

Forest Hill: The Rockefeller Legacy

A Tale of Two Cities

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Many decades ago, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. gave the gift of Forest Hills Park to the cities of Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland. With the rights to this gift came responsibility: to ensure that the beauty and uniqueness of the park are preserved and to strike a balance between the natural preservation of Forest Hills Park and the active recreation it offers to its cities.

What makes Forest Hills Park distinctive is not only its rich history, but what it has been able to provide its residents since 1938. The serenity of the park's expansive woods and landscape is a stark contrast to the surrounding bustle of city life. For a park able to exist as a refuge amidst a metropolitan environment for so long is quite an achievement.

Efforts to sustain decades of work in keeping up the park must continue. The dynamics involved may have changed over the years, but the park's purpose has not. As John D. Rockefeller stated in a letter to both the cities of Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland in 1938, "I thank you for the fine cooperative spirit which you have shown throughout in working out the details of this gift..".

We must remember our responsibilities to the Rockefeller legacy. The need for cooperation exists now more than ever.