



# Chestnut Hill Pocket Parks Partnership

*An overview of the Parks, Programs, and Green Spaces throughout Chestnut Hill*



Prepared April 17, 2017

# Chestnut Hill Map of Germantown Avenue Corridor Chestnut Hill Avenue to Cresheim Valley Drive Bethlehem Pike Chestnut Hill Avenue to Germantown Avenue



# Parks Inventory 2017 - Parks/Programs/Green Spaces Maintained by Specific Organizations

## Flowering Program along Germantown Avenue and Bethlehem Pike

*Maintained by: Garden District Fund and CH BID*

The Chestnut Hill Garden District Fund is comprised of a volunteer board of directors, most of whom are horticulturalists, amateur gardeners and members of local garden clubs. In January, a planting design is created and specific flowers and color scheme are selected. These plans are created for the hanging baskets, barrels and window boxes. The selected flowers are ordered through a local nursery and grown specifically for the Garden District from seed. In April, the streetscape manager who oversees the plantings, care & maintenance of the program returns to work. He preps the barrels and window boxes and gets everything ready for the planting which takes place in early to mid-May. In early May, the plants are delivered and are then sorted for planting in the baskets, barrels and window boxes. The window boxes are planted by the streetscape manager. The baskets are planted by a local garden club and the barrels are planted by a group of 40 volunteers.

Once the plantings are complete, the duties of the streetscape manager turn to maintenance by the Chestnut Hill BID. He is responsible for watering, feeding, weeding and keeping the plants alive and looking good. These maintenance duties continue until late October when the plants are removed from the baskets. This year, we are planning to replace the plants in the barrels with mums during the fall season. They will then be planted with an evergreen arrangement for the holiday season. From January until the May planting, a small evergreen tree and moss will be planted in the barrels so they are never empty at any time during the year. The streetscape manager stops work in late October.





## **Chestnut Hill Garden District Fund Pocket Park Projects**

Garden District Fund contributes at least 30 volunteer hours to maintain Cliff Park, Meditation Park, and the War Memorial

Actual budget spent on these green spaces per year:  
\$20,000

\$13,000 in product & labor donated by Burke Brothers

\$7,000 for maintenance and plantings by Chestnut Hill Garden District Fund

## **Memorial Park**

7945 Germantown Avenue

*Maintained by: Garden District Fund*

### **Memorial Park Needs:**

- Improve lighting
- Add plantings
- Add sidewalk
- Maintenance Funds

# Parks Inventory 2017 - Parks/Programs/Green Spaces Maintained by Specific Organizations



## Cliff Park & Gateway

7600 Germantown Avenue

*Maintained by: Garden District Fund*

### Cliff Park Needs:

- Add lighting to enhance cliff feature
- Add sculpture
- Improve signage
- Rework and add plantings
- Create a true gathering place
- Maintenance Funds

## Meditation Park

7701 Germantown Avenue

*Maintained by: Garden District Fund*

### Meditation Park Needs:

- Add seating
- Add plantings
- Promote as more of a gathering place
- Maintenance Funds



## 7943-45 Germantown Avenue

This is an area the Garden District Fund would like to work on in partnership with Kevin Burke of Burke Bros, contingent on getting permission from the Fairmount Park Commission which owns the property.



### Greenspace Needs:

- Maintenance
- Design
- Plantings
- Add seating
- Promote as a gathering place

## **Buckley Park**

8201 Germantown Avenue

*Maintained by: VFW*



2015 marked the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Chestnut Hill resident Charles Joseph was just one of the 646 men from Philadelphia who died fighting in Vietnam. Most Hillers are familiar with Buckley Park at East Hartwell Lane and Germantown Avenue, but unfortunately few know who the young Marine was or that Buckley Park was one of the first memorials in the country to honor Vietnam Veterans.

Buckley was only 19 years old when he was killed by enemy rocket fire near the Demilitarized Zone about 60 miles north of Da Nang, in Vietnam, according to an article in The Philadelphia Inquirer on Dec. 24, 1968. He was a member of a mine disposal team in the 1st Marine Division.

