



**Pittsburgh
Parks
Conservancy**

Donor Newsletter
September-October 2017
PittsburghParks.org

photo credit: Melissa McMasters

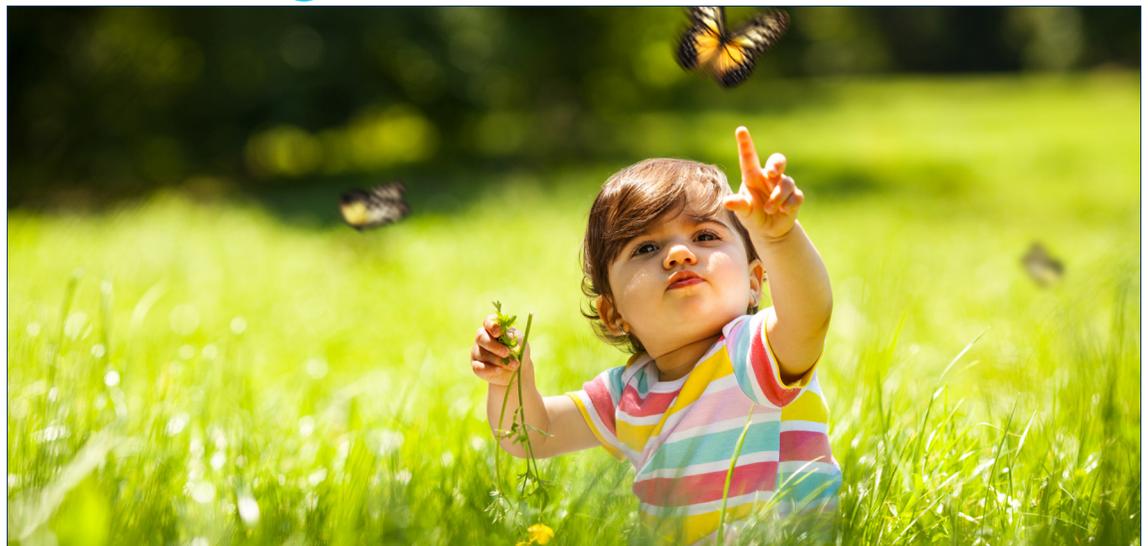
Butterflies coming to a park near you

Generous gift feeds pollinators

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy gardens are more than just a pretty face. When the right flowers are planted, these spaces become breeding grounds for the most important part of food production – pollinators.

One anonymous donor believes so much in the importance of pollinators that she's generously sponsored "butterfly gardens" in parks throughout the city. "My head and my heart told me that would be nice. I wish more people knew about the importance of pollinators."

Pollination brings us food like apples, squash, and almonds, by propagating more plants, pollinators prevent soil erosion and help remove carbon dioxide.



Butterflies, bees and other pollinators are responsible for one out of three bites of food. (Source: Pollinator Partnership)

According to the Pollinator Partnership, when a pollen grain moves from the anther (male part) of a flower to the stigma (female part), pollination happens. This is the first step in a process that produces seeds, fruits, and the next generation of plants. Bees, butterflies, birds, and other insects carry the pollen grains from flower to flower.

horticulturists are excited for this special opportunity. Thanks to this generous gift they will plant more than 400 flowers in existing flower beds at Emerald View Park, Schenley Plaza, Schenley Park Visitors Center, the Frick Environmental Center, Riverview Chapel Shelter, and the Highland Park Entry Garden. Plants

include columbine and milkweed.

The first plantings have already taken place at Emerald View Park. The butterfly weed planted was chosen because it's explosive blooms will match the 4th of July views on the mountain. Visitors can expect beautiful blooms and butterflies this summer. 🌱

Thanks to one anonymous donor, pollinator plants are being installed in 5 park gardens

Pittsburgh Parks
Conservancy



ENGAGE

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





Park champions like you

110 donors come together for August Wilson Park

You donated an impressive \$11,000 for this Hill District park. Your gift will go twice as far thanks to Randy Strothman's generous offer to match dollar-for-dollar.

