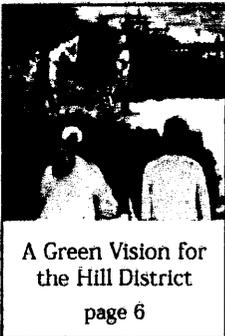


## Mellon Park Garden Grows with Conservancy's Help

By Laurie Anderson



The PNC Children's Carousel Tea Comes to Schenley Plaza  
page 7



A Green Vision for the Hill District  
page 6

A 35-acre gem spanning Fifth Avenue in Shadyside, Mellon Park is enjoyed by children, joggers, tennis players, and neighborhood residents looking for green space. Also home to the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts and Phipps Garden Center, the park hosts the annual May Market, A Fair in the Park, Bach, Beethoven, and Brunch, and other events. The Parks Conservancy previously worked on Mellon Park's *Preservation and Management Plan* (2001). We are now helping to restore the section that is referred to as the "walled garden."

What has renewed interest in this restoration is the desire of a mother and father, Joe and Elizabeth Seamans, to create a living memorial for their daughter Annie, who died tragically at the age of 19. The Seamans' vision is for a lovely, intimate garden that will

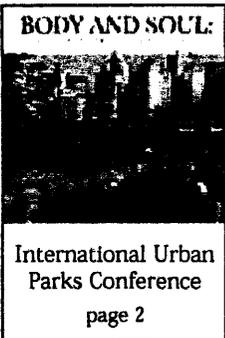


Mellon Park's Walled Garden is being enhanced through a partnership between the Parks Conservancy, the City of Pittsburgh, the Office of Public Art, and individual donors.

be a safe haven for individual reflection, meeting friends, picnicking, and children at play.

The walled garden has a fascinating history. It is one of the remaining features of the Richard Beatty Mellon and Jennie King Mellon estate, which, according to Mellon Park historian Charlotte Cohen, was the largest estate in Pittsburgh in the early 20th century. Their magnificent home had an incredible 65 rooms! The house was torn down a few years after Mrs. Mellon's death, and the estate's 10.5 acres, along with adjacent land that Richard Beatty and his brother Andrew W. Mellon owned, were donated to the City as a park. Though the house was lost, several gardens and other elements were not. Architects Alden and Harlow designed the Mellons' home and planned the initial landscape to include terraced gardens. One of these later became the walled garden. From the start, it was the most private

SEE MELLON PARK, PAGE 4



BODY AND SOUL:

International Urban Parks Conference  
page 2



Highland Park's Thriving Wetland  
page 4

## Schenley Plaza Entertainment Schedule Announced

Schedule is subject to change. Be sure to check [www.schenleyplaza.org](http://www.schenleyplaza.org) for updated programming information!

**Yoga at the Plaza**  
Mondays, May 12 - July 28  
12 - 1 pm

Rejuvenate your lunch break with a yoga class lead by certified yoga instructor Heidi Zelle. A limited number of yoga mats will be available for use.

**Azúcar in Concert**  
May 22, 7 - 8:30 pm  
June 26, 7 - 8:30 pm  
July 21, 7 - 8:30 pm

Latin dance band Azúcar is made up of some of Pittsburgh's top freelance musicians with singer Indira Carabon. A group of Chile, fronting the band. Members of the band have played for such musical notables as Wynton Marsalis, Tony Bennett and the Troggations, and have opened for such national acts as Cuban trumpet great Arturo Sandoval. Azúcar released their self-titled debut album in 2006.

**The PNC Children's Carousel Tea**  
May 31, 11 am - 2 pm

Invite the special children in your life to a tea party celebrating the PNC Carousel and Pittsburgh's great parks. Join the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy for lunch, five rides, free PNC Carousel rides, and live performances. See page 7 for more details.

**Sundae Flea Markets**  
June 1, 12 - 5 pm  
June 15, 12 - 5 pm  
September 21, 12 - 5 pm  
September 28, 12 - 5 pm

More than 35 vendors selling art, clothes, music, crafts, and much more transform the Plaza into an urban marketplace. The day includes musical entertainment under the tent, a farmer's market, local shops offering great specials, and plenty of local art and odds and ends for sale.



The PNC Children's Carousel Tea is a special event held at Schenley Plaza.

## Message from the President

Dear Friend of Pittsburgh Parks,

Spring is always a special time to visit our parks, whether you're taking a stroll among the budding trees in the woods or hopping on the PNC Carousel for your first ride of the year. As we greet another season of growth in the parks, I'd like to tell you about a new project we have planned that will be a herald of spring in the years to come.

The Pittsburgh Daffodil Project has officially gotten underway, with 5,000 new daffodils blooming along the sidewalk near Schenley Park's Bartlett Playground. It has been a joy to see the children run over from the playground to stop and smell the daffodils. Not only are the flowers beautiful, but they increase the park's biodiversity, contribute to the health of the neighboring trees via the mulch in which they're planted, and decrease the maintenance load of the City's Department of Public



Six-month-old Julia Forbes smells her first daffodil in Schenley Park.

Works by eliminating an area of lawn to be mowed.

