

PITTSBURGH'S REGIONAL PARKS MASTER PLAN



A New Ethic of Stewardship

"The beauty of the park . . . should be the beauty of the fields, the meadow, the prairie, of the green pastures, and the still waters. What we want to gain is tranquility and rest to the mind . . . A great object of all that is done in a park, of all the art of the park, is to influence the mind of men through their imagination."

Frederick Law Olmsted (Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns, 1870)

PITTSBURGH'S REGIONAL PARKS MASTER PLAN

A New Ethic of Stewardship

PREPARED FOR:

CITY OF PITTSBURGH - DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING
PITTSBURGH PARKS CONSERVANCY

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Acknowledgements

The Pittsburgh Regional Parks Master Plan relied heavily on Task Force members from Frick, Highland, Riverview and Schenley Parks. They were from every walk of life, were full of passion for and knowledge about their parks, and contributed many volunteer hours and invaluable ideas to this document. These same Task Force members will help guide and implement the Plan for years to follow. We thank them and all those involved, for without their efforts this document would not have been possible.

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As this Plan was being finalized, we were saddened by the death of Barbara Balbot, long-time director of the Frick Environmental Center. Her indomitable spirit and steadfast devotion to the ecological integrity of Frick Park helped shape this Plan into a living document that will guide the future of our four Regional Parks.

Executive Summary

Defining a New Ethic of Stewardship

Purpose and Process

Pittsburgh's great 19th and early 20th Century parks are a wonderful collection of landscapes and special places that need to be renewed. The purpose of this Master Plan is to provide a foundation for a new way of thinking about these precious landscapes, rooted in an ethic of stewardship which focuses on the necessary resources and energies needed to preserve, restore and enhance Frick, Highland, Riverview and Schenley Parks.

Many public and private partners were involved in preparation of the Master Plan, including an extensive public process to build consensus for the proposed initiatives and recommendations. These included the City of Pittsburgh's Department of City Planning, in close collaboration with the Pittsburgh Park's Conservancy, as well as the Management Team, that included various City departments, and the citizens of Pittsburgh.

Goals of the Master Plan

The goals of the Master Plan are simple and straight forward. It is hoped that these goals will foster a total park experience that addresses the natural, cultural and educational opportunities that great parks can provide.

- Build public awareness and a strong constituency for the parks.
- Renew the landscape character and aesthetics of the parks.
- Capture the historic legacy of the parks.
- Restore human vitality and ecological integrity of the parks.
- Foster connections between the parks, the rivers and the rest of the city.
- Enhance visitor services.
- Provide a new model for management and maintenance.
- Create a foundation for a sustainable future.

A Key Objective

In studying restoration efforts from other cities that have similar parks, it was determined that the most successful efforts balanced the demands of current uses while preserving the parks historic legacy and sustaining their ecological integrity. Thus the primary objective of this master plan became *balancing use, history and ecology within each park*. This became our planning mantra and the reader will see it repeated throughout this document.

Executive Summary



Elements of the Master Plan

To achieve the integration and balance of use, history and ecology which will integrate the parks' natural systems and built environment into a cohesive and shared ecosystem. There are two major elements of the plan.

- **Creation of a Parks System**

A comprehensive strategy is proposed to begin thinking of these four great parks as a system for improved management and maintenance strategies, enhanced visitor services, educational programs, and to provide a framework for the establishment of an interconnected system of parks and greenways.

- **Renewal of Frick, Highland, Riverview and Schenley Parks**

It is intended that the system-wide strategies will be applied to each individual park and that additional site specific, capital improvement projects are proposed to enhance the landscape character, historically significant sites and recreational spaces. Again, all projects will embrace the balance of use, history and ecology.



Use.

Provide a varied set of facilities to serve a diverse population, including enhanced recreational opportunities within a diverse landscape setting.

History.

Ensure that the existing, historic integrity of the parks and that historically significant landscapes are restored. In addition, reclaim the historic diverse landscape types such as woodlands, shrublands, and gardens.

Ecology.

Recognize that all landscape types in the parks have an ecological value. Through an integrated and comprehensive natural resource management program, which would include woodland and stream management studies, a framework for preservation, enhancement and restoration will be established. In addition sustainable landscape maintenance and landscape practices must be defined.

- **Management and Governance**

A new management plan for Pittsburgh's Regional Parks is proposed, which includes a new model for management structure, a focus on the primacy of park maintenance, and the expansion of the partnership between the City of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.

- **Maintenance**

With the renewed ethic of stewardship the maintenance of the four parks must become a priority. Proposals include implementing park specific, dedicated maintenance crews guided by policies, procedures and performance standards.



Executive Summary

- **Cost and Timeline**

The Pittsburgh Regional Parks Master Plan is estimated to cost \$113.5 million of public and private funds. Although no specific timeline has been developed it is estimated that 20 years for implementation is achievable.

System-Wide Strategies

Including woodland, stream restoration projects, trail improvements, renovation of park drives, improvements to user services, marketing and signage are estimated to cost \$26.2 million.

Capital Improvement Projects for the Four Regional Parks

Comprehensive park projects that encompass all aspects of each Regional Park and balance Use, History, and Ecology. Improvements are estimated to cost \$87.3 million.

Continuing the Process

The Master Plan is considered to be a “living document” that will be continually shaped through public dialogue and user demands. The Master Plan intends to provide a comprehensive framework to inform decision making and to ensure that all new projects meet the main objective - *a balance of use, history, and ecology*.

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Part One

***The Master Planning Process:
Creating a Stewardship Ethic***

Developing a Stewardship Ethic

Principles and Goals

Pittsburgh's Regional Parks Master Plan

A New Ethic of Stewardship

Developing A Stewardship Ethic: the Master Plan Process

Introduction

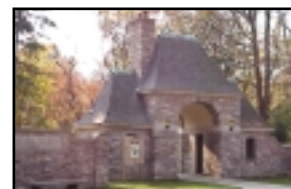
Pittsburgh is fortunate to have a diverse collection of 19th and early-20th Century parks. The four largest, Frick, Schenley, Highland and Riverview are considered Regional Parks. This distinction is based on size and makes these parks eligible for funding through the Allegheny Regional Asset District. A realization that Pittsburgh's Regional Parks have suffered from years of neglect, deferred maintenance and inappropriate interventions has led to this master plan, which is the beginning of concerted efforts to restore them. Crumbling infrastructure, conflicts between users and general deterioration are symptoms of management problems that have, for too long, been left unresolved. Given the current state of these parks, the task of restoring them to meaningful civic spaces seems daunting. Luckily, the tide of public opinion and a climate of renewed interest in parks and the natural environment is creating much needed support for such efforts.

The premise that initiated this study was that there must be a fundamental shift in the way we, as a City, view parks. They are not left over places, but an integral part of the fabric of our city. We need to address ecological management in the parks, or they will cease to provide habitat; we need to rethink the way we approach recreation and athletic fields, or they will no longer serve us; we need to nurture the parks historic legacy, or it will crumble; and we need to re-evaluate roadways, or our parks will be nothing more than parking lots and commuter routes. In order to insure that the Parks are maintained in a manner that will sustain them for the second century of their life as Pittsburgh's principal public spaces, we must create public consensus for their stewardship. We must begin again to think of these Parks as their creators did - as precious, valued landscapes that are assets to the community. Therefore, the primary goal of this master planning effort is the establishment of a renewed ethic of stewardship for the citizens of the Pittsburgh region, which will focus the necessary resources and energies on rebuilding our parks and preserving them for the future.

An ethic of stewardship is based on the responsibility to maintain and care for the needs and possessions of others. In the case of the Regional Parks, we, the citizens of Pittsburgh have not been good stewards. We have allowed them to deteriorate and have allowed incompatible and intrusive interventions to compromise their design character. We are however, not alone. This is a pattern that has been played out in older cities across the country, but like those other cities Pittsburgh has now forged a strong alliance of public and private interests to invest in our parks. A collaborative group of public and private partners has participated in the development of this Master Plan which will serve as the road map for restoration efforts and the continuing stewardship that will sustain those efforts.

The Planning Process

Many partners were involved in the development of this master plan. The City of Pittsburgh's Department of City Planning in close collaboration with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy led the planning effort by convening four citizen task forces - one for each park. With the help of the Technical Design Team, meetings, workshops and symposia were held to solicit the views of Pittsburghers and develop the initiatives and recommendations of this plan. In the same way that the Regional Parks function as democratic social spaces that sus-



Frick Park



Schenley Park



Highland Park



Riverview Park

Primary Goal of the Master Plan:

Establish a renewed Ethic of Stewardship for the citizens of Pittsburgh regarding Highland, Frick Riverview and Schenley Parks.

tain city life, so too the master plan had to reflect a broad consensus of public opinion and users needs. Therefore, citizen input and the review and comment of the task forces have been critical to the development of this document.

This master plan addresses various areas of design, planning, maintenance, preservation/conservation and management that determine the quality of the built elements in our historic parks. In-depth research and analysis of existing conditions preceded the development of these proposals and was a critical foundation of knowledge for all design team members. The members of the task forces provided important information to this process, whether the issues were ecological conditions, wildlife observations, current or historical use patterns, or simply their own intimate knowledge of the everyday life of the park. Ultimately, the visitors and neighbors of the park know the parks the best, and their reactions and observations were essential to refining the final recommendations in this document.

A Green Web

This master plan comes at a time of intense interest in Pittsburgh on issues of sustainability, green development and the need to capitalize on the “green assets” of the landscape setting of the City. Preservation of open spaces and green hillsides, expansion of greenways and trail systems, wetland and waterway restoration and a new focus on the opportunities of the three rivers all combine with this plan to argue for a larger view of the City’s “green infrastructure”. The opportunity must be seized to establish a Green Web that extends throughout the City that will establish an interconnected Parks System.

This master plan is a comprehensive set of recommendations for the revitalization of the four Regional Parks. These recommendations must be put into a context that will lead to the creation of a Parks System that will physically and organizationally connect them throughout the City of Pittsburgh. This plan identifies important points at which each of the Regional Parks can be connected to trails and/or greenways that can extend the reach out from the park, both recreationally and ecologically into the City and out to the Rivers. In conjunction with existing and proposed trails and greenways such as the Three Rivers Heritage trail, the Eliza Furnace trail, the impending improvements to Nine Mile Run corridor and other proposals, the Regional Parks will form the core of a Parks System that can extend this web throughout the City and region.

A Living Document

The recommendations of this master plan are intended as guides for the future implementation projects that will be necessary to achieve the established goals. These recommendations were arrived at through a lengthy public involvement process and, while there may be disagreements about specific items, they represent a consensus of opinion around the core principles described in this document. The balancing act in the useful future life of any master plan is to achieve a consistency to the goals and principles established during the process of developing that plan, while remaining flexible to unforeseen future needs and desires. In this way, the document remains a “living document” that guides and responds to change without gathering dust on a shelf. During the course of implementing future projects, the specific recommendations should be reviewed through a constantly updated public process so that even with changing needs, the objectives that are based in those core goals and principles can be reached.

Principles & Goals for the Master Plan

Restoring the Designed Landscape

The Regional Parks are designed landscapes, based in the traditions of the romantic picturesque landscape style common to most of 19th Century park design. As such, the design approach to their overall arrangement and layout, as well as the details, was intended to maximize an idealized experience of nature through a series of composed views of open meadows enclosed by woodland edges. The woodlands that contained those meadows would then be used for a forest experience that emphasized a rugged or rustic view of nature. For example, Schenley Park epitomizes this approach in the contrast between the open fields of the golf course, defined and separated by the Serpentine Drive from the interior woodlands of Panther Hollow. These parks were primarily designed for what we today would consider more “passive” recreation; walking, strolling, and driving.

While each of the parks contains a rich collection of historic elements, they have come to have increasingly important functions as active and passive recreation spaces, and as we continue to learn, important ecological reserves. As recreational interests have grown, and the available undeveloped land has shrunk throughout the region, the recreational and ecological importance of these parks has grown larger, while time and decay has worked to obscure their significance as historic design artifacts.

Each park has these qualities and demands to a greater or lesser extent, but each has a recognizable and distinct character based on its original design intent. Restoring the human vitality and ecological integrity of the parks is necessary, while at the same time preserving that essential character that is critical to maintaining each parks identity.

What was found in studying restoration efforts from other cities was that the most successful of them balanced the demands of current uses while preserving the parks historic legacy and sustaining their ecological integrity. **Thus the primary objective of this master plan became balancing use, history and ecology within each park.** This became our planning mantra and the reader will see it repeated throughout this document. These three factors are not necessarily found in equal parts in each of the parks, but the master plan seeks to achieve an appropriate emphasis depending on the existing and historic conditions as well as how each park is used and perceived by its citizens.

General principles, based on the fundamental notion of balancing these three factors were developed to help guide the development and final conclusions of this master plan as well as future projects and management initiatives.

General Principles for the Parks

- Integrate current use, ecology and history - all future developments and restorations within the parks must balance these three factors.
- Foster a network of connections through streets, boulevards, trails and natural systems between the parks, to the rivers and the rest of the city that will expand Pittsburgh's character as a green city.
- Build sustainable landscapes that preserve and restore ecology and history.
- Emphasize park uses and recreation over vehicles - parks are for people and their enjoyment. Access to them must be a priority, but their use as parking



*A classic, picturesque park landscape
- large mature trees with a field of turf.*

Primary Objective of the Master Plan:

*Balance the qualities of use,
history and ecology within the
Regional Parks*

reservoirs for non-park uses and commuter routes should be de-emphasized.

- Guide appropriate recreational uses that are consistent with the landscape character of the park and the appropriateness of the setting. While recognizing the importance of the Parks as recreational resources, we must understand that because of topography they cannot fulfill all of the active recreational needs of City residents.
- Establish a new design standard for all park projects that is consistent with the high standards of the past.
- Develop long range stewardship, maintenance and management practices that will sustain and preserve the major capital investments that will be needed to restore the parks to their former glory.
- Provide high quality visitor services

Visitor Needs



Many visitors use the parks simply for relaxing and enjoying the outdoors.

The contributions of the members of the task forces, which were largely composed of residents of adjacent neighborhoods, or representatives of major institutions in or adjacent to the parks, was the most consistent voice of park visitors. Additionally, The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy conducted both intercept and telephone surveys, as well as focus group interviews which clearly illustrated the importance of the parks to both neighborhood and regional visitors.

Clearly a strong and vital parks system is a key element of the quality of life desired by a broad cross-section, if not all, Pittsburghers. Restoring the Regional Parks, in conjunction with an expanded system of trails and other neighborhood and riverfront parks - the Green Web - is a key part of Pittsburgh's long-term economic development strategy. In pursuit of understanding this role, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy conducted focus group interviews with young professionals regarding the role of the parks in the new economy. This demographic group, so important to Pittsburgh's future, demonstrated a strong interest and commitment to a variety of park environments and uses ranging from intensive sports such as running and mountain biking to more relaxed activities such as walking, picnicking and boating. Input from these and various other groups helped us establish the following goals:

Visitor Goals for the Master Plan

- Provide a varied set of facilities to serve the diversity of visitors.
- Insure no net loss of active recreation areas and insure that current uses are enhanced, while recognizing that the regional parks cannot fulfill all the recreational needs of the City. Long-term viability of fields requires the ability to control use and close fields periodically for maintenance.
- Active recreation should be located so it is compatible with the landscape setting. For example, the Fern Hollow ball fields in Frick Park are incompatible with the landscape. They were built within the flood plain of Nine Mile Run and are therefore damp, rendering them unusable at times.
- Expand the diversity of landscapes within the Parks to enhance the pedestrian experience of the natural environment.
- Renovate and maintain destination facilities, such as The Oval in Schenley Park.
- Improve security and promote enforcement of regulations.
- Conveniently locate visitor facilities such as restrooms, signs and benches.



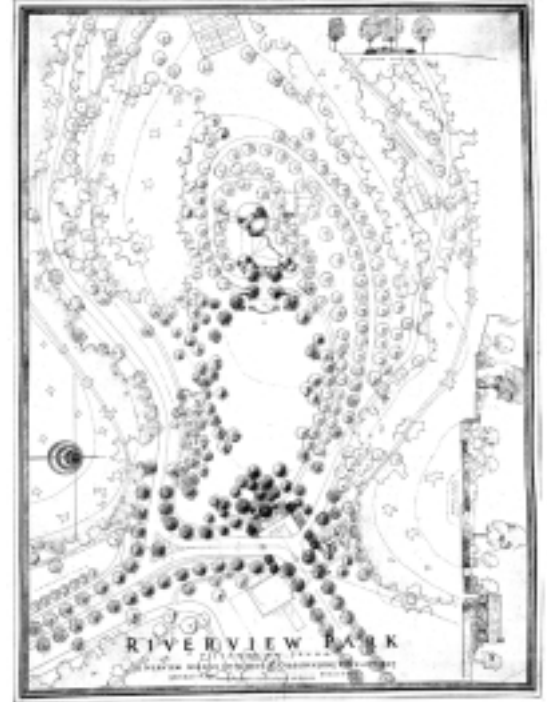
Elements in the parks, whether they are pavilions, playgrounds or sports fields need to address the diversity of user needs.

Historic Preservation

Historical research and analysis was conducted as part of the master planning process. After conducting a thorough review of the available archives, a narrative and a chronology of the development of the four parks from 1870's through the 1950's was compiled. The Parks were also analyzed for their character defining elements and unique design qualities to develop a historic landscape assessment according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and the Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes. The following aspects were analyzed for their contribution to the historic character of the Regional Parks: spatial organization, topography, vegetation, circulation, water elements, park use structures, site furnishings and other objects. This historic assessment uncovered a far richer history of design and planning for the parks than had been previously thought, including the long-standing participation of a respected design firm, Innocenti & Webel in the development of Frick Park for 30 years, up until the 1950's. From this inventory and analysis, the following goals were developed:

Historic Preservation Goals for the Master Plan

- Insure no loss of existing historic integrity by preserving and restoring existing historic resources.
- Focus on the rehabilitation of historically significant landscapes and structures before the restoration of lost historic elements.
- Reclaim the historic diversity of landscape types including woodlands, shrublands and gardens.
- Develop design guidelines for new structures and furnishings that are compatible with historic character.
- Restore native woodland and waterway habitats since they were historically part of the original designed landscape.



Understanding the original design intent is critical when renovating significant landscapes. Historic drawings, like this one of the Observatory, gives many clues to the arrangement and planting.

Ecological Integrity

Five categories of ecological assessment were carried out in each of the four parks: vegetation; topography, geology and soils; hydrology; landscape management; and wildlife habitat. These assessments were carried out by combining extensive field investigations with the study of a variety of available information, including maps, aerial photographs, surveys, inventories and other recently completed reports and studies. The participation of many stakeholders, in particular, the Frick Environmental Center was instrumental in developing and enhancing these assessments. In particular, the Ecological Symposium, sponsored by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy stimulated a fruitful discussion between the community, the planning team and other experts and resulted directly in the following goals:



The ecological health of the parks is important for wildlife as well as people

Ecological Goals for the Master Plan

- Develop preservation and enhancement strategies based on ecology, history and current use.
- Set a framework for the preservation, enhancement and restoration of the park landscape and ecological habitats through integrated natural resource management.
- Provide a new ecological vocabulary for the park landscape, which expands the diversity of landscape types to support a greater variety of plant and animal habitats.
- Match compatible use patterns with the landscape types in order to insure sustainable management and maintenance strategies.
- Integrate human storm water infrastructure and natural systems in an effort to improve the ecological condition of streams and waterways.
- Develop sustainable landscape maintenance practices based on integrated pest management and organic practices.
- Establish guidelines for the use and management of native and non-invasive exotic plant and animal species.

Part Two

Creating a Park System for Pittsburgh

Parks Past and Present - Basis for Developing a Vision

A Vision for the Future - Park System Recommendations

Connections and Networks

Capital Improvement Strategies

Operations and Management Strategies

Visitor Service Strategies

Partnership Strategies

A New Beginning - Accomplishments to Date

Parks Past and Present - Basis for Developing a Vision

Past

The Regional Parks were not originally developed to be a system in the way we use that word today. As in many other cities, parkland in Pittsburgh was relegated to places deemed too steep to develop for other uses; this was particularly true in Pittsburgh because of the rugged topography. As the city grew around them, the Regional Parks remain to this day some of the largest and most intact areas of woodland and wildlife habitat.

From the earliest records of the parks, these were places to escape the city and experience nature. The historic photographs and design drawings show a level of craftsmanship and an attention to detail that is rare today. Infrastructure, such as walls, bridges, walks, curbs and drainage systems were handsomely constructed and still survive. Although adequate at the time, this infrastructure has passed its life expectancy and has not been properly maintained.

Early park maintenance records indicate a history of care and enhancement. There was also great emphasis on horticulture and ornamental gardening of which the remnants are barely visible. Like many park systems, Pittsburgh parks fell into a cycle of decreasing funds, a decline in the skilled labor force, an emphasis placed on suburbanization and the priority of needs other than parks.

Present

Currently, the four Regional Parks are in a state of neglect. The rustic stone bridges in Schenley Park's Panther Hollow, the stately grounds of the Allegheny Observatory in Riverview Park, the gatehouse entries of Frick Park and the formal entry gardens of Highland Park all hint at a once glorious past. These are currently suffering from declining maintenance resources.

Many of the most rugged slopes in the Parks are covered by lush vegetation which falsely gives the appearance that this vegetation is "natural" and the landscape has always been this way. However, what appears to be mature woodland and existing topography is actually land that was disturbed and re-vegetated through natural succession. Although we view our Parks as "natural", few natural environments exist. These are created landscapes that need maintenance and management to thrive. Years of over-use, lack of maintenance and a belief that the forest cover will return if left alone has resulted in erosion, degraded waterways and a proliferation of exotic and invasive species.

The Regional Parks currently serve many of the same uses that they were intended to serve. Even though tastes in recreation have changed, surveys conducted by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy revealed that "residents are most likely to go to a park to take a walk, for a family picnic or to exercise" and "residents use area parks for just relaxing, sunbathing or reading". This comes from *Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, Parks Image/Perceptions Study (#98-870): Quantitative Research Report (May 1999)*, conducted by Campos Market Research.



The pedestrian underpass in Highland Park typifies the rugged craftsmanship of features in the parks



The Pedestrian Underpass today - unfortunately many wonderful elements are in need of repair.

Even though these traditional uses still occur, new modern activities are also occurring. Mountain Biking, roller blading and heavily organized youth sports have a great impact on the Parks use and their long-term management. Since very few new athletic fields have been developed in recent years and the demand for field space increases each year, the remaining space within the Regional Parks is under tremendous pressure for field uses.

The dominance of the automobile is present in all Parks save Frick. Roadways define Highland, Schenley and Riverview Park and create conflicts with parking, commuters and speeding. The century-old roadway infrastructure, that was originally designed for pleasure driving, is being over-taxed by the modern demand. Special events (primarily in Schenley) have placed a tremendous burden on already stressed landscapes and maintenance staff.



Decaying and inadequate drainage infrastructure, like this channel, are not sufficient to handle modern demands.

The infrastructure (walls, bridges, drainage channels, etc.) that remains from the earliest days of the park is in poor condition and is inadequate to handle current demand. Continued degradation is evident in areas such as the Nine Mile Run stream valley (Frick) and Panther Hollow (Schenley) and bears witness to the effect years of storm water erosion and deferred maintenance have on archaic systems.

Currently the Department of Public Works conducts maintenance within the Parks. Originally, the Department of Parks and Recreation handled all activities in the Parks, but it was reorganized in 1992 and maintenance shifted to Public Works while the Department of Parks and Recreation handles programming.

New capital projects and repairs within the parks are handled in a variety of ways. Quite often, the Department of Public Works initiates a project and performs the work. The Department of City Planning, the Department of Parks and Recreation or the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy may also initiate a project to be constructed by the Department of Public Works. Some projects are designed in-house by the Department of Engineering and Construction staff while others are designed by private firms (under contract with the Department of Engineering and Construction or the Department of City Planning) and are publicly bid and constructed by private contractors.

At the outset of this master planning process, no single authoritative body existed that was responsible for all aspects of the parks including planning, design and construction. Without a clear set of directions, many wonderful park elements have been removed and replaced with inappropriate interventions. Although well intentioned, many projects lack the funding, quality materials or design oversight to make them worthy of inclusion in our Parks. The effect has been a degradation of park character, loss of visual consistency and a lack of regard for the importance of materials and aesthetics.

A Vision for the Future - Park System Recommendations

To restore our Parks and bring them into a larger organization that we can refer to as the Pittsburgh Parks System will require a fundamental change in how all aspects of the Parks are planned, designed, constructed, maintained and managed. While the primary objective of this planning process has been to balance ecology, history and use in each park, that objective must be expanded to include the establishment of an interconnected network of parks and greenways throughout the city. This needs to occur at the organizational level as well as the maintenance and operations level. This goal must become a primary part of the planning and organizational agenda, one that is built into a new management structure for these efforts to succeed.

As part of this master planning process and in collaboration with the Department of City Planning, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy has completed "A Management Plan for Pittsburgh's Regional Parks" using Timothy Marshall & Associates as the planning consultant. That document made recommendations for the reorganization of the management functions for the parks; the key initiatives of that plan have been incorporated into this document. The principal recommendations of the Management Plan can be stated as:

- *The primacy of park maintenance should be restored.*
- *A management structure should be implemented that will be responsible for meeting the management goals in the report, which are:*
 - 1) *Restore the physical and ecological infrastructure of the Parks including buildings, woodlands, trees, streams and ponds.*
 - 2) *Implement new and exciting programs that provide a range of activities for people of all ages and interests.*
 - 3) *Upgrade Park operations including security, park management and landscape maintenance.*
 - 4) *Preserve and interpret the history of the Regional Parks, retaining features unique to their evolution as public spaces.*
- *Expand the existing partnership between the City of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.*

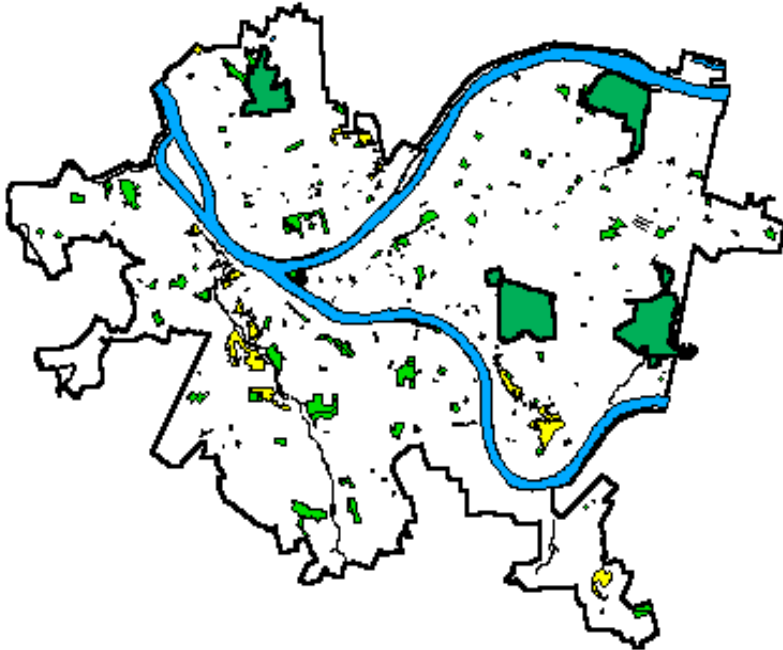
In developing a series of general recommendations for a Parks System for Pittsburgh, these management issues have been incorporated into a larger set of concerns related to the creation of such a system as well as the following topics:

- Connections and Network Strategies
- Capital Improvement Strategies
- Operations and Management Strategies
- User Service Strategies
- Partnership Strategies



An aerial sketch of what Schenley Plaza could be, restored to its original intention as a grand entry yet accommodating modern needs.

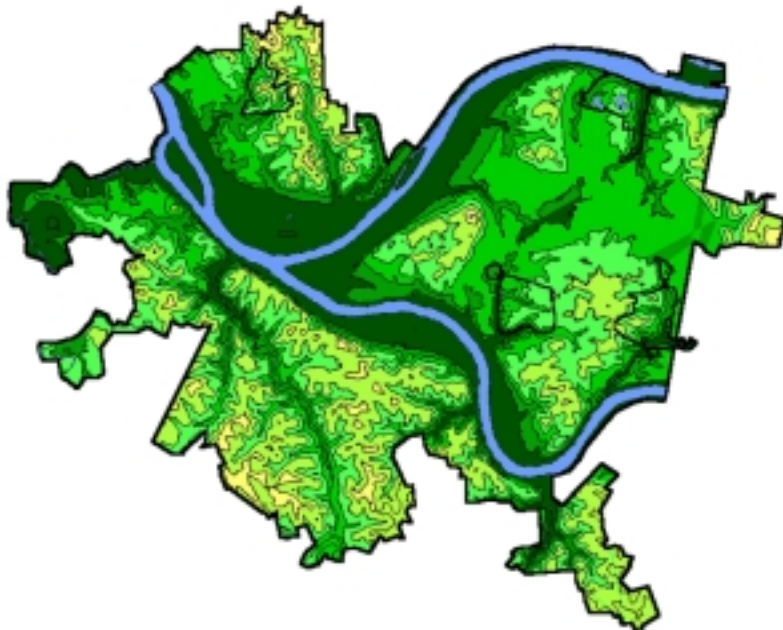
Connections and Networks



Components of the System

To create a true park system or Green Web requires careful attention to each component (park) in the system. When renewing each of the Regional Parks, common elements and opportunities to share resources should be considered as well as the characteristics that make each of these parks special. The unique elements should be celebrated (water in Highland, ecology in Frick, topography in Riverview and civic pride in Schenley) and those features that contribute to that special character should be restored.

Realizing that the four Regional Parks cannot accommodate all needs for all visitors, the other components in the system (parks, parklets, playgrounds, fields, greenways, etc.) should be developed and maintained so that those needs can be met elsewhere in the system. If an experience sought cannot be found in one of the four Regional Parks, it should be only a short walk or bike ride away.



Pittsburgh Topography

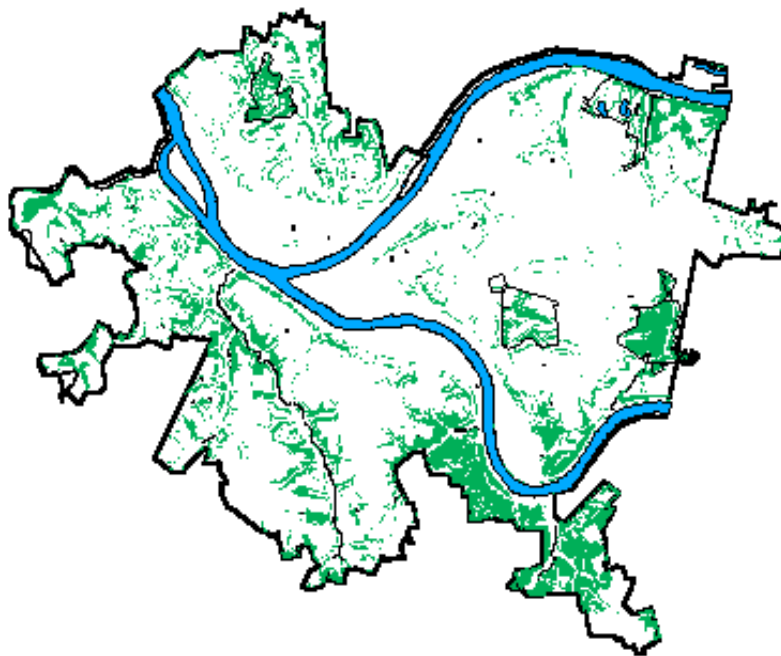
The Regional Parks are located on some of the highest and steepest portions of the City. This results in tremendous views and varied ecological conditions, but offers significant constraints for intensive development and use, particularly recreational fields. Steep slopes and unstable geology throughout the parks also create erosion problems that affect roads and drainage infrastructure.

The direct proximity of three of the four Regional Parks to the rivers; however, offers significant opportunities for recreational and ecological connections through drainages such as Nine Mile Run in Frick, Negley Run and Heths Run in Highland and Junction Hollow and Panther Hollow in Schenley.

Parks as Ecological Reservoirs

The Regional Parks constitute some of the largest and most intact areas of woodland and other preserved habitats and thus are important ecological preserves within the City. They must be preserved as ecological resources while we continue to use them for recreational purposes.

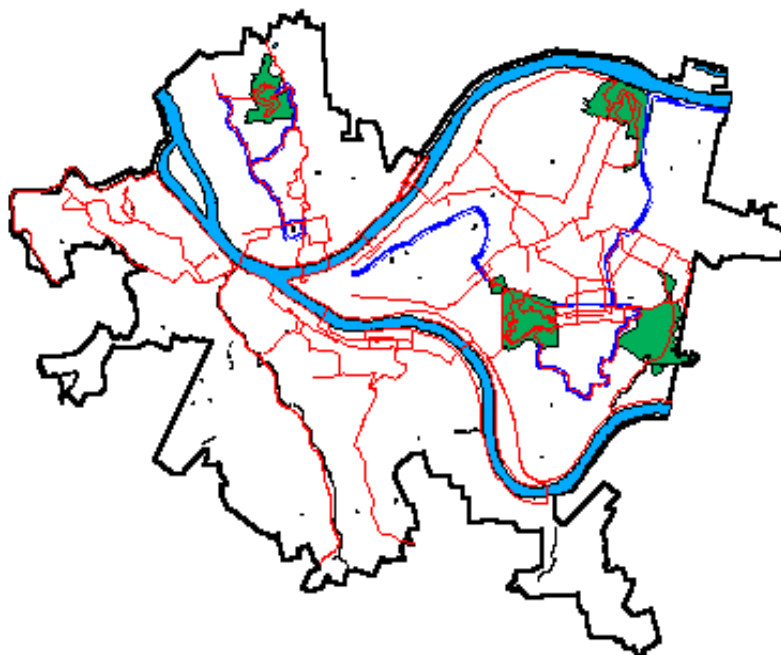
Potential exists to expand the Green Web beyond the Regional Parks to embrace parks, greenways and other places that have significant or unique ecological value.



Boulevard, Street and Trail Connections

A significant opportunity exists to organize the Four Regional Parks as the cornerstones of an interconnected Parks System, linked by the City's expanding trails and greenways. In addition, the rehabilitation of the city's historic boulevards (Beechwood Boulevard, Washington Boulevard, Bigelow Boulevard) as well as Perrysville Avenue and the on-going rehabilitation of playgrounds and neighborhood parks would create a network of pedestrian-connected public spaces linked by grand public thoroughfares.

This system will not only connect the Regional Parks to each other, but to the three rivers, the city and its neighborhoods. Establishing an integrated park infrastructure throughout the city, or Green Web, will link each citizen to the wealth of recreational and ecological opportunities the City has to offer.



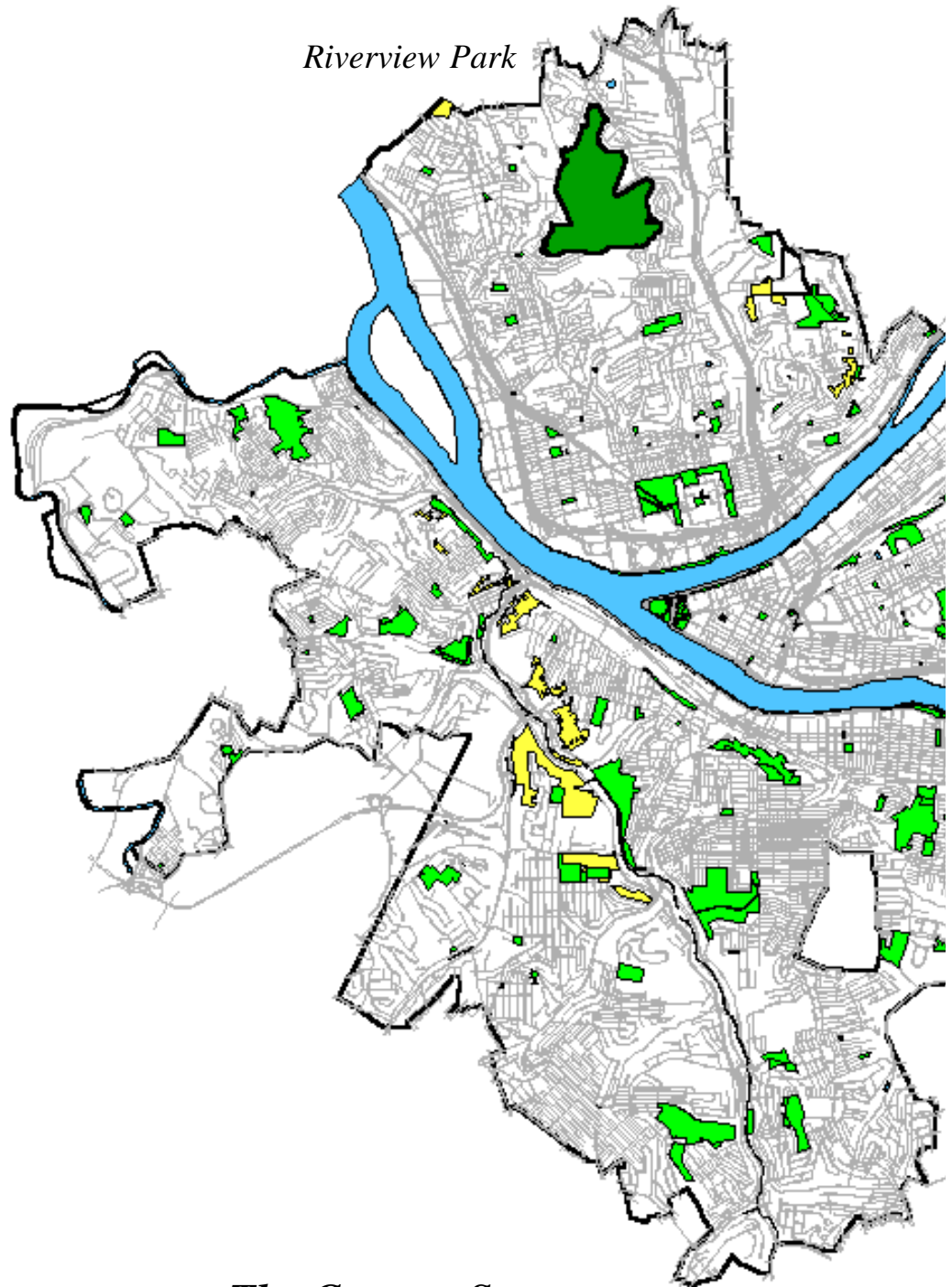
The Challenge of Creating a Park System

Creating a park system for the City of Pittsburgh will be challenging. Some issues and opportunities are:

- Steep topography that limits the uses that can occur.
- The need for active recreation space due to increased participation in organized sports.
- Woodland preservation to retain remaining wildlife habitat.
- Watershed restoration of ecological valuable waterways.
- Establishing improved pedestrian connections between parks.
- Establishing greenways as ecological corridors.
- To think of streets in new ways, as part of a layered park system.