The Chestnut Hill Community Association and friends of Buckley decided to build the park in memory of the young Marine. As a child Buckley and his brother Vincent and his sister Bonnie would often in play in park area. Buckley Park was dedicated on June 2, 1973, after more than three years of planning, negotiating and fund-raising. It was one of the first memorials in the country to honor Vietnam Veterans. In the center of the park a bronze plaque affixed to a 5-foot-high granite stone reads, "In memory of PFC Charles J. Buckley, USMC, 1949 – 1968, and of other Americans who gave their lives in the Republic of Vietnam."

Source:

<http://www.chestnuthilllocal.com/2015/11/11/buckley-park-one-of-the-first-memorials-to-honor-vietnam-vets/>

## **Buckley Park**

8201 Germantown Avenue

*Maintained by: VFW*

### Buckley Park Needs:

- New master plan for the park to encourage greater community use
- New plantings
- Potential replacement of seating
- Potential lighting replaced
- Maintenance funds
- Improved signage and recognition of War Memorial to PFC Charles Buckley
- Special care (flags, flowers, advance park clean-ups) before Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, and Labor Day weekends for potential veteran recognition ceremonies





## **The Children's Park in Chestnut Hill**

8301 Germantown Avenue

*Maintained by: Friends of the Children's Park*

Background and Needs of the Children's Park in Chestnut Hill:

The playground structure and its encompassing park serves the 478 children at Jenks school every day as well as many more families from the neighborhood, even if they don't attend the school. The park also serves as a prime destination for families from all parts of Philadelphia, the surrounding suburbs and even New Jersey. It draws even larger crowds on the public festival days (case in point is the Harry Potter Festival).

The regular costs to maintain the park average eight thousand a year. This includes garbage removal, insurances, regular maintenance of the ground cover and sand, and emergency repairs. The resealing of the wooden structures, which needs to be done every 5 -7 years, is approximately \$14,000. Friends of the Children's Park will be resealing the structure this year, which is long overdue.

## Pastorius Park

West Hartwell Lane & Roanoke Street

Maintained by: *Friends of Pastorius Park*



**Pastorius pond cleaning** – FoPP now has firm dates from PPR for pond work: on March 30, the pond water will be drawn down to app. 6" to allow FoPP's pond specialist and volunteers to collect fish and turtles carefully; all of the non-native fish will be released into a private natural pond. The remaining turtles and fish will be held in the fenced off moat portion of the park. Once PPR contractor is done cleaning out Pastorius' pond, the concrete will be examined by a City mason, any necessary repairs made, then the pond will be refilled, and animals held in the moat area will be returned to the pond.

**Park grounds stabilization** - There is a good deal of erosion in the park due to various conditions. We need ground cover stabilization in various locations, which may require collaboration with the Water Department and Street Department as there are some off-site conditions that contribute to this erosion.

**Pond maintenance** For 2017 season, PPR, will be managing the algal treatments. Meanwhile, FoPP will manage our circulation pumps, and new aerators, at the Friends Group expense. Carefully chosen water plants (to be contained in pots, and placed in limited areas of the pond) to naturally clear phosphorous from the pond will wait for another year, as PPR's planned copper-based algal treatments will kill these plants. FoPP will discuss use of these water-cleaning plants, which would also be beneficial to wildlife and beautify the pond, with PPR in the future, as these plants could work well with a different algal treatment, such as Green Clean. FoPP plans to cover the expense and maintenance (by a local pond specialist) of these water plants, once adjustments are made in future algal treatments at Pastorius pond.



# Parks Inventory 2017 - Parks/Programs/Green Spaces Maintained by Specific Organizations

## Pastorius Park

West Hartwell Lane & Roanoke Street

*Maintained by: Friends of Pastorius Park*

### Park Statistics and Needs:

Every year, Friends of Pastorius Park spends \$4,975 on Schectman treatment of the park's:

- 100+ Canadian Hemlock trees, which remain healthy despite the fierce attack of Woolly Adelgid and spider mites that occur on untreated hemlocks on private property in the park's vicinity

FoPP also spends \$100-\$150 on materials for our annual Spring cleanup events. As for volunteers, we average 20-30 volunteers during the annual cleanup, and a half-dozen FoPP members who lend a hand with pond's circulating pumps, trash pick up, etc during high season at the park.

