

PARK PICKS  
by  
FRIENDS OF THE ALLENTOWN PARKS

Join us today! Become a member and help make Allentown's great park system even better.



Travel along Front St. and you will find a true 8.58-acre park gem with one of the most heavily used playgrounds and ballfield facilities in Allentown. Next to the historic Neuweiler Brewery building at Pump Place is **Buck Boyle Park**, replete with amenities for children of all ages. Whether your interest is enjoying the modern play equipment or the refreshing spray park, watching the sights on the Lehigh River or just relaxing at the picnic pavilion, there is something for everyone.

Sadly, in November 2009 the park was the target of arson resulting in complete destruction of one play area of the playground. Spurred by this tragedy, the Girls on the Run team at nearby Sheridan Elementary School collected pennies and with the support of their classmates plus a \$150 gift from Lehigh Valley Health Network, the team presented an \$858 contribution toward the rebuilding of their beloved playground.

Throughout the summer children actively participate in basketball, flag football, kickball, soccer, softball, wiffleball, arts and crafts, as well as environmental education activities presented by the Wildlands Conservancy, all of which are supervised by playground instructors. In addition, one can enjoy T-ball games every Thursday and Saturday from May through July.



Pavilion at Buck Boyle Park (2/20/11) Visit the park located at Pump Place between Pine and Gordon Sts. on Front St.

Through our **Remembrance Tree** program, **Dexter F. Baker**, former chairman of Air Products and Chemicals Inc., donated several Kwanzan Flowering Cherry trees to help beautify Buck Boyle Park. Be sure to see the wonderful pink cherry blossoms in spring!



**George Boyle—Athlete, Friend of Youth**

It was youth and the offering of organized recreational activities for youth which were of utmost importance to **George "Buck" Boyle**, Allentonian, Allen High School football coach (1914), Allentown Central Catholic High School football line coach (1943) and minor league baseball legend.

He started his baseball career with the Balliet A.A., a strong local semi-pro team in 1909 and for 22 years played the minor leagues from Battle Creek (MI) to Fargo (ND), London (Ontario/Canada) to Marshalltown (IA). Settling back in Allentown he established the Downtown Youth Center and became heavily involved in organizing youth sports programs. He received numerous awards including: Red Barber, Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) Award; Golden Deeds, 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Ward Hall of Fame; American Legion Hall of Fame; Ukrainian Sports Award; St. Patrick's Day Observance Award for reviving Allentown's St. Patrick's Day parade; the Allentown Fair Boosters Club Award; and many more.

George "Buck" Boyle passed away on October 14, 1972 and the city gave him utmost recognition that year by renaming the Riverfront Park after this sports legend and youth advocate.

**Friends** is the proud recipient of a grant from the **Iron Pigs Charities** to afford Allentown youth the opportunity to participate in the City's 2011 summer baseball/softball camp program.

**For additional information on the Remembrance Tree program, to become a member or volunteer of Friends of the Allentown Parks please contact us. Thank-you for your support.**

