

South Side Slopes Trash Initiative



South Side Slopes

Neighborhood Association



APPROVED

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

Do you hate seeing so much litter and unsightly trash in your Slopes neighborhood?

We do too. We, the Outreach Committee of the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association, have started a campaign we hope will make change in the Slopes. We're calling on you, our neighbors, to join us in the fight to clean up the 'hood. As we continue battle the ever-present litter on our streets, we are trying to make sure all residents are aware of the City of Pittsburgh rules around trash storage and collection (see below for rules) outside the home.

CITY OF PITTSBURGH TRASH RULES

- All trash must be in cans with snug lids (prevents overflows, decreases litter, deters wildlife intrusion, and provides a cleaner, safer Pittsburgh).
- If you can see trash bags (not on trash day), it's illegal.
- Trash may be set out after 6PM the night before trash pick-up day.

In addition to educating folks about trash storage, we are doing the following:

- **Continuing neighborhood clean-ups.**
We've done litter pick-ups for years and will continue to do so. If you'd like to lend a hand, please contact us at trash@southsideslopes.org.
- **Submitting targeted 311 reports.**
We are collaborating and sharing information about problem houses that do not secure trash properly. If you have a problem house or area, please call the city's 3-1-1 service to report it. If it not resolved,

please share with us at trash@southsideslopes.org.

- **Educational Walkabouts.**

This summer we're starting to get out and about, knocking on doors, talking to neighbors to share information about proper trash storage, how they can help, or just general information sharing. If you'd like to join us during our walkabouts, email us at trash@southsideslopes.org.

- **Zone reports and clean-ups.**

We have broken down the Slopes areas into six zones so we can have groups within those zones to keep an eye out for trash problems. We'll also use this information to target our 3-1-1 complaints and clean-up efforts. We are looking for committed individuals to serve as captains for each zone.

Our efforts thus far have resulted in:

- Bag clips and garbage can stickers with message: "Keep trash out of sight, in cans with lids" have been purchased with a grant from the Birmingham Foundation for distribution
- An ad with the trash message will appear in the South Pittsburgh Reporter
- Zone walkabouts are being scheduled in order to meet and greet residents with information about SSSNA
- Members of the Outreach Committee have spoken with residents in the Flats about potential program collaboration
- Candice Gonzalez from the mayor's office is keeping committee members informed of some new developments from Pitt and other universities in how they may be planning to educate their students in community living.
- Boris Weinstein, head of the Clean Pittsburgh Commission, has published information about our plan in the June issue of "Citizens Against Litter".

Have questions or are interested in joining our efforts? Send an email to:

trash@southsideslopes.org

Cara Jette, Kristin Raup, and Betty Kripp

SCA Makes Huge Strides in SS Park



Blue T-Shirts and Yellow Helmets! The same grant has allowed the Student Conservation Association (SCA), a national non-profit organization with a regional office in Pittsburgh, to employ 12 young Hill top residents as conservation crew members in South Side Park throughout the winter and spring of 2013.

These crew members performed valuable conservation work such as litter and illegal dumping sweeps, addressing trail drainage and overgrowth problems, and invasive plant removal. The crew also participated in job readiness and environmental education activities, produced professional resumes, and networked with professionals from different fields and institutions around Pittsburgh.

The grant also allowed SCA to engage volunteers from Zipcar, American Eagle Outfitters, ARAMARK, Carnegie Mellon University, SSSNA and more in several volunteer events. Collectively, the crew and the volunteers kept miles of trail clear and dry, removed hundreds of bags of trash and invasive plants, hauled out dozens of tires, and freed nearly a hundred trees from destructive, invasive vines.



Our work isn't done yet! Through a generous grant from the Birmingham Foundation, SCA will employ 10 more young South Siders in South Side Park for the summer of 2013. To volunteer with the crew, and to learn more about the SCA, please call 412-325-1851 x 3030 or visit www.thesca.org.