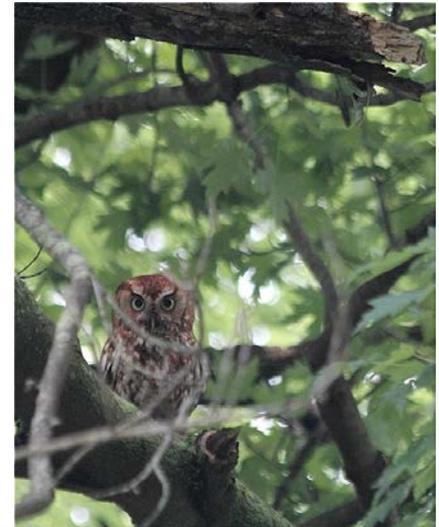
More recently, in 2016, FoPP spent, in addition to above:

- \$1,500 (labor & materials) on repair of all the park's benches (including resetting of all existing memorial plaques)
- \$5,000 to clean the park's moat, in preparation for City's pond dredging
- \$1,160 for Hanover Engineering's sediment mapping of the pond, as well as water tests
- \$3,000 for new well pump installed for the pond

So far, for 2017:

- \$1,400 for tree maintenance ( in addition to \$4,975 for Schectman hemlock treatments— to be performed in April 2017)
- \$10,000 upcoming expense for installation and maintenance of 3 new aerators for the pond, once it is cleaned and refilled

FoPP is hoping to receive some assistance from PPR and other City departments to help stabilize the soil and repair ground erosion in the park. This is the next big project at Pastorius after the pond work.



## **Pergola Park at Cresheim Valley Drive**

Germantown Avenue & Cresheim Valley Drive

*Maintained by: Rotary Club*



History hides at the crossroads of Cresheim Valley Drive and Germantown Avenue in two unassuming, wooden pergolas with historically strong foundations. Originally operating as water troughs for horses in the 1700s, the structures now represent the relationship between Chestnut Hill and Mount Airy.

Cresheim Valley Drive runs beside the creek from Stenton Avenue until southwest of the [Chestnut Hill West Line](#) tracks, where the road bends away to become Emlen Street. The stone [pergola](#) that stands at the southwest corner of the intersection of Germantown Avenue and Cresheim Valley Drive contains plaques honoring both the early German settlers of the Cresheim Valley and Samuel Newman Baxter, chief arborist of Fairmount Park from 1915 to 1945.

A dirt parking area off Cresheim Valley Drive, southwest from the Chestnut Hill West railroad bridge, marks the trailhead for a set of walking paths that follow the creek for some distance downstream to its outlet.

Sources:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cresheim\\_Creek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cresheim_Creek)

<http://www.chestnuthilllocal.com/2015/07/15/valley-green-bank-restores-cresheim-pergola/>

Pergola Park Needs:

- Maintenance

# Parks Inventory 2017 - Parks/Programs/Green Spaces Maintained by Specific Organizations

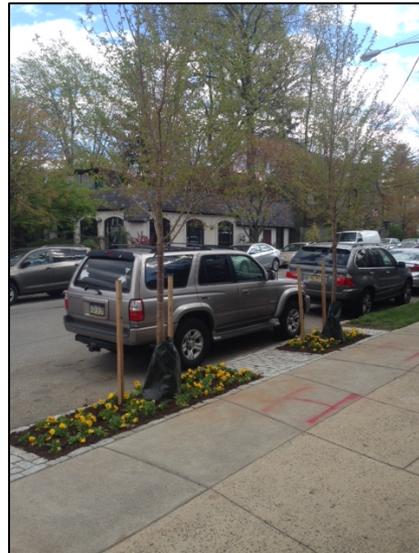
## Re-Tree Chestnut Hill

*Maintained by: Green Space Initiative in partnership with the Chestnut Hill Community Fund, Community Association, & Business District*

Re-Tree is a concerted effort to address areas on Germantown Avenue and other well-traveled areas of the neighborhood where street trees haven't fared so well.

That program is under the direction of a committee that represents a good cross-section of Chestnut Hill institutions, including the Chestnut Hill Community Association and Community Fund, the Chestnut Hill Business Improvement District, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Morris Arboretum, the Sisters of St. Joseph, Bowman Properties and a number of private practice architects and landscape designers. The group has identified approximately 70 locations where trees should be planted – from empty tree wells to other sidewalk locations. To get trees into those locations, the group is soliciting funds for the endeavor.

