

With spring just around the corner, it's about time we take things outdoors in the South Side Slopes. Take a look at all that is coming up green in OUR Pittsburgh neighborhood...

Community Garden at Bandi Shaum Field Coming this Spring

Interested in gardening this year but don't have the yard to do it? Want to meet some of your neighbors? Think about signing up for a garden plot at the new community garden at Bandi Shaum Field. Anyone interested in getting a garden plot should sign up at:

<http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/publicworks/gardenplots/>. For more information email sarah.shea@southsideslopes.org.

South Side Community Garden: Calendar of Events

March

Monday, March 26th, 6 p.m., Brashear, - Community gardener open meeting; bed planning; distribution of seed order forms

April

Monday, April 30th, 6p.m., Brashear Association- Orientation and garden tour

May

Saturday, May 5th and Saturday, May 12th, all day- Mulching and garden construction work days

June

Saturday, June 2nd, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. - Planting day; seeding, transplanting, and watering workshop



South Side Park: The Slopes Best Kept Secret

As with many new Slopers, our family's move to the South Side Slopes was in large part for the trademark views, neighborly charm, and urban accessibility. But for a couple of outdoor enthusiasts, the surprise of stumbling upon a 65-acre park at the heart of our new neighborhood and right at the end of our street let us know with certainty that we had found the perfect Pittsburgh community.

South Side Park traces its beginnings to 1934 when the estate of Frederick C. Renziehausen gifted the City of Pittsburgh a 5.5 acre parcel of land for the creation of a park. With additional lands designated by the Pittsburgh

City Planning Commission, South Side Park took present shape by the mid-1960's, stretching to include amenities such as: ball fields, a football field, basketball courts, playgrounds, hiking and nature trail, and an ice skating rink.

In recent years, the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association has worked with the South Side Local Development Company, in addition other community stakeholders including SSLDC, the City of Pittsburgh, and the Elm Street Committee to craft a greenspace management plan. The purpose of the plan is revitalize, both in a physical and in a practical sense, the park as THE central, natural community feature in the South Side Slopes neighborhood.

It is now time to take the next step and move in the direction of active stewardship of our neighborhood's most prolific green space. The newly founded SSSNA Parks committee is interested in your thoughts on how to better use South Side Park. In the coming weeks we will be announcing a schedule of cleanups, a tree care day (April 11, 6 p.m.) for our newly planted trees at the 18th Street Entrance, and a Parks Committee meeting open to all interested neighbors.

Watch the website and the E-Blast for updates or send a message directly to maggie.buck@southsideslopes.org for more info.

Maggie Buck and Molly McClelland

South Side Park Important Dates:

South Side Park Cleanup- March 31st, 9 a.m.,
Bandi Shaum Field

Slopes Tree Care Day- April 11th, 6-8 p.m.,
18th Street Entrance - Come out, meet your neighbors and help make South Side Slopes more beautiful. We will be weeding and mulching the tree pits of our ten newly planted trees. Staff from Tree Pittsburgh will be on site to help us care for the trees along Pius and Josephine streets.

Tools will be provided. Please be dressed to get dirty and to walk as far as Pius or Josephine Street.

South Side Neighborhood Association Christmas Party

On December 12, 2010, over 80 neighbors attended our annual Christmas party at St. Paul's Retreat Center. A number of new neighbors joined the festivities, including several younger families. Everyone enjoyed good food, good refreshment and good conversations, with Christmas carols in the background.

Beginning the evening our president Paul Lorincy presented volunteer recognitions to Adam and Cara Jetter, John Radcliff and Brian Oswald, thanking them for their many hours and efforts volunteering to make our Slopes neighborhood a better, cleaner and safer place to live for all of us.

In attendance at the party was the Slopes Councilman, Bruce Kraus, City Magistrate

Gene Riccardi, and Chuck Half from the Mayor's Office. We thank them for their service to our city and our neighborhood.

After a brief update on our Elm Street Projects – especially the 18th and Josephine St. Steps, hopefully to be completed fairly soon – and mention of our Slopes' continuing project of working on South Side Park... Fr. Don blessed the food and Paul wished everyone a blessed holiday. The party then began in earnest.

Fr. Don Ware, C.P.



Free Money! Really!

But you have to ask for it... If you live within the South Side Slopes Elm Street project area, (see map) time is running short for you to apply for a façade improvement grant.

The purpose of the grant is to help give homeowners a boost in making visible repairs or improvements to the outsides of their homes: siding, windows, doors, brick, trim, painting, porches, railings, you name it. If it's visible from the street, chances are it qualifies.

This is a grant program, not a loan, and matches your own investment dollar for dollar. For qualified, fixed-income households, it can turn one of your dollars into three, four, five, and so on up to ten!