The Big Idea: A Green Web

Instead of individual parks, we must think of a system with the Regional Parks as anchors, supported by other neighborhood parks to collectively meet the recreational needs of all residents. In addition, the changes in our industrial landscape and our economic base has opened up riverfront land and other sites for new uses. We must think creatively of how best to utilize these sites to enhance our park system.



The Current System



Means to Attain a Park System

- Create a highly visible, comprehensive marketing campaign for the Regional Parks.
- Establish a mental picture in the minds of all park visitors of what a park system is, achieved through the unification of signage, maps, park guides, furnishings and programs.
- Improve connections for pedestrians via streets, boulevards, trails and greenways.
- Study adjacent and vacant land throughout the City for the creation of new parks or facilities that do not exist currently (such as a complex of athletic fields). This is a compliment to the parks and works hand-in-hand with their renewal.
- Establish a city-wide ecological strategy to enhance the natural resources of the parks and expand their influence beyond their boundaries.
- Provide consistent programming throughout the parks to lessen the burden on any one park and thus improve program delivery.
- Re-establish a nature center program within each Regional Park.
- Establish an integrated citizen volunteer program.
- Establish uniform maintenance and design standards.

Capital Improvements Strategies

The implementation of many of the recommendations of this plan will require significant investment in capital improvements, both for rehabilitation and new construction. In many instances we will be engaged in rebuilding degraded landscapes as well as the establishment of new or expanded facilities. The list of projects will include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- Natural Resource Restoration Projects.
- Horticulture and Ornamental Landscape Renewal Projects.
- Circulation; trails, roads and parking.
- Facilities; play fields, playgrounds, pools.
- Architecture; shelters, pavilions and recreation buildings.
- Furnishings, usually in conjunction with other projects.
- Infrastructure; utilities, drainage, etc.

In order to insure proper quality of design and construction for these new capital projects new procedures need to be put in place:

- A Project Review Process should be organized either within the Regional Parks Management Committee or as a separate Design Review Subcommittee. This Project Review Process should have authority over all capital projects constructed within the Regional Parks regardless of the implementing body and should include work carried out by: City Departments of Engineering and Construction and Public Works; the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy; institutions such as the Pittsburgh Zoo and the Phipps Conservatory; and any private group seeking to make permanent changes to the parks. This would include any groups or organizations seeking to install memorials, gardens, benches or other artifacts in the parks.
- A clear definition of the roles of the public sector and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy should be established as they pertain to capital projects and their ongoing maintenance. Every new capital project initiated by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy or the City should have a management and maintenance strategy that accounts for the increased maintenance and operational support.
- A Design Manual with a set of standard details, furnishings and fixtures should be developed to insure consistency and high standards; these standard details should be used for all new and restoration projects in the Regional Parks. A set of Design Guidelines, included as part of this Report, should be used as a basis for the development of the Design Manual.

Other Parks System initiatives that should be implemented are:

- **A Trails Master Plan.** This plan and public process will develop detailed guidelines for trail use based on citizen involvement. This is currently underway with the mountain biking community, but it should include all trail visitors. This Trails Plan should result in a consistent set of standards to be applied throughout the Regional Parks.
- **Traffic and Parking Studies.** These are essential for certain Parks, in particular Schenley and Riverview and are necessary follow-up studies to implement the recommendations of this plan.

There are other activities being undertaken throughout the City that will have great bearing on the recommendations of this study. These are:

- **City-wide Recreational Fields Study.** This study will inventory and analyze all current fields in the City and make recommendations about expansion needs and reorganization. This will affect the amount and type of field space that should be provided within the Regional Parks. The results of this study will be critical in helping to determine the type and location of new and rehabilitated fields based on the alternatives presented in this document.
- **Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority Projects.** The Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA) has been undertaking large infrastructure projects in the Parks, Highland and Frick Parks in particular. These infrastructure projects should be closely coordinated with the proposals outlined in this plan to insure that they are implemented in a manner compatible with the park's character.



The City-wide Recreational Fields Study will inventory and assess all fields within the city.

Operations and Management Strategies

While numerous capital improvement projects will be necessary to restore the physical elements of the park, an equivalent effort must be made to develop innovative management strategies that will result in the careful stewardship over the long term that will be required to sustain these major investments. Many organizational efforts are planned and underway that will help to establish the organized system required.

Many of the key recommendations of the Management Plan were related to Operations and Management strategies. Some of the Interim Recommendations are:

- Strengthen the role of the Department of Parks and Recreation as the governing body that oversees all of the parks.
- Create a clearly focused parks management function within the City of Pittsburgh with a priority to effectively partner with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.
- Promote efficiency in maintenance by supporting the new Department of Public Works Dedicated Park Maintenance Crew Plan, which is currently underway.
- Establish standards within the Department of Public Works to assess the condition and the quality of maintenance in the Regional Parks.

Integrated Resource Management

The Regional Parks must be managed in an integrated way based on their existing and preferred ecological condition with the understanding that these are manipulated landscapes that must be actively managed. In terms of natural resources, this includes the whole set of ecological conditions affecting woodlands, meadows, streams, waterways and wildlife. Important implementation steps that are top priorities are:

- **Woodland Management Plan.** This study, which is a critical recommendation of this Plan would assess and make recommendations for woodland areas within all four Regional Parks. Currently being developed as a joint project between the City and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, this plan will develop short and long-term strategies for integrated pest management, control of invasive species, a palette of plant materials for reforestation and recommendations for maintenance and management.
- **Frick Park (Nine Mile Run) Stewardship Plan.** The Department of City Planning is currently directing an effort that will develop a sustainable stewardship plan for all of Frick Park. This includes Frick Woods (the original 150 acres of Frick Park) which this plan recommends to be expanded to encompass all of the wooded areas in the Park as well as the 100 acres of the Nine Mile Run corridor that will be added to it. This is an extension of the work of the Studio for Creative Inquiry.

Other initiatives that should be implemented include:

- **Sustainable Landscape Maintenance Standards.** These would be more detailed maintenance protocols that specify methods, materials and techniques for maintaining the Regional Parks in an ecologically sustainable manner.
- **Hydrologic/Watershed Studies.** Many of the natural watersheds in the Regional Parks have been modified through the introduction of underground storm drainage systems. Many of the drainage systems have reached the end of their useful life and are in various states of failure. New watershed management plans, such as the one being developed for Nine Mile Run, should be undertaken for these drainages to restore them to a more self-sustaining and functioning system. These may be conducted in conjunction with other infrastructure projects.

Revenue Issues

Continued capital projects and renewed maintenance strategies will require financial resources the City alone does not possess. A Revenue Resources Study should be developed to understand the full spectrum of potential revenue sources from facilities and events in the Parks to help sustain the Parks economically. All available sources of funding should be explored in addition to the RAD funding that the Parks currently receive including: bond issues, gift catalogs, TIFs, park impact fees, concessions, outsourcing management (similar to the Schenley Park Golf Course, etc.). The study should include concessions, visitor fees, special event fees, the Schenley Park Golf Course and all other potential revenue sources.

Visitor Service Strategies

The life of the Parks is in the people who use it. The continued success of the many programs run by the Department of Parks and Recreation and other groups is a testament to that fact. Equally important are the everyday visitors who come to the parks on an individual basis. Organizing and providing the necessary facilities to satisfy current and future demands as well as encouraging increased visitation is a constant challenge. Task force members and visitor surveys have indicated that the following issues are high priorities:

- **Security, Enforcement and Regulation.** The first step in this regard will be to involve the Police in the Regional Parks Management Committee to encourage patrolling and enforcement of quality-of-life issues within the parks.
- **Visitor Centers, Concessions and Restrooms.** These are important everyday facilities that contribute to visitor satisfaction with the park experience. Each park should have a prominently located visitor center that can distribute maps and other information as well as provide the venue for educational and interpretive programs. Concessions and restrooms should be carefully located in supervised locations adjacent to destination facilities so they can be properly maintained.
- **Special Events.** While these are important components of the public life of the Park, they need to be carefully reviewed and regulated to insure that they do not exceed the carrying capacity of the park and do not create impacts that degrade new capital improvements or increase maintenance.
- **Education Opportunities.** Partnerships with schools and other institutions should be explored to bring more activity into the parks.
- **Maps, signs, guides and promotional literature.** These should be developed for each park to inform the public about opportunities and facilities within the parks.
- **Facility Rental Process and Procedures.** Clear rules need to be outlined for renting park facilities and regulations need to be enforced. This process could be used to promote better maintenance of the facilities.

In addition, the following implementation steps should be pursued to expand the scope and quality of visitor services:

- **Environmental Center Visioning Process.** Originally there were nature centers in or adjacent to all four Regional Parks. A visioning process should be undertaken with the Frick Environmental Center that will study how its mission can be expanded to include the restored watershed of Nine Mile Run as well as eventually re-establishing environmental education programs in all four Regional Parks.
- **Permitting Plan.** A coordinated permitting process should be developed that sees fields as part of a system rather than individual and separate facilities. The permitting plan should integrate maintenance requirements.
- **Rangers and Volunteer Programs.** Efforts to establish these two important adjunct functions should be actively explored.



Special Events like the Vintage Grand Prix attract new visitors, but also place incredible demands on the parks.



Volunteers can have a dramatic impact within the parks.

Partnership Strategies

One of the best ways to reinvigorate the parks is by establishing a strong public-private partnership that provides consistent and strong stewardship for them into the future. Many parties have been involved in the development of this plan and their collaboration should continue through its implementation. The key players in this partnership include the City of Pittsburgh, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, the task force members and other constituents and a number of local private foundations who have signaled a willingness to help fund the rehabilitation efforts. In order to sustain this partnership, roles and responsibilities need to be assigned to each of the individual participants.

The City has already taken strong initiatives to reorganize parks management; these include:

- Establishment of the Parks Oversight Committee - this committee comprised of representatives of all City departments including City Planning, Engineering and Construction, Public Works and Parks & Recreation as well as the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy. The Committee reviews on-going and future initiatives with in the parks.
- Reorganization of the Public Works Department to include dedicated parks maintenance crews.
- Establishment of a position of Regional Parks Ombudsman within the Mayor's Office to advocate and coordinate parks related issues.



The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy has successfully established itself as the principal advocate for parks and private partner to the City. Its efforts include:

- Conducting visitor surveys to understand public needs and desires.
- Raising capital funds for two demonstration rehabilitation projects, the Reynolds entrance to Frick Park and the Schenley Park Visitor Center.
- Becoming an important advocate for parks as well as higher design and maintenance standards.
- Becoming an advocate for park visitors by improving visitor services (Visitors Center in Schenley Park), promoting education and providing resources.

The task force members and other public participants in the master planning process have made important contributions to setting the agenda for the plan. To continue this three-way partnership the following measures should be instituted:

- Perpetuate the task force contributions by establishing a bi-annual report to the community on the status of the implementation of this Master Plan. This process will encourage accountability on the progress of implementation and continuous public feedback and review.
- Create a clearly focused parks management function within the City of Pittsburgh with a priority to effectively partner with the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy.
- Explore all potential sources of revenue for the Regional Parks.
- Define the roles of the public sector and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy as they pertain to capital projects and their on-going maintenance. The City of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy will work together to develop a strategic funding and implementation approach for all capital projects.

- Constitute the Parks as one organization with a basic structure of accountability that is geographic or park-specific, that is each Regional Park should have a park manager. These park managers should “wake up thinking about the well-being of their park every day”.
- Explore the possibilities of partnerships with other organizations to increase horticultural practices and skills in parks.

Maintaining the Built Environment

The built landscape (which includes the whole ensemble of the park as well as the individual built elements such as walks, walls, bridges, architecture, furnishings as well as horticulture and the ornamental landscape) requires intensive maintenance to preserve historic character and insure that new interventions are compatible with the park's character.

A major reorganization of the way Pittsburgh's Parks are maintained is currently underway and nearing completion. The Department of Public Works has organized separate work crews specifically for park maintenance, separate from the Streets division. These eight dedicated crews will be responsible for specific sectors of the City and will be individually responsible for the parks within their sector. The Department of Public Works has developed a business plan that addresses this change of organization, which is attached as an Appendix to this document. Additionally, specific performance standards and protocols are being written to insure accountability.

Other initiatives that should be implemented include:

- Replace the large Public Works facilities in each park with smaller, park-specific maintenance facility solely dedicated to maintaining that park.
- Maintenance Manual and Performance Standards with evaluation practices.
- Repair and Replacement Standards to insure that consistent quality of materials, workmanship and finishes is adhered to in all future works.

The Importance of Landscape Types

Landscape Types are the component pieces of the natural landscape of the Parks and are defined by natural communities as opposed to human infrastructure such as roads, walks, drainage systems, etc. that has been added. These landscapes, in conjunction with the human infrastructure, establish the setting and overall character of the Parks and become the principal stage of activity. It is important to remember that all of these Parks are highly manipulated landscapes that are managed in certain ways by human intervention. Even a lack of maintenance is intervention into these natural systems. One of the key decisions confronting future restoration of the Parks is how these landscapes will be manipulated and managed to attain the goals set forth in this plan.

Existing Landscape Types

In the process of analyzing the ecological condition of the Regional Parks, the technical design team identified the Landscape Types that exist in each of the Parks. Because of the historic pattern of development and the atrophy of horticultural and woodland maintenance, the Parks are currently made up of only a very few Landscape Types. The predominant types are varieties of woodlands, sports fields and what is described as “park land”, which is turf and lawn with scattered shade or ornamental trees. Areas of disturbance are places that have been cleared or dumped upon and where invasive species have taken over. Diagrammatically, the Landscape Types in the Regional Parks are:

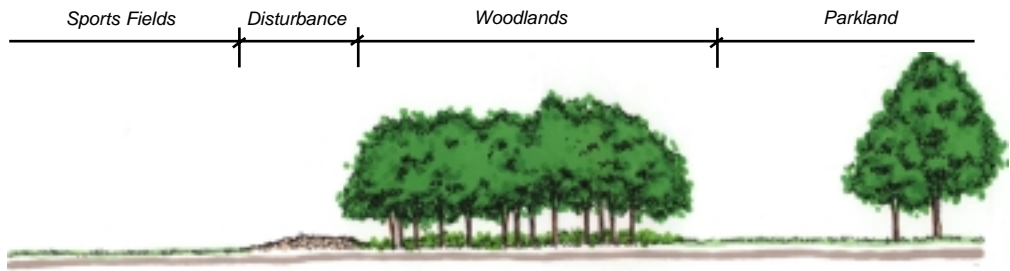


Diagram of Diversified Landscape Types

Redefining the Park Landscape - New and Diversified Landscape Types

Once the existing Landscape Types were identified, it was clear that the Regional Parks do not contain the diversity of landscapes that constitute a healthy environment. In order to restore both the ecological diversity and the historic character of the Parks, the number of Landscape Types must be increased from the limited number that exist. For example, we must improve the special quality of our woodlands by enhancing interior forest conditions as well as restore areas of meadow and shrubland to our Parks. By increasing the number of Landscape Types we increase the experiences available to visitors while increasing the habitat value for wildlife. These new Landscape Types are diagrammed below:

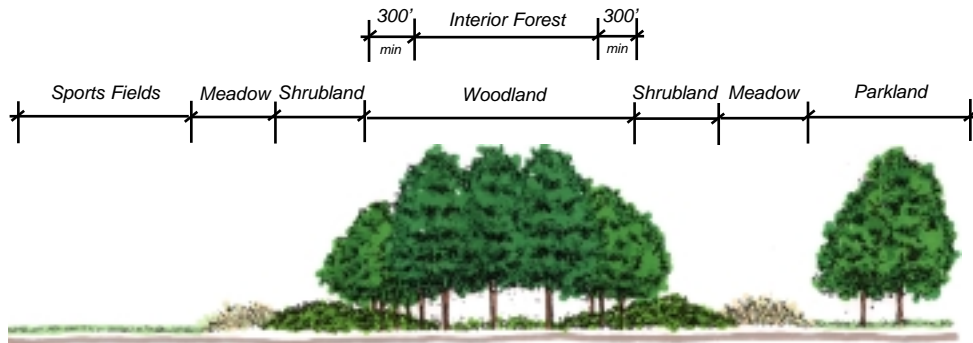


Diagram of Diversified Landscape Types

A wonderful opportunity exists to greatly enhance the ecological value of our parks by instituting a new value system for the landscape, one that places high value on rare habitats but does not ignore the possibilities in even the most ordinary places. These values are:

Highest Value - Interior Forests and Naturally Occurring Waterways

Interior Forests are rare habitats that exist a minimum of 100 meters from a woodland edge. This is important for select species of songbirds that require remote, protected habitat and is an indicator of a larger more complex forest ecosystem. Naturally occurring waterways are valuable components of the hydrologic cycle and provide specialized habitat for a diverse collection of plants and animals.

High Value - Woodlands / Woodland Edges / Meadows / Ponds

These are areas where the landscape is changing or transitioning. These include woodland areas that fall outside of the definition of Interior Forest, successional woodland edges, areas of unmanaged meadow or unmown open areas and shrublands as well as ponds and man-made waterbodies.

Moderate Value - Park Landscape

Park landscape includes areas of turf and trees, play fields, courts, playgrounds, reservoirs, gardens, ornamental landscapes and other areas of mown grass and lawn.

Increasing Value - Corridors

These are linear connections between any and all Landscape Types and are defined by topography, woodlands or waterways. Corridors provide a continuous habitat pattern or connectivity. These can include and be utilized for recreational possibilities.

The new and diversified Landscape Types that should be within the Regional Parks are described below as well as history, appropriate use and management recommendations:

Interior Forest

Ecology:

Expand closed canopy areas that are a minimum of 100 meters from the woodland edge. Preserve and protect these unique, rare habitats.

History:

An intimate experience within woodlands was always a key part of the park experience.

Use:

Controlled trail use should limit impacts and disturbance. Trail width and type should conform to nature trail standards defined in the Appendix.

These areas present opportunities for environmental education.

Management:

Diversify understory plants, control erosion and invasive species.



Historical Interior Forest

Woodlands

Ecology:

These areas should be preserved as a unique habitat for edge species that also provides a buffer for Interior Forest and Streams.

History:

These provide a transitional experience through dappled light into the Interior Forest.

Use:

Provide multi-purpose trails for non-motorized uses and maintenance access.

Management:

Emphasize the control of erosion and invasive species, replanting trail edges and closing the tree canopy in open or disturbed areas.



Woodland



Stream

Streams and Wetlands

Ecology:

Freshwater aquatic habitats provide species diversity and important connections to floodplain areas as well as the rivers.

History:

Because of the traditional appeal of water bodies, these were viewed as landscape amenities that were often reshaped as ornamental waterbodies with paths and walkways along them.

Use:

Controlled pedestrian trail use should limit impacts and disturbance. Trail width and type should conform to nature trail standards as defined in the Design Guidelines. These areas present important opportunities for environmental education.

Management:

Stabilize eroding banks with bioengineering; enhance species diversity and monitor restorations.



Shrubland

Shrubland

Ecology:

This is a unique habitat of low-growing herbaceous and woody plants that occurs at the woodland edge. It provides important habitat for nesting and feeding birds as well as plant species diversity.

History:

These landscapes were used to open and frame views into and over the park as part of the scenic composition.

Use:

View points and terraces and along pedestrian walks and adjacent to woodland edges. Bird watching.

Management:

Impede natural succession by removal of tree saplings, suppression of invasives and planting of native shrub species.



Meadow

Meadow

Ecology:

Meadows are stable, low-maintenance areas composed of warm-season grasses and wildflowers. They grow 3 to 6 feet in height and provide specialized habitat for a variety of species.

History:

Higher mowing heights were historically used around ponds, water bodies and less used areas.

Use:

Non-motorized uses should be restricted to constructed trails or mown paths in spring and summer, off-trail use can occur without damage in other seasons. Meadows, because of their infrequent occurrence in urban settings, provide important environmental education opportunities.

Management:

Carefully match the grass and flower species to soils and climate, control of invasives and regular but infrequent mowing is crucial for establishment.

Parkland

Ecology:

Stable mixed species of turf and trees with a permeable surface has low, but some value to urban wildlife.

History:

Parkland is the traditional, pastoral, park-like image that is familiar to most visitors.

Use:

Parkland is resilient and can sustain relatively intensive and varied use throughout the seasons.

Management:

Use sustainable maintenance practices including controlled and organic fertilizers, integrated pest management, tree care and mowing regimes.



Parkland

Gardens

Ecology:

Flowers and herbaceous plants are beneficial to birds and insects.

History:

Historic locations occurred as ornamental elements at buildings, monuments, fountains and entries.

Use:

Gardens provide passive enjoyment and visual pleasure. They act as welcoming elements and signify special features.

Management:

There is a need to redevelop horticultural skills within the maintenance workforce; these skills should include organic gardening principles and integrated pest management. Consideration should be given to the use of volunteer labor, as there are many skilled gardeners throughout the community.



Gardens

Playfields

Ecology:

While not a natural plant community, these areas serve an important ecological function as permeable surfaces for water infiltration.

History:

Original park elements which were often clustered together in groups or complexes according to the available level ground.

Use:

Active field sports and organized events.

Management:

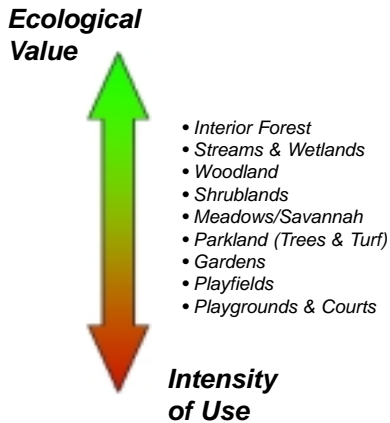
Integrated pest management, use best management practices for infiltration and control of storm water runoff.



Playfields

Management Goals for Individual Landscape Types

Proper management is critical for any of the new Landscape Types to achieve recreational or ecological benefit. To ensure this, the Landscape Type must be matched to the human uses and activities and can be understood as occurring along a continuum that matches the highest ecological value to the lowest intensity of use and the lowest ecological value to the most intensive uses. Each of these Landscape Types must be understood and managed in a way that acknowledges and balances each of four factors:



- *Ecology.* What is the optimal ecological condition for that particular Landscape Type and what are the major obstacles towards attaining that state? An important corollary to that is; what is the most sustainable and environmentally sound method of maintaining it in that state?
- *History.* What was the historic character of that Landscape Type in that particular place and was that compatible with the optimal ecological condition? Has the historic condition been lost or can it be rehabilitated in a manner that is compatible with the other factors?
- *Use.* What are the traditional uses that have occurred and are they appropriate to either the existing or preferred condition? Closely matching appropriate use to the Landscape Type is a key consideration to long-term success.
- *Maintenance & Management.* Once the appropriate balance of ecology, history and use has been defined, the manner and methodology of maintaining that condition must become part of the overall park maintenance strategy. Particularly in the case of newly restored Landscape Types, whether they are Interior Forests or Gardens both initial and long-term maintenance are key to their success.

Design Considerations Based on Landscape Types

When constructing any improvement or renovating an existing element, consideration should be given to the Landscape Type where this improvement occurs. Something built within a *Woodland* should be more carefully located than something within *Parkland*, as Woodlands are more sensitive habitats.



The Landscape Type will determine the scale and material choice for new elements.

As an example, trails and pathways will traverse many different Landscape Types, therefore their size and material should vary depending on where they occur. Walkways at park edges should be generously sized (10 - 12') and be paved with a stable, hard-surfaced material, such as concrete or asphalt. These are appropriate for entries, park edges and Landscape Types such as *Parkland*, *Gardens* and *Playfields*.

Recreation trails that connect the entries to destination or interior spaces can be smaller in width (6 - 8') and paved with a stable, porous but not necessarily hard-surfaced material, such as crushed limestone. This trail type is appropriate within *Woodlands*, *Shrublands*, *Meadows* and select *Stream/Wetland* landscape types

Woodland paths should be the smallest of all the trails (2 - 3') and should be paved with bark or stabilized earth. These are appropriate within *Interior Forests* and select *Woodland* Landscape Types.



Walks and Paths



Recreation Trails



Woodland Path

These cross sections illustrate the scale of the different trail types proposed and how they will vary depending upon the Landscape Type which they traverse. This variety of detailing should be applied to all improvements within the Parks so that every element is responsive to the setting with which it is located.

A New Beginning - Accomplishments to Date

Even before this master plan was finalized, activities were going on within the City and within the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy that would ultimately compliment the recommendations set forth herein. These ideas were considered important before, and now, when seen in concert with the recommendations of this master plan, take on increased validity. These are:

The creation of park-specific work crews within the Department of Public Works. The proposal for work crews responsible for each park was initiated by the Department of Public Works.

Establishment of Parks Oversight Committee. This is the continuation of the Parks Management Committee that was formed when this process began, and contains the same members.

Creation of a position within the Office of the Mayor to concentrate on the Regional Parks and park related issues.

Pilot projects within each of the four Regional Parks, undertaken by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy, to reinforce a newfound commitment to parks and promote the Conservancy as their primary advocate.



Restored gatehouses at the Reynolds Street entry to Frick Park - just one of the pilot projects undertaken by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy

System-Wide Strategies

Maintenance

*Park-Specific Public Works Crews **

*Performance and Skill Standards for
Department of Public Works Crews*

*Remove Public Works District Facilities
within the Regional Parks in favor
of smaller park-specific facilities*

Trail Maintenance and Development

Management

*Parks Oversight Committee **

*Woodland/Hydrology Management Plan
for each Regional Park **

New Project Review Process

Revenue Resource Plan

*Expand partnership between the City
and the Parks Conservancy*

Public Outreach

*Re-establish Visitor Centers and improve
visitor services in each of the four
Regional Parks*

*Visioning Process with the Frick
Environmental Center to establish
nature centers in each Park*

Trail Maps and Signage Program

Infrastructure and Programs

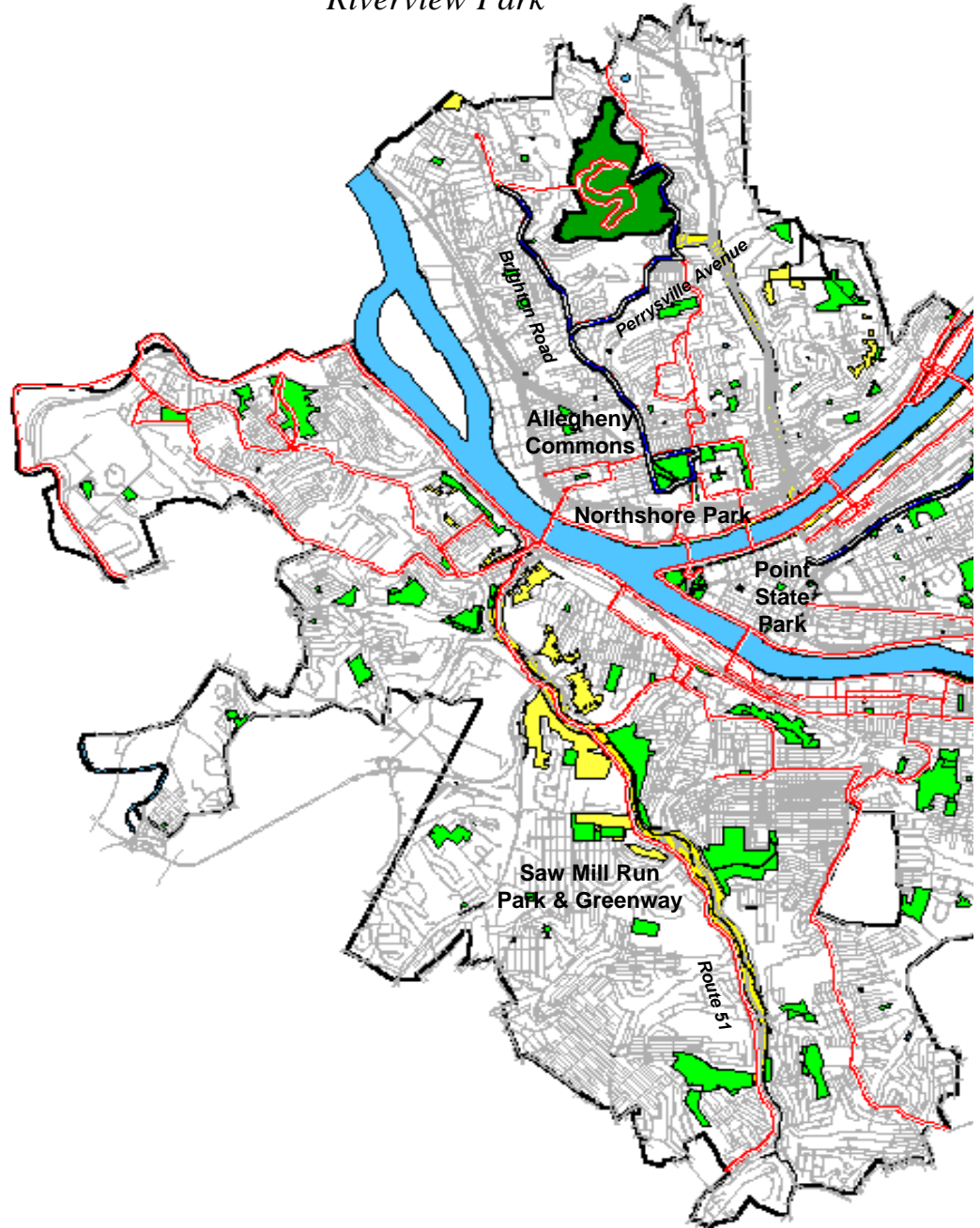
*City-Wide Fields Assessment **

*Frick Park and Nine Mile Run
Stewardship Plan **

Greenway and Trail Connections

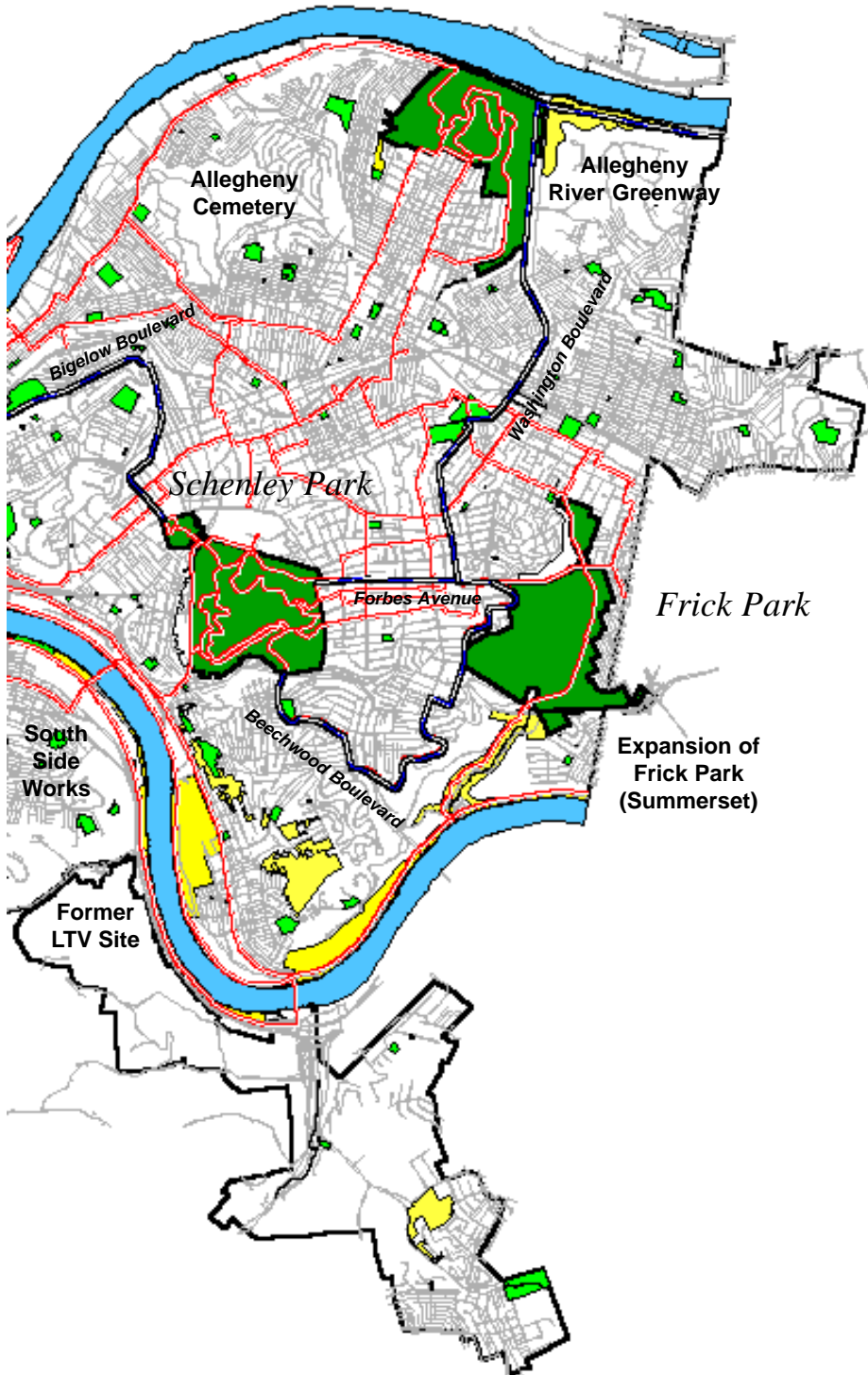
** Indicates an initiative currently underway*

Riverview Park



Creating a Green Web

Highland Park



Summary

To revitalize the Regional Parks will require change, primarily in the way we as a City, view parks. We must adopt the sentiment that existed when these Parks were developed - that these are precious, valuable landscapes that contribute immeasurably to the quality of life in Pittsburgh. We must foster a new ethic towards the Regional Parks - an ethic of stewardship. This ethic must be instilled in all those who come in contact with the Parks, from City officials, to maintenance staff to the daily visitor. All must be appreciative of our collective respect for the Regional Parks.

We must work together towards this goal a new ethic of stewardship. New partners should be sought and existing alliances strengthened to broaden the revenue base and draw from the wealth of talent in the region.

We must rebuild the essential and special character of each Regional Park so they serve us well into the future. Each is historically significant, each must renew its ecological integrity and each must accommodate modern activities. However, these Parks do have limitations, they cannot meet all the recreational demands of the entire City. Therefore, we must not think of the Regional Parks in isolation but rather as cornerstones in a system - *A Green Web* of parks, greenways and public spaces that link neighborhoods and distribute recreational experiences throughout the City. Creating a system will be the perfect compliment to all the restoration projects that need to occur within each Park.

Part Three

Individual Park Recommendations

Frick Park

Historical Summary

Current Ecological Conditions

Renewal Projects

Highland Park

Historical Summary

Current Ecological Conditions

Renewal Projects

Riverview Park

Historical Summary

Current Ecological Conditions

Renewal Projects

Schenley Park

Historical Summary

Current Ecological Conditions

Renewal Projects

Frick Park Recommendations



Perceived Image:

- Nature Park
- Isolated and Solitary
- Walking Park
- Defined Civic Entries
- Connected and Accessible



The Big Idea:

Pittsburgh's Nature Park

The approach for the renewal of Frick Park is that the core of the Park, including the area of Frick Woods, the other wooded slopes and valley floors should be reserved for woodland or waterway preservation and recreation trails. This essential character should be strengthened by enhancing the woodlands streams and trails while at the same time restoring the urban edge conditions that serve as gateways to the Park.

Historical Summary

An apocryphal date for the origin of Frick Park would be 1908, the year of the debut of Helen Clay Frick who, according to her family's traditional account of the situation, was promised by her father Henry Clay Frick that he would give her anything she might ask for on this important occasion. It is believed she asked that he give Pittsburgh a park for the enjoyment of the City's children.

At Mr. Frick's death in 1919, his will bequeathed to the City a block of land, some 150 acres, that lay south of his Pittsburgh home, Clayton, in the outer fringes of the East End. The land had been a mix of early farms and some untouched woodland. During the years of Frick's ownership, there was apparently no maintenance or development, so that when the tract was passed to the City, the land was seen as primeval wilderness, a site fit to provide the visitor with experiences of unsullied nature.

