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Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Newly Restored Allée & New Visitors Center Demonstration Rain Garden in Round Hill Park



PITTSBURGH, PA, October 30, 2024 – County Executive Sara Innamorato and Parks Foundation Executive Director, Joey-Linn Ulrich, unveiled two impactful projects in Round Hill Park this morning at the newly restored Allée and recently installed Visitors Center Rain Garden. Round Hill Park is in Elizabeth Township, encompasses 1,101 acres of land and features an exhibition farm with animals.

[The Allée](#) (a straight path, lined with trees or shrubs) has been an iconic feature in Round Hill Park for years and has been the location of many engagements, family photoshoots and joyous walks. Unfortunately, a deadly fungal disease, verticillium wilt, infected the maple trees that made up this beloved allée, requiring their removal to ensure the safety of park visitors and nearby animals. The area was replanted with a variety of species that are both resilient to the disease and safe for the surrounding farm animals. Funding was provided by FedEx for this work and remarks were given during the ceremony by their Vice President of Litigation, Joe Milcoff.

[The Visitors Center Demonstration Rain Garden](#) was recently installed to manage rainwater from the building's roof and paved walkways, while educating visitors about stormwater management. Designed to capture up to 31,200 gallons of rain annually, the project included piping, engineered soils, native plants, and erosion control to reduce runoff, prevent downstream flooding, and filter pollutants. Interpretive signage will soon provide further educational insights for park visitors. Funding was provided

by the EQT Foundation for this work and Ellen Rossi, President of the EQT Foundation, gave remarks during the ceremony.

Both projects were inspired by the [Ecological Assessment and Action Plan](#) that was created for Round Hill Park, which was funded by the Allegheny County Parks Foundation and completed by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. These comprehensive studies evaluate each park's natural resources and ecological assets and recommend an implementation plan for improving the environment of the park. The Parks Foundation and Allegheny County use these to guide project selection in the nine county parks.

The ribbon cutting event was followed by refreshments inside the Visitors Center and farm tours, led by the Allegheny County Park Rangers.

About the Allegheny County Parks Foundation

The Allegheny County Parks Foundation is an independent 501c(3) non-profit organization that strengthens the health and vibrancy of our community by improving, conserving and restoring the nine Allegheny County Parks. Working in partnership with Allegheny County, the Parks Foundation brings together ideas, leadership and resources to make the parks more sustainable and enjoyable for all.

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