



Stewardship Unit Parks Bus Tour Travels NE Philly

By Patty-Pat Kozlowski

The PPR Stewardship Unit could moonlight as tour guides as they organized another successful bus tour of Northeast Philadelphia river parks and surrounding community parks.

Last summer, the Stewardship Unit toured Northwest Philly parks such as Gorgas Park, Roxborough Reservoir and Ned Wolf Park, to name a few stops. The feedback from bus tour invitees was so positive and supportive, the Stewardship Unit decided to make this an annual event.

On Saturday, August 1 about 50 members of Park Friends Groups boarded a tour bus at Pennypack on the Delaware and were treated to a counter-clockwise tour of Pleasant Hill Park/Fish Hatcheries, Wissinoming Park, Overington Park and Lardner's Point Park.

Beginning at Pennypack Park on the Delaware, president of the Friends of Pennypack Linde Louffe shared stream and park maps and spoke about her 2,000 members who steward the park that runs from the Delaware River all the way northeast to Pine Road. It's about 1,600 acres of woodlands, meadows and wetlands that has playgrounds, hiking and bike trails, and bridle paths for horseback riding.



It was a great day to catch the Big One at Pleasant Hill Park. RSI Rita Molchan, who runs the Fish Hatchery Summer Day Camp Trips, greeted the bus tour with 50 rods already



baited and ready for a spontaneous fish tournament. Prizes were given out for first catch, biggest catch and best fish story of the one that got away!

The next two stops were Wissinoming Park and Overington Park-- both parks have dedicated Friends Groups that accentuate the positive. Nancy Tweed (our longtime SMA!) and Joanne Himes greeted the bus at Wissinoming and gave a tour of the park that hosts hundreds of picnics a year as well as always has full playgrounds, spraygrounds and ball fields in a little green utopia along Frankford Avenue.

The Flower Show in Frankford? That's what Overington Park looks like with the amazing and lovingly tended gardens throughout the park at Orthodox and Leiper streets. Maryanne Seifert, Mary Ellen Post and Diane Kunze of the Friends of Overington Park explained to raise awareness of the park and bring young families back in, they started planning to repair the stone wall surrounding the park and plant garden beds. They wanted Overington Park to be a jewel in Frankford. Local gardeners with small home plots were encouraged to join the group and expand flowers and trees across the park, and the end result is so beautiful!



Underneath the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge sits one of PPR's newest parks called Lardner's Point Park. It is a big part of the North Delaware Riverfront and comes under the guardianship of the Delaware River City Corp (DRCC). Jim Fries of DRCC stood on a wall overlooking the Delaware River and told the bus tour group the history of Lardner's Point (it was and still is a pumping station) and talked about the bicyclists, walkers and fishers who use the park daily. He also showed off new state-of-the-art waterless public bathrooms that are opened and closed via digital timers that were just installed at Lardner's.



To end the tour, it was off to Sweet Lucy's BBQ for ribs and sweet tea where everyone talked about the great day PPR Stewardship provided and ushered for the park groups. In between bites of pulled pork and macaroni and cheese, everyone wanted to know, "Where are we going next year?"

