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February 6, 2018

Historic Review Commission of Pittsburgh
City of Pittsburgh, Department of City Planning
200 Ross Street, Third Floor
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219

Re: Tufa Bridges of Schenley Park

Dear Members of the Commission:

We write to support the nomination of the Tufa Bridges of Schenley Park as a Historic Property in the City of Pittsburgh. Unique to the city park system, the Tufa Bridges are significant on several counts and worthy of historic designation.

When first completed, the bridges provided a vastly improved circulation system for park visitors. They still do. Indeed, recent care given the bridges is a signal that the City of Pittsburgh values these cultural artifacts as unique and irreplaceable components of the park's fabric and character.

The Tufa Bridges represent the initial era of park development in Pittsburgh during the tenure of Parks Superintendent George Burke, who designed and directed many significant features and improvements.

Furthermore, over their lifespan, the bridges have become an extraordinary ecological niche supporting a rich variety of lichens, ferns, and mosses. Our staff ecologist, Bryan Dolney, has been conducting an ongoing study of this rare community and we are using his findings in environmental education programs. Historic designation will reinforce the necessity of appropriate maintenance techniques that do not degrade the ecological community which lives within the Tufa stone, but rather protects it. This unusual ecology and its symbiosis with its host material should be understood as contributing to the significance and value of these structures.

For all these reasons and more, we wholeheartedly support this nomination to confer historic designation upon the Tufa Bridges of Schenley Park.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Susan M. Rademacher'.

Susan M. Rademacher

Parks Curator