The Power of Parks
The natural respite all Pittsburgher’s need during times of uncertainty.

We can’t underestimate the power of parks. They’re here for us during times of uncertainty when little is available. They serve as a place of peace and comfort for our minds and spirits. They keep us healthy and active with endless trails for hiking and biking.

If there’s one thing we’ve learned from this recent global health emergency it’s that parks need us, just as much as we need them.

Parks rarely ask anything of us. They are the one, true democratic space that’s open and available to all.

But spending time in your parks may look a little different now.

If you’re able, please support the parks you know and love, so they can continue supporting you. It is ongoing support of our generous donors that will help to ensure our work continues to keep Pittsburgh’s parks open and available to all. Now, more than ever, your parks need you.

Sincerely,

James Snow
Senior Development Director
We know that we’ve recently expanded our digital offerings through Parks on the Go, a helpful resource for individuals, students, and families to explore parks and nature from home? Parks on the Go is inclusive of education resources, neighborhood nature activities, as well as family-fun sheets, such as word searches and mazes for all to enjoy!

It’s imperative that families and individuals in our community have access to the same quality of environmental education and park resources offered through our public programming that would traditionally take place within the parks or at the Frick Environmental Center.

It’s thanks to the generosity of our parks supporters that make public programs and resources possible for all Pittsburghers to enjoy.

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<tr>
<th>Save the date!</th>
<th>Celebrating Park Supporters</th>
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<td>Because we’re honoring supporters like you in a week-long digital celebration beginning July 27! More information to come.</td>
<td>We are so thankful for every member of our Parks Family. Whether you’re a volunteer, donor, advocate, or Park Champion, we’re grateful for all that you do to make our parks wonderful. For the past two summers, we have gathered our supporters at an annual picnic to show our appreciation. Although we can’t physically join together, our annual appreciation celebration isn’t cancelled – it’s simply reimagined.</td>
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On April 22, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy celebrated 50 years of Earth Day with a virtual experience for all to enjoy from the comfort of their homes. More than 29,000 of our closest friends attended the digital celebration, which included a story-time hike, two live question and answer sessions with Parks Conservancy naturalists, and a neighborhood nature scavenger hunt activity.

Although this celebration didn’t allow for Pittsburgher’s to gather at the Frick Environmental Center as they have for so many years, it was equally as important. As many depend on nature to help cope during times of uncertainty, it’s vital that we do everything we can to honor it and give back to it as much as possible.

Speaking of virtual programs, did you know that we’ve recently expanded our digital offerings through Parks on the Go, a helpful resource for individuals, students, and families to explore parks and nature from home? Parks on the Go is inclusive of education resources, neighborhood nature activities, as well as family-fun sheets, such as word searches and mazes for all to enjoy!

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Programs you make possible

Celebrating 50 Years of Earth Day: A Virtual Celebration

The Parks Conservancy is expanding its public programming through digital resources.

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Reviving a Part of Pittsburgh’s History

Construction begins on the historic North Promenade in Allegheny Commons Park.

The Parks Conservancy is thrilled to begin rehabilitation work on the historic North Promenade in Allegheny Commons Park.

Serving as the front yard for the Northside’s diverse neighborhoods, Allegheny Commons is Pittsburgh’s oldest park, known for its mature canopy trees, wide promenade, and charming Lake Elizabeth.

The rehabilitation of the North Promenade will be completed as two separate projects: one from the Northeast Fountain to Federal street and the second from Federal Street past the George Washington Monument. Funding for the first project has been secured, allowing for that segment to move forward this month. Fundraising for the second segment is ongoing.

The North Promenade project will reinstate the 1935 path pattern, repaving the primary Promenade while removing unnecessary footpaths and excess pavement. New pedestrian crossings at Federal Street will include a low, planted median to signal drivers that they are entering the park zone. Finishing touches will include historically appropriate benches and energy efficient lighting.

The Commons are an invaluable cultural landscape for Northsiders and Pittsburghers of all stripes. Mexican War Streets Society President, Maggie Connor, is proud to support this treasured neighborhood gem and exciting project.

Allegheny Commons Park really serves as our front garden. A historic resource in its own right, it has long served this community’s need for recreation, fresh air, greenspace, mobility, and beauty. This is why we’ve had tremendous support within our organization for contributing to the park and its ongoing improvements,” Maggie said.

The importance of historic preservation, the park’s vital role in community development, and the need for ongoing stewardship are the basis of the latest project.

Allegheny Commons brings our community together in a variety of ways, whether it is the robust network of people who frequent the dog park, or the folks that you walk or jog past on your way to East Ohio Street, Western, or Federal Street shops and restaurants,” Maggie explained. “It is nearly impossible to walk through the park and not pass a neighbor. Furthermore, events like the Farmers Market serve a vital need for our neighborhoods, while the park features like Lake Elizabeth and the ‘new-lish’ Northeast Fountain provide beautiful focal points for our community to come together.”

The Parks Conservancy is honored to enhance this historic park in this urban oasis, where we hope to further connect and strengthen the bond of the Northside community.

Allegheny Commons has long been our lifeblood and it is really special to see the dedication and care that the Parks Conservancy has put into keeping it a truly unique and special place,” Maggie said.

The project is expected to be completed before the end of 2020. Stay tuned for more details as this project comes to life by following us on social media @pittsburghparks.
Parks and nature mean the world to me. I grew up down the street from Schenley Park, where I would spend countless hours hiking, exploring, and turning over rocks in the creeks. Parks are a place of adventure, independence, and solitude. They ultimately helped shape my life today.

I’ve spent the past 10 years educating students at the Environmental Charter School, mostly teaching science, social studies, and environmental science. This year, the school created a garden and kitchen educator position, enabling me to educate students in kindergarten through fifth grade about garden exploration – my absolute dream job!

I often take my students to Frick Park for recreation, inspiration, and scientific observations. However, when COVID-19 hit and our world came to a sudden halt, I needed to find a way to educate my students about the environment remotely. I was made aware of the Parks Conservancy’s Parks on the Go digital resources and immediately dug into the materials!

Although these resources, especially around mindfulness practices as they’re prescribed for children. The Neighborhood Nature activities allow my students to view places and spaces that they’re familiar with, which provides comfort during this uncertain time.

I want my students to find awe in nature, explore the natural world, and find peaceful moments through mindful practices, even when the world around them is challenging. That’s what Parks on the Go offers.

Although I can’t be with my students right now, I find peace knowing that they’re still able to connect with the world around them thanks to these resources. Parks truly are our ultimate classrooms.

Sincerely,

Deirdre Keller
K-5 Edible School Yard/Discovery Teacher
Environmental Charter School
Pittsburgh