2020 hat luncheon reimagined

In light of the recent restrictions and the changing nature of COVID-19 in our community, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy will be modifying the PNC Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Hat Luncheon. Instead of us all gathering together this fall, we're reimagining this annual event. We're thrilled to announce the 2020 PNC Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Hat Luncheon: Picnic in Your Park.

In the coming weeks, the Parks Conservancy will begin selling delicious gourmet picnic baskets in lieu of an in-person gathering. These baskets may be enjoyed in your favorite park or from the comfort of your own home. Baskets will contain flatware, dishware, glassware, napkins, and of course, a one-of-a-kind meal for either two or four guests. All proceeds generated from the basket sales will help ensure your parks continue to thrive.

Additional information regarding the picnic baskets and delivery or pick-up date will be announced soon.

If you have any questions or would like to share your thoughts with Parks Conservancy staff, please email Sophie Gage, events coordinator at sgage@pittsburghparks.org.
"I love spending time outdoors! Being able to freely access Pittsburgh's parks to take walks and workout is truly a gift. I also love riding my bike and playing softball with friends (when we aren't social distancing). It's how I spend most of my time outdoors. If you’re looking for ways to stay healthy while spending time outdoors, I recommend long walks (find a park with some hills for an extra challenge) and to do try body-weight exercises that don’t require any equipment. Three easy exercises are squats, lunges, and push-ups. Fresh air is always good for your health too!" - Jordan Rose, Pittsburgh

Interested in learning more about ways to keep active and healthy in Pittsburgh's parks? Follow Jordan on Instagram @J_Getmefit and @PittsburghParks as Jordan shares health and wellness tips with his park friends!
parks on the go

Parks on the Go is a digital education and nature resource package that connects people of all ages and abilities to nature from anywhere. It provides environmental experiences through virtual tours, health and wellness exercises, education resources for Pre K through 12 educators, exciting activities and resources for families and caregivers, and much more. This package is just one of many digital initiatives launched by the Parks Conservancy during the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Click here to explore Parks on the Go.

Parks on the Go is made possible thanks to the support of our sponsors: Citizens Bank & UPMC Health Plan

mckinley park green infrastructure project

The last time rain fell on Michigan Street in Beltzhoover, it flowed in a new direction. Now, instead of heading straight for the sewers and contributing to overflows that pollute Saw Mill Run and the Ohio River, this rainwater flows into McKinley Park. It cascades through a new system of green infrastructure – an engineered landscape that carefully manages water for multiple benefits.

Concrete walls and limestone boulders detain the water, slowing its flow and preventing hillside erosion. Rain gardens filter the water and use it to grow vibrant flowers and lush grass. Finally, underground pipes slowly release it into the woodland below, returning it to a path it hasn’t traveled on for more than 100 years.

Click here to continue reading.
then and now: the frick environmental center

The COVID-19 global health emergency, and the importance of parks in helping the community cope and heal during the crisis, has given the Parks Conservancy an opportunity to reflect upon its long-standing partnership with the City of Pittsburgh and the work we have accomplished together to restore Pittsburgh's park system to excellence.

Read below to learn more about the Frick Environmental Center, one of the many restoration projects of the City of Pittsburgh and Parks Conservancy.
The new Frick Environmental Center opened its doors on September 10, 2016. It’s an incredible gateway to Pittsburgh’s biggest classroom: Frick Park. Rich in learning spaces with the park close at hand even indoors, the Environmental Center inspires appreciation and protection of the environment while being welcoming and open.

Built on the same footprint as the former Environmental Center, the new building employs the most sophisticated, sustainable systems available. The building uses 40% less energy than a typical building of its size in the northeast, powers all electrical systems with solar panels, filters and treats wastewater on-site, and was constructed with materials that are safe and produced locally.

The Frick Environmental Center is a certified Living Building that has achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum. Working in close collaboration with the City, the Parks Conservancy manages and operates the Environmental Center and the surrounding 115 acres of the Frick Nature Reserve portion of Frick Park.

The Parks Conservancy is honored to work alongside the City of Pittsburgh and to have friends like you to support our community and park improvement projects year-round!

Click [here](https://www.pittsburghparks.org/?hs_preview=SgtCnJhP-32489910915) to learn more about how the Frick Environmental Center, one of the greenest buildings in the world, operates on a daily basis, thanks to the generosity of Comcast and WES.
emerald view park map challenge extended

Exciting news! The Emerald View Park Photo Map Challenge deadline is now extended through the end of August! Explore more than nine miles of woodland trails in Emerald View Park and seek out unique features and views along the way. This activity is in partnership with the Mount Washington Community Development Corporation (MWCDC) and community supporter, Robert Smith.

Click here to begin.

restoration works begins in clayton hill

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy is thrilled to announce that new restoration work is officially underway in Clayton Hill, a three-acre area in Frick Park's 155-acre woodland! The restoration project will introduce a herd of 11 goats to the restoration site to complete multiple, month-long periods of browsing. Goats will be 'working' areas around Clayton Hill beginning in August through the fall months and again in 2021. The target species of the restoration work is bush honeysuckle.

Click here to continue reading.

covid-19: life reimagined

What we've learned during this unprecedented time of quarantines, public masking, and months of home schooling is that public parks and green spaces have never been more important for our physical and mental well-being.

We can’t underestimate the power of parks. They’re here for us during times of uncertainty when little else is available. They are sanctuaries in the center of chaos. They serve as a place of peace and comfort for our minds and spirits. They keep us healthy and active with endless trails for hiking and biking and wide green spaces to throw a frisbee, kick a ball, or dance like nobody’s watching.

Click here to explore The Parks Pack, a guide to safely exploring Pittsburgh's parks during the COVID-19 global health emergency or click here to visit our COVID-19 response page.
COVID-19: How to Safely Enjoy Pittsburgh’s Parks

Make a plan for your visit and don’t be afraid to adjust if the park you wanted to visit is busy. Pittsburgh has 165 parks and they’re yours for exploring!

To slow the spread of the virus, visit the parks alone, with members of your household, or with your furry friends. When visiting with friends remain at a safe distance or wear masks if you will be near others.

There are many ways to enjoy time in the parks by yourself: read a book, fly a kite, ride a bike, catch some rays, explore a new trail, practice yoga, or find a quiet place to discover mindful activities.

Parks are fun for people of all ages! There are many activity options beyond visiting a playground, such as: kick a soccer ball, throw a football, toss a frisbee, bring your jump rope, or lay in the grass and watch the clouds go by!

follow us on social media

To access unique photos from your fellow park lovers and the latest information on park projects, follow the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook. You can also follow the Schenley Plaza and Frick Environmental Center pages on Facebook. Have a photo you’d love to share with us? Tag @pittsburghparks or use #pittsburghparks.

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