The Bartlett plantings are a modest demonstration project, but we envision thousands more new daffodils spreading spring cheer over the next several years. The Pittsburgh Daffodil Project will disperse daffodil bulbs throughout the city, particularly in all four regional parks — Frick, Highland, Riverview, and Schenley — and in areas involved in the City's Green-Up program, which installs sustainable landscapes in vacant lots. Daffodils are particularly well-suited for sustainable sites

because they are virtually maintenance-free. Once they are planted, they return for many seasons and require almost no additional care.

There are daffodils in all four of the regional parks now, with some limited areas of planting in each. But the Pittsburgh Daffodil Project will take that to the next level. We plan to install several thousand more bulbs in Schenley Park this fall, and then spend two years each in the other three regional parks, with additional plantings as funding permits. When we reach a critical mass of 50,000 bulbs, the daffodils will begin to have an impact as one of the first signs of spring in our town.

But one of the best aspects of this project is that, like so much of the work we accomplish in the parks, it has been truly collaborative. The Department of Public Works supplied mulch and prepared the area for planting, the Men's Garden Club of Pittsburgh provided some funding for the bulbs, and the Penn State University Cooperative Extension assisted with bulb selection and project coordination. A great group of volunteers from the YWCA, Hill House, and the Church of Latter-Day Saints turned out on a lovely October morning to help plant the bulbs under the direction of Conservancy staff members. This kind of support is what turns a barren patch of dirt into a profusion of blooms, and we are truly grateful to all our partners.

If you'd like to get involved with the Pittsburgh Daffodil Project through giving your time as a volunteer or making a financial donation, please contact the Conservancy at 412-682-7275 or sign up for our e-mail list at [www.pittsburghparks.org](http://www.pittsburghparks.org) for updates on when plantings will take place. All of us here at the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy wish you a wonderful spring season.



Richard Kealy

*My Cheers*

## Pittsburgh Takes Center Stage at 2008 International Urban Parks Conference

Registration is now available online for *Body and Soul: Parks and the Health of Great Cities*, the International Urban Parks Conference coming to Pittsburgh September 21-23. Visit [www.urbanparks08.org](http://www.urbanparks08.org) to view the conference schedule and register. And there's still time to lock in the \$50 early-bird discount if you register before May 1.

Program details have now been announced, and attendees can expect to learn about topics from driving economic development through parks to enhancing "naturalistic intelligence" through environmental education programs.

### Call for Volunteers

Volunteer opportunities will be available throughout the conference, with assignments ranging from three hours to all three days. Volunteers are needed to:

- Assist with field study trips and guided tours in Pittsburgh's parks
- Act as conference session monitors
- Serve as Pittsburgh ambassadors on walking tours, bike or kayak tours, or special hosted events...and more!

Contact Helen Goodman, Conference and Exhibit Manager, at 412-521-6663 or [hgoodman@urbanparks08.org](mailto:hgoodman@urbanparks08.org).

### Exhibit Space Available

The conference will include an exhibit hall featuring organizations, products, and services in the field of parks and parks management. If your company would like to take advantage of this



Courtesy of Venture Outdoor

Pre-conference options include a kayak tour.

opportunity to market its related products and services to the hundreds of park professionals attending the conference, please visit [www.urbanparks08.org/esa](http://www.urbanparks08.org/esa).

### Teresa Heinz Keynote Address

Monday evening's dinner will be accompanied by a can't-miss keynote address by Teresa Heinz. Entitled "This Moment on Earth and a Vision for the Future," this dinner event is open to the public by registering as a "Non-Conference Registrant - Teresa Heinz Dinner ONLY" on the website. Tickets for the dinner are \$100; for more information, call 412-682-7275.

*Body and Soul: Parks and the Health of Great Cities* is presented by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy in association with the City of Pittsburgh and our national partners, the City Parks Alliance and the National Association for Olmsted Parks.

### Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

2000 Technology Drive, Suite 300  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Phone: 412-682-PARK (7275)  
Fax: 412-622-0160  
[www.pittsburghparks.org](http://www.pittsburghparks.org)

### Staff

Meg Cheever, President and CEO  
Debbie Beck, Chief Financial Officer  
Philip J. Gruszka, Director of Park Management and Maintenance Policies  
Roy E. Lenhardt, Director of Development  
Susan M. Rademacher, Parks Curator  
Laurie Anderson, Grants Manager  
Klm Barner, Accounting Assistant  
Beth Bodamer, Executive Assistant  
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Lisa Costi, Development Coordinator  
Eria Copeland, Restoration Ecologist  
Laura Fuimer, Marketing Communications Coordinator  
Jim Griffin, Schenley Plaza Manager  
Melissa McMasters, Online and Community Advocacy Manager  
Jake Milofsky, Field Ecologist  
Gudrun Wells, Volunteer Education Coordinator

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## Staff Members Work Toward Sustainability

By Melissa McMasters



Jim Griffin

**M**anaging the grand entrance to the city's flagship park and making it a vital public space is a lot of work, and the Conservancy's new Schenley Plaza Manager, Jim Griffin, is up to the challenge.

