

Friends of Glen Providence Park 2013 Annual Report



Mission

To preserve and enhance the historic and natural resource of Delaware County's oldest park.



Photos L-R: 1939 photo by GJ Ulshafer, Naturalist Walk and Talk, Red-shouldered hawk.

In 1935, George and Eleanor Butler donated Glen Providence Park to Delaware County as a bird sanctuary and arboretum.



1939 photo of entrance at 3rd and West Streets by GJ Ulshafer

Friends of Glen Providence Park is an all-volunteer organization.

Donations may be made via our website or by mail.

Friends of Glen Providence Park, P.O. Box 1688, Media PA 19063

www.glenprovidencepark.org

Summary

Friends of Glen Providence Park is an all-volunteer organization, dedicated to preserving and enhancing a lovely wooded 33 acre valley between Media Borough and Upper Providence, Pennsylvania. Since we formed in 2011, our efforts have included 28 consecutive monthly events, with 8 volunteer days, 18 nature walks and 2 annual picnics, in addition to 4 concerts — all free and open to the public.

We expanded our service efforts in 2013, and we continued to work with Delaware County Parks in their care of this community park. With the help of scores of amazing volunteers, we undertook a large planting project for National Public Lands Day to restore an eroded section of Broomall's Run, and we regularly removed invasive plants that are threatening the park's natural resources.

Our Summer Concert Series was the first in the park since the 1970's, with three concerts of Classical, Americana, and Big Band Swing music. Our monthly nature walks included a Natural Scavenger Hunt and a Pond Walk for Kids, Bird and Tree Walks, and a Ghost & Wicked Plant Walk.

The planned project to replace Broomall's Dam continues to threaten 1.1 acre of the park, so we continued our advocacy to minimize any damage to the park, and we documented the 1.1 Acre's plants, wildlife, and scenery throughout the year.

In an organizational milestone, we completed our incorporation and 501(c)3 nonprofit application with the generous legal expertise of Susan Garrison.

We were delighted to connect with Glen Providence Park's founders by meeting in the park with Clifford Butler Lewis, the grandson of park donors George and Eleanor Butler. As we continue to learn about the park, it just deepens our appreciation for and enjoyment of it — we hope you will join us at one of the Friends of Glen Providence Park events!

Stephanie Gaboriault

President, Friends of Glen Providence Park

Board of Directors

Dylan Atkins, Shannon Davidson, Stephanie Gaboriault,
Susan Harrington, Holly Hoffmann, Lisa Johnson, Marcia Tate

History + Nature

For a 33 acre park, Glen Providence is remarkably rich in natural diversity, with varied habitats on different trails of the park and in the wetlands. This gives us a lot to investigate and document! We continue to fill in pieces of the park's natural and human history. We share what we learn through our free monthly nature and history walks, the photojournal on our website, and in hundreds of photographs with explanatory captions on our Facebook page.

Highlights:

- 103 bird species documented on eBird, including a Philadelphia Vireo
- Discovered the original 1941 Nature Guide, reproduced it and led a nature walk based on it
- Shared a series of 12 photographs from 1939 showing original park features from Media resident William VanLeer's grandfather
- 250 plant, insect, fungi and wildlife sightings documented (since 2011) with photographs in our Facebook albums and website Photojournals
- Participated in our 3rd consecutive Christmas Bird Count, the world's longest-running Citizen Science Project



Photos clockwise: Silver birch, Clifford Butler Lewis at old waterfall, Red-bellied woodpecker, Damselfly, Bloodroot.

The 1.1 Acre

In 2013 we awaited legal decisions from both Delaware County and PA Commonwealth Courts concerning Broomall's Dam and the 3rd Street Bridge. While the legal issues are not yet resolved, what has not changed is the proposed dam design which would destroy 1.1 acres of Glen Providence Park. We continued to educate the public and advocate for less destructive alternatives.