Source: <http://www.chestnuthilllocal.com/2014/10/22/funds-sought-re-tree-germantown-avenue/>



# Parks Inventory 2017 - Parks/Programs/Green Spaces Maintained by Specific Organizations



## **Nina Benson Cooke Park**

58 Bethlehem Pike

*Maintained by: St. Paul's Episcopal Church*

Built in 1940 by Jay Cooke III as a memorial to his mother

## **Top of the Hill Fountain Plaza**

8705 Germantown Avenue

*Maintained by: Friends of the Fountain Plaza*

*Designed by Jonathan Alderson*

*Project led by Susan Detscher Pizzano in 2001*



# Parks Inventory 2017 - Parks/Programs/Green Spaces Maintained by Specific Organizations

## Wissahickon Valley & Forbidden Drive

*Maintained by: Friends of the Wissahickon*

Wissahickon Valley Park Trail (Forbidden Drive) follows the creek of the same name through the entire length of the park. The ominous sounding Forbidden Drive was so named because in the 1920s cars were banned from it. Today, it's open to pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists.



The park includes many interesting historical features, especially interesting old homes owned by notable locals.

A paved path connects Forbidden Drive to Ridge Avenue. Here Wissahickon Creek empties into the Schuylkill River.



At the northern end, Forbidden Drive ends at Northwestern Avenue after crossing Bell's Mill Road.

# Parks Inventory 2017 - Parks/Programs/Green Spaces Maintained by Specific Organizations



## **Native Plant Garden**

8708 Germantown Avenue

*Maintained by: Chestnut Hill Conservancy*

Established as a tribute to the flora of the Wissahickon

## **Volunteer Memorial Circle**

8701 Germantown Avenue

*Maintained by: Chestnut Hill Community Association and  
Children of America*

Established in 2010 as a memorial in honor of Chestnut Hill  
Community Association President Maurice McCarthy