With an MBA from Carnegie Mellon University and a wide-ranging background that includes consulting work for NASA, the U.S. Postal Service, and UPMC, Jim has worked to optimize the performance of organizations both large and small. He has served as a Congressional aide, led an IT team at the sole hospital in the Northern Mariana Islands, and worked at The New Haven Historic Preservation Trust while completing his undergraduate degree at Yale University.

His experience will inform his work with marketing, programming, and fundraising for the Plaza, as well as developing community partnerships and working closely with the Plaza's vendors.

With many family ties to the region, Jim is well-versed in all Oakland has to offer. And as a father of three children, he knows from much experience the joys to be found in Schenley Park—from a run through Panther Hollow to a

spin on the PNC Carousel.

What makes Schenley Plaza special? Jim says the space is a focal point and a magnet for the Oakland community. "It has the best attributes of all the Pittsburgh parks in a compact but ultimately satisfying space," he says. He envisions the Plaza becoming an iconic space for the whole city, not just Oakland, and plans to draw on the city's cultural, educational, and business resources to make that happen.

In the coming months, Jim will be refining plans to achieve financial sustainability well into the Plaza's future. The Plaza relies in part on donor and public support, and Jim will also be exploring creative fundraising options that have worked for other urban green spaces around the country.

But he emphasizes that just coming to the Plaza is a great way to help—when park users attend public programs and support the vendors, they are supporting the Plaza's operations. "We will continue to develop high-quality programming that will attract people both on the beautiful days and the not-so-nice days, because this space will always have something to offer its visitors," he says.

To offer Jim your suggestions, e-mail him at [jgriffin@pittsburghparks.org](mailto:jgriffin@pittsburghparks.org).

For the past year, Laurie Anderson has been helping the Parks Conservancy raise funds for projects as diverse as teen volunteer programs in Highland Park and festive holiday lighting at Schenley Plaza. Formerly the executive director of Radio Information Service and

Executive Service Corps, Laurie has brought a wealth of experience to her role as the Conservancy's Grants Manager. She works closely with other staff to determine fundraising priorities and how best to present the Conservancy's case for support.



Laurie Anderson

As a team member on the Mellon Park, Arcena Street, and Frick Environmental Center projects, Laurie has gained an in-depth knowledge of how projects move from inception to completion. This has given her a great advantage in the grant-writing process, as well as allowing her to use the managerial skills she has cultivated throughout her career.

"What I'm really enjoying about working for the Parks Conservancy is getting involved in research and learning the history of the parks," Laurie says. "Delving into areas like art history and landscape design and understanding the original intentions of the park designers has really allowed me to see the personality behind these places."

When she's not writing or researching, Laurie can be found gardening, hiking, exploring shelves of rare books with her husband, and tending to her Urban EcoSteward site in Riverview Park.

### The Invasive Advisor

Invasive plants are choking out the biodiversity of our natural areas – even in our own backyards. These invasive, non-native plants are not part of our original habitat, but were introduced from other countries, often for gardens and landscaping. With few or no natural enemies, you can now see these plants taking over entire landscapes like roadsides, disturbed woodlands, and our parks.

Join the battle! Learn to recognize and control invasive species by reading this column and by picking up *Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas* at the Schenley Park Visitor Center (\$4.00, published by the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). You can also find an "Invasive Plants of Pittsburgh" guide at [www.pittsburghparks.org/\\_87.php](http://www.pittsburghparks.org/_87.php).

#### Privet

**Common name:** Privet

**Scientific name:** *Ligustrum vulgare*

**Origin:** Europe, Northern Africa

**DESCRIPTION:** Privet is a many-branched deciduous shrub with opposite leaves that are smooth, glossy, and dark green and often appear to be slightly rolled. Its flowers, which appear in May and June, are white with a strong, unpleasant odor. Its small black berries ripen in early September and can persist through winter.

**ECOLOGICAL THREAT:** Brought to the United States in the early 1800s as an ornamental shrub, privet escaped into natural areas, where it is difficult to control. Privet can quickly form dense thickets due to its fast growth rate and ability to send up new shoots from its roots.

**HABITAT:** Privet can be found in fields, the understory of forests, river bottoms, and roadsides, where it can shade and outcompete native plants.

**SIZE:** Privet is typically 6 – 8 feet tall but can reach up to 15 feet.



**MANAGEMENT OPTIONS:** Small plants can be dug out, with particular attention paid to removing root material. Large plants should be cut to the ground in summer before going to seed, or removed with a weed wrench if possible. Many people still use privet for garden hedges because the shrub is semi-evergreen. By pruning the seeds before they mature (i.e., when the seeds are still green) you can greatly reduce the ability of this species to spread into parkland.

**SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVES:** Native shrubs like black choke-



### Upcoming Volunteer Days

Have fun, get a little dirty, and help restore our beautiful park spaces!

**Saturday, May 31, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

*Urban EcoSteward Early Season Invasive Plants Training in Schenley Park*

Find out how to identify and remove invasive plants early in the season, focusing on limiting their flowering. Meet at the Bartlett Shelter.

**Saturday, June 25, 6 - 8 p.m.**

*Urban EcoSteward Tree and Shrub ID Training in Schenley Park*

Learn useful tools for identifying native and non-native trees and shrubs growing in Pittsburgh. Meet at the Bartlett Shelter.

