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WHAT TO DO THIS WINTER IN PHILLY'S PARKS

*Join Fairmount Park Conservancy and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation for
Holidays in the Park, Getaway at the Greenhouse, and More Winter Fun*

PHILADELPHIA, OCTOBER 30, 2019 – It may be cold outside, but Philadelphia's parks will host a fun and affordable lineup of outdoor and indoor activities for all ages throughout the winter months. Below are the highlights of events and programs developed by Fairmount Park Conservancy in partnership with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation. For more events and details, visit Fairmount Park Conservancy's calendar of events at myphillypark.org/events-calendar.

Celebrate the Holidays in Fairmount Park

Celebrate the 48th year of **A Very Philly Christmas at the Historic Houses of Fairmount Park**

(December 5-January 1), featuring special events and tours at Cedar Grove, Historic Strawberry Mansion, Laurel Hill Mansion, Lemon Hill Mansion, Mount Pleasant Mansion, and Woodford Mansion. The Historic Houses are some of the best-preserved examples of 18th and 19th century early American architecture, all located in one of the country's most beautiful urban parks. There are two ways to enjoy A Very Philly Christmas: Holiday House Tours (December 5 – January 1, dates vary) and Holiday House Tours Special Event Days (December 7, 8, 14, and 15).



Talented local garden clubs and design companies will decorate the six mansions for the holidays, including a nature theme at Lemon Hill Mansion featuring decor inspired by the natural wonders of Fairmount Park. Mount Pleasant Mansion will reopen its doors for the holiday season after undergoing renovations and will feature holiday decorations by Robertson's Flowers & Events.

Holiday House Tours Special Event Days showcase what makes Philadelphia a very special place: its history, food, music, and creative culture. Programs take place at all six historic houses from 10 am – 4 pm unless otherwise noted:

- **Traditions of the Season:** Saturday, December 7
Watch as the Historic Houses of Fairmount Park revive their colonial-era heritage and bring history to life. First-person historic interpreters from Historic Philadelphia, Inc. will be present throughout the day at the six houses. Experience 18th- and 19th-century life through real people from history presenting narratives, hands-on activities, and demonstrations of traditional trades, crafts, and domestic duties.
- **Flavors of the Season:** Sunday, December 8
Bring an appetite and culinary curiosity to the Historic Houses and celebrate some of Philadelphia's best tastes for the holidays. Cooking demonstrations will be provided by Vegan Commissary and City Tavern's Chef Walter Staib, who will prepare recipes from his award-winning colonial cookbook, *A Taste of History*. Other local vendors will be on hand throughout the day with free samples of their specialties.
- **Sounds of the Season presented by WRTI:** Saturday, December 14
Tune into the holiday season's greatest hits at the Historic Houses at Sounds of the Season presented by WRTI, with some of the best jazz, classical, gospel, and Latin music in Philadelphia, including Opera Philadelphia, Black Pearl Chamber Orchestra, and international master percussionist Pablo Batista.
- **Crafts of the Season:** Sunday, December 15
Deck the halls and decorate your walls on this day dedicated to creativity, community, and the crafts of the season. Each Historic House will have creative activities and workshops for kids and adults alike. The day will include demonstrations from local artists and designers such as Tiny WPA and several of the houses will have "makerspaces" where guests can create their own one-of-a-kind ornaments, wreaths, cards, and other seasonal crafts. Crafts of the Season is presented in partnership with CraftNOW Philadelphia.

FOOD: Ridgeland Mansion in West Fairmount Park will also open its doors during Holiday House Tours Special Event Days and provide festive food by Joshua's Catering (4100 Chamounix Dr, Philadelphia, PA 19131).

TICKETS:

\$8 per individual house, free for children 12 and under

\$30 for All Houses Day Pass

\$35 for All Houses Day Pass for Special Event Days (includes PHLASH Transportation between the houses) – December 7, 8, 14, and 15 only

HOLIDAY HOUSE TOURS: Visitors can stop by the Historic Houses starting December 5 for Holiday House Tours. Dates and times are listed below:

- **Cedar Grove** (1 Cedar Grove Dr.): Thursday-Sunday 10-4pm; open after Christmas from 12/26 - 12/29 and for New Year's Eve and Day on 12/31 and 1/1/20.
- **Historic Strawberry Mansion** (2450 Strawberry Mansion Dr.): Wednesday-Sunday, 10am-4pm.
- **Laurel Hill** (7201 N Randolph Dr.): Thursday-Sunday 10am-4pm. Open after Christmas from 12/26 - 12/29.
- **Lemon Hill** (Sedgeley Dr. & Lemon Hill Dr.): Thursday-Sunday 10am-4pm. Open after Christmas from 12/26 - 12/29.
- **Mount Pleasant Mansion** (3800 Mt Pleasant Dr.): Thursday-Sunday, 10am-4pm. Open after Christmas from 12/26 - 12/29 and for New Year's Eve and Day on 12/31 and 1/1/20.
- **Woodford Mansion** (3400 West Dauphin Dr.): Wednesday-Sunday, 10am-4pm. Open after Christmas from 12/26 - 12/29.