Josh Nard, SCA

Wigle Whiskey Bantam Night



Wigle Whiskey, located at 2401 Smallman Street in the Strip District, honored the South Side Slopes Neighborhood

Association (SSSNA) by hosting the first ever Bantam Nights on April 22nd as a fundraiser for South Side Park. With these Bantam Night events, Wigle Whiskey donates 12% of all sales—from cocktails, bottles, and merchandise. The 12% is in recognition of the 12 Pittsburghers who were indicted for protesting during the 1790s Whiskey Rebellion.

On the evening of the fundraiser, delicious cocktails were hand crafted by the Wigle Whiskey crew using their signature spirits for the attendees. Deli sandwiches and snacks were provided to nosh on. A raffle was held with donated prizes, one of those being a historical Sankey Brick, produced in the South Side Park during the late 19th century. The fundraiser was a success - With over forty people in attendance drinking their choice of four cocktails, purchasing merchandise, and participating in the SSSNA raffle, over \$350 was raised. This money will be used to support the South Side Park

project, specifically for the purchasing of signage for the trails that the Student Conservation Association has helped build and maintain in the park.

Please check the SSSNA for future events:
<http://www.southsideslopes.org/>

To join the South Side Park Task Force, to host a fundraiser for us, or to find out more about upcoming fundraisers, please contact mossonthetrail@yahoo.com
Moss Clark

Mark Your Calendar: South Side Slopes Annual Summer Picnic, July 9th at Quarry Field, South Side Park, 5:30-9 p.m.

Please join us for this fun, community building, annual event. The summer festivities begin with a guided hike on the newly marked Renziehausen Loop Trail. Hot dogs and burgers will be provided. Please bring a favorite dish, snack, desert, or beverage to share with your neighbors.

Bandi in Bloom



The garden season is in full swing with 86 plots ready to sprout! Stop up to check out what is growing at the community garden at Bandi Schaum field. This year we are happy to have a shed built courtesy of Grow Pittsburgh, a pavilion courtesy of the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association, and the best thing ever for gardening.....a water line installed by the City of Pittsburgh. Thank you Grow Pgh and the City!!

On Saturday June 2nd SCA crew member Charlene Ward worked with a few fellow volunteers on her school service project in the garden. Charlene worked to prepare unused plots that will be going to folks on the waiting list.

“My graduation project topic is habitat loss. This garden will easily allow me to discuss the issue of habitat loss with the high school volunteers I plan to bring,” said Charlene.

Charlene said she really enjoyed working in the garden! “Hopefully some of the volunteers I brought will continue to offer their time to the garden; I know I will.”

The garden has workshops scheduled all summer long so check out <http://bandishaum.wordpress.com/> for information on all the goings on at the garden. The next program will be lead by Burgh Bees and is set for June 27th from 6 - 7 pm - come learn how to help save and raise bees!!

18th Street Step Lighting Update

By now, you have probably seen the lights on the 18th Street Steps, the result of a 6-year joint effort with the South Side Local Development Company, countless volunteer hours, and funding angels far and wide. With the SSLDC riding off into the sunset, the responsibility to maintain this system lands squarely with us, the SSSNA. In the next few weeks, we will be replacing stolen step lights and adding more robust attachments to counter any would-be thieves – at considerable expense to our non-profit organization.

Vandalism, while senseless to begin with, is even more so in this case. If the step lights are removed, they will never light up elsewhere. All of the electronics that make them work are locked away.

On a brighter note, our thanks go out to the SSLDC for two parting gifts: the sign at the bottom of the steps, and a big kick start to our maintenance fund.

During construction, the city inspector required that we locate a piece of electrical equipment front and center, which was kind of awkwardly placed. So we gift-wrapped it with something useful, a map of the immediate neighborhood highlighting the steps. The

maintenance fund is our ongoing obligation to keep the lights in working order. Thanks also go out to Paul and Dawn Lorincy, and other volunteers, for their recent redd-up efforts at this big front door to our neighborhood.

If you'd like to help, grab some litter on your way down the steps and put it in the garbage can. Or, consider supporting our maintenance fund. Your tax-deductible contribution is always welcome. If you can and you do, we promise you this – we'll leave the lights on for you.