Please RSVP to Jeff Bergman at 412-371-8779 or [jeff@ninemilerun.org](mailto:jeff@ninemilerun.org) for the above events.

**Saturday, June 28, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

*Garlic mustard seed collection in Highland Park* in partnership with Steel City Biofuels and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, volunteers will harvest mature garlic mustard plants so that the seeds can be processed and turned into biodiesel. Meet at the Elm Grove shelter on Lake Drive.

Then join us at Construction Junction on July 12 to watch as the garlic mustard seeds are processed into fuel.

Please RSVP to Erin Copeland at 412-682-7275

## Highland Park's Seasonal Pools Create Lively Wetland Habitat

By Erin Copeland



*The seasonal pools are located right off busy Washington Blvd., but they seem to be a world away.*

Just a moment's walk away from the traffic of Washington Blvd. is a surprisingly serene and unique habitat known as the Highland Park seasonal pool landscape. Once a nondescript patch of lawn near the park's bike track, this area has been completely transformed in the past two years into an

ecologically diverse wetland that is home to many native plant and animal species.

In 2006, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and the City of Pittsburgh Department of Public Works Construction division began the creation of this landscape. A series of depressions were dug into the former lawn area to form pools that collect storm water from the hills of Highland Park. The project has created a habitat that is rare in the parks, removed an area that was difficult for city crews to mow because of frequent flooding, and allowed storm water infiltration.

After the pools, small bridges, and swales (channels that catch water) were completed by the Heavy Construction division, the Parks Conservancy crew and volunteers went to work seeding the pools, removing invasive species from the hills, and planting trees. Parks Conservancy staff has worked with the Girls Math and Science Partnership program to collect physical information about the pools, with Urban EcoStewards to collect herbaceous information and perform volunteer work at the site, and with the Student Conservation Association and the Americorps Literacy program to plant trees.

Thus far, monitoring events have revealed that the following species are doing well in the

meadows: New England aster, partridge pea, trumpetweed, sneezeweed, wild bergamot, black- and brown-eyed susan, and wild senna. A wide variety of birds, insects, and mammals have been spotted in the meadows as well. Further enhancing the biodiversity of this area is the work the Parks Conservancy has done to remove invasive plant species on the adjacent hillside, including garlic mustard, oriental bittersweet vine, Tree of Heaven, and 3/4 of an acre of Norway maples. To fill in the gaps created by removing these plants, 60 native trees and 15 ferns have been planted, bringing more variety to the woods and enhancing the health of the ecosystem.



*Wild turkeys are among the animals that use the seasonal pools as their habitat.*

### MELLON PARK, FROM PAGE 1



*The Walled Garden circa 1930.*

this delightful garden has deteriorated over the years.

As part of a Mellon Park restoration effort several years ago, the walled garden received some attention, and its handsome stone and brick walls were repaired. To continue the restoration of this historic space, the Parks Conservancy is working with landscape architect Fred Bonci, of the Pittsburgh-based firm LaQuatra Bonci. The garden has a central rectangular lawn surrounded by plantings and flagstone walkways and is enclosed on three sides by its namesake walls. Anchored at one end with a flagstone terrace and fountain, the garden opens into the rest of Mellon Park at the other end. Guided by the Mellon Park Preservation & Management Plan, additional proposed enhancements to the walled garden include restoring the central lawn and adding trees, plantings, lighting, and seating. Through Pittsburgh's Office of Public Art, an artist will be selected to join the design team so that another element of beauty and charm can be woven into the plans. Other input will come through community and stakeholder meetings.

The Conservancy is delighted to have significant support from a private donor for this capital project, and we hope the restoration of this special garden will renew community interest in implementing

area of the property and designed as a place to linger.

The Mellons employed several landscape architects, but the design of this garden owes its artistry to Ferruccio Vitale. Less well known than his contemporary Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. (whose firm also worked at the Mellon estate), Vitale designed gardens on the estates of many wealthy families and championed landscape architecture as an art form. Unfortunately,

## Tenth Annual Spring Hat Luncheon Raises Valuable Funds for Parks



*Mayor Luke and Erin Ravenstahl visit with Sharon and Jim Rohr at the Hat Luncheon.*

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and presenting sponsor PNC celebrated the tenth anniversary of the Spring Hat Luncheon on Saturday, May 3 at Frick Park.

This year's setting was selected to focus attention on the Parks Conservancy's priority project for 2008 – the redevelopment of the

Environmental Center at Frick Park. When the building burned in 2002, the loss presented an opportunity to rethink the purpose of the Center. Funds raised through the Hat Luncheon will be used to support planning for the new Center.

To view photos of this year's event, visit [www.flickr.com/groups/springhatluncheon](http://www.flickr.com/groups/springhatluncheon).



## Schenley Plaza Welcomes New and Returning Food Vendors

By Jim Griffin

Another sign of spring was spotted recently when Schenley Plaza shrugged off its winter coat, raised the tent, and revved up the PNC Carousel for its third year. The Plaza welcomes two new kiosks in 2008, Opa Gyros and Simon Sez Pizza Plus. Owners Tina and Simon Koutoufaris are joined by two returning vendors, The Bagel Factory and Asia Tea House, to offer an exciting variety of dining offerings for Plaza guests.