# Parks Inventory 2017 - Gateways

Bethlehem Pike/Paper Mill Road/Stenton Avenue



Northwestern Avenue



Cresheim Valley Drive – Cliff Park/Meditation Park/Memorial Park

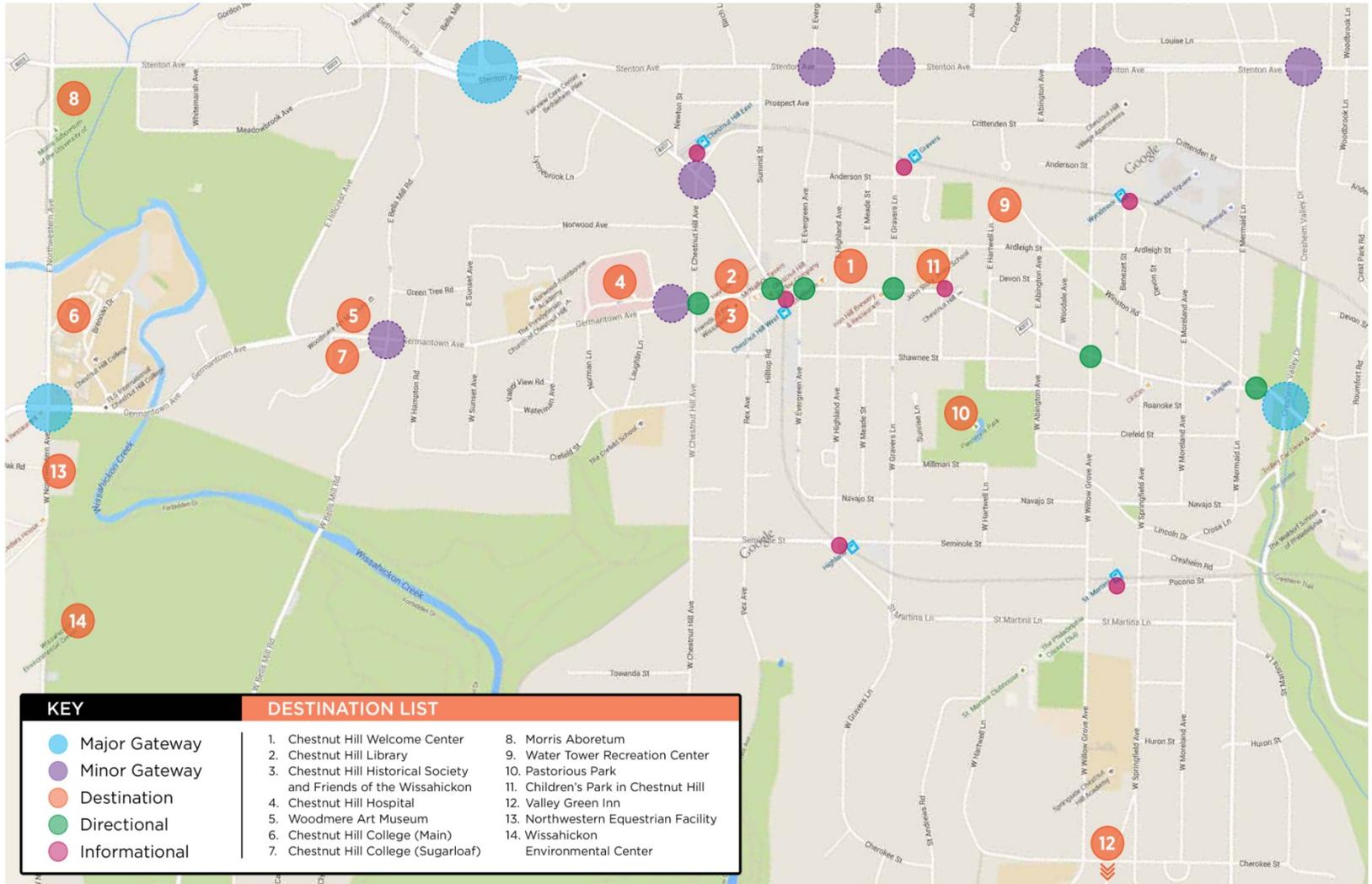


# Parks Inventory 2017 - Gateways

## PRIORITY 2 — IMAGE & APPEARANCE

### 2A Signage & Wayfinding (Continued)

### Recommendations: Proposed Signage Locations



## PRIORITY 2 — IMAGE & APPEARANCE

### 2D Gateway Enhancements

#### OBSERVATIONS

Chestnut Hill has three major gateways as well as a number of minor gateways. Gateway locations are mapped in the Delve report in Section 2A, Signage & Wayfinding.

As points of arrival for both cars and pedestrians, gateways present a critical first impression and image of the community. None of the major gateways present themselves as cohesive and impressive images of elements that are found in abundance in most of Chestnut Hill. Because of their potential to offer a positive identity for and introduction to Chestnut Hill, we are recommending enhancement of key gateway elements.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

##### Germantown & Northwestern Avenues

Because of the presence of Chestnut Hill College, this gateway offers a striking entrance into Philadelphia and Chestnut Hill. However, key gateway elements are weak and we recommend the following:

- Replace existing welcome and directional signs with fewer signs that are bolder and better lit.
- Install additional streetlamps along Germantown Avenue (see Priority 1, Section 1B). Extending a line of streetlamps eastward to the entrance of Chestnut Hill College, then to the already well-lit Wissahickon Creek bridge and beyond would vastly enhance the experience of the gateway including pedestrian safety and security.
- Enhance pedestrian crossings and provide traffic calming measures
- Add a new sidewalk along Germantown Avenue on the Wissahickon Park (south) side (see Priority 1, Section 1C).



##### Bethlehem Pike, Stenton Avenue & Paper Mill Road

Because of the complex intersection of several streets, this gateway presents a weak and confusing entrance into Philadelphia and Chestnut Hill. We offer the following recommendations:

- Replace existing welcome and directional signs with fewer signs that are bolder and better lit.
- Install additional streetlamps (see Priority 1, Section 1B). The presence of these additional streetlamps extending eastward onto Bethlehem Pike and beyond would vastly enhance the experience of the gateway including pedestrian safety and security.
- Enhance pedestrian crossings and provide traffic calming measures.
- Add new sidewalks along Bethlehem Pike (see Priority 1, Section 1C).