For full schedules and to purchase tickets in advance, see holidaysinthepark.com.

Promotion and programming for the historic houses are supported through a partnership between Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, Fairmount Park Conservancy and various stewardship groups. Proceeds from the events support the ongoing stewardship, maintenance and promotion of these treasures.

Warm up with yoga in the greenhouse

Fairmount Park Conservancy's popular greenhouse yoga series returns for another season from December to March. The Sunday series will take place indoors at Fairmount Park Horticulture Center among the lush foliage on the following dates:

- Sunday, December 8
- Saturday, December 21
- Sunday, January 5, 12, 26
- Sunday, February 2, 9, 16, 23
- Sunday, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29



Times vary. Registration is free for Conservancy members and \$15 for non-members:
<https://fairmountpark.ticketleap.com/winter-yoga-at-the-horticulture-center/>

Experience winter fun along the Parkway

The Christmas Village at LOVE Park

The larger-than-life Present will sparkle again at the Christmas Village at LOVE Park this holiday season. From Giving Tuesday, December 3 to Tuesday, December 31 (New Year's Eve), visitors will be able to experience the dazzling installation and donate to Fairmount Park Conservancy, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, or Project HOME.

In addition, a shipping container will be open as a pop-up store during the Christmas Village, featuring soaps and candles made by Project HOME residents, and LOVE Park-themed items, including LOVE Park granite keepsakes, t-shirts, winter hats, and more.

Hot Chocolate at the Rocky Steps

While visiting the Philadelphia Museum of Art or snapping a selfie at the Rocky statue, stop by the Independence Visitor Center's Pop Up Visitor Center and Gift Shop while grabbing some hot chocolate by La Chocolatera and cheesesteaks by Brotherly Grub. Hot chocolate will be offered through the month of December.

Cider at Cosmic Cafe

Visitors to Cosmic Cafe can now complement their fresh food offerings with hard ciders, beer, wine, and spirits at the recently opened Schuylkill Ciderhouse. This pop-up beer and cider garden at Lloyd Hall also features live music and specialty cocktails each week. A portion of the proceeds go to support Philadelphia's parks.

Escape the Winter Blues at Getaway at the Greenhouse

After a successful inaugural season last year, the Fairmount Park Horticulture Center will once again be transformed into an indoor summer oasis with Getaway at the Greenhouse from February 1-16, 2020. For two weeks, the 20,000-square-foot greenhouse will feature summer-inspired fun with food trucks, live music, a giant sandbox, and family-friendly activities.

New this year to the Getaway at the Greenhouse: "Gaia," an oversized globe of the Earth will be shown in Philadelphia for the first time. Created by British artist Luke Gerram with detailed NASA photography of the Earth's surface, the three-dimensional piece is designed to give people the opportunity to gaze at our planet as if it were floating in space. In ancient Greek mythology, Gaia was the personification of the Earth.



Getaway at the Greenhouse is presented by Fairmount Park Conservancy, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, and Constellation Culinary Group.

Train for Broad Street Run in and for Philly's parks

Registration is open for Fairmount Park Conservancy's team of Park Champions, a group of runners who run the annual Broad Street Run (May 3) in support of Philly's parks. Team members can enjoy great perks while fundraising for the Conservancy, including a guaranteed entry bib to the Broad Street Run, free guided winter training runs in Fairmount Park, swag, and a \$50-level membership to the organization. Last year, the team raised \$34,028 for Philly's parks.

<https://www.crowdrise.com/o/en/campaign/broad-street-run-2020-for-phillys-parks>

Download high-resolution images here: <http://bit.ly/ConservancyPressKit>.

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 100 neighborhood parks around the city. For more information, please visit myphillypark.org, join us at [facebook.com/fairmountparkconservancy](https://www.facebook.com/fairmountparkconservancy), and follow us on Instagram and Twitter @myphillypark.

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR) advances the prosperity of the city and the progress of her people through intentional and sustained stewardship of nearly 10,200 acres of public land and waterways as well as through hundreds of safe, stimulating recreation, environmental and cultural centers. PPR promotes the well-being and growth of the city's residents by connecting them to the natural world around them, to each other and to fun, physical and social opportunities. PPR is responsible for the upkeep of historically significant Philadelphia events and specialty venues, and works collaboratively with communities and organizations in leading capital projects and the introduction of inventive programming. To learn more about Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, visit us at www.phila.gov/parksandrec, and follow @philaparkandrec on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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Photos by Albert Yee for Fairmount Park Conservancy.

Greenhouse yoga photo by Fairmount Park Conservancy.