

President's Message

Winter is winding down and spring is about to brighten our days in the South Side Slopes. We at the SSSNA have been utilizing the cabin fever to prepare for the warmer weather and upcoming projects for 2016. Our grant team has been in high gear preparing to finally implement plans to renovate the Oakley Way Steps from Josephine to McCord in conjunction with the City. These repairs will allow the Mosaic Steps Team to install the artwork onto these steps once the tile is delivered and assembled this spring. The StepTrek gang has budgeted and moved forward on a long planned project to permanently erect Church Route Signs along the signature route traversing our hillside community [See our revenues/expenses for 2015 in the pie charts below].

The South Side Park Task force has been working on plans to continue construction of a new trail connecting Sterling St. Steps across "Jurassic Valley" to the rest of South Side Park's trail system. Brochures are in the works with maps and details of both the Church Route and South Side Park Trails, through a joint project with Point Park University. We will also be working with the city to implement a signage program throughout the 65+ acre park [see *Improvements On Tap for South Side Park on p. 2*]. The Hilltop Alliance has joined our efforts in promoting and improving the park through a grant from the Birmingham Foundation. The grant will establish a user group that will lead the process of ongoing improvement for years to come.

All this work is a result of what you, our neighbors, believe is important and on which the SSSNA should focus. We are checking in with you again for some direction, and ask you complete our new survey [see *Neighborhood Survey on p. 3*].



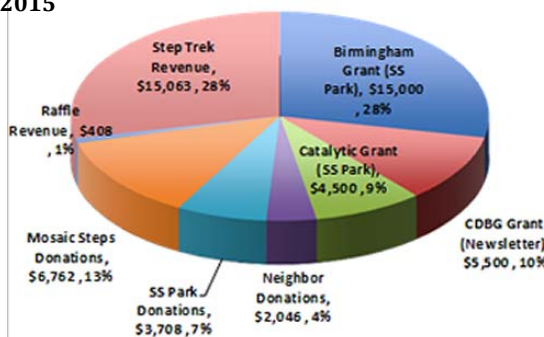
Thanks neighbor,
Brian Oswald,
President, South Side Slopes Neighborhood



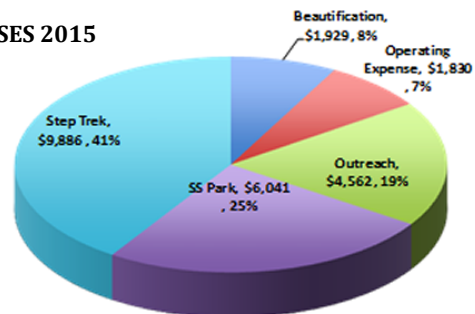
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REVENUE 2015

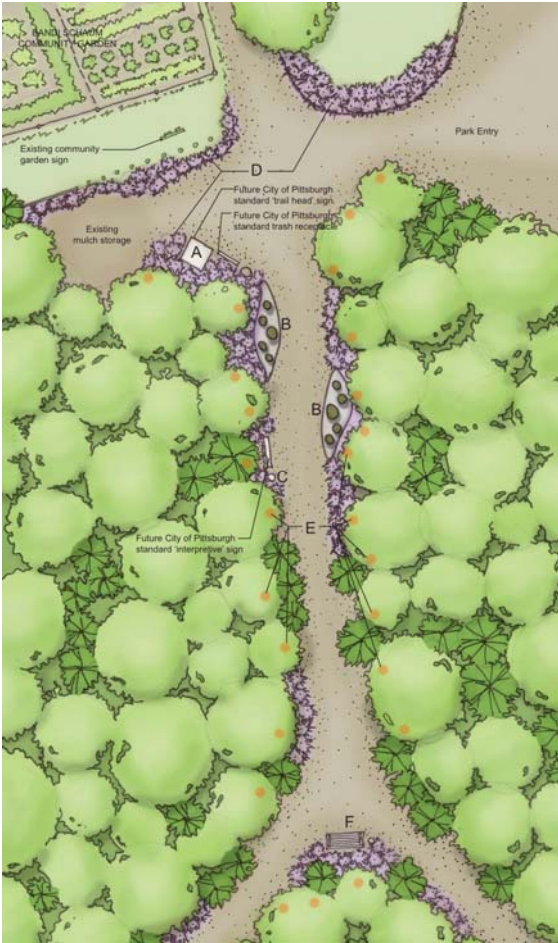


EXPENSES 2015



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

Improvements On Tap for South Side Park



South Side Park is a 65-acre expanse of underutilized green space, hiking trails, recreational fields, and a community garden in the heart of South Side Slopes. One reason this neighborhood gem is often overlooked is because park and trail entrances are difficult to identify.

