



**Pittsburgh  
Parks  
Conservancy**  
PittsburghParks.org

**Donor Newsletter**  
July - August 2020  
PittsburghParks.org

# Reimagining the annual PNC Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Hat Luncheon

**O**n May 2, we would have gathered in Frick Park to celebrate the annual PNC Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Spring Hat Luncheon. Unfortunately, we made the difficult decision to postpone the beloved event to keep attendees safe during this global pandemic.

**W**hat was once considered our 'norm' has since changed. However, that won't stop us from celebrating the power of parks.

**T**his year's Hat Luncheon will now take place on Saturday, September 26, and be known as the PNC Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy Hat Luncheon: Picnic in Your Park. Event attendees will have the opportunity to celebrate their passion for Pittsburgh's parks, with a one-of-a-kind, gourmet picnic basket filled with delicious goodies to be

enjoyed from the comfort of their own home or in their favorite park! Baskets will be prepared by the Common Plea catering and guests will have the opportunity to purchase a two-person or four-person basket.

**W**e understand that so many people are visiting the parks right now to find comfort, relief, and respite. With this in mind, we hoped to do more than just a virtual event and think creatively about how we can still allow people to reflect on the importance of our parks. We believe the option to have an in-person, socially distant experience in the park with one's friends or family is the perfect fit!

**F**or those wanting to partake in the reimagined event, we will offer a pick-up location in Frick Park on September 26, or the baskets will be delivered right to

the doorstep. We will encourage supporters and attendees to safely enjoy their baskets and don their hat luncheon fashions and amazing hats.

**W**e are also thrilled to announce that this year, for every picnic basket purchased, in addition to supporting our mission, a meal donation will be made to the City of Pittsburgh's 'Grab and Go' meal distribution program, to provide meals for children experiencing food insecurity.

**Y**our support of the annual Hat luncheon has never been more important to Pittsburgh's



We're reimagining the annual hat luncheon event in a new and exciting way!

parks. Parks are here for us during times of uncertainty when little else is available. They are sanctuaries in the center of chaos. We're all adjusting to a new way of life to keep us healthy and safe, but one thing remains true: your support has never meant more to Pittsburgh's parks. 🌿

Visit [pittsburghparks.org/hatluncheon](https://pittsburghparks.org/hatluncheon) for more information about this year's event or to purchase your picnic basket!



## ENGAGE

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Park Champions Like You

# BNY Mellon Supports Tree Plantings in Pittsburgh's Parks

**T**he Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy is thrilled to announce that BNY Mellon has generously provided a grant to support tree plantings across Pittsburgh's park system. The gift made by the BNY Mellon Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania reflects the organization's dedication to Pittsburgh's parks that will also support city parks and benefit all residents and park users. This a commitment to a yearlong program

of tree plantings that will contribute 150 trees to public parks in various neighborhoods throughout the city.

**D**id you know that Pittsburgh loses approximately 31,000 trees each year to climate change, development, disease, overpopulation of deer, natural events, and age? Tree loss of this magnitude has dramatically reduced the capacity of the urban forest to clean the air we breathe, limit hillside

erosion, help control stormwater, and cool the city during summer's increasingly frequent heatwaves.

**B**NY Mellon Foundation of Southwestern Pennsylvania's generosity will have a positive impact on our parks and city by allowing the Parks Conservancy to help build a more resilient and sustainable urban ecosystem and increase park equity,



A group of volunteers come together to plant a tree in one of Pittsburgh's many parks.

by providing residents in neighborhoods across the city with access to well maintained and attractive parks for all to enjoy. 🌳



Programs you make possible

## Living Building goes Digital

Explore the new sustainability dashboard on our homepage!



A solar panel at the Frick Environmental Center capturing sun and rainwater.

**W**ith the generous help of Comcast and WES, the Frick Environmental Center will be able to advance its goal of promoting sustainable initiatives to a broader audience, while providing the tools to view the data in new and exciting ways through a customized real-time data dashboard.

**“T**he importance of having this information in the palm of our hands can't be underestimated. We're thrilled to be able to offer this digital platform for children and adults alike to explore and learn about our living

This dashboard will serve as a hub for sustainable resources with the potential to reach a global audience and can create learning opportunities ranging from school children to industry professionals.

facility,” says Camila Rivera-Tinsley, director of education, Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.

**T**he Frick Environmental Center has achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification at the Platinum level, the highest possible designation attainable through the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), and is the first and only municipally owned, free and open to the public building to earn “living building” certification through the Living Building Challenge, the world's most stringent

green building certification program.

