

## President's Message

Hello all,

This will be my final President's Message Slopes Family. After 5 years serving as our board president it is time to pass the baton. I will remain on the board moving forward, but I believe a fresh leader will open new doors to our growth as a neighborhood. These past five years have been amazing in the South Side Slopes.

Our neighborhood has worked together on a number of improvement projects and I couldn't be more proud of the accomplishments we have achieved. We have lit the 18th St. steps, painted miles of handrails, obtained and executed grants to repair stairways, cut the ribbon on The Knoxville Incline Greenway (the city's first new greenway in decades), removed literally tons of trash, constructed new trails in South Side Park, opened Bandi Schaum Community Gardens, planted trees, helped maintain houses for neighbors who were unable to do so on their own, permanently signed the Church Route, maintained acres of garden space, advocated for city services, erected entry way signs at many access points, and consistently have provided a voice for our neighborhood to anyone who wished to live or work here.

None of this was done by me, and every single day I am thankful for the diligent neighbors who have dedicated their time, sweat, tears, and blood to make the South Side Slopes the community that it is today. I encourage everyone to get involved with this organization, we bring ideas and projects to life through our work together. Join us for StepTrek and showcase this neighborhood for everything it is and can be on Saturday. Oct. 1.



Thanks neighbor,  
**Brian Oswald,**

*President, South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association*



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# StepTrek

## October 1

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*"Neighbors working together to make the Slopes a more livable, beautiful, and safe community."*

SOUTH SIDE SLOPES NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
[www.southsideslopes.org](http://www.southsideslopes.org)

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# Oakley Street Mosaic Steps: A Community Success



*Neighbors coming together to complete mosaic step project while having fun making art!*

Thanks to the efforts of more than 100 community members, the Oakley Street Mosaic Steps are being installed this month! About 2 years ago, a small committee formed to create a mosaic steps project in the South Side Slopes. We researched artists, potential locations, and sources of funding. After many meetings, we decided on artist Laura Jean McLaughlin, the Oakley Street Steps, and crowdfunding via the gofundme platform. Laura Jean McLaughlin was chosen for her whimsical designs, her excitement for working with the community, and her experience with outdoor mosaic tiles which can be seen at Whole Foods in East Liberty and the Pittsburgh Zoo. The Oakley Street Steps are a highly-trafficked set of steps near a

bus stop which will gain them high visibility. Everyone we talked to was excited about the project, and willing to put their money into it. The gofundme campaign raised \$4500 in 3 months.

Many of you joined us at Acacia for a happy hour fundraiser last summer, contributed to the gofundme campaign, or attended a design session. Over the winter, the committee went to Art Commission, ordered tile, and worked with the city to repair the Oakley Street Steps.

This summer, the real work began! The 77-step art installation will cover 200 square feet. It depicts a young woman standing in the Slopes amidst hillside homes, wildlife, and mill stacks blowing flowers instead of smoke. Each of the risers have been tiled diligently by enthusiastic volunteers from all over Pittsburgh over the past two months. At 7 weekly workshops, volunteers adhered tiny pieces of tile to the mesh framework of each panel following the artist's design closely. South Side Slopes resident, Marlene Gentilcore, called it: "Sharing stories, laughing and sticking our own fingers together with cement. What fun! Kindergarten all over again."

Now, we are in the final stages of the project. Each panel will be mortared and grouted onto the step risers by the artist, Laura Jean McLaughlin. Due to the dedication of the community to this tremendous undertaking, the project is on schedule to be installed in advance of StepTrek on October 1.

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## Knoxville Incline Greenway Ribbon Cutting

On Aug. 20, a group of more than 20 people celebrated a new greenway at the site of the former Knoxville Incline at a ribbon-cutting. Cara Jette, board member of the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association, led the years-long endeavor from the intensive clean-up and eventual greenway designation.

The site off Brosville Avenue was the former site of the Knoxville Incline (1880-1960). The city-owned land was designated a greenway in August — the newest in the city. Visit the parklet and enjoy this peaceful slice of history on the Slopes!



*Guy Costa, Chief Operations Officer for the City of Pittsburgh, at the Aug. 20 ribbon-cutting ceremony.*





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East Warrington and Arlington Avenues



## THE PITTSBURGH BUTTONEER

The Pittsburgh Buttoneer started as a way for Slopes resident Jamie Earl to balance his full-time job in IT with his interest in promotions to support his favorite causes.

This year, The Pittsburgh Buttoneer went full-time producing original gift store quality buttons and other promotional items for individuals, organizations and businesses of all sizes.

The Pittsburgh Buttoneer is fast, responsive and competitively-priced source for locally-produced buttons for special events, products, campaigns or just for fun!

