Like so many other working moms, it’s important for me to spend quality time creating lasting memories with my two boys, Jack and Eli. After a tiring week of work, one of my favorite things to do on Saturday morning is to play with the boys in our front yard, which just happens to be the Northeast Fountain in Allegheny Commons Park.

Jack, my oldest, was completely infatuated with the installation of the Northeast Fountain earlier this year. Jack loved watching the construction from our house and even on our trips home in the car, we would drive the entire loop around the park so that he could see all the action. Having this piece of our park restored has changed our community and neighborhood for the better. We find ourselves using the park when we spend time together as a family, especially during visits to the neighborhood farmer’s market and when we walk to a friend’s house for a playdate. Our park feels safer, cleaner and brighter because of the fountain restoration.

Although this may just be a fountain to others—it means the world to our family.

Your generous donations make moments like this possible.

You help make our community stronger.

I’m proud to be a friend and supporter of the parks. I hope you will join me.

Sincerely,

Eve Eisen

Northside family Jamie and Eve Eisen with children Jack and Eli

Your Support Makes Our Community Stronger

Contact Julie Segner at jsegner@pittsburghparks.org or 412.682.7275 x240

ENGAGE
Pittsburgh deserves great parks. They matter to people, neighborhoods, and cities. Parks belong to the people, are free, and are the most democratic spaces in a community. This sentiment was supported by thousands of Pittsburghers who voted in favor of additional parks funding in the recent election. For those who supported the parks referendum – thank you.

I’ve also heard from fellow Pittsburghers who opposed the referendum. I respect your stance and hear your concerns. We worked hard during the campaign to ensure that the key concerns we heard were addressed — transparency, governance, privatization of the parks, and equitable investment. We are committed to ensuring transparency, accountability and governance of public funds, and citizen input and guidance in park investments. Now that the referendum has passed, many of our neighbors have asked what’s next and when can they expect to see improvements in their parks. The next step is for us to work with the Mayor and City Council to negotiate an agreement for what role the Parks Conservancy will have in implementing the Parks Plan. Remember, it took decades of neglect for our parks to get to this point and major changes won’t happen overnight, but little by little you can expect to see a resurgence in Pittsburgh’s park system.

Since 1996, we’ve raised over $126 million for Pittsburgh’s parks, completed 21 major improvement projects, served thousands of residents through our education programs and provided hundreds of public special events in parks. The Parks Conservancy has also reduced combined sewer overflows through green infrastructure projects, improved air quality through tree plantings, and restored parks through ecological work. Now more than ever, we will continue raising private funds and making improvements to all 165 parks.

Our goal is to match the estimated $10 million that will be raised from the parks tax annually. This will generate an additional $20 million to support the parks every year. I’m pleased to tell you that we’ve already secured a $500,000 grant from Heinz Endowments that will help us in achieving our $10 million fundraising goal for 2020. We thank Heinz Endowments for their incredible generosity and support in restoring Pittsburgh’s parks.

There is still a long way to go in order to address the $400 million backlog of much needed repairs and annual $13 million maintenance shortfall, but this is a positive start.

This referendum is about more than Pittsburgh’s parks. I believe this will improve the quality of life for every Pittsburgher in every neighborhood. There’s much to do in order to restore all 165 parks, but the work and challenge that lies ahead excites me.

This is just the beginning of a brighter and more equitable Pittsburgh. I’ll see you in the parks!

Sincerely,

Jayne Miller
President and CEO,
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

Creating a brighter and more equitable Pittsburgh for generations to come
2019 IN REVIEW
WHAT WE ACCOMPLISHED TOGETHER
Your support makes an incredible impact on our parks. Here are just a few things that, thanks to your help, we have been able to accomplish.

447 SUMMER CAMPERS
This year saw some of our largest summer camp classes ever. From Kinder Camp for those three and under to Survival Camp for middle schoolers, our summer programs remain popular. Thanks to your support of our “campership” program, many children were able to attend for free or at reduced prices.

10,522 CONTACT HOURS
The number of hours that summer campers spent with Parks Conservancy staff learning and having fun this summer.

2,317 VOLUNTEER HOURS
Our field staff works hard all year to maintain our beautiful park spaces. This work wouldn’t be possible without the help of the 829 volunteers, who have already contributed 2,317 volunteer hours in 2019. Your gifts helped purchase tools throughout the year to help our volunteers get the job done!

114 RESTORATION TREES
Pittsburgh’s parks are in critical need of additional trees. Thanks in part to your contributions, we have planted 114 native restoration trees across the park system and continue to plant more every day.

THREE CAPITAL PROJECTS
Together, we started construction of three capital projects in the parks in 2019. Additionally, on October 18, 2019, the Parks Conservancy was honored with the 2019 Pittsburgh ULI Placemaking Awards for Excellence, Jury Award for one of our recently completed capital projects—the Northeast Fountain in Allegheny Commons Park.

MORE THAN 530 EVENTS
With your generous support, we hosted more than 530 events across Pittsburgh’s parks in 2019. These events, including new additions such as Frick Park After Dark and Restorative Hikes have brought tens of thousands of people to our parks.

3,355 PERENNIALS PLANTED
Your support of the perennial fund assisted in helping us to plant and care for some of the 3,355 perennials that were established this year. You keep our parks beautiful.
HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE
Give a gift that gives back

KEEP YOUR LOVED ONES COZY WITH PARKS MERCHANDISE
$40

PLANT TREES IN OUR PARKS
$75

GIVE A PARKS GIFT IN HONOR OF SOMEONE SPECIAL
$150

PLANT FLOWERS THROUGHOUT PITTSBURGH
$250

LEAVE A LEGACY IN SCHENLEY PARK
$500

DEDICATE A BUTTERFLY AT THE FRICK ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER
$1,000

TO GIVE A GIFT VISIT
PITTSBURGHPARKS.ORG/GIFTGUIDE
OR CONTACT JULIE SEGNER AT JSEGNER@PITTSBURGHPARKS.ORG | 412.682.7275 x 240

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