

Member Communication: December 31, 2020

It's time to look back on the year and celebrate our achievements. While 2020 presented some challenges, we persevered. As we close out the year, we'd like to thank you for your ongoing support and participation which allowed our organization to accomplish some great things!

Highlights from 2020

Group Runs

With over 300 group runs this year, it's safe to say our organization hosts more runs than any running club in the Greater Pittsburgh area and possibly in the state of Pennsylvania. Check out our [calendar](#) which was recently updated to include local and regional races in addition to our scheduled group runs. (Note: as a result of the governor's COVID guidelines, we suspended group runs on November 19. We hope to resume runs in accordance with state and local guidelines in the near future)

Membership

A huge welcome to the **131 people** who joined this year! We are now **475** strong! ([Member List](#))

NPTR Scavenger Hunt

On January 11, we hosted our first-ever scavenger hunt in North Park. Teams were randomly assigned, so runners had to get to know their teammates quickly and form a strategy to search the park. Pizza for everyone at the end! Special shout out to the winning team, "**Hush, they're following us.**"

NPTR Frozen Goat

Sold-out (free!) event in February with **100 participants**, many of which set distance PR's. The event offered four five-mile courses and a 20-mile course. NPTR provided free soup, beverages and pastries. Personalized Frozen Goat certificates to all participants.

Food Drive and \$1,100 donation

On March 30, we hosted a food drive in North Park. Our members donated enough food to fill the back of Tom Rekowski's pick-up truck. The goods

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went to the North Hills Food Bank. In addition, NPTR donated **\$1,100** to the Greater Pittsburgh Food Bank.

Quarantine Engagement Activities

Our group runs were suspended from March 16 through May 18 leaving a void in many of our lives. In an effort to stay connected, we devised some (safe) engagement activities. The weekly "Mission Challenge" served as an inspiration to get outside and capture a photo of the "blaze of the week."

(Take a walk down memory lane and check out the [Mission Collages](#).)

The "Segment of the Week Challenge" motivated us to tackle gnarly Strava segments throughout the park. Leaderboards were published at regular intervals creating lively competition.

Park Cleanup Mission

In July, our weekly mission focused on the park itself. For the #CleanupMission, members collected trash and litter throughout the park. With the park busier than ever this year, this is a never-ending task. Let's keep this mission going!

NPTR Patch Challenge

This summer over 70 people participated in the Patch Challenge. Individuals were tasked with accumulating 100 miles on the trails of North Park to earn a badass NPTR Patch.

NPTR Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

In June, the concept of a D.E.I. committee was announced. In July, our first committee meeting took place with participation from over 30 members. The NPTR City Series group runs in our city parks was established by this committee in an effort to make our runs more accessible to a wider range of people. Our first run was on the South Side.

Subsequent runs took place in Riverview Park as well as Frick Park. We look forward to resuming these runs when COVID guidelines are relaxed. Our annual #OptOutside Kids Trail Run was teed up to occur in Riverview Park rather than Hampton Township. Set to occur in November, it was cancelled at the last minute due to COVID restrictions. The committee chose Riverview Park to allow city families easier access, which is a change from the suburban location of prior years. Lastly, an [NPTR Glossary of Terms](#) was published in the spirit of inclusivity, ensuring our

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newer members felt welcome. Interested in joining the committee? See our [Diversity page](#).

Tree Planting in North Park

With the intent of giving back to the park that gives us so much, we had over 25 volunteers plant over 130 saplings on the Orange Trail in North Park. This was by far the biggest financial investment and philanthropic endeavor our organization as undertaken. In case you missed it, check out the [article in the Pittsburgh Trib](#).

Looking to Future: 2021

Winter Fells Run

Let's kick off the new year with a challenge that encompasses Strava segments and a 12-mile course containing the gnarliest hills in North Park! Coming in January. Stay tuned for details!

Group Runs

Let's hope we can safely resume group runs soon!

The Frozen Goat

We're aiming to host this annual event in the summer with a revised name. Possibilities include Hot Goat, Unfrozen Goat, Sweaty Goat...

We wish everyone a safe and healthy new year! Thank you for being a part of our fast-growing trail family!

[North Park Trail Runners](#)