

## OVERTON PARK

# notes

summer 2022

## Bless this mess! A deep dive into the Old Forest

It's right there in the name: Overton Park's 126-acre forest is *old*. It boasts trees that have been here for 185 years, towering over 100 feet into the sky. But an "old-growth forest" is so much more than just long-lived trees.

What sets the Old Forest apart from many other patches of forest in Shelby County is that this forest has never been farmed or cleared. That means it's had hundreds of years to develop complex layers, each with its own unique role to play in a lively ecosystem. From the tallest trees in the canopy to the fungi recycling rotten wood on the forest floor, every level of the forest provides critical habitat for wildlife and important services for people.

Sometimes these layers...well, they look like a mess. Tangled vines, dense shrubs, and piles of fallen limbs are not what we've grown accustomed to seeing in our yards or in young forests growing in after being farmed. But what this mess actually means is diversity. It means a mosaic of habitats on multiple levels between the canopy and the floor. It means a variety of animals that can find food and shelter here. It means old trees, young trees, even dead trees; it means thick trunks alongside skinny stems. The mess is the magic.

To understand why a forest needs all these things that might look chaotic to our eyes, let's explore the layers of our Old Forest, from top to bottom.



### *The Canopy*

The tallest trees in the Old Forest — tulip poplars, sycamores, and 11 species of oaks — are the reason you can walk out of the relentless summer sunshine and feel the relief of an immediate temperature drop. These trees, which range from 50 to more than 150 feet tall, form the canopy layer, which creates an umbrella

of shade over us, along with everything else living in the forest. Everything that happens below is dictated by the state of the canopy above.

Because the crowns of our tallest trees take up most of the sunlight in the forest, much of the photosynthesis (the process that releases oxygen into our environment) takes place there. Canopy trees intercept wind and rain, making the forest interior more stable during weather events.

Those 11 oak species come from the genus *Quercus*, which supports more wildlife species than any other tree genus on the continent. Across America, oaks attract nearly 900 species of caterpillars, according to ecologist Doug Tallamy. Caterpillars are a critical part of a forest's food web, as they are a soft, easy-to-swallow food for birds to feed young. (Nature's baby food!) Tallamy's research showed that a single pair of chickadees needs 6,000-9,000 caterpillars to feed one clutch of babies! Such nourishment is far easier to come by in a forest filled with oaks.

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A summer tanager feeds her young a foraged caterpillar.

canopy layer are failing to regenerate at a healthy rate. As the old giants fall, new oaks and tulip poplars are having trouble getting tall enough to make it back to the canopy before being outcompeted by shorter-maturing species. Losing this layer would mean losing the many services these trees provide to wildlife, and it would mean losing the feeling of walking into a living, breathing cathedral. Developing strategies to help those species along makes it more likely that future generations will experience this forest in the same way we do.



Gazing up at our diverse canopy trees.

## The Understory

Below the canopy is a layer of shorter trees, between about 20-50 feet in height. Because these trees don't get much sunlight unless a gap opens up in the canopy, this layer is home to some stress- and shade-tolerant trees like maples, elms, sweetgums, black gums, and hickories. It also holds canopy species that haven't reached their full height yet.

This layer provides different heights from which birds can nest and hunt, and serves as an important backup in the event of a disturbance to the canopy.

We've shared a lot over the past few years about the work of our Director of Operations, Eric Bridges, who is conducting his doctoral research into why the species that make up the

