

Friends of Glen Providence Park

2012 Annual Report

July 2011 - December 2012



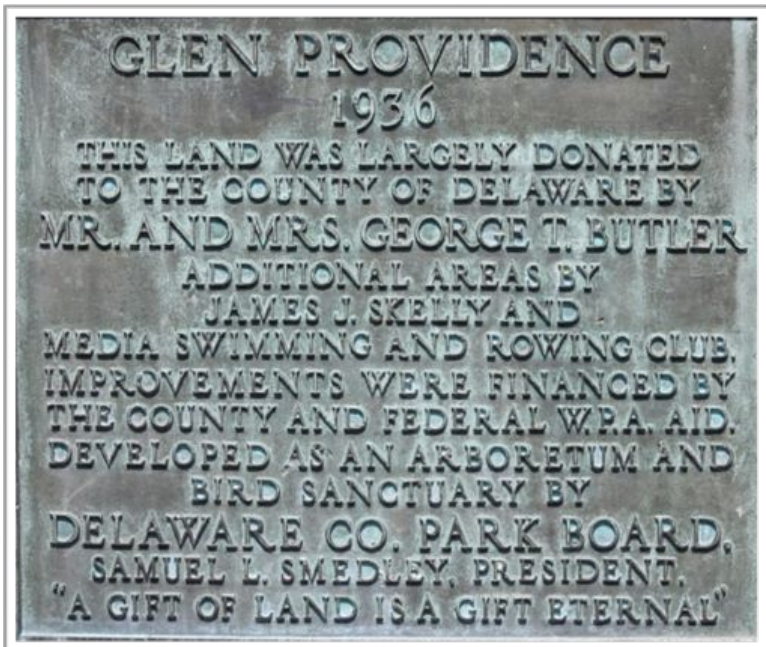
Mission

To preserve and enhance the historic and natural resource of Glen Providence Park.



Above: Original footbridge, Pond Walk for Kids, Pileated Woodpecker. Below: Dedication plaque.

“A gift of land is a gift eternal”



Summary

When George and Eleanor Butler donated the land for Glen Providence Park in 1935, it was the first park in Delaware County. Dedicated as a Bird Sanctuary and Arboretum, this park has hosted an amazing array of events and activities in its 77 years, while providing vital habitat for plants and wildlife. Due to the elegance of its plan and original structures, in 2002 it was determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places!

Friends of Glen Providence Park was founded in July 2011 in response to the proposed design for the replacement of the 3rd Street (Broomall's) Dam, which would destroy more than one acre of this 33 acre park. We have worked extensively to present options to minimize the destruction to the park, and to educate the public and our elected officials about the project.

Our efforts quickly grew far beyond the 3rd Street project; we host free monthly history and nature walks, and we are learning everything possible about the park, which we share on our website and on Facebook. We created an Annotated Trail Map of the park to capture a snapshot of our historical research.

We have held five volunteer service days and completed several cleanup and improvement projects, and we work with Delaware County Parks & Recreation to support them in their care of this community park. We document everything possible about the park's plants and wildlife through citizen science projects and our Photojournal.

Glen Providence Park has so much to offer, from serene hiking and exploration of nature to history, fishing, geocaching, the Annual Media Egg Hunt and concerts on the historic stage. We hope you will join us at one of the Friends of Glen Providence Park events!

Stephanie Gaboriault

Chair, Friends of Glen Providence Park

Steering Committee

Dylan Atkins, Shannon Davidson, Holly Hoffmann, Lisa Johnson,
Robin Lasersohn, Terry Rumsey, Marcia Tate

History + Nature

Friends of Glen Providence Park has researched and documented the natural and historic resource of Delaware County's oldest park through archival research, citizen science projects and collaboration with local experts. This information is available on our website and Facebook page.

Highlights:

- Discovery of two American Chestnut trees confirmed by the American Chestnut Foundation
- 37 tree species identified and measured on Philly Tree Map (ongoing)
- 99 bird species documented on eBird (ongoing)
- Archival research yielded numerous historic maps, documents and photographs, including:
 - descriptions and folklore of park land from the 1800s, when it was called Scroggie Valley
 - descriptions of the development of the park by the WPA in 1935



Clockwise: Bird Walk, Great Blue Heron, Pond Walk for Kids, Red Fox, 1940s postcard, 1840's map.