Allegheny Commons: I know how meaningful a well-loved city park can be to a community. I'm investing in this local treasure because the people of the Hill District deserve a well cared-for park with engaging activities and events, like all Pittsburgh neighborhoods do." 🌱



Randy has extended his 1:1 match through the end of 2017

Over the last 40 years I've so enjoyed living close to Highland Park and



Programs you make possible

You maintain Pittsburgh's showcase gardens

Your Sassy Gardeners

Thanks to your support, more than 9,000 flowers, shrubs and trees were planted last year by Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy horticulturists. Around the office, we playfully call them the "Sassy Gardeners" because these spunky women take their job very seriously. The newest Sassy is Judith, "I just got grandfathered in but if you work with the ladies for a day you'll know why they are sassies."



Gardener Rosie prunes a tree

outside in all the different seasons, I love talking to the park users, I love that my "office" is a flower garden! Usually I have several people stop and talk to me. I answer all kinds of questions, from plants to playgrounds, from park rules to funding."

"The volunteers and donors are a crucial part in the success of the park gardens!"

— Angela, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Horticulturist

Their days start early at 6am when they arrive to the park to begin weeding, preparing flowerbeds for mulch, deadheading flowers, and watering trees and potted plants. They work year-round outside in all weather conditions. Each gardener is "zoned" to different parks, but they frequently work together

to get larger projects done quickly and help with volunteers.

Gardens under the Sassy's love and care include the Highland Park Entry Garden, Schenley Plaza, Mellon Park Walled Garden and the Riverview Chapel Shelter. 🌱



Jaci, Judith and Angela have fun planting in Emerald View Park



You transform our cherished spaces

You are a trail blazer

Restored trails welcome thousands

Park visitors need clear, clean and safe trails to enjoy the park. Thanks to you, nearly six miles of trails throughout Pittsburgh are now safe and inviting for park visitors.

In 2010, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy completed the \$3.8 million restoration trail project for Pittsburgh's park system. Trails were restructured and re-graded, adjacent slopes were stabilized, and inadequate drainage systems were replaced. The project included a new trail in Highland Park, the restoration of several 1930s-era footbridges in Schenley Park, and the installation of a new bridge along Frick Park's Falls Ravine Trail.

Now hikers, joggers, bikers can enjoy the enhanced, safe trails in their favorite parks. 🌱



Did you know that you can make a substantial gift to the parks you love without paying a penny in your lifetime?

We created The Bigelow Society in 2009 to recognize donors who have made legacy gifts. The simplest way to make such a gift is through your will. There are many other options, such as making a gift through your IRA or other retirement plan or through life insurance. Please

allow us to recognize you as a member of the Bigelow Society today.

Contact us so we may recognize you in your lifetime: Kathleen Gaines, kgaines@pittsburghparks.org or 412.682.7275, extension 213.



photo credit: Jeremy Marshall

A legacy gift allows you to increase your support for the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy without impacting your current needs.



Your parks, your stories

Meg Cheever reflects on 21 years

CEO to retire in 2018

Founding President and CEO Meg Cheever started the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy in 1996, and has been working for your parks ever since.

"Back in 1995, I read an article in the New York Times about how the Central Park Conservancy had begun to greatly improve that park and thought if that could be done in New York City then surely it could work here in

Pittsburgh. After about 6 months of operating as a non-profit organization without staff, it was obvious that we needed to have actual employees if we were going to succeed. That's when I quit my job in May of 1997 to become the first employee (although unpaid for some time)."

Meg will retire in March 2018. "Over the last 21 years I've learned that quiet persistence is perhaps the most important



\$104 million has been invested in your park system since Meg founded the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy in 1996

quality necessary to accomplishing something. One of the things I'm most proud that the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy has accomplished is really having raised awareness of the importance of the park system to the health and success of our community. As the park system has improved more and more people are coming to use the

parks every day. It's my hope that collectively we never let the park system fall into disrepair again."

In retirement, you can find her in the parks. "My husband and I intend to remain supporters of the Parks Conservancy. Unrestricted donations keep the work of improving our parks going." 🌻



The new Frick Environmental Center is one of 17 completed projects

A NOTE TO MEG:

\$50

Other amount \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy does not solicit contributions from persons or entities in states other than Pennsylvania, New York or Florida.

