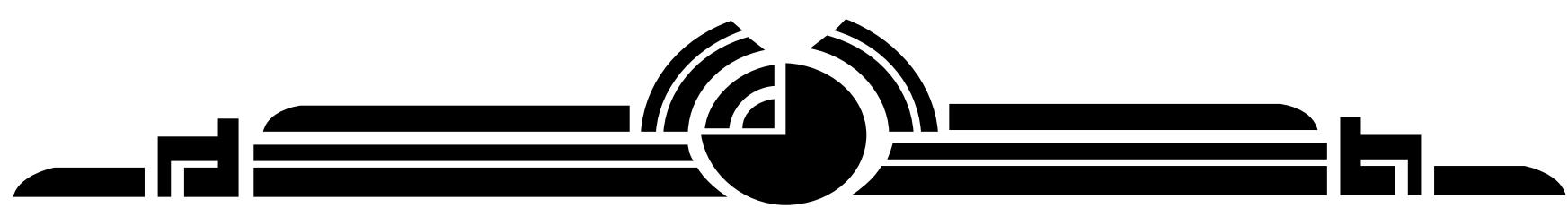


# Squirrel Hill Historical Society



## Squirrel Hill Tops the List



Pittsburghers love “The Best of ... ” lists. This display shows things about Squirrel Hill that put it at the top in several categories.

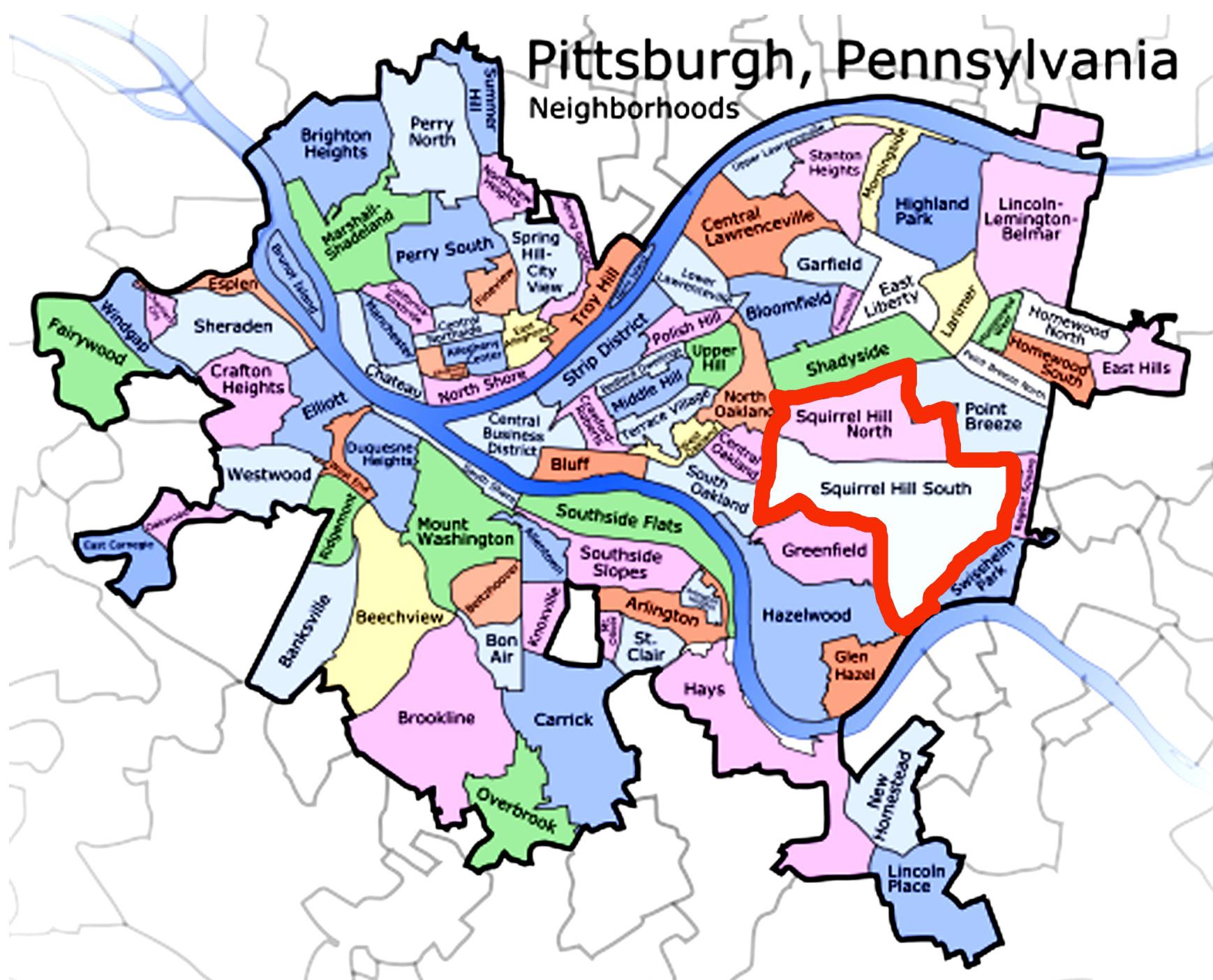
Perhaps Squirrel Hill's most well-known claim to fame is that it is Pittsburgh's definitive Jewish neighborhood. More Jews live in Squirrel Hill than in any other area of Pittsburgh. Depending on the source, 33 percent to 40 percent of Squirrel Hill's residents are Jews. It follows that Squirrel Hill also has more temples, synagogues and congregations than any other part of the city.



