

The goal of Friends of Wildwood is to preserve and support Wildwood Park and the Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center.

SAVED The Boardwalk

The Delta and the North Boardwalks were officially reopened in April 2023, just in time for beautiful spring weather and a busy park season— with guided school groups and various trail goers. Everyone can once again take advantage of these special trails leading through the heart of the 90-acre wetland.

One of the new features of the reconstructed boardwalk sections is streambank stabilization. Secured logs and large rocks were carefully placed to help keep banks from eroding and to better stabilize stream channels for years to come. The two rebuilt sections of boardwalk were constructed to better withstand floodwaters; wetland matting was used during construction to limit site disturbance.

The completion of the boardwalk repairs was a collaborative partnership. Total cost was \$335,000. This project was publicly bid; Flyway Excavating, Inc. from Mount Joy won the bid and performed the construction. Other expenses included engineering and permitting.

Thank you to following project sponsors:

- Kristen Olewine Milke and Benjamin Olewine IV
- Dauphin County Commissioners: Mike Pries, Chad Saylor & George P. Hartwick, III
- · Friends of Wildwood
- The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- McCormick Family Foundation
- The Donald B. and Dorothy L. Stabler Foundation
- Park Visitors



Boardwalk Ribbon Cutting

Special recognition was given to project sponsors at the recent boardwalk ribbon cutting ceremony. The project's lead donors Kristen Olewine Milke and Ben Olewine IV were recognized. Legacy donors (full list on page 5) and other supporters were also distinguished. A listing of all Friends of Wildwood Save The Boardwalk donors can be viewed on Page 4.

Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn joined local leaders and supporters of Wildwood Park to cut the ribbon on the newly rebuilt boardwalk sections. "Dauphin County's Wildwood Park is a tremendous asset to the greater Harrisburg region, and I am grateful to the Friends group for its strong and consistent support of the Park and its collaborative work to get the boardwalk reopened," Secretary Dunn said. She went on to say that "this boardwalk connects visitors to the wetlands and provides access to nature in an urban setting and I'm really pleased that DCNR staff and other funders could assist the County in reopening the boardwalk."

"The boardwalk project illustrates the difference we can make when we come together to fix a problem," said Dauphin County Commissioner Chairman Mike Pries. "Wildwood Park has long been a popular destination for recreationalists and nature lovers, but the years – and flooding – took their toll, especially on the boardwalk. Thanks to the leadership of Friends of Wildwood and our county Parks and Recreation Department – and the partnership we have with DCNR – we now have an expanded, stronger and more resilient boardwalk for our community to enjoy for years to come."



Pictured from left: Dauphin County Commissioner Chairman Mike Pries; Dauphin County Parks and Recreation Director Anthea Stebbins; DCNR Recreation and Conservation Manager Lori Yeich; Pennsylvania State Rep. Patty Kim; DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn; Kristen Olewine Milke, project major donor and sponsor; Friends of Wildwood Board President Jim Caufield; Friends of Wildwood Board Member Lee Johnson; Wildwood Park Manager Chris Rebert; and Dauphin County Commissioner Chad Saylor.

After

A word from Wildwood

is published quarterly by Friends of Wildwood 100 Wildwood Way Harrisburg, PA 17110 (717) 221-0292 explorewildwoodpark.org Email: wwstaff@dauphincounty.gov

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Wildwood Park and the Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center are part of the Dauphin County Parks and Recreation Department. The Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and is closed Mondays and holidays. Wildwood Park's trails are open from dawn until dusk. Programs can be viewed atexplorewildwoodpark.org/events and questions directed to wwstaff@dauphincounty.gov

County Commissioners

Mike Pries, Chairman Chad Saylor George P. Hartwick, III

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A Word from the President

DID YOU KNOW that Wildwood Park began as the result of a nationwide environmental movement and has connections to a notable list of naturalists and landscape designers? The land now occupied by Wildwood Park was targeted as part of the late nineteenth – early twentieth century City Beautiful Movement, an effort to promote civic pride and engagement in urban design nationwide.

