



**Pittsburgh
Parks
Conservancy**
PittsburghParks.org

Donor Newsletter
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PittsburghParks.org

photo credit: Melissa McMasters

Garden Buds at work in your parks

Volunteers work one-on-one with horticulturists

Our new volunteer program, called Garden Buds, combines a volunteer's love of the outdoors with the daily needs of Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy horticulturists and gardeners.

Garden Buds do not need to have any prior gardening experience. Parks Conservancy horticulturists teach everything you need to know and provide the tools and gloves. A Garden Bud volunteers in a specific garden, preferably in their neighborhood, with a horticulturist. A typical day starts by meeting up with the gardener to learn about the day's task, then working together on seasonal tasks like mulching, cutting back grasses, planting perennials, and weeding. Buds will also learn about the garden and park to help park visitors with questions.

Garden Buds are different than other



Volunteers take care of the Highland Park Entry Garden

volunteer programs because they commit to long term, weekday set schedules with their gardener. They must volunteer at least twice a month, weekly or bi-weekly, for six hours from May through October.

Juan Peng, one of the four

original Buds, volunteers in Mellon and Frick Parks. "We try hard to save trees from vines—to give them a haircut, as my Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy friends say. Volunteering

*"The gardens are such a glorious part of the parks! I couldn't make them look so beautiful all on my own."
Angela Yuele
Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Horticulturist*

helps me to see our surroundings in a brand-new way, a new horizon has been opened to me."

To learn more about becoming a Garden Bud or to view other volunteer opportunities visit PittsburghParks.org/garden-volunteering.



ENGAGE

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





Park champions like you

Chicken Hill restoration slated for 2018

PA American Water funds green infrastructure

Thank you to PA American Water for investing in McKinley Park. The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and various community leaders are committed to implementing the 2016 park master plan, beginning with a complete reconstruction of the park's Chicken Hill

area. The project will focus on three key objectives — reducing stormwater runoff, resolving drainage and erosion problems, and restoring accessibility and connectivity in the park and surrounding neighborhoods.

We are particularly proud to be part of

the green infrastructure project designed to not only restore but increase park accessibility.” Sean Graves, Senior Director of Operations, Western PA



A rendering of the Chicken Hill project at McKinley Park



Programs you make possible

Pittsburgh Parks Rx supports health & wellness through outdoor play

You make new toolkits available for care providers

Geared for kids Pre-K – 5, Pittsburgh Parks Prescription (Parks Rx) emphasizes the benefits of physical activity by offering parks activities.

schoolyard, or indoors. Students receive folders or “passports” to track fun activities like scavenger hunts, animal decathlons, binocular hikes, and outdoor story maps.

A new free toolkit for educators and care providers includes lessons, activities, materials, and other resources. Activities can be adapted for specific needs, whether the setting is a park, greenspace,

This Parks Prescriber Toolkit is a guide for those working in schools, afterschool settings, daycare centers, family support centers, and

others. This program provides a framework for teachers, parents, community leaders, and healthcare professionals to encourage kids to get outside.



Learning in natural environments can boost performance in reading, writing, math, science, and social studies. credit Lieberman & Hoody (1998)



Activity folders for students

Nancy Walker is an After School Program Coordinator that uses the toolkit. “The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy has helped the children who attend our after school program become

“Physical activity an hour a day, especially when done outdoors, can reduce the risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, depression, ADHD and many more physical and mental health conditions. The parks are the perfect place to spend this hour.” — Dr. Justin Schreiber, Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC

enthusiastic nature lovers.”

So far 77 toolkits have been distributed since its release in February 2018. Visit PittsburghParks.org/rx-teachers to learn more and download the toolkit.



You transform our cherished spaces

You make parks accessible for all

McKinley Park entrance restored in 2013

Your support completed the McKinley Park Entrance and Rain Gardens project in 2013.

This project improved accessibility and saved

an important historic feature: a stone wall and steps at the park entrance dating back to the 1930s. The completed project included an entrance

area parking lot surfaced with porous asphalt that allows stormwater to be absorbed into the ground; rain gardens

to receive water from the parking lot; and accessible walkways from the street to the playground and the basketball court. 🌿



Photo credit: Jeremy Marshall

Up next in McKinley Park: Chicken Hill restored in partnership with the City of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh Sewer & Water Authority (PWSA) and ALCOSAN and supported by the National Recreation and Park Association's Great Urban Parks program and Pennsylvania American Water.

CAUSE AN EFFECT



Make eating a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support the **Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy**. Just come into any **Greater Pittsburgh area** Chipotle on **Tuesday April 24th, 2018** from **11AM to 9PM**.

Bring this flyer or tell the cashier you're supporting the cause to make sure 50% of the proceeds will be donated to the **Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy**.

Gift card purchases during fundraisers do not count toward total donated sales, but purchases made with existing gift cards will count. Please note that online/mobile orders are not eligible to be included in the fundraiser at the moment.



Your parks, your stories

Christina's legacy in the parks

Longtime Northside resident leaves your parks in her will

Christina Schmidlapp and her husband Ellis called the Northside home for 20 years. "Our three children (now 31, 29, and 23) grew up running on Allegheny Commons' long paths, watching trains go by, using the park's playgrounds and crossing it to friends' houses or the library, Children's Museum and Aviary. In

2016 our daughter Jane got married in the park, beside Lake Elizabeth."

“Along with determined neighbors, the Garden Club of Allegheny County and the Northside Leadership Conference, I campaigned for the park's revitalization. In the meantime, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy was growing and amassing a record of success improving city parks. Eventually, the Conservancy added the Commons to its roster of public spaces; it's now implementing the park's master plan. With the Conservancy at the helm, the Commons is entering a new era of improvement and wider appreciation that I applaud.”

She is passionate about caring for the parks and environment. "I believe in protecting the quality of our natural environment for



Christina completed the Appalachian Trail in 2016

the benefit of people and the planet: in the long run, the natural world sustains us all. But the threats to nature are many and real. I believe in supporting the organizations tackling these challenges at both small and large scales.”

include the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy in her will. "Though our current support of the Parks Conservancy is relatively modest, I'm grateful that through future planned giving I can maximize that support. I believe in demonstrating my values with concrete actions as best I'm able.”

A longtime supporter, Christina decided to



"Spending time outdoors can be so healthy, interesting and fun—even therapeutic—for people of any age and circumstance."

Make a substantial gift to the parks without paying a penny in your lifetime



The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy has teamed up with our friends at FreeWill to provide a way to make a new comprehensive legal will at no cost to you.

Visit FreeWill.com/PittsburghParks to make your will today. It only takes 25 minutes. Questions? Call Kathleen Gaines at 412.682.7275 x213. **Learn more about planned giving Bigelow Society benefits at PittsburghParks.org/bigelow-society**

Yes! I have included the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy in my will. Please recognize my gift as part of the Bigelow Society.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____

e-mail _____

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