



Catherine's CLIFF NOTES

Colleagues,

It's hard to believe we're entering the final quarter of 2022. This year has gone by faster than I ever could have imagined. Yet, as we look back upon the past nine months, the work you have accomplished individually and collectively is remarkable.

From completing one capital improvement project to starting another, there is so much to be proud of and look forward to in the coming months.

I welcome you to read below and learn more about the exciting projects, programs, and initiatives happening across the organization.

As always, thank you for all that you do to support Pittsburgh's parks!

Thanks!
Catherine



Flagstaff Hill

The first phase of the Flagstaff Hill restoration project was completed on July 12. This phase of the project included restoring the stone entry steps, retaining walls, and the overlooking terrace on top of the hill. Carnegie Mellon University recently completed construction of the hardscape at the East Entrance (corner of Tech and Frew Street). PPC will plant out the West and East Entry Gardens with fall and spring planting efforts.

Hartzell Monument

The Hartzell Monument restoration is complete! The monument is located on the corner of Federal and North Avenue in Allegheny Commons Park, so don't forget to stop by and see this newly restored piece of Pittsburgh History!

Allegheny Commons Segment B

Segment B of the North Promenade design work is scheduled to begin this fall, with an estimated construction start date of Summer 2023.

FEC Sensory Classroom

PPC received a grant from the Edith Trees Foundation to design an outdoor sensory classroom at the Frick Environmental Center. This project should be wrapped up by July 2023.



Park Waters

Erin recently attended the One Water Summit in Milwaukee, Wisconsin as part of a delegation made up of stakeholders in the water world in Pittsburgh to brainstorm and discuss stormwater solutions. The team is also in the process of scheduling watershed walks and fall clean-ups in each of the priority watersheds that we work with.

Parks Rx

September brought a variety of programs related to our Parks Rx initiative, including a Baby & Me Nature Walk with Children's Hospital Hello Baby Program; the Final Hazelwood Family Center program at Hazelwood Green Plaza; and another incredible Walk with a Doc event! The team also has ongoing developments of a park prescription research study proposal with Stanford University Natural Capital Project.

Forest Therapy Guide Certification

Patty, Shawn and Kathryn are halfway through their 6-month Forest Therapy certification class. Multiple forest bathing programs are scheduled this fall with a variety of partners including Carnegie Mellon University, Azure Pittsburgh, 10.27 Healing Partnership, and Highmark Caring Place.



Summer Camp Recap

This summer, we served 254 campers ages 4-13. We also worked with 11 outstanding teens in our Young Naturalists summer internship program, and an additional 8 younger teens in the inaugural year of our Summer Stewards program for middle schoolers.

Partnering with Local Families

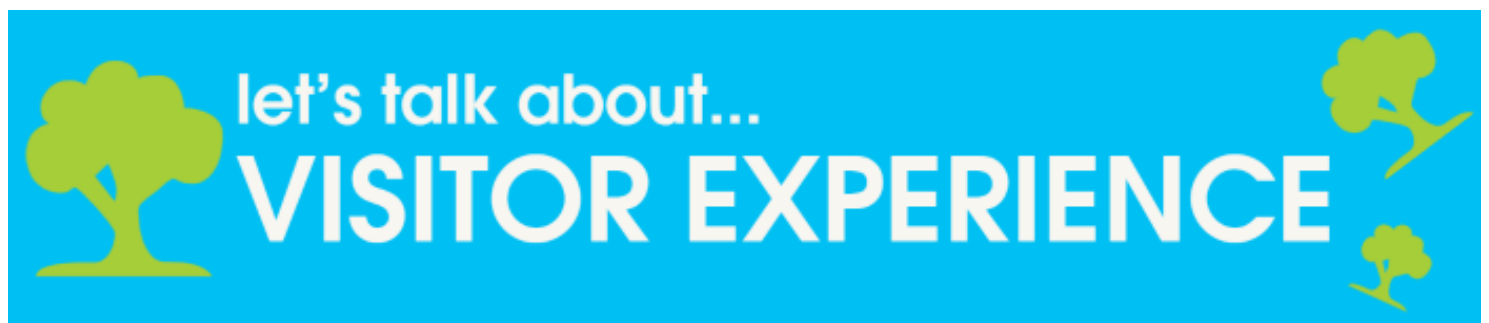
The Ed and CE Teams worked with children and families in the Hill District, Homewood, and Hazelwood. Highlights included an outing to Schenley Park with campers from the Schenley Heights Child Care Center and a day trip to Moraine State Park with Hazelwood families, as well as regular interactions within each neighborhood. Click [HERE](#) for photos!

Back to School!

We try to see each of the approximately 1200 preK-12 grade students enrolled in our school partner programs for their initial visit before mid-November. This school year, we'll also be holding an afterschool Outdoors Club in three schools and working with teachers to develop rich suites of sustainability lessons featuring the FEC and its data dashboard.

FEC Programs

Public program offerings this fall include many Forest Bathing options, as well as birding outings, nature story times, and, of course, Bump in the Night!



Explore Fall Programs

Parks are ready for the fall season! Please be sure to join us for one (or more!) of the many park programs happening this season, from Lunchtime music to Dance & Be Fit and so much more! And don't forget to join us in October for our final Kid's Day and Family Day of the year!

It's Spooky Season!

PPC has a lineup of Halloween-themed programs in store! On October 15, we will be hosting two movies at the Schenley Park Visitor Center (Casper @ 11:00A.M and Cabin Fever @ 8:00P.M.). Also, don't forget about the Costume Block Party at Mellon Square on October 27.