In Harrisburg, the movement was promoted by local businessman and civic leader J. Horace McFarland. McFarland, along with a team of like-minded associates including noted Landscape Architect Warren Manning, developed a masterplan for parks and other upgrades in Pennsylvania's state capital that included the area then known as Wetzel's Swamp, later called Wildwood Lake Sanctuary and now known as Wildwood Park.

Today we have Wildwood as a local resource to enjoy and learn from everyday thanks to the foresight of earlier visionaries and the responsible current stewardship of the Dauphin County Parks and Recreation Department. Come and enjoy all that Wildwood has to offer – special programs, workshops, celebration days, hiking trails, quiet meditation, environmental displays, and the Nature Shop. We look forward to your visit!

See you at Wildwood, Jim

> As the summer sun streams through the brilliant green leaves of the trees, nature photographers take advantage of the beautiful natural light. Many are preparing for the 2023 Friends of Wildwood Photo Contest, finding just the right angle for the perfect shot.

The Friends of Wildwood are seeking original, amateur photographs taken within one of the six Dauphin County Parks: Wildwood Park, Fort Hunter Park, Fort Hunter Conservancy, Detweiler Park, Wiconisco Creek Park or Lykens Glen Park. Photos should reflect wetlands



habitat, flora, fauna, and activities, and convey the conservation values of the Park. Entry brochures, including contest eligibility and rules, are available online and at the Nature Center. Photographic entries will be accepted beginning on November 1, 2023. We look forward to seeing the splendor of our Parks represented in print once again.

Park Highlights

Art in the Wild

Everyone could use a bit more laughter and joy in life. The artists' installations featured in the 2023 Art In The Wild deliver just that. Artists designed and installed 18 brilliant and whimsical works of art along Wildwood's 'Wildwood Way' and 'Towpath' trails, culminating in the grand opening of this year's Art In The Wild Exhibit on April 2. The installations will be on display until September 30. As you walk the trails of Wildwood to view the installations, you will see - and sometimes even hear - the detail that each artist carefully crafted within their installations as they interpreted this year's theme, "The Earth Laughs."

Art In The Wild celebrates its 11th year of bringing outdoor art installations to Wildwood. Artists of all ages and creative styles bring the installations to life. This year, 17 new artists and 17 returning artists added their vision to the over 158 works of art that have been installed since Art In The Wild's inception in 2013. One of this year's artists celebrates their 11th year of installations!

Jane and Bill Allis of The Bower gave voice to the comments provided by Guest Evaluator Rebecca Rutstein about each installation during the artists reception, which was held March 31. The results are below. If you can't make it to see all of the installations in person, you can watch a video compilation of the installations inside the Nature Center or online at explorewildwoodpark.org. Additional artist information can be found inside the Nature Center as well. This year grant monies were obtained through the Pennsylvania Council of the Arts.

You can vote for your favorite installation by scanning the QR code located at any of the installation signs along the trail or inside the brochure, or online. The winners of the People's Choice award will be recognized at Celebrate Wildwood on September 23.

We hope you enjoy this year's Art In The Wild and will show support to artists by viewing the installations.



Best in Show: Site#13 "Upon the Cliff" - Steven Reinhart



Honorable Mention for Ingenuity with Materials: Site#10 "Victorious Nature" – Eve Gurbacki



Honorable Mention Student Artist: Site#7 "Earth's Bliss" – Ava King





Honorable Mention for Craftsmanship of the Fairies: Site#2 "Merriment" – Richard & Maria Joel

Honorable Mention Family Collaboration: Site#4 "We're laughing with you, not at you" – Marcus Family



Honorable Mention for Site Placement: Site#18 "Step Right Up" – Raymond Curanzy III

Save The Boardwalk Donors

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Save The Boardwalk Legacy Donors

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Parks Passport

Parks provide green space for play and activities for all ages and abilities. They promote mental and spiritual well-being, environmental stewardship, and a sense of community and belonging. Whether you like to hike with your family, listen to music with friends, spend time alone in nature, experience local history, or create "Art In The Wild", FIND YOUR HAPPY by signing up for your free Dauphin County Parks Passport today! Check-in at our 10 different park locations to earn prizes!

