West Fairmount Park
Open House:
Parkside Pedestrian Improvements

October 19, 2021
The land upon which we gather is part of the traditional territory of the Lenni-Lenape. The Lenape People lived in harmony with one another upon this territory for thousands of years.

During the colonial era and early federal period, many were removed west and north, but some also remain among the continuing historical tribal communities of the region: The Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape Tribal Nation; the Ramapough Lenape Nation; and the Powhatan Renape Nation, The Nanticoke of Millsboro Delaware, and the Lenape of Cheswold Delaware.

**We acknowledge the Lenni-Lenape as the original people of this land and their continuing relationship with their territory.**

In our acknowledgment of the continued presence of Lenape people in their homeland, we affirm the aspiration of the great Lenape Chief Tamanend, that there be harmony between the indigenous people of this land and the descendants of the immigrants to this land, “as long as the rivers and creeks flow, and the sun, moon, and stars shine.”
Maura McCarthy (she/her)

Executive Director, Fairmount Park Conservancy
Today’s agenda

- Introducing FPC Team Members in West Fairmount Park
- Open House Housekeeping: Maura McCarthy
- Parkside Pedestrian Improvement Project: Allison Schapker
- Community Programs: Jennifer Mahar and Nicole Hameen
- Q & A
Who is who?

**FAIRMOUNT PARK CONSERVANCY**

- Non-profit
- 30 employees
- Founded in 1998
- **Mission:** Fairmount Park Conservancy brings Philadelphia’s parks to life. We lead capital projects and historic preservation efforts, foster 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.

**PHILADELPHIA PARKS & RECREATION**

- City agency housed in the Office of Children & Families
- Merger of Department of Recreation and Fairmount Park Commission in 2010
- 700+ employees
- **Mission:** The residents of Philadelphia own a treasure of facilities and resources they have entrusted to Philadelphia Parks & Recreation to manage democratically, equitably, and sustainably. Parks & Rec activates and stewards those treasures with programs and services that contribute to the wellness and prosperity of all.
Friendly faces you might meet

Program leaders

Nicole Seahorne
Hameen
Community Program Coordinator

EmmaKate Martin
FarmPhilly Coordinator

Jennifer Mahar
Senior Director of Community Programs and Partnerships

John Sigmund
Public Programs Coordinator
Friendly faces you might meet

Program leaders

Lee Scottlorde
TreePhilly Program Coordinator

Lindsey Walker
Volunteer and Environmental Program Manager

Erin Engelstad
Park Stewardship Manager
Friendly faces you might meet

Landcare and facilities leaders

Zambia Greene
Facilities & Landscape Manager

Drew Rinaldi Subits
Natural Lands Field Coordinator

Luke Rhodes
Project Manager
What is West Fairmount Park?

- Fairmount Park is 2,050 acres total
- **West Fairmount Park includes 1,400 acres** on the west side of the Schuylkill River (Chamounix Hostel to the north, Philadelphia Zoo to the south)
- Home to iconic vistas, cultural institutions, historic structures, artwork and natural areas.
- Bordered by neighbors in East Parkside, West Parkside, Wynnewfield and Wynnewfield Heights.
Partners in West Fairmount Park

- Belmont Stables
- Belmont Plateau Trails Alliance
- Cancer Support Community Greater Philadelphia
- Centennial Parkside CDC
- Center for Adaptive Rowing
- Chamounix Hostel
- Constellation Culinary Group
- Friends of Chamounix Tennis Courts
- Friends of Concourse Lake
- The Mann Center
- Philadelphia Zoo
- Philly Pumptrack at Parkside Evans
- Please Touch Museum at Memorial Hall
- Shofuso Japanese House & Garden
- Treetop Quest Philly
- Underground Railroad Museum at Belmont Mansion
- Work to Ride at Chamounix Equestrian Center
- Wynnewood Community Neighborhood Association
- Wynnewood Residents Association

...and more!
West Fairmount Park Community

- Thank you for being here today!
- Who are we missing? Who are constituents who should be here and are not?
- Connect with us! Call 215-988-9334 or email info@myphillypark.org
- Listening sessions in West Fairmount Park
  - **Thursday, 10/28 from 4-7pm.** There will be a walk to this project site from the Market starting at **4:15pm**, and a table at the Market from 5-7
Parkside Edge project overview

- The site, part of the Centennial Exhibition of 1876, has a rich history, but had been left under-developed for decades.
- In June, 2018 we cut the ribbon on Parkside Edge alongside community partners.
- New seating and picnic areas, landscaping, swings and a rain garden.
- In more typical years, It is home to various community events including Parkside Fresh Food Fest, movie nights, and more.
Allison Schapker (she/her)

Chief Projects Officer
Parkside Edge - Vision Zero

KILLED OR SERIOUS INJURY CRASHES
Traffic crashes where at least one person was killed or suffered serious injuries is referred to as a Killed or Serious Injury or KSI crash.

Total Fatalities and Serious Injuries (2014-2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fatalities</th>
<th>Serious Injuries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>223</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source:
PennDOT (2014-2018: interstates excluded)
WHAT WE’VE HEARD: COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

- Safe access into the park
- Amenities at the Edge
- Targeted programming for the neighborhood
- Better maintenance of public space
- Jobs for neighborhood residents
WHAT WE’VE HEARD: CITY PRIORITIES

● Stormwater & roadway flood mitigation *(Philadelphia Water Department)*

● Safer crossings to prevent injuries and fatalities *(Office of Transportation Infrastructure and Sustainability)*

● A more welcoming park edge for Parkside neighborhood *(Philadelphia Parks & Recreation)*
West Philadelphia residents can safely get into the park.