In addition to the great lamb, hummus veggie, and chicken gyros and salads, Opa Gyros offers an assortment of delicious Mediterranean dishes including Greek salads, stuffed grape leaves, hummus, pitas, and baklava. Opa Gyros also serves hot dogs, pretzels, and chips.

Simon Sez Pizza Plus offers a variety of delectable Italian cuisine including pizza, pasta, antipasto salads, and great Italian sandwiches, including Italian hoagies, meatball sandwiches, and eggplant or chicken parmesan sandwiches. As the weather turns warmer, look to Simon Sez for ice cream treats and fresh-squeezed lemonade.

Oakland visitors who start their days in or near Schenley Plaza are



Left: Funnel cake at Asia Tea House. Right: A busy lunch hour at Opa Gyros.



Left: Mary Jane Best; Right: Melissa Nickman

heartened to again have The Bagel Factory open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. As always, owners June and David Feldstein proudly serve up their scrumptious breakfast offerings, including donuts, scones, muffins, knishes, and, of course, bagels. In addition, The Bagel Factory also offers breakfast favorites, yogurt, and granola, as well as egg, cheese, bacon, and ham sandwiches. For lunch and dinner, The Bagel Factory offers a variety of 23 bagel sandwiches, potato chips, soups, and salads as well as dessert offerings such as cookies, brownies, and Rice Krispie treats.

Once again, Asia Tea House will offer its exciting blend of Asian cuisine. Fresh sushi, shish kebabs, grilled bourbon chicken, and General Tso's chicken return to owner Shuelin Hammerstein's diverse menu along with favorites such as egg rolls, lo mein, fried rice, and kung pao chicken. Of course, Asia Tea House will also serve a variety of bubble teas and other soft drinks. Finish your meal with a funnel cake or a fortune cookie and your future for a great dining experience at Schenley Plaza looks bright.

For complete menus of all four kiosks, visit us online at [www.schenleyplaza.org/dining](http://www.schenleyplaza.org/dining). If you'd like to rent the Plaza for an event, visit [www.schenleyplaza.org/event\\_rental](http://www.schenleyplaza.org/event_rental).



Melissa Nickman



Left: University of Pittsburgh students Jason Rippel and Brenda Keltzer enjoy pizza from Simon Sez and General Tso's chicken from Asia Tea House. Right: Sweet treats at the Bagel Factory.

## Schenley Plaza Summer Events Calendar (continued from page 1)

**Live Music at Lunchtime**  
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays,  
12 - 1:30 pm

**Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh 11th Stack Read Aloud Series**

May 23, 12 - 1 pm: "Cracking Up"

June 27, 12 - 1 pm: "Love"

July 25, 12 - 1 pm: "The Elements"

August 29, 12 - 1 pm: "Hooligans and Outlaws"

September 26, 12 - 1 pm: "Food Aloud"

October 24, 12 - 1 pm: "Scary Stories"

It's storytime — for adults! Hear excerpts from books, short stories, plays and poetry read by Carnegie Library staff, with a different theme each month.

**Oakland Walk Challenge Events**

Kickoff June 2, 10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Wrapup June 30, 10:30 am - 1:00 pm

Join your fellow walkers this summer adding steps to your daily routine and winning prizes while you're at it! Sponsored by the Oakland Transportation Management Association (visit [www.otma-pgh.org](http://www.otma-pgh.org) for more details).

**Carnegie Library Summer Reading Extravaganza**

June 8, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

"Catch the Reading Bug" this summer at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh - Main and

Schenley Plaza! Children, teens, and adults kick off a summer of reading with a day crawling with activities. Pack a picnic, bring your family, and take part in this festival of free tales and treats, entertainment and cats. Visit [www.cipgh.org](http://www.cipgh.org) for more information.

**Kids Days**

July 13, 2 - 4 pm

August 17, 2 - 4 pm

September 14, 2 - 4 pm

Featuring unlimited free rides on the PNC Carousel, caricature artists, face-painting, balloon sculptures, puppet shows, magic, and performances by the Steel City Freestyle Footbag Club.

**Klezmer by Ortner Roberts**

July 27

Ortner Roberts leads Pittsburgh's most accomplished Klezmer group in a celebration of Yiddish dance and music tied to the cantor tradition of the synagogue.

**Pittsburgh Filmmakers Movie Nights**

Saturdays in August (Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23)

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and Pittsburgh Filmmakers team up to screen great American films every Saturday night in August. The family-friendly films will include such classics as *The Wizard of Oz*, *Duck Soup*, *Grease*, and *Amelia* to the *Outfield*.

**Riverhounds Soccer Clinic & Autographs**  
August 24

The Pittsburgh Riverhounds present a soccer clinic with coaches and current Riverhounds professional players at Forbes Field. The Riverhounds are part of the United Soccer League's second division and play their home games at Chartiers Valley High School.



Kids will learn basic moves in the sport commonly known as backpack when the Steel City Freestyle

## A New Perspective: Green Space and Great Views in the Hill District

By Laurie Anderson

If the view from Mt. Washington is one of the first things you show out-of-town visitors, you're in luck. Before long, you may have a new place to show off our beautiful city. The Hill District!

