covid-19 global health emergency

In light of Governor Wolf's announcement that Allegheny County moved to "green" status on June 5, we wanted to share some information regarding our next steps.

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy is excited to be part of a group of museums and cultural institutions from across Southwestern Pennsylvania that is collaboratively preparing our organizations for safe re-openings.

Our shared priority is the health and safety of our visitors, staff and volunteers. We are thus working together to develop and share best practices, in conjunction with federal, state and local recommendations. These best practices will reflect the unique needs of our institutions and will help to ensure you feel comfortable and prepared on your return to Parks Conservancy facilities and other Southwestern Pennsylvania museums and cultural institutions.

Our group started meeting in late March and now includes 30 different museums and arts organizations that span Allegheny, Westmoreland and Fayette Counties. We are meeting digitally on a weekly basis to share plans and discuss key elements of re-opening, including visitor guidelines; our facilities; staff and volunteers; and diversity and equity issues. Although each institution is evaluating re-opening under on its own schedule, we are confident that these shared conversations will facilitate safe and smooth re-openings across the region.

While this group convened for the purpose of collaborating on best practices for reopening our institutions, it has opened the door for other vital collaborative efforts, such as addressing our support for racial
equity and ending the cycle of violence and oppression affecting people of color in our community. This group will continue to meet to listen to the needs of our community and discuss specific actions that can be taken by each institution to make a change.

Regarding the Parks Conservancy’s re-opening and next steps, we are still evaluating our own timeline, but we look forward to sharing more updates soon. Until then, we are glad to continue connecting digitally and hope to see you again soon!

Visit our COVID-19 webpage for park updates throughout the month of June as we continue navigating through these unprecedented times.

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parks are thankful for our frontline heroes

Thank you to all of our frontline workers. You’re our superheroes. We'd like to send an extra special note of thanks to the healthcare heroes and those who support patient care during this unprecedented crisis. Your sacrifice and service mean the absolute world to us.

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PARKS ON THE GO

a guide to exploring the outdoors from anywhere
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](https://preview.hs-sites.com/_hcms/preview/content/29336406856?portalId=415693&_preview=true&cacheBust=0&preview_key=baERoLmz&from_buffer=false&... to explore Parks on the Go.

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**parks are for all**

The Parks Conservancy received a mini-grant from the Jewish Federation and Vibrant Pittsburgh to support the production of Pittsburgh Parks Welcome You, a series of five videos featuring members of Pittsburgh's immigrant and refugee communities welcoming newcomers and non-native English speakers to the city's parks and introducing these public green spaces as free and accessible to all.

[Learn more](https://preview.hs-sites.com/_hcms/preview/content/29336406856?portalId=415693&_preview=true&cacheBust=0&preview_key=baERoLmz&from_buffer=false&...) about Lu and what Pittsburgh's parks mean to him!

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**celebrating 10 years of the mellon park walled garden**

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 Mellon Park Walled Garden, one of the many restoration projects of the City of Pittsburgh and Parks Conservancy.

Ten years ago, the City of Pittsburgh, the Parks Conservancy and generous group of supporters celebrated the completed restoration and rededication of the Walled Garden, a beloved neighborhood gathering place that honors the memory of Ann Katharine Seamans, who visited the garden often during her life.

An art installation, created by artist Janet Zweig, pays tribute to Annie by bringing the pattern of the night sky on the day of her birth into the lawn through fiber-optic ‘stars. Seeing kids jump from star to star – with the beautifully restored fountain in the background – is a joyous park experience.

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 to learn more about the Mellon Park Walled Garden.

summer days in pittsburgh's parks by brea schmidt

When it started to become more and more obvious that this summer would be "different," I immediately went into "how am I going to handle this with the kids?" worry mode.

Will playgrounds open back up? Will I be able to take them to the pool? Will we be able to go to the summer festivals? Will we be able to spend that week up at my parents' house? Will we be able to take them to the baseball game? Will we be able to go and eat at our favorite restaurants? And if not - will we have enough to do to fill the time?

Continue Reading...

safely enjoying nature - from start to finish

Step 1: Wash your hands before leaving home
Step 2: Park at a distance from others
Step 3: Think about how you will adjust your plan if the park is busy
Step 4: Put on your mask before you begin your park visit
Step 5: Stay at least 6 - 8 feet away from others
Step 6: Greet fellow park lovers with a wave
Step 7: Avoid touching surfaces as you visit your favorite park
Step 8: Don't forget to use sanitizer and wash your hands when you go home

Explore more park safety tips by clicking here.
volunteering in pittsburgh's parks | kevin schultz, SAP

My green thumb game isn’t strong by any stretch. I don’t have a yard, much less flowerbeds wrapped around a yard. I don’t wake up at dawn to unspool the garden hose and hydrate a specially-manicured lawn while chugging a cup of coffee. I previously owned potted succulents that basically took care of themselves and needed very little human pampering. I’m even lucky to remember to water the amaryllis that sit in my sunny foyer.

While I’m not an avid arborist or gardener, I do understand how this lush, green life provides all of us with food, shelter, breathable air, and even clothing. The planet has done so much for us and it’s our responsibility as humans to put the work back into it to keep it going.

Continue Reading...

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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