Frick's will also set aside \$2,000,000.00 to be used for park purposes. Nothing seems to have been done between 1919 and 1925 to further the idea of creating a park out of his gift. In the latter year, the executors of his will began an aggressive program of land acquisition, using income from the endowment set up for the Park. The intention seems to have been to create an area that would approach (rival?) in size the older Schenley and Highland Parks. In 1925 alone, 190 acres were bought and sporadic episodes of land acquisition continued to 1936 when 84 acres were acquired from the former Pittsburgh Country Club. Most of the land added to Frick's bequest lay to the south of the original tract and included the upper reaches of the Nine Mile Run basin. The Country Club site carried the park toward the southwest, along another stretch of Beechwood Boulevard which the Frick acreage also bordered to the west. A large, relatively compact body of land emerged from this sustained growth, but it was distinguished by two eccentric trails, one to the north along Reynolds Avenue, and the other curling to the southeast in the direction Edgewood and Swissvale, beyond the Pittsburgh city limits.

By the date of the Parks opening, the executors of Mr. Frick's will had retained the firm of Lowell and Vinal to produce a master plan for the Park's development. A preliminary master plan for the Park originating in the office of Lowell and Vinal, carries the date of February 1927. Also by the date of the Park's opening, Mr. Lowell had died, and we are told in newspaper articles that the planning of the Park had been transferred to the Pittsburgh firm of Blum, Weldin and Company, mining and civil engineers with an unknown competence in park design.

The placement of a series of entrances announced in newspaper articles in 1931, suggests an understanding of a general plan dated 1931, must have been in place. All four of the entrance features originated in the office of John Russell Pope in the period 1931-1935, exactly the same years during which he was active in designing the remodeling of the Henry Clay Frick house on Fifth Avenue in New York to convert it to museum use as the Frick Collection. Pope's unexpected involvement in the Pittsburgh scene must surely have originated with Frick family interests here or in New York, possibly at a time when Park work was lagging.

The first of these four identifying structures is the small entrance gate on Forbes Avenue, at the Pittsburgh end of the Fern Hollow Bridge. The simplest structure is the cairn erected at the juncture of Beechwood Boulevard and Forbes Avenue. The other two structures, the arched gateway at Homewood Avenue and Reynolds Street, and a pair of gate lodges forming the Beechwood Boulevard entrance, are known to have been near completion in June of 1935. Taken as a group these four structures by John Russell Pope, with their contiguous walls, were and remain the most distinctive built elements in the entire Park.

By January of 1935, the Frick executors had retained the firm of Innocenti and Webel to act as designers for the further development of the Park. Among the most prestigious firms of landscape architects working in the United States, Innocenti and Webel had created a style that was distinguished by a particular cognizance of the spatial implications of landscape design and by a pictorial approach to the disposition of landscape elements.

Plans for further structures, a system of trails and the ordering of green spaces and plantings, continued through the late 1930s and well into the 1940s. Although Innocenti and Webel's association with the Park ended in 1957, their involvement in the later years of that period seems to have been slight. Areas that are recorded through drawings include the Bowling Green along Reynold's Street (1935-1938) where an elegant shelter was designed, and portions of the recently acquired Country Club land which was to house a Scouts Lodge and a Park Office (1943).

There seems to have been a deliberate design policy of removing recreational facilities (such as the tennis courts inherited from the defunct Country Club) to the Park's periphery, in order to achieve the maximum sense of natural environment, a sequence of pastoral and sylvan experiences. Sometime around 1940, Innocenti and Webel appear to have formed a partnership with Ralph Griswold, of Pittsburgh, to continue their work with the Park. Among their collective goals was the eradication of baseball entirely from the Park. This would be consonant with the growing emphasis on nature study as the Park's principle mission.

A telling indication of the change in design standards in the years after the termination of Innocenti and Webel's involvement appears in the drawings for the complex containing staff residences, offices and shop facilities on English Lane. Designed in 1959 by the Pittsburgh firm of Wolfe and Wolfe, this group of buildings exhibits the then-current International Style, or some variant of it. It is not the style per se that indicates a lowering of standards, although it was incompatible with the earlier work of both Pope and Innocenti and Webel, but the design quality of this new work in the context of norms of its own period and type.

Current Ecological Conditions

Vegetation

Generally speaking, Frick Park has the most extensive areas of natural vegetation communities of any of the four Regional Parks. Historically, these forested areas included woodlands on the slopes and in the stream valley ravines including Fern Hollow and Falls Ravine. However, other areas of the Park, particularly Riverview Hill, the former Country Club and Clayton Hill were historically tree-studded with planted trees presumably placed in such a fashion as to create a pleasing arrangement and allow for views from these higher elevations. Currently, Frick Park has the most extensive areas of forest of the four parks, and is the best example of how these parks provide extensive natural habitat within the City. Frick Park also has a wealth of connectivity, including the adjacent Homewood Cemetery and the Nine Mile Run stream valley which has the potential for an extensive greenway connection linking the Park to the Monongahela River.

Areas of Forest are represented in areas along ravines and on slopes that historically had tree cover. Woodlands and Shrublands are represented in areas either historically open and reverting to forest in various fashion or areas that have had successional changes due to clearing or maintenance. Herbaceous communities generally exist where regular or periodic cutting has occurred or natural forces (such as flooding) maintain herbaceous plants. Sparse Vegetation occurs where consolidated material (paving, etc.) or unconsolidated material (rubble, debris piles, etc.) allow for low density vegetative cover to take hold. Bare Ground occurrences include paths, stockpiles and disturbed areas. The only Open Water within Frick Park is the open channel of Nine Mile Run. Improvements occur throughout the park in the form of roads, sidewalks, courts, buildings and other structures.

Invasive plant species observed in Frick Park include Japanese Knotweed (*Falopia japonica*), privet (*ligustrum vulgare*), grapes (*Vitis* spp.), Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) and Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*) among others.

Topography, Geology and Soils

The overall acreage of Frick Park is approximately 455 acres and consists of upland terraces with steep side slope terrain and areas that are bisected by steep valleys with wooded slopes. The topography varies from low gradient upland areas (less than 5%) including Clayton Hill to very steep side slopes (greater than 40%) within Falls Ravine. Some localized areas have slope conditions in excess of 50%.

Frick Park geologic conditions indicate areas that are susceptible to landslides. Rock types, fracturing and the nature of layering, steep topography, depth and composition of soil cover and the permeability of soils all contribute to the susceptibility of an area to landslide conditions. Prehistoric landslide conditions have been mapped along the east slopes of Fern Hollow. Recent landslide conditions have been identified along the northern tip of the Fern Hollow slopes and the Riverview Hill slopes as well.

Gilpin and Philo series are the primary soil types within Frick Park. The Gilpin series is formed in material that weathered from shale and sandstone while the Philo series is comprised of soils formed in alluvial deposits. Much of the soil in Frick Park along the upland terraces and steep slopes are Gilpin-Upshur complex and are easily eroded. The lower portion of the mainstem of Fern Hollow (below Forbes Avenue) and portions of Nine Mile Run flow through Philo series soils.

The condition of the existing slopes ranges from fairly stable well vegetated slopes to slopes with thin soil condition, little or no organic layer, shallow vegetation rooting to completely denuded slopes with exposed roots. Fern Hollow contains slopes that exhibit all of these characteristics. There is also evidence of mountain bike impact to soil conditions along portions of slopes in Fern Hollow (south of Forbes Avenue) and Riverview Hill. Rock outcroppings exist throughout the park and are comprised primarily of shale and sandstone.

Hydrology

Water resources in Frick Park include ephemeral, intermittent and perennial channels, groundwater seeps and wetland areas. The drainage network is part of the larger Monongahela River watershed. There are three major sub-watersheds within Frick Park; Fern Hollow, Falls Ravine and Nine Mile Run. Falls Ravine drains into Fern Hollow, which drains into Nine Mile Run, which confluences with the Monongahela River southwest of the park.

Drainage patterns to and within the park have been significantly altered by stormwater conveyance networks and along with an increase in impervious surfaces has resulted in the reduction of infiltration and groundwater recharge. The extensive and frequently undermined drainage networks that parallel the major drainage ways appear to be conveying groundwater (as well as sanitary) and are actually contributing to the reduction of channel baseflow conditions. This is particularly evident in the Falls Ravine channel and the downstream portion of the Fern Hollow channel.

Water resource conditions include fairly stable channels for Falls Ravine tributary and the Fern Hollow tributary, with some piped segments of those channels. However, there are areas along Nine Mile Run of active channel adjustment including channel incision and over-widening that has resulted in channel erosion and sediment yield. Sanitary sewer lines and major storm sewers parallel Fern Hollow tributary and Nine Mile Run. There are several locations along Nine Mile Run where the sanitary sewer lines are exposed within the limits of the active channel. Combined sewer overflows (CSO) locations are found along the Nine Mile Run within the limits of the Park. Visual assessment of water quality and aquatic habitat ranged from good to poor with degradation primarily attributable to CSO and significantly reduced baseflow conditions.

There has been a thorough series of assessments completed for the Nine Mile Run Watershed which is presented in a report entitled Nine Mile Run Watershed Rivers Conservation Plan (August 1998). A component of that effort was physical and chemical water quality sampling. Park-wide biodiversity assessments (Bio-Blitz) have also been performed for Frick Park.

Landscape

Clearing of areas within the park for views, fields and the previous Country Club shape the land cover (vegetation) that we see today. The alterations made to the drainage network have also had impacts on the amount and quality of vegetative cover within the Park.

The need for maintenance and infrastructure improvements activities have resulted in approaches to mowing, raking, pathway repair, stockpiling and debris removal have a profound affect on the health and overall condition of natural resources. These factors, in conjunction with other disturbances such as mountain biking, desire trails and natural phenomenon (severe storms, blow downs, etc.) contribute to the degradation of natural resources. Furthermore, the well documented water quality issues within Nine Mile Run have a significant impact on the condition of riparian resources along the segment that traverses the Park. Disturbed areas in the Park frequently coincide with the prevalence of invasive species.

Wildlife Habitat

Although influenced by the condition of natural resources and land use decisions, Frick Park contains some of the best and most extensive wildlife habitat within the City, especially the areas of intact woodland. The meadow at Clayton Hill has become one of the best bird-watching areas, due to the restoration efforts of the Frick Environmental Center.



Existing Landscape Types

The current landscape types are shown at the left with dark green representing interior forest, light green is woodland, tan is park land, red is severely disturbed and the cross-hatched areas are corridors.

Woodlands dominate and vary in their health and quality. Frick is one of the few places in the City with substantial intact areas of interior forest.



Proposed Landscape Types

This drawing depicts what Frick Park would look like if its ecological health were to be improved.

The area of interior forest could be expanded, thus creating more habitat for species requiring it. Through proper woodland management and control of invasives, the health of the large stands of woodlands can be dramatically improved. Waterway corridors can be enhanced to improve connectivity to areas outside the park.

Existing Trails Map

This drawing depicts the trails and recreation areas that currently exist within Frick Park. The red lines are trails, the dark green are sports fields, the yellow represents open lawn areas for informal use and the pink are playgrounds.

The trails focus primarily around Clayton Hill and the Frick Environmental Center, as well as running the length of Fern Hollow. Some trails end without connection while others have been over-used to the point of creating erosion.

The fields are generally on the perimeter, except for an informal (although heavily used) field at the end of Riverview Hill and the field in lower Fern Hollow.



Proposed Trails Map

This drawing represents a revitalized trail network that utilizes existing trails, creates new trails and abandons select trails. The red indicates formal walkways (paved in a hard durable material such as concrete or stone), the solid blue depicts recreational trails (paved in softer materials such as limestone) and the dashed blue indicates woodland trails which are narrow enough for one person and unpaved.

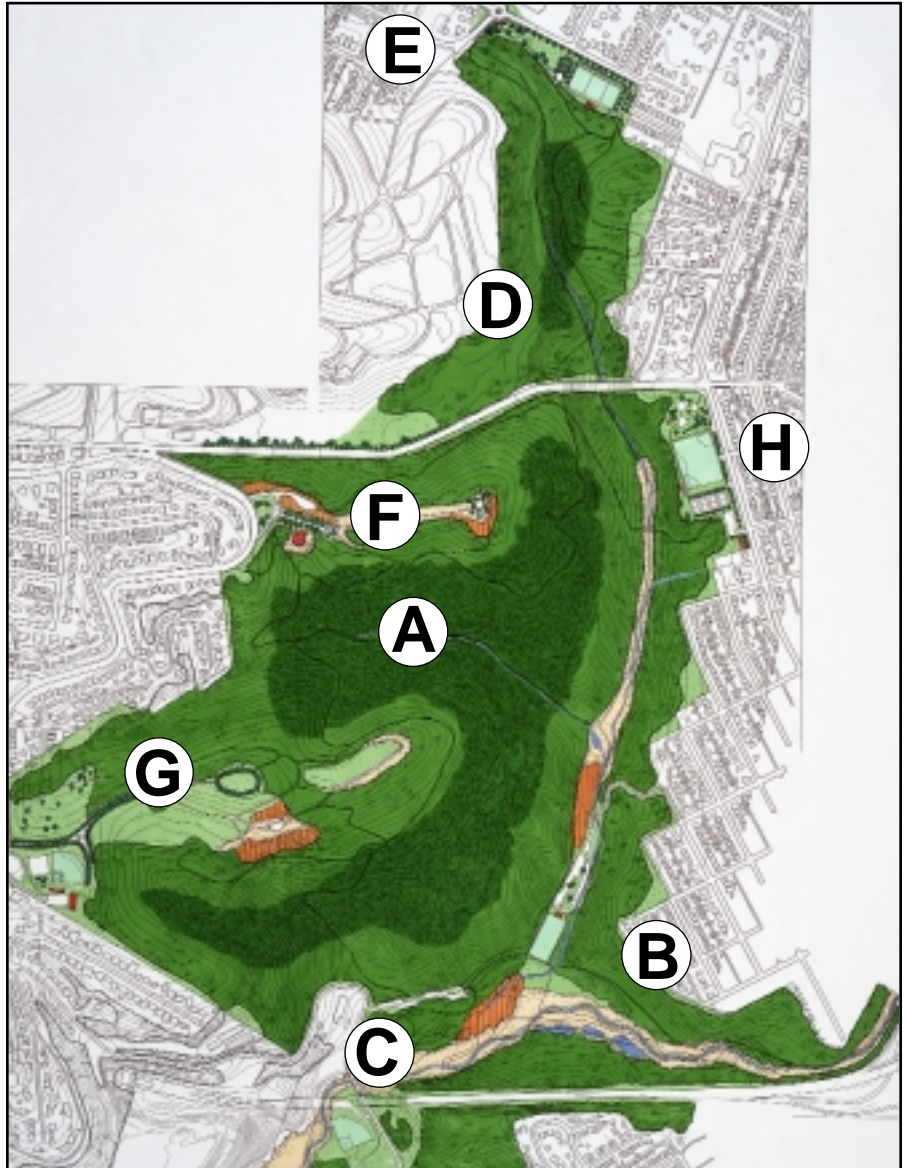
This network takes full advantage of the natural features of Frick Park (Nine Mile Run, Fern Hollow, Falls Ravine, Clayton Hill, etc.) and creates loops or circuits so trails do not dead-end. This is not meant to be a final design, but a proposal that can be used to generate discussion among trail users.



Frick Park: Renewal Projects

Project List

- A Frick Woods Preserve
- B The Drainages
- C Nine Mile Run Greenway
- D Homewood Cemetery Edge
- E Reynolds Street Entry
- F Clayton Hill
- G Riverview Hill
- H Forbes and Braddock Intersection

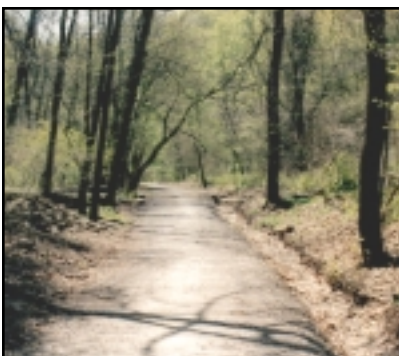


Key Initiatives:

- Develop a sustainable management plan that focuses on the integration of natural systems into the operation of the park.
- Implement the Nine Mile Run Watershed restoration plan and annex the land within the development of Summerset (from Commercial Avenue down to the Monongahela River) into the park.
- Learn from the success of the Frick Environmental Center and explore options for programmatic and physical expansion.
- Rehabilitate and maintain a carefully located, hierarchical trail network for multiple user groups that interconnects the key locations of the park.
- Restore the historic entry portals, and create new ones in the same vocabulary.
- Concentrate neighborhood park and recreational facilities on the ridgetop edges of the park.



Historic character of woodland trails



Current excessively wide condition of woodland trails

Frick Woods Preserve

Frick Woods, the original acreage of Frick Park, is distinguished by being the home of the Frick Environmental Center and an area of intact healthy woodland. Currently only 150 acres within the park, this area should be expanded to encompass all the woodland slopes within Frick Park. A consistent strategy for the management of these woodlands should be developed.

Specifics:

- The key recommendation is for the preparation of a Woodlands Management Plan to preserve, enhance and renew the system. This plan should focus on preservation of major stands of woods and strategies for enhancing the understory. Woodlands should be classified by

type, with strategies determined for removal of trees, preservation of understory, recommendations for reinforcement of woodland edges and replanting of degraded woodlands.

Due to the underlying geology and years of over-use, many of the steepest slopes exhibit severe erosion. Part of the Woodlands Management Plan should address slope erosion and propose strategies for stabilization.

Expanding the area of interior forest will create a valuable habitat for plants and animals that require those special conditions for survival. This landscape type is difficult to sustain in a dense urban setting and thus makes these areas of Frick Park special and worthy of protection.



In 1998, an inventory and analysis of the forested areas in Frick Woods was prepared for the City of Pittsburgh. Entitled *A Forest Stewardship Plan for Frick Woods Nature Reserve*, this document outlines management ideas and improvement projects to be implemented over the next ten years.

This important study highlighted the value of these forested areas and formed the basis for this Master Plan recommending that interior forest habitats be expanded throughout Frick Park.

- Build a new pedestrian-only trail connecting Nine Mile Run to the Riverview Hill area. (1)

- The woodlands contain many of the park's trails; these should be maintained for multiple uses - walking, running, cycling, skiing - where appropriate, and restricted to pedestrian use only, where the Landscape Type warrants it. Restore woodland character of historic trails by narrowing the width and paving with soft, appropriate materials. (2)



Erosion occurs throughout the Park and is due to the geology, soils and the intensive use.



The dark green area depicts current healthy Interior Forest habitat, which primarily exists around the Frick Environmental Center



Guided by an Woodland Management Plan that promotes native species and eliminates exotics, the area of healthy Interior Forest habitat could be expanded to encompass more of the Park.



The Drainages - Nine Mile Run, Fern Hollow and Falls Ravine

These three channels make up the major drainages of the park and should be treated as a hydrologic whole as well as significant park amenities. The principal design criteria should be the interpretation of urban watersheds with trails, boardwalks and interpretation areas.

Specifics:

- Restore the Nine Mile Run stream corridor and watershed as recommended by the Studio for Creative Inquiry and the Army Corps of Engineers. This should encompass the entire stream corridor from Braddock Avenue to the River. (1)

- Fern Hollow and Falls Ravine watersheds should be integrated into the restored landscape by restoring surface flowing streams. Rebuilding the existing sewers will be required to eliminate the depletion of stream baseflow. (2)

- The area should be made accessible with appropriately designed trailheads at Commercial Road, Braddock Avenue and in Fern Hollow with parking and picnic shelters. Trails should be extended through the new Nine Mile Run stream valley, cross Commercial Avenue and continue along the existing jeep trail to the Monongahela River. (3)



Historic photograph of Fern Hollow

- The existing parking area in Fern Hollow should be reduced in size and re-designed to become a sensitive component of the storm water management system. (4)

- A new trail head, with a parking area accessing new pavilions can be developed off of Commercial Avenue. Trails should be appropriately sized for woodland recreational use, about 6 to 8 foot maximum width. Trails should be paved with crushed stone, ground bark, or other non-toxic materials. (5)

- The entire area should be integrated within the educational mission of the Frick Environmental Center, which should seriously consider this area as their new home with location of a new or additional “green building” interpretative center. Possibility would now exist to expand the programming potential of the Frick Environmental Center to include an interpretive walking tour. This tour

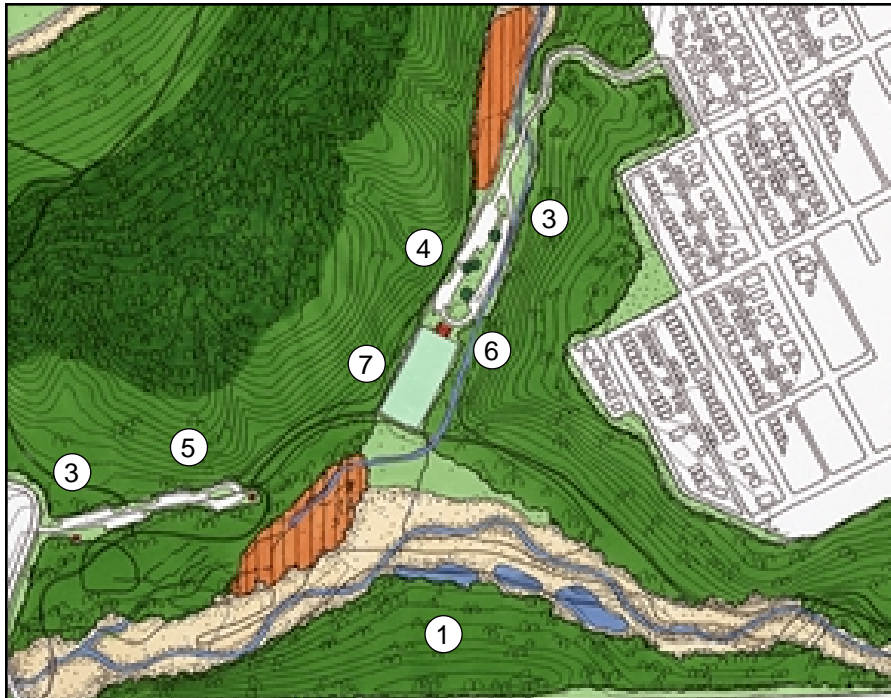
would highlight landscape types, taking visitors from an urban park edge, through a designed landscape, through meadows, through successional woodlands, through mature woodlands, through wetlands and ultimately to the Monogahela River - through a complete system.(6)

- The existing recreation fields in Fern Hollow will be relocated. The soccer field will be moved within Fern Hollow to the end of the parking lot while the baseball field will move to the existing meadow along Commercial Avenue. (7)

- Consideration should be given to reclaiming the old park off Love Street in Swisshelm (Summerset at Frick Park, Phase III) into an athletic field site, with access coming from Commercial Avenue along the existing service trail. This site could be temporary or permanent, depending on the future build-out of the new Summerset community. (8)



The area along Commercial Avenue (under the Parkway Bridge) has been identified as a good location for recreation fields.



Detail plan of restored Nine Mile Run Watershed including relocated soccer field, re-configured Fern Hollow parking area and new Commercial Avenue trail head.



Nine Mile Run Greenway

The area outside of Frick Park (from Commercial Avenue to the Monongahela River) is but a portion of the degraded stream corridor of Nine Mile Run. The entire watershed of Nine Mile Run has been intensively studied in the past few years by the Studio for Creative Inquiry (CMU) with generous funding from the Heinz Endowments.

The goal of the Nine Mile Run Greenway Project is the transformation of a distressed brown-field site into a public green space with clean running streams. This project is an important model for addressing the decaying infrastructure and industrial waste that impact the ecological, economic and cultural viability of our communities.

The stream valley (both inside and outside of Frick Park) has been identified in the Nine Mile Run Greenway Project Design Guidelines as a potential greenway. Greenways can potentially serve both human and biological communities within the watershed by:

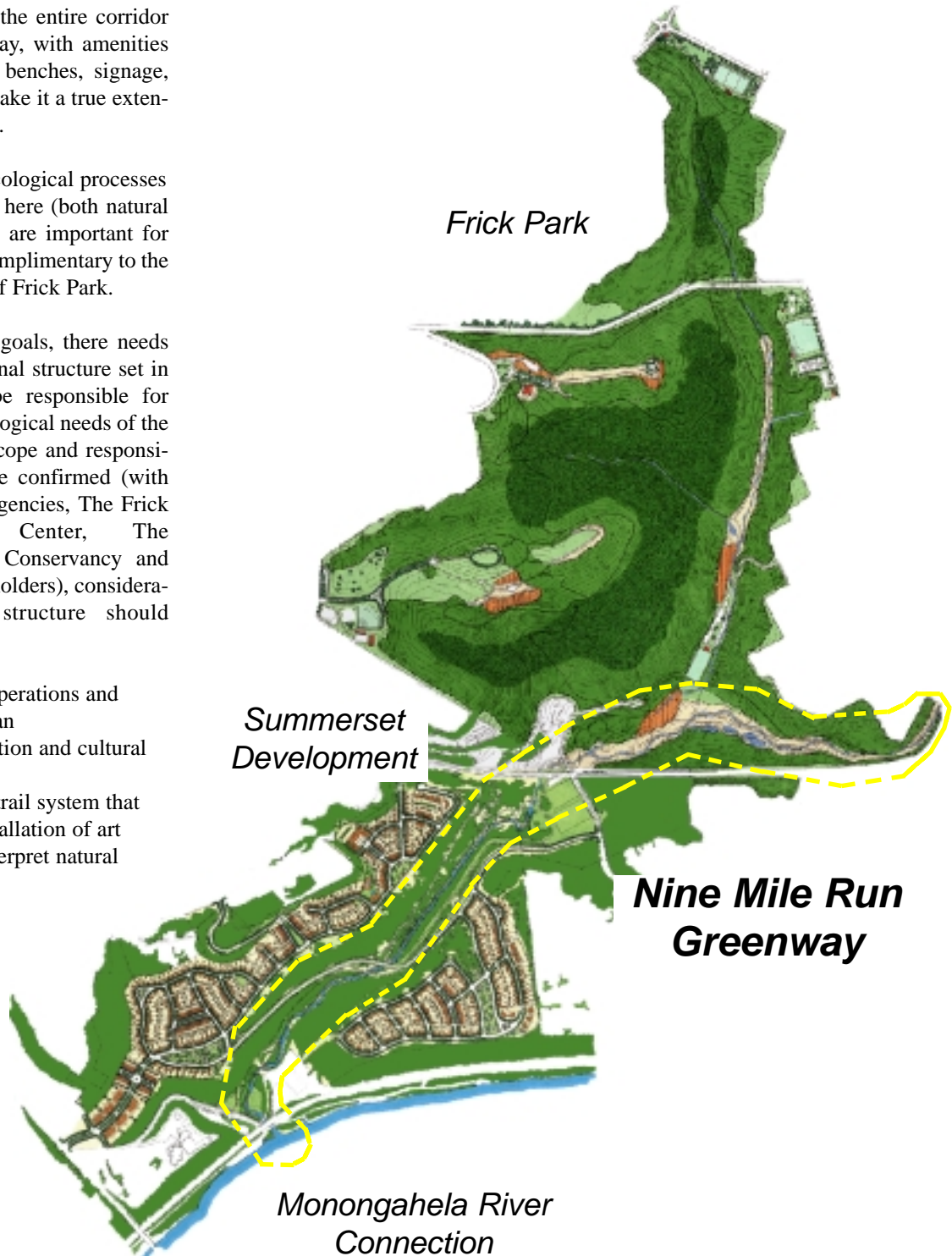
- Carrying storm water from within the watershed to the Monongahela River
- Providing a route for storm sewers and combined sewer overflows
- Serving as a model for ecological restoration and brown-field transformation
- Becoming a place for the enjoyment of nature as well as a place for research and education
- Providing content for a range of disciplines including ecology, biology and public policy
- Linking Pittsburgh's East End neighborhoods to downtown through a streamside bicycle route.

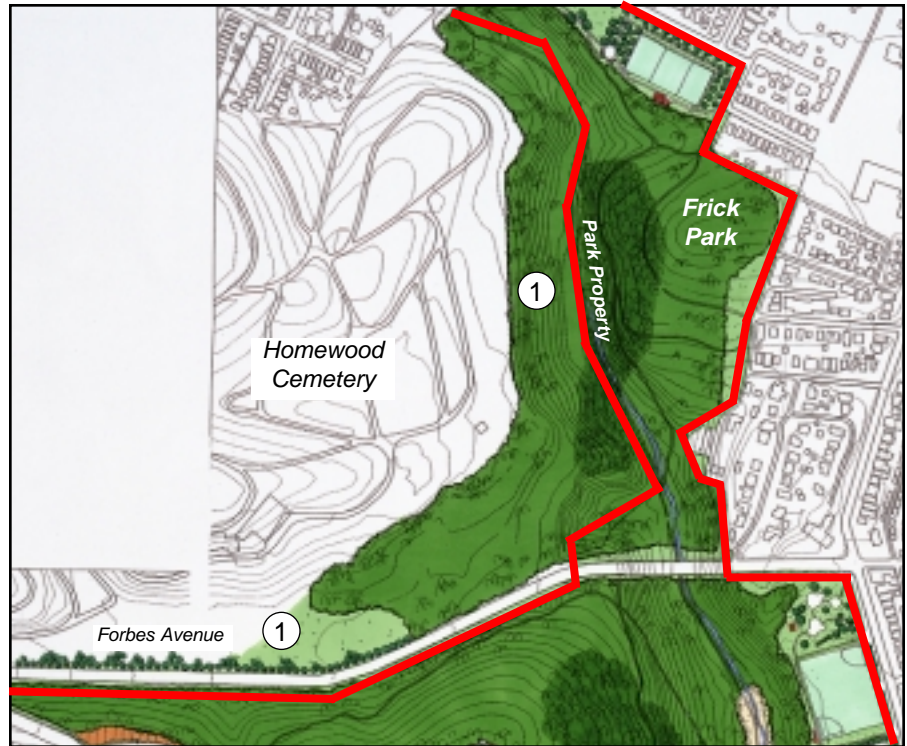
The Regional Park Master Plan also recommends that the entire corridor become a greenway, with amenities (accessible trails, benches, signage, etc.) that would make it a true extension of Frick Park.

Interpreting the ecological processes that are occurring here (both natural and man-assisted) are important for visitors and are complimentary to the original mission of Frick Park.

To achieve these goals, there needs to be an institutional structure set in place that will be responsible for managing the ecological needs of the area. Although scope and responsibilities need to be confirmed (with input from City agencies, The Frick Environmental Center, The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and community stakeholders), considerations for this structure should include:

- An integrated Operations and Management Plan
- Research, education and cultural programming
- An interpretive trail system that includes the installation of art works which interpret natural systems



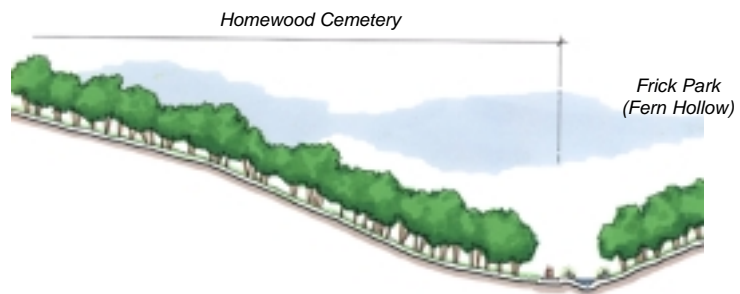


The Edges of Homewood Cemetery

The northern side of Forbes Avenue and the western slopes of upper Fern Hollow are not within Frick Park. It is possible that these areas could be developed thus changing the character of the experience when walking through Fern Hollow or driving along Forbes Avenue.

Specifics:

- The portion of Homewood Cemetery property along Forbes Avenue and the western slopes of Fern Hollow should be protected from development, possibly through easements or deed restrictions. This would preserve the park-like image and ecological quality of these landscapes which dramatically impact the visitors experience of Frick Park. (1)



Cross Section through Fern Hollow illustrating Homewood Cemetery property



Reynolds Street Entry

This is one of most heavily used areas of Frick Park. Similar to Riverview Hill and Forbes and Braddock, this area serves the need for convenient neighborhood recreation. The main recommendation is for continued use as it exists with landscape improvements to restore and enhance its character.

Specifics:

- As a signature project, the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy has restored the entrance, which includes the gatehouse (designed by John Russell Pope) and the surrounding landscape. The landscape enhancements should be extended across the traffic circle to the green squares adjacent to the intersections. (1)

- The entire landscape needs to be properly maintained and developed as a uniform landscape with new plantings, walkways, and the restoration of the council ring at the center of the grounds. (2)

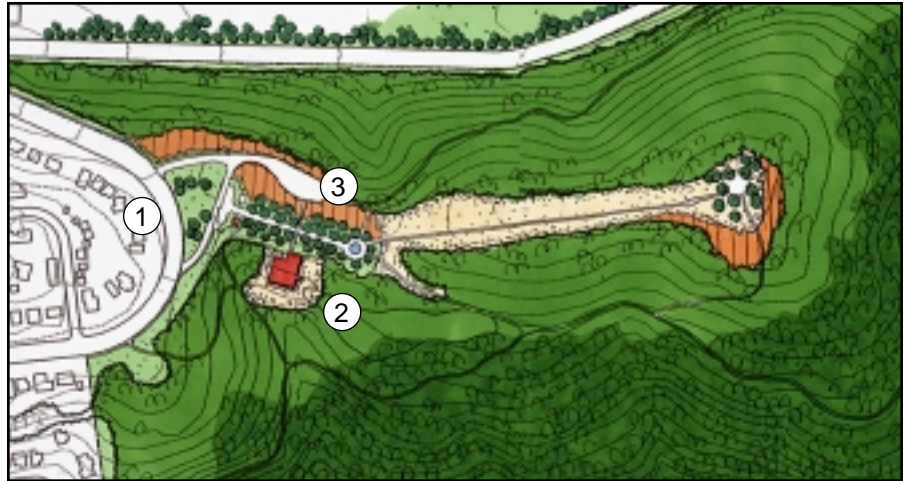
- Remove the chain link fence and/or install new perimeter landscape features for security and definition should enhance the edges of the lawn bowling court. The existing buildings should be maintained and enhanced. (3)

- The trail entries need to be better defined and signed.(4)

- The fence directly opposite the entrance building should be removed and replaced with a low stone wall for security at the top of the steep slope. (5)



The Reynolds Street Gatehouse - recently restored to their original beauty by the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (Fall 2000)



Clayton Hill Entrance



The Frick Environmental Center has reclaimed much of Clayton Hill and established it as a native meadow. This has become one of the best areas in the City for bird-watching. (photograph courtesy of the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh)



The Beechwood Boulevard entry sequence, from the green along Beechwood Boulevard, past the gatehouse buildings through the double row of trees and past the Environmental center should be restored to its former beauty

This entry, best described as the main entry to Frick Park, should be considered a unique and special landscape that establishes an elegant gateway to the woodland preserve within the Park. As such, it should be renewed and returned to its original glory.

Specifics:

- The entry buildings and landscape that encompasses them should be restored to their original beauty and elegance. The area bound by the large crescent green fronting on Beechwood Boulevard, the paired John Russell Pope buildings and the formal landscape to the central fountain should be restored, including the double tree rows and the original flagstone paving. (1)

- The existing Nature Center should be renovated to be more compatible with its landscape setting and to be more publicly accessible. This building could additionally function as a park office, visitor center or museum.

If, as part of the Environmental Center Visioning process it is determined that a new or an additional interpretive center should be built adjacent to Nine Mile Run, the educational mission of the Environmental Center could be expanded. (2)

- The section of Clayton Hill from the fountain to the hilltop should be preserved and enhanced as successional meadow and woodland edge landscapes. This area has been renovated by the staff of the Frick Environmental Center and provides important bird watching habitats and is an environmental education resource. The hilltop pool should not be restored. Service buildings and storage facilities should be relocated to less visible locations, and appropriately screened. (3)



Riverview Hill

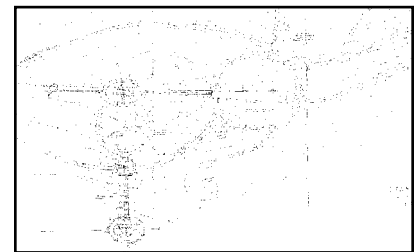
This is a major use area within Frick Park that includes the Beechwood Boulevard entrance and Blue Slide playground. A significant opportunity exists here to develop a strong park entry and establish another gateway to the woodland preserve.

Specifics:

- The park entry at Beechwood Boulevard should be redesigned to reflect the architectural character and importance of the other park entrances. An entrance terrace, originally envisioned by Innocenti & Webel, should be constructed to be consistent with the other grand entries and to view the landscape beyond. The adjacent lawn should be regraded to remove the former golf tees and create a more picturesque space. (1)
- The entrance experience should be extended into the park along a pathway lined with a double row of trees for its entire length. A view terrace

(at the intersection of the pathways) would terminate the entrance and begin another experience, one that moves further into the Park. (2)

- The edges of the playground (which was renovated in 2000), should be softened to compliment the entrance terrace. (3)
- A new view terrace for viewing the Mon River Valley should be constructed at the top of the hill with paths connecting to the “dogleg” and the woodland trails. A more picturesque landscape can be created by regrading the slopes to remove the former golf holes. (4)
- All of Riverview Hill (especially the “dogleg”) should be cleaned up and the debris removed. The woodland edges should be replanted with properly selected plant materials to transition the landscape from lawn to shrubland to mature woodlands, thus increasing habitat value. (5)



Although it is unclear how much of their work was implemented at Riverview Hill, the renowned design firm of Innocenti & Webel prepared drawings for a series of terraces. Many of these ideas are valid and can now be realized.



Riverview Hill should be used for strolling, viewing the landscape and passive recreation. Pick up games and other social activities should be encouraged. The existing fields should not be permitted.



