

THE OGLEBAY FOUNDATION'S **AMERICAN IDEAL**

IMPACT REPORT 2021




Oglebay
FOUNDATION



Community involvement has been the chief factor in the development of Oglebay as a self-sustaining enterprise and is one of the finest examples of what can result if we put the **American Ideals** to work.

– Courtney Burton, Jr.
Grandson of Earl & Sallie Oglebay



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*Board Members who established
the Oglebay Foundation in 1996

Dear Friends,

As 2021 nears its end, we are filled with gratitude to you, Oglebay Foundation's generous and steadfast donors. Year-end giving accounts for 50% of the total number of gifts we receive each year and our final push to cross the finish line is critical. Your response is inspiring. We're seeing increases over 2020, a record year in total gifts and in the number of first time donors.

The impact of your continuing philanthropic support is realized in the Oglebay Foundation's ability to invest \$7 million into the parks this year. The love for your parks demonstrated through your donations will enable us to do even more in 2022. This positive trajectory embodies how "the park" becomes "my park/your park/our park."

In another positive milestone Oglebayfest returned from last year's cancellation with record numbers of people gathering and celebrating (safely) the importance of the park to our community. And now Festival of Lights is here. We asked Frank O'Brien, Executive Director of the Wheeling/Ohio County Convention and Visitors Bureau what our spectacular holiday light display means to the community. His insights are featured in this report.

The parks celebrate connections, honor traditions, protect the land along with its flora and fauna and provide value as a place of friendships. Your investment makes the parks we love possible and is key to the Foundation's impact for current and future generations.

Wishing you Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,



David Weaver
Board Chair



Eriks Janelins
President & CEO



OGLEBAY FOUNDATION STAFF:

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The Oglebay Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation devoted to inspiring donors to invest in Oglebay and Wheeling Park. The foundation raises strategic support through donations from private individuals, corporations, and foundation giving. Over the last five years, the Foundation has provided \$25 million supporting ongoing programs and projects in the parks. **For more information, visit www.oglebayfoundation.org.**

Oglebay Through The Years

VICTORIAN ANGEL

ONE OF THE ORIGINAL 5 DISPLAYS that debuted in 1985. The angel used to welcome drivers to the Festival of Lights at the Zoo entrance before Snoopy replaced her in 2001. Now found along the drive behind Wilson Lodge.

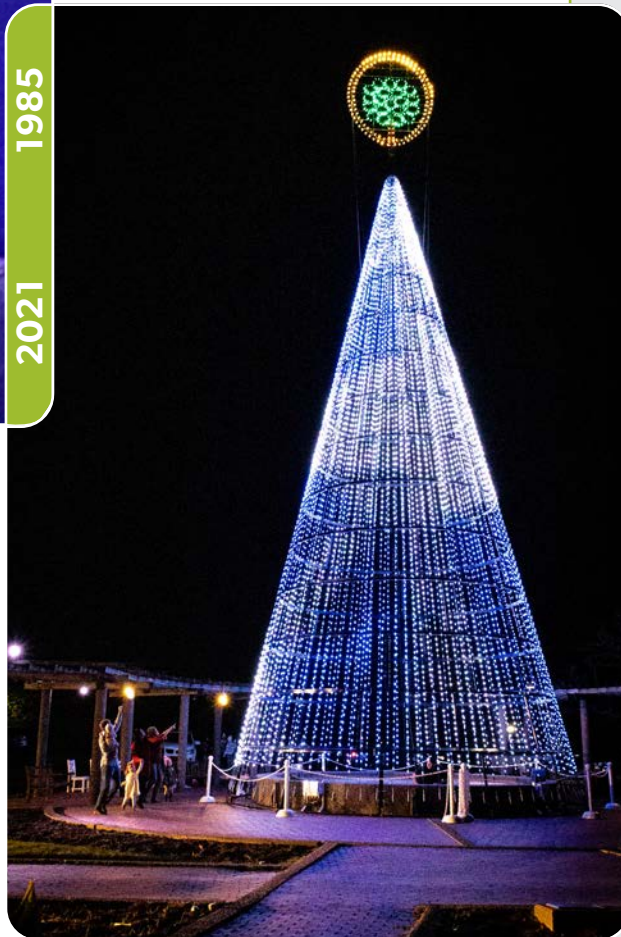


1985

2021

WELCOME TREE

The power of technology!
Our new 70-foot-tall Welcome Tree at The Hilltop features thousands of dancing high-resolution lights with the infinite ability to combine color, music, light and animated imagery all while soaring seven stories into the night sky.



