



# Catherine's CLIFF NOTES

Colleagues,

I hope your summer is off to a fantastic start! Our cherished parks are indeed alive this time of year, from free programs and events to ongoing stewardship activities to each of you brightening the parks every day by caring for these spaces, welcoming new visitors, and connecting Pittsburgh's youngest learners with nature.

As I've said so many times before, the work you do matters to the organization, park visitors, and the citizens of Pittsburgh. Please read below and learn more about the significant organizational and departmental accomplishments for the year's second quarter.

Thank you for making Pittsburgh's park system a welcoming place for all!

Thanks!  
Catherine



### **Flagstaff Hill**

The project will be finished by the end of June! The City has given Carnegie Mellon University permission to do the hardscape improvements on the east entry side.

### **Allegheny Commons Hartzell Monument**

Brandon is in the process of reviewing references for two bids. A contract will be awarded after hearing back from references. Construction should begin at the end of June and last two months.

### **Allegheny Commons Segment B**

The team is working with the project consultant on advancing the design, permitting, and construction documents for Segment B, which will stretch from Federal Street to Arch Street. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2023.



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## **Mellon Park Action Plan**

After extensive work from the Community Engagement team, the draft report of the Action Plan became available for public comment on June 6. It is available for review on the [here](#) and will be available for public comment until June 27.

## **Smart Parks**

The team presented Smart Parks feedback to city departments and is now in the process of compiling that feedback to make recommendations for the final report due later this summer.

## **Park Waters**

Spring watershed walks are wrapping up for the season. PPC is currently coordinating with Rivers of Steel for an all-task force boat tour of the rivers for July.

## **Parks Rx**

Community engagement & Education teams have continued working with Hazelwood partners to plan and execute a summer series for young children and families including Hazelwood Family Center Parks Rx program, Hazelwood summer camp outreach programming, and Hazelwood outdoor field trip with Arts Excursions. Several professional development sessions were also provided throughout the spring in partnership with UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

[Click here](#) to check out the updated winter and spring Parks Rx tip sheets!



an update from...

# THE ED TEAM

## **What has the team been up to at FEC?**

The 2021-22 school year closed out with visits from nearly all of PPC's partners, which included exploring Falls Ravine stream with elementary schoolers; examining the impact of the Fern Hollow bridge collapse on Fern Hollow stream with middle schoolers; and planting trees on Clayton Hill with the high schoolers.

Earth Month programs reached 1200 Pittsburghers through 58 individual events in April 2022.

The Frick Environmental Center is now open to the public 7 days a week, 10:00am-4:00pm. Masks are required inside the building and are available at the front desk.

The Juneteenth Celebration at Frick Environmental Center took place on June 10 (Hurray for no rain!). The event included a tour of the From Slavery to Freedom Garden at 5:00pm and a concert with Sierra Sellers and Chandra Rhyme from 6:00 to 8:00pm. The celebration was attended by nearly 300 people!

### **What's on Deck?**

Summer camps are in full swing! The Ed Team will also be engaging with children and adults in the Hill District, Homewood, and Hazelwood, as well as hosting groups from other camps at the FEC. Click here for photos of their seasonal summer staff, including 6 Camp Counselors and the Community Education Assistant!

The Young Naturalists teen summer internship has selected its 2022 cohort of 12 high schoolers for 5 weeks of learning, work, and fun. Applications are still open for the 3-week Summer Stewards program in August for 7th-8th graders coming to us largely through our partnership with Propel Schools.



### **Need's Updated**



### **Engaging Park Users**

With summer approaching, we are experimenting with mobile geofencing strategies to better connect with our park users whenever they visit select parks throughout the city. Unlike museums or other cultural destinations that can collect constituent information through ticket purchases, park visitors will be able to explore free programming, sign up for volunteer opportunities, and of course, donate!

### **Establishing new Constituents**

A recent focus of the development team has been the acquisition of new constituents we can introduce to the Parks Conservancy and our work. The Advancement team (a combination of Marketing and Development) has brainstormed some materials for a welcome packet to mail to new residents surrounding some of our most popular parks. As we all have experienced with moving or being in a new town, it can be a stressful time and what better place to relax or recharge than in our parks!



### **Summer Programming Guide**

A new season brings a new opportunity to get Pittsburghers involved in their magnificent parks! The Summer Programming Guide will be available to all on July 1! (Click here for a sneak peak!)

### **The Great Staycation in Pittsburgh's Parks**

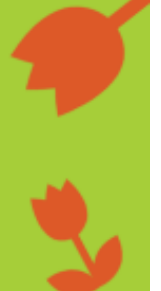
There's no place like HOME! That's why the marketing team developed the ultimate "Staycation" package for Pittsburghers who want to find adventure without leaving the comfort of their city. Check it out here!

### **Congratulations, Alana!**

Alana has recently been promoted to Director of Philanthropy & Public Engagement. She will now lead the charge of the newly developed Advancement Department, which consists of Marketing and Development teams.