Peter Kreuthmeier

How Does Your Garden Grow?



In 2000, the South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association (SSSNA) began a partnership with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC). Two gardens were planted along Josephine Street at Greeley Street and Barry Street. For the past 13 summers, we have enjoyed beautiful gardens where overgrown littered lots used to be.

This year, the gardens were planted on May 4th. We had the help of neighbors and hard working volunteers from 22 Engine, Pittsburgh Fire Fighters and hard working young people from Sto-Rox and Brashear High Schools. The gardens are thriving and being tended by several neighborhood volunteers.



The garden at Greeley and Josephine Streets was nominated and won the "Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) Community Greening Award 2012 for an outstanding public planting...improving the quality of life through horticulture", awarded Fall 2012.

This garden has a healthy mix of annuals and perennials in the 3 section garden. Beverly Boggio accepted the award, as Garden Steward, at awards ceremonies in Pittsburgh at the WPC offices and at the Governor's Mansion. PHS is located in Philadelphia Pennsylvania and the gardens judged were in all of Pennsylvania and parts of New Jersey. Soon a sign will be posted at the garden to commemorate the award. Thanks to all of you who help to plant and tend the gardens to keep our Slopes beautiful.

Bev Boggio, WPC Garden Steward

Acacia South Side Park Fundraiser



One of the newer bars in the South Side, Acacia (acaciacocktails.com), hosted the South Side Neighborhood Association (SSSNA) for a fundraiser to support the South Side Park on June

3rd. Acacia, and its fantastic cocktails, beers, and whiskey selection, is located at 2108 E Carson St. and opened last November. Lynn Fall, owner/manager of the bar, has offered to host the SSSNA on the 1st Monday evening of every month as an ongoing fundraiser for the South Side Park. The SSSNA receives 25% of all sales for each event.

The fundraiser started with a 6pm hike through the South Side Park, highlighting the newly marked Renziehausen Loop Trail that runs through a majority of the park. Moss Clark, trail guide for the evening, led the ten hikers up 21st street into the park to where it connected to the loop trail. During the hike, information was relayed to the hikers about the history of the park, how to identify invasive species, trail maintenance techniques, and the work that has been done thus far by the SSSNA and the Student Conservation Association to improve the park. The hike was ended with a beautiful view of downtown Pittsburgh from the cliffside vantage point near the Bandi Schaum Community Garden, and then the hikers returned to Acacia to quench their thirst.

Many friends, members of the South Side Chamber of Commerce, and the SSSNA, and some interested neighborhood citizens came to support the park, with attendance peaking at about forty people. The Steer & Wheel food truck

(www.thesteerandwheel.com) parked out back to provide tasty food to the attendees, and the bartenders at Acacia worked hard to provide everyone with some amazing cocktails. As a result, the SSSNA raised \$320 from the Acacia event, bring the grand total from the Wigle and Acacia, events to \$680. These funds will be used to purchase entrance and trail signs for the South Side Park.

Please check the SSSNA for future events:
<http://www.southsideslopes.org/>

To join the South Side Park Task Force, to host a fundraiser for us, or to find out more about upcoming fundraisers, please contact mossonthetrail@yahoo.com

Moss Clark

Help 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 www.southsideslopes.org on the PayPal link on the right side) or you can mail a check to "SSSNA, PO Box 4248, Pittsburgh, PA 15203." You can also access our website via the QR code above.

Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh Lends a Hand to Slopes Neighbors



Have you seen trucks or teams of volunteers working on houses near you in the South Side Slopes?

A grant to The Brashear Association from the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, UPMC Health Plan, Duquesne Light Company, American Eagle Outfitters, S&T Bank, and First National Bank has allowed Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh, a local nonprofit organization, to provide no-cost home repairs to 10 qualifying low-income homeowners in the South Side Slopes and neighboring communities this Spring and Summer.