Advocacy

2011 and 2012 marked the apex of the debate over the future of the 3rd Street Bridge and Broomall's Dam. Because the reconstruction of the dam would permanently damage approximately one acre of the park, Friends of Glen Providence Park advocated for options that would minimize impact to the park and benefit park users.

Highlights:

- Gathered more than 800 signatures in support of a pedestrian greenway
- Discovered unexplored PennDOT options for the dam and roadway, including dam removal and stream restoration
- Reviewed and summarized hundreds of pages of public documents
- Advocated for a Citizens Advisory Committee to boost community input
- Hosted a Dam Safety Tour with the Department of Environmental Protection's District Chief of Waterways Engineering
- Created a "Vision for 3rd Street" with park-like plantings and a dedicated pedestrian and bicycle lane



Top: Dam Safety Tour with PADEP's Richard Reisinger; Bottom: Vision for 3rd Street.

Community + Service

Friends of Glen Providence Park engaged the community through special events and service projects and partnered with Delaware County and Media organizations and businesses. We held five volunteer events with more than 238 hours of human power dedicated to park improvement.

Highlights include:

- Streamside buffer plantings on Earth Day, with a \$500 County mini-grant
- Rehabilitation of the historic concert stage, and revival of concerts
- National Public Lands Day annual cleanups
- CRC Watersheds annual cleanup
- Public presentations at Media Rotary, Upper Providence for Open Space, Transition Town Media
- Assisted Media Providence Friends School classes in the park
- Contributed research and information to Delaware County Planning and Parks & Recreation for use in their Open Space Plan
- Active website and facebook pages, with more than 250 fans

Clockwise: Earth Day volunteers (2), Media Providence Friends school students, stage clearing, Black Walnut



Future

Looking to 2013, Friends of Glen Providence Park plans to expand its work to enhance the park and engage the community.

We look forward to:

- hosting monthly nature and education hikes in the park
- organizing improvement projects and volunteer events
- expanding citizen science projects and historical research
- hosting more concerts in the park
- working with Delaware County to support their park stewardship and development of the Open Space Plan
- advocating for minimal destruction to the park during dam reconstruction
- collaborating with our current community partners and reaching out to new ones.

Please keep the enclosed calendar of upcoming events, visit our website, and *enjoy the park!*



September 2012 Free Concert with Philadelphia Brass

Special Thanks to:

Anonymous (concert sponsor)
Blueberry Bog Vintage & Handmade (concert sponsor)
Delaware County Conservation District (mini-grant)
Delaware County Parks and Recreation
Delaware County Planning
Media Recreation Board (concert sponsor)
Reformation Lutheran Church of Media (funds for streamside plantings)

Organizations

American Rivers
Birding Club of Delaware County
Chester Ridley Crum Watersheds
Association
DelawareCountyHistory.com
Delaware County Institute of Science
Media Arts Council
Media Fellowship House
Media Historic Archives Commission
Media Providence Friends School
Rotary Club of Media
Upper Providence for Open Space

Businesses

320 Market Cafe
Desert Rose
Diego's Cantina and Tequila Bar
Garrison Law
Iron Hill Brewery and Restaurant
Market Acumen
Media Pizza & Grill
Planet Hoagie
Redbud Native Plant Nursery
Seven Stones Cafe
Shere-E-Punjab Indian Restaurant
Sinfully Delicious Gourmet Pastries

Founding Funders

Anonymous Matching Donor
Dylan and Patricia Atkins,
Kailey and Samantha
Faith and Peter Balsama
Michael JJ Campbell and Susan Garrison
Adeline Cianella
Shannon and Kent Davidson
Stephanie and Randy Gaboriault,
Cole and Reece
Chip and Susan Harrington
Linda Healy
Tom Hibberd
Holly and Rich Hoffmann,
Casper, Sylvia and Lucas
Lisa Johnson and Ted Laarkamp, Stephen
Molly Klein
Bill Kreider and Linda Trout
Mandy Kyle Morrioni
John and Martina Martin
Jim O'Brien
Susan Owens
Mark, Mariana and Leah Piton
Tom Reeves
Janet Riddle
Terry Rumsey and Robin Lasersohn
Cheryl and Paul Schlenker
Marcia and George Tate

And thanks to all who participated in a
Friends of Glen Providence Park event, especially our guides:
Nick Crocetto, Al Guarente, David Hewitt, Aura Lester,
Nick Pulcinella, Tom Reeves and John Wenderoth.