Forbes and Braddock Intersection

This intersection is another highly used, easily accessible area on the edge of Frick Park. This serves multiple uses including play fields, a playground, tennis courts, a batting cage and a community building. As with most areas of the park, this is a major entrance to the Fern Hollow trails. The recommendation is for continued use as it exists with landscape improvements to establish a perimeter consistent with the other entry points.

Specifics:

- Stone architectural features consistent with the other areas of Frick Park should be added here to define this edge. This should include uniform tree lines and handsome stone work. (1)

- The tennis courts should remain, but should be renovated. The option should be explored to repave the courts with an all-weather surface.(2)

- The play fields should remain, but be replanted with tree lined edges to create a more park-like setting. The playground, recently renovated in a natural theme, should be maintained in its current form. (3)

- The trail entries should be better defined and the historic entry building at the west end of the Forbes Avenue Bridge should be restored (4)

- The stairs down to Fern Hollow from the Biddle Building (on Braddock Avenue) along the Biddle trail need to be reconstructed. (5)



Uniform tree lines and stone work should be incorporated to celebrate this entry, similar to the other entries into the Park.

Highland Park Recommendations



Perceived Image:

- Fragmented Uses
- The Reservoirs and The Pittsburgh Zoo
- Destination Places
- Not One Whole Park
- Varied Landscapes



The Big Idea:

Connect the Fragments

Highland Park, overlooking the Allegheny River, was the direct result of the location of the reservoirs. The reservoirs organize the Park and establish the river and sky views that still exist today. The Pittsburgh Zoo has also come to occupy a large portion of the Park and as a result only a small percentage of the Park is actually available for Park functions. The lands that do exist are fragmented and disconnected. The goal is to reconnect the pieces and reinforce Highland Park as a pedestrian place for strolling and the enjoyment of gardens, water and views.

Historical Summary

Highland Park's origins derive from the creation of a water system for Pittsburgh in the 1870s. Land on several of the city's highest elevations was secured for the installation of reservoirs. The reservoir in the future Highland Park was opened for operation in 1879. Surrounded as it was by public land, the reservoir became a destination for area residents seeking open space and greenery. The late nineteenth century reports of the Parks Commission refer to heavy use of the landscape around the reservoir for picnics and passive recreation, and note that the grounds were in excellent condition. The creation of a park on the reservoir site was an acknowledgment of an already functioning public, recreational amenity.

The Park was officially established by ordinance in September of 1889. The 1890s appear to have been taken up with grading and the establishment of a system of roads and paths, along with constructing whatever walls were necessary to sustain these improvements. The Park also grew in size through an incessant campaign of acquisition by the Director of Public Works Edward Bigelow. Most of these additions were very small, usually nothing greater than the normal lot for a one-family house to be built on. Much of the original nucleus of the Park was ringed by new residential developments, and the land acquisition maps are a mosaic of plots just obtained and others slated for purchase. This incremental process of growth, extending over a relatively long period of time precludes the kind of comprehensive planning that was possible with Schenley Park which was acquired as a large parcel. The piecemeal history of Highland Park development may well account for the apparent lack of design unity within the present Park.

However, many of the features that have historically identified the Park also were inaugurated in the 1890s. In 1895 Christopher L. Magee provided funding for the creation of a zoo to be placed in the Park's northwestern quadrant. Its main building was completed late in 1897, and the zoo was opened to the public in 1898. With the ensuing transfer of the few specimens kept in a tiny zoo in Schenley Park, the Highland Park facility became Pittsburgh's municipal zoo.

Other than the reservoir, the other great identifying feature of the Park is the grand entrance plaza placed just within the Park at the head of Highland Avenue. When this space was given its order is not known; certainly the plaza had its plan and characteristic lush planting in place by 1898, the year in which its photograph appears in a souvenir publication for a convention of the Knights Templar. The great gateways were installed in 1896; the bronze sculptures were the work of Giuseppe Moretti, but the designer of the architectural elements, notably the pylons of four clustered Ionic columns, is unknown. Early photographs and picture post cards of the entrance plaza reveal it to have been the finest public space in Pittsburgh and a first-rate example of the kind of municipal enrichment associated with the City Beautiful movement. Director Bigelow gave himself credit for the design of the plaza.

Of some interest is the appearance of reservoir number two in the southwest quadrant of the Park; this body of water is generally thought to have been constructed only in 1903. The plan of 1899 does show a small circular frame structure on Mount Bigelow, just to the north of reservoir number one. This is surely the music

pavilion constructed there and recorded in the annual report for 1892. 1893 would have seen the dredging of an abandoned interim reservoir on the northeastern slope of the Park to create Lake Carnegie; this body of water was extended in 1896 and rapidly became a favorite boating spot.

The second important entrance to the Park was created in 1900 with the erection of the two bronze Horse Tamers at Stanton Avenue. These works by Giuseppe Moretti are near replicas of the so-called Horse Tamers of Marly, important works by the French baroque sculptor Guillaume Coustou. Two major shelter buildings were constructed in 1902-1903. These were almost certainly the present Rhododendron Shelter, designed by Harry Summers Estep, and a lost shelter presumably the Lake Drive Shelter, designed by Thomas Scott. Drawings, unfortunately undated, survive of both of these shelters.

Another building that has disappeared is the greenhouse that stood at the foot of the embankment along the eastern side of reservoir number one. There is a reference to a greenhouse in the Park as early as 1892, and there are subsequent allusions to greenhouses, clearly not all at the same location. What was probably the definitive greenhouse was the one constructed in 1915 on the site of an earlier glass house.

An interesting documentation in the change in use patterns within the Park is provided by periodic references in the parks annual reports to amenities at Lake Carnegie. It was first apparently given over to boating; then there is mention of stocking it with fish, and in 1913, we read of a new diving platform being installed. This was supplemented or replaced by a swimming platform for aquatic sports in 1915. The growing appeal of public swimming led to the conversion of the northern half of the Lake into a proper pool in 1932. In 1939, a service building was constructed adjacent to the pool.

The idea of the boathouse is also consistent with the elegant planning that characterized the Griswold era in Pittsburgh's parks. The chief survivor of that period is the small plaza, with its retaining walls, stairs and walks, at the north end of Negley Avenue. Drawings in considerable detail exist for this site; the earliest of these are dated 1934 which indicates that this project was one of the first manifestations of Griswold's parks administration which began in that year.

Traffic patterns in the Park appear to have been established early and largely retained. The northern end of Beechwood (now Washington) Boulevard originally formed a dead-end at the bank of the Allegheny River but was subsequently linked to an extension of Butler Street which came up along the river edge from Lawrenceville. There had been an early bridge crossing the River from a point near the extreme northwestern corner of the Park. This early configuration of drives and bridges left the Park's northern slope completely open to the river view and almost within touch of the River. However, the construction of the Highland Park Bridge around 1938 utilized that edge of the Park. The extension of Butler Street as Allegheny River Boulevard in the same decade created a wide barrier of paving and traffic between Highland Park and its neighboring river frontage.

Like Riverview Park, the Highland Park area was previously given over to farms with the resultant clearing of much of the terrain. Early views of the hills around Lake Carnegie depict much the same situation of grasslands and meadows with a

moderate, not dense, scattering of trees. The development of ornamental and planned planting followed the pattern of Schenley Park, i.e., tree-lined major roadways and a much heavier planting of trees throughout the park. The same massed shrubberies that appear early on in portions of Schenley Park (for example at the circular pool that once existed along the drive leading up to the golf course) also appear in early views of the stone tunnel area of Highland Park. One of the great distinguishing features of Highland Park was the extensive and elaborate bedding of the entrance plaza. Not only were the walks and fountain pool lined by massed formal arrangements of tender plants, but the earthen bank of the reservoir was used as a support for further demonstrations of carpet bedding, with scrolls linking such features as the date and the seal of Pittsburgh.

Current Ecological Conditions

Vegetation

Vegetation communities within Highland Park are quite fragmented and dispersed, primarily due to the developed facilities and the dominance of maintained landscapes. These facilities, including the reservoirs, the Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium and parking lots, Highland Park Pool Complex, Forestry Department, Police Training facility and the Public Works yard, occupy the majority of land within the Park and leave little room for contiguous habitats.

Natural habitats, particularly mature woodlands, are limited, linear, narrow and isolated from other habitats and are restricted to the Allegheny River slopes to the north, Negley Run slopes to the east and the ravine adjacent to Heth's Run in the south west corner of the Park. Disturbed areas such as edges and rights-of-way have allowed invasives to colonize. Invasive species identified are Japanese knotweed (*Falopsis japonica*), grapes (*Vitis* spp.) periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) and multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*).

Vegetation communities within Highland Park include woodland, shrubland, sparse vegetation and herbaceous and miscellaneous categories include bare ground, open water and improvements. Forests are restricted to the Allegheny River slopes, the Negley Run slopes and the ravine adjacent to Heth's Run. Shrublands occur as successional stages on the edges of and interspersed along woodland areas and to a lesser extent around the reservoirs. Herbaceous communities of low habitat value exist primarily as open lawn. Open water is represented by the reservoirs and Lake Carnegie.

Topography, Geology and Soils

The acreage of Highland Park is approximately 388 acres, comprised of upland terraces with steep side slope terrain and areas that are bisected by steep valleys with wooded slopes. The topography of the Park varies from low gradient upland areas (<5%) such as the reservoirs, to steep woodland slopes (> 40%) such as the Allegheny River and Negley Run slopes. Some localized slope conditions exceed 50%.

Highland Park has areas that are susceptible to landslides. Rock types, fracturing and the nature of layering, steep topography, depth and composition of soil cover and the permeability of soils all contribute to the susceptibility of an area to landslide conditions. Highland Park has areas along Negley Run, the Allegheny River and Heth's Run slopes that have slight to moderate, locally severe susceptibility to landslide conditions. There are recent landslide conditions along the Negley Run and Heth's Run slopes.

Much of the soil in Highland Park is Gilpin-Upshur complex and the Urban Land complex. The Gilpin series is formed in material that weathered from shale and sandstone. The Urban Land complex is comprised of land significantly modified by earth moving, or overlain by buildings and structure so that the natural soils cannot be identified. In select areas, excavation has removed the soil horizons and other areas fill has buried the soil horizons. Slope conditions range from steep to moderate, and from fairly stable well vegetated slopes to barren areas. Resource issues include eroded slope conditions resulting from lack of vegetation, utility maintenance and stormwater drainage networks.

Visual observation of existing slope conditions revealed many stable fairly well vegetated slopes with localized areas having thin soils and shallow rooting or denuded slopes with exposed roots. Negley Run slopes along the eastern edge of the Park are fairly well vegetated and stable. There is a localized area of erosion with gully formation at a storm drain out-fall along the Negley Run slopes just east of Lake Carnegie. There is also an area with little vegetation, debris dumping and slope erosion in the vicinity. Along the Allegheny River slopes, debris dumping is evident but overall slope conditions are fairly stable. There is an area along the utility right-of-way at the eastern edge of the slopes that has significant slope and channel erosion as well as tree loss due to an undermined storm drain out-fall that drains Lake Carnegie and the pool. The erosion has migrated upslope further undermining the pipe. The channel immediately downstream of the out-fall is eroding, and the flow through this intermittent channel is again piped approximately 350 feet downstream of the out-fall before discharging into the Allegheny River. There is another area of significant erosion and gully formation along the upslope side of Lake Carnegie that is due to utility maintenance practices and undermined storm drain pipes. Soil resource issues include localized erosion and gully formation due to vegetation removal and undermined storm drainage networks.

Hydrology

Water resources within Highland Park include ephemeral and intermittent channels, and reservoirs. This includes stable, unstable and significantly modified (piped and filled) channel sections with channel erosion related to stormwater drainage networks. This drainage is part of the Allegheny River watershed, which ultimately flows into the Ohio River. There are three main subwatershed areas; these are the Negley Run drainage, the Heth's Run drainage and direct drainage to the Allegheny River.



The natural drainage paths within Highland Park have been significantly altered. The Negley Run channel no longer exists as an open channel but is contained in underground pipes. These flow unseen on the eastern side of the Park and discharge into the Allegheny River. The upper reaches of Heth's Run does have some sections of open channel but contains little or no baseflow, while the downstream sections have been piped and filled over. The Negley Run slopes contain ephemeral, intermittent and perennial channels that are relatively stable. Portions of these channels have been piped under roadways. Seeps are evident throughout the slopes. At the base of the Negley Run slopes there is a recently constructed gravel infiltration trench apparently to reduce flooding on the adjacent roadway. The channel and baseflow of Heth's Run have likewise been significantly altered. Lake Carnegie receives piped inflow and has a riser structure for drainage.

Landscape

Developed, managed and maintained areas dominate Highland Park. The diversity of developed uses, highly fragmented habitats and a high degree of use and disturbance affects the health and distribution of natural communities. Park maintenance, right-of-way maintenance, mowing and clearing provide opportunities to address the slope stability and invasive species problems.

Wildlife Habitat

Park facilities and other uses (Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium, pool, etc.) collectively occupy large areas of potential habitat. The primary resource issue relates to the fragmentation and isolation of habitats. The highest value habitat type, interior forest, does not exist in Highland Park. Woodlands are primarily confined to the Allegheny River slopes and portions of the Negley Run slopes. The remainder of the woodlands are of relatively moderate habitat value, as are the widespread shrubland areas. The herbaceous community habitats are of relatively low value. Areas colonized by invasive species whether tree, shrub, vine or herbs provide little of no benefit to native species. The improvements provide no habitat value at all.

Existing Landscape Types

The current landscape types are shown at the right with dark green representing interior forest (of which there is none in Highland Park), light green is woodland, tan is park land, red is severely disturbed and the cross-hatched areas are corridors.

Park lands dominate and the woodlands vary in their health and quality. The woodlands occur mostly on the slopes that separate usable areas.



Proposed Landscape Types

This drawing depicts what Highland Park would look like if its ecological health were to be improved.

The areas of disturbance could be stabilized with native shrubs. This will control invasives, reduce erosion and provide habitat where none exists. Through proper woodland management the health of the woodlands can be dramatically improved. With planting and management, both Negley and Heth's Run can become improved corridors thus connecting the park to the Allegheny River.





Existing Trails Map

This drawing depicts the trails and recreation areas that currently exist within Highland Park. The red lines are trails, the dark green areas are active sport or recreation areas, the pink are playgrounds and the purple are picnic pavilions.

Trails and pathways focus mainly around the Reservoir and Reservoir Drive. Few, if any, trails connect the Reservoir to the pool, the Reservoir to the Pittsburgh Zoo or connect down to Washington Boulevard.

Active recreation areas occur near the pool, at the Farmhouse, along Stanton Avenue and the bicycle track on Washington Boulevard.

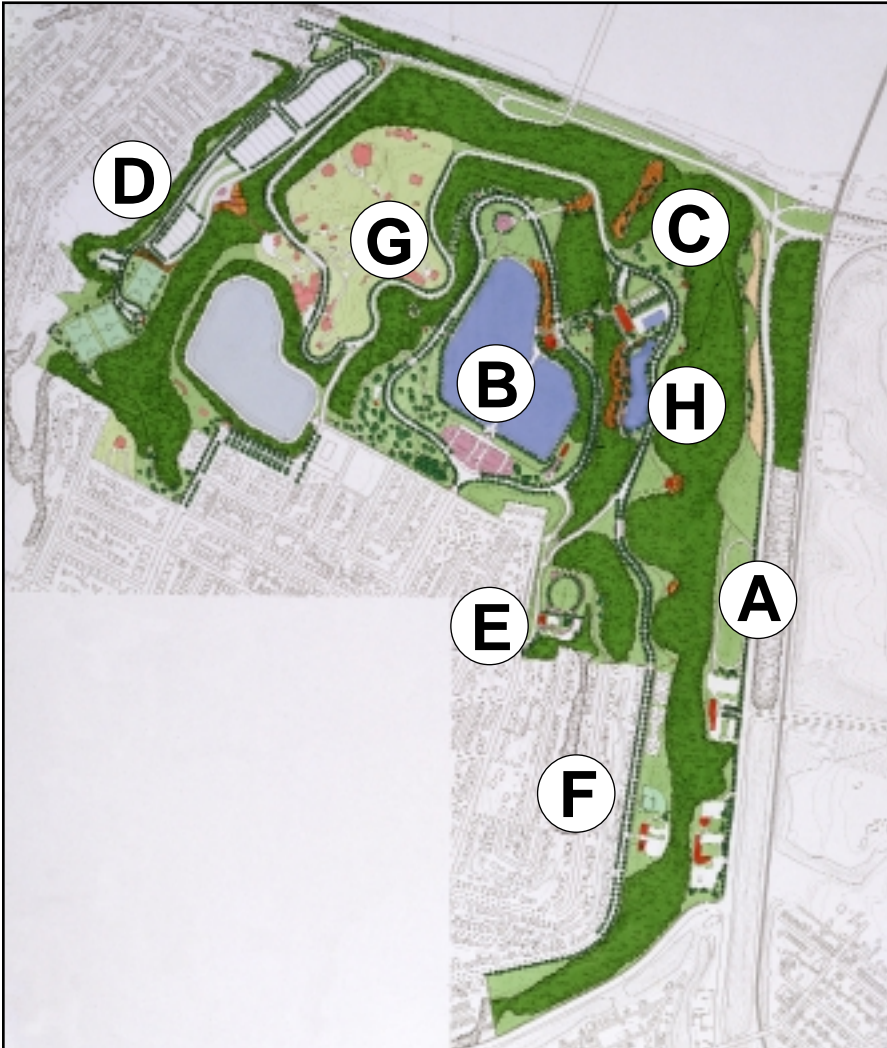


Proposed Trails Map

This drawing represents a trail network that utilizes existing trails, creates new trails and abandons select trails. The red indicates formal walkways (paved in a hard durable material such as concrete or stone), the solid blue depicts recreational trails (paved in softer materials such as limestone) and the dashed blue indicates woodland trails which are narrow enough for one person and unpaved.

This network takes full advantage of the natural features of Highland Park (Entry Garden, Reservoir, hillside trails...) and creates loops or circuits so trails do not dead-end. This is not meant to be a final design, but a proposal that can be used to generate discussion among trail users.

Highland Park: Renewal Projects



- A Washington Boulevard
- B Entry Gardens, Reservoir Promenade and Bigelow Overlook
- C Pool and Pool House Rehabilitation and New Overlook
- D Heth's Run and New Pittsburgh Zoo Entrance
- E Farm House Restoration
- F New Public Works Facility and Enhancements to Stanton Avenue
- G Enhanced Streetscapes and Improved Perimeter of the Pittsburgh Zoo
- H Lake Carnegie Restoration

Key Initiatives:

- Enhance connectivity between park spaces including the visual integration of the Pittsburgh Zoo into the rest of the park.
- Restore and define a sequence of landscapes through Highland Park from the main entrance at Highland Avenue to Carnegie Lake and the Pool as the central pedestrian promenade of the park.
- Unify the park by replanting the tree lines along drives and reinforcing the pedestrian connections.
- Build on the distinctive entry portals at Highland and Stanton Avenues and establish park entries to the Pittsburgh Zoo and Heth's Run on Butler Street and the intersection of One Wild Place (formerly Hill Road) and Butler Street
- Enhance visual connections to the River from within the park from the reservoir and the former dumping site near the Pool.
- Enhance physical connections to the River at Washington Boulevard and Butler Street.



Washington Boulevard Enhancements

The goal of improvements here is to incorporate this area back into the park by enhancing the edges with landscape treatments, improving the pedestrian circulation and reprogramming new uses for the area. Opportunities for riverfront connections and links to the Allegheny River Greenway should be studied in detail.

Specifics:

- Define this edge of the park with new landscape treatments, pathways and entry monuments. Establish a park-like image with uniform street tree plantings, the replanting of the woodland slopes and the introduction of meadows and shrubland areas to add lost habitats. (1)

- Study re-use of the building occupied by the Housing Authority Police Station for a recreational use. (2)

- Enhance the access and safety of the site by extending a bicycle trail down Negley Run, along Washington Boulevard, past the bicycle track and down to Allegheny River Boulevard. A future extension of the trail along Allegheny River Boulevard is possible. (3)

- Provide for connections to other areas of the park by developing new trails. Existing and historic trails should be studied for re-use. (4)

- The fields north of the bicycle track should be used for informal field sports. Parking should be confined to the existing lots. (5)



The appearance of Washington Boulevard could be greatly improved with the introduction of street trees and the installation of a bike trail that would link this area to the rest of the Park.



Entry Gardens, Reservoir, Promenade and Bigelow Overlook

Specifics:

The Entry Garden, which is a signature element in Highland Park should be restored, including the walkways, fountain and plantings to an historic condition. This pedestrian entry should be extended across the reservoir, down the slope around the new Filtration Building, through the pool building ending at a new great lawn overlooking the Allegheny River. This new Pedestrian Spine will connect the many levels of the park and link important uses. These connections should be created with site improvements and landscape plantings reminiscent of the past, with water as a theme that could take many forms.

- Restore the Entry Gardens as per the historic plan (Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy project). Take advantage of the infrastructure work being completed by the PWSA related to the new Filtration Plant to ensure the incorporation of new pedestrian circulation pathways. (1)

- Restore the pedestrian areas around the reservoir, the most prized area of the park, as a major promenade with furnishings of distinction. Connect the formal entry fountain, across the reflecting waters of the reservoir with a bridge, down the slope with a naturalistic watercourse, ending at a restored Pool and Poolhouse. Restoration of the reservoir promenade will occur in some fashion when the reservoir itself is rebuilt by



The Entry Garden - a wonderful pedestrian space and signature feature of Highland Park. Restoration efforts are beginning under the direction of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy and with input from the community.



The new Highland Park Reservoir Membrane Filtration Plant is currently being constructed by Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority. The building is a wonderful example of how to appropriately integrate historic building precedents into new construction. (Sketch courtesy of Urban Design Associates)

PWSA. This should be monitored closely so that detailing and furnishings (especially the railings) are designed to be compatible with the Park. (2)

- A contract should be let for design and construction of the Pedestrian Spine and watercourse. This should

strive to achieve the highest level of design aesthetics and should be of the highest priority to capitalize on the on-going work of PWSA. (3)

- Bigelow Overlook should be reclaimed from the automobile and a pedestrian-only space created that takes advantage of River views. (4)



Historically, the protective railing around the reservoir was quite ornate. Even a functional element, when detailed properly, can become a visual asset to the park.

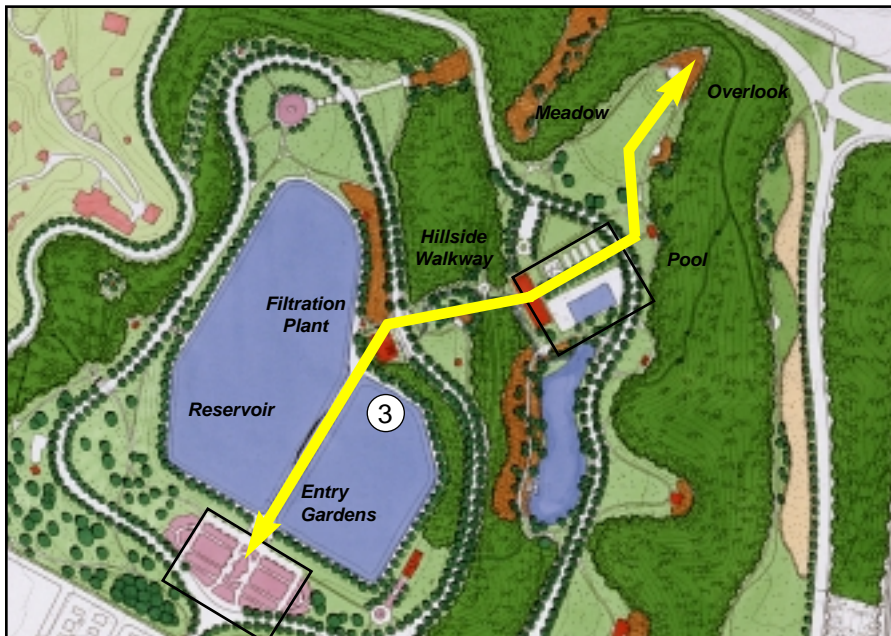


Diagram of Pedestrian Spine - creating a link between the levels of the park



The Reservoir Promenade - the walkways around and through the Reservoir - is the primary attraction for walkers and runners. Restoration should be of the highest quality and be compatible with the rest of the park. (Photograph courtesy of the Community Design Center of Pittsburgh)



Pool Rehabilitation, Meadow and Overlook

Restoration of the Pool Building and adjacent grounds should be a priority. The intention is to have the Pedestrian Spine (begun at the entry gardens) come through the building from the back to the front, as it once did. The Public Works maintenance area will be relocated from within the building, offering new possibilities for re-organizing the interior. The building, although not architecturally significant, could be enhanced with major exterior improvements to restore its original character. The pool exterior and adjacent landscape areas should be better programmed, organized around a new formal pedestrian space at the center.

Specifics:

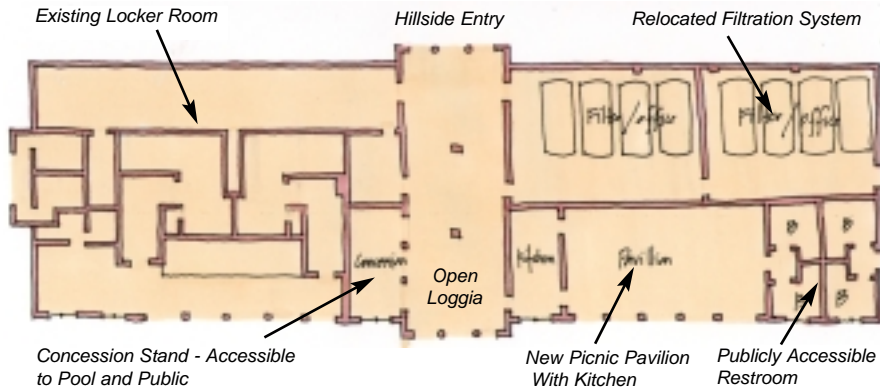
- Restore the Pool Building to house a new concession stand, eating terrace and central, open entry loggia which recalls the original plan where visitors entered from the rear of the building. Review proposed renovation plans for the Pool Building to ensure only the best materials be used for this important facility. Pool Building renovation should be a funding priority based on the Department of Public Works maintenance requirements and the need to replace the concession building (formerly adjacent to Lake Carnegie). (1)
- Restore the pool deck, perimeter fencing and landscape, including a formal pedestrian plaza and bosque of trees. Reorganize and reprogram the eastern portion of the grounds to contain compatible uses, such as



Lake Road should be reclaimed for the pedestrian with generous sidewalks and uniform street tree plantings.



Proposed Elevation - Rehabilitated to recall the original design intent.



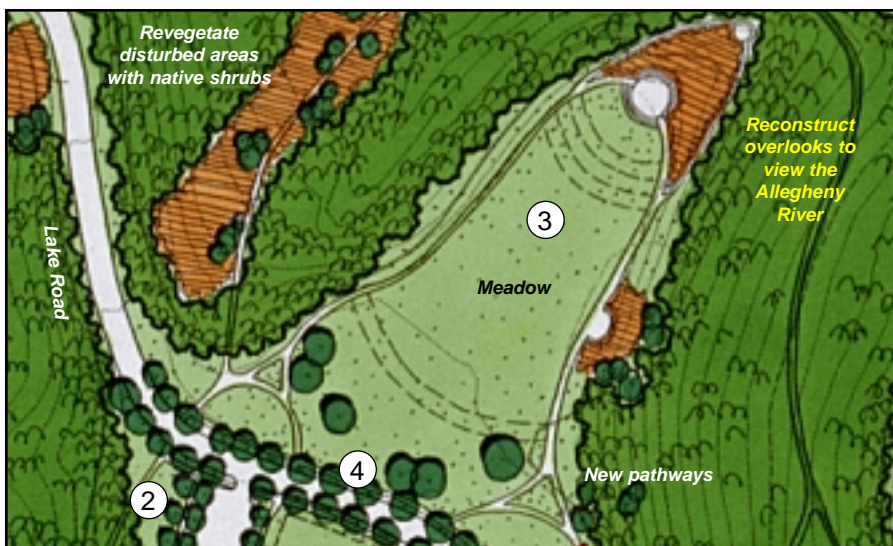
Historic Photo of Highland Park Poolhouse.

parking, playgrounds, walks and courts. (2)

- The former Public Works dump site should be reclaimed as a usable public space. The area should be re-graded as a grand meadow with level areas large enough for informal field sports. The pathway system (Pedestrian Spine) that began at the entry gardens will terminate here

taking advantage of a re-built overlook with wonderful views of the Allegheny River. In areas where invasive species have taken over, these species should be removed and replanted with native shrubs. (3)

- Lake Road should be made more pedestrian friendly with improved walkways and the re-introduction of street tree plantings. (4)





Heth's Run Fields and Pittsburgh Zoo Entrance

Revitalize this area of the park by changing it from an auto-oriented landscape to a grand entrance gateway into Heth's Run and the Pittsburgh Zoo.

Specifics:

- Add a pedestrian connection to the riverfront (and the lock and dam) underneath a reconstructed Heth's Run Bridge on Butler Street. This should be connected to a pedestrian walkway leading to the Pittsburgh Zoo and the Heth's Run fields. (1)

- Re-organize the entry road by combining it with the access road to the Public Works dump that will be removed. This will expand parking for the Pittsburgh Zoo while providing a new, tree-lined park drive to serve both the proposed recreational field complex in Heth's Run and the Pittsburgh Zoo. (2)

- Reconfigure the intersection at Butler Street to provide a new entrance for the Pittsburgh Zoo. Roadway and intersection alternatives need to be studied. The character of the gas station should also be studied as this is adjacent to a major park entry. (3)



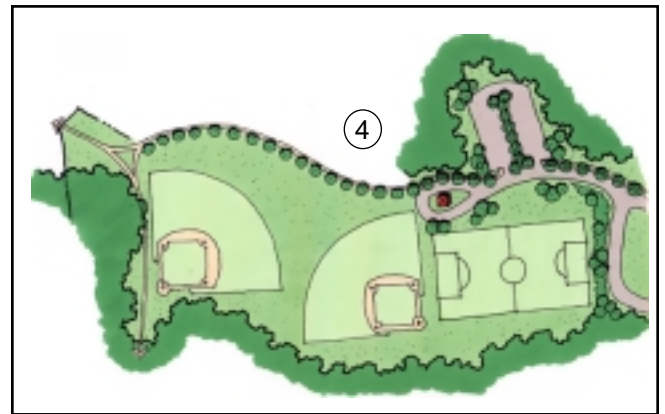
A new gas station (to replace this one) at the corner of Butler Street, is currently under construction. The character should be compatible with the rest of Highland Park and the Pittsburgh Zoo.



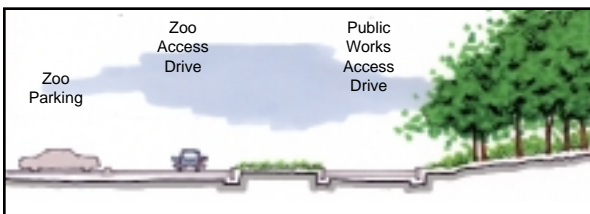
Option for fields in Heth's Run - a complex for one sport, in this case soccer

- Restore Heth's Run by reclaiming the old Public Works dump site and storage area into new playing fields. The Field Study being conducted by the City will determine which type of facility is most appropriate here. (4)

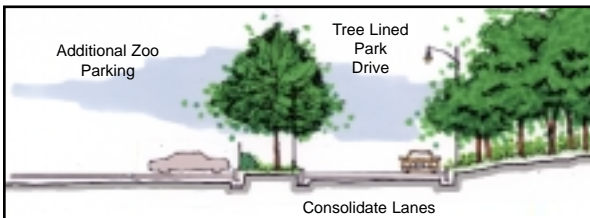
- Provide an accessible pedestrian trail from the King Estate on Negley Avenue, through Heth's Run and terminating at the Allegheny River. This will extend the vocabulary of elements to the Rivers edge and thus expand the Park. (5)



Another option for fields in Heth's Run - a complex that accommodates multiple sports, in this case baseball and soccer



Section of Existing Zoo Entry Drive



Section of Proposed Zoo Entry Drive - The service drive to the former Public Works facility can be combined with the access drive to the Pittsburgh Zoo, thus increasing the amount of space available for parking for the Pittsburgh Zoo and enhancing the arrival experience.



The Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium needs a new entry statement, one that celebrates the Zoo as a world class facility. (5)



Historic photograph of the Farm House.



The ball field adjacent to the Farm House could be relocated if space is required for the new programmed use and if a suitable alternative site can be found.

Farm House

This historic structure has recently suffered fire damage and its future needs to be determined through a community process. This is a resource for the park and a new, productive use should be found.

Specifics:

- Restoration of the Farm House as a community resource. A public dialogue concerning the future of Farm House has been initiated. Any alterations to the structure or grounds must be part of that dialogue. Although a final use has yet to be determined, consideration should be given to the possibility of relocating the baseball field. This would allow a multi-use lawn space to be developed to support programming of the building. (1)

- Remove a portion of Jackson Street within the Park and convert to a multi-use trail. Remove the maintenance building and re-organize the parking on site to accommodate the new use. (2)

- Re-configure park drive in front of Farm House to improve intersections and create dedicated pedestrian walks. (3)

- Un-earth the Stone Arch Bridge on Lake Drive and restore the drainage-way and woodland below it. (4)

- A Visitors Center could be developed adjacent to the Entry Gardens. The structure could be a glass house, recalling the historic structure that once stood here. Relocating the glass house from Homewood Cemetery or constructing a new facility are two options to be explored.



Stanton Avenue Enhancements

Provide a renewed park image along Stanton Avenue through the development of park landscape features that will reinforce the distinctive character of this park drive. The use areas should be unified through a consistent vocabulary of architectural and landscape elements.

Specifics:

- Relocate the Highland Park Maintenance Facility (from Heth's Run) to an area adjacent to the Forestry Building. The architectural character of this facility should compliment other structures in the Park. At its perimeter and where it meets the street, the facility should be screened with a rich palette of landscape elements. Include trees, walls, fences and hedges.

This will establish a new entry portal at this edge of the park; one of architectural significance. (1)

- Reclaim the old nursery area into an open lawn area for recreational use. It could accommodate either a youth softball or soccer field however, the Fields Study will determine what type of facility is needed. (2)

- Renovate the tennis courts with new fencing, shelters, restrooms and amenities. This should occur when the courts need resurfacing. (3)

- Reinforce the pedestrian realm with establishment of a uniform pattern of street trees and extend a pathway, parallel to Lake Drive, into the park. (4)



The Stanton Avenue entrance is one of the most distinctive features in the Park. Improvements should build upon this amenity.



As Lake Road winds through the Park, it reveals the service side of the Pittsburgh Zoo. This can be effectively screened and the pedestrian quality of the roadway restored.



One Wild Place (formerly Hill Road) does not look like a road through a park. It should be reclaimed as a true park drive and achieve a level of pedestrian amenity and safety equal to the other roads in Highland Park.

Enhancement of Zoo Edges and Park Drives

Devise a new standard for all Park drives that renews the lost tree lines that once graced the park. This new standard should place emphasis on the pedestrian as well as accommodate the automobile. In many areas, the quality of the roadways has been degraded by building too close to the edge as well as providing an insufficient amount of landscape buffering.

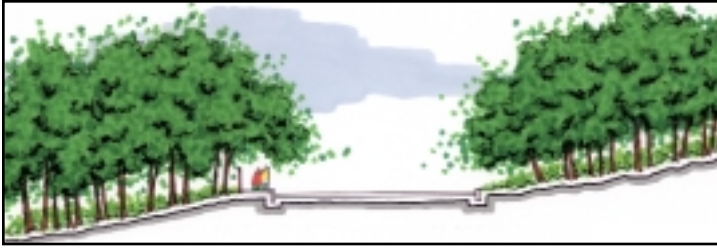
Specifics:

- Adhere to a new Park Drive Streetscape Standard that includes street trees, lighting, landscaping and walkways. (1)
- Enhance road edges in front of the Pittsburgh Zoo by reclaiming ground in order to relocate the fence and screen the buildings. Alternatives

include narrowing of the cart-way to allow proper buffering, or elimination of roadways in specific areas. (2)

- Establish new standards and design guidelines for all institutions within the Regional Parks to insure compatible edge treatments and integration. Improvements adjacent to the Pittsburgh Zoo need to be reviewed by the Zoo staff to ensure all applicable safety regulations are being adhered to.

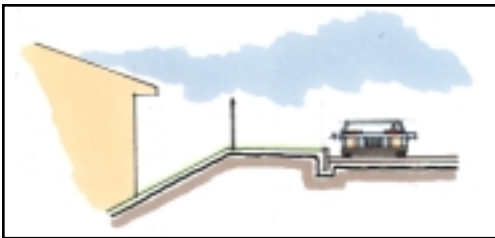
- Refurbish the pedestrian underpass along Reservoir Drive. This stone structure is unique to Highland Park and should be restored to its former glory. Pathways and drainage should be considered carefully, as well as detailing of the railing above and the planting on the side slopes. (3)



Existing cross-section of over-widened roadways.



Proposed cross-section reduces roadway width, creates pedestrian trails and provides amenities such as lighting, fencing and landscaping that are compatible with the Park. Acceptable amenities are outlined in the Appendix - Design Guidelines.



Existing cross-section of Lake Road at the rear of the Pittsburgh Zoo.

Much of the perimeter of the Pittsburgh Zoo, especially along Lake Road, is inadequately screened from view.



The stone pedestrian underpass along Reservoir Drive should be restored. Careful consideration should be given to the railing above and planting required to stabilize the steep side slopes.