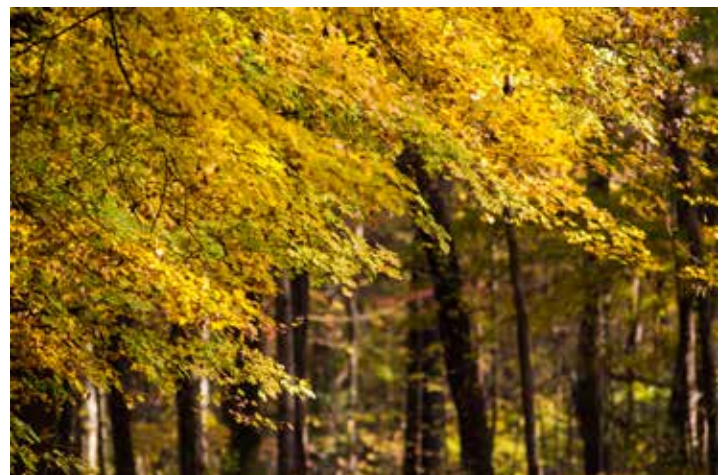
Should oaks all die off, the Old Forest would still exist as a forest, but the tallest trees would be shorter, and the diversity of wildlife would be diminished because so much depends on the oaks. But shorter-growing species have their roles to play as well.



Yellow-bellied sapsucker

Sugar maples, in particular, can tolerate the shade produced by taller species because they grow so slowly. Sometimes it can take a maple decades to reach a few feet tall, and that's because they're able to bide their time waiting for a gap in the canopy to send them some sunlight.

These trees reward us with magnificent fall color, but they're also important for wildlife. In late winter, freezing nights and warmer days create the pressures in the sugar maple that cause it to produce sap. Yellow-bellied sapsuckers come through, use their bills to drill a row of holes around the tree trunk, and drink the sap. Ruby-throated hummingbirds and insects also love to drink the sugary solution, and you may see moths, butterflies, beetles, wasps, flies, and other small insects following behind sapsuckers to enjoy the spoils. In addition, the seeds, buds, twigs, and leaves provide food for squirrels, chipmunks, and finches, while pileated woodpeckers and hermit thrushes use the trees to forage for insects.



A stand of sugar maples lines the Green Trail in the Old Forest.

## Vines

Vines, almost by definition, don't occupy a single layer of the forest. They either sprawl on the ground, or, if they have support, they can reach all the way up to the canopy. But any celebration of the messiness of an old-growth forest has to include these plants.



A grass-carrying wasp nectars on peppervine.

From the leafy Virginia creeper, to the beautiful yellow and red trumpet-like flowers of cross vine, to the decades-old grape vines that are thicker than many surrounding tree trunks, our forest is full of vines — more than three dozen species of them. If this were a forest being managed for timber, vines would be the enemy — they can twist tree trunks as they climb, making the wood less valuable for sale. But because we're managing for a healthy ecosystem, we value the habitat niches that the native vines create.

In grape vines alone, insects like sphinx moth caterpillars eat the leaves, cardinals and catbirds eat the fruits, and robins and red-eyed vireos use strips of the bark to build their nests.



## The Shrub and Seedling Layer

This layer contains plants that grow about 15-20 feet in height: small trees like pawpaws, box elders, and mulberries; shrubs like spicebush and red buckeye; and the saplings of trees that will grow much larger.

Much like vines, shrubs provide little value in a forest that's meant for logging. They're too small to yield valuable timber either for sale or for firewood, and they produce multiple forked stems rather than

the one dominant stem characteristic of a tree. But what may be impractical for human use is a perfect bed for birds.

A white-eyed vireo chooses her nest location by sitting in a Y-shaped fork about 2-6 feet off the ground, twisting to test it for durability. She and her mate then use spiderwebs, plant material, and lichens to build a pendulum-shaped cup that hangs down from the fork. From this spot close to the ground, they can collect spiders, caterpillars, beetles, and other insects for themselves and their young, staying hidden in the dense leaves of the shrub. The lack of "messy" shrubs in a typical yard is why you probably won't see a white-eyed vireo nest at home; you'll have to visit the forest to hear their electronic-sounding song.



The flower of a pawpaw



A white-eyed vireo gathers nest material.

The plants found in the shrub layer are also valuable as a food source. The pawpaw is the sole host plant for the zebra swallowtail, which means it's the only tree on which this butterfly will lay eggs. As the caterpillars hatch and grow, they eat the pawpaw's leaves. Some

will become food for birds, while others will mature, form cocoons, and re-emerge as bright white or mint-green butterflies with black stripes.