## PRIORITY 2 — IMAGE & APPEARANCE

### 2D Gateway Enhancements (Continued)

#### Germantown Avenue & Cresheim Valley Drive

This is Chestnut Hill's major gateway from Philadelphia but lacks the impressive array of historic buildings and landscaping found generally along the Avenue, due to the intrusion of a modern strip of commercial development along the west side of Germantown Avenue. We offer the following recommendations:

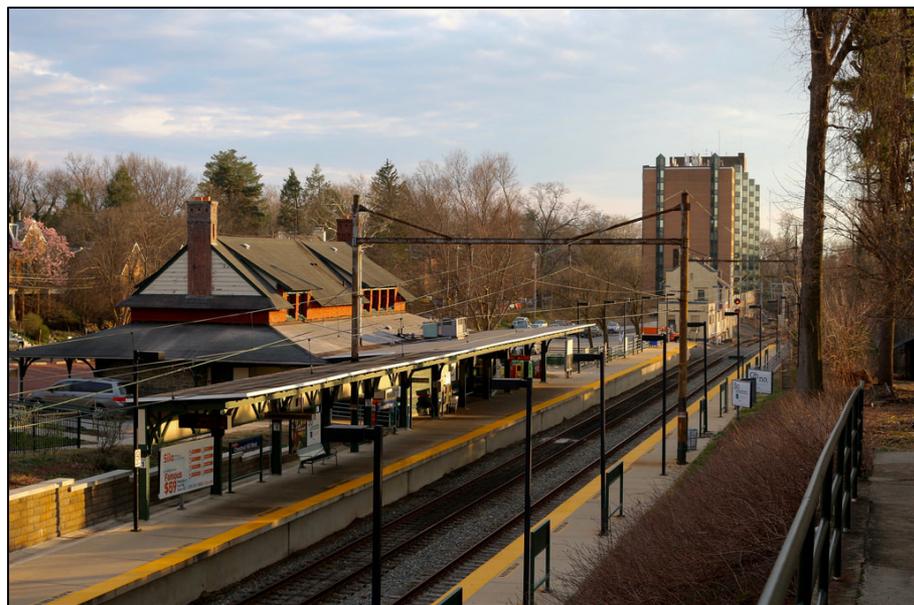
- Replace existing welcome and directional signs into fewer signs that are bolder and better lit.
- Install additional streetlamps (see Priority 1, Section 1B).
- Enhance pedestrian crossings and provide traffic calming measures.
- Provide additional landscaped buffer at retail development (Chestnut Hill Plaza).
- Add screen plantings to edge of Cliff Park abutting the Plaza parking lot.
- Restore and fill in gaps in planting bed between Avenue and the Plaza parking.
- Consider narrowing width of south curb cut from parking lot.