Proposed cross-section depicting a renewed pedestrian area along Lake Road.

By simply introducing walkways, trees and landscaping, the edges of the Pittsburgh Zoo can be softened. This accommodates the pedestrian and makes Lake Road feel more like the other park drives.



Lake Carnegie



Once a recreational amenity, Lake Carnegie has become degraded. Potential exists to reclaim this feature and to once again reinforce the theme of water in Highland Park.

Formerly part of the reservoir water system, Lake Carnegie was once a recreational amenity but has now become an eyesore. This is a tremendous feature in the park with a long history of uses from boating to ice skating. It should be reclaimed as a significant park amenity.

Specifics:

- Undertake a comprehensive hydrologic study of the Lake. This should be done as part of the current work by PWSA at the reservoir. The study should address such things as water

quality, sources to and outfalls from the Lake as well as biological diversity. (1)

- Rebuild the trails and steps surrounding the lake. Revegetate eroding slopes, rebuild drainage infrastructure and re-establish native woodland species. (2)

- Remove the concrete edges and create a softer, naturalized edge. Introduce native aquatic species. Consider new recreational opportunities for the lake, such as paddle boating, fishing and model boating. (3)

Riverview Park Recommendations



Perceived Image:

- Wooded
- Rugged Topography
- Isolated and Disorienting
- Unknown
- Allegheny Observatory



The Big Idea:

Expand Woodland Preserve and Organize Uses

Riverview Park is defined by its intricate, steep hillsides. The renewal of the Park must acknowledge and capitalize on the unique topography. A great opportunity exists to establish an expanded natural area within the Park while accommodating new and existing uses in an organized fashion.



Historical Summary

The impetus for the creation of Riverview Park appears to have come largely from William M. Kennedy, Mayor of the City of Allegheny, on the north shore of the Allegheny River. Pittsburgh, across the river had commenced its parks system in 1889, when it had virtually no park land. Allegheny had enjoyed a fine urban park, Allegheny Commons since the late 1860s when the existing public common was converted to a highly ornamental amenity. Presumably stimulated by the rivalry between the two cities, the government and citizens of Allegheny undertook to find and acquire land that would give them a public recreation facility on a par with those being created in Pittsburgh.

In June of 1894, the city was able to acquire some 200 acres that had formed part of the farm belonging to Samuel Watson. A clue to the condition of this land at the time of acquisition can be inferred from early sources which recount that most of the farm was given over to cattle and grazing. Hence, it is a reasonable assumption that most of the terrain was in pasture, i.e., there were no extensive stands of trees or heavy shrubberies.

Although there was very little preparation of the land to serve as a park, the site was dedicated as Riverview Park on July 4, 1894, only a few days after its acquisition. In all probability, there were only two buildings in the Park at that early date. One being Watson's cabin, built early in the nineteenth century and subsequently converted into a picnic pavilion, second was the chapel which had been the Watson Presbyterian Church, which was moved into the Park before construction of the present Riverview Presbyterian Church in 1894 on the same site. As to the plan of the Park, the only indication of its early development is that it was traditionally the city engineer for Allegheny, Charles Ehlers, who laid out the system of roadways.

Stewart, in his history of the Park published in 1943, assures us that the development of the Park was slow. Before 1907, when Allegheny along with its park was annexed by Pittsburgh, there appears to have been little building. Although not part of the Park, but very much in the Park is the Allegheny Observatory, completed in 1900 for the present-day University of Pittsburgh. The structure's domes, its brilliant marble whiteness and its commanding location on the highest point of land in the area, assure its visibility from beyond the Park's boundaries and make of it the Park's dominating presence. Riverview Avenue was already in place by 1902, and while it does not align directly on the Observatory, the Avenue brings the visitor quickly within sight of this unexpected vision and seems to carry the visitor deep into the Park territory.

In 1902, the small zoo begun as early as 1896, faced the visitor at the foot of Observatory Hill just opposite the inner end of Riverview Avenue. The visitor would have already passed refreshment stands clustered at the left end of the Avenue, while behind and below those, far down the slope and arranged along one of the drives, the visitor would have found the aviary. An early but undated picture post card suggests that the zoo might have been combined with the aviary at a slightly later date. The only other documented features were two small structures, presumably shelters, in the southeast and northwest corners of the Park, the Chapel, the Bear Pit with real bears, and a small spring house that later gave way to a small

chain of ponds in the bottom of the valley below the Aviary. The site of the future swimming pool was filled with a large, apparently natural pond. The heavy stone retaining walls and stairs at the Riverview Avenue entrance are recorded in drawings of 1911-1912. A spate of building activity in 1913 appreciably increased the Park's attractions. The site of the former Bear Pit was converted to a picnic shelter, and another such structure was erected in the area toward the Park's northern boundary known as the Wissahickon Valley. A carrousel was installed, using the same design as that for Schenley Park's equivalent attraction. The carrousel building and the Bear Pit Lodge were designed by Thomas Scott who provided structures for a number of Pittsburgh parks in the years around the First World War.

The few known views of the Park in the first twenty or so years of its existence all depict an open, rather pastoral landscape, images that reinforce our understanding of the land's previous use. A photograph of the Chapel taken in 1915 shows the building sitting on a grassy site, a typical upland meadow open to the sky and distant horizon. Two distant views of the Observatory taken by the Detroit Publishing Company some time in the first decade of the twentieth century reveal the steep hill-sides well below the Observatory Hill to be open and grassy, only dotted with trees and totally unlike the jungle conditions of the present. Such early images carry strongly the sense of comfortable, simple, rustic recreation that, in the absence of extensive facilities, must have been the early Park's chief appeal.

By 1915, the Park had acquired tennis courts, baseball fields, and at least the beginning of a system of bridle trails. The date of the swimming pool is uncertain. It is generally put at 1935 (so Stewart tells us), yet it appears already in a plat book plan of 1924 with its identifying horseshoe shape. Probably also of the early 1920s was the conversion of one of the shelters built in 1913 into the Wissahickon Nature Museum. This facility seems to have been the most extensive and ambitious of its kind in Pittsburgh at the time and would have been the predecessor of the Nature Study installations in both Schenley and Frick Parks.

With the advent of Ralph Griswold as Parks Director and the availability of resources in the late 1930s, significant improvements were made at the Park. This campaign is best documented in the entrance area at the end of Riverview Avenue. The single run of rather heavy stone steps at the foot of Observatory Hill was replaced by the present arrangement of a raised stone trough of water, fed by small spouts issuing from the low retaining wall behind it, and flanked by curving stone stairs. To the right of the Riverview Avenue entrance, a small stone building was constructed to serve as a park office. Stone piers flanked the roadway at the end of the Avenue and provided mooring for hewn timber gates that presumably closed the Park at night. Low retaining walls around the park office building and a small wall drinking fountain completed this fine ensemble which appears in photographs taken in 1940 as then being under construction.

These structures were principally a new series of picnic pavilions and small recreational buildings, but also included several elegant shelters along Perrysville Avenue for riders waiting for the trolley. These were accompanied by conforming stone stairways that provide entrance to the Park below. All of these structures, including the entrance complex, exhibit the best design and construction qualities associated with WPA projects. As was the case with all the parks under the Griswold departmental administration, there were unrealized projects for Riverview. Chief of these was a large auditorium, Riverview Hall, that would have provided a community gathering place, presumably for films, meetings and occasional stage performances.

Current Ecological Conditions

Vegetation

Vegetation resources include extensive areas of woodlands interspersed with road networks and open areas around facilities such as the pool and the Observatory. The current vegetation within Riverview Park include Forest, Woodland, Shrubland, Herbaceous, and sparse vegetation. Other miscellaneous categories include Bare Ground, Open Water and Improvements. Resource issues include fragmented forest habitats and invasive species colonization. Invasive plants found include Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) and Japanese knotweed (*Falopia japonica*).

Topography, Geology and Soils

The overall acreage of Riverview Park is approximately 287 acres. The Park consists of a few upland terraces with steep side slope terrain and areas that are bisected by steep valleys with wooded slopes. The topography of this Park varies from relatively flat (<5%) upland terraces including the Observatory and Snyder's Point to very steep slope areas (> 40%) along Riverview Drive and in Valley Refuge. Geologic conditions indicate that Riverview Park has areas that are susceptible to landslides. Rock types, fracturing and natural layering, steep topography, depth and composition of soil cover and the permeability of soils all play a role in the susceptibility of an area to landslide conditions. Riverview Park has large slope areas rated as moderate to severe susceptibility to landslide conditions. There are areas of recent landslide occurrences along the Wissahickon slopes, Valley Refuge slopes and along Riverview Drive. Prehistoric landslides have been mapped along the Wissahickon slopes, Valley Refuge slopes and along Riverview Drive. Susceptible areas include outcrops of Pittsburgh Red Beds which are thick red clay covering weathered bedrock.

Soils in Riverview Park are primarily the Gilpin series which formed in material that weathered from shale and sandstone. Specifically, much of the soils are Gilpin-Upshur complex which is easily eroded and subject to landslides. Terrain through the majority of the park is steep slope with areas of rock outcrop. Resource issues include slope erosion due to road dissection, gully formation and erosion due to compromised storm drainage networks, erosion along over-compacted trails and erosion due to disturbance from utility right-of-way clearing.

Hydrology

Water resources within Riverview Park include ephemeral, intermittent and perennial channels as well as groundwater seeps and low lying wet areas. This would include stable, unstable and significantly modified (piped and filled) channel sections with erosion related to stormwater drainage pipes. This drainage is part of the Allegheny River watershed, which ultimately flows into the Ohio River. There are two subwatersheds which are the Wissahickon drainage and Valley Refuge drainage. The drainage paths in the Valley Refuge subwatershed have been significantly altered due to the construction of the ballfield. The Wissahickon subwatershed is relatively unaltered (through the Park) with the exception of storm drainage out-falls.

Water resource conditions include stable and unstable ephemeral, intermittent and perennial channels. The physical condition of the channels in the Wissahickon subwatershed are fairly stable; not showing significant signs of active channel erosion. There is channel erosion evident at a storm drain out-fall carrying flow from Riverview Drive. Seeps are evident throughout the Park. The physical condition of the channels in the Valley Refuge subwatershed are less stable due to undermined storm drainage structures. Channels along the slopes have areas of gully formation due to undermined storm drainage pipes and stormwater out-falls.

Landscape

There are significant need for improvements to the condition of the natural resources, especially the approach utility companies have taken regarding right-of-way maintenance, recent sanitary sewer manhole installation and the maintenance of storm drain networks. Site management issues include control of invasive species and the enhancement of woodland and meadows. Erosive slope management, channel instability and head cuts, areas of tree blow-downs and the operations of the Public Works facility all contribute to the condition of the Park resources we see today.

Wildlife Habitat

Overall habitat quality is good for contiguous wooded areas in much of the Park. High use areas and interfaces along developed edges have more soil disturbance, habitat fragmentation and invasive species colonization and therefore are lower in value. Interior forest habitats are of the highest relative value and include portions of the Wissahickon area and the Snyder's Point slopes. Other woodlands occurring throughout the Park have a comparatively moderate value. Shrubland habitats are of moderate value as are the native herbaceous components of the Snyder's Point meadow. Disturbed and maintained herbaceous areas are of low value as are the invasive species locations found throughout the Park. As with the other parks, the developed (improved) community characterization including roads, walkways, trails, buildings are of no habitat value, generally speaking.

Existing Landscape Types

The current landscape types are shown at the right with dark green representing interior forest, light green is woodland, tan is park land, red is severely disturbed and the cross-hatched areas are corridors.

Woodlands dominate but vary in their health and quality. Riverview does have substantial intact areas of woodlands.



Proposed Landscape Types

This drawing depicts what Riverview Park would look like if its ecological health were to be improved.

The areas of interior forest could be expanded, thus creating more habitat for species requiring it. Through proper woodland management and control of invasives the health of the large stands of woodlands can be dramatically improved. Waterways could be enhanced to improve connectivity and become corridors.





Existing Trails Map

This drawing depicts the trails and recreation areas that currently exist within Riverview Park. The red lines are trails, the dark green are recreation areas, the pink are playgrounds and the purple are pavilions.

Trails follow the contour of the land and traverse all areas of the Park. Due to the steep topography, there is little or no active recreation areas to speak of. Two of the three areas depicted are tennis courts and the ball field shown in Valley Refuge is in such poor condition that it is no longer permitted.



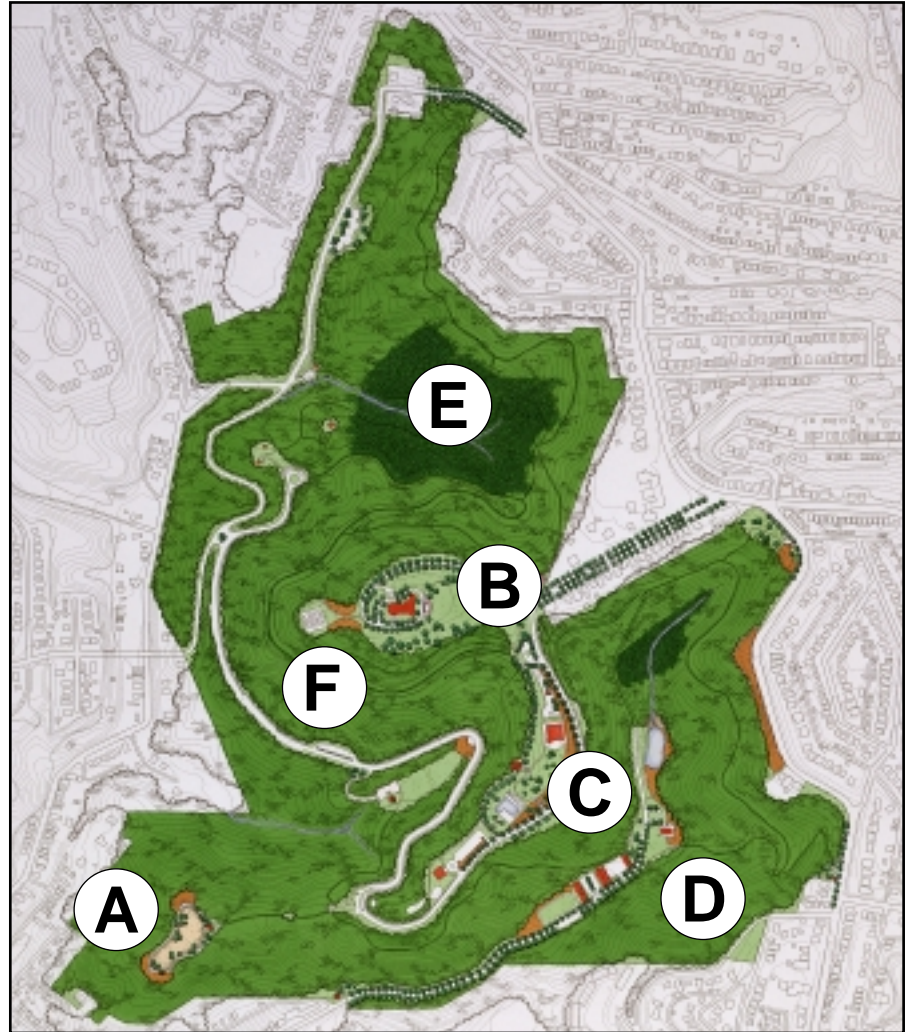
Proposed Trails Map

This drawing represents a trail network that utilizes existing trails, creates new trails and abandons select trails. The red indicates formal walkways (paved in a hard durable material such as concrete or stone), the solid blue depicts recreational trails (paved in softer materials such as limestone) and the dashed blue indicates woodland trails which are narrow enough for one person and unpaved.

This network takes full advantage of the natural features of Riverview Park (Chapel Ridge, Observatory Hill, Wissahickon Preserve, etc.) and creates loops or circuits so trails do not dead-end. This is not meant to be a final design, but a proposal that can be used to generate discussion among trail users.

Riverview Park: Renewal Projects

- A Snyder's Point
- B Observatory Hill
- C Chapel Ridge
- D Valley Refuge
- E Wissahickon Nature Preserve
- F Riverview Drive



Means to Attain the Big Idea

- Create a unified woodland preserve - the Wissahickon Nature Preserve - by decommissioning the northern section of Riverview Drive and converting it to a recreational trail.
- Concentrate neighborhood park facilities on Observatory Hill, the ridgetop and along Riverview Drive, which would be improved for two-way traffic with small pull-off parking areas that service the various facilities.
- Establish clear entry portals to the woodland preserve with associated trailheads and other facilities.
- Develop and maintain a clear trail network that is shared by multiple users and establishes a hierarchy for those users.
- Explore the opportunities that changes to the Allegheny Observatory may present to establish an attraction which could include a park office and community center.



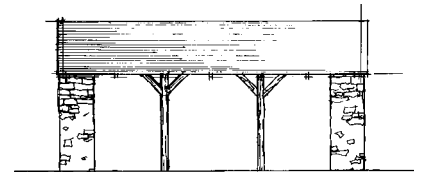
Snyder's Point

Snyder's Point is an extension of the ridge which contains the Pool and Chapel pavilion, although the two areas are separated by Riverview Drive. This has isolated Snyder's Point and it remains undeveloped. There exists a substantial level area that is in meadow, however, the majority of this area is steeply wooded slopes which should be incorporated into the Woodland Management Plan. Connections to the Wissahickon Nature Preserve can be made through the network of trails.

The end of the ridge provides good opportunities for informal picnic groves with the potential for long views of the rivers and the rest of the park, including the Observatory.

Specifics:

- Establish Snyder's Point as a rustic, woodland picnic area with two groves accessed via a walkway made of gravel or crushed stone that could be wide enough to serve as drive access. Clear signage and amenities are needed to make the entire area more inviting. (1)
- Develop trails that connect this area to Valley Refuge and to the Wissahickon Nature Preserve. (2)
- The Woodland Management Plan should address the control invasive species and the renewal of the forested areas. (3)
- The meadow area should remain and native species should be incorporated to increase the habitat value. (4)



New picnic pavilions at Snyder's Point should be developed in keeping with the architectural character of the Park (See the Design Guidelines section of the Appendix for more detailed information regarding pavilions).



Observatory Hill

This was historically the most intensively designed and developed portion of the park and served as the formal entrance. With the handsome Allegheny Observatory serving as a beacon in the park, these grounds should be restored as a landscape unit to re-establish Observatory Hill as the primary point of orientation for the park. It should be restored as a classic park landscape, with great attention paid to horticulture and design refinement.

Specifics:

- Restore Observatory Hill plantings, gardens, terrace, fountain, and drive to reestablish a strong entry experience and designed park landscape.(1)

- The current B.I.G. League office should be returned to its original intention as an office/visitor center. The historic gardens adjacent to the building should be restored as an outdoor component of the visitor center. Behind the visitor center, a trail connection would establish an entry into the Wissahickon Nature Preserve. (2)

- A trailhead and small parking area should be provided at the end of the loop road, near the playground. (3)

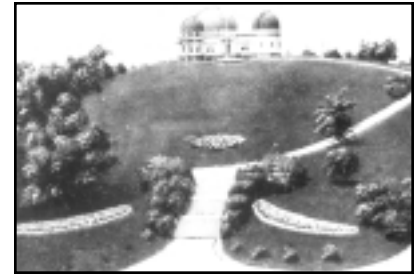
- Maintain the tennis courts in their current location. Amenities such as benches and drinking fountains should be added in the future when the courts are in need of re-surfacing. (4)



The walkways and landscaping around the Observatory have deteriorated and should be restored.



The Allegheny Observatory as photographed in June of 1937.



An early view of the Observatory grounds. The surrounding landscape was not as vegetated as it is today, thus the Observatory would have been even more prominent.



Current view of the Observatory grounds. The sloping lawn forms a simple foreground for the building.

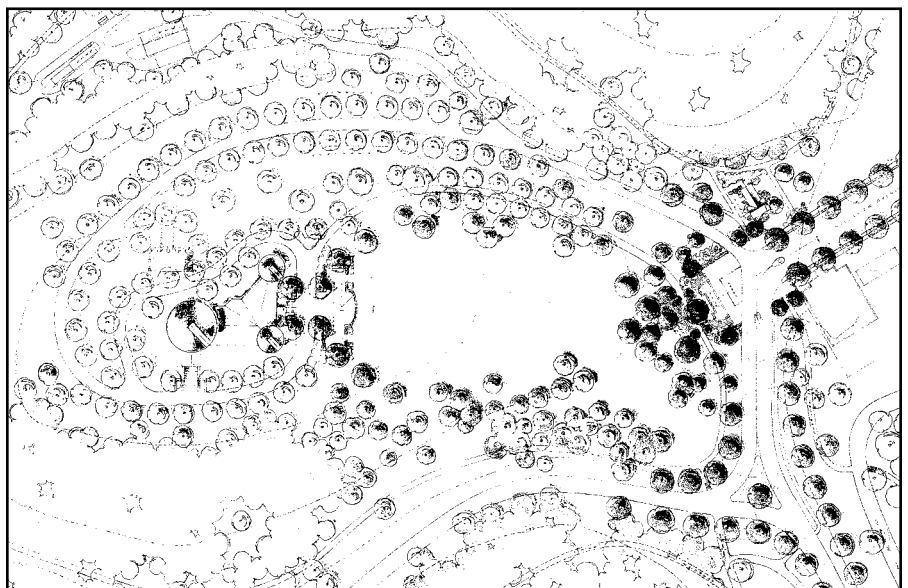
- The Allegheny Observatory is the most recognizable structure within Riverview Park. When its use as an observatory ends (which has been discussed) a new use needs to be identified so the structure can remain as a feature in the Park. A public dialogue (similar to what is occurring in Highland Park regarding the Farm House) should be initiated to solicit community input as to potential uses for the Observatory. Some possible considerations are:

A Community Center

For events such as town meetings, community events, as well as park offices and a place to house historic park records.

An Astronomical Museum

To celebrate to contributions the Allegheny Observatory has made during the early days of astronomical study.



Historic drawing depicting the landscape development of the Observatory grounds. The simplicity of the planting and site work produced an understated elegance that compliments the rugged topography and dense vegetation in Riverview.



Chapel Ridge

The major destination facilities are located along this ridge, the only buildable site in the park. Existing facilities include the playground, the Recreation Building, the Pool and the Chapel pavilion. It should continue to function in its current capacity, although some of the present facilities require further study to determine their current and long-term viability.

Specifics:

- Restore the Chapel as major picnic grove facility with a formalized parking lot between it and the pool. Remove the tennis court behind the Chapel and replace it with a small playground and informal lawn. (1)

- Improve the pedestrian network to interconnect the various building facilities, destination playground and trail system. (2)

- Architectural studies for the Recreation Building and the Pool should be carried out to determine needs for the facilities. Renovation options as well as removal should be considered. This study should compliment the public dialogue that will determine a new use for the Allegheny Observatory. (3)

- Study restoration of the Nature Center building to its former use with direct trail connections to Wissahickon Nature Preserve. It should serve as a trailhead and have amenities such as benches, drinking fountains, trash receptacles and bike racks. (4)



The area between the Chapel and the Pool is an unattractive and inefficient parking area.



The Chapel was once a beautifully ornate structure. Sadly, much of this detail has been lost. Restoration should include the structure as well as the surrounding landscape.



The former Nature Center (now a Public Works storage facility) should be renovated to once again serve as a Nature Center. Its prominent location along the ridge makes it an ideal trail-head and destination.

- Improve planting areas and add shrubs to steep slope areas adjacent to Riverview Drive. This will stabilize the bank, reduce the erosion and provide wildlife habitat. (5)
- Street trees, dedicated pedestrian paths and park roadway lighting should be installed along Riverview Drive, consistent with the Design Guidelines. (6)



The landscape beyond the Chapel continues past the tennis courts to a bluff above the hair-pin turn on Riverview Drive. Here an overlook could be developed that would begin an improved path system linking the Chapel to a renewed Snyders Point.



Valley Refuge

Valley Refuge is an isolated valley, due to the fact that Kilbuck Road no longer connects to Riverview Drive. The only way to access this area by vehicle is to leave the Park and re-enter along Grand Avenue. The existing features include a large pavilion, ball field and the Public Works facility. These are bounded by woodlands that slope up to Perrysville Avenue. Along Perrysville Avenue there are stone bus shelters and trail entries into the Park.

The major opportunities here are renovating a few key facilities located within a restored woodland, connected to the rest of the park through the trails system. The major initiative here needs to be the removal of the Public Works facility and restoration of the woodlands and hydrology.

Specifics:

- Remove the majority of the Public Works maintenance facility and create a much smaller facility strictly for the maintenance of the Park. (1)
- Use the remainder of the Public Works site as a public horse stable and riding ring facility with direct connections to the trail network. (2)
- Restore and improve the Valley Refuge shelter. (3)
- Re-establish a naturalistic pond and wetland on the site of the ball field. The ball field is no longer permitted because it is too small for regulation play. Restoring the natural hydrology of the Valley would create new wildlife habitat and correct a maintenance problem.(4)



Now a baseball field, the area above Valley Refuge shelter was once a pond. The field should be removed and the pond restored thus improving the hydrologic health of the valley.



This early postcard image illustrates the former condition of Valley Refuge. Although much of the area has been altered, the ecological health of the entire area can be reclaimed.

- Develop trails that connect the Valley Refuge to Snyder's Point and the Wissahickon Nature Preserve. These should be pedestrian trails as well as equestrian trails. (5)
- Restore the ecologic health of the entire Valley by removing the excessive drainage structures, reforesting slopes and controlling erosion. Implement a Woodland Management Plan to control invasive species and secure forest health. (6)
- Rebuild the connection to Riverview Drive, not as a public street but as a bike/pedestrian trail that could also accommodate service vehicles. (7)
- Restore the Perrysville Avenue bus shelters as trail entrances to the park. New signage and proper maintenance will announce these as important entries into the Park. (8)
- Adhere to a new park drive standard for the lower entry road which would include walkways, lighting and street trees. (9)



Valley Refuge shelter should be rehabilitated.



The bus shelters along Perrysville Avenue should be repaired and the trail connections restored.



Current cross-section of Riverview Drive. The crumbling roadway taxes limited maintenance resources.



Proposed cross-section of Riverview Drive converted to a multi-use trail. By decreasing the amount of pavement a maintenance problem is corrected and the forest canopy can be closed to promote woodland health.

Wissahickon Nature Preserve

The site of the former (now-lost) Wissahickon Nature Center, this woodland valley presents a great opportunity for the expansion of interior forest habitat. By removing a portion of Riverview Drive, a recreational destination and ecological preserve can be established. A coherent network of properly maintained trails can connect to all other park spaces and establish a series of circuit routes through the park.

Specifics:

- De-commission portion of Riverview Drive (from the playground to Watson's Cabin) and convert the roadbed to a multi-use trail that connects Watson's Cabin to Observatory Hill. (1)

- Implement a Woodland management plan to control invasive species and secure forest health. Restore hydrologic health of creek by removing excessive drainage structures, reforestation and erosion control. (2)

- Restore Watson's Cabin as a shelter or interpretive center and create a new trail head with associated amenities and signage. (3)

- Establish a new entrance with a shelter and parking at Mairdale Avenue with a trail network connecting to the Observatory Hill visitor center. (4)

- Examine the environmental condition of the dump site along Mairdale Avenue. Remediate and return it to woodland or park space if feasible.



This photo, from 1937, is the former Nature Center within the Wissahickon area. It was destroyed some years ago and overgrown rubble is only visible today. This function should be returned to the park, and the Wissahickon area exploited for environmental education.



A view from the former Nature Center into the Interior Forest of the Wissahickon area. Although there is erosion and invasive species colonization; the Wissahickon area is a large intact area of healthy woodland. With a few proactive measures, the area could be returned to its former condition and designated as the Wissahickon Nature Preserve.

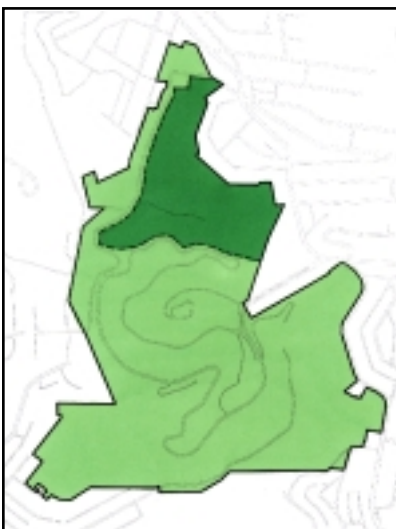


Diagram illustrating the existing Wissahickon area. The adjacent portion of Riverview Drive limits the effective size of the area and forms a barrier to wildlife movement.

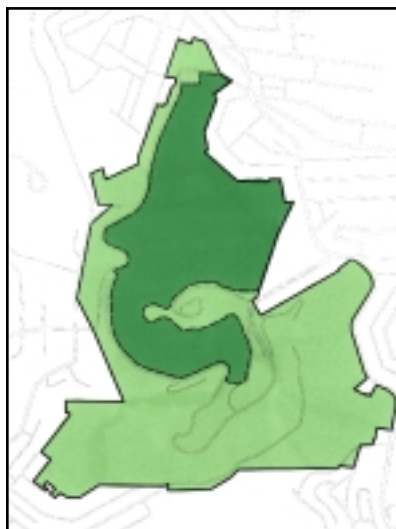


Diagram of an expanded Wissahickon area. If a portion of Riverview Drive is removed, a greater Wissahickon Preserve can be created that is uncompromised by roads. A trail network can traverse the Preserve, beginning at the former Nature Center (near the pool) which should be renovated to again serve this important park function (see page 90 - 91).



Portions of Riverview Drive are crumbling, probably due to inadequate drainage. Great effort and expense is required to maintain this road. This could be remedied by converting the road to a trail.



The Centennial Pavilion is an underused Park amenity. The Pavilion should be moved (to the far end of this space) closer to the access drive and the entire area re-graded to create a meadow for informal recreation.

Riverview Drive

With the possible removal of a section of the loop road through the Wissahickon Nature Preserve, the remaining road becomes important as the only vehicular route through the Park. Upgrades and increased maintenance will be required.

Specifics:

- Alter the road to accommodate two-way traffic. This requires studying the need to widen Riverview Drive at the hairpin turn and other narrow areas. Organize parking into small pull-offs and parking lots and remove haphazard roadside parking. Adhere to new Park Drive Streetscape Standards that would include street trees, lighting (service underground),

landscaping, pedestrian sidewalks and signage. (1)

- Create dedicated pedestrian paths from Riverview Drive down to the Davis Avenue Bridge. Provide signage and streetscape amenities consistent with all other park drives. (2)
- Centennial Shelter should be relocated (to the end of the access road) and a parking lot and trail connection created. Wooden stairs down from the road should be replaced with a pulloff/overlook. Regrade area and create a meadow for informal recreation or Park events. (3)
- Replant hillsides planting for aesthetics and erosion control. (4)



Currently, Riverview Drive is wider than necessary and parking is uncontrolled.



This proposed cross-section depicts two-way traffic (narrowing the road where possible) with clearly defined pedestrian paths and logically organized parking areas.

Schenley Park Recommendations



Perceived Image:

- Civic
- Pittsburgh's Central Park
- Vehicular
- Diverse
- Intensive Use / Over-Use



The Big Idea:

Pittsburgh's Civic Park

Schenley Park, the site of major institutions, destinations and activities, should remain and continue to serve as Pittsburgh's "Civic Park". Restoration efforts should reclaim the entire park as a classic design statement and reconnect the Park to the surrounding neighborhoods through an extensive pedestrian system.

Historical Summary

Schenley Park became a reality on October 30, 1889, when Mary Schenley gave 300 acres to the City for the creation of a proper city park. The gift was achieved through the attentive exertions of Pittsburgh's first Director of Public Works, Edward Manning Bigelow, who had the collaboration of Robert B. Carnahan, Mary Schenley's local attorney. Much of the area that became Schenley Park had already been considered for public use as early as 1869, and it is likely the concept to convert some part of the Schenley property to a public park had persisted since that time. The city was also given the option of buying additional land from Mrs. Schenley, and deeds of transfer indicate that an additional 100 hundred acres were acquired in March, 1891, and the 19 acres now the site of Schenley Plaza were purchased from her in June of the same year.

The annual reports of the Department of Public Works covering the 1890s recount a steady effort to provide circulation within the Park and to recast the terrain in ways that would be congenial to both the eye and the foot. Hence, roadways were installed and paved, substantial grading enhanced views, and created easy carriage ways. The City's first macadamized roadway is believed to have been put down in Schenley Park. The City tried to deal with serious problems of drainage and land slippage, and the first significant series of massive stone retaining walls were introduced. Since Bigelow's master plan for the entire parks system called for linking boulevards, easy routes into and out of the Park were essential and were facilitated by the construction of the three major bridges in its northwest section.

Completed in 1897 was a single-arch stone bridge across St. Pierre Ravine. This bridge served to link the outer end of Bigelow Boulevard (formerly Grant) to the spur of land extending southward from the rear elevation of Carnegie Institute. Known as the Bellefield Bridge, this span would have been the first herald of the traveler's approaching Schenley Park. The Bridge was buried at the time of the filling of the Ravine around 1911-1912, and the present Schenley Memorial Fountain rests more or less on the center of the lost bridge.

A new bridge carrying the park drive, known as Schenley Drive, across Junction Hollow opened in 1898, replacing an older frame structure that was reached by a roadway along the flank of Carnegie Institute. The new Schenley Bridge linked the entry area of the new park with its earliest and most distinguished institutional occupant, Phipps Conservatory, which previously opened in 1893. The third of these early major bridges, over Panther Hollow, was opened to traffic in 1897, and continued the vehicular way into the center and eastern portions of the Park. This allowed fairly direct access to the areas containing the band shell, the race track and the two vantage points of the Overlook and the Circle. It seems likely that Bigelow, who is credited with the Park's underlying design, had identified the various plateaus and uplands as sites of potential attractions. Even though many of them post date the construction of the basic road system, the traffic patterns were laid out accordingly. The attractions and buildings of the Park followed close behind once access was established.

In 1894, the electric fountain, a circular basin 120 feet in diameter, was inaugurated at the foot of Flag Staff Hill. An elaborate and unsightly arrangement of pipes permitted a variable display of jets of water while underwater lights with revolving, multicolored lenses created stunning nighttime performances. The following year saw the opening of the Casino, an indoor ice rink and dance pavilion, located on the spur of land between the Bellefield and Schenley Bridges, more or less on the site of the present Frick Fine Arts Building. Unfortunately the Casino was destroyed by fire the next year.

The band shell, designed by Rutan and Russell, was built in 1898 on a site roughly corresponding to that of the new playground near the Anderson Bridge. The shell and its large tract of bench seating were the first features to be built on the land reached by the Panther Hollow Bridge. Rutan and Russell were also the designers of several pavilions that appeared in the Park early in the century. Drawings by them from 1903 show an elegant arts and crafts building that is very likely the present Veterans Memorial Shelter, devoid of some of its more elaborate intended features. They were the architects for the former Nature Study Center just south of Phipps Conservatory. A building for which the date of 1910 is usually given, but which may be one of the three buildings mentioned as being under construction in 1902. The third shelter would have been in the eastern portion of the Park near the entrance to the system of bridle trails.

In 1907 came the Oval and race track; in 1908, the tufa bridges in Panther Hollow; in 1909, Panther Hollow Lake which was development of an already existing small body of water. Although not properly part of the Park, Forbes Field was a neighbor that heavily affected adjacent park land. Recreational amenities continued to appear with the opening of the horse stables in 1911, the construction of the Golf House in 1913 (the course had already been expanded to eighteen holes in 1899), the completion of the carrousel in 1913, and the creation of tennis courts east of the Oval in 1914. This rather long list of construction projects serves to indicate just how ambitious the concept was to provide all the city's residents with some agreeable park experience. The list also demonstrates just how far from Olmsted's notion of a park, as a refined but unsullied expression of nature, the Pittsburgh planners were willing to depart from in their concern for maximum usability.

Throughout that first quarter century of the Park's development there was a massive and sustained campaign of planting, since we are assured by Director Bigelow in his annual reports that the site was largely barren when it came into the City's keeping. In order to ensure that the horticultural aspect of the Park would be of appropriately high quality, Bigelow brought Landscape Architect William Falconer to Pittsburgh in 1896 to assume charge of the Park and of Phipps Conservatory. Falconer's early training at Kew was enriched through work in the American Northeast, chiefly in the Boston area, and he was familiar with such figures as Olmsted and Charles Sargent Sprague. Records of planting indicate several approaches to the filling of the Park with greenery. Several of the major roadways were lined with monocultures of trees in the characteristic fashion of the period. The steep hillsides were clothed in mass plantings, again usually monocultures.

More overtly ornamental plantings tended to be concentrated in the northeastern section of the Park. The area containing both the Carnegie Institute and Phipps Conservatory and was identified as the entrance to the larger Park. Shrubs of great

variety and perennials appeared frequently in planting records. We know that after his resignation in 1903, his successors deliberately chose not to continue this effort.

Except for the opening of the City's first public swimming pool in 1921, the main event in the Park during the period 1915-1935 was the development of Schenley Plaza. This event has a long and complicated history. The notion of some sort of significant entrance to the Park was likely inherent in Bigelow's earliest intentions. Only when suggested in the report issued in 1911 by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., Pittsburgh Main Thoroughfares and the Down Town District, the idea first emerged of filling in St. Pierre Ravine and using the site for a large formal plaza. A competition for a Memorial to Mary Schenley was held in 1911, and the permeated design of the present fountain and sculptural group was announced in 1913. The filling of the Ravine was already underway by that date, and it seems to have been an almost automatic decision to place the Memorial on the firm underpinnings of the now buried bridge.