A Note from Volunteer Coordinator Savanna Lenker

By now I have had the chance to meet many of you, but I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. For those who do not know, I started as a full-time Environmental Educator at Wildwood this past January. I spent my summer breaks from Ithaca College as an Intern at Wildwood in 2018 and 2019. When I graduated with a B.A. in Environmental Studies in 2020, I joined the staff yearround at the park as a part-time Educator.

I'm thrilled to be spending more time at this special park that I have been enjoying since I was little, constantly learning more about the flora and fauna of the park, educating people of all ages, coming up with new program ideas and working with our incredible volunteers.

This year was my first time coordinating Wetlands Festival. Although there was a threat of rain, the festival was wellattended and featured 16 exhibitors, 5 guided walks, 2 musical guests, 2 vendors, and presentations from Clyde Peeling's Reptiland. It was a privilege to get to carry on this 20+ year-old Wetlands Festival legacy.

As the new Volunteer Coordinator, I also want to highlight some of our opportunities to get involved at the park. If any of these roles interest you, you can sign up to volunteer through our brand new volunteer website: https:// dauphincountyparks.galaxydigital.com/

Front Desk Volunteers-open/close the Nature Center, greet visitors, answer questions about the park and facilitate Nature Shop sales

Event Volunteers-help with educational stations at our two main festivals: Wetlands Festival in April and Celebrate Wildwood in September

Board Members-join the Friends of Wildwood Board; this group is instrumental to the success and longevity of Wildwood Park

Volunteer Work Day

Volunteers-assist with a

variety of projects to help keep Wildwood beautiful, these work days occur on the second Saturday of every month from March-November, sign up on our website: https:// explorewildwoodpark.org/events/

Additionally, you can contact me for any questions about Volunteering, Wetlands Festival, Summer Day Camps, Run Wild for Wildwood 5K/10K and the Photo Contest. If we haven't met yet, please introduce yourself if you see me around the Park or at the Nature Center!



SUSTAINABLE LIVING SERIES

In light of the success of the Winter Lecture Series, Wildwood Staff are excited to introduce a summer lecture series entitled Sustainable Living Series. Join us every second Thursday of the summer months from 6:30-8pm at the Olewine Pavilion for an informative lecture on sustainable food practices that will enhance your wellbeing, reduce waste and steward the environment. Lectures are free, however pre-registration is required online at explorewildwoodpark.org/events/

Composting 101 Thursday, June 8

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Join Catherine Scott with the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners for an evening lecture on how to start composting at home. She'll provide you with tips and tricks for reducing your household food waste and turning it into usable, biodiverse soil. Joining her will be Jil Strang, owner of DigMyEarth composting facility located in Susquehanna Township, who will talk about commercial composting and the variety of services they offer.

Community Gardening & Community-Supported Agriculture

Thursday, July 13

6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Join Dauphin County Community Garden Coordinator Elizabeth Weiner for an evening lecture on all things community gardens. She'll share stories and highlights from this year's community gardeners. Joining her will be Bethany Hinkle from Spiral Path Farm, an organic farm located in Perry County, which offers produce boxes to its CSA members.

Aquaponics

Thursday, August 10

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Join Sam Johnson, Director of Aquaponic Programs at Commonwealth Charter Academy, for an evening lecture about alternative growing techniques. She will share information about the AgWorks at CCA program, as well as the ways that Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) serves as a sustainable form of indoor growing.

Species Spotlight: Beaver

You may want to focus your binoculars a little clearer next time you see an assumed muskrat swimming in Wildwood. A beaver sighting was confirmed in Wildwood in May at the north end of the park. Though not a common sighting in Wildwood, beaver populations appear to be expanding locally—only time will tell if they decide to make Wildwood home.



Save the date! Saturday, September 23 from 11AM-4PM. Help celebrate Wildwood Park with a nature-themed afternoon! Learn about butterflies, birds and more. Participate in pumpkin painting, children's crafts, live musical entertainment and guided walks. Visit with Wildwood Partners and Exhibitors. There's something for the whole family!