A team of South Side Slopes area residents and sponsor agency employee volunteers helped with one of these homes on Saturday, May 18. They repaired kitchen and bedroom ceilings, back patio stairs, a handrail, and exterior door locks; installed grab bars and a new kitchen floor covering; and painted a kitchen and bedroom. Thanks to the excellent crew for all of the help!

Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh's projects in the South Side Slopes will be wrapping up for the season in the coming weeks, but call (412) 922-0953 or visit www.rtpittsburgh.org for more information about their free home repair program or volunteer opportunities.



Lindsay Ruprecht, Rebuilding Together Pittsburgh

Historic South Side Home Tour Highlights the Slopes



The annual Historic South Side Home Tour completed its 22nd successful event on May 18th. Begun in 1992 by the South Side Local Development Company (SSLDC), the South Side Community Council took over when the SSLDC ceased operations in 2012.

Two lovely Slopes homes were showcased this year. Those homeowners greeted over 800 tour goers during the six hour tour with the help of several volunteers from the slopes. Many participants welcomed the new addition of a shuttle bus that transported them up to the slopes and back. Some still preferred the challenge of walking! And, as always, the amazing city views from the slopes were much admired.

Slopes in the News

In case you missed the good press our neighborhood is receiving, check out the following:

“Company preparing map app of Pittsburgh's steps”
Diana Nelson Jones, Pittsburgh PG, May 30, 2013
<http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/neighborhoods-city/company-preparing-map-app-of-citys-steps-688367/>

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(Offer expires August 31, 2013)

President's Message:

The South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association has begun a partnership with the Philadelphia based company ESRI to implement the Pittsburgh Steps Project. They specialize in GIS mapping and will be doing a project for the entire city of Pittsburgh mapping and detailing the stairways, this project is beginning where it should – the South Side Slopes.

We have laid the groundwork in beginning this project and will be utilizing them in our preparations for The Pittsburgh StepTrek on October 5, 2013. As part of this partnership will be accurately mapping and photographing the 68 stairways held in our fine neighborhood. We have more than any other neighborhood in the world. This mapping will then be expanding to a mobile platform that will available to all on their smart phones as they wander about the slopes.

ESRI will all be assisting in producing maps of the newly constructed and improved trail system in South Side Park. Another possibility that may lay on the horizon is construction of a "geofence" in our neighborhood; this would essentially be a mobile application that while in the confines of the geofence will allow for pop up information on your smart phone. The app would provide historical landmark information, stairway information, and any other data we wish to inform our neighbors and visitors.

We are very excited about the possibilities this will bring to our neighborhood. If you wish to get on board with the planning process feel free to contact me at brian.oswald@southsideslopes.org
Brian Oswald, President

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In Memoriam



Jean Palmisiano as "The Litterbug," StrpTrek 2007

The SSSNA is sad to announce the passing of a dedicated and beloved member of our Slopes family. Jean Palmisiano, mother of SSSNA past-president Brad Palmisiano, lost her courageous battle with cancer on May 20, 2013. For those who were blessed to know Jean, she will be sorely missed as a devoted mother and friend; a tireless volunteer and community steward; a joyful, fun spirit; and a compassionate and giving soul.

In her memory we ask that you be touched by her endless energy, and her devotion to our community by joining in our efforts to make the Slopes a more livable, beautiful, and safe community.

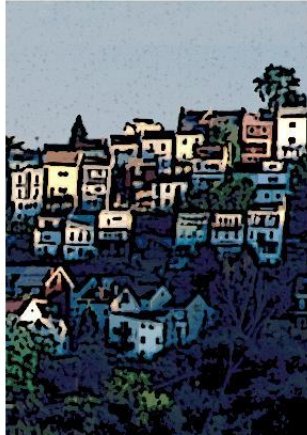


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South Side Slopes Neighborhood Association
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www.SouthSideSlopes.org

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Mark your calendars:

South Side Park Fundraiser at Acacia-July 8th, 6-9 p.m.

Annual Summer Picnic-July 9th, 5:30-9 p.m.,
Quarry Field

StepTrek-October 5th, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.