# Squirrel Hill Is the Largest Neighborhood in Pittsburgh

Squirrel Hill has an area of 3.89 square miles, making it the largest of the 90-plus neighborhoods in Pittsburgh.

Because of its size, Squirrel Hill abuts eight adjacent neighborhoods and the Monongahela River. It is part of two city council districts (8 and 5) and three ZIP codes (15217, 15213 and 15232). In fact, Squirrel Hill South alone is larger than any other neighborhood in Pittsburgh.



Geographical note: Squirrel Hill doesn't have the highest point in Pittsburgh—that's 1,362 ft. in Perry North. Squirrel Hill's high point is on Beacon Street at 1,202 ft.

# Squirrel Hill Has More People than Any Other Pittsburgh Neighborhood

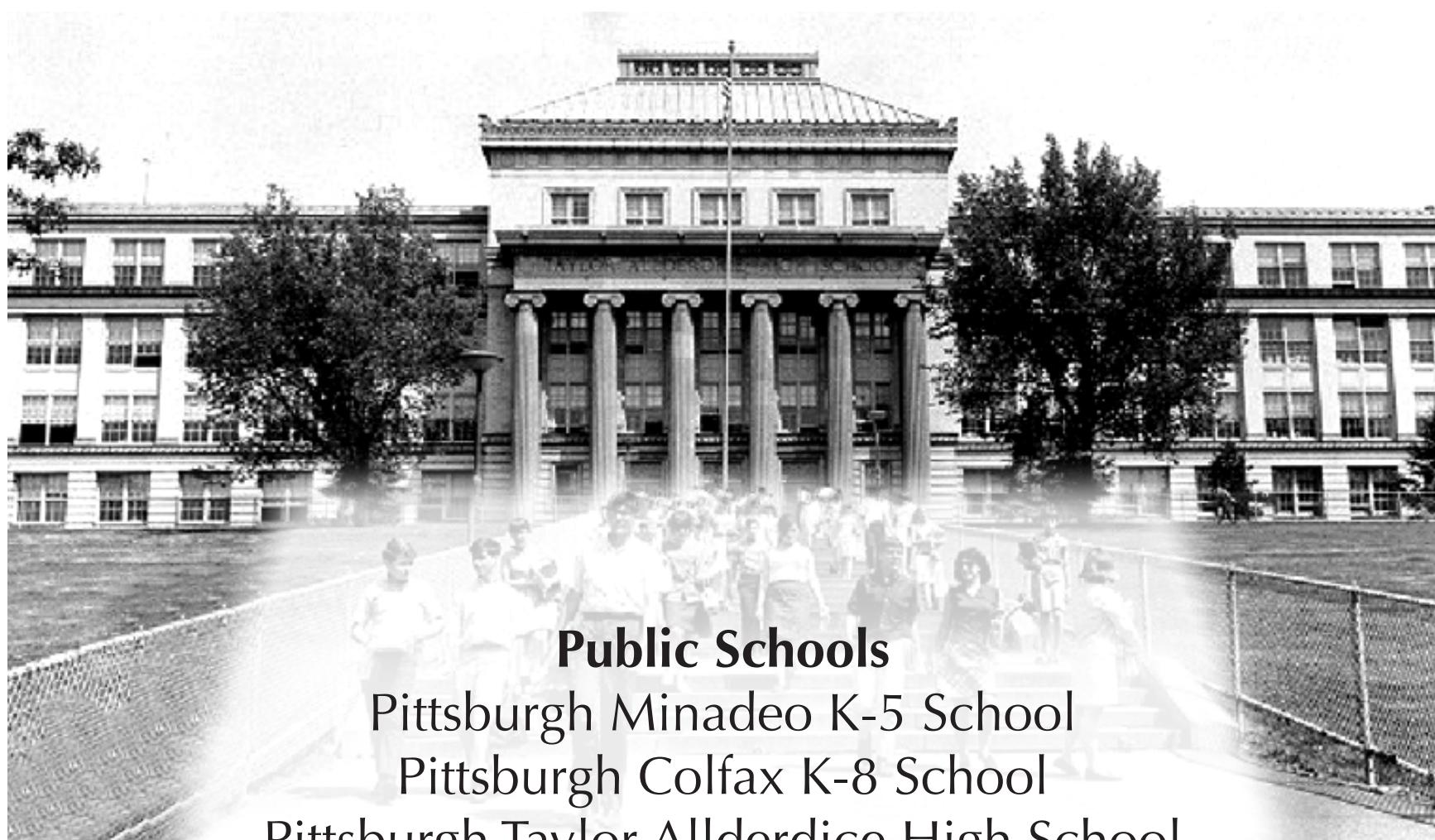
Although the city divides Squirrel Hill into two parts, North and South, it is universally considered to be a single neighborhood, which has the largest population in the city. According to the 2010 Census, Squirrel Hill South alone has more people than any other city neighborhood.