Support this Slopes business!

**PITTSBURGH BUTTONEER**  
2306 Cobden Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203  
412.436.9262  
[pittsburghbuttoneer.com](http://pittsburghbuttoneer.com)

## NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY: The Results Are In!

Thanks to those of you who participated in SSSNA's neighborhood survey. By sharing your feedback about the neighborhood and our work, we will continue to advocate for the things that you care about. See below for a summary of the survey results.

### ABOUT THE SURVEY PARTICIPANTS

**87** NEIGHBORS COMPLETED THE SURVEY

**78%** OWN THEIR HOME

**22%** ARE RENTERS

**64%** WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

### NEIGHBORHOOD UNITY

**85%** INDICATED THEY ARE A PROUD RESIDENT OF THE  
SOUTH SIDE SLOPES

**73%** SAID THEY KNOW THEIR NEIGHBORS

Most respondents find out about news in the neighborhood from a combination of these sources:

**71%** SSSNA PAPER NEWSLETTER

**52%** SOUTH PITTSBURGH REPORTER

**51%** FROM WORD OF MOUTH

Many respondents shared ideas to improve neighborhood unity, including: block parties, respecting and maintaining property, enforcing existing laws, helping neighbors and those in need, block watch groups and more localized gatherings and more social events.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

**70%** INDICATED THEY FEEL SAFE LIVING IN THE SLOPES

## HOUSING

**25%** RESPONDENTS KNOW ABOUT LOAN OPTIONS TO MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE THEIR PROPERTY

**24%** ARE AWARE OF THE CARL\* PROGRAM

**75%** ARE AWARE THAT 311 CAN BE CALLED TO REPORT UNMAINTAINED, DERELICT OR ABANDONED PROPERTIES

## BEAUTIFICATION

**67%** AGREE THAT SOUTH SIDE SLOPES IS A BEAUTIFUL PLACE TO LIVE

**80%** THINK THAT LITTER AND DUMPING ARE PROBLEMATIC

**67%** AGREE THAT TRASH LEFT OUT OR UNCOVERED IS ALSO A PROBLEM

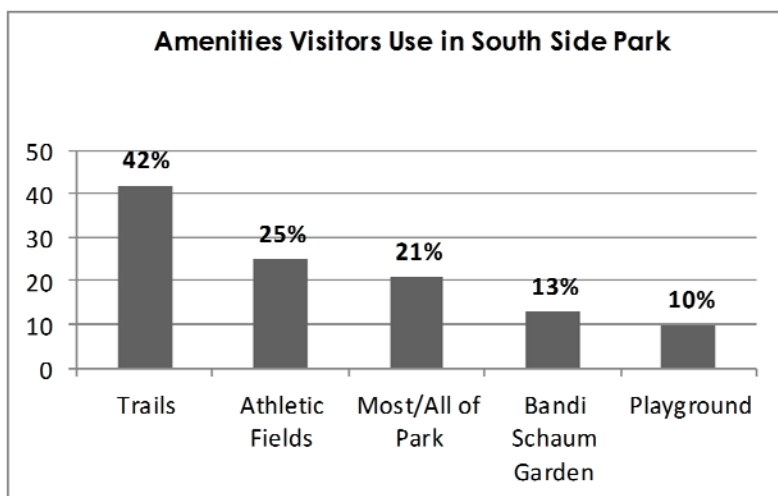
**41%** KNOW THERE ARE FIVE PUBLIC GARDENS IN THE SLOPES

**64%** WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE PUBLIC GARDENS IN THE SLOPES

**66%** KNOW ABOUT BANDI SCHAUM COMMUNITY GARDEN / **17%** HAVE OWNED OR CURRENTLY OWN A PLOT

## SOUTH SIDE PARK

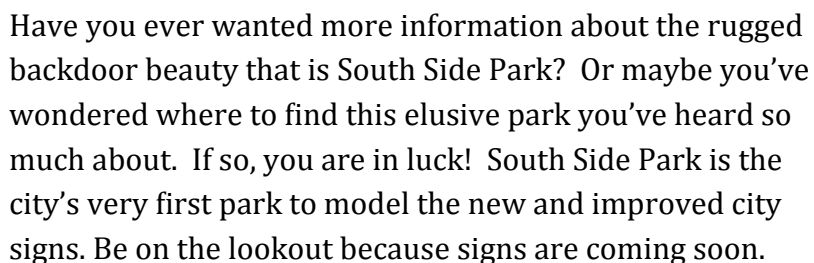
**91%** OF RESPONDENTS KNOW ABOUT SOUTH SIDE PARK / **69%** HAVE VISITED



The **top reasons** survey respondents use the park include: walking, hiking, dog walking, sightseeing, fitness, recreation, picnicking, playing with kids, athletic games, and volunteering / clean-ups.