Just ask our first grant recipient who was able to repair some damaged brickwork, replace her front door, and attend to some other repairs. It was \$9500 worth of work, but her out-of-pocket expenses were only 1/10th of that, \$950. She thought she won the lottery, and in away, she did. But so did the neighborhood – the things in public view are now fixed, durable, and beautiful, which is exactly the point. Everybody wins.

The grant program is administered by the SSSNA for Pittsburgh's Urban Redevelopment Authority. Step one, if you would like to apply, is to check the map to see if your property is in the Elm Street project area.

If it is, please call the SSSNA phone number 412-246-9090 for further information and an application. Leave your name, street address,

and phone number, and we will be in touch with you shortly. Alternatively, you can email the same information to us at info@southsideslopes.org

Timing is important. Our funding for this program is shared with other Elm Street districts city-wide, and is only available on a first-come, first-served basis. If you're interested in taking advantage of this program, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Peter Kreuthmeier



Becoming Allies with the Slopes Association

This spring, the Slopes Association and Public Allies plan on collaborating on a project that South Side residents of all ages and backgrounds can benefit from greatly.

Public Allies is a servant leadership program/organization whose mission is to engage and advance leadership, strengthen communities, and engage civic involvement. The program is in over 15 cities nationwide

and is a 10-month-long paid apprenticeship where participants work in various non-profit organizations, gain crucial leadership skills, and upon graduation from the program receive an educational award.

Public Allies Pittsburgh has been active since 2006 and is said to be one of the most competitive cities for the program with hundreds of applicants every year.

One of the key components of the program is the Team Service Project, in which groups of 7-8 apprentices team up based on their passion for Economic Opportunity, Veterans/Military families, or Healthy Futures among other areas.

Our team is Healthy Futures. Our objectives include, but aren't limited to, focusing on ways to reduce childhood obesity, improving access to primary health care, and increasing seniors ability to remain in their homes while improving their quality of life.

Our group consists of Stephanie Jackson, Tom Samilson, Dee Abasute, Erin Kucic, Maya Wilkerson, Mary Kate Marasco, Kevin Fulton, and myself, Corey J. Carrington. We decided that a partnership with the Slopes Association would be fruitful for many reasons, including their resources, reputation of the organization, and the project idea.

In the spring we will be working with the Slopes Association on starting an urban garden in the Slopes at Bandi Shaum Field. Over the next few months we'll be working more to ensure the project's launch, success, and sustainability as we are very happy and excited about this opportunity. We would

like to thank the Slopes Association and Public Allies for making this all possible.

Corey J. Carrington



Public Allies

Step Trek 2012

StepTrek 2012 is in its infancy as we begin the preparations for another successful year on the slopes. Our committee has already begun planning new routes so that we can begin repairs, clean-up, and improvements to areas near and dear to all of our hearts.

We are striving to include new areas of South Side Park in this years' trek to highlight the hidden gem in the center of the slopes. Also in the works is a plan to publish to "Church Route" to our website so that people have an option to wander our wonderful hillside without getting lost if they are unfamiliar with the area.

If you would like to join our committee for planning, join us on our strolls, or help in any other way we would love to welcome you aboard. Please contact:

Brian.Oswald@SouthSideSlopes.org for more information.

Brian Oswald

President's Message

The joys of spring are the thoughts each of us hold from memories that make the season come alive. We each have a different vision that may include hiking, biking, growing flowers or just the smell of that first warm day rain storm.

With the mild winter and the hopes that the groundhog was wrong, we each look forward to the warmth and sunshine of spring.

My visions for spring are not that different than yours, but surely include your hopes and dreams for the wonderful neighborhood we all call home.

Whether you are a life-long South Sider, a transplant, or a college student, we each want a safe and clean neighborhood to be proud of.

We in the Slopes organization have been planning to make the community brighter and more livable. We have a new community garden on Mission Street that all city residents can use for flower or vegetable growing. We also have plans to continue reclaiming South Side Park and making it the jewel of the hillside. There is also the lightening of the 18th steps as both a safety and beautification project.

I need each of you to step forward with your

thought, ideas, concerns and complaints concerning any issue involved with your quality of life. Zoning, parking, trash, graffiti and noise are all issues we deal with of a daily basis. I would like to hear about your individual concerns so we can continue to work with the community to improve life in the Slopes.