Jamie Balsler, a member of the South Side Park Task Force, has been leading an initiative to change that. With the help of local nonprofit GTECH and architect Brenna Shaffer, plans are underway to redesign and beautify the existing trailhead next to the Bandi Schaum community garden.

In addition to making this park entrance more visible and inviting, a plan exists to remove invasive species, reintroduce native plants, install signage, and engage park users by distributing native seeds. Some of the desired features include tree stumps that will define the trail entrance for hikers, a bench for restful enjoyment, and colorful birdhouses to decorate the trail. Both the design and the plan are still a work in progress and require final approval from the City of Pittsburgh. FedEx has generously provided funding and volunteers to help get the project started.

The Bandi Schaum community garden and adjacent trailhead are accessible from Mission Street, across from the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority's Pumping Station (2117 Mission Street). You can park in a small parking lot and then walk or drive up a short driveway where you will find the community garden and trailhead.

If you would like to share your ideas about this project, volunteer as a trail steward, or simply take a walk with your neighbors, please contact Brian.Oswald@southsideslopes.org.

Community Garden Gets Set for Its Fourth Season



Bandi Schaum Community Garden members are already thinking spring.....it'll be here before we know it!

On May 1, gardeners will get together as a community for the first time of the season, prepare their plots, exchange seeds and plants, and get reacquainted after the winter-long gardening hiatus!

About Bandi Schaum Community Garden: www.bandischaum.org

Apply for a plot: www.pittsburghpa.gov/publicworks/gardenplots

South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association Meeting: March 8

Please plan to attend the second general meeting of the year. The agenda will include Kristin Saunders, Bike and Pedestrian Coordinator of the City of Pittsburgh, presenting plans for a bike lane on 18th Street, an update on the Villas at Winter Park from Cipriani Studios, and more!

The meeting will be held Tuesday, March 8 at 7 p.m. at St. Paul of the Cross Monastery Retreat Center [148 Monastery Lane, Pittsburgh, PA 15203].

South Side Spring Social: April 2



When: Saturday April 2, 5-9PM

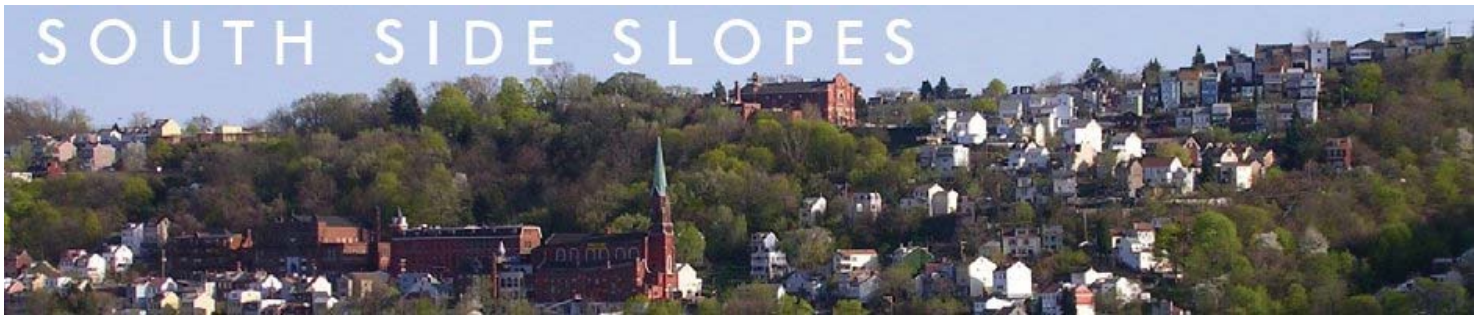
Where: Steel Cactus, 1831 E Carson St.

Donation: \$15/ person

Get Tickets: www.showclix.com/event/SouthSideSocial

Celebrate the long-awaited arrival of spring by joining your awesome neighbors for an evening of fabulous food, friends and fun! Tasty Mexican-fare and live music are included. Bar drinks are available for purchase.

Proceeds benefit Armstrong Park and South Side Park.



NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY

TAKE OUR SURVEY AND BE ENTERED TO WIN A \$50 GIFT CARD FROM GIANT EAGLE!

