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Discovering Chestnut Hill: 'The White City' was Hill's amusement park

Posted on June 28, 2019 (<https://www.chestnuthilllocal.com/2019/06/28/discovering-chestnut-hill-the-white-city-was-hills-amusement-park/>) by Contributor (<https://www.chestnuthilllocal.com/author/contributor/>)

by Alex Bartlett, Archivist, Chestnut Hill Conservancy

As the month of June draws to a close, it is signal for many that summer has arrived. Many will travel "down the Shore" to enjoy the waves of the ocean and a cool breeze. Some will turn their attention to other summer activities, including making their way to one of the region's amusement parks like Hershey Park, Great Adventure, and Dorney Park. Did you know, however, that in the early 20th century, one needed to travel only a mile or so to a large amusement park for summer fun?

Such an amusement park existed as the Chestnut Hill Park, often known as the White City. Opened in Erdenheim in 1898, the Park covered the area bounded by present-day Bethlehem

Pike, Paper Mill Road, and Hillcrest and Montgomery Avenues. Attractions included boat rides, a "Grand Casino," a roller coaster, an elaborate promenade, a rollerskating rink, and a lake and island, to name a few.

Patrons could take the Philadelphia Rapid Transit and Lehigh Valley trolleys to the park, from all over the region. As time progressed, the park became increasingly successful and larger numbers of visitors, often from the lower class, would visit each year. This was to the consternation of local, wealthy property owners, who united to abolish the park. Its last season of operation was in 1911. Shown here is the lake and promenade, as published on a postcard circa 1905. The lake still exists today as Hartwell Pond, in a much diminished size.

Did you know that the Chestnut Hill Conservancy has just uploaded over 350 new photographs from the Chestnut Hill Local to its online photograph collection? These newly-uploaded photographs include many views of Chestnut Hill storefronts from the 1970s through 1990s and can be viewed on the Conservancy's website (<http://CHConservancy.org/photo-search>).

For further information including how you can purchase an image, contact Archivist Alex Bartlett at the Chestnut Hill Conservancy, at 215-247-9329 ext. 206, or at Alex@chconservancy.org

This entry was posted in Community (<https://www.chestnuthilllocal.com/category/community/>), Discovering Chestnut Hill (<https://www.chestnuthilllocal.com/category/discovering-chestnut-hill/>) and tagged Community (<https://www.chestnuthilllocal.com/tag/community/>), Discovering Chestnut Hill (<https://www.chestnuthilllocal.com/tag/discovering-chestnut-hill/>). Bookmark the permalink (<https://www.chestnuthilllocal.com/2019/06/28/discovering-chestnut-hill-the-white-city-was-hills-amusement-park/>).

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[Margarette Mongeau](#) • 4 months ago

I can see a pond on Google Map that is called Hillcrest Pond. Is that the same as Hartwell Pond? If not, where is Hartwell Pond? Are there any remnants of the White City remaining? This is so interesting. Thank you for posting!

[Localendar](#)

Nov 29 Mandy Patinkin in Concert:
Home Free: Dive Bar Saints World
Nov 29 Charles Wynn Adams Ben David on
Wed 4:00pm Tour
Wed 4:00pm Evening at The Market

[Friends of the CH Library Fall](#)

[Tue Speaker Series 2019](#)

[29 Chestnut Hill Bran... | Philadelphia, PA](#)
[A Cordial Invitation from The Guild](#)

[Tue of Sassy Men: An Immersive](#)

[29 Animation Experience](#)
[Tuesday Night at the Movies:](#)
[Arcadia University | Glenside, PA](#)

[Tue "Diabolique"](#)

[29 Woodmere Art Museu... | Philadelphia, PA](#)
[Exhibition: Our Town: A](#)

[Tue Retrospective of Edith Neff](#)

[29 Woodmere Art Museu... | Philadelphia, PA](#)
[Tue Henry Got Crops Farm Market](#)

[29 Saul Agricultural ... | Philadelphia, PA](#)

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[29](#)

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Hover for Circular

 **Grocery Outlet**

Hover for Circular

 **Heirloom Market**

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