Troop 12300 Silver Award

Nine Cadette Girl Scouts (6th and 7th graders) from Troop 12300 completed their Silver Award by spearheading a Reading Project in the Children's Library of the Exhibit Hall. Their goal was to give kids and families who visit the Nature Center an opportunity to interact with some great new books, in hopes of encouraging kids to read along with them– giving parents a break by letting them do the work. The books selected for the Library include ones about conservation, animals and wetlands. The Scouts took turns recording themselves reading the selected books and posted the videos to

YouTube. Using a QR code, families are able to easily access each unique video. Following each reading is a list of three discussion questions for parents to use while talking to their kids. In



addition to the videos, the Scouts were present at Wetlands Festival in April, reading to visitors and coloring naturethemed book marks. Leading up to the festival, the girls



collected donated children's books which they gave away per family that day. Way to go young women! You should be proud of your accomplishment. Now onward to the gold!

Online Registration!

Upcoming Events

Program registration is online at www.explorewildwoodpark.org/events/ It's easy! Click on the "Events" page, scroll through the list of programs, click to register.

Volunteer Work Day

Saturdays June 10, July 8 & August 12 10:00 am-1:00 pm Free Take this opportunity to work outside and help Wildwood's continued park and habitat enhancement projects. Register online.

Stained-Glass Workshop

Saturday, June 10 \$55 per participant 10:00 am-2:00 pm Ashly Cabrera will provide the equipment, materials and colored glass needed to design your own hummingbird suncatcher. Register online.

Paper Making Workshop

Thursdays, June 15 & 22

5:30 pm-7:30 pm \$60 per participant Join artist and educator Naomi Spahr for two consecutive Thursday evening workshops. Explore the art of paper making design with natural added materials such as flowers and plants during the first evening. After a week of drying, combine your newly designed pages into a larger project. Register online.

Macrame Coasters Class

Saturday, June 17

2:30 pm-4:00 pm \$45 per participant Lindsey Sansoni will teach a variety of essential knotting techniques and lead you through the creation of a beautiful hand-crafted set of 2 macrame coasters. This is a beginner workshop with no previous experience needed to participate. Register online and meet at the Olewine Pavilion.

Flower Walks

Sundays June 18, July 16 & August 20 10:30 am-12:00 pm Free Join volunteer Jane Earle for a flower walk. Meet at the Nature Center for June/July and the North Lot for August. Register online.

Firefly Night

Wednesday, June 28 8:30 pm-10:00 pm

\$2 per participant Join Naturalists at Detweiler Park for a chance to observe and catch fireflies in their natural habitat at night! A short hike and all the supplies you need will be provided. Rain date is Thursday, July 6. Program is for all ages. Register online.

Wildwood Park Coloring Contest

Thursday, July 1 – Saturday July 31 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Free Children of all ages may submit a nature-themed 8 1/2 x 11 hand drawn, portrait-style coloring page using colored pencils, crayons or markers. Entries will be submitted to the Nature Center in person, via mail or email during the month of July and hung for the public's viewing in the Exhibit Hall. More information online.

Kids Discover: The Ten Essentials Ages (6-10)

Wednesday, July 12

10:00 am-11:30 am

\$8 per child, chaperones are free Join a Naturalist for a hike at Fort Hunter Conservancy and discover what essential

items to take with you on every adventure. This program will provide helpful information for your future outdoor explorations. Register online.

Natural Stone-Planter Workshop

Thursday, July 20

6:00 pm-7:30 pm \$45 per participant Design a succulent stone-look planter (cement with stippled texture and a natural brown/gray finish, measures 6"Lx8"Wx3.5"H) for your home. Register online.



Pound the Colors of Wildwood into Cloth Saturday, July 22

9:00 am-10:30 am or 11:00 am-12:30 pm \$20 per participant Design a unique cotton pillow cover $(18" \times 18")$ using flowers and leaves from Wildwood Park with natural dyer Carol Reed. Create a design with the gathered materials and use a hammer to pound color, petals and leaf shape and veins into the cloth. Meet at the Olewine Pavilion. Register online.