South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association (SSSNA) is a volunteer-run nonprofit with a mission to maintain, foster and improve the quality of life, safety, and unity of our neighborhood. As a South Side Slopes resident, your opinion is extremely important to us. Please take 5-10 minutes to complete this survey and you will have a chance to win a \$50 gift card to Giant Eagle (*survey should be postmarked/ submitted online by April 30, 2016, to be eligible for gift card drawing*). **If you would prefer to take the survey online, please go to: southsideslopes.org/survey.**

NEIGHBORHOOD UNITY

SSSNA works to introduce neighbors to one another through community events, share information about neighborhood news, and advocate for neighborhood needs. Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements.

1) I am a proud resident of the South Side Slopes neighborhood.

Strongly Agree Agree Undecided/Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

2) I know my neighbors.

Strongly Agree Agree Undecided/Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

3) I know what is going on in my neighborhood.

Strongly Agree Agree Undecided/Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

4) The work of SSSNA makes our neighborhood a better place to live.

Strongly Agree Agree Undecided/Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

5) How do you find out about neighborhood news? (Check all that apply.)

Quarterly paper newsletter (mailed) Email newsletter South Pittsburgh Reporter
 SSSNA's Facebook page SSSNA's Twitter page Word of mouth
 None of these sources

Other. Please specify: _____

6) In your opinion, what do you think would improve neighborhood unity?

PUBLIC SAFETY

SSSNA advocates for safety in our neighborhood. Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the statement below:

1) I feel safe living in the South Side Slopes.

- Strongly Agree Agree Undecided/Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

SSSNA works with the Zone 3 Police Department and public officials to address and prioritize public safety concerns. Currently, SSSNA has requested that the city prioritize the following issues in our neighborhood:

- 1) Impaired drivers.
- 2) Parking that limits the access of emergency vehicles, specifically fire trucks.
- 3) Citations for gross and negligent litter/overgrowth code violations.

Please share other public safety concerns you think the Zone 3 Police Department should prioritize in our community. (Please list in order of importance).

HOUSING

SSSNA works to improve housing in the Slopes by reporting derelict properties and encouraging maintenance and improvements for existing homes.

1) Do you know about loan options to maintain and/or improve your property?

- Yes No

2) Do you know about the Community Acquisition Rehabilitation Loan (CARL) program, which provides loan options for purchasing a property in need of repairs?

- Yes No

3) Do you know that you can call or email the city's 311 hotline to report unmaintained, derelict, or abandoned properties?

- Yes No

BEAUTIFICATION

SSSNA works to make the South Side Slopes a beautiful place to live. Please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

1) The South Side Slopes is a beautiful place to live.

Strongly Agree Agree Undecided/Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

2) Litter and “dumping” are problematic in our neighborhood.

Strongly Agree Agree Undecided/Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

3) Trash that is left out or uncovered is problematic in our neighborhood.

Strongly Agree Agree Undecided/Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

4) Do you know that there are five public gardens in the South Side Slopes?

Yes No

5) I would like more public gardens in the South Side Slopes.

Strongly Agree Agree Undecided/Not Sure Disagree Strongly Disagree

6) Do you know that Bandi Schaum is a community garden in the South Side Slopes where local residents can grow food and flowers?

Yes No

7) Do you now or have you ever had a plot at the Bandi Schaum community garden?

Yes No

8) Please share additional suggestions for how South Side Slopes could be a more beautiful neighborhood.

SOUTH SIDE PARK

South Side Park is a beautiful 65-acre park including Bandi Schaum community garden, Quarry Field, Arlington Field, and lots of green space stretching from 21st Street in the South Side Flats to Arlington Avenue in the South Side Slopes.

1) Are you aware of South Side Park?

Yes No

2) Have you ever visited or used Side Park?

Yes No

If yes, please tell us more:

What part(s) of the park? _____

For what purpose? _____

How often do you use the park? _____

3) In your opinion, what would make South Side Park better or increase your usage?

ABOUT YOU

Finally, we would like to know a little bit about you, our neighbor.

1) Before this survey, had you heard of SSSNA?

Yes No If yes, how did you hear of SSSNA? _____

2) Have you ever attended the SSSNA's annual StepTrek event?

Yes No Not sure

3) How often do you use public steps in the South Side Slopes?

Every day Weekly Monthly Never

4) Have you ever attended meetings and/or other events sponsored by SSSNA?

Yes No

5) Do you currently or have you ever served on a committee of SSSNA?