**“W**e are proud to continue our partnership with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and to bring our company's technology to the Frick Environmental Center in a way that underscores our commitment to innovation and sustainability while furthering education about this unique building,” said Michael Parker, senior vice president of Comcast's Keystone Region.

**T**hank you to our partners at Comcast and WES for making this digital program possible! 🌟



Your Parks - Your Stories

# The Walled Garden: A Celebration of Life and Community

**L**osing a loved one is never easy. Losing a child is unspeakable. Elizabeth and Joe Seamans lost their daughter, Ann Katharine, in 1999 to an automobile accident at the young age of 19. Through the sadness and grief, Elizabeth and Joe and their extended families wanted to memorialize Annie.

**W**hen she was a child, Annie loved visiting the Mellon Park Walled Garden. It's where she'd play, grow, and gather with her friends. Together with family, friends, local foundations and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Elizabeth and Joe undertook a restoration of the Walled Garden in Mellon



The restored Walled Garden in Mellon Park

photo credit: Alexander Dammorsh

Park. Fred Bonci and Natalie Plecity were the landscape architects and Hal Hilbish designed the lighting.

**“Annie** spent so much time in the park and loved the Walled Garden so much that it was the perfect place for us all to invest our energies. It needed help – the walkways needed help – there wasn't seating – the fountain needed work – it was like a beautiful house that you wanted to fix up,” Elizabeth said.

**“She** would have wanted something that could be shared by everybody, we thought. Something in a public park. Something that would bring people together.”

In 2010, the Seamans Family, along with their community, the City of Pittsburgh, and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy celebrated the completed restoration of the Mellon Park Walled Garden.

**“I**t has turned out to be one of the most important and wonderful experiences of our whole life. It's been very helpful and healing in the face of this very difficult life experience,” Elizabeth explained.

**T**o further remember Annie's life, an art installation, created by artist Janet Zweig, was installed by bringing the pattern of the night sky on the day of her birth into the lawn through fiber-optic 'stars.'

**“T**his became a very meaningful life

project for us. No one could have told us how much we would care to be involved. You can't know when you begin. This project brought us closer to our community and our park in a time when we truly needed it. For that, we're grateful,” Elizabeth said.

**The** Walled Garden is one of the many projects that the City of Pittsburgh and Parks Conservancy have restored together throughout the past 25 years.

**The** Parks Conservancy is honored to work alongside the Seamans Family, the Pittsburgh community, and the City of Pittsburgh to restore this treasured neighborhood gathering place in memory of Ann Katherine Seamans. 🌟



An art installation honors the memory of Ann Katherine Seamans who frequently visited the park.



You Transform Our Cherished Spaces

# PNC Carousel Undergoes Safety and Cosmetic Repairs



One of the beloved carousel animals that recently received a fresh coat of paint!

**T**he PNC Carousel, located in Schenley Plaza, carries on the historic tradition of carousels in Pittsburgh parks and serves as a gathering place for Pittsburghers and visitors from around the world. The original carousel was located at the corner of Panther Hollow and Greenfield roads in 1913 and showcased a

menagerie of animals that symbolized the fellowship and diversity of Pittsburgh.

**R**econstructed in 2006, the Victorian-style carousel was built by American craftsmen and generously funded by the PNC Financial Services Group. Today, the PNC Carousel is the feature family attraction in

Schenley Plaza. Visitors of all ages and abilities visit the carousel to enjoy its lively colors and old-fashioned pipe organ music.

**A**s the PNC Carousel celebrates its 14th birthday, repairs and upgrades are currently in the works. The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy recently invested in a new anti-slip floor on the carousel deck, which will ensure safety in the event of wet weather during the Spring and Summer months. The new deck will include a ramp on to the carousel, making it accessible for people of all abilities.

**I**n preparation for reopening, the carousel canopy was washed, the beloved animals were repainted, and the lights on the crown of the carousel were repaired. Visit [pittsburghparks.org/pnc-carousel](http://pittsburghparks.org/pnc-carousel) for more

information about the PNC Carousel improvements and daily operations during COVID-19.

**T**he Parks Conservancy is honored to repair this treasured community gem, thanks to the continued generosity of our park supporters and friends! 🌟



The PNC Carousel is the featured family attraction in Schenley Plaza.

## Continue caring for this beloved Pittsburgh treasure year-round!

Support the PNC Carousel in Schenley Plaza by giving a gift below.

\$50    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**My information:**

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**Please return with enclosed envelope or call 412.682.7275 for more information**

Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy does not solicit contributions from persons or entities in states other than Pennsylvania, New York, or Florida.