## Demographic Information from the 2010 U.S. Census

	<b>Squirrel Hill Total</b>	<b>Squirrel Hill North</b>	<b>Squirrel Hill South</b>
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>26,473</b>	<b>11,363</b>	<b>15,110</b>
White	20,919 (79%)	8,524 (75%)	12,395 (82%)
Asian	3,658 (14%)	1,935 (17%)	1,723 (11%)
African-American	855 (3%)	368 (3%)	487 (3%)
Other/Mixed	1,041 (4%)	536 (5%)	505 (3%)
Hispanic/Latino	957 (3.5%)	469 (4%)	488 (3%)

Squirrel Hill is one of the most diverse, if not the most diverse, neighborhood in the city. Its residents hail from more than 60 countries. Top ten countries of origin in 2000 were Russia, India, China, Ukraine, Korea, Japan, Germany, Canada, Poland and Israel.

# **Squirrel Hill Has More Schools than Anywhere Else in Pittsburgh**



**Public Schools**  
Pittsburgh Minadeo K-5 School  
Pittsburgh Colfax K-8 School  
Pittsburgh Taylor Allderdice High School

**Private Schools**  
Community Day School  
Yeshiva Achel Tmimim School  
Hillel Academy Pittsburgh  
St. Edmund's Academy  
Carriage House Children's Center  
Day School at the Children's Institute

Now here's a surprise. According to official city of Pittsburgh neighborhood maps and contrary to public perceptions, these schools are within Squirrel Hill's official boundaries:

Carnegie Mellon University  
Chatham University  
Central Catholic High School

# Frick Park Is the Largest Park in Pittsburgh

Frick Park, at 644 acres, is the largest park in Pittsburgh, beating out Squirrel Hill's other park and second largest in the city, Schenley, at 456 acres. Frick Park is also the youngest of the city's parks, opening in 1927. Schenley Park opened in 1889.

The two parks, which bookend Squirrel Hill on the east and west, are completely different in concept. Frick Park (pictured below) is rustic, with miles of hiking trails, few vehicular roads, and only a few playgrounds and athletic facilities. Schenley Park is the opposite: a grand city park with sweeping vistas, fields for large events, swimming pool, ice-skating rink, picnic pavilions, golf course, and even two of the oldest buildings in Pittsburgh--log cabins that date to the 1760s (right).