# FROM THE OFFICE



## **A New Face in Finance**

Joe Karlovitz has certainly hit the ground running in his new role as Director of Finance. He has been taking a look at PPC rentals and leases for improvement, including reviewing the process of receiving the money from renters, as well as ensuring our leases are being followed. The PPC also recently submitted a Capital Budget ask to the City of Pittsburgh for funding from the Parks Tax.

Joe is also at the forefront of another new PPC initiative... a web store! In this online store, park lovers will have the opportunity to stock up on their favorite PPC swag. Stay tuned for more information!

## **The Front Desk**

Besides helping with the PPC Spring Hat Luncheon for the 17th year (Congrats, Beth!), Beth has been working with Finance to update the PPC Policy & Procedure documents; working with the team on rental improvements; and coordinating with field staff to find more efficient ways to code purchases to grant programs.

## **HR with Ashley**

The first phase of PPC's DEI training is just about wrapped up, and Ashley is working closely with ISP to review the process and policies. The final deliverable will be a training that will be added to the Onboarding curriculum that Ashley is creating. This, along with input from the PPC team, will also result in updates to the employee handbook, so stay tuned!

Ashley is also awaiting the Human Resources Information System/Payroll RFP submissions. The RFP was released at the beginning of June and is due 6/14. We look to having our final decision made by July 1, 2022. We believe the addition of this system will increase the ease and efficiency of how we manage the administrative part of the business.

PPC has decided it will surpass the state's requirements and broaden who is required to have their Child Welfare Clearances. Please continue to coordinate with Ashley on this process.

## **Farewell, Adeshewa!**

Adeshewa has recently resigned her position as Bookkeeper with the organization to spend more time with her family, including her two young daughters. We are so grateful for her many contributions to the Parks Conservancy, including managing many of the day-to-day finances of the Parks Conservancy during the pandemic, a commendable accomplishment amongst so many others.

## **New Team Members**

With the incoming summer season, the PPC has hired a slew of new full-time and seasonal workers in various departments. If you see one of these new people in the field, make sure say hi!

- Andrew Smith – Visitor Experience Assistant Manager
- Joe Karlovitz – Finance Director
- Kellen Seager – Seasonal PT Restoration Gardener
- Jared Belsky – Season PT Restoration Gardener
- Sam Cont - Summer Camp Counselor
- Emma Gray - Summer Camp Counselor
- Ryan Malkin - Summer Camp Counselor
- Lenka Platt - Summer Camp Counselor
- Mary Katt Siar - Summer Camp Counselor
- Katie Whitewood - Summer Camp Counselor
- Olivia Ames – Seasonal Community Education Assistant
- Akem Agbere – Seasonal Visitor Experience Associate
- Luck Klug - Seasonal Visitor Experience Associate
- Jacob Thrower - Seasonal Visitor Experience Associate

Welcome to the team!



## **Welcoming New Faces**

Two seasonal employees have joined the PPC as part of the H&F team-- Kellan Seager and Jared Belsky. Their awesome work will be focused mainly on Schenley Park and Emerald View Park. (Photos here!)

## **Restoring Grandview to Excellence**

The team has been turning their efforts toward Grandview Park lately, and the space is looking better than ever! As of mid-June, more than 800 native perennial plugs had been planted, and volunteer groups from around the city have been joining H&F to improve this space!

## **A Lively Spring**

Spring brought new life to Pittsburgh's Parks, due in part to this awesome team! Throughout the spring season, more than 70 trees, thousands of annuals and hundreds of perennials got planted in the parks!



a spotlight on...

# INTERNSHIPS



## **Kaitlin Richards**

Kaitlin is a Community Engagement intern and a student at Penn State, majoring in Human Development and Family Studies. She will also be working at the front desk of the Frick Environmental Center. Kaitlin is passionate about diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, and women's advocacy and is excited to meet everyone!

## **Leah Whitacre**

Leah is an undergraduate student at Chatham University majoring in Sustainability. They are working as a Community Engagement Intern, but are also a part of the Livestock Team at Chatham's Eden Hall Campus where they help take care of goats and chickens.

## **Nathan Wooten**

Nathan is a student at Mercyhurst University and is working as an intern by volunteering and assisting with events.

## **Jill Caswell**

Jill is a rising senior at the University of Pittsburgh double majoring in Urban Studies and Communications with certificates in nonprofit management and sustainability. She is very excited to start getting involved with the intern team at the Conservancy and will be helping out with community outreach.

## **Mary Warner**

Mary is a Master's student at Carnegie Mellon University studying Professional Writing. She is working as a Marketing intern this summer and helping with content writing and administrative tasks, as well as attending some events to take photos and videos.

## **Michelle**

Michelle joined the team as a Database Associate intern. Michelle is helping to identify duplicate records within the Raiser's Edge, List Management, and Luminare systems. Also, documenting best practices for migration between databases and inputting donor data for future health and effectiveness of communications.

***Thanks for tuning in to this edition of Catherine's Cliff Notes!  
Stay tuned for another update in September, 2022.***