Red buckeyes provide nectar for hummingbirds, while spicebush flowers provide food for the earliest-emerging bees and flower flies, and later in the season their fruit feeds birds, raccoons, and opossums.



Red buckeyes bloom at eye level through the spring.

## The Ground Layer

To walk through the Old Forest in April is to see nature's cheeriest color palette on display. From the delicate lavender of woodland phlox to the rafts of sunshine-yellow celandine poppies, the woods are carpeted with ephemeral wildflowers. These species have evolved to burst forth at only this particular time of year, where they can soak up the sun before the leaves of the canopy trees come in.

Because these flowers bloom before anything else, they're also virtually the only food source for the earliest-emerging insects of the season. Spend a few minutes in a patch of cutleaf toothwort (the first woodland wildflower to bloom each year), and you'll see dozens of tiny bees, primarily mining bees and cellophane bees, solitary species that build their nests in the ground. Queen bumble bees also emerge early and need to quickly collect enough pollen to feed their first generation of worker bees. Several of these bee species only live in forests, and they only fly in the spring, making them just as fleeting and special a sight as the flowers they depend on.



A mining bee on cutleaf toothwort



Least skipper on leafy elephant's foot

Of course, you'll find wildflowers in the summer and fall, too—goldenrods, snakeroots, and bellflowers are common sights when the weather is warm. These species are more shade-tolerant than the spring ephemerals, and they typically have longer growing seasons. In the fall, trail edges burst into bloom with a variety of asters. From the Greek word for "star," asters' late growing season is likely an evolutionary tactic. Since their small flowers aren't as showy as some of the earlier-blooming beauties, arriving late in the year ensures they'll attract hungry insects with few other options. Those insects will spread their pollen and allow them to reproduce.



Celandine poppies as far as the eye can see.

## The Forest Floor

Our final layer does most of its work out of our field of vision. It's full of fallen trees, decaying leaves, moss, fungi, rainwater, animal scat, snakes, lizards, and insects you won't see up high. The forest floor is where dead plant matter is recycled, giving rise to new life.

Let's think back to our majestic oak tree, way up there in the canopy. A mature oak drops several million acorns over the course of its life, along with hundreds of thousands of leaves every fall. The leaf litter created by oaks and other trees is eaten by small invertebrates like beetles, snails, and millipedes, which break it into tiny pieces. Fungi and bacteria then decompose those pieces, nourishing the soil and creating chemicals that can be absorbed by plants.

The oak tree itself also eventually comes down. While a single tree might live hundreds of years, it only takes one freak windstorm to twist it to the ground, along with dozens of other trees in its path. In your yard, you might hire a crew to haul away every piece of the tree. In the forest, we clear only the portion blocking a trail and leave the rest. Why?



Horned passalus beetles eat rotting wood.

These fallen trees support so much life. Woodpeckers carve out cavities in them, where they build their nests. After the woodpeckers move on, smaller songbirds like Carolina chickadees and tufted titmice move into the holes to raise their own young. Carolina wrens nest low to the ground in the piles of limbs left behind, giving them close access to the leaf litter where they forage for insects. The logs retain

moisture and trap fallen leaves, and creatures that rely on leaf litter for food and shelter move in, turning the area around the dead tree into a nursery with rich soil to incubate the next generation of plants.

A very few of those millions of acorns dropped by our oak tree will make it past the mammals and birds using them for protein, fat, and carbs. They sink into the ground, where all those organisms have worked to give them a rich, moist place to sprout. And just like that, a life cycle spanning centuries begins anew.

## *Managing for resilience*

As the last remnant of what was once a great deal more forest before the city rose up around it, the Old Forest's trajectory has been altered by humans for hundreds of years. As the city evolved, the forest became an isolated fragment rather than one piece of a much larger habitat, and the natural cycles of disruption and regrowth (like periodic burning and flooding) were halted. Ornamental plants like wisteria brought from overseas by home gardeners escaped into the forest, where they had no natural predators and could outcompete native plants. Our climate has changed, creating more frequent extreme-weather events like damaging wind storms and droughts that deplete the nutrient and water reserves of trees.