In 1915, another competition was held, this time to determine what should be done with the filled site. The winning design by Horace W. Sellers and H. Bartol Register, incorporated the Schenley Memorial and gave it a formal setting of trimmed vegetation and incisive paving that was a distant echo of Olmsted's proposal. One of the design requirements was the provision of abundant parking, an omen for the Plaza's future in which it has increasingly served as a parking lot. The final arrangement of the landscape elements was the creation of James L. Greenleaf, sometime President of the American Society of Landscape Architects, who was brought in by the Garden Club of Allegheny County to finish this element of the Plaza design. The Memorial Fountain was dedicated in 1918, and the Plaza declared complete in 1923.

A second significant chapter in the growth and change of the Park began in the mid 1930's with the advent of Ralph Griswold as Parks Director, and the sudden availability of both labor and money provided by the economic recovery programs of the New Deal. Much of what was proposed during the period 1935-1945 was left on paper; unrealized amenities include an outdoor theatre for the lower end of Flag Staff Hill (1944), an amphitheater in the Park's southeast corner (ca. 1937-1938), and a larger swimming pool near the west end of the Oval (ca. 1937-1938).

Griswold did see to the creation of two of his designs near the Conservatory. On the northern slope below the flank of the Conservatory, he designed a large perennial garden which still exists although in a form somewhat altered around 1990. Across Schenley Drive from the Conservatory, Griswold installed a large azalea garden, almost all of which has disappeared.

The greatest change to the Park that occurred in this period was bringing the Boulevard of the Allies through the Park and linking South Oakland and the Downtown to Squirrel Hill. This necessitated the construction of a new bridge, named the Anderson Bridge. This replaced the old and relatively insignificant Wilmot Street Bridge that entered the Park near the Band Shell. There was considerable revising of the roadways linking the Conservatory area to the new Boulevard which cut a swath eastward below the hill carrying the Oval and tennis courts. In 1939, a cloverleaf was installed just beyond the outer end of Panther Hollow Bridge.

In the era after the Second World War, improvements were few and far between. In 1957, alterations were made to Panther Hollow Lake. The Boat House had become dilapidated and remodeling was proposed that would have largely destroyed the building's historic design character. Although no accurate date has come to light for the structure's demolition, it must have been removed during the 1970's. The Lake itself was given its present edge of stepped concrete coping, effectively destroying its historic character as a natural feature.

In 1958, the memorial to Christopher Columbus was placed in the small lily pool at the northern corner of the Conservatory's grounds. In 1965, the frontage of the Conservatory along Schenley Drive was enriched by rows of Japanese cherry trees which apparently lasted less than two decades. The tradition of providing desirable forms of recreation was briefly resumed in 1974 with the opening of the indoor ice skating rink in the Overlook area.

Current Ecological Conditions

Vegetation

Schenley Park has diverse but fragmented natural vegetation communities including some forested areas. Conditions include significant representation of open/grasses areas including the vicinity of Phipps Conservatory, Schenley Oval and the Schenley Park Golf Course. The forested areas include the woods along Panther Hollow and the southern and western periphery of the Park on the slopes above Junction Hollow. Schenley has potential for more extensive connections and greenway links which, if developed, could connect the Park through Junction Hollow to the Monongahela River.

Areas of Forest are represented in locations along the ravines and slopes that have been left in natural tree cover for quite some time. Woodlands and Shrublands are represented as either historically disturbed or intentionally left open areas which are reverting to forest in varying degrees. This also includes areas that have successional stage changes due to clearing or maintenance such as along roads or utility rights-of-way. Herbaceous communities generally occur where cyclic random cutting has occurred or natural forces such as repeated flooding maintain herbaceous plants. Sparse vegetation occurs where consolidated material (paving, etc.) or unconsolidated material (rubble, debris piles, etc.) have low density vegetated cover. Bare ground occurrences include paths, soil stockpiles and other disturbed areas. The two Open Water areas are Panther Hollow Lake and the Westinghouse Pond. Improvements occur throughout the Park in the form of roads, sidewalks, courts, buildings and other structures.

Topography, Geology and Soils

Schenley Park is approximately 417 acres and is comprised of upland terrace features with steep side slope terrain and areas that are bisected by steep valleys with wooded slopes. Schenley Oval and the Golf Course are the primary upland terrace features and are bisected by Panther Hollow. The western and southern periphery of the Park includes Junction Hollow's steep wooded slopes. The topography of this park varies from low gradient upland areas (<5%) to steep slopes exceeding 40 - 45%. Some such areas occur within Panther Hollow and the western slopes of the Park. Rock outcrops occur in the steep slope areas particularly on the northern slopes of Panther Hollow and above Junction Hollow.

Geologic conditions indicate that Schenley Park is susceptible to landslides. Rock types, fracturing and natural layering, steep topography, depth and composition of soil cover and the permeability of soils all play a role in the susceptibility of an area to landslide conditions. Schenley Park has areas through Panther Hollow and Junction Hollow slope with slight to moderate, locally severe susceptibility to landslide conditions. Prehistoric landslide conditions exist in the southwestern edge of the Park along Junction Hollow.

Most of the soils within Schenley Park are in the Gilpin-Upshur Complex and the Urban Land Complex. Soils in the Gilpin series formed in material that weathered from shale and sandstone. The Urban Land Complex is comprised of land significantly modified by earthmoving, or overlain by buildings and structures such that the natural soils cannot be identified. In certain areas, excavation has removed the soil horizons and other areas the soil horizons are buried under fill. Much of Schenley Oval and the interchange near the swimming pool are designated as Urban Land Complex, while the majority of the Park is of the Gilpin series.

Observations of existing slope conditions range from fairly stable well vegetated slopes, to slopes with thin soil conditions, little or no organic layer and shallow rooting, to completely denuded slopes with exposed roots. Panther Hollow has large areas of thin soils, little or no organic layer and shallow rooting as well as localized areas that are completely denuded. The slopes along the southern terminus of Serpentine Drive have areas of thin soils, exposed roots and suffer from mountain bike activity. A newly created over-widened trail traversing the southwestern Junction Hollow slopes exhibits severe erosion and raw vertical cuts into the steep slopes. It is located within a mapped area of prehistoric landslide conditions. Localized areas of erosion due to undermined storm drain networks occur along the southeastern slopes of Schenley Oval and at an out-fall along the Junction Hollow slopes. Rock outcroppings are evident throughout the Park and are composed of shale and sandstone.

Hydrology

Water resources within Schenley Park include ephemeral, intermittent and perennial channels, a pond, a lake, groundwater seeps and wetlands. This drainage is part of the Monongahela River watershed. There are four sub-watersheds within the Park which include Phipps Run, Panther Hollow tributary and Lake, direct drainage to Junction Hollow and the southern edge of the Park which drains through a valley

and ultimately the Monongahela River. Phipps Run and Panther Hollow confluence and drain into Panther Hollow Lake, which drains through Junction Hollow to the Monongahela River.

Drainage patterns to and within Schenley Park have been altered by impoundments along Phipps Run (Westinghouse Pond), Panther Hollow (Panther Hollow Lake) and a concrete overflow channel along the northern edge of Panther Hollow Lake and storm drainage conveyance networks. Increases in impervious surfaces within the watershed have resulted in an increase in the magnitude and frequency of surface runoff as well as a reduction in infiltration and groundwater recharge. Out-falls are found at the upstream limit of Phipps Run and the Panther Hollow tributary. Stormwater flows from the roadways directly into these channels and there are a few smaller out-fall structures within the Park. In addition, there is evidence of complex storm drain networks buried along slopes throughout the Park that are becoming undermined and causing erosion problems. It is likely that these drainage networks are also conveying groundwater and lowering the baseflow conditions in streams throughout the Park. There are two wetland areas, one is located at the confluence of Phipps Run and Panther Hollow tributary and the other is near the swimming pool. Groundwater seeps are evident just below the outfalls to Panther Hollow and Phipps Run tributaries. There are also seeps evident at the upstream limit of tributaries to the Panther Hollow tributary along the western edge of the hollow.

Observations of water resource conditions include fairly stable ephemeral channels along the western and southern edges of the Park with the exception of localized erosion along an ephemeral channel downslope of the stormwater out-fall. The Phipps Run channel is stable with an impoundment forming the Westinghouse Pond and flowing downstream to Panther Hollow Lake. The Panther Hollow tributary has areas of active channel adjustment including areas of channel incision and bank erosion, and areas of significant sediment accumulation. Baseflow disappears along the areas of sediment accumulation and resurfaces downstream.

Visual assessment of water quality and aquatic habitat are good along Phipps Run and the upstream limits of Panther Hollow tributary. Quality declines in the lower reaches of the Panther Hollow tributary due to channel instability, sediment accumulation and loss of baseflow. The concrete lined Panther Hollow Lake appears to have stagnant conditions with high organic inputs, low water clarity and little flushing activity. The remaining flow of Panther Hollow tributary is within a concrete channel that takes it beyond the borders of the Park.

Landscape

Clearing of areas within the Park for recreational open space has shaped the land cover (vegetation) we see today. This includes the turf areas, landscape plantings and amenities associated with vast areas of the Park including Schenley Plaza, Flagstaff Hill, Phipps Conservatory, the Athletic Oval, Serpentine Drives and the Golf Course.

The need for maintenance and infrastructure improvements has resulted in approaches to mowing, road and path repair, raking, utility right-of-way cutting and

drainage that dramatically influence the overall health of natural resources. These factors, in conjunction with disturbances such as mountain bike trails, desire paths, paths on erodable slopes and natural phenomenon such as wind storms and flooding contribute to the condition of the resources and the functional use of the Park.

Although Panther Hollow and the slopes above Junction Hollow are significant areas of habitat, they also have forest fragmentation, invasive species colonization, slope instability, erosion, drainage system failure and stream channel condition issues. Although there are degraded conditions, these two areas provide opportunities for resource enhancement and restoration that will have a significant impact on the overall health of the Park.

Wildlife Habitat

The highest overall quality of habitat within Schenley Park is the forested areas with closed tree canopy. As previously mentioned, these include portions of Panther Hollow and the Junction Hollow slopes. Relatively smaller and narrower woodlands provide moderate quality habitat which include the Phipps Run area, the slopes near the Oval, the area surrounding the Golf Course and the areas along Serpentine Drive. Shrubland occur along the interface between woodlands and improvements and as isolated patches of woodlands. These have low (particularly when invasives dominate) to moderate habitat value. Areas of mown turf, planting beds and individual trees are generally low habitat value. Areas where invasive species predominate provide low habitat value for both native plants and animals. Disturbed areas and developed areas with buildings, roads, parking, walkways and debris piles generally provide no value to wildlife with the exception of very opportunistic and/or urban-adapt wildlife.



Existing Landscape Types

The current landscape types are shown at the left with dark green representing interior forest (of which there are none in Schenley), light green is woodland, tan is park land, red is severely disturbed and the cross-hatched areas are corridors.

Park land dominates and woodlands vary in their health and quality. Schenley is the most heavily used Park and is therefore more developed and suffers from the most deterioration.



Proposed Landscape Types

This drawing depicts what Schenley Park would look like if its ecological health were to be improved.

An area of interior forest could be created in Panther Hollow, thus providing more habitat for those species who require it. Through proper woodland management and control of invasive species, the health of large stands of woodlands can be dramatically improved. Waterways could be enhanced to improve connectivity.

Existing Trails Map

This drawing depicts the trails and recreation areas that currently exist within Schenley Park. The red lines are trails, the dark green are destination athletic areas, the yellow are informal lawn areas, the purple are pavilions and the pink are playgrounds.

The trails focus mainly around the Oval and Panther Hollow with none connecting to the east neighborhoods. Many of the paths are unpaved and have been created, not planned.

Destination recreation areas are the Schenley Park Golf Course and The Athletic Oval.



Proposed Trails Map

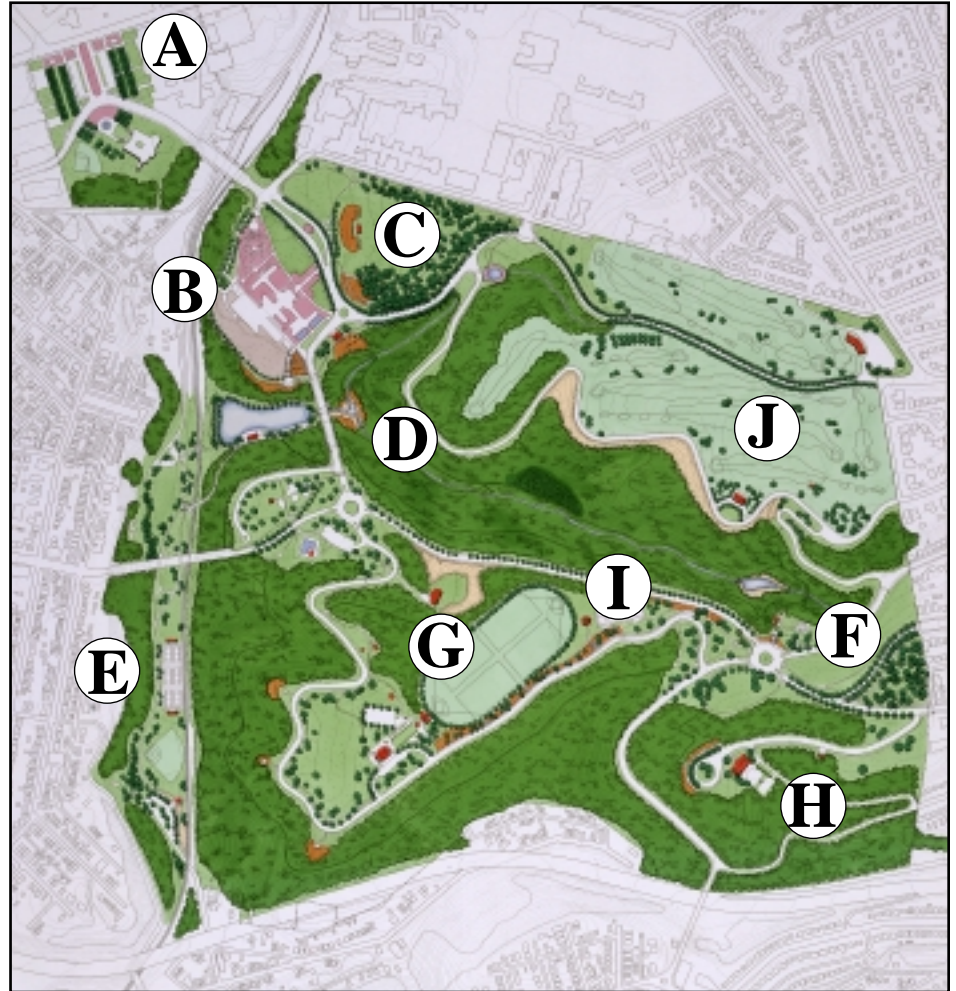
This drawing represents a trail network that utilizes existing trails, creates new trails and abandons select trails. The red indicates formal walkways (paved in a hard durable material such as concrete or stone), the solid blue depicts recreational trails (paved in softer materials such as limestone) and the dashed blue indicates woodland trails which are narrow enough for one person and unpaved.

This network takes full advantage of the natural features of Schenley Park (Panther Hollow, Junction Hollow, Flagstaff Hill...) and makes important connections to the surrounding neighborhoods. This is not meant to be a final design, but a proposal that can be used to generate discussion among trail users.



Schenley Park: Renewal Projects

- A Schenley Plaza
- B Phipps Conservatory
- C Flagstaff Hill
- D Panther Hollow
- E Junction Hollow
- F The East Entry
- G The Oval
- H Prospect Hill
- I Panther Hollow Drive
- J The Golf Course



Means to Attain the Big Idea

- Restore and expand the major destinations such as The Oval, Phipps Conservatory and the Schenley Park Golf Course.
- Rehabilitate Panther Hollow and Panther Hollow Lake as a woodland/watershed preserve and major destination amenity.
- Calm through traffic and de-emphasize the use of the Park as a parking resource for adjacent neighborhoods.
- Establish new trails to create an interconnected pedestrian system throughout the park that links adjacent neighborhoods to the entrances, especially to the east.
- Reclaim Schenley Plaza as a major civic landscape and formal entrance to the Park.
- Renew the historic role of horticulture as a significant and integral part of the visual character of the Park.



Schenley Plaza

Schenley Plaza was once the grand entrance to Schenley Park from Oakland. A formalized auto court centered on Schenley Fountain and was balanced on either side by four rows of London Plane trees. Built at a time when automobiles were not as common, Schenley Plaza was an elegant statement of entry, even though it was paved to accommodate traffic.

Due to the increasing demand for parking over the years, Schenley Plaza has been completely taken over by the car. Its pedestrian and park qualities have been lost.

This major civic space should be reclaimed from the automobile. It should be redesigned as a public amenity for Oakland and as the signature entrance to Schenley Park it was intended to be.

Specifics:

- Create a new two-way street in the center of the space on axis with Schenley fountain, not unlike the original design. The median could contain park elements such as fountains or formal gardens.
- Add small, short-term metered parking lots on either side of the central road. These should be hidden behind landscape hedges.
- Remove the section of Bigelow Boulevard in front of Hillman Library and Forbes Quad and replace it with a public plaza. Included would be new tree bosques, seating and other amenities to reflect the front of the Carnegie Library.
- At the end of each of the double rows of trees should be signage and public gardens that announce this as a public space and park entry.



This early aerial photograph clearly illustrates the formal arrangement of Schenley Plaza. Schenley Fountain was on axis with the center green and terminated this grand space.



Prior to constructing Schenley Plaza, the entrance road wound past Forbes Field (under construction on the right) and over the Bellefield Bridge that spanned St. Pierre Ravine. The bridge was buried when the ravine was filled in.



Once the focus of Schenley Plaza, Schenley Fountain has fallen into disrepair.



Phipps Conservatory

Phipps Conservatory, a private institution within the Park, is currently studying expansion opportunities. Phipps is a unique attraction, dating from the earliest years of the Park, and is one of the signature destinations in Schenley Park.

Specifics:

- Remove the Public Works facility from behind Phipps Conservatory to allow for expansion.(1)
- Formalize public access to the Panther Hollow Bridle Trail at the back of any new addition. Provide continuous pedestrian and bicycle access from the Schenley Park Bridge to trail entrances under the Panther Hollow Bridge. Provide overlooks that emphasize views of Panther Hollow Lake. Extend park

character around new additions through park standard lights and other furnishings, and landscaping, and ornamental fencing and walls. (2)

- Require that the facade of any new building or structure be compatible with the park landscape that surrounds it. (3)
- Renovate the former Nature Center as the new Schenley Park Visitor Center (underway). Provide visitor services including accessible restrooms, maps, park information, snacks, drinks and meeting rooms.(4)
- Restore existing stairs and walks into Panther Hollow. (5)
- Long term, consider an incline into Panther Hollow Lake.



At the top of the slope from Panther Hollow (the rear of the Phipps Conservatory expansion), continuous public access should be maintained. For security, this pathway could be separated from Phipps Conservatory by a slope, fence, wall and/or landscape buffer.



Flagstaff Hill

Flagstaff Hill should reclaim its historical role as one of the areas in the Park of the highest horticultural development and refinement. This practice is already well served by the Phipps Conservatory and its influence should be expanded through increased ornamental planting and maintenance across the street at Flagstaff Hill.

Specifics:

- Maintain the use of Flagstaff Hill for informal recreation, but restore the garden theater through renovation of the stage and additional plantings. (1)
- Restore the Azalea Garden along Schenley Drive. (2)

- Calm traffic at the intersection of Schenley Drive and Panther Hollow Bridge with an ornamentally treated roundabout. (3)
- Replace parking area around Bigelow statue with a landscaped island. Convert parking along both sides of Schenley Drive to two-hour parking for Phipps Conservatory and Visitor Center users. (4)
- Add ornamental plantings and new park furnishings (benches, waste receptacles, paths and lighting) to Westinghouse Pond. (5)
- Create a new gateway entrance to Carnegie Mellon University. Provide cross-walks, walls signage and new pathways to organize this heavily used entrance. (6)



Historically, the intersection of Schenley Drive and Panther Hollow Drive was wider and faster than it needed to be. Traffic could be calmed and speeds reduced with a roundabout.



Flagstaff Hill has always been used for relaxing, sunbathing, reading and summer movies.



Panther Hollow

Panther Hollow is the ravine that bisects Schenley Park and also its most dramatic feature. Even though it is the primary drainage channel within the Park, Panther Hollow is an untapped resource and to some, virtually unknown. It provides one of the most beautiful rustic settings as well as a significant natural resource as a woodland and watershed preserve.

It should be restored to achieve greater ecological health, accessibility (both visual and physical) and recreational potential. The management strategies for the Hollow woodlands and trails should encompass the wooded slopes below the East Circuit Drive.

Specifics:

- Increase access to and knowledge of Panther Hollow by establishing three major entrances: Phipps Conservatory / Visitor Center, the intersection of Bartlett and Panther Hollow Drive (Boulevard of the Allies) and from Junction Hollow. Each of these entry points should be designed to gain maximum visibility through the use of signage and landscape elements. (1)
- Formalize secondary entry points from Anderson Playground as well as Westinghouse Pond and along West Circuit Drive. (2)
- Implement a woodland management plan. Where possible, increase visual penetration into the Hollow from the surrounding roads and walkways. (3)
- Restore bridges and walks in Panther Hollow. Reconstruct rustic bridges, culverts and steps. (4)



Restoring the pedestrian infrastructure within Panther Hollow, especially the rustic bridges, should be of the highest priority.



Historic view of Panther Hollow Lake. The Lake supported many activities, including boating. The former boat house is the structure to the right.



The concrete edge should be removed in favor of a softer, naturalistic edge treatment.

- Develop a hydrologic plan for the Panther Hollow Watershed as to achieve the following goals:

- a) Restore baseflow in the creeks to maintain perennial streams
- b) Improve water quality and maintain source flows to wetlands and Panther Hollow Lake
- c) Improve visual quality. Elements of the plan should include removal of excessive drainage structures, reforestation and erosion control.

- Renovate Panther Hollow Lake. Remove the concrete edge and channel to achieve a more naturalistic character. Reinforce the new “soft edge” treatment with native aquatic plant species. (5)

- Study the viability of rebuilding the boathouse for recreational boating. (6)

- Study the potential of establishing a Native Plant Garden and/or Arboretum in conjunction with the expansion plans proposed for Phipps Conservatory; in the area around Panther Hollow Lake. Any garden or arboretum in this area must be developed without fences or enclosures. It must be a public facility that is an integrated part of the surrounding Park landscape. (7)

- The unusable trail (recently constructed from the Bridle Path down to Saline Street) should be reclaimed as part of the woodlands. Regrading should be undertaken to minimize erosion and the entire area should be reforested. Efforts should begin soon, before more problems arise, and should be in-keeping with the Woodland Management Plan. (8)



The pedestrian infrastructure has undergone many changes over the years - these rustic wooden bridges were replaced with the stone bridges that still exist today.



Junction Hollow

A recent addition to Schenley Park, this area offers two key opportunities: the ability to create a direct connection to the growing riverfront trails network, and additional land area for sports fields.

Specifics:

- Construct new soccer fields for youth sports programs (underway). Study the long-term feasibility of relocating adult oriented sports facilities here (tennis, adult baseball, etc.) as this area is isolated from the rest of the Park and has limited access and parking. (1)
- Reconstruct the Bridle Trail along the slopes below The Oval. Provide amenities and restore bridges. (2)

- Develop a connection, via a grade separated railroad crossing from the new Eliza Furnace trail to the Panther Hollow Lake or adjacent bridle trails. Options include an underpass or a bridge. Careful consideration should be given to how this connection interfaces with Panther Hollow Lake, the impacts should be minimized. (3)
- Develop a parking area and trail head at the upper end of Boundary Street. Provide visitor amenities. (4)
- Develop an overall landscape plan for Junction Hollow. The new athletic fields cover only a portion of the Hollow. This is a new section of Schenley Park and a destination in itself, it should be developed as such. (5)



Construction is currently underway for new athletic facilities within Junction Hollow.



The East Entry

Although the closest entrance for many densely populated neighborhoods, this part of the Park is largely disconnected for pedestrians. A major effort needs to be made to calm traffic and expand the pedestrian trail network.

Specifics:

- Redesign the intersection of The Boulevard of the Allies and Bartlett Street to increase pedestrian and vehicular safety and to establish a visual entry point for the Park. Further, detailed traffic analysis is required, but preliminary design studies indicate that a roundabout is feasible given the traffic volumes and is preferred over a signalized intersection. The intersection should be reconfigured as a pedestrian node,

accommodating paths from all sections of the Park. It should be designed to serve as a significant entrance to Panther Hollow with a new picnic grove, restroom facility, steps, paths and planting. (1)

- Connect the new roundabout to the pedestrian network at The Oval, possibly including an underpass under Panther Hollow Drive. Traffic congestion can be alleviated and pedestrian safety improved by relocating the intersection of Overlook Drive and Greenfield Avenue further away from the new roundabout. (2)

- Add pedestrian paths that follow strong desire lines from Bartlett, Beacon and Hobart Streets back towards the neighborhoods. (3)



A re-designed intersection would create a grand park space that calms traffic and makes pedestrian crossing safer. A revitalized entry to Panther Hollow will need signage and trail head amenities.



The Oval, or Athletic Oval as it was formerly known, has accommodated many activities over the years including a horse track and stables. It has become the premier athletic destination in any of the Regional Parks due to its size and proximity to neighborhoods.



The tennis courts at The Oval were recently re-surfaced. Long term consideration should be given to relocating the courts to create more space at The Oval for field sports.

The Oval

The Oval contains many of the destination recreational facilities within Schenley Park. These included picnic groves, the Skating Rink, sports fields, tennis courts and a running track. Vehicular access to this area is particularly important since these destinations are distant from neighborhoods and transit lines. These destination uses need to be improved and expanded.

Specifics:

- Convert Overlook Drive from one-way to two-way traffic and provide parallel parking on both sides of the roadway. Add dedicated pedestrian paths along Overlook Drive between Camp David Lawrence and the Skating Rink. (1)

- Study the location of a Public Works Maintenance facility along the service drive to the Skating Rink.(2)

- Develop the terrace above the Skating Rink building to create a city overlook. This new destination should also accommodate public restrooms, an entry drive (with handicapped parking) and an overlook terrace. Link this facility to The Oval with a pedestrian bridge (spanning the Skating Rink entry path) that connects to a new restroom/concession building to serve athletes. (3)

The possibility exists to construct a cafe/restaurant near the new overlook terrace. This will require further study to determine potential partners as well as the generation of revenue and the visual impact to the Park.

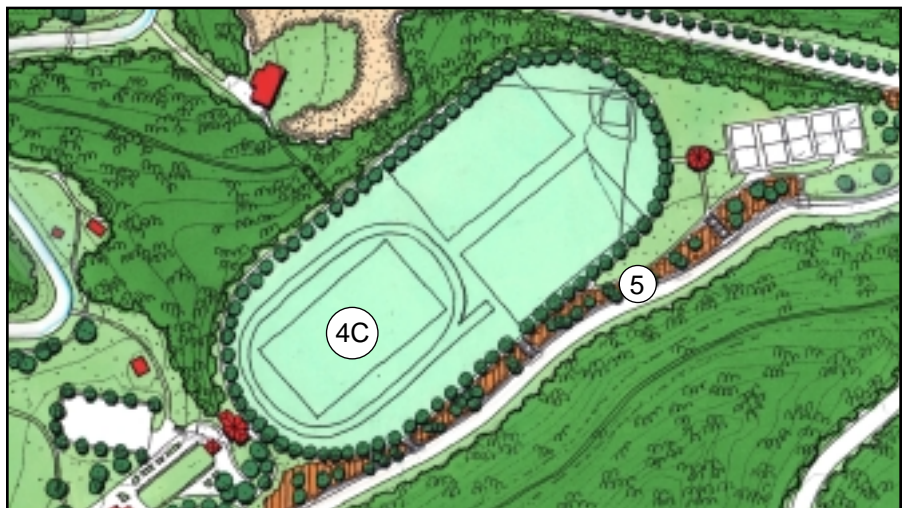
• Many possibilities exist for the re-design of the athletic facilities at The Oval. The plan on the previous page depicts four full-size soccer fields (or two baseball fields) bounded by a perimeter running track that recalls the shape of the historic horse track. The second option illustrates retaining the tennis courts in their present location and developing new fields around them. The third option illustrates providing a track & field facility as well as two regulation soccer fields (or one baseball field) bounded by a perimeter running track, again in the shape of the historic horse track. Options 1 and 3 are long term considerations as the existing tennis courts must be relocated, possibly to Junction Hollow. The final decision as to the type of fields will be based upon the Field Survey which will be conducted by the City. (4A, 4B, 4C)



The Oval accommodates many sports including tennis, baseball and soccer. The growth of organized youth sports has placed tremendous demand on all City fields.



Second option for The Oval - current tennis courts remain and space is maximized with a new field layout.



Third option for The Oval - the perimeter running track recalls the shape of the historic horse track and encloses a track & field facility as well as two soccer fields (or one baseball field).

• Increase pedestrian safety along Overlook Drive by adding a continuous pedestrian sidewalk with lighting and occasional stair entries up to The Oval. The steep lawn slope should be revegetated with a mixture of native shrubs and groundcovers, thus increasing wildlife habitat and decreasing maintenance. (5)



Current cross-section of Overlook Drive and slope adjacent to The Oval. Parking is continuous along the street, access up the slope is limited and maintaining the slope is difficult.



Proposed cross-section showing a new pedestrian walk along Overlook Drive, with new lighting and access steps up to The Oval. Parking should be organized around curb bump-outs at each of the steps. In this way, cars will not block visual or physical access to the steps.



Prospect Hill

Formerly the site of a nursery, this area is currently an underutilized section of the Park. Given its potential, it should be reclaimed as a significant park space.

Specifics:

- Study the possibility of relocating a smaller, park-specific Public Works maintenance facility here. The upper floors could contain offices and public restrooms, while the lower floors would contain a garage, workshop and equipment storage. Parking and outdoor storage should occur at the rear of the building and be screened from view with landscaping. The old service road could be re-opened for service vehicles only. (1)
- The turn-around should be formalized into a destination overlook to take advantage of the views. Park furnishings such as benches, lighting and trash receptacles should complement the rest of the Park. (2)
- The existing pavilion should be upgraded and walks constructed that tie into the pedestrian system. (3)



Panther Hollow Drive

Panther Hollow Drive (or the extension at the Boulevard of the Allies) is the primary East/West thoroughfare through Schenley Park. Acting as the southern boundary of Panther Hollow, this Drive links major destinations. The character of the roadway should be that of a true park drive (not just a commuter route) that takes full advantage of the park landscape it winds through. This should be another scenic park drive, not unlike West Circuit Drive.

Specifics:

- Expand roadway along Anderson Playground to accommodate more short-term parking. This should serve as the primary parking facility for the playground and the pool.

Its use as a commuter parking lot can be reduced through the introduction of short-term parking meters. Add year-round concession stand and restroom facilities to Anderson Playground. (1)

- Study the possibility of replacing the interchange located at the intersection of the Panther Hollow Drive and Overlook Drive with a new roundabout, similar to the one proposed for the intersection of the Panther Hollow Drive and Bartlett Street. A roundabout will allow for two-way traffic on Overlook Drive. (2)

- Adhere to a new Park Drive Streetscape standard that includes street trees, lighting and walkways. (3)



The Schenley Park Golf Course



Schenley Park Golf Course Club House.

Established in 1904, Schenley Park Golf Course is one of the oldest recreational facilities in the Park. It continues to serve a large number of users, in particular, the elderly and youth groups. Key issues include the accommodation of pedestrians, cyclists and other recreational users along Schenley Drive.

Specifics:

- Alter Schenley Drive as it traverses through the Golf Course to improve pedestrian and vehicular safety. Provide a dedicated pedestrian path along one side of Schenley Drive that is protected behind earth mounds, fences and landscaping. (1)

- Work closely with Golf Course staff so that pedestrian enhancements do not compromise the use of the Course.

- To improve the playability of the Golf Course and increase its revenue potential, a Management Study should be conducted.

- A traffic study should also be undertaken to improve the safety of the intersection of Schenley Drive and Forbes Avenue. (2)

- The Neill Log House, an historic landmark, sits within the grounds of the Golf Course. The chain link fence and deteriorating steps should be replaced with more appropriate elements and period landscaping. (3)



The landscape around the Neill Log House does not provide an appropriate setting for this historic structure, therefore it should be renovated.

Schenley Drive and the edges of the Golf Course should be landscaped to buffer pedestrians.



Current cross-section of Schenley Drive - wide bike lanes on either side of the road, golf holes drive across the road and there is no secure place for pedestrians



Proposed cross-section of Schenley Drive - narrow the road yet still allow for one-way bike lanes on each side, create a dedicated pedestrian path in the newfound space, mound and plant to protect pedestrians

Making a Difference:

The Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy has a pilot project in each Regional Park either completed or underway.



Restored Reynolds Street Gatehouse in Frick Park



Restoration of the Entry Gardens in Highland Park



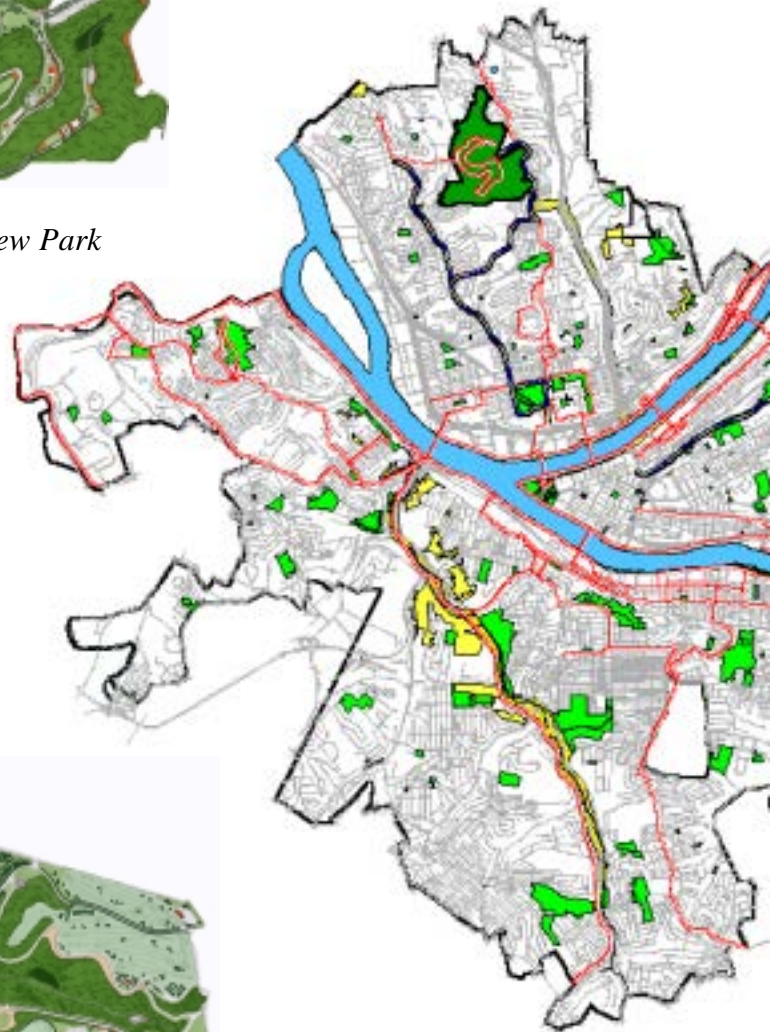
Restoration of the Chapel Pavilion and surrounding landscape in Riverview Park



Restored Visitor Center in Schenley Park



Riverview Park



Schenley Park

Cornerstones of the Green Web



Highland Park

Frick Park

Conclusion

This diagram illustrates how the four Regional Parks relate to the City as a whole and how they can anchor a new park system, or Green Web. Their importance to the citizens of Pittsburgh is clear from a use, historic and ecological perspective. To create this system, City-wide strategies must be implemented. In summary, these are:

- *Woodland Preservation*
- *Watershed Restoration*
- *Improved Visitor Services*
- *Higher Design Standards*
- *Marketing and Promotion*
- *Educational Programs*
- *Volunteerism*
- *Enhanced Recreation*
- *Improved Pedestrian Connections*
- *Parks Oversight Committee*
- *Strengthen Partnerships*
- *Improved Maintenance with dedicated park maintenance crews as well as performance standards*

These City-wide strategies, coupled with the capital improvements identified for each Park, will again make our Regional Parks grand civic spaces that are viewed with pride and used for the enjoyment of the citizens of Pittsburgh.

Part Four

Appendix

Design Guidelines

Department of Public Works - Business Plan

Preliminary Cost Estimates

Preliminary Cost Estimates for System-wide Initiatives

Preliminary Cost Estimates for Park Renewal Projects

Phasing Priorities for Park Renewal Projects

Design Guidelines

The character of the park landscape is directly related to the design, detailing, materials and craftsmanship of its built elements. Utilizing historic evidence uncovered for each of the four Regional Parks as a foundation, a series of Design Guidelines has been developed. The purpose of these Guidelines is to strengthen the image of the Regional Parks as a system, by providing consistent, unified elements.

During the development of these Guidelines, the following criteria were evaluated; aesthetics, durability, safety, long-term maintenance and historic compatibility. Not every possible improvement could be identified as part of these Guidelines, therefore, priority was given to those elements that are most common to all four Parks as well as those that could help unify the entire park system. Some of these elements will occur at consistent locations. For example, bleachers will only occur at athletic fields and nowhere else. However, other elements such as benches, trash cans and bollards will be located in a variety of settings throughout the Parks. For those elements that will occur in different settings, these Guidelines have developed two classifications for the same element: Civic and Rustic. Civic elements shall be located at highly visible, high traffic areas such as plazas, entrances and gathering spaces. These elements are generally more ornate and are meant to evoke the traditional qualities associated with great public parks. Rustic elements on the other hand, shall be located in remote, less supervised locations. They are generally more rugged and simpler in appearance. They are intended to blend in with the natural surroundings and should be located along trails, overlooks and less accessible destinations.

