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## **FAIRMOUNT PARK CONSERVANCY HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** **Local leader in park stewardship**

**October 21, 2019 – Philadelphia, PA** – The board of directors of Fairmount Park Conservancy is pleased to announce the appointment of Maura McCarthy, Ph.D., as the new executive director beginning November 1, 2019. For the past 13 years, McCarthy has been the executive director of Friends of the Wissahickon, Philadelphia’s only professionally staffed Park Friends group, harnessing over 10,000 hours of volunteer engagement each year to support a National Recreation Trail and an 1,800-acre National Natural Landmark.

“We feel very fortunate to have found a leader who understands our vision and the strategic, collaborative work necessary to achieve it,” said **John Gattuso, Board President of Fairmount Park Conservancy**. “We know that Maura will build on the forward momentum Fairmount Park Conservancy has accomplished over the past two decades, and under her leadership we will continue to transform our region’s park system into an excellent open space resource for all Philadelphians and future generations.”



*Maura McCarthy, Ph.D.*

Gattuso pointed to the capital projects currently underway at Fairmount Park Conservancy—such as re-envisioning the historic Centennial District in West Fairmount Park as a dynamic destination and the ambitious plans for transforming the 350-acre FDR Park into a state-of-the-art environmental and recreational hub for our region, as well as the Conservancy’s partnership with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation on the citywide Park Stewardship Program—as initiatives that McCarthy will oversee. The Conservancy is also engaged in the

restoration of Fairmount Park's natural lands as well as the preservation and activation of numerous historically significant architectural sites, and will continue to connect residents and visitors to these important assets.

Gattuso expressed his gratitude to Tim Clair, who has been serving as interim executive director.

During her tenure at Friends of the Wissahickon, first as development director and then as executive director, McCarthy has worked with the Board of Directors to increase organizational revenue from under \$500,000 in 2005 to nearly \$2 million in recent years. She and her staff have implemented diverse outreach strategies, broadened engagement with Philadelphia communities, and developed innovative long-term strategies for managing the Wissahickon's habitat and infrastructure with the goal of ensuring a welcoming, safe and ecologically healthy park for everyone.

"I see this move to Fairmount Park Conservancy as the opportunity to continue the work I've been doing on a citywide scale," **said McCarthy** of her new position as executive director. "I am genuinely excited about being part of the Conservancy's mission to build equity through the maintenance, improvement, and activation of Philadelphia's amazing parks."

A native to the Philadelphia region, McCarthy has a strong record of public service. She currently serves on the Green City, Clean Waters Steering Committee for Philadelphia Water Department and was a member of Mayor Jim Kenney's Transition Team on Environment & Sustainability.

She holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Social Anthropology from the University of Oxford and a Bachelor of Arts from New York University. She also received a Certificate in Performance Measurement for Effective Management of Nonprofit Organizations from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

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**Fairmount Park Conservancy** exists to champion Philadelphia's parks. We lead capital projects and historic preservation efforts, foster neighborhood park stewardship, attract and leverage investments, and develop innovative programs throughout the 10,200 acres that include Fairmount Park and more than 200 neighborhood parks around the city. For more information, please visit [myphillypark.org](http://myphillypark.org), join us at [facebook.com/fairmountparkconservancy](https://facebook.com/fairmountparkconservancy), and follow us on Instagram and Twitter @myphillypark.