The park is a safe and beautiful place to explore.

The Welsh Memorial Fountain Landscape is a gateway into West Park.

The Welsh Fountain Landscape is restored and Memorial Hall Drive offers streetscape and crossings that prioritize the experience of park users over through traffic.
Current Site Conditions
2021-2022: 2 phases

FIRST PHASE: WINTER 2021
- Pedestrian-activated crossing at South Concourse
- Formal paved pathways leading to Welsh Memorial Fountain
- Landscaping

SECOND PHASE: SPRING 2022
- Roundabouts at Memorial Drives
- Pedestrian Refuges at Avenue of the Republic crossing
- Pop-up Expansion of Welsh Fountain Plaza
FIRST PHASE: WINTER 2021
- Pedestrian activated crossing
- Paved pathways leading to Welsh Fountain
- Landscaping

SECOND PHASE: SPRING 2022
- Roundabouts
- Pedestrian Refuges
- Pop-up Expansion of Welsh Fountain Plaza
First phase: Parkside Edge Gap & Crossing

- New crossing with pedestrian-activated signal
- New plaza space with pathways and a central area for seating, programs, etc.
- New landscaping

WINTER 2021
Parkside Edge Gap: Winter 2021
Second phase: Pedestrian Pilots

- Improved crossing and pedestrian refuge
- Memorial Drives restriped with bike lanes
- Pop-up expansion of Welsh Fountain Plaza
- New roundabouts

Spring 2022
Why a parklet?

- Expands Welsh Fountain Plaza area
- Creates a special place for park visitors with programming in Summer of 2022
- Reduces the width of the road, protects from parking and creates a safer crossing.
Why Roundabouts?

- Fewer, less severe crashes*
- Lower vehicle speeds
- Less pollution (due to fewer vehicles idling)
- Pedestrians cross one direction of traffic at a time

*Studies by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety show that roundabouts provide a:

- 90 percent reduction in fatal crashes;
- 76 percent reduction in injury crashes;
- 30 to 40 percent reduction in pedestrian crashes; and
- 10 percent reduction in bicycle crashes
Before / After
The Gateway Projects

Parkside Edge - *Project Timeline*

- This project was shared at our Open House in January, 2021
- Rest of October, 2021: in-person listening session October 28th and more to come
- **Phase 1: Fall and Winter, 2021: landscape and crossing completed**
- **Phase 2: Spring: striping and traffic circles completed**
- **Spring, 2022: parklet at Welsh Fountain Plaza opens**
- **Summer, 2022: activation focuses on the Gap and around the Welsh Fountain**
Litter Collection contract for twice a week service with CPCDC clean and green team made up of Parkside residents

2021 Landscape Maintenance Contract with Green City Works (a social impact business hiring exclusively residents of West Philadelphia businesses)

FPC hired Landscape and Facilities Manager, Zambia Greene in June

Simplified planting scheme in the Gap
  ○ We will take what’s successful and bring it to the rest of the Edge
Jennifer Mahar (she/her)

FAIRMOUNT PARK
CONSERVANCY

Senior Director of Community Programs & Partnerships
Community Programs & Partnerships
Volunteering in West Fairmount Park

Weekly volunteer events throughout Fairmount Park:

- Parkside Evans Trail
- Wynnefield Trail
- Trolley Trail
- Georges Hill
- Concourse Lake
- Belmont Plateau

Summer Stats

- 639 volunteer hours
- 675 trees tended (442 individual trees)
- 356 bags of trash
- 195+ bags of weeds/vines

Get involved at loveyourpark.org
Our FarmPhilly program, in partnership with PPR, has grown thousands of pounds of fresh produce which have been distributed in the Parkside neighborhood.

Many of you may recognize Farmer Kim!
Nicole Seahorne Hameen (she/her)

FAIRMOUNT PARK
CONSERVANCY

Community Program Coordinator
Two more markets left in October. Thursday October 21st and 28th from 4-7 pm at Belmont Ave & Parkside Ave. (CASE building parking lot.) Markets will feature free samples from the Urban Black Vegan, an arts and crafts table and more!

Accepts Cash, Venmo (select vendors), SNAP/EBT and P-EBT, Food Bucks and WIC and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) vouchers.

Partnership with Fairmount Park Conservancy, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, The Food Trust and the Centennial Parkside CDC.
We Walk PHL is a free walking group that encourages members to take a walk in their local park, including Concourse Lake and Parkside Edge.

Two more walks this season in West Park! Thursday October 21st and 28th at Concourse Lake at 4:30pm. Come on out!

- **800+ participants during fall of 2020 in 12 parks**

We Walk PHL is a partnership between The Conservancy, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and the Department of Public Health,
The Conservancy hosts hikes, bird walks, bike rides, stargazing nights, history walking tours, and more year-round.

Join us at myphillyphpark.org.
Listening sessions in West Fairmount Park

○ First one will be at the final Farmer’s Market on Thursday, 10/28 from 4-7pm. There will be a walk to this project site from the Market starting at 4:15pm, and a table at the Market from 5-7 (Belmont Ave. and Parkside Ave.)

○ Stay tuned for other dates announced soon!
Thank you!

- Thanks to all of our volunteers, members, donors and community partners.
- To learn more about supporting our work, please visit myphillyphpark.org

Contact us:

- **Call us:** 215-988-9334
- **Email us:** info@myphillyphpark.org
- **Social media:** @myphillyphpark on Instagram, Twitter, and @fairmountparkconservancy on Facebook
More questions? Contact info@myphillyphpark.org