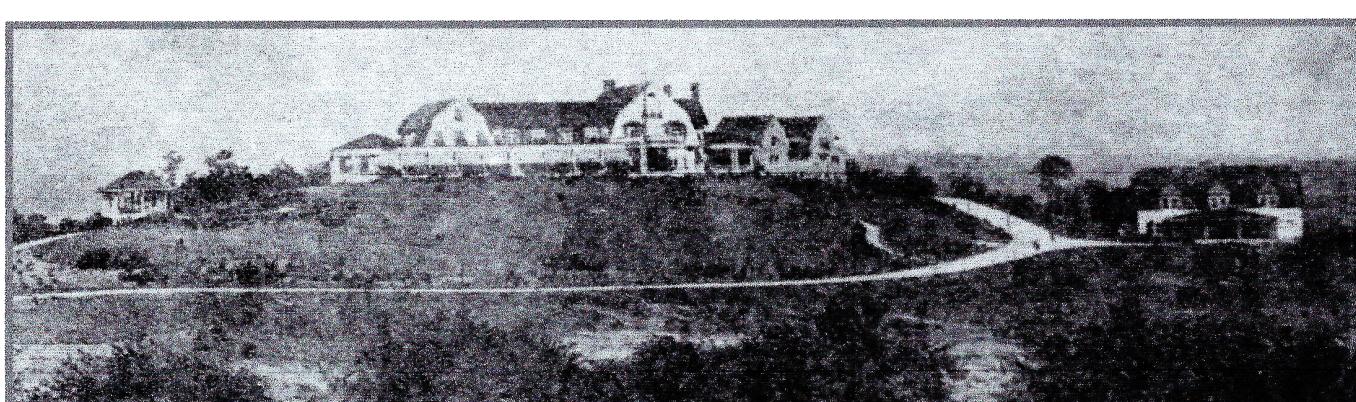
# **Squirrel Hill Has Pittsburgh's Only Golf Course**

Schenley Park boasts the public Bob O'Connor Golf Course, featuring 18 holes with 4,620 yards of golf from the longest tees for a par of 67. It is the only golf course in the city. It opened in 1902 as the Schenley Park Golf Course. In 2007 it was renamed for Bob O'Connor, a popular mayor of Pittsburgh who liked to play the course and who died in office in 2006.



An interesting side note is that adjacent to the public golf course is The Pittsburgh Golf Club, a private club that is not affiliated with the Bob O'Connor Golf Course.

Another interesting note is that Squirrel Hill once had another golf course—part of an exclusive private country club located in what is now Frick Park on the wide fields behind the blue slide playground. It will be the subject of a future library display.