First Annual Indigenous Culture Festival

On September 21, the University of Pittsburgh celebrated Indigenous cultures of the region with a Mini Pow Wow in Schenley Plaza. The Pow Wow included activities, a Grand Entry Dance, and a vibrant march from the Carnegie Museum to Schenley Plaza. This will be the first of many Indigenous Culture Festivals, and we are honored to have helped celebrate.

REMINDER! The PNC Carousel at Schenley Plaza's last day of the season will be on Sunday, October 16. See you back in 2023!



Autumn Adventures Week

This week long supporter celebration gave us an extra opportunity to thank our donors who make our work possible. Events, fall fun, and a movie night in Schenley Plaza rounded out the week. Not to be forgotten, the newest park blend with Commonplace Coffee celebrates Emerald View Park. City skylines and sipping coffee to celebrate the beautiful weather sounds like a winning combination.

Fall Planting Partnerships

The fall planting season is right around the corner! The team has been working on assisting Jaci with the planning. Thanks to fundraising during the Hat Luncheon earlier this year, we are also collaborating with the city for trees at the newly reopened Highland Park Super Playground. While coordination with donors can be tedious, trees remain near and dear to our supporters' hearts, making this commemorative program worth the lift.

Speaking of Trees

We are happy to report we reached our matching gift goal of \$10,000 with the Park Tree fund appeal! Thanks to our donors, Bartlett Tree Services will match that amount towards planting 250 new park trees. As the campaign closes, the focus turns to year-end and getting organized before the holiday season arrives.



Fall Programming Guide

In conjunction with our incredible lineup of organization-wide programs this season, the fall program guide is now available online and in the parks! Check it out [HERE!](#)

Welcome, Kevin!

In partnership with Nazareth Prep High School, please join us in welcoming Kevin Caldwell to the Parks Conservancy team! Kevin is a high school senior at Nazareth Prep and will be joining us once a week to learn more about our mission and lend a helping hand! If you see him out and about, make sure to say hi and introduce yourself.

Your Parks in the News

Pittsburgh's beautiful parks have continued to received great press over the summer season, thanks to the work of our incredible team! Check out these recent stories about the [Mellon Park Action Plan](#), [Frick Park](#), and the [Hartzell Monument](#).



A New Fiscal Year

The 2023 Budget was approved (YAY!) As a reminder, the end of the Fiscal year for the PPC is on September 30. Please make sure to have all invoices in BEFORE October 15th that need to be charged to the 2022 budget year.

HR Transition Coming Soon

We are moving to an online platform, "Bamboo HR" on October 1 for our benefits, time sheets and PTO requests. More will be sent out about this as it gets closer.

A Title for Beth

As of August 1, our beloved Beth has a new title as Administrative Manager!



Fall Planting Season

Fall brings a new round of plantings and transplantings in the parks! Our Horticulture and Forestry team will be busy at work this time of year readying the gardens and greenspaces for the new season.

Welcome, Courtney and Benjamin!

The H&F team will be joined by Courtney, a Bidwell Extern, and Benjamin, our newest seasonal employee, this season. If you're out in the parks and see a new face in a green PPC shirt, stop by and introduce yourself.



Debbie Scott

Debbie is a senior at the University of Pittsburgh majoring in Environmental Studies with minors in Political Science and German Studies. This fall, you will see Debbie at community and volunteer events throughout the city, assisting with parks programming!

Michaela Caldwell

Michaela is a Master of Sustainability graduate student at Chatham University. She has an extensive background in ecology and plans on getting into the field of restoration ecology after graduation.

Katie Whitewood

Katie is a graduate student at Slippery Rock University. She is currently studying Park and Resource Management and Environmental Education after finishing my bachelors in Environmental Science.

Jill Caswell

Jill is a student at the University of Pittsburgh double majoring in Urban Planning and Communications with certificates in sustainability and nonprofit management. She hopes to work in the urban studies sector specializing in sustainability.

Juliana Hunt

Juliana is a Junior this year studying Urban & Environmental Studies as well as Spanish and Economics at Pitt. She loves being outside and meeting new people, and has had a great time doing both of those things so far since spring semester with the Conservancy.

Mackenzie Linderman

Mackenzie is a student at the University of Pittsburgh, and someday she hopes to work in environmental conservation law. Her interests include hiking and reading. She is looking forward to learning more about the green spaces here in Pittsburgh!

Amanda Latowsky

Amanda is a Communications, Fundraising, and Marketing Intern for the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy. She is a senior at the University of Pittsburgh double majoring in Environmental Studies and Anthropology with a certificate in Sustainability.

Annie Isabel

Annie is a senior at the University of Pittsburgh majoring in Environmental Science and minoring in French, and is an Environmental Education intern. She is very excited to teach kids about the amazing nature surrounding us and collaborate with other passionate environmentalists.

Meghan Hammer

Meghan is a senior Environmental Studies major at the University of Pittsburgh, also pursuing a certificate in sustainability. As an Environmental Education Intern for the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Meghan hopes to learn more about the nature in Pittsburgh while gaining an environmental education background and meaningful relationships with the kids.

Marykate Siar

Marykate (MK) is a junior geology major at the University of Pittsburgh receiving a certificate in sustainability. She is passionate about all things geology-related, conservation, and environmental education. In her free time, she is outside as much as possible, rock climbing, biking, or doing yoga.

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