
COUNTY PARKS/STATE PARKS

Parks exist to enhance the life of PA's residents by conserving, stewarding, and, in some cases enhancing these important greenspaces. Native habitats comprise vast tracts of many of these parks, supporting a diverse native fauna. Generally plants are not labeled; some parks have demonstration gardens or wildflower guides to help visitors with plant identification. Three parcels warrant special mention for their significance to native plant enthusiasts:

Jennings Environmental Education Center (Slippery Rock, PA): The preserve's primary feature is a 20-acre prairie ecosystem. Each summer, fields of blazing star (*Liatris spicata*) light up the prairie. Guided tours available.

Raccoon Creek State Park (Hookstown, Beaver County, PA): Home to one of the most exceptional spring wildflower displays in Western PA. Programs offered year-round at the Wildflower Reserve Interpretive Center.

Point State Park: Renovation of this 36-acre park's derelict native woodland was completed in 2009 using 7,000 native trees, shrubs and perennials. Varieties were selected from among those that young Lt. Colonel George Washington could have seen there during the French and Indian War (1754 – 1763).

OTHER SIGNIFICANT NATIVE SITES

Rivers Casino: A riverfront promenade and outdoor amphitheater extend the casino's landscape to the river's edge. Plantings were designed by Pittsburgh-based Strada Architecture LLC in collaboration with Riverlife Pittsburgh. The landscape also incorporates an innovative stormwater management system which helps clean runoff before it enters the Ohio River.

Allegheny County Courthouse: Garden beds in the courtyard of the Allegheny County Courthouse in downtown Pittsburgh were renovated in 2010. The plant palette includes species native to eastern North America. Trees, shrubs, and perennials in the plantings are tended by volunteer Penn State Master Gardeners.



RESOURCE GUIDE TO NATIVE PLANT SITES IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

This pamphlet has been compiled by the Native Plant Initiative, a committee of the Garden Club of Allegheny County, a member of the Garden Club of America. The Native Plant Initiative promotes the use of plants native to the Allegheny Plateau in our landscapes and gardens to stem extinction and provide habitat for our native American flora and fauna.



CREDITS

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Organizations taking action to support the use of native plants and demonstrate how natives can be both beautiful and environmentally useful in our landscapes and gardens

ALLEGHENY LAND TRUST (ALT)

ALT supports the conservation of native plants in their natural settings by protecting green spaces that might otherwise be developed. Currently ALT has 1600 acres under their protection; 1400 of those, spread over 27 separate parcels in Allegheny and Washington counties, are owned by the trust.

Lands owned by the trust are usually open to the public for activities such as hiking and bird watching. Check the website for any temporary restrictions due to safety concerns.

Website: www.alleghenylandtrust.org

Phone: 412-741-2750

AUDUBON AT BEECHWOOD FARMS

Audubon's Center for Native Plants promotes use of native species in landscapes & gardens through propagation, display, and sale of native plants. The nursery features varieties that: support wildlife; can be used in habitat restoration projects; and help provide stormwater control. Display gardens are open daily dawn to dusk; visitors may purchase plants during regular shop hours.

Website: www.aswp.org

Phone: 412-963-6100

FERN HOLLOW NATURE CENTER

The nature center has established a native tree walk on their grounds in Sewickley. Display beds in the parking areas feature native perennials and grasses. The nature center also sponsors wildflower and tree planting workshops for local schools.

Website: www.fhnc.org

Phone: 412-741-6136 or 412-741-7536

Cover photo: Blazing star (Liatrix spicata) with monarch butterfly at Jennings Environmental Education Center

PHIPPS CONSERVATORY AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

Phipps uses native plants throughout its campus and also in flower shows, when appropriate. The new Center for Sustainable Landscapes (CSL) houses the most significant collection and display of native species. Both the gardens and the green roof of the CSL use all native plants. The CSL entry drive and parking areas also feature natives.

Admission to the Conservatory includes access to the CSL, green roof and surrounding plantings.

Website: www.phipps.conservatory.org

Phone: 412-622-6914

PITTSBURGH BOTANIC GARDEN

Native plant communities will feature prominently in many areas of the landscape of the future botanic garden. The garden is in the early stages of construction, but some trails are open, with guided tours available. Woodlands of the World, the first major display garden being developed, will celebrate the richness of Pennsylvania's native flora while contrasting it to woodland plant communities with similar climates around the world.

Website: www.pittsburghbotanicgarden.org

Phone: 412-444-4464

PITTSBURGH PARKS CONSERVANCY

The Conservancy includes native trees, shrubs & herbaceous plants in every capital project and actively manages the parks for native flora.

The hillside behind the Schenley Park Visitors Center and the plantings surrounding the Riverview Park Chapel Shelter offer excellent and easily accessible examples of the Conservancy's native plantings.

Website: www.pittsburghparks.org

Phone: 412-682-7275

PITTSBURGH ZOO & PPG AQUARIUM

Native plants are featured throughout the zoo grounds in public areas not specifically devoted to animal displays, but are concentrated in three highly visible areas: Penn's Woods West (Kids Kingdom), Pollination Station (front entrance to the zoo, and the Randall Butterfly Garden (at the entrance to Kids Kingdom).

Website: www.pittsburghzoo.org

Phone: 412-365-2574 (Horticulture Dept.)

RIVERLIFE PITTSBURGH

(formerly Riverlife Task Force)

Riverlife uses native plantings to enhance and improve environmental quality in all restoration projects within the 13-mile waterfront loop known as Three Rivers Park. Planting zones feature native plants that, depending on their distance from the water's edge, insure stability of the streambank, filter sediments, or direct the flow of stormwater.

Point State Park and Southshore Riverfront Park both offer excellent examples of some of Riverlife's native plantings.

Website: www.riverlifepgh.org

Phone: 412-258-6636

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY AND TREEVITALIZE

WPC supports the conservation of native plants in their natural settings by protecting and restoring sites of exceptional natural value. Ohioyle, McConnell's Mill and Moraine State Parks are exceptional places to appreciate PA's diverse native flora thanks to the Conservancy's vision.

TreeVitalize plants native tree species in parks and natural areas and along river trails. Whenever possible, natives are also used in street plantings.

Website: www.WaterLandLife.org

Phone: 412-288-2777

Website: www.treevitalizepgh.org

Phone: 412-288-2777