When selecting any element (not just those identified in these Guidelines) for inclusion in the Regional Parks, there are a number of important considerations. These include:

- Consider spatial character, form, color, materials and texture as important components of a landscape composition
- Buildings and associated landscape features such as walls, benches and lights are important visual components of the designed landscape. These should be compatible with the character of the surrounding area. Therefore, Civic, classically designed elements occur in public places and Rustic, rugged elements occur in woodland settings.
- Select colors carefully. Paint, furnishings and material colors of such things as benches, light poles and playground equipment should complement colors found in nature.
- All elements are intended to improve the visual quality and usefulness of the Parks for visitors. Items should be clean, safe, accessible and sited as to not impede maintenance.

The following guidelines illustrate the intended aesthetics and design character desired for site furnishings, architecture and pavement types. These are provided to show the level of quality that is to be expected in the Regional Parks and are not intended to be specifications. It is recommended that these form the basis for the development of a Design Manual that would specify all materials and construction techniques.

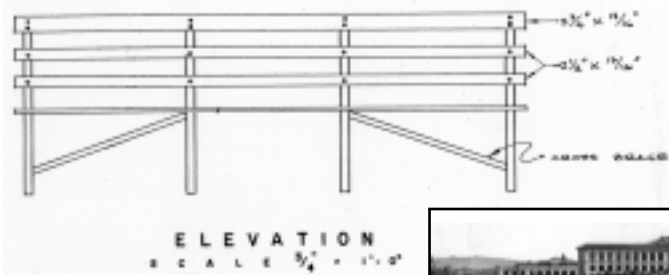
It is important that durability and maintenance be considered in selecting park furnishings. In all selections, it is recommended that the furnishings meet not only the following aesthetic standard, but have component parts that can be replaced on site with locally obtained materials by the appropriate City department. Component parts should be of standard materials and sizes that can be easily removed and replaced with readily available materials. Finishes and hardware should also be easily matched. The final selections should be carefully thought out and involve the Department of City Planning, The Department of Engineering and Construction, the Department of Public Works, and others to ensure the durability and the sustainability of all furnishings.

Another consideration when ordering select furnishings, would be to enter into an agreement with the manufacturer to provide component replacement parts as part of any order.

Design Guidelines

Site Furnishings

Civic Bench



Wooden benches in Schenley Park, early 1900's.

A new park prototype could be similar to the bench shown here. The Plainwell Series from Landscape Forms comes in wood or all aluminum, and other manufacturers provide similar styles in wood as well as all iron. This image could update the historic park benches found in our parks.

Locations: Public places, heavy traffic areas, along paths or walks and in front of structures.

Materials: Iron frame with standard sized wood slats, or alternate steel or aluminum slats.

Colors: Metal should be black or distinctive green. Wood shall be left natural or stained, and should be a durable, sustainably harvested hardwood.

Comments: Consideration should be give to making a new custom version of the historic bench that was once common to all the Parks. As an option, standard benches can be purchased from various companies, as long as City departments can easily replace damaged parts economically.

Rustic Bench



Split log benches could be made from fallen trees from each Park



Handsome stone bench in Frick Park compliments the wall and sign

Locations: Woodland or forest settings. Along paths or trails through unsupervised locations.

Materials: Stone or split log, similar in shape and style.

Colors: Compatible with setting. Could be gray or brown, depending on the choice of stone. Wood should be left natural.

Comments: If there are walls or structures nearby, a complimentary stone color should be selected. Split log benches could be made from fallen trees and all benches need to be anchored.

Site Furnishings

Civic Trash Can



Locations: Public places, plazas, gardens and heavily used, and or visible places.

Materials: Fabricated Steel or Aluminum.

Colors: Black or distinctive green.

Comments: As per Downtown Standard - Victor Stanley Company, with side access door and park system logo.

Rustic Trash Can



Locations: Woodland or forest areas, along select trails and in remote destinations.

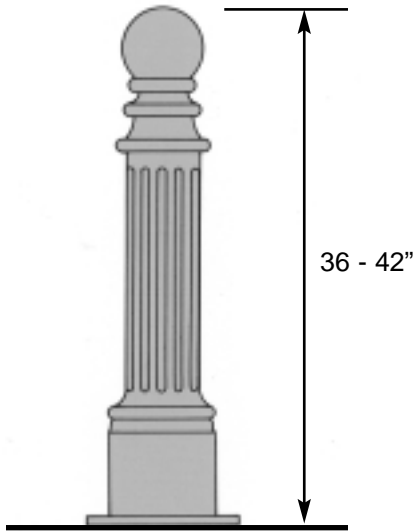
Materials: Wire Mesh.

Colors: Black or distinctive green.

Comments: These should be used in places where people will gather that is not along a main roadway, such as trail heads. These must be securely anchored.

Site Furnishings

Civic Bollards



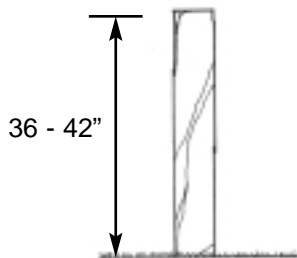
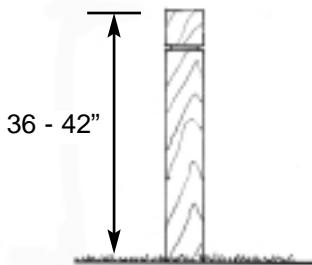
Locations: Public places that are within view where limited access or control is required adjacent to important structures.

Materials: Fabricated Steel, Aluminum or Fiberglass.

Colors: Black or distinctive green. Consistent with other furnishings.

Comments: Many pre-fabricated styles are available, Main Street is the manufacturer of the bollard shown, one should be chosen to work with benches, trash cans, and light fixtures. Bollards should be securely anchored. If required in special instances, collapsible or removal bollards can be considered.

Rustic Bollards



Locations: Rugged woodland or forest setting where access must be controlled. Use along trails or secondary parking areas to define vehicular or pedestrian movement.

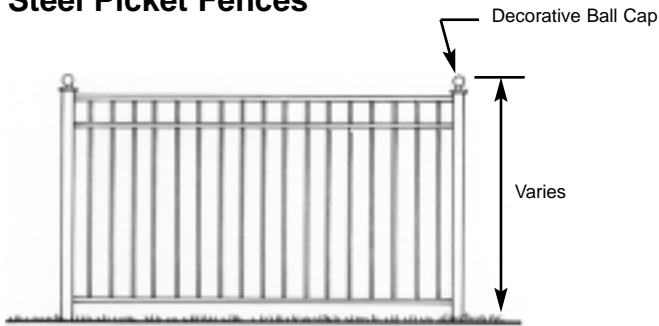
Materials: Stone or wood.

Colors: Natural colors.

Comments: Used to informally limit or control access to Park drives or trails. Long lines of bollards should be discouraged, only a few are necessary to restrict access.

Site Furnishings

Steel Picket Fences



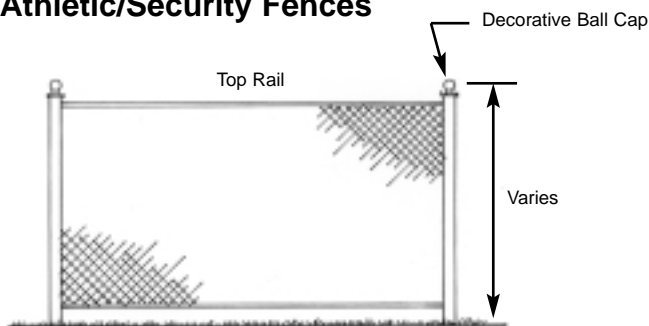
Locations: Along public places, plazas, paths or walks to control or limit access. To protect pedestrians from slopes or hazards.

Materials: Ornamental iron with solid pickets and decorative post caps.

Colors: Black.

Comments: Steel picket fences shall be used at entries and places with highly intensive uses. As an option, many hollow picket pre-fabricated fences exist and are acceptable (such as Jerith, Monumental Iron Works, etc.) so long as they are used in secondary areas such as playgrounds or athletic facilities.

Athletic/Security Fences



Locations: Used to secure less visible places. Around recreation areas and to restrict public access.

Materials: Vinyl coated chain link with a top rail piece.

Colors: Black.

Comments: This is intended to be used as a method of securing large areas. This should not be used along roadways, major pathways or highly visible areas. Height should be limited to ten feet maximum, unless special conditions warrant.

Site Furnishings

Drinking Fountains



Example of a Murdoch brand accessible fountain. Consider attachment of a third lower arm for use by children.



Historic Schenley and Highland Park fountain.

Locations: Public places, with heavy pedestrian traffic that are also very secure and visible.

Materials: Steel, iron, and/or brass, with two or more bowls.

Colors: Black or distinctive green. These should compliment benches and trash receptacles.

Comments: There are many drinking fountain companies that make “historic - looking”, accessible, freeze-proof fountains. The distinctive fountains in Schenley and Highland are wonderful historic elements. Consider new molds of these (adapted for accessibility) for use throughout the parks.

Bicycle Rack



Examples of two bike racks showing different mounting techniques, one in-ground and one surface mount. Top photo is manufactured by BRP Enterprises, and the lower photo by Landscape Forms.

Locations: Public places, trail heads, fields, destinations, entries and where bicycles are permitted.

Materials: Steel or iron frame.

Colors: Natural, black or distinctive green.

Comments: These should be placed in usable, yet less visible places. Many companies make pre-fabricated bike racks. These should be securely anchored. Provide a mounting technique that best suits site conditions.

Site Furnishings

Picnic Tables



Historic photograph of picnic tables in Frick Park.



Modern version with accessible table top.

Locations: Public places or pavilions (under roof) where groups are meant to gather.

Materials: Wood top with wood or metal supports, sealed for weather protection.

Colors: Natural or stained finish.

Comments: These can be obtained from manufacturers or, given the quantities needed, can be custom fabricated. These need to be securely anchored.

Barbeque Grill



Pre-fabricated grills can be provided by various manufacturers. A model from Landscape Forms is shown here. Smaller grills should be used at small picnic areas and pavilions. Provide for larger grills of similar style at major pavilions.

Locations: Pavilions or groves where groups are meant to gather and fire protection is available.

Materials: Fabricated metal.

Colors: Black.

Comments: Should be placed on pavement near a pavilion, but far enough away for safety.

Site Furnishings

Playground Equipment



There are many playground manufacturers to choose from with Landscape Forms shown here. Playground equipment should meet current safety standards. Playground surfacing should be accessible. Neutral tones or colors that reflect the natural landscape should be used as a base with limited use of accent colors such as blue, yellow and red.

Locations: Playgrounds vary in size, from small playlots at picnic shelters to larger neighborhood playgrounds. Larger playgrounds should serve all age groups. Picnic pavilion playlots should receive one swing set and one small play structure.

Materials: Wood, metal or plastic.

Colors: Neutral tones such as green, beige, tan and brown should provide the base color scheme with limited use of primary colors for select accent pieces.

Comments: Playground equipment and surfacing should be designed to fit its surroundings and landscape character of the site.

Athletic Field Furnishings



Athletic field equipment that includes bleachers, player benches and other furnishings can be supplied by many manufacturers. Whatever is selected should be used consistently in all the parks. Bleachers can be metal frame with aluminum, wood or recycled plastic seats and player benches can be provided with or without backs.



Locations: Athletic fields.

Materials: Metal frame with metal, wood or recycled plastic seats.

Colors: Galvanized or natural finish.

Comments: Bleachers and other furnishings should be safely located behind fencing for the safety of spectators and participants and should be securely anchored. Bleachers can be permanently anchored or transportable.

Site Furnishings

Roadway Lights



City Standard

Possible Enhanced City Standard with ornamental arm and pole



Example of pole ornamentation by the Chicago Park District, used along park boulevards.

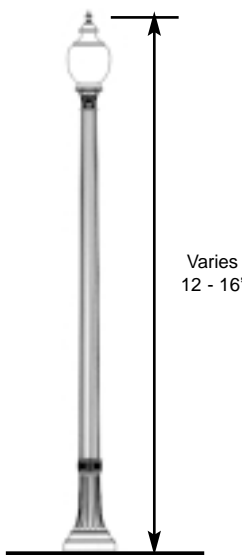
Locations: Roadways and drives through and adjacent to the Parks.

Materials: Pole: Union Metal (Fluted)
Luminaire: Holophane
Port Huron - 250W.

Colors: Black or distinctive green.
Consistent throughout the park system.

Comments: City Neighborhood Commercial Standard pole and fixture with possible enhanced arm and pole. Custom name plaques and banners could be added to distinguish the parks. As poles are replaced, electrical service should be placed underground.

Pedestrian Lights



Varies 12 - 16'



Example of decorative, custom scrolls modeled after New York's Central Park fixtures. A custom logo piece should be designed and added to the City Luminaire Standard to give added identity to the park lighting fixtures.

Locations: Destinations or special park spaces, along select pathways and within public plazas for pedestrian/security lighting.

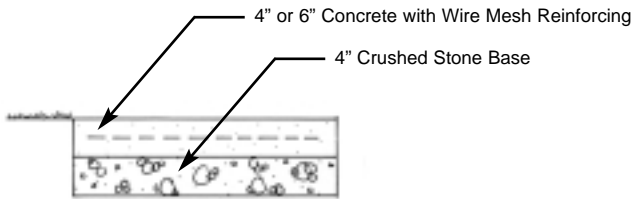
Materials: Pole: Union Metal (Fluted)
Luminaire: Downtown Acorn Standard (metal halide).

Colors: Black or distinctive green.
Consistent throughout park system.

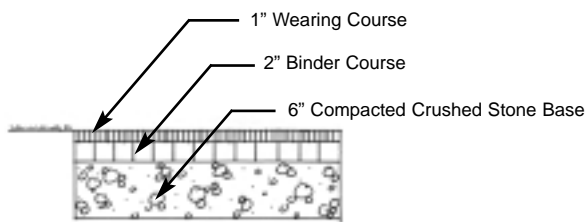
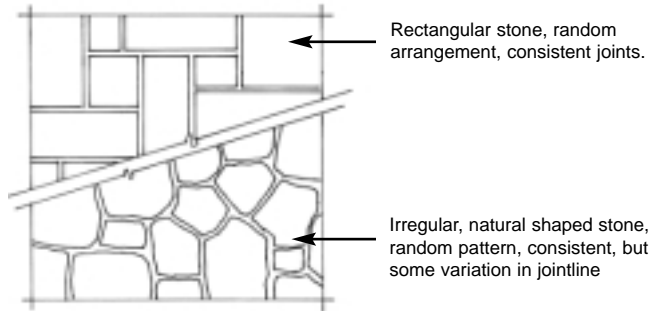
Comments: City Standard Acorn fixture should receive special ornamental treatments, to unify all light poles within all Parks. As poles are replaced, electrical service should be placed underground.

Paving

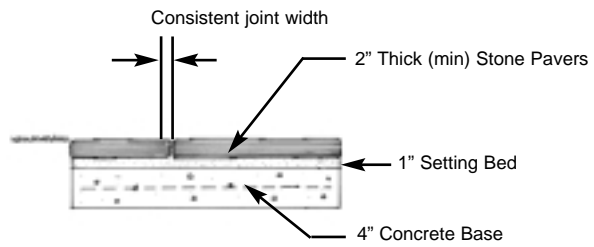
For all paving types shown, provide for proper thickness depending on its use; 4" minimum for walkways and 6" minimum for roadways.



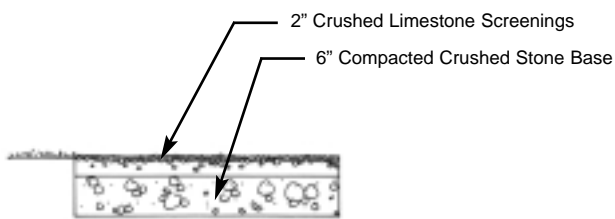
Concrete Paving



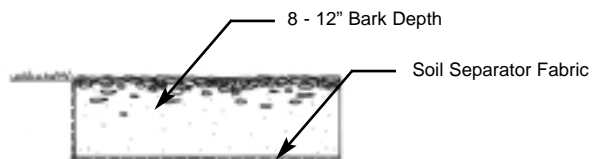
Asphalt Paving



Flagstone Paving



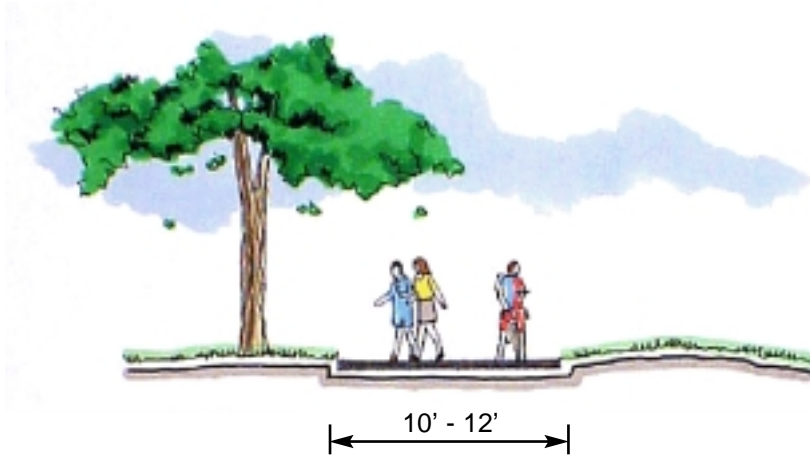
Limestone Paving



Bark Path

Trail Standards

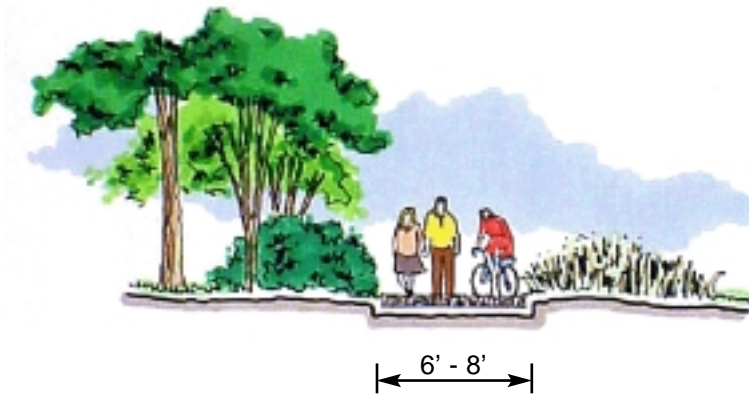
Major Pathways



Locations: Park edges, entries and major pedestrian thoroughfares.

Materials: Concrete or stone.

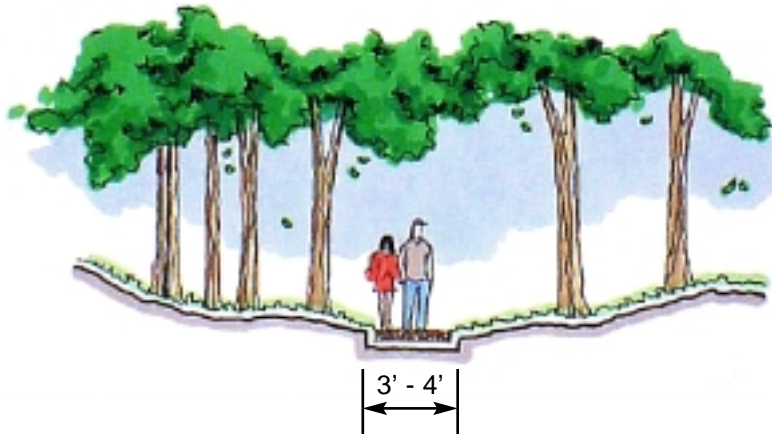
Recreational Trails



Locations: Meadows, woodland edges and shrublands for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Materials: Crushed Limestone or asphalt

Woodland Trails



Locations: Woodland and interior forest settings

Materials: Compacted earth.

Note: All trail locations, and therefore material, should be based on the Landscape Type through which the trail traverses. Refer to pages 25 - 31 of the Master Plan for a more detailed discussion of Landscape Types

Park Drive Streetscape Standard

Typical Existing Condition



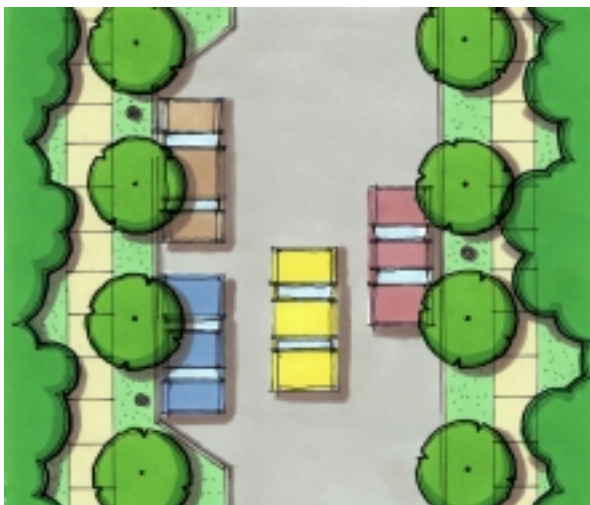
Issues: Many park drives with either one-way or two-way traffic appear to be unorganized, not pedestrian friendly and encourage high-speed traffic. The goal with this new park standard would be to calm speeds by the use of traffic calming devices and integrate pedestrian circulation parallel with the park drives. Utility lines should be removed or placed underground along these drives.

Proposed Cross Section



Standard: The goal would be to provide an organized streetscape standard that provides for parking in recessed areas along the park drive using curb bump-outs as traffic calming devices. Sidewalks, trails, lighting, tree lines and other landscape features should be used to enhance the character of the road.

Proposed Plan



Walls

Frick Park



Schenley Park



Riverview Park



Highland Park



Location/Usage:

Within the Parks, walls serve many purposes. Walls retain grade, frame space, announce an entry or control access. If a new wall is necessary, it should serve a similar purpose.

Materials:

Stone (sandstone and limestone), has traditionally been the material of choice, with either a rugged or cut stone cap. In special situations, near a structure, brick may be appropriate.

Comments:

Before selecting a material for a wall, a number of questions should be answered:

1. What are other walls in this Park like?
2. Will the layout of this wall complement this space?
3. How much of the wall will be visible?

The existing walls in each of the Regional Parks are quite handsome. The layout, materials and craftsmanship exhibited by these walls should be emulated in any new work.

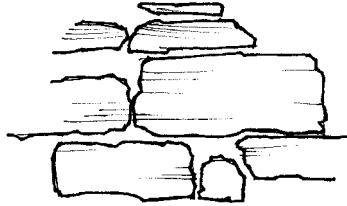
Repairs should be done so new work blends in seamlessly to existing construction.

Architectural Precedents

Frick Park - Gatehouses



Gatehouse at the Reynolds Street Entry



General Massing and Materials:

Square or nearly square plans with connecting passageway. Symmetrical facade. Attached walls with same coursed, cut stone and smooth stone cap. Walls of blue/grey stone in regular courses with high smooth beltcourse.

Roof:

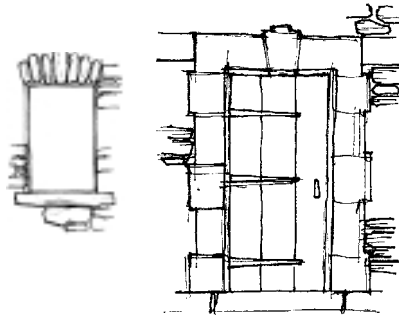
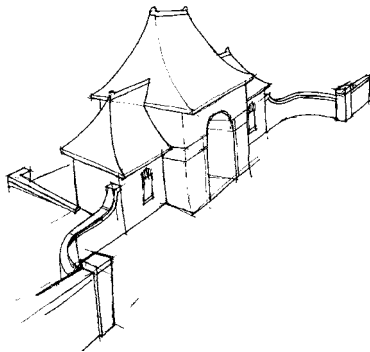
Steep hipped roof with ridge, 12:6.5 pitch. Boxed limestone eaves. Originally a slate roof with copper ridge crests, chimney pots and arced top wall dormer.

Doors/Windows:

Wide, centrally placed doors with round or square head. 3:5 ratio of width to height. Large hasp iron hinges and carved lintels. Windows are single hung and vertical. Flat segmented arc lintel of smooth limestone.

Comments:

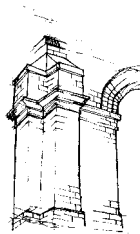
Rugged stone gatehouses and walls define the perimeter of and entrances to Frick Park.



Highland Park - Rhododendron Shelter



Rhododendron Shelter



General Massing and Materials:

Rectangular massing of plan. Symmetrical facade with equal sized bays. Light smooth brick with high terra cotta beltcourse.

Roof:

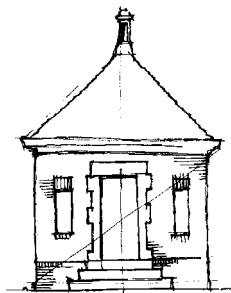
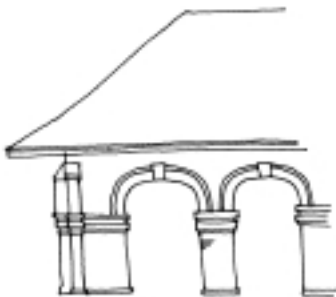
Hipped roof with ridge and low pitch, 6:12. Slightly overhanging eaves. No roof ornamentation. Original roof material unknown.

Doors/Windows:

Elliptical arched head on doorways with prominent keystones. 2:3 ratio of width to height. There are no windows, only arched openings.

Comments:

These traditional building elements should be emulated in pavilions and shelters throughout Highland Park.



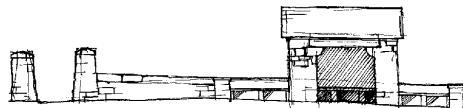
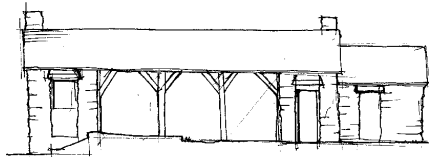
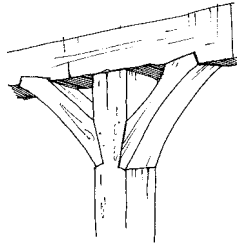
Watchmans Building at Reservoir

Architectural Precedents

Riverview Park - Valley Refuge Shelter



Valley Refuge Shelter



Perryville Avenue Bus Shelters

General Massing and Materials:

Rectangular plan with an asymmetrical facade. Attached walls of regular coursed stone and a matching cap. Walls of rugged regularly coursed stone with large plain wood posts at openings. No openings on gable ends.

Roof:

Side gable with a medium pitch of 12:12. Little or no eave overhang. Roof materials are not original. Low end chimneys.

Doors/Windows:

Stone surround with cap on doorways with square head. 3:7 ratio of width to height. Wood lintel with stone corbels and diagonal bracing on post adorn the large openings. Windows are vertical and single with stone lintels and sills.

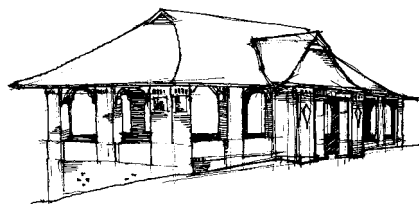
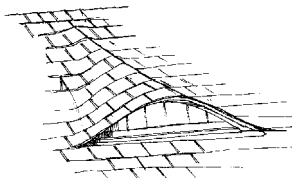
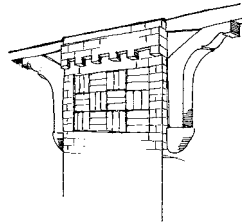
Comments:

The rugged stone work of the Valley Refuge Shelter is the perfect character for buildings in Riverview Park.

Schenley Park - Vietnam Veterans Pavilion



Vietnam Veterans Pavilion



General Massing and Materials:

Rectangular plan with central of five symmetrical bays projecting forward. Red brick walls with little ornamentation.

Roof:

Clipped, hipped roof with ridge and 10:12 pitch. Flared wide eave overhang with exposed rafters. Roof material not original. Eyebrow windows at clipped ridge.

Doors/Windows:

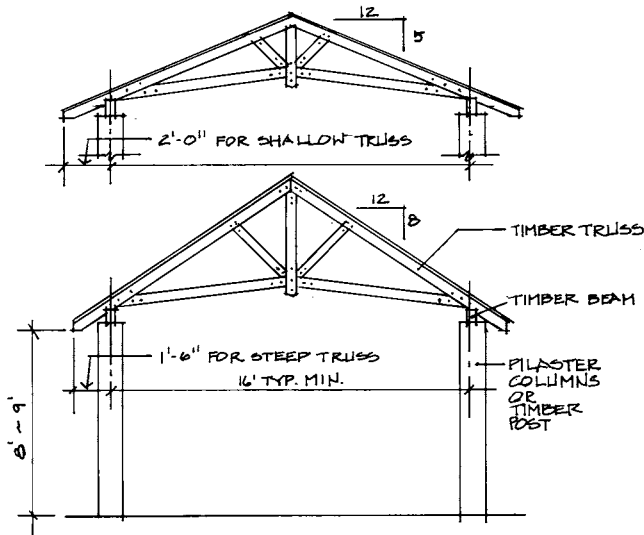
Rectangular doorways with 1:2 ratio of width to height. Main entrance has Doric columns. Other openings had brackets although they are partially filled in.

Comments:

The character of the Vietnam Veterans Pavilion with its simple traditional forms is the perfect model for new pavilions in Schenley Park.

Pavilions

Prototype Civic Pavilion



General

Pavilions to be compatible with selected precedents in each park.

Roof Support

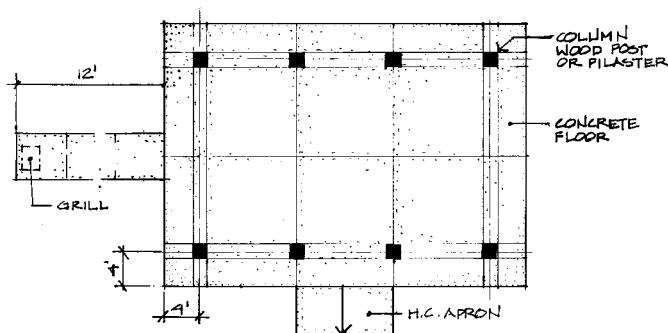
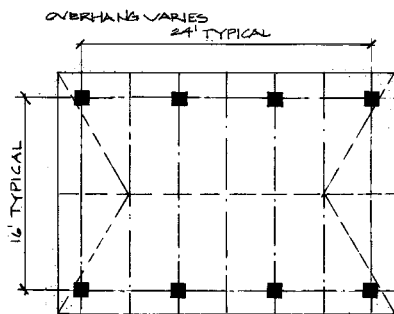
Material: Should be specific to each park (brick, stone, timber, etc.)

Configuration: Columns or small segmented walls (not to create a hiding area). Shape and form to be customized for each park.

Roof

Structure: Timber truss with structural tongue-and-groove decking. Truss spacing to be adjusted for each park. Gables and hips used to adjust shape of roof.

Roofing: Heavy asphalt shingles over roofing felt. Optional synthetic shingles or tile to resemble park precedents.



Floor

Material: Concrete. Optional exposed aggregate, imprinted or colored concrete. Perimeter of slab to meet grade closely.

Joints: Placement to be compatible with columns and walls.

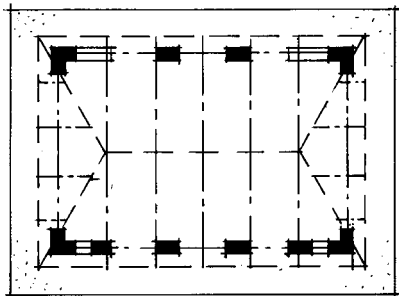
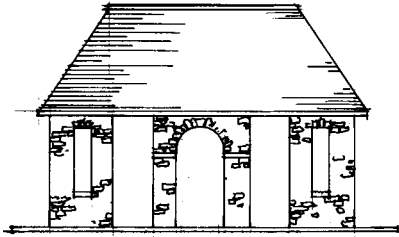
Auxiliary: Concrete apron to accommodate accessible entry. Concrete run for grill.

Furniture

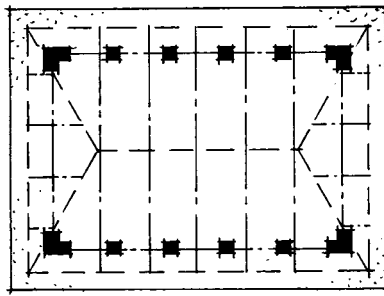
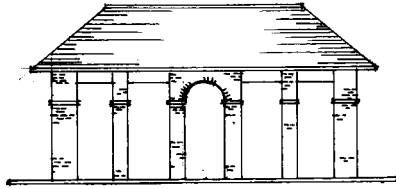
Picnic tables placed to provide clearance for handicapped accessibility. Optional barbeque grill.

Pavilions

Frick Park



Highland Park

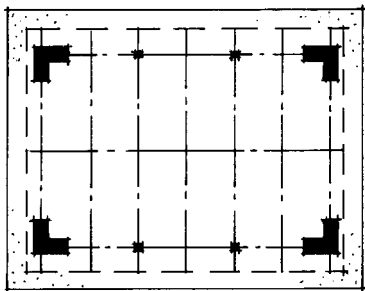
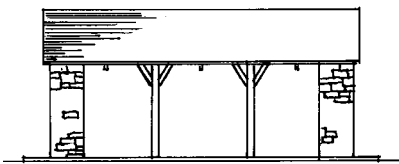


These are prototypical elevations for what a pavilion might look like in each park - given the precedent analysis.

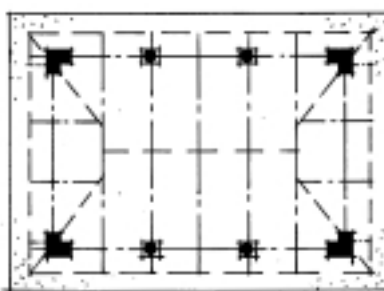
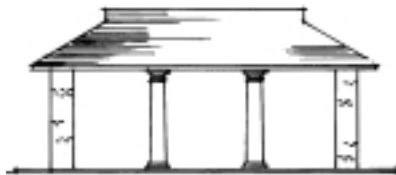
Each of these could be expanded to serve more visitors. This large structure could also be modified to fit more graciously into its surroundings.

Many permutations are possible, these are but a few of the alternatives to consider.

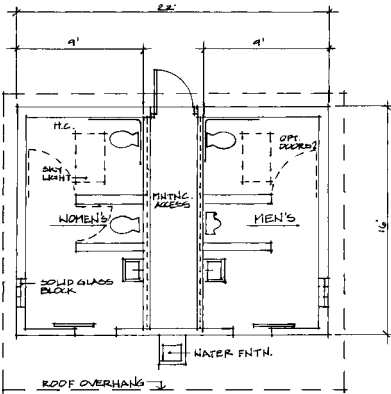
Riverview Park



Schenley Park

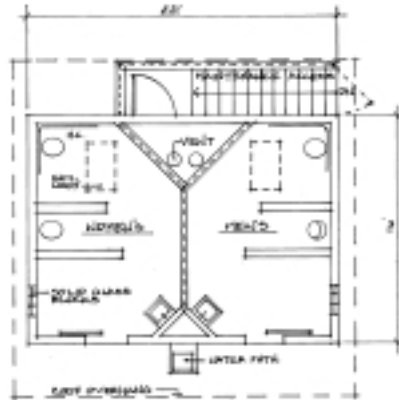


Restrooms



Alternative 1

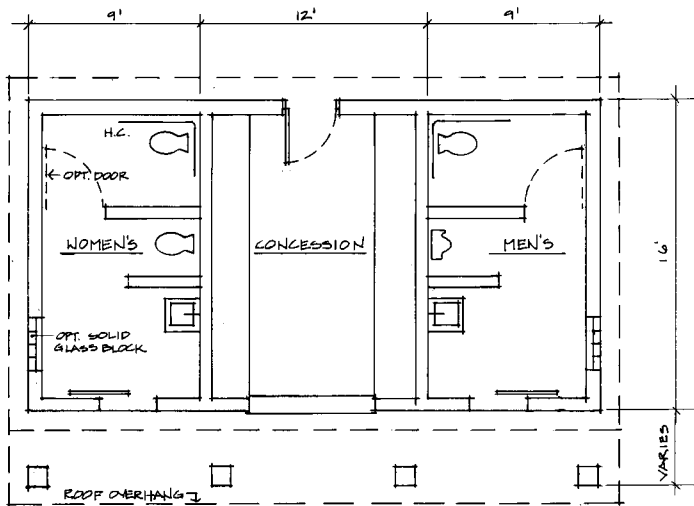
Building with traditional plumbing



Alternative 2

Building with composting toilets

Prototypical Restroom Plans



Prototypical Restroom/Concession

Plans

Minimum dimensions to accommodate handicap accessibility. Roof overhang at front. Natural ventilation.

Walls

Exterior masonry to resemble park precedents. Solid partition walls with screening above to allow air movement. Masonry toilet partitions open at floor for ease of cleaning.

Openings

Natural lighting to be a priority. Sliding entry doors to be secured in open position. Glazed dormers where architectural precedents allow. Skylights on rear roof slope.

Plumbed Facilities

Vandal-proof lavatory and faucet mounted on handicap accessible counter. Vandal-proof water closets. Maintenance access for plumbing.