Last fall, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy joined forces with the City of Pittsburgh and a consortium of local organizations to design and construct the Arcena Street Overlook. Tucked behind Bedford Avenue at the northern edge of the Hill, and appropriately sized for the neighborhood, the Overlook will be a stone's throw from the birthplace of August Wilson and within walking distance of the Miller African Centered Academy, as well as the Crawford Square development and new housing at Bedford Hill.

The Overlook is the lead project in what is envisioned to become the Hill District's system of public greenways — new and restored

parklets, gardens, and overlooks with interconnecting trails and walkways. The catalyst for this plan is a program called *Find the Rivers! (FTR!)*, which engages communities and neighborhoods in economic planning and development projects. The Hill's greenways will link to existing green spaces, such as the Eliza Furnace Trail and Frank Curto

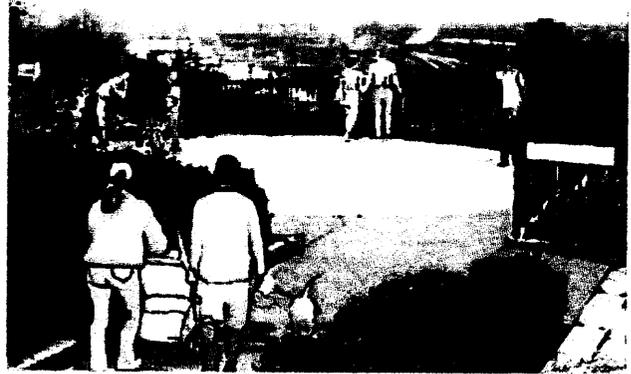
Park, to re-establish the Hill District's historical connections to the rest of the city and to the rivers. Current *FTR!* Consortium partners are the Hill House Association, Hill District Consensus Group, Community Partners Institute, the City of Pittsburgh, and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy. The Parks Conservancy brings to the project our experience in capital project management, public space planning, historic restoration, and fundraising.

With initial funding in place (thanks to the Eden Hall Foundation and the Heinz Endowments), the fun part of the process has begun. On March 1, 30 intrepid neighborhood residents, University of Pittsburgh students, and *FTR!* team members braved the icy weather to meet at the Bedford Avenue Senior Center. *FTR!* consultant Denys Candy led

participants through a series of activities to identify the characteristics of their favorite places and apply them to the overlook.

During another public meeting held on Saturday, April 5, participants had the chance to explore the overlook site to better understand its context in the neighborhood. The discussions held at these meetings will be used by Klavon Design Associates, Inc. to begin a design for the overlook and its landscape for community review. The project team anticipates having the overlook design completed by the summer. This project is one of several opportunities the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy now has to work outside the four regional parks, and we are enjoying working with our new community partners.

Visit <http://miyo.casefoundation.org/re-imagining-our-city> for more information.



Just imagine...the spectacular views from a new Arcena Street Overlook.

Illustration by Carlos Peterson



Roya Hamadani

Resident Leroy Dillard draws a map of the Hill District for landscape architect Maria Riley and Pitt professor Fiona Cheong as part of the March 1 visioning session.

## Dick Wilford Puts Experience to Use as Frick Park Foreman

By Jake Milofsky

Here in the city of Pittsburgh we are lucky to have many talented and unique individuals looking after our public spaces, maintaining their beauty, and ensuring their lasting quality for users into the future. Dick Wilford, Foreman of the Eastern Division of the Department of Public Works, is one of these individuals. Dick and his crew maintain 28 sites in the Eastern Division including Frick Park, Mellon Park, and Westinghouse Park.

As any aficionado of Pittsburgh's parks knows, the parks of the Eastern Division are strong links in the chain of wonderful recreational spaces we have throughout the city, and the lifetime of experience that Dick brings to his position contributes greatly to these strengths.

Growing up on a small farm in Westmoreland County, Dick was raised with an appreciation for the outdoors. He and his family operated a small nursery where they raised trees such as hemlock and spruce and sold them to a local park. He also worked as a landscaper with his brother, and sold surplus vegetables grown in the family's large garden.

An interest in land management was instilled in Dick at an early age when his older brother, a state forester 12 years his senior, would often take Dick to work with him.

During his formative years, Dick was active in the Future Farmers of America organization. With the FFA, Dick would compete with other young men and women entering the agricultural industry in disciplines such as forestry and ornamental horticulture, and small engine repair.

First finding employment with the City of Pittsburgh at Shirens



Dick Wilford during a morning of tree planting in the Nine Mile Run restoration area.

his horticultural skills to use growing flowers for the displays. Following his tenure at Phipps, Dick moved to Frick Park, where he began as a laborer in the DPW crew.

Dick has been in the park now 16 years, the last eight of which he has been the foreman. During this time, Dick has been an invaluable partner to the various organizations who work in the park, including the Parks Conservancy. He uses all of the skills he has amassed over time to inform his job every day, and admits he feels fortunate to make a living by employing all of these skills in doing what he loves.

To gain some more insight into what it's like to be in Dick's position, I asked him a few questions:

**What is the most rewarding thing about your job?**  
I enjoy seeing projects that I thought about get completed and seeing park users enjoy them.

