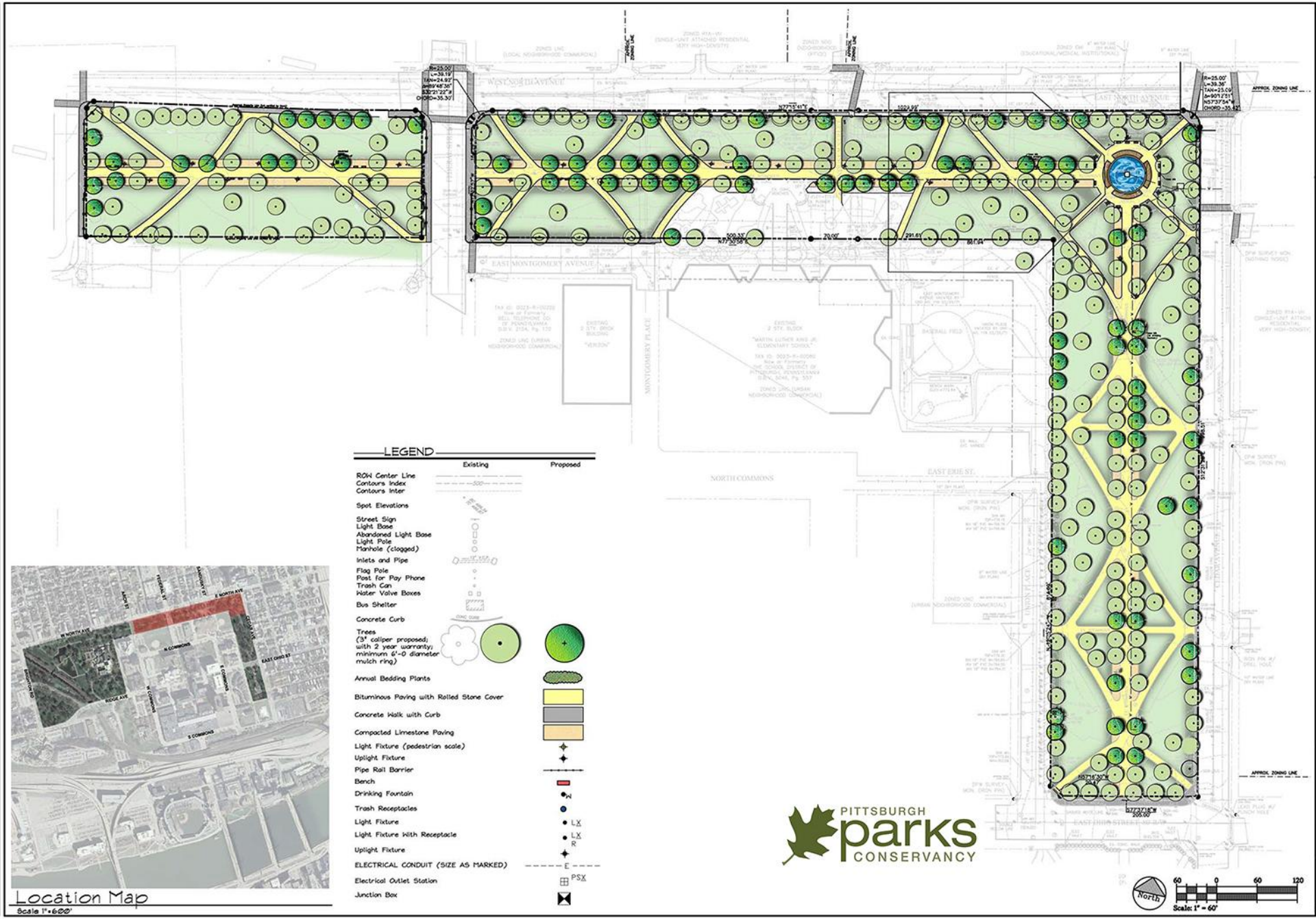
LEGEND
Existing
Proposed
ROW Center Line
Contours Index
Contours Inter
Spot Elevations
Street Sign
Light Base
Abandoned Light Base
Light Pole
Manhole (clogged)
Inlets and Pipe
Flag Pole
Post for Pay Phone
Trash Can
Water Valve Boxes
Bus Shelter
Concrete Curb
Trees
(3" caliper proposed; with 2 year warranty; minimum 6'-0 diameter mulch ring)
Annual Bedding Plants
Bituminous Paving with Rolled Stone Cover
Concrete Walk with Curb
Compacted Limestone Paving
Light Fixture (pedestrian scale)
Uplight Fixture
Pipe Rail Barrier
Bench
Drinking Fountain
Trash Receptacles
Light Fixture
Light Fixture With Receptacle
Uplight Fixture
ELECTRICAL CONDUIT (SIZE AS MARKED)
Electrical Outlet Station
Junction Box
Location Map
Scale 1"=600'
PITTSBURGH parks CONSERVANCY
North
Scale: 1" = 60'
PASHEK ASSOCIATES
Allegheny Commons - Phase III and Fountain
City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
Overall Site Plan
Revisions:
Project Number: 10005
Date: 08-15-2014
Sheet Number
LP1

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ALLEGHENY
COMMONS

NORTHSIDE
LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Allegheny Commons partnership announcement

Monday, March 30, 2015

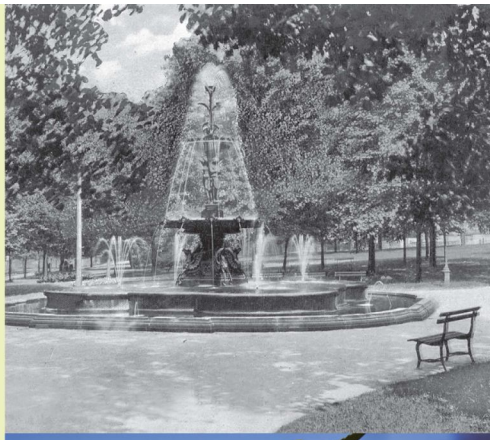
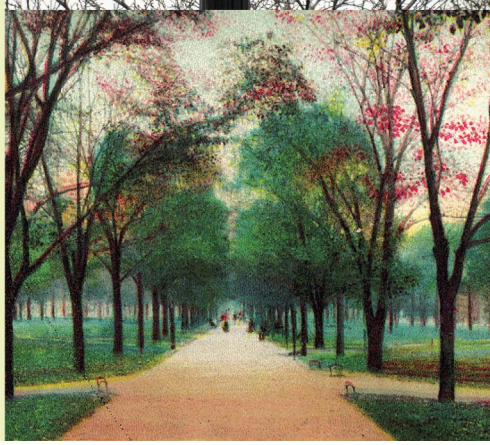
2:00 PM

George Washington Statue in Allegheny Commons Park

Please join the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Allegheny Commons Initiative and Northside Leadership Conference for the announcement of the new Allegheny Commons partnership. We are excited to announce an energetic collaboration that will build on the amazing work that has been accomplished in Allegheny Commons in recent years.

Google Map search term:
George Washington Revolutionary War Memorial 15212

Parking available at the National Aviary parking lot

Inclement weather location: National Aviary

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