Yes No

6) Do you regularly read the South Side Slopes Quarterly Newsletter?

Yes No

7) Do you receive the South Side Slopes email newsletter?

Yes No If you do not but would like to, please provide your email address: _____

6) Do you or someone with whom you live own the property where you reside?

Yes No

7) How old are you?

Under 18 18-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55-64 Over 65

8) If you would like to volunteer with SSSNA, please select your areas of interest. (Please check all that apply.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning up litter | <input type="checkbox"/> South Side Park Task Force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Maintaining public gardens | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning, Housing, and City Services Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach Committee (newsletter, planning events, etc.) | <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> StepTrek Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> I am not interested in volunteering at this time. |

Please let us know any other comments you have about the South Side Slopes neighborhood.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Thank you for your time and interest in making our neighborhood better! Please mail your completed survey using the enclosed envelope before April 30, 2016, for a chance to win a \$50 gift card to Giant Eagle! (Please include complete contact information above so we may contact you if you're our gift card winner!)

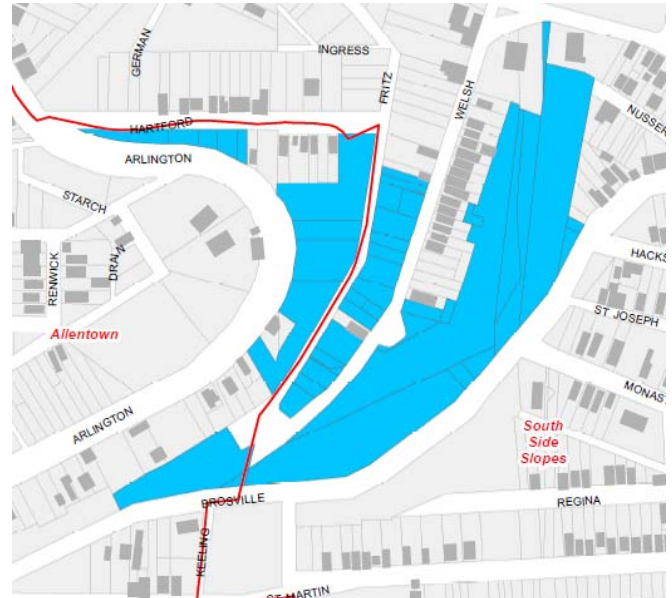
Mail to: South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association, P.O. Box 4248, Pittsburgh, PA 15203.

Proposed Knoxville Incline Greenway in the Works

The South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association (SSSNA) and Allentown CDC are partnering to establish the Knoxville Incline Greenway, a wooded hillside area crossing the border of neighborhoods which is mostly on the site of the former Knoxville Incline (1890-1960).

A greenway is a consolidation of steeply sloped, wooded, city-owned property preserved from future development. The city lots in the proposal are included in the map on the right.

The proposal is going through the city planning process and is hoped to be completed in May 2016. We look forward to establishing this new amenity in our neighborhoods, and we hope that future generations are able to enjoy this passive greenspace. For more information, or if you have any questions, come to our March general meeting (Tuesday, March 8, 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Monastery), or contact cara.jette@southsideslopes.org.



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 Proud to support the
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*Special Offer for Residents of
 South Side Slopes*
2nd MONTH FREE RENT
*Must present coupon at lease signing. May not be used with any other offer.

FREE TRUCK AND GAS FOR MOVE IN!

412-431-5625

South Side Slopes
 Neighborhood Association

APPROVED

Keep Trash Out of Sight, Stored in Cans with Lids - SouthSideSlopes.org

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."

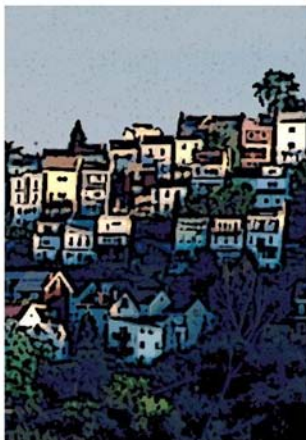
Donations are accepted through our website: southsideslopes.org (click on the PayPal link).

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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SOUTH SIDE
S L O P E S
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—2016

Tuesday, March 8— General Meeting

Saturday, April 2 — South Side Spring Social [Steel Cactus, 19th & E. Carson Sts., 5-9pm]

Saturday, May 1 — Opening Day at Bandi Schaum Community Garden

Tuesday, May 10 — General Meeting

Tuesday, July 12 — Summer Picnic

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.

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