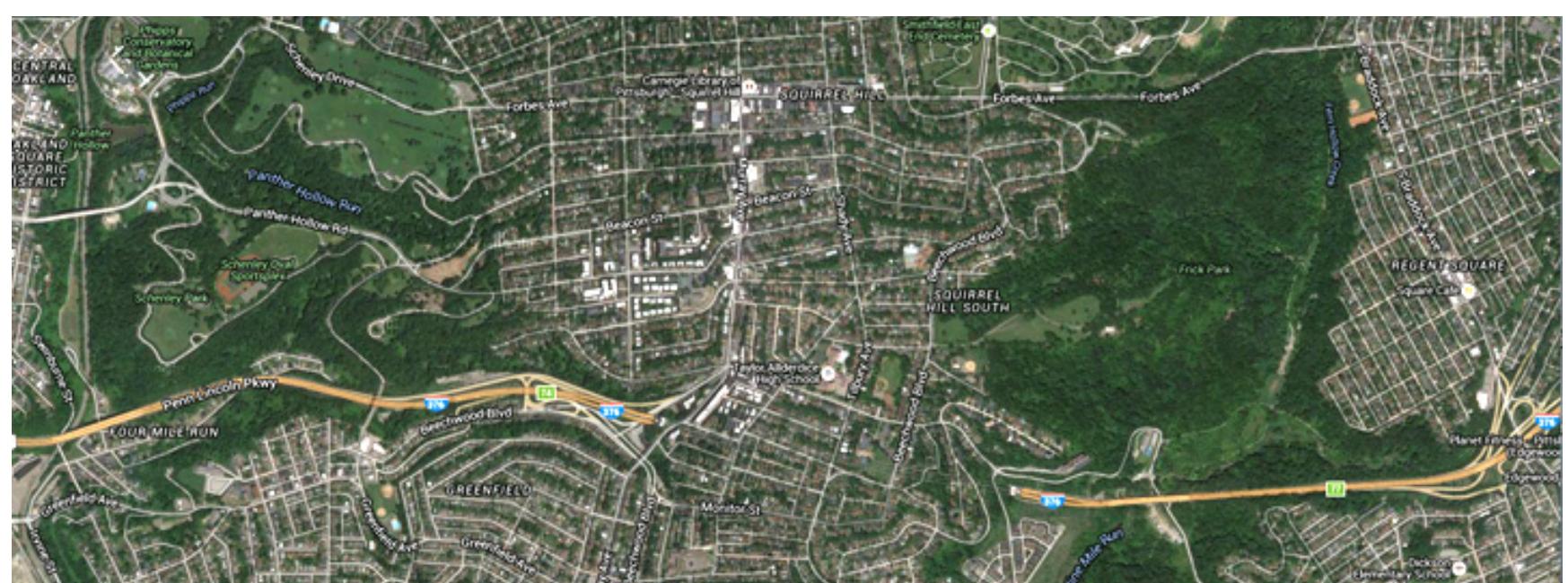
# Squirrel Hill Has the Longest Interstate Tunnel in Pittsburgh

The Liberty Tubes are longer at 5,889 ft. (more than a mile), but at 4,225 ft. in length, the Squirrel Hill Tunnel is the longest Interstate (Parkway East I-376) tunnel in Pittsburgh. The Fort Pitt Tunnel is only 3,614 ft. long.



The Taylor Allderdice band plays in front of the Squirrel Hill Tunnel at the dedication ceremony for the Parkway East, June 5, 1953.

Squirrel Hill also has the longest stretch of the Parkway East within its borders, stretching from the bridge over Junction Hollow, through the Squirrel Hill Tunnel, to the bridge over Nine Mile Run valley at Commercial Street.



# **Squirrel Hill Has the Longest Bridge on the Entire Monongahela River**

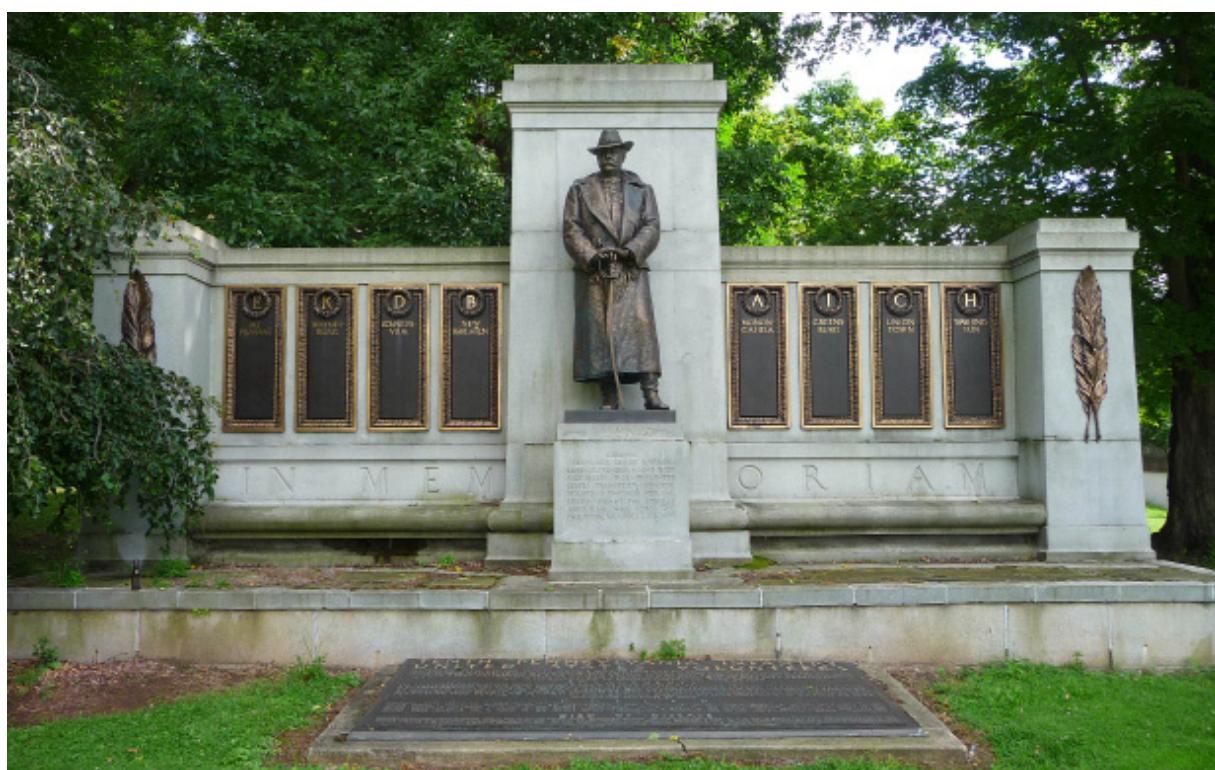
The Homestead Grays Bridge, a truly awesome 4,200-ft. long bridge built in 1937, connects Squirrel Hill with Homestead. It beats out the Liberty Bridge (2,663 ft.), the Fort Pitt Bridge (1,217 ft.) and even the new Mon-Fayette Expressway Bridge in Fayette County (3,022 ft.).