Ideas for **how to increase usage** of South Side Park include: trail improvements, signage, improving access, removing invasive species, reducing trash / litter, picnic areas, and improving safety.





Be sure to check out the newest trail addition in the park—starting at a new entrance on Sterling Street, the trail traverses a little-accessed part of the park, overlooking the valley below, and finally connecting to the existing trails.

If you would like to be a member of the South Side Park Committee and help shape its future, please email us at: [info@southsideslopes.org](mailto:info@southsideslopes.org) and let us know!

## Speaking of the Park...

Friends of South Side Park (FOSSP) wants to hear from you! If you have ever visited South Side Park, tell us what you think. **Go to: <http://civicviz.com/url/South-Side-Park-User-Survey>**. Time is running out! Take this survey online before Sunday, Sept. 25 at midnight and your feedback will help direct the future of South Side Park.

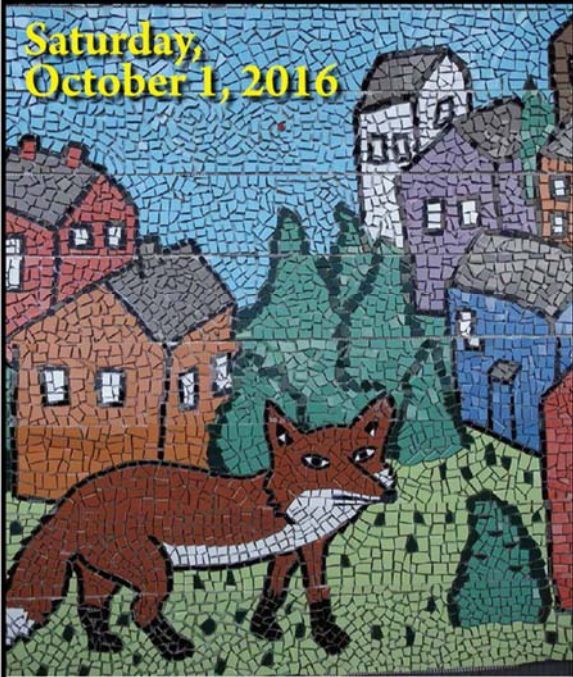
# South Side Slopes General Meeting: Board Elections

On Tuesday, Oct. 11, the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association (SSSNA) will hold its general meeting at Brashear Association (2005 Sarah St.) at 7 p.m. The meeting will include several important updates to the community as well as hold elections for the board of directors for the next term. There are three board memberships open, and all SSSNA members in good standing are invited to vote.

## Pittsburgh StepTrek

An Urban Hike

Saturday,  
October 1, 2016



The South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association (SSSNA)  
*invites you to join us at the annual*

# StepTrek

## SATURDAY, OCT. 1

Starts at 11 a.m.

At end of 21st St at entrance of South Side Park  
(just past Josephine St)

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South Side Slopes  
Neighborhood Association



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### Support the SSSNA

Please help to support the SSSNA and its mission of "neighbors working together to make the Slopes a more livable, beautiful, and safe community."

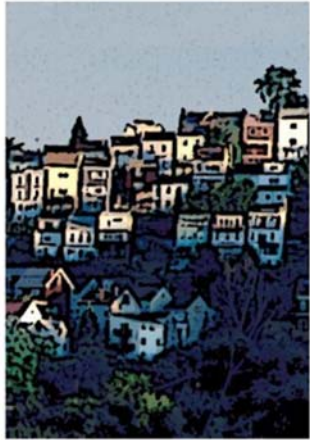
Donations are accepted through our website: [southsideslopes.org](http://southsideslopes.org)  
(click on the PayPal link).

To donate with a check, please make it out to  
SSSNA, and mail it to: SSSNA, P.O. Box 4248,  
Pittsburgh, PA 15203.

Access our website with your smartphone using  
the QR code to the right.



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



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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS—2016

Saturday, October 1 — StepTrek [21st Street, Entrance to South Side Park]

Tuesday, October 11\* — General Meeting & Elections [Brashear, 2005 Sarah St., 7pm]

Tuesday, December 13 — Holiday Party (St. Paul of the Cross Monastery, 7pm)

\*All general meetings are held at the St Paul of the Cross Monastery Retreat Center at 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted. The address is: 148 Monastery Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15203. Parking is available.

### Interested in Advertising?

Each edition of the *South Side Slopes Quarterly* reaches more than 1,800 residents and businesses. Contact us at: [newsletter@southsideslopes.org](mailto:newsletter@southsideslopes.org).



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