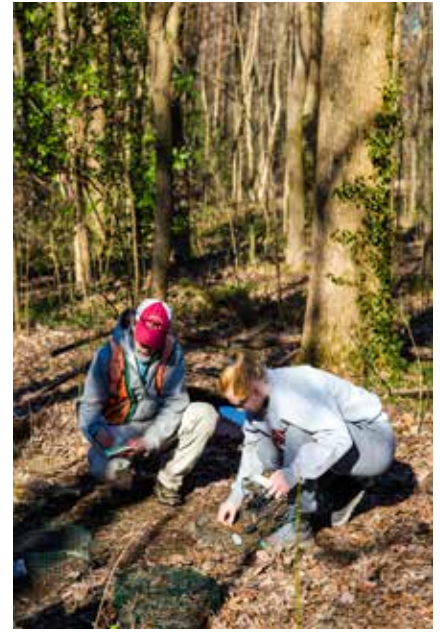
There are day-to-day impacts, too: litter, pollution, pet waste, foot traffic, and stormwater runoff from nearby pavement, to name a few. Because the forest has been changed so dramatically through human activity, it's important that we try to mitigate some of the damage with carefully-considered interventions.

Through Eric's work, we are attempting to understand how trees in a stressed, fragmented forest regenerate, and how we might help them to thrive. Eric's goal is to write the playbook for managing patches of urban forest like ours to be resilient in the face of human impacts, especially in an era when the climate is changing rapidly.

"Managing for resilience means you acknowledge there will be changes in the species composition and in the structure of the forest, but the ecosystem can absorb a shock and settle back in," Eric says. "If you have a lot of species and your forest has all these different levels, you have higher resilience. It's like an investment portfolio: if your money is spread out in multiple places, an impact to one company doesn't affect your overall investment much. In our forest, if one or two oak species are lost, there are still many trees producing the acorns needed by squirrels and blue jays, so the ecosystem is continuing to function."

One way the Conservancy's management encourages native species to thrive is the ongoing removal of invasive plants. Thanks to a team of volunteers led by Bill Bullock, we've made serious gains in fighting back plants taking up sunlight and nutrients, like tree of heaven, Amur honeysuckle, and English ivy. The space vacated by these plants offers an opportunity for trees that have been choked out for years by these species and especially by Chinese privet, which the Conservancy tackled in a major removal effort in our first few years.

As part of Eric's work, he will look for opportunities in specific places formerly occupied by invasives to give trees a head start before quick-growing shrubs have a chance to soak up all the sun.



Eric and intern Ashlee Caruana collect data in a research plot.

## *Forests benefit us too*

A complex array of plants supports a wide web of life, but plant diversity also benefits people. Some of those benefits are emotional — there's no better way to clear your mind than a walk through a forest, with a breeze fluttering the leaves, birds singing, and butterflies wafting across the trail. But forests like ours also provide ecosystem services — they clean and slow down stormwater, reduce air pollution, cool down air, and store carbon. A forest with multiple layers of different plant species is better at doing these things, because so many of these functions are performed on the surfaces of leaves. More leaves in a forest from top to bottom means more work is getting done.

Forests are complex mosaics, with many working parts. Re-creating them is difficult after they've been destroyed, which is why protecting the forests we have is so important.

Overton Park Conservancy shoulders the incredible responsibility of caring for this space. Your support and donations enable groundbreaking research that will help us protect the forest from root to canopy. Thank you for helping us conserve this precious space.

## Reimagined OP9 golf course opens this month

Warm weather has the grass growing in beautifully at the redesigned OP9 golf course, and plans are to welcome the first golfers on June 25.

King Collins Design's renovation of the nine-hole course includes the George Cates children's putting green and a new, separate chipping area. The City of Memphis assisted in funding a complete irrigation system, something the course had always lacked. The City has also hired Rob Roy to fill the newly created position of Golf Course Superintendent to work alongside long-time manager Patrick Canale. It's the first time in the course's history that there will be a dedicated groundskeeper on staff.