Moths of the Night with The Bug Man Saturday, July 22

9:00 pm-12:30 am \$10 per participant Join Ryan Bridge "The Bug Man" at Wildwood Park for a LATE NIGHT Lecture and Insect Foray on opening night of International Moth Week! The first part of the evening will include an indoor lecture presentation on the specifics of observing insects at night. The second half of the evening will include outdoor black-lighting in the Olewine Pavilion. Participants are encouraged to stay for both portions of the evening. Register online.

Preschool Storytime: Summer at Wildwood! (Ages 2-5)

Wednesday, August 9 10:00 am-10:45 am

Join a Dauphin County Library System Librarian and Wildwood Environmental Educator for a fun story session. Register online.

Kids Discover: Insects (Ages 5-10)

Friday, August 11

9:30 am-11:00 am \$10 per child, chaperones are free Join a Naturalist to explore the incredible world of insects! Become insect detectives and take a closer look at them using nets, magnifiers and bug boxes. Then, help insects by creating your own insect hotel to take home. Register online.

Floral Jewelry Workshop

Sunday, August 13

1:00 pm-3:00 pm \$65 per participant Join Dolores McGee for a workshop focusing on floral head wear. Participants will learn how to use a variety of materials to create a reusable base for your floral creation. All floral materials will be provided including a mix of dried or fresh flowers and greenery with other decorative items. Register online by Monday, August 7.



Free

Wild Recipes: Summer Foraging in Your Backyard Tuesday, August 15

6:00 pm-7:30 pm

\$20 per participant Join Naturalists at Wildwood Park to learn how to make Staghorn Sumac Lemonade, Berry Cobbler and to learn about what plants and petals to include in your very own wild foraged mixed greens salad. Samples of each edible treat will be provided. Meet at the Olewine Pavilion. Register online.

Kids Discover: Flowers (Ages 4-6) or (Ages 7-10)

Saturday, August 19

10am-11:30 am or 1pm-2:30 pm \$5 per child, chaperones are free Join a Naturalist to explore the flowers of Wildwood and discover the amazing interactions flowers have with pollinators. Learn about the important role flowers have in nature and in the food we eat! Create a flower craft to take home or dissect a flower using a dissecting scope. Register online.

Dried Flower Shadow Box

Thursday, August 24 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

Join a Naturalist for an evening of dried and pressed flower arranging. Choose from a variety of blooms to create your own personalized layout inside an 8 inch by 8 inch shadow box. Register online.

Volunteer & Member News

Volunteer Spotlight: Lee Johnson

In 1972, Lee moved from Syracuse, NY to the southcentral PA area. It's hard to remember how she first heard about Wildwood; however, some of her earliest memories involve shuttling her grandson, Quinn (then 8, now 24) back and forth from Junior Naturalist Day Camp. Lee's daughter is a doctor in York, and she has two grandsons - Quinn is a Special Education Case Manager at a school for underprivileged kids in Philadelphia. Ashe is a junior at Lancaster Country Day School.

Lee has been an avid park user and Friend of Wildwood since joining the Board 7 years ago. She led the capital campaigns for the Outdoor Restroom and Save The Boardwalk. She also assisted with the redesign of the Friends of Wildwood website and logo.

Yearly visits to her great-grandparents'

summer home in the Catskill Mountains of NY when she was young instilled a love for the natural world that has stuck with her to this day. Art In The Wild, festivals, and volunteer or staff guided walks

are a few of her favorite Wildwood activities.

Lee has years with Branch of Association Women), organization equity for through



been active for 50 the Harrisburg AAUW (American of University a non-profit that advances women and girls advocacy, education

and research. She organizes walk outings for the group at many natural areas, including both Detweiler and Wildwood Parks.

In closing Lee expressed a desire for folks to get out and take a walk in nature, to consider joining the Friends of Wildwood (now 350 strong!), and to register for the wonderful programming at the Park. She particularly advises everyone to send their kids and grandkids to the Junior Naturalist Camps. Each of those opportunities is a chance to learn, grow and work with a fantastic group of volunteers and staff.