Composting Facilities (Alternative to Plumbed)

Composting water closets to be selected from proven systems. Maintenance access to tanks below grade through secured stairs.

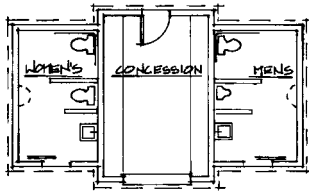
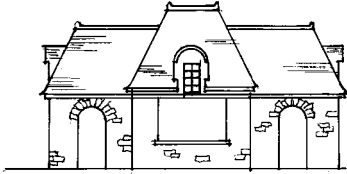
Restroom/Concession

At times it will be advantageous to combine a concession with a restroom facility. Certain adaptations may be needed:

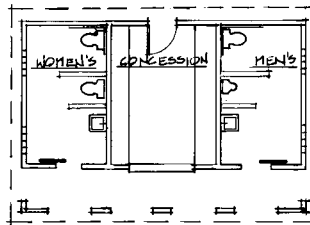
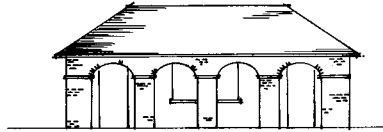
Plans to be enlarged. Walls to be solid masonry between restroom and concession. Plumbing to be serviceable from concession area. Serving counter to be solid, indestructible material such as stone. Roll-down security door for serving counter opening.

Restroom/ Concession

Frick Park



Highland Park

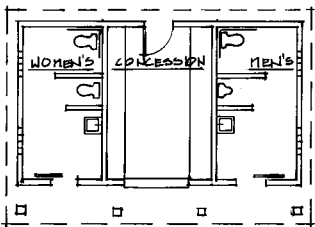
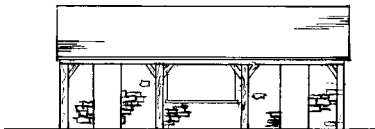


These are prototypical elevations of what a restroom/concession building might look like in each park.

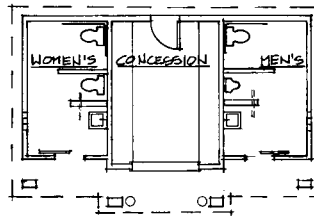
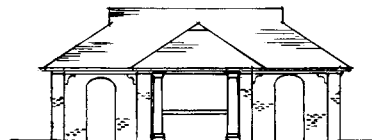
Given its location, (an isolated restroom vs. a restroom/concession near a destination athletic facility) these plans could be expanded.

Each should be custom designed for the given situation. These are but a few possibilities.

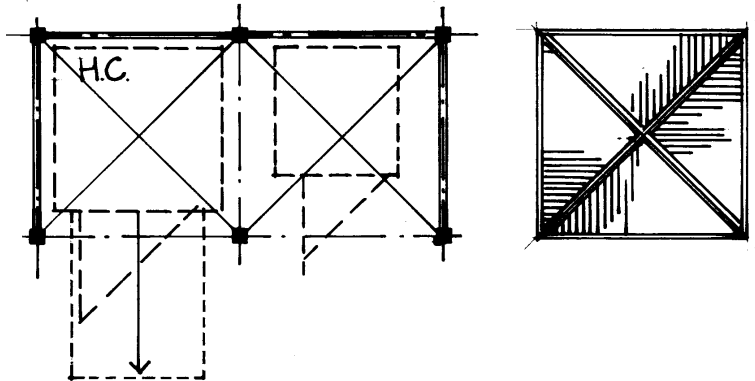
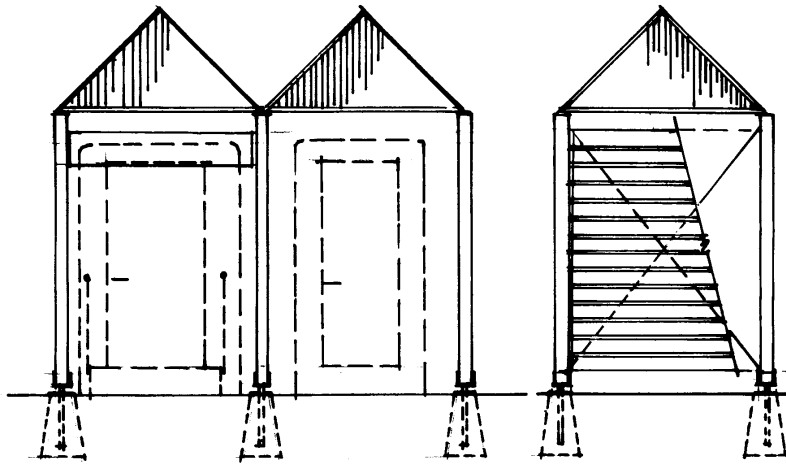
Riverview Park



Schenley Park



Enclosures for Portable Restrooms



Configuration

Standardized demountable enclosure units sized to accommodate standard and handicap portable units. Enclosures to be placed as single units, or in multiple groupings. Translucent roof can be placed on any of the units for added weather protection.

Structure

Corner wood posts with steel anchors to slide into sleeves in footings and cross braced to each other at sides and at the top.

Base

Precast concrete footing with sleeves to accept post anchors capable of minor grade changes. Above grade footings should be considered to accommodate temporary installation on existing paving. Stone or concrete slab below unit depending on permanency.

Roof

Unitized roof module with translucent skylight system to be fastened to corner posts.

Walls

Wood privacy infill walls can be placed between any columns to meet the needs. Wall panel design to be customized to best suit location and park context. Signage and decorative gable can be added to mark entry opening.

Business Plan

Department of Public Works

Business Plan

Department of Public Works

Implementing Dedicated Crews For Maintaining Park Facilities

PURPOSE: Restore the aesthetic quality and value of park facilities and greenspaces and promote a positive image towards the City's commitment to park maintenance.

The City of Pittsburgh, Department of Public Works will assign employees to specifically dedicate their time and resources to maintaining 178 park facilities within the boundaries of the City.

The facilities will be divided within eight (8) geographic zones, and each zone will have a Foreman to oversee and coordinate each crew, ranging in size from 10 to 19 employees. Crews will consist of but not be limited to: Truck Drivers, Tractor Operators, General Laborers, Skilled Laborers and Laborers.

Job tasks to be performed on a daily, quarterly, seasonal and/or periodic basis include but are not limited to:

- Litter collection
- Empty trash receptacles
- Turf Maintenance
- Landscape Maintenance (Aerify, Edging, Fertilize, Mulching, Reseeding and Topdressing)
- Weed Control (Pesticides with or without PGR's)
- Tree Pruning, Tree Removal, Stump Removal
- Leaf collection/removal
- Snow & Ice control (snow removal, salt roads/walks/steps)
- Field Maintenance (drag, line, grade, paint poles/benches/bleachers, fence repairs)
- Court Maintenance (Tennis, Basketball, Hockey, Horseshoe, Bocci) blow, sweep courts, install/replace nets, repaint lines, replace surface material)
- Shelter Maintenance (cleaning interior including restrooms, check, clean, repair grills, painting, etc.)
- Play Equipment Maintenance (repairs to play equipment and safety surfaces, inspection)
- Building Maintenance (clean, wax, buff floors, clean/stock restrooms, window cleaning, painting)
- Catch Basin clean out (State Drops, Basket drops, etc.)
- Trail Maintenance (replenish surface materials, prune overgrowth, correct erosion problems, upgrade signage)

Architectural Precedents

Seasonal and part-time employees, performing tasks in compliance with PJCBC rules and regulations, will augment the work of the full time employees.

Volunteers coordinated by Partners-in-Parks, performing tasks in compliance with PJCBC rules and regulations, will compliment the work and offset the loss (sick days, vacations, etc.) of the full-time and seasonal employees. Emphasis will be placed on commitment to long-term projects and to minimize the number of one-day projects.

A dedicated construction crew, consisting of a combination of a Foreman, Bricklayer, Carpenter, Cement Finisher, General Skilled Laborer, Heavy Equipment Operator, Structural Iron Worker and Truck Driver, will perform job tasks which include but are not limited to:

- Repair and rebuild masonry walls and steps
- Repair concrete sidewalk and curb
- Fabricate wooden signs identifying each park and the specific internal facilities
- Repair benches, bleachers, exercise course stations/signage, fence, horseshoe courts, picnic tables
- Repair ornamental fence and fabricate/install railings
- Infrastructure repairs (catch basins, discharge systems)
- Shelter repairs/reconstruction
- Regrade trails/walkways

An appropriate section within the Heavy Equipment Division will be designated for the repair and maintenance of park related equipment. The repairs and/or maintenance will be completed either with in-house mechanics or outside contracts. The equipment will include but not be limited to: Industrial Tractors, Turf Equipment (580D TORO Groundmaster, Hydromowers, Walk-Behind/Riding Tractors, Lawnmowers, Line Trimmers), Bobcat, Chain Saws, Edgers, Rototillers, Vacuums (Litter, Leaf), Blowers (Walk-Behind Leaf, Backpack, Handheld), Trailers.

Employees will be outfitted with uniforms to promote professionalism, improve public perception and provide a benefit/incentive to the employee.

Maintenance of each facility will be done in accordance with established Department of Public Works Standards and Procedures and/or other accepted national practices relating to various programs (Turf, Field, Court, Playground, and Weed Control). Other programs will be developed in accordance with the needs of each facility.

Training will be provided to each employee to improve and enhance their present skills or acquire new ones, which will ultimately make the employee more knowledgeable about the work they perform (i.e. Pruning, Chemical Application, Masonry Repair, Crew Management, Leadership, etc.).

Creation of a career ladder for various job titles to both challenge the employees job performance and provide an incentive for advancement.

Facilities should reflect an immediate visual improvement once plan is enacted. Crews will be more productive, responsible and accountable for their actions, which will improve employee morale.

Support the goals, objectives and programs of the Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy (i.e. SCA, RAD Parks signature projects, Grapevine, Invasive Plant Species removal, etc.)

A library of information, created from national magazines and books, will be available to crews to assist in their daily/seasonal maintenance tasks. The information will be used in conjunction with the future-training subjects.

New equipment must be purchased that will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the crews. Current equipment must be replaced on a scheduled cycle to minimize downtime.

Preliminary Cost Estimates

Preliminary Cost Estimates
for System-Wide Initiatives

Preliminary Cost Estimates
for Park Renewal Projects

Priorities and Phasing

Preliminary Cost Estimates for System-Wide Initiatives

<i>Park Name</i>	<i>Total Acreage</i>	<i>Woodlands</i>	<i>% Woodland</i>	<i>Trails</i>	<i>Roadways</i>	<i>Streams</i>
Frick Park	455.0	353.0	77.6	49,500.0	0.0	12375.0
Highland Park	388.0	137.0	35.3	33,050.0	5.6	0.0
Riverview Park	287.0	193.0	67.2	24,900.0	3.4	2680.0
Schenley Park	417.0	190.0	45.6	39,800.0	6.6	5720.0
Totals	1,547.0 <i>acres</i>	873.0 <i>acres</i>	56.4% <i>average %</i>	14,7250.0 <i>linear feet</i>	15.6 <i>miles</i>	20,775.0 <i>linear feet</i>

Woodland Restoration Projects

Simple invasive control, clearing, herbicide application, ect.	\$4,000.00/acre
Supplemental planting of existing low density woodlands	\$8,000.00/acre
Afforestation (planting of currently non-forested areas)	\$16,000.00/acre

Stream Restoration Projects

Simple restoration, re-vegetation, ect.	\$100.00/LF
Complex restoration with channel modification	\$250.00/LF

Streetscape Renovation Projects

Remove existing paving	\$25.00/LF	<i>Selections were made from this list and then totaled to achieve a different linear foot cost for individual streets</i>
New bituminous paving	\$50.00/LF	
Shoulders	\$15.00/LF	
Concrete Curbs	\$50.00/LF	
Lights (100' o.c.)	\$45.00/LF	
Walks (both sides)	\$50.00/LF	
Trees (30' o.c.)	\$15.00/LF	

Management Studies

Building renovation, community visioning process, feasibility studies, ect.	\$10,000.00/EA
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Park Signage Program

Street Signage (directional, no parking, identity)	\$3.00/LF	<i>Selections were made from this list and then totaled to achieve a figure for each park</i>
Trail Signage (directional, interpretive, regulatory)	\$.50/LF	
Destinations (small sign, planting)	\$1,000.00/EA	
Entry Point Signage (large sign, planting, low lighting)	\$2,500.00/EA	

Pittsburgh's Regional Parks Master Plan

A New Ethic of Stewardship

Project	Frick Park	Highland Park	Riverview Park	Schenley Park	Totals
Woodland Management Plan	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$200,000.00
Woodland Restoration Projects ¹	\$3,176,000.00	\$1,232,000.00	\$1,736,000.00	\$1,700,000.00	\$7,844,000.00
Watershed Management Studies	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$200,000.00
Stream and Waterway Restoration Projects ²	\$2,165,625.00	\$0.00	\$469,000.00	\$1,001,000.00	\$3,635,625.00
Park Trails Master Plan Study ³	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$100,000.00
Comprehensive Traffic Studies	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$125,000.00
Renovate Park Drives and Streetscapes ⁴	\$0.00	\$5,470,080.00	\$2,344,320.00	\$5,447,880.00	\$13,262,280.00
Park System Identity & Marketing Campaign ⁵	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$200,000.00
Design of Parks Signage	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$100,000.00
Implement Individual Park Signage Program ⁶	\$78,250.00	\$152,229.00	\$34,950.00	\$174,944.00	\$440,373.00
Revenue Study ⁷	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$60,000.00
Management Studies ⁸	\$10,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$70,000.00
Totals	\$5,644,875.00	\$7,114,309.00	\$4,879,270.00	\$8,598,824.00	\$26,237,278.00

¹ The amount of money allocated for restoration projects is based on the total acreage of woodlands in each park and the costs for similar projects in other cities. The acreage was divided into three project types: 25% for small scale invasive control (\$4,000/acre) 50% for larger scale invasive control and supplemental planting (\$8,000/acre) and 25% for wholesale reforestation effort (\$16,000/acre).

² The amount of money allocated for stream restoration projects is based on the total length of stream channels in each park and the costs for similar restoration projects in other cities. The length of streams was divided into two project types: 50% for small-scale restoration (\$100/lf) and 50% for major stream modifications (\$250/lf).

³ A Trail Master Plan should be developed for each park, using the Proposed Trail Map prepared for this Report as a guide. It should involve citizens, trail users, bicyclists, representatives from City departments and others. It should set guidelines for trail use and trail type. It should consider long term maintenance budgets as well as new trail development and enforcement of regulations.

⁴ The amount of money allocated for streetscape improvements is based on the length of roadways in each Park that are not improved as part of a specific capital project. Work includes removals (\$25.00/lf), new paving (\$50.00/lf), retaining existing curbs, lighting @ 100' o.c. (\$45.00/lf), sidewalks (\$50.00/lf) and street trees (\$15.00/lf). This totals approximately \$185.00 per linear foot.

⁵ The new park system needs a comprehensive identity and marketing program for visitor identification and promotion. This campaign should include all programming information, promotional literature, historic plaques or markers, park identification signs, park street signs, directional signs, regulatory signs and techniques for promoting these parks as assets to the City.

⁶ The amount of money allocated for signage in each park is a total of roadways to be signed (linear feet x \$5.00), trails to be signed (linear feet x \$1.00), destinations (\$1,000.00 each) and entry points (\$2,500.00 each).

⁷ This should be a system-wide study that looks at the potential for and the implication of new revenue generating opportunities. This should include such things as facility permits, the Schenley Park Golf Course, public/private ventures (cafes or restaurants) concessions and programming costs.

⁸ Management studies include vision planning with the Frick Environmental Center, feasibility studies for buildings and environmental assessments

Preliminary Cost Estimates for Park Renewal Projects

Site Improvements

Plaza or Terrace (includes decorative paving, planting, benches, ect.)		\$30.00/SF
Railings (custom fabricated)		\$150.00/LF
Concrete Curbs		\$25.00/LF
Iron Fence (custom fabricated)		\$100.00/LF
Parking Lots (includes paving, curbs and line painting)		\$5.00/SF
Individual Pedestrian Lights (12' height, 50' o.c.)		\$3,500.00/EA
New or Re-built Walls (excavation, footer, block, stone face, cap)		\$105.00/SF (exposed face)
Walks and Trails:		
12' Wide Main Walks (concrete)	\$60.00/LF	with amenities* \$65.00/LF
8' Multi-use Trails (limestone or asphalt)	\$30.00/LF	\$32.50/LF
4' Woodland Paths (bark or earth)	\$10.00/LF	\$11.00/LF

* Amenities include benches, trash receptacles, bike racks, ect.

Athletic Courts and Athletic Fields

Tennis Courts (new pavement, perimeter fencing and equipment)	\$6.10/SF
Athletic Fields (topsoil, drainage, irrigation, perimeter fence and equipment)	\$5.30/SF

General Landscaping and New Landscape Types

Gardens (20% paving, 20% lawn, 60% plantings at 18" o.c., topsoil, irrigation)	\$17.00/SF
Individual Trees (3 1/2" caliper tree, planting mixture, installation)	\$400.00/EA
Individual Shrubs (30" shrub, planting mixture, installation)	\$40.00/EA
Ornamental Planting (not quite a garden – topsoil, shrubs, flowers)	\$5.00/SF
Shrubland (clearing, topsoil, native shrubs at 48" o.c.)	\$2.00/SF
Meadow (clearing, no topsoil, hydro-seed meadow mixture)	\$.50/SF
New Lawn (topsoil, seed)	\$.75/SF
Renovate Lawn (aerate, top dress with topsoil an over-seed)	\$.25/SF

Buildings (park architecture)

Park Pavilions (approximately \$65.00/SF)	\$50,000.00/EA
Signature Pavilions	\$125,000.00/EA
Restroom Building (approximately \$140.00/SF)	\$75,000.00/EA
Restroom/Concession Building (approximately \$125.00/SF)	\$100,000.00/EA
Public Works Facilities (office, maintenance building)	\$1,100,000.00/EA

Mobilization (5%) and Site Preparation (15%)

Mobilization for each project includes obtaining permits, implementing pedestrian and vehicular detours, installing signage, providing security fencing, installing tree protection and establishing temporary facilities such as restrooms, job trailers, phone lines and material storage.

Site preparation for each project includes erosion and sedimentation control measures, clearing, grubbing, stripping of available topsoil, earth moving activities, and installing general site drainage.

Pittsburgh's Regional Parks Master Plan

A New Ethic of Stewardship

Frick Park Project Areas	Site Improvements	Athletic Fields and Athletic Courts	Landscaping and New Landscape Types	Buildings
<p>Frick Woods Preserve Expansion</p> <p>Scope: Implement a woodland management plan, abandon select trails, re-construct trails to proper width, construct a new trail from Riverview Hill to Nine Mile Run and visioning process with Environmental Center.</p>	\$667,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<p>The Drainages - Nine Mile Run, Fern Hollow and Falls Ravine</p> <p>Scope: Rebuild sewers, day-light Fern Hollow Stream, reconfigure parking lot, new facility to interpret wetlands, Commercial Avenue trail head, upgrades to reconstructed ball fields and improve trails</p>	\$2,720,000.00	\$0.00	\$230,000.00	\$2,150,000.00
<p>Nine Mile Run Greenway</p> <p>Scope: Construct additional trails to connect Park to Mon River and interpret renewed stream corridor, provide benches and park amenities.</p>	\$162,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<p>Potential Park off Love Street</p> <p>Scope: Study possibility of re-opening abandoned park either temporarily or permanently.</p>	\$139,000.00	\$848,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$50,000.00
<p>Homewood Cemetery Edge</p> <p>Scope: Implement a strategy to preserve portions of Homewood Cemetery that are directly adjacent to Frick Park.</p>	potential costs cannot be determined yet			
<p>Reynolds Street Entrance Landscape</p> <p>Scope: Provide new fencing, street trees, lighting, general landscaping, repair the council ring, improve trails and renovate buildings.</p>	\$339,000.00	\$0.00	\$64,000.00	\$100,000.00
<p>Clayton Hill Entrance</p> <p>Scope: Restore walls and entrance buildings, double tree rows, paving and first fountain. Provide shrubland and meadow habitats, renovate Nature Center.</p>	\$552,000.00	\$0.00	\$106,750.00	\$500,000.00
<p>Riverview Hill</p> <p>Scope: Re-construct main entrance path, provide new terrace along Beechwood Boulevard, build second terrace, create shrubland and meadow habitat, re-grade former golf holes and improve trails.</p>	\$872,000.00	\$0.00	\$481,500.00	\$50,000.00
<p>Forbes and Braddock Intersection</p> <p>Scope: Construct stone walls at perimeter edges, renovate tennis courts, provide uniform tree lines, upgrade ball fields, rebuild steps and improve trails.</p>	\$226,000.00	\$739,500.00	\$28,000.00	\$50,000.00
Totals	\$5,677,500.00	\$1,587,500.00	\$985,250.00	\$2,900,000.00

Pittsburgh's Regional Parks Master Plan

A New Ethic of Stewardship

Sub-Total	20% Mobilization and Site Preparation	10% Design Fee	20% Contingency	Total
\$667,000.00	\$133,400.00	\$66,700.00	\$133,400.00	\$1,000,500.00
\$5,100,000.00	\$1,020,000.00	\$510,000.00	\$1,020,000.00	\$7,650,000.00
\$162,500.00	\$32,500.00	\$16,250.00	\$32,500.00	\$243,750.00
\$1,112,000.00	\$222,400.00	\$111,200.00	\$222,400.00	\$1,668,000.00
				\$0.00
\$503,000.00	\$100,600.00	\$50,300.00	\$100,600.00	\$754,500.00
\$1,158,750.00	\$231,750.00	\$115,875.00	\$231,750.00	\$1,738,125.00
\$1,403,500.00	\$280,700.00	\$140,350.00	\$280,700.00	\$2,105,250.00
\$1,043,500	\$208,700.00	\$104,350.00	\$208,700.00	\$1,565,250.00
\$11,150,250.00	\$2,230,050.00	\$1,115,025.00	\$2,230,050.00	\$16,725,375.00

Pittsburgh's Regional Parks Master Plan

A New Ethic of Stewardship

Highland Park Project Areas	Site Improvements	Athletic Fields and Athletic Courts	Landscaping and New Landscape Types	Buildings
<p>Washington Boulevard</p> <p>Scope: Provide continuous bike trail, create meadow and shrubland habitats, install street trees and park light fixtures along roadway and create or re-open trails.</p>	\$529,000.00	\$0.00	\$301,500.00	\$0.00
<p>Entry Gardens</p> <p>Scope: Construct a grand, public garden at the park entry that includes a fountain, decorative paving, a mixture of plant material, irrigation, lighting and park amenities.</p>	\$699,000.00	\$0.00	\$151,000.00	\$500,000.00
<p>Reservoir Promenade</p> <p>Scope: Provide new railings, paving, planting, lighting and landscape around the perimeter of the reservoir.</p>	\$2,127,500.00	\$0.00	\$16,875.00	\$0.00
<p>Mt. Bigelow Overlook</p> <p>Scope: Remove existing roadways, provide new plaza, benches, lighting, landscaping, overlook wall, walks, steps.</p>	\$311,500.00	\$0.00	\$151,000.00	\$0.00
<p>Hillside Watercourse and Walkway</p> <p>Scope: Design and construct watercourse and path utilizing extra water from new filtration facility including walls, steps, pedestrian bridge and landscaping</p>	\$165,000.00	\$0.00	\$65,750.00	\$0.00
<p>Heth's Run Athletic Fields</p> <p>Scope: Provide new parking areas, roadways, lighting, athletic fields, restroom building, shrubland habitat and walkways, including a trail into the King Estate.</p>	\$510,000.00	\$1,908,000.00	\$74,000.00	\$100,000.00
<p>Pittsburgh Zoo Entrance</p> <p>Scope: Remove Zoo and Public Works access drives, construct new consolidated drive with lights, trail, fencing and street trees; rebuild intersection at Butler.</p>	\$930,000.00	\$0.00	\$126,000.00	\$0.00
<p>Pool, Meadow and Overlook</p> <p>Scope: Renovate poolhouse, provide new pool deck, fencing and walkways. Construct new athletic courts, playground, parking, walks, meadow and shrubland habitats, overlooks, pavilion and trails.</p>	\$552,500.00	\$43,920.00	\$150,000.00	\$550,000.00
<p>Farm House Restoration</p> <p>Scope: Rebuild roadway in front of Farm House, remove road, construct trail, renovate field or reconstruct as multi-use space, provide parking, paths. Unearth stone bridge.</p>	\$331,500.00	\$477,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$250,000.00
<p>Stanton Avenue Enhancements</p> <p>Scope: Construct a new public works maintenance facility, create new athletic fields, provide street trees, fencing and landscape, renovate tennis courts and construct a restroom.</p>	\$1,162,000.00	\$851,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$1,200,000.00
<p>Improvements to the Edges of the Pittsburgh Zoo</p> <p>Scope: Provide a new pedestrian path along Hill Road and Lake Road, provide new fencing and landscaping to screen views into Zoo.</p>	\$400,000.00	\$0.00	\$148,000.00	\$0.00
<p>Lake Carnegie</p> <p>Scope: Construct stone walls at perimeter edges, renovate tennis courts, provide uniform tree lines, upgrade ball fields, rebuild steps and improve trails.</p>	\$120,000.00	\$0.00	\$174,000.00	\$50,000.00
Totals	\$7,838,000.00	\$3,279,920.00	\$1,498,125.00	\$2,650,000.00

Pittsburgh's Regional Parks Master Plan

A New Ethic of Stewardship

Sub-Total	20% Mobilization and Site Preparation	10% Design Fee	20% Contingency	Totals
\$830,500.00	\$166,100.00	\$83,050.00	\$166,100.00	\$1,245,750.00
\$1,350,000.00	\$270,000.00	\$135,000.00	\$270,000.00	\$2,025,000.00
\$2,144,375.00	\$428,875.00	\$214,437.50	\$428,875.00	\$3,216,562.50
\$462,500.00	\$92,500.00	\$46,250.00	\$92,500.00	\$693,750.00
\$230,750.00	\$46,150.00	\$23,075.00	\$46,150.00	\$346,125.00
\$2,592,000.00	\$518,400.00	\$259,200.00	\$518,400.00	\$3,888,000.00
\$1,056,000.00	\$211,200.00	\$105,600.00	\$211,200.00	\$1,584,000.00
\$1,296,420	\$259,284.00	\$129,642.00	\$259,284.00	\$1,944,630.00
\$1,108,500.00	\$221,700.00	\$110,850.00	\$221,700.00	\$1,662,750.00
\$3,303,000.00	\$660,600.00	\$330,300.00	\$660,600.00	\$4,954,500.00
\$548,000.00	\$109,600.00	\$54,800.00	\$109,600.00	\$822,000.00
\$344,000.00	\$68,800.00	\$34,400.00	\$68,800.00	\$516,000.00
\$15,266,045.00	\$3,053,209.00	\$1,526,604.50	\$3,053,209.00	\$22,899,067.50

Pittsburgh's Regional Parks Master Plan

A New Ethic of Stewardship

Riverview Park Project Areas	Site Improvements	Athletic Fields and Athletic Courts	Landscaping and New Landscape Types	Buildings
<p>Snyder's Point</p> <p>Scope: Construct new trails, pavilions and parking area. Create meadow and shrubland habitat. Minimize clearing of trees.</p>	\$75,000.00	\$0.00	\$102,000.00	\$100,000.00
<p>Observatory Hill</p> <p>Scope: Rebuild trails, access drive, terrace and entry fountain. Restore landscape. Convert building to function as a visitor center. Reconstruct gardens and create trail connections. Renovate tennis courts.</p>	\$811,500.00	\$87,840.00	\$180,000.00	\$250,000.00
<p>Chapel Ridge</p> <p>Scope: Restore the Chapel and surrounding landscape including a parking lot, removal of tennis courts, construction of new playground. Provide ridgetop trails and steps, renovate nature center and create shrubland habitat.</p>	\$271,750.00	\$0.00	\$165,000.00	\$1,250,000.00
<p>Valley Refuge</p> <p>Scope: Construct new Public Works facility, equestrian center, restore shelter, remove ball field, create pond, construct trail to Snyder's Point and rebuild Kilbuck Road connection as a trail. Renovate Perrysville Avenue bus shelters.</p>	\$613,000.00	\$0.00	\$707,500.00	\$2,370,000.00
<p>Wissahickon Nature Preserve</p> <p>Scope: Remove portion of roadway and construct a multi-use trail, provide new walls and drainage. Restore Watsons Cabin, provide parking, pavilion and trails along Mairdale Avenue. Implement woodland/stream restoration projects.</p>	\$1,623,000.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00	\$550,000.00
<p>Riverview Drive Improvements</p> <p>Scope: Create organized parking areas, replant eroding hillsides, provide street trees and lights. Relocate pavilion, create meadow, construct parking lot, access road and trails. Provide walks to Davis Avenue Bridge and replant entry island with ornamental landscape.</p>	\$277,500.00	\$0.00	\$223,500.00	\$25,000.00
Totals	\$3,671,750.00	\$87,840.00	\$1,528,000.00	\$4,545,000.00

Pittsburgh's Regional Parks Master Plan

A New Ethic of Stewardship

Sub-Total	20% Mobilization and Site Preparation	10% Design Fee	20% Contingency	Total
\$277,000.00	\$55,400.00	\$27,700.00	\$55,400.00	\$415,500.00
\$1,329,340.00	\$265,868.00	\$132,934.00	\$265,868.00	\$1,994,010.00
\$1,686,750.00	\$337,350.00	\$168,675.00	\$337,350.00	\$2,530,125.00
\$3,690,500.00	\$738,100.00	\$369,050.00	\$738,100.00	\$5,535,750.00
\$2,323,000.00	\$464,600.00	\$232,300.00	\$464,600.00	\$3,484,500.00
\$526,000.00	\$105,200.00	\$52,600.00	\$105,200.00	\$789,000.00
\$9,832,590.00	\$1,966,518.00	\$983,259.00	\$1,966,518.00	\$14,748,885.00

Pittsburgh's Regional Parks Master Plan

A New Ethic of Stewardship

Schenley Park Project Areas	Site Improvements	Athletic Fields and Athletic Courts	Landscaping and New Landscape Types	Buildings
<p>Schenley Plaza Restoration</p> <p>Scope: Remove parking, create new roadways and central island with fountain. Create new parking areas, plazas, walks and gardens. Install planting, benches and lighting.</p>	\$1,928,500.00	\$0.00	\$411,500.00	\$0.00
<p>Phipps Conservatory</p> <p>Scope: Construct public trail, fencing, walls and landscape to protect Phipps. Establish gardens and rebuild steps. Renovate paths and walls behind restored visitors center.</p>	\$833,000.00	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$0.00
<p>Flagstaff Hill and Azalea Garden</p> <p>Scope: Construct garden theater, provide walls, landscaping and lighting. Restore the azalea garden with planting, paths and benches. Create new entry at CMU with walls, crosswalks, lighting and landscaping.</p>	\$573,125.00	\$0.00	\$831,500.00	\$0.00
<p>Junction Hollow</p> <p>Scope: Construct railroad crossing, create parking and trail head at the end of Boundary Street. Provide new trails and landscape northern half of the site.</p>	\$870,000.00	\$0.00	\$150,000.00	\$50,000.00
<p>East Entry</p> <p>Scope: Construct roundabout at intersection with a pedestrian underpass. Relocate portion of Overlook Drive. Create new trails, construct pavilion/restroom at entrance to Panther Hollow, steps, walls and shrubland habitat.</p>	\$4,235,000.00	\$0.00	\$87,000.00	\$100,000.00
<p>Prospect Hill</p> <p>Scope: Construct new Public Works facility, re-open service drive, create overlook terrace with benches, trees and lights. Restore pavilion and create trail connections.</p>	\$296,000.00	\$0.00	\$80,000.00	\$1,150,000.00
<p>Panther Hollow Drive Improvements</p> <p>Scope: Expand parking and construct restroom at Anderson Playground. Construct roundabout at interchange, provide lights, paths and street trees. Create meadow habitat at Vietnam Veterans pavilion.</p>	\$3,840,000.00	\$0.00	\$62,000.00	\$150,000.00
<p>Panther Hollow Watershed Improvements</p> <p>Scope: Create formalized entry points, rebuild trails to proper widths and materials, restore bridges, remove edge of Lake, create wetland, restore area around unusable trail, rebuild boathouse.</p>	\$1,770,000.00	\$0.00	\$370,000.00	\$0.00
<p>Improvements to Schenley Drive and Golf Course Edges</p> <p>Scope: Narrow the cartway width of Schenley Drive, construct a dedicated pedestrian walk, install fences, mounds and landscaping. Create meadow habitat along West Circuit Drive, landscape maintenance building and Neill Log House.</p>	\$662,000.00	\$0.00	\$264,000.00	\$0.00
<p>The Oval</p> <p>Scope: Construct stone walls, walks, steps and shrubland habitat along Overlook Drive. Construct terrace, café building, trails and parking above the Ice Rink. Renovate fields, construct restrooms, renovate Vietnam Vets pavilion.</p>	\$2,449,000.00	\$3,121,600.00	\$150,000.00	\$200,000.00
Totals	\$17,456,625.00	\$3,121,600.00	\$2,506,000.00	\$2,650,000.00

Pittsburgh's Regional Parks Master Plan

A New Ethic of Stewardship

Sub-Total	20% Mobilization and Site Preparation	10% Design Fee	20% Contingency	Total
\$2,340,000.00	\$468,000.00	\$234,000.00	\$468,000.00	\$3,510,000.00
\$933,000.00	\$186,600.00	\$93,300.00	\$186,600.00	\$1,399,500.00
\$1,404,625.00	\$280,925.00	\$140,462.50	\$280,925.00	\$2,106,937.50
\$1,070,000.00	\$214,000.00	\$107,000.00	\$214,000.00	\$1,605,000.00
\$4,422,000.00	\$884,400.00	\$442,200.00	\$884,400.00	\$6,633,000.00
\$1,526,000.00	\$305,200.00	\$152,600.00	\$305,200.00	\$2,289,000.00
\$4,052,000.00	\$810,400.00	\$405,200.00	\$810,400.00	\$6,078,000.00
\$2,140,000.00	\$428,000.00	\$214,000.00	\$428,000.00	\$3,210,000.00
\$926,000.00	\$185,200.00	\$92,600.00	\$185,200.00	\$1,389,000.00
\$5,920,600	\$1,184,120.00	\$592,060.00	\$1,184,120.00	\$8,880,900.00
\$24,734,225.00	\$4,946,845.00	\$2,473,422.50	\$4,946,845.00	\$37,101,337.00

Phasing Priorities for Park Renewal Projects

The priority list described here reflects the thinking at the end of the public process in the Fall of 2000. Priorities can change depending on community needs, funding resources, partnerships, infrastructure improvements, and safety and health issues.

A system-wide priority would be to implement park specific, public works facilities at appropriate and discreet locations within each park, except Frick where one currently exists.

Frick Park

1. Restore Reynolds Street Entrance (complete)
2. Nine Mile Run Watershed Restoration Project (underway)
3. Fern Hollow Ballfield Replacement (underway)
4. Homewood Cemetery Slope Protection
5. Fern Hollow and Falls Ravine Hydrology Plan
6. Environmental Center Visioning and Frick Woods Expansion
7. Restore the Clayton Hill Entry
8. Riverview Hill Restoration
9. Braddock Avenue Entries



Highland Park

1. Entry Gardens (underway)
2. Farm House Restoration (underway)
3. Hillside Walk and Watercourse
4. Reservoir Promenade
5. Roadway Enhancements and Zoo Edge Improvements
6. Heth's Run Fields and Stanton Avenue Improvements
7. Pool, Poolhouse and Meadow
8. Lake Carnegie Restoration
9. Washington Boulevard Restoration



Riverview Park



1. Equestrian Center at the site of the former maintenance facility.
2. Restore Valley Refuge and Perrysville Bus Shelters
3. Restore Watson's Cabin
4. New Visitor Center (convert Big League Office) and Entry Gardens
5. Riverview Drive Improvements
6. Convert Portion of Road to Multi-use Trail
7. Restore The Chapel Pavilion and Surrounding Landscape
8. Restore the Observatory Grounds and Study Re-use of Building
9. Renew Snyder's Point

Schenley Park



1. New Visitors Center (underway)
2. Park improvements related to Phipps Expansion (underway)
3. Junction Hollow Fields (underway)
4. Rehabilitation of The Oval
5. Comprehensive Traffic Study
6. Restore Schenley Plaza
7. East Entry Pedestrian Paths and Roundabout
8. Flagstaff Hill and Azalea Garden
9. Restore Panther Hollow, including Panther Hollow Lake and Bridges

Resources

Master Plan Resources

Stage Two Report, Inventory, Assessment, and Opportunities

September, 1999

Assessment summaries of history, architecture, ecology, land use and landscape character for the four Regional Parks.

A Chronology of Significant Events in the History of Highland, Schenley, Riverview and Frick Parks

Appendix: September, 1999

A general chronology of the evolution of the four Regional Parks.

A Management Plan for Pittsburgh's Regional Parks

April, 2000 by ETM Associates

Management report summarizing existing maintenance practices and recommendations to improve management and maintenance of the parks.

Nine Mile Run Watershed Rivers Conservation Plan

August, 1998 by City of Pittsburgh, Carnegie Mellon University, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, and the Pennsylvania State University

Restoration and conservation plan of the Nine Mile Run Watershed.

The above resources can be obtained by the City of Pittsburgh Department of City Planning.

Contacts:

*For more information concerning the **Pittsburgh's Regional Parks Master Plan** and to learn how you can help realize this vision please contact the following:*

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