Some examples are the trails we've built and the boardwalk along Nine Mile Run. It's rewarding to have people stop to say thanks or good job.

**What are some challenges you face?**

It's challenging to accommodate such a diverse group of park users. Between hikers, dog walkers, bicyclists, environmentalists, and all the other groups who use the park, meeting everyone's expectations takes a lot of work.

**What is your vision for the park in the future?**

I'd like to see it maintained as naturally as possible with a focus on

## PNC Carousel Reopens; Donors Provide Free Afternoon Rides

By Lisa Conti

**A** sure sign that summer is fast approaching is the opening of the PNC Carousel at Schenley Plaza. Now through October, the PNC Carousel will be open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Through the generosity of The PNC Financial Services Group and the individuals and foundations who sponsored each of its 17 figures, the PNC Carousel is a destination point designed to serve and reflect the cultural diversity and energy of Oakland. It is patterned after a similar carousel at Bryant Park in Midtown

Manhattan, and its menagerie of animals is fashioned after handcrafted 1950s-style wood carousel figures.

Tokens for the PNC Carousel are \$1.25 each and can be purchased at the token booth and at participating kiosks. This year, however, kids will have plenty of opportunities to see which animals are their favorites, as the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy is pleased to present an afternoon family special that will make all rides free from 2:30 p.m. to closing each day now through June 1!

These free rides are made possible in part by a generous donation from Marjorie Burns

Haller and Linda and Henry E. Haller, Jr. The PNC Carousel is close to the Hallers' hearts—they are also the sponsors of two animals, Pitt the Panther and Topper the Triceratops. Pleased with the response to the PNC Carousel, they decided they would like to give everyone a chance to ride for free.

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy invites children of all ages to visit Schenley Plaza this summer and decide which carousel animal is your favorite!

Should you be interested in helping to fund free PNC Carousel rides, please contact Roy Lenhardt at 412-682-7275.



Mary Jane Best

The PNC Carousel attracts tens of thousands of riders each year.

### PNC Children's Carousel Tea Set for May 31 at Schenley Plaza

This spring, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy is teaming up with PNC to introduce an exciting new event called the PNC Children's Carousel Tea. This family-oriented event will take place on Saturday, May 31 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Schenley Plaza in Oakland.

The PNC Children's Carousel Tea will feature a charming tea party, free rides on the PNC Carousel, and exciting performances to delight all ages. Guests are encouraged to dress up in festive party attire and wear their favorite hats.

Tickets are \$50 for adults ages 18 and above, and \$25 for children ages 2 and above. Lap babies are free of charge. Tickets can be purchased through Friday, May 16 by visiting [www.pittsburghparks.org/pnccarouseltea](http://www.pittsburghparks.org/pnccarouseltea) or calling 412-682-7275. We hope to see you there!



## Schenley Trail Connection Restored as Anderson Steps Re-Open

**F**or the first time in 10 years, the barriers blocking the steps leading from the Anderson Playground to Panther Hollow Lake in Schenley Park are down. A \$33,000 restoration effort by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and the City of Pittsburgh to repair the once-crumbling steps to a safe and usable condition has been completed, opening an important pedestrian connection between two popular areas of the park. The project was made possible by a gift to the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy by Alexander C. Speyer, Jr., in memory of his wife, Jean Levison Speyer.

Working collaboratively, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and the City of Pittsburgh have replaced missing step stones, leveled landings and repaired or replaced sections of the hand rail. Dead and dying trees hanging over the steps were removed by the City, and this spring, Conservancy volunteers and staff will restore the soils and slopes adjacent to the steps, install erosion control netting, and plant new shrubs.

"We are pleased to again be able to provide park visitors safe access between the playground and the lake," says Conservancy President Meg Cheever. "In the past, park visitors looking to move between the two spaces had to take a roundabout route through the park. Sometimes they would just give up."

Work completed on the steps will keep them safe and usable for 5 to 10 years until the Parks

tion, which will require a complete re-engineering of the site to make it structurally sound for the long-term and will include the use of aesthetically pleasing, historically accurate stone.

"Ecological restoration around the steps is ongoing," adds Cheever. "Volunteers are working this spring to manage invasive species and control erosion on the adjacent slope as part of the overall restoration of the Panther Hollow watershed." To volunteer, visit [www.pittsburghparks.org](http://www.pittsburghparks.org) or call 412-682-7275 to learn about opportunities.



## Citiparks Plans Summer of Exciting Events

The City of Pittsburgh's Parks and Recreation Department sponsors a wide range of activities in the parks. Upcoming events include:

**Riverview Park 5K Run/Walk:**  
June 6, 7:00 p.m., Riverview Activities Building

**Riverview Park Heritage Day:**  
June 7, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Comcast Cinema in the Park**  
(Schenley and Riverview Parks):  
Begins June 10

**Stars at Riverview Jazz Series:**  
June 14 - August 23, 7:30 p.m.

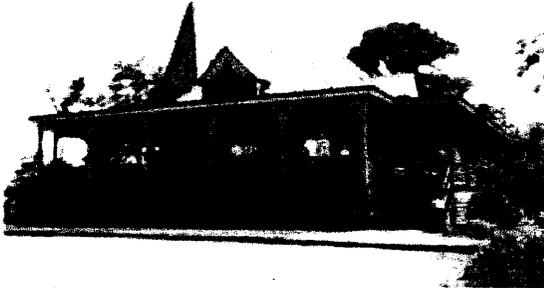
**Bach, Beethoven, and Brunch:**  
June 15 - August 10, 10:30 a.m. - noon, Mellon Park Walled Garden

**Bob O'Connor Summer Tennis Classic:** June 21 - 29

**Frick Environmental Center Camps:** Camps for varying ages take place in June, July, and August. Call 412-422-6538 for more details.