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner at Fort Hunter Park

On Tuesday, June 27 from 6:00pm–8:00pm Fort Hunter Park will host a combined volunteer appreciation dinner catered by Dodge City Steakhouse for volunteers from Wildwood and Fort Hunter outside on the lawn by the Centennial Barn. Enjoy conversation and evening musical entertainment from cover band, Fully Stocked. A rain date is scheduled for later that week on Thursday, June 29.

March Litter Clean-Up

On March 11, friends and neighbors of Wildwood Park gathered together to pick up litter along Industrial Road. 87 volunteers from various organizations removed over 100 bags of litter weighing in at 1.3 tons-over 2,600 pounds! The City of Harrisburg Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities were responsible for the pick up and disposal of the bagged trash. Thank you to all who participated!

Removing litter, especially along Industrial Road is important for the following reasons:

- It helps keep our local and regional waters clean including Paxton Creek, Susquehanna River and the Chesapeake Bay
- This roadway is in close proximity to two important waterways: The Pennsylvania Canal and Wildwood Lake/Wetland which are important homes for wildlife and provide important multi-use recreational opportunities for the region
- The nearby trails in Wildwood Park account for 115,000 annual visitors





Run Wild for Wildwood 5K & 10K

Saturday, August 26 8:30 am-11:00am

Save the Date! Choose to complete the 3.1 mile loop via running or walking once [5K] or twice [10K]. This scenic run/walk will take you on the Wildwood Way Trail around the Lake and down the Towpath Trail along the PA Canal.



\$25 for 5K, \$30 for 10K



To register scan the QR code with your smart phone.



Thursday July 6 & Friday, July 7 9:00 am-3:00 pm Cost is \$65 per teen

Memorial Bricks

In 2007, the Friends of Wildwood established the Memorial Brick Walkway to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Wildwood Park. The Walkway is part of the Memorial Garden located near the Olewine Nature Center.

Memorial bricks can be purchased at any time to commemorate a special event in someone's life such as birthdays, anniversaries, honoring a friend or family member or remembering someone special, including your pets.

Show your support for Wildwood Park by sporting some Wildwood-themed apparel! Order at your convenience from our online store at https://bit.ly/3LwL1uk

Orders will take 2 weeks to process and will be available for pick-up at the Nature Center after email confirmation or shipped to you for additional costs. All sales are final and all proceeds directly benefit the projects and programs sponsored by the Friends of Wildwood.





Interested in receiving weekly emails on programming in all Dauphin County Parks? Scan this QR code with your smartphone and click on the yellow "E-Newsletter Sign-Up" Button.

Thinking of Giving to Wildwood?

Here are 7 ways to give to Wildwood. All are tax deductible. Details at www.explorewildwoodpark.org/support/

1. Become a Member or give

- the gift of membership
- 2. Make a donation
- 3. Make a bequest
- 4. Purchase a Memorial Brick
- 5. Contribute to Wildwood's Endowment
- 6. Sponsor a Program
- 7. Volunteer your Time

Membership Benefits

Your membership supports the ongoing programs and conservation efforts of Wildwood Park and the Benjamin Olewine III Nature Center.

Your Membership provides the following:

- Reciprocal membership with more than 100 nature centers throughout the country that participate in the Association of Nature Center Administrators
- Subscription to A Word From Wildwood quarterly newsletter
- 10% discount off all Nature Shop purchases
- Knowing you:
 - Support outdoor educational and recreational opportunities reaching over 100,000 people annually
 - Have a direct impact on local and migratory wildlife, wild plants and the diverse people living in our community
 - Preserve Wildwood Park, now and for future generations

Sign up to receive the newsletter electronically

A Word from Wildwood can be sent electronically to Friends of Wildwood members.

Email wwstaff@dauphincounty.gov Help save paper and money! GO GREEN!

Have you considered Wildwood Park in your estate planning?

The Friends of Wildwood is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization listed with the PA Bureau of Charitable Organizations, and incorporated within the Commonwealth of PA. It is an advocate for Wildwood Park through preservation, education and financial support.



Friends of Wildwood 100 Wildwood Way Harrisburg, PA 17110 (717) 221-0292 explorewildwoodpark.org

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