Built in 1867 by the then City of Allegheny, the Northside's Allegheny Commons is Pittsburgh's oldest park. Known in part for being home to many of the city's oldest trees and its wide Victorian-era promenade (to accommodate large hoop skirts as ladies passed), Allegheny Commons is the front yard for several of Pittsburgh's most diverse neighborhoods.

In 1999 citizens formed a group, the Allegheny Commons Initiative, and completed a master plan for the park in 2002. The park originally featured four spectacular fountains. Over time each of these fountains has been filled or shut down due to city budget constraints. Now, with your help and in partnership with the Allegheny Commons Initiative and the Northside Leadership Conference, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy will oversee the design and construction of the $2.5 million restoration of the fountain in the North Commons at the intersection of Cedar and North Avenues. We do so with your help and in partnership with the Allegheny Commons Initiative and the Northside Leadership Conference.

The fountain restoration comprises approximately one city block, which includes reconstruction of the historic fountain and surrounding gardens, as well as restoration of the promenade and other walk ways, installation of new signage, benches and lighting. Your support will transform a corner of the park that needs help into a vibrant place for the 17,000 nearby residents and our whole city.

“This park was kept and sustained by Pittburghers before our time till now and it must survive for the new families.”

- Patricia Rooney, Northside resident

You’re renewing the spirit of Pittsburgh’s most historic park

contact Kathleen Gaines at kgaines@pittsburghparks.org or (412) 682-7275 x213
Park champions like you
Helping maintain fountains to flowers

Colcom Foundation is protecting your investment in Mellon Square

Matching your passion and mission with the ideal project takes thought, dedication, and a bit of magic. Mellon Square is that magic for the Colcom Foundation’s John Rohe. “Mellon Square is a rare gem in our city”, says Rohe. The Square aligns perfectly with Cordelia May’s hope that the Foundation could help our city’s public spaces be nurturing and inspiring. The establishment of a maintenance fund to keep Mellon Square in excellent condition is important to Rohe. “A space must be worthy of our affection and sense of it as home.” says Rohe. “The Parks Conservancy’s maintenance plan makes Colcom Foundation proud to be a part of this home.”

Laura Michele Colker Fund to honor the memories of their two daughters who tragically passed decades apart. In remembrance of their girls’ love of nature and play, this endowed fund will provide annual support to Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy environmental education programs in perpetuity with the goal to make them accessible to as many Pittsburgh children as possible.

Davita Colker Bryant & Laura Michele Colker Fund to benefit education programming

Last summer, Lynne and Alan Colker challenged you to meet their $50,000 matching gift to ensure that Parks Conservancy education programs would be able to begin drawing support from the fund in 2015. You responded with resounding generosity and more than $71,000 was raised for nature education. With your kindness you have filled the hearts of a family and begun a new legacy of education for our parks. We look forward to watching Pittsburgh’s children benefit from it.

In 2008 longtime Squirrel Hill residents Lynne and Alan Colker established the Davita Colker Bryant & Laura’s parents Lynne and Alan Colker established an endowment in their daughters’ memory.

“We are delighted that so many people gave so generously. Thanks to each and every person who has been involved.”

– Lynne and Alan Colker

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To join the legacy of support for our education programs through the Colker Fund visit www.pittsburghparks.org/colker or call Kathleen at (412) 682-7275 x213

Kids in our programs are celebrating your support for education
Since Mellon Square opened to fanfare in 1955 it has served as the green oasis in the city. This beloved park space began to show serious deterioration by the beginning of the 21st century, but continued to attract visitors.

Thanks to your contributions, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy completed the $10 million restoration of this historic place in May 2014. The Square re-opened with 15% more usable space thanks to a grassy terrace over the Smithfield Street shops. At night the space is aglow with 400 newly installed LED lights to illuminate pathways and the two breathtaking fountains. You will be welcomed by 10,000 perennial blooms when the square re-opens for the season on April 1st.

2014 Volunteers in Action

A fun look at things you accomplished last year

- All 1,800 of you could have filled Carnegie Music Hall, almost to its 1,950-seat capacity.
- You cleared or built 835 feet of trails. Almost as long as Pittsburgh’s tallest building, the 841-foot US Steel Tower.
- You cleared 450 bags of trash, approximately the amount one person will generate over nine years.
- You filled 270 garbage bags with garlic mustard. We figure that could feed every Pittsburgher some pesto.
- You donated 6,500 hours of your time when you could have watched 331 Harry Potter movie marathons instead.
- You planted the equivalent of one tree every day.
Love in the Parks
Lynne Glover and Paul Alessio

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy donors celebrate love of nature and each other in Schenley Park

The parks you support provide cherished memories for people in our region. First steps are taken, first kisses are shared, proposals given and accepted, and the laughter of families experiencing the magic of nature happens every year in your parks.

Paul Alessio and Lynne Glover experienced that magic, and they hold our parks as dear to their hearts as they do each other. Lynne remembers when her love of nature became clear. “Once at a park picnic, my best friend and I got lost. We had no idea where we were, but it was one of the greatest adventures ever!” she says.

Her passion for the outdoors thrived, especially when she found Paul. After meeting at a Lucinda Williams concert, they spent lots of time in nature in our city parks and traveling together. Years later, Lynne and Paul wed in Schenley Park. Both graduated from Pitt, finding escape in the park on bike rides and hikes while in college, so Schenley Park Café and Visitor Center was the perfect spot. “Everyone says that it was one of the best weddings they’d ever been to,” says Lynne.

The couple has celebrated almost nine years together. Lynne, Communications Director at VisitPITTSBURGH and Paul, Project Manager at the Urban Redevelopment Authority, share time in their neighborhood park, Arsenal, with their kids and grandchildren and enjoy concerts at Schenley Plaza.

Next year Lynne and Paul will celebrate their tenth anniversary in Schenley Park. The magic lives on. We love stories with happy endings.

Put your love on display with the gift of park flowers

Your $50 donation allows us to plant 25 bulbs in the parks. We’ll send your sweetheart a card to let them know what a romantic you are.

Contact Parks Florist Kathleen at 412.682.7275 x213 or kgaines@pittsburghparks.org to arrange your gift or visit us on the web at www.pittsburghparks.org/giveagift

Lynne Glover and Paul Alessio will celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary back at the Schenley Park Café and Visitor Center in June 2016

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