## Celebrate the Riverview Chapel Shelter Grand Opening on June 7

Pittsburgh  
**PARKS**  
 CONSERVANCY



*The Chapel Shelter in 1937.*

After more than five years of peeling paint, boarded-up doors and windows, and a landscape lacking in both visitors and diverse native plants, the Riverview Park Chapel Shelter will open its doors again on Saturday, June 7. As part of the annual Riverview Park Heritage Day, the Chapel Shelter will welcome North Side residents and visitors once again with a beautifully restored building, a substantially improved landscape, and a brand-new trail connecting the area to other parts of the park.

Volunteers have been hard at work in the last several months seeding grass on the lawn, weeding flower beds, and installing native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers on the surrounding slopes to get the area in top condition for the grand opening.

Prior to its closure several years ago, the Chapel Shelter had been a popular destination for events. It will be available to the public for rental again starting this summer. Contact the Department of Public Works at 412-255-2370 for details.

Riverview Park Heritage Day is an annual celebration of Riverview Park and its neighbors. The all-day event kicks off with a parade and

includes food, music, games, and a movie under the stars. For more information about Heritage Day, please call 412-255-2493.

The Parks Conservancy is delighted to be part of Heritage Day and invites everyone to come take a first look at the new Chapel Shelter!



*The newly renovated Chapel Shelter.*

## Discovering the Secrets of the Panther Hollow Watershed

By Erin Copeland



*Macroinvertebrates like damselflies signal stream health.*

One of the Parks Conservancy's major goals for the coming years is to restore the Panther Hollow Watershed and Lake in Schenley Park. To make this project successful, we must understand individual aspects of the watershed and how they interact with each other. By collecting this information, we can make good decisions about soil stabilization, water infiltration, streamside plantings, and trail reconfiguration.

This winter the Parks Conservancy hosted the third in a series of watershed research meetings. Over the last few years, our academic partners have contributed valuable work and findings to this effort.

**Carnegie Mellon University & WaterQUEST**  
 Over the last two years, Dr. Jeanne Van Briesen (Civil & Environmental Engineering) has led a team of graduate and undergraduate students who determined the levels of *E. Coli* in the watershed during both wet and dry weather. They also discovered that the bacteria in the watershed are coming from storm water runoff, not sewage overflows.

University of Pittsburgh

worked on creating a Panther Hollow Watershed sediment budget, which is a tool for identifying and quantifying sediment production and transport. Dan's class focused on determining where and how much soil moves off the hills of the watershed into the lake. The class determined that most of the soil movement comes from soil slumps. These areas deliver about one inch per year deposited over the entire bottom of the lake.

Laura Lund and Dan Budny's service learning engineering class has also been working to determine the level of sediment the Panther Hollow Run stream delivers to the lake. They are analyzing their second season of data now.

### Chatham University

In spring 2007, John Buck, CEC soil scientist and Chatham Adjunct Professor, studied water infiltration and runoff in Phipps Run. He found that, depending on soil compaction and the steepness of hills, the ground will soak up between 1.79 and 6.45 inches of water per year. Compaction due to foot traffic can reduce water infiltration 10 to 100-fold, increasing the possibility of flooding. John deduced that there is a lot of compaction on the golf course and that it would be beneficial to focus infiltration improvements on the golf course at the woods' edge.

MS student Dan Bieltz collected information about the macroinvertebrates living in the Panther Hollow Run stream. Scientists use this group of small insects to determine the relative health of streams. Panther Hollow

and 2, with 3 being the highest and 1 being the lowest. Ideally, the biotic index will increase after the watershed is restored.

### Duquesne University

MS student Maureen Copeland collected data on stream discharge (the rate and amount of water flowing through the stream). Her goal was to determine what the stream flow would be from the start of a rain event until the end. Her data will be compared with ALCOSAN data to see how much Panther Hollow Run contributes to the overall lake outflow.

### ALCOSAN

This year ALCOSAN shared its data on water flow and discharge that leaves Panther Hollow Lake and flows into 4 Mile Run and Junction Hollow. This will allow us to determine how much water is flowing through the watershed and out of the lake during both wet and dry days. This is valuable new information that will aid in our efforts to restore the lake.



*Erin Copeland*

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 The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy would like to thank all of the generous donors who supported our work during 2007.

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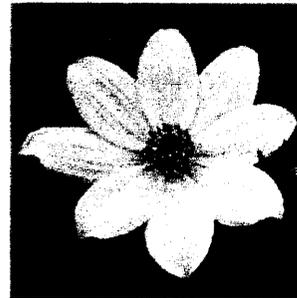
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