Paul Lorincy

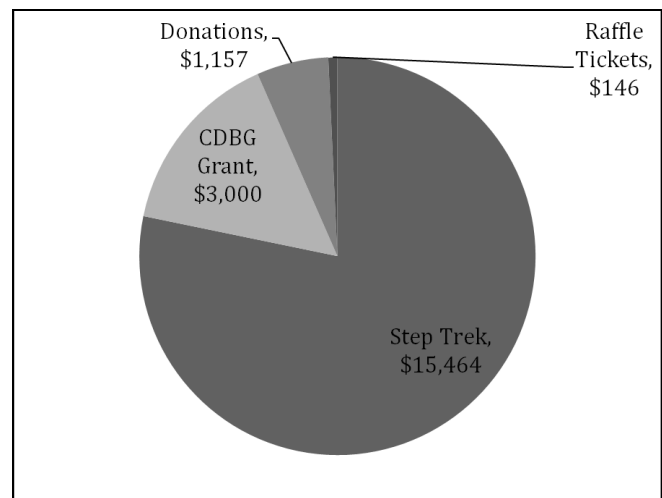


Needed... Zoning Watchdog

Our Neighborhood Association needs a "zoning watchdog" to keep an eye on zoning issues such as residency occupancy and density and potential parking problems. Can you help?

This is important to the "livability" of our neighborhood on the Slopes. If you can help please contact Paul Lorincy, Slopes Association President, at (412) 519-3602 or drphoops@aol.com

2011 Revenues



Pavel Yakolev

The People in Our Neighborhood

Moss Clark is a self-appointed adopted son of Pittsburgh, and now of the South Side Slopes.

Once upon a time, Moss traveled from Albany, NY, to put in his time here, studying Physics at the University of Pittsburgh while residing in Oakland.

Upon graduation, he joined up with Teach for America, and left the area in 2007 to teach high school students the unrelenting topics of Geometry and Physics in New Orleans. But alas, a great void had settled upon his heart, and no large amount of wild jazz, Mardi Gras parades, and Hurricanes (both kinds) could fill it. It was no waste of time in the Big Easy, though, for found a lovely fiancée, Hannah (from Houston!), and they had a son, Oliver. Over the years, the gravitational pull of

Pittsburgh became too great, and this past October he found himself hurtling back with family in tow, finding a mountain abode on the Slopes. Now that they are happily settled in, Moss spends his time starting up a local company specializing in green apartments, Urban Moss Property, Inc., and working on his house. He is an avid hiker, having completed a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail in 2006, a motorcyclist, and, above all else, a father-in-training.

Moss Clark



Moss, Hannah, and Oliver

For that reason and many others, the SSSNA Board of Directors voted unanimously at our February 28 board of directors' meeting to endorse the Neighborhood Improvement District Steering Committee plan and support the request that Pittsburgh City Council initiate action to create an improvement district on the South Side.

In taking this action, the SSSNA supports a process by which the residents of this community will ultimately decide whether they want to take control of the future of their neighborhood and make the South Side a better place to live, work, and play.

SSNA Board of Directors

Paul Lorincy, President

Brian Oswald, Vice President

Pavel Yakovlev, Treasurer

Maggie Buck, Secretary

Denise Phillip

Peter Kreuthmeier

Molly McClelland

Brad Palmisiano

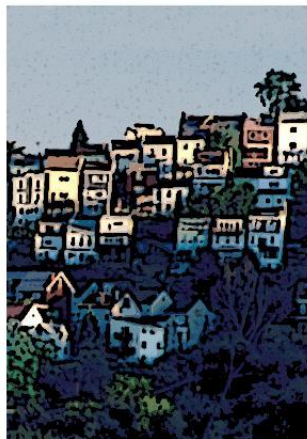
Sarah Shea

Fr. Don Ware

SSSNA Board Votes "Yes" to NID

The South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association (SSSNA) has always supported a fair-minded and transparent community process. In the 14 years of our existence, our organization has seen the great things that can be done by community-minded people who pool their collective resources to improve our neighborhood. The South Side is a better place for those efforts.

South Side Slopes Neighborhood
Association
P.O. Box 4248
Pittsburgh, PA 15203



**SOUTH SIDE
S L O P E S
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION**

www.SouthSideSlopes.org

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
PITTSBURGH PA
PERMIT NO 603

Special Offer from STOREExpress!

Receive:
Free Truck and Gas for Move-in
2nd Month Free Rent
20% Off all Packing Materials

Cannot be used with any other offer.
Expires 12/31/2012

Refer a friend to STOREExpress and receive cool rewards!!

- Restaurant gift cards
- Body Bar gift cards
- Leather gym bags

Mark your calendars:

- 3/13/12 General Meeting
- 3/26/12 Community Gardener Open Meeting
- 3/31/12 South Side Park Cleanup
- 4/11/12 South Side Park Tree Care Day
- 4/30/12 Orientation and Garden Tour
- 5/5/12 *and*
- 5/12/12 Mulching and Garden Construction
- 6/2/12 Community Garden Planting Day