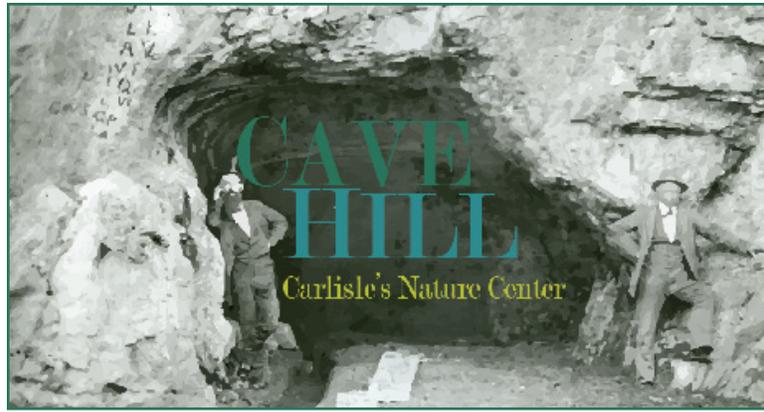


Sprouts of Hope

Cave Hill Carlisle's Mission

CaveHillCarlisle is an association of volunteers who, with partner organizations, share a vision for Cave Hill. Our mission is to share appreciation of the park's ecological and historical significance thereby reclaiming its dignity; to envision, advocate and facilitate the improvement of the park thereby reestablishing its value as a recreational and educational asset for the community; and to serve as the long-term, volunteer-led partner in management thereby sustaining the place's stewardship for human and natural communities.



Position Statement

The Board is entitled to reject all of the Turnpike Contractor's proposals, but should it approve is compelled to 1) minimize disturbance to the park's resources, 2) settle upon compensation which offers the maximum return for the damage done, and 3) reserve that compensation in the full amount for Cave Hill's improvement

Cultural and Ecological Importance

- An American Indian archaeological site
- An important destination for recreation since 1700s, one of the earliest discovered caves, a private park, trolley park and Boro park starting 1963
- A place of folklore including Lewis the Robber's treasure
- Site of Professor Baird's research, later accessioned to the Smithsonian
- The site of groundbreaking for the PA Turnpike and originally the furthest east interchange
- A NAI site with at least two threatened species, and the subject of ecological research by Dickinson College
- The source of Carlisle's drinking water
- A stop on the Conodoguinet water trail and the best local park for outdoors recreation
- A popular and busy park still today, albeit a well-kept secret
- A place that holds special significance to people, families, and Carlisle
- An asset, largely unrealized, that fills a human need for interaction with nature



A Problem(ed) Park

- Sense of place has been divorced from the space's legacy in absence of interpretation
- Bad eggs treat the park like they own it—ATVing, firewood collection, littering, dumping yard waste, defecation, graffiti and illicit activities are each problems
- Neglect of trails and failure to address abuse exacerbate threats to public safety
- A policy amounting to discouraging use has ceded the park to the worst users
- Stormwater-led sinkholes and erosion, invasive plants and new pests including Emerald Ash Borer place the park on a path to ecological degradation
- The park frequently comes under the knife and is poised for death by a hundred cuts

Envision

Establishment of a safe and popular nature park focused around the creek, caves, and cliffs--*green infrastructure* offering outdoor recreation to urban residents of all backgrounds.

This year:

- Boro reserves \$100k from accepting fill for improvement of Cave Hill

Next year:

- CHC releases a professional website, visitor board, and other media
- CHC leverages another \$75k in grants, \$10k in donations and \$15k in volunteer and donated services and has enough to establish a longer term \$50k reserve/endowment to be self-supporting
- The Turnpike contractor completes other improvements
- Research and communication of Cave Hill's story and significance advance in harmony with development of a master plan
- A PHMC marker is placed
- Graffiti is completely eradicated park-wide

2020:

- A festival on July 4th draws 2500 visitors for the first time since 1902
- Community forest management has practically eliminated invasives, planted 400 trees + 1000 other plants and set the path to sustainability
- CPC has secured conservation and access easements on peninsular farms and serves as a managing partner with Boro and CHC
- The water plant race is demilitarized offering portage on the Conodoguinet Water Trail

- Carlisle receives statewide recognition for its park model and karst conservation and Dson features it in marketing publications—it is a favorite space for residents and students
- Cave Hill offers borrow kayaks and other exciting opportunities

2035:

- Dickinson and local enviro non-profits have purchased the historic homestead and boathouse at Cave Hill, establishing an actual Nature Center
- A greenway connects from LeTort Falls to Sunnyside Park to Shaffer to Cave Hill to North Middleton Park

Values at Play in Putting Compensation to Work

An Honorable Choice

- Environmental justice and social equity for the carless, disadvantaged communities on the northside, and people who can't afford waterfront up and downstream
- The park performs a role in affirming the general public's access to enjoyment of the outdoors
- Already diverted funds from sale of part of Cave Hill last year to projects at Thornwald Park
- The northside lacks parks
- Volunteers in 1963 raised the funds to orchestrate the sale to the Boro and some land was donated recently as 2009
- Those volunteers were motivated by the degradation they witnessed related to the Turnpike construction in 1940 and the Cincinnati Milacron factory in 1962, and the donor intent was for a natural area that was undisturbed
- Respect for the natural world and reverence for the principle of reserving a place unspoiled by human greed
- Spiritual awareness of nature's significance in human fulfillment
- Reverence for history and pride in our legacy
- Challenging neglect and abuse
- Belief in the significance of nature play and interaction with the outdoors to childrens' development
- Commitment to maintaining some senses of adventure and mystery in the world

An Investment

- Establishes a self-sustaining CHC organization that offsets costs to Parks and Rec
- A central contributor to the redevelopment of the northside
- A unique and nearby amenity that will attract young professionals and improve property values and business
- A type of project for which ample grant money is offered by DCNR, Land Partnerships, and Partnership for Better Health
- A low-hanging fruit because a lot of improvement can be had at little cost and there are eager volunteers and partners lined up
- Can also improve water quality and avoiding treatment costs
- Promises advantages for tourism including by attracting visitors and offsetting need for trips taken elsewhere
- Advantages for public health
- Advancement of county and local plan objectives

Other Expected Outcomes

- Complete a survey for park bounds
- Address stormwater erosion from Turnpike, Bekins and Cave Hill Drive, and fill the sinkholes
- Improve parking lot adjacent to Bekins Moving
- Fill the extreme erosion in existing trail from parking lot to cave and restore with native vegetation
- Excavation as required for trail reroute
- Rehabilitate beach including placement of sand/crushed shale