Highlights:

- 1,500 flyers distributed, advocating for dam removal and stream restoration with an environmentally sensitive bridge connecting Upper Providence and Media Borough
- Completed the 1.1 Acre Photojournal, a project to document the area's native plants and wildlife
- Monitored the legal proceedings and kept the public informed on our website, Facebook and in our newsletters
- Educated about potential public safety issues due to the high water level at Broomall's Lake (in violation of the PA Department of Environmental Protection's instructions)



Photos: left, 1.1 acre in winter, spring + summer; right from top: Deer at edge of wetlands, Wood frog, Wild ginger.

Service

This year our volunteers worked 280 hours in the park on cleanups, native plantings, and invasive plant removal. In addition, our directors and committee members volunteered a combined average of over 45 hours per week towards our mission to preserve and enhance the park. The park plantings make an immediate difference in controlling erosion and enhancing the park's habitat, and their benefits will grow every year.

Highlights:

- 40 native trees and shrubs planted on National Public Lands Day to control streamside erosion
- 94 bags of invasive plants removed (packed contractor bags) along trails, benefitting hikers and wildlife
- 2 large park cleanups conducted, both with Brownie Troop #5248
- Assisted Media Providence Friends School classes and service projects



Clockwise: CRC watersheds cleanup, National Public Lands Day volunteers x2, MFPS students label plantings

Community

We have worked to restore the community standing and pride that Glen Providence Park held in its early decades. We have heard so many fond memories of park concerts, events, and just exploring its lovely trails. A new generation is now experiencing the park's magic through our Summer Concert Series, monthly nature walks, citizen science, and service projects.

Highlights:

- 3 free concerts at the historical stage, attended by more than 450 people
- 12 monthly educational and service events in the park
- Actively participated in Delaware County's Open Space Plan, compiling and providing ideas, input, research and feedback
- Assisted with Friends groups of other local parks



Clockwise: Pond Walk for Kids, Ken Delmar, M&3 & Obsoleets, Qin plays erhu, concertgoers, Native Plant walk.

Special Thanks to:

Delaware County Conservation District
Delaware County Council
Delaware County Parks and Recreation
Delaware County Planning
Susan K. Garrison, Esq.*

Organizations + Individuals

Birding Club of Delaware County
Brownie Troop #5248
CRC Watersheds Association
Clifford Butler Lewis
Media Arts Council
Media Business Authority
Media Fellowship House
Media Historic Archives
Media Providence Friends School
Taylor Memorial Arboretum
Transition Town Media
Untours Foundation
Upper Providence for Open Space
William Van Leer

Businesses

Delaware County Press
Earthwise Landscapes
Garden Influence
Garrison Law
JMW Entertainment Group
Market Acumen
Media Copy
Media Town Talk
Pinocchio's Restaurant
Professional Duplicating
TPW Design Studio

Concert Sponsors

Media Recreation Board
Media Rotary Foundation
Diego's Cantina & Tequila Bar
Seven Stones Café
Shere-E-Punjab Indian Restaurant

Donors

Dylan + Patricia Atkins*
Adeline Cianella*
Shannon + Kent Davidson*
Collette Decker
Judy Fowler
Stephanie + Randy Gaboriault*
Bob Gallagher + Tracy Sadowski
Susan + Chip Harrington*
Linda + Joe Healy*
Holly + Rich Hoffmann*
Nancy Hoffmann
Tom + Wendy Hibberd*
Lisa Johnson + Ted Laarkamp*
Joseph Leach
Tom Reeves*
Terry Rumsey + Robin Lasersohn*
Paul + Cheryl Schlenker*
Dale Snead
George + Marcia Tate*
Marlise Wise

**2012 Founding Funders*

And thanks to our volunteers and all who participated in a Friends of Glen Providence Park event, including the guides & musicians:

Nick Crocetto, Al Guarente, Aura Lester, Chris McNichol, John Wenderoth;
Springfield Clarinet Quartet, Me3, The Obsoleets, Ken Delmar & The Cheers.

Photo credits: Stephanie Gaboriault, George Tate, Shannon Davidson, Marcia Tate, Janice Petersen