



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PITTSBURGH PARKS CONSERVANCY URGES PARK USERS TO FOLLOW SOCIAL DISTANCING WHILE USING PITTSBURGH'S PARKS
Parks Are Open and Usable for Activities Such As Walking, Hiking, and Running

PITTSBURGH – MARCH 24, 2020 – In response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) global health emergency, and Governor Wolf's stay-at-home mandate, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (pittsburghpark.org) is strongly urging all park users to properly practice safe, social distancing while using parks.

Governor Wolf announced that while the [stay-at-home mandate](#) is in order in Allegheny County until April 6, individuals may leave their residence to engage in outdoor activity, such as walking, hiking, or running if they maintain proper social distancing of at least six feet.

“As the weather warms up and people act on their natural desire to be outdoors as a way of coping with this crisis, more and more Pittsburghers are finding the comfort and escape they need in our city parks,” says Jayne Miller, president and chief executive officer, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy. “To ensure that they remain open and safe for all, it is crucial for every visitor, even those who consider themselves completely healthy, to maintain safe physical distance from other park users while spending time in our parks, on our trails, in open spaces and in nature.”

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy recommends four ways for park users to safely enjoy outdoor activity in our parks, while practicing proper social distancing and other personal health guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Walk your furry friend
- Hike your favorite trail
- Explore the urban forest while enjoying a run
- Get in your daily steps

Parks are an essential resource for people of all ages and provide many physical and mental health benefits. City parks are open and usable, unless deemed otherwise by the City of Pittsburgh. Due to the increase in confirmed COVID-19 cases, and the increasing risk of exposure, the City of Pittsburgh temporarily closed all City playgrounds on March 23.

All park facilities and restrooms operated by the Parks Conservancy are closed until further notice. The facility closures include the Frick Environmental Center (2005 Beechwood Blvd.), Parks Conservancy South

Side offices (45 S. 23rd St.), Schenley Plaza maintenance building (4100 Forbes Ave.), Schenley Park Café and Visitor Center (101 Panther Hollow Rd.), and the horticultural and forestry facility (1 English Lane).

In addition, the Parks Conservancy has postponed all programming and special events through May 10, 2020. The Conservancy is working to reschedule most postponed events.

For more information visit pittsburghparks.org.

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About Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy:

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy was founded in December 1996 by a group of citizens concerned with the deteriorating conditions of Pittsburgh's historic city parks. A non-profit organization, the Parks Conservancy works closely with the City of Pittsburgh under an official public-private partnership agreement to restore and improve the city's park system to its full potential. To date, the Parks Conservancy has raised more than \$130 million and completed 21 major park improvement projects. The Parks Conservancy works with thousands of volunteers, hosts hundreds of events, and provides programming for more than 7,500 children annually.