The bridge, originally called the Pittsburgh-Homestead High Level Bridge, was the first to be built using “Wichert Self-Adjusting Trusses,” diamond-shaped hinged assemblies at the piers that allow otherwise continuous spans to flex independently.



It is likely that Squirrel Hill has more bridges connecting it to other neighborhoods than any other section of Pittsburgh.

# **Squirrel Hill Has the First Monument Dedicated to an Individual Soldier**



Near the Panther Hollow Bridge is a monument few people notice. It is dedicated to Colonel Alexander Leroy Hawkins, the popular commander of the Tenth Regiment of Infantry from Western Pennsylvania in the Spanish-American War. This monument was the first in Pittsburgh to be erected to an individual soldier. It was sculpted by William Couper and dedicated in 1904. More than twenty thousand people, including thousands of soldiers, attended the ceremony.

Squirrel Hill has many other outdoor monuments to noted people. The ornate George Westinghouse Memorial, just up the road from the Col. Hawkins Memorial, is undergoing restoration. Edward M. Bigelow towers over the island in the middle of the road by Phipps Conservatory. Christopher Columbus gazes towards Oakland near the Schenley Bridge. Scottish poet Bobbie Burns and Hygeia, goddess of health, stand near the Panther Hollow Bridge, where four panthers guard the pylons. Neptune presides over the Phipps water lily pond. Up near the golf course is a granite monument to Seneca war chief Catahecassa.



# **Squirrel Hill Has the Largest Slag Dump in Pittsburgh**

The slag in Nine Mile Run valley extends from the banks of the Monongahela River to the Parkway East at the entrance to the Squirrel Hill Tunnel. Between 1922 and 1967, the Duquesne Slag Company dumped 200 million tons of slag in the valley, filling 238 acres to the height of a twenty-story building.

Today the moonscape of the slag dump has disappeared under a beautiful new city neighborhood, Summerset.





## **Squirrel Hill Has a Wide Variety of Wildlife**

To begin with, Squirrel Hill probably has more squirrels than any other Pittsburgh community, although statistics are hard to come by. In fact, Squirrel Hill was given its name a long time ago, perhaps by Native Americans, because of the numerous squirrels on the hill.

Three kinds of squirrels inhabit Squirrel Hill. The most common is the Eastern gray squirrel, which also comes in a black variety. The other two are the American red squirrel and the fox squirrel.



Squirrel Hill also has a lot of white-tailed deer, turkeys, blue jays, song sparrows, mockingbirds, red-tailed hawks, turkey vultures, bats, groundhogs, pigeons, coyotes, raccoons, opossums, chipmunks, garter snakes, frogs, toads, earthworms, and many other kinds of wildlife, even an occasional bear.