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## Cool things to do in the cold: Four Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy December outdoor-related activities

1). Not sure what to do with relatives visiting? Bring them on out to an **all-ages December 24<sup>th</sup> Nature Hike led by Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Naturalist Educator Mike Cornell**. Meet at **noon at the Blue Slide Park at the entrance to Frick Park**. This is the third annual outing of the popular hike (lasting about 90 minutes, or a bit longer if the weather is warmer), and you'll have a guided tour that points out animals, birds, and even plants that thrive in the winter in our parks. The hike will go no matter what the weather is doing, with updates being posted on the Parks Conservancy's social media pages and at [pittsburghparks.org](http://pittsburghparks.org).

2). Ever wonder how some people can take sticks, twigs, berries, and grasses, mix them with fresh cut flowers, and somehow create an incredible holiday centerpiece? **Wild Winter Flower Arranging with Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy's horticulturist Angela Yuele** will show you how. Gather at the cozy **Schenley Park Café and Visitor Center at 6:30pm on Wednesday, December 16** for this great session, and leave with a gorgeous centerpiece and some great winter plant knowledge. (\$15 each, includes fresh-cut flowers and greenery, wild organic plant accessories, container, and knowledge that you will keep forever; register at [pittsburghparks.org/wildwinterflowerarranging](http://pittsburghparks.org/wildwinterflowerarranging) by 5pm Tuesday December 15; Schenley Park Café and Visitor Center).

3). The **Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy** presents **Buzzword**, for parents and their kids up to age five. With each program centered on the day's "buzzword", families will expand their children's vocabulary and conversation skills – and have a blast doing it. Parks Conservancy Nature Educator Will Tolliver leads, and with the word "bones" being featured, you can bet he will give examples of the many animal bones found in our city parks. **Wednesday, December 8, 2015; 12:00 – 2:00pm** at the Homewood-Brushton YMCA, Family Support Center, 7140 Bennett Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15208

4). The **Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy** has made it easy to take a **cool-weather self-guided hike in Riverview, Schenley, Frick, and Highland Parks**. All you need is a downloadable and printable trail map from [pittsburghparks.org](http://pittsburghparks.org), or the mypgparks app available at the apple or googleplay app stores. And while you're at it, check out winter berries, evergreen, and animal track guides [here](#) – so you'll know about the beautiful seasonal plants animal tracks you're seeing. There are nearly 1,700 acres of city parkland to explore, so get outside and immerse yourself in the wonder of nature.

### 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. To date, the Parks Conservancy has raised \$90 million toward park improvements. The Parks Conservancy works with thousands of volunteers annually, stewards over 1,700 acres, and has completed 14 capital projects.

**For images or media inquiries**, please contact Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Senior Manager of Communications and Creative Scott Roller at 412.682.7275 ex 220, [sroller@pittsburghparks.org](mailto:sroller@pittsburghparks.org)