The redesign is full of clever touches meant to make the course a subject of endless discussion and strategy. Hole #4 is an unusual par 3.5, offering players a decision of how to approach the serpentine 192-foot green. The very next hole features a bunker nicknamed "The X-Box," a mound that hides a punchbowl green on the other side. Golfers will have to hit a blind shot over



Teeing off on the fifth hole, where the ball must traverse a bunker called "The X-Box" to reach a punchbowl green on the other side.

the bunker and anxiously wait to see whether their ball has hit the green or if they must negotiate the humps and bumps with a chip shot.

Work is also underway to renovate the Abe Goodman golf clubhouse. The OP9 committee contracted with Fleming Architects to perform a historically sensitive restoration of the century-old building, making it structurally sound from basement to roof.

The building's interior will feature an expanded gathering space with a catering kitchen, new restrooms, updated furniture, and a golf/gift shop.

Golfers have gotten used to entering the building from the northeast, but the renovation will open up the doors on all sides of the building, creating a prominent ADA-accessible entrance on the southwest side, facing Veterans Plaza Drive. The existing outdoor terrace and retaining walls will be rebuilt, and a new "half moon" deck will be added to the terrace, increasing the amount of outdoor gathering space.

For the latest info about the course reopening, visit [overtonpark9.org](http://overtonpark9.org).

## Overton Park Junior open returns July 11-14

At one time billed as the nation's largest junior match play golf tournament, the Overton Park Junior Open returns to a rejuvenated OP9 in July. This year's tournament, presented by Nike, will welcome up to 200 golfers from ages 8-17.

A volunteer committee has been working for months to resurrect the tournament, which has a long history of helping young Memphians fall in love with the game of golf. Dwight Drinkard, Sr., who co-chairs the committee with Vince Alfonso, Jr., says that the OPJO differs from most other junior tournaments in Tennessee because it is a true open, appealing not solely to high-level participants. Registration is free of charge.

Most other tournaments are medal tournaments based on stroke play, where a player's cumulative score across all holes determines the winner. The OPJO is a match play tournament, where golfers play in flights of eight based on age group, and the winner is determined based on how many individual holes that player won. This type of scoring is less daunting for less experienced golfers, giving them a greater chance at excelling.

For information, registration, and sponsorship info, visit [opjunioropen.org](http://opjunioropen.org).

## Still standing, for generations to come

When you convene a few nature nerds who happen to enjoy a good pun and try to come up with a name for Overton Park Conservancy's new planned giving program, you have to expect a few doozies. Some of us really wanted us to name the group The Snags, but we lost that debate. And The Poplar Society — a nod to one of the tallest trees in our forest, as well as the main street where visitors enter Overton Park — is a pretty good name to have landed on. (See the back page of this newsletter for more about the program.)

Throughout the course of our work in conservation, I'm grateful for the continuous learning I've been able to enjoy. A snag, for example, is a tree that's reached the end of its lifespan but is still standing, providing enormous ecological benefits to the surrounding forest. It provides crucial habitat for dozens of birds and mammals, and allows nutrients to return to the soil through the mosses, lichens, and fungi that grow at its base.



A pileated woodpecker creates her nest cavity in a standing snag in the Old Forest.

When one of our titan trees comes down, or is snapped off during a storm and becomes a snag, we don't think of it as gone. It's simply moving into the next phase of its cycle, continuing to be a valuable thread in the rich and vibrant tapestry of forest that surrounds it. It's such an obvious metaphor for our planned giving program. Just as a healthy forest must contain some dead or dying trees, a healthy organization depends on both highly engaged supporters and the legacies of those who have come before.

Overton Park has become a touchstone for those seeking solace and comfort after major life changes or losses. It's a healing experience to walk in the forest for a reminder that life is cyclical, and that the words "birth" and "death" imply a clear beginning and ending that don't actually exist in the world of natural phenomena.

