



OLD-GROWTH FOREST NETWORK

"Connecting people with nature by creating a national network of protected, mature, native forests"

Tuesday, June 5, 2018
Carpenter's Woods in Wissahickon Valley Park
Is Philadelphia's Dedicated Forest for
The Old-Growth Forest Network

Please join the Friends of Carpenter's Woods on Tuesday, June 5, at 4:00 pm, when Carpenter's Woods, in the Mt. Airy section of Wissahickon Valley Park, will be dedicated into the Old-Growth Forest Network as Philadelphia County's representative forest. The dedication ceremony will take place at the Ellet Street trailhead. Dr. Joan Maloof, the Founder and Director of the Old-Growth Forest Network, will officially dedicate the Carpenter's Woods into her national network and will then lead an interpretive walk, along with Anne Bekker and Edward Sibley Barnard, an author of [Philadelphia Trees](#).

Featuring some of the oldest trees in the Wissahickon Valley, Carpenter's Woods is a 37-acre section of the Wissahickon Valley Park which extends into Philadelphia's Mount Airy neighborhood. It was designated as an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society in 2005. Its varied habitat, including its unusual concentration of ancient trees, allows it to host diverse species of breeding birds, including Eastern Screech-owls and Pileated Woodpeckers, and makes it a migration hotspot, especially for warblers and thrushes. Among its oldest trees, many of which are concentrated toward the eastern end of the park, are a grand buttressed Black Oak and several White and Northern Red Oaks, as well as American Beech, Tulip Poplar and Sassafras. Some of these trees are well over 200 years old. The "Thumb" section of the park, across Greene Street, boasts a surprisingly large, fruit-bearing American Chestnut. The species mix in Carpenter's Woods appears to be similar to that of pre-settlement times.

The woods are named for a wealthy businessman who associated with the naturalists of his era, including John James Audubon. Though it was preserved by the Fairmount Park Commission over an eight-year period beginning in 1912, it was due to the efforts of Charles W. Henry School principal Caroline Moffett and her letter-writing students that Carpenter's Woods became Philadelphia's first bird sanctuary in 1921. Trees that were mature at the time of its preservation still stand today. Designation as part of a national network dedicated to the preservation of old-growth forests will be a great honor not only for Carpenter's Woods, but for our "green city" as a whole. We are truly fortunate to have such a gem of a park in our Mount Airy community. Find more information about us at <http://www.focw.org/>.

The mission of the Old-Growth Forest Network (OGFN) is to connect people with nature by creating a national network of protected, mature, publicly accessible, native forests. The goal is to preserve at least one forest in every county in the United States that can sustain a forest, estimated to be 2,370 out of a total of 3,140 counties. OGFN's program works to identify forests for the Network, ensure their protection from logging, and inform people of the forest locations. Founded in 2012 by Joan Maloof, PhD in ecology and professor emeritus,



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the network currently has more than 75 forests in the Network in 20 states. OGFN also recognizes exceptional forest advocates, educates about the extraordinary ecological benefits of old-growth forests, and speaks out regarding immediate threats to specific ancient forests. Learn more at www.oldgrowthforest.net.

States that already have forests in the network include New York, Massachusetts, California, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Colorado, Hawaii, Michigan, Virginia, Arkansas, Tennessee, North Carolina, West Virginia, Delaware, and Wisconsin. The full list of forests may be viewed at <http://www.oldgrowthforest.net/dedicated-forests>.

The effort to identify and formally qualify a forest for inclusion in the Old-Growth Forest Network is largely dependent on volunteers. Anne Bekker, County Coordinator, and Edward Sibley Barnard are valuable volunteer supporters in Philadelphia County who have been instrumental in helping Carpenter's Woods to be included in the Network.

Dr. Maloof states, "We look forward to adding more forests to the Network in the future. We depend on a volunteer in each county to help us identify candidate forests. In addition to creating a network of forests we are also creating a network of people who care about forests." Interested volunteers are welcome to contact us through our website: www.oldgrowthforest.net.

Directions to the Ellet Street trail head: The closest address to the trailhead is 655 W. Ellet Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119. By car, head northwest on Greene Street from Lincoln Drive. Turn left on Ellet Street and find the trailhead in one block, where Ellet meets South Mt. Pleasant to the north and Sherman Street to the south. Ample street parking is available in the area. For public transit, take the 53 bus to the route's terminus at Wayne Avenue and West Sedgwick Street, the H bus to McCallum and Ellet Streets, or the Chestnut Hill West Regional Rail line to Carpenter Station. The trailhead is a short walk from any of these stops. Find park maps and information at <http://www.focw.org/>.

Contact:

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Friends of Carpenter's Woods, general information: info@focw.org



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