Oglebay continues to be the crown jewel of municipal parks anywhere in the world. Your investments in the Oglebay Foundation ensure that Oglebay will be here for generations to come. Submit your family photos to foundation@oglebay.com.

“

We know our donation is an investment in the park we love. That's why we make an annual gift every year.

”



Make Your 2021 Gift Today!

Scan the QR code with your phone's camera.



Information about specific support options is available at

oglebayfoundation.org • 304-243-4166

“Having just experienced our first Oglebayfest, now we know why everyone wanted it back!”

BOB PECKENPAUGH
PRESIDENT & CEO OF THE WHEELING PARK COMMISSION

Oglebayfest IS BACK!

Oglebayfest makes a triumphant return in 2021



Above - Bob and Jennifer Peckenpaugh admire one of the many craft booths at Oglebayfest

Right - Oglebayfest parade





Oglebayfest IMPACT:

Thanks to **the community's love** of this **44 year tradition**, the park saw more than a **30% increase** in total operating revenue over last year!





NATIONAL RECREATION
AND PARK ASSOCIATION



AMERICA'S
STATE
PARKS



ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS



National Training Center

Annual IMPACT:

\$1.3+ million in total revenue
7,200 room nights
5,100 CEU awarded

Professional development, best practices, and the exchange of ideas are part of Oglebay's DNA. Earl Oglebay leveraged his beloved Waddington Farm in a major experiment to improve soil quality and agriculture yields. At its peak, Waddington Farm employed 75 full-time employees. Farm operations were divided into 15 departments, each with its own manager and accounting system.

The farm produced everything from dairy products to asparagus and cut flowers. It had pigs, chickens and sheep as well as orchards of peaches, pears, plums and apples. Waddington became a gathering place for

farmers, agriculture professors and students, as well as breeders. Oglebay encouraged these gatherings and funded the creation of associations and clubs including 4H.

The turn of the last century began the great park movement that was pivotal in preserving large tracks of land for public use, but it wasn't until the late 1920s that thoughtful design, planning and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities became a critical part of community responsibility. Earl Oglebay's gift of Waddington Farm to the City of Wheeling in 1926 (accepted in 1928) was really ahead of its time.

As the park movement took shape different organizations were created to advocate for public land use and the education of park employees. The American Institute of Park Executives (AIPE) was one of those organizations, headquartered here at Oglebay Park.

AIPE was one of five founding organizations that merged to create the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). NRPA created the Revenue Development and Management School which has been offered at Oglebay since 1960. A popular school that is the cornerstone of our National Training Center (NTC) programing that today offers 11 schools.

In the 1980s Oglebay's NTC and NRPA partnered with North Carolina State University to streamline continuing education opportunities for park professionals. As an accredited college, NC State provides continuing education credits, a major draw for students and certified professionals.

Under the leadership of Herb Faulkenberry, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for the Wheeling Park Commission, Sherry DiMuccio (NTC Executive Director) and Tamara Rohl (NTC Coordinator) manage the logistics for all schools. No small undertaking, the schools generate \$1.3 million in total revenue each year. The schools generate an average of 7,200 room nights annually.

"NTC schools and continuing education meetings present an amazing opportunity for Oglebay to partner with organizations that prioritize professional development, staff training and membership growth,"



Candace Goode-Vick, North Carolina State University and Diane Sauer, Director Supervisors' Management School work with Oglebay's DiMuccio to prepare for students in 2021.

Faulkenberry shared. "Oglebay is well placed to address the current needs for business meetings and conferences. We have ample meeting space and first rate technology.

As we consider the future, combining in-person training with virtual capabilities, the program's current success is just the beginning."



“