My husband and I have decided to join The Poplar Society so that after we're no longer here in our current physical form, we can still contribute to the positive benefits that Overton Park provides, with its profound sense of community and its natural wonders. We might just secretly refer to ourselves as The Snags.

tina's  
message

*Tina Sullivan*

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## Celebrating 50 years since *CPOP v. Volpe*

On April 2, 350 park supporters gathered in the formal gardens for Overton Park Conservancy's Center of a Century celebration, marking 50 years since the Supreme Court ruled that all feasible and prudent alternatives must be exhausted before routing Interstate 40 through Overton Park.

Pictured below, left to right: Roshun Austin and Lauren Taylor; Gary and Glenda Shorb, Bena Cates, and Charlie and Kay Newman; Chase and Miriam Pittman with Katie Hill and Conservancy Board of Directors Chair Dr. David Hill; Vaughan Dewar and Nicole Dorsey; live painting by Jamond Bullock of Alive Paint; Mayor Jim Strickland, Conservancy Executive Director Tina Sullivan, and Sam Blair.

*(All photos by Javen Photography)*





We were honored to raise a glass of Old Dominick Single Barrel Straight Wheat Whiskey to the Conservancy's late founder George E. Cates, and a glass of champagne to Charlie Newman, the attorney who brought *Citizens to Preserve Overton Park v. Volpe* to the Supreme Court.

Such a beautiful evening would not have been possible without our partners at LEO Events and our generous sponsors: Jim Keras Subaru, Adams Keegan, Duncan Williams Asset Management, Echo Systems Landscape Services, Hyde Family Foundation, Makowsky Ringel Greenberg LLC, Memphis Made Brewing Co., Methodist University Hospital, and Old Dominick Distillery.

Pictured below: the team at Jim Keras Subaru presents the Conservancy with a \$50,000 check thanks to its Share the Love promotion; Gary Shorb honors George Cates; raising a glass to George; Jim Keegan honors Charlie Newman; Charlie addresses the crowd; the sun goes down on a memorable night.



## New parking plan restores Greensward, forest

In March, the Conservancy, the Memphis Zoo, and the City of Memphis were thrilled to announce a permanent solution to the Zoo's parking needs that not only preserves the entire Greensward, but restores 17 acres of mostly forested parkland that has been inaccessible for decades.



Reclaiming forested habitat and keeping the Greensward whole was undoubtedly the best choice for the park, but there are some trade-offs. Throughout 2020 and 2021, we worked with our planning team at Design Workshop to develop ideas for the southeast corner, which was set to become part of the Conservancy's managed area. After incorporating

The new plan will move the Zoo's current maintenance area to the park's southeast corner, making use of existing buildings in the northern portion of what is now the City's General Services Area. The Zoo's existing maintenance area, located along N. Parkway, will then be converted into parking. Along with some restriping of the Zoo's main lot, this reconfiguration adds the 300 spaces the Zoo needs without carving out a portion of the Greensward.

As part of this reorganization of Zoo features, the Zoo's board has also authorized the 17-acre tract of parkland on its eastern border to be transferred to the Conservancy's managed area. This tract includes space behind Rainbow Lake that is currently used for temporary Zoo exhibits, but it's mostly a continuation of the Old Forest's wooded ecosystem. When this acreage was added to the Zoo's managed area in the 1980s, it was intended as future exhibit space. Today, all parties recognize that having an old-growth forest in the urban core is something that sets Memphis apart from any other city in the southeast. Removing the fence that separates this plot from the rest of the forest will allow us to remediate the site, identify locations for walking trails, and implement the forest management practices the Conservancy already undertakes in the adjacent 126-acre Old Forest State Natural Area.

The Conservancy is also exploring the creation of a soft-surface walking path around the perimeter of the Greensward to make the space more accessible and increase its recreational potential. We'll also remediate soil damage and install landscaping that serves as a visual barrier between the Greensward and the Zoo parking lots. This dovetails with our desire to rethink Rainbow Lake as a more natural water feature, with vegetation at the edges.

feedback from our public surveys, we were on the cusp of unveiling initial concepts when the opportunity to revisit the parking issue arose. With a large amount of that space now hosting the Zoo's maintenance facility, we needed to go back to the drawing board.

One of the main concerns in our park planning process is the ability to sustain the park's operations over the long term. The southeast corner was a desirable location to add some revenue-generating activities, because they wouldn't interfere with how people have become accustomed to using the existing parts of the park. With much less space to work with, it's less likely that we'll be able to create significant revenue opportunities there.

So that, once again, is the question: can the Conservancy, which currently generates 85% of our annual budget from fundraising, find a way to bring in some revenue from alternate sources? And if not, how can we plan, design, and build amenities that can be maintained over the long term within a budget that must be raised anew every year?

The park's increasing popularity, with more than 1.2 million visitors in 2021, means that our maintenance burden only increases each year. We've learned a lot in our first decade about how much wear and tear features like playgrounds and the dog park receive, and we can use that knowledge to design more intelligently in the future.

Thank you for your patience as we navigate long-term planning in a park that is ever-changing.



Stay updated on the next chance to be involved in the planning process at [overtonpark.org/email](https://overtonpark.org/email).

Overton Park Conservancy gratefully acknowledges the individuals and organizations who made donations and in-kind (noted with italics) gifts from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. We also thank those donors who wished to remain anonymous. If we have inadvertently omitted the name of one of our supporters, we sincerely apologize.

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Thanks to all who have supported the golf course renovation. The following are gifts made between November 8, 2021 and May 25, 2022. For a complete list of supporters, visit [overtonpark9.org/about](https://overtonpark9.org/about).

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## Free wellness classes

Thanks to two generous park supporters, Overton Park visitors can enjoy free wellness programs three days a week this summer. Classes are open to anyone, require no pre-registration, and take place in the formal gardens. Visit [overtonpark.org/events](https://overtonpark.org/events) for the most up-to-date calendar of what's happening at the park.

**Tai chi:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:15 - 8:00 AM with certified instructor Marjean Liggett

**Guided meditation:** Wednesdays, 8:30 - 9:15 AM with author and intuitive guide Michele Sammons



# Secure your legacy by joining the Poplar Society

Have you spent a lifetime exploring Overton Park, and want to ensure that your loved ones have that opportunity for years to come?

Overton Park Conservancy is excited to formally launch the Poplar Society, a special group of individuals who have committed to protect the park for future generations by remembering the Conservancy in their estate plans today.

Your deferred gift can be designated for future capital improvements or the Overton Park Sustainability Fund, an endowment that will provide annual support for essential operations and upkeep.

## Who can be a member of the society?

Anyone who wants to make a difference and leave a meaningful legacy for future generations to enjoy the vibrant and beloved Overton Park. Your written deferred commitment demonstrates your belief that Overton Park should be protected for years to come.

You can become a member through many planned giving options, including wills, charitable gift annuities, trusts, life insurance, or retirement plans. Your attorney

or financial advisor may have suggestions that are best suited to your unique needs.

Members of the Poplar Society receive:

- The opportunity to work with the Conservancy to leave a legacy that is meaningful to you and your family.
- The satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to plan for, sustain, and protect our ability to continue to foster a beautiful, welcoming, and safe park for the next generation of users.
- An exclusive Poplar Society photo of the park framed for displaying in your home or office.
- Option to have your name listed as a member of the Poplar Society on [overtonpark.org](http://overtonpark.org).
- Your membership acknowledged and prominently displayed as a spotlight on social media and/or the Conservancy's website.

To learn how you can leave your legacy gift to the Conservancy, please contact our Deputy Executive Director, Kaci Murley, at [kmurley@overtonpark.org](mailto:kmurley@overtonpark.org).

## Thanks to our volunteers!

We appreciate the hard work of everyone who has helped make the park beautiful this year. Clockwise from left: volunteers cleaned up after February's ice storm; Pleasant View School students tackled litter; staff from our corporate champions at Makowsky Ringel Greenberg LLC performed trail work and repaired picnic tables; the Comcast Cares Day crew spread mulch at Rainbow Lake Playground.

