

Center City Offers Green Oases Beyond the Bustle of Rittenhouse Square

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

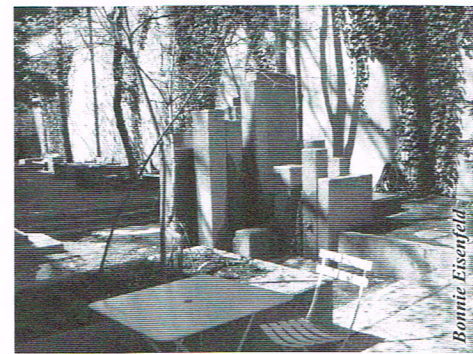
Although Rittenhouse Square is the queen of Center City parks, there are other parks nearby for residents and visitors to enjoy. For a change of pace or scenery the neighborhood offers an abundance of alternatives.

Fitler Square, situated between 23rd and 24th Streets and Panama and Pine Streets, is a half-acre, 100+-year-old pocket park named for Philadelphia mayor Edwin H. Fitler. A Victorian fountain

sits at the center; a collection of animal sculptures commissioned by the Fitler Square Improvement Association adorns the Square. The sculptures include Gerd Hesness' *Fitler Square Ram* and Eric Berg's *Grizzly* and *Family of Turtles*. The Association supplies annual plantings and garden maintenance, with the help of Philadelphia's Department of Parks and Recreation. <http://fitlersquare.org/>.

Schuylkill River Park runs along the river and contains a playground, paved paths, sports areas, a dog park and the Schuylkill River Park Community Garden, managed by the CCRA <http://www.srpcg.org/>. Friends of Schuylkill River Park is an association formed to foster the preservation, beautification, improvement, maintenance and enjoyment of the Park. <http://www.fsrp.org/about.html>

Schuylkill Banks, adjacent to the Park, runs along the river's east bank and includes



John F. Collins Park

the newest addition, the Schuylkill Banks Boardwalk, a 2,000-foot-long scenic pathway for walkers, runners and cyclists, that connects to the Schuylkill River Trail. <https://www.schuylkillbanks.org/>

The Center City District manages the following four parks. For the latest information on Center City events and the CCD Parks, sign up for free e-newsletters: the bi-monthly *(IN) Center City*, and the monthly *CCD Parks*. <http://www.centercityphila.org/incentercity/signup.php>

Dilworth Park, on the west side of City Hall, features a José Garces café and a

Continued on next page



Pedestrian bridge leading to the Schuylkill Banks Boardwalk

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fountain that converts to an ice rink in winter. Open seven days, 6 a.m. to 1 a.m. <http://www.ccdparks.org/dilworth-park>

Sister Cities Park, at 18th Street and the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, just east of Logan Circle, features a garden, pond and café. Open seven days, 8 a.m. to 1 a.m. <http://www.ccdparks.org/sister-cities-park>

John F. Collins Park, named for its designer, is a small, quiet oasis at 1707 Chestnut Street, where you can enjoy a

picnic lunch and an occasional lunchtime concert. Open weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 10:45 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 12 noon to 5 p.m. <http://www.ccdparks.org/john-f-collins-park>

Cret Park is a landscaped plaza on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 16th Street. Open seven days a week, 24 hours a day. <http://www.ccdparks.org/cret-park>



Grizzly by Eric Berg

Our Greene Countrie Towne

CCRA Thanks Contributors to 2015 Neighborhood Beautification Campaign

Each Spring CCRA solicits contributions to its Neighborhood Beautification Campaign. Such tax-deductible contributions are beyond annual membership dues and help fund CCRA's \$30,000 annual contract with the Center City District to clean neighborhood sidewalks after weekly trash collection, as well as other neighborhood beautification initiatives, including tree planting, historic preservation, the Schuylkill River Park Community Garden, and oversight of neighborhood development in accordance with the CCRA Neighborhood Plan and the Zoning Code. We are pleased to report that we received 214 contributions in response to our 2015 solicitation. We thank you all and look forward to such enthusiastic support for our 2016 Campaign (letters went out in late April). Listed below are the individuals and businesses that contributed at least \$125 to the 2015 Campaign.

2015 Spring Appeal Donations

\$500-\$749

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- Boyds Philadelphia
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- Natalie Nagele
- Performing Arts Foundation, Inc.
- Dan Rottenberg
- Robin Real Estate
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