**Chestnut Hill East Station**  
102-104 Bethlehem Pike



**Chestnut Hill West Station**  
9 W. Evergreen Avenue

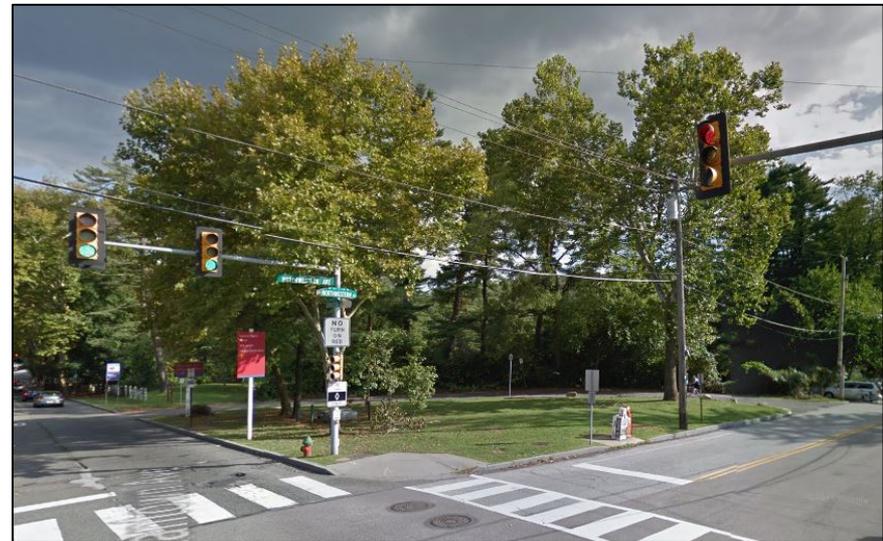


# Parks Inventory 2017 - Additional Green Spaces/Gardens/Parks

**Cresheim Valley Drive between Stenton/Gtown and Gtown/Allens Lane**



**Northwestern Triangle**  
9600 Germantown Avenue



# Parks Inventory 2017 - Additional Green Spaces/Gardens/Parks

**Triangle Park at NE corner of Willow Grove Avenue and Winston Rd.**



## **Woodward Triangle**

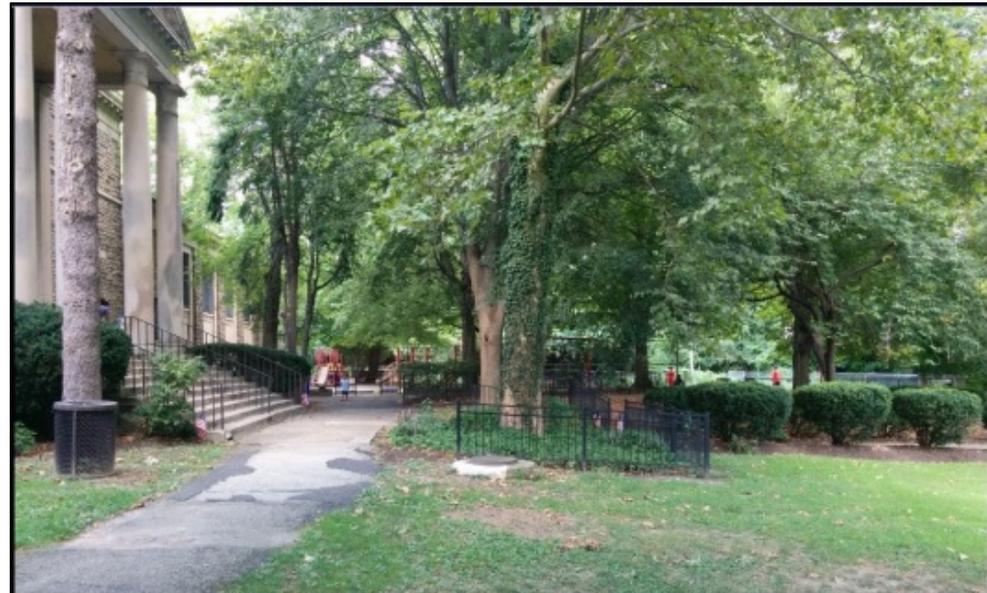
SW corner of Willow Grove Avenue and  
Winston Rd.

# Parks Inventory 2017 - Additional Green Spaces/Gardens/Parks



**Verizon Alcove**  
8318 Germantown Avenue

**Water Tower Recreation Center**  
W. Hartwell Lane & Ardleigh Street



## Water Tower Recreation Center

W. Hartwell Lane & Ardleigh Street



**Water Tower Upper Park / War Memorial** – there was an article almost 70 years ago in the Local about this being one of the first projects of the Community Association. The stone memorial and circle of flagstone is neglected and needs professional refurbishing like what the Rotary Club did for the Pergola.

# Thank you!

**On behalf of the Pocket Park Partnership, thank you for your interest in helping us to improve the parks, gateways, and green spaces throughout the Chestnut Hill Community.**

**Chestnut Hill Business District**

Martha Sharkey

Executive Director

Chestnut Hill Business District

[msharkey@chestnuthillpa.com](mailto:msharkey@chestnuthillpa.com)

215-247-6696

**Chestnut Hill Community Association**

Laura Lucas

President

Chestnut Hill Community Association

[info@chestnuthill.org](mailto:info@chestnuthill.org)

215-248-8810

**Chestnut Hill Conservancy**

Lori Salganicoff

Executive Director

Chestnut Hill Conservancy

& Historical Society

[Lori@CHConservancy.org](mailto:Lori@CHConservancy.org)

215-247-9329

**Additional Partners include:**

Garden District Fund

Green Space Initiative

Friends of the Children's Park

Friends of the Fountain Plaza

Friends of Pastorius Park

Friends of the Wissahickon

Rotary Club

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

VFW

Water Tower Recreation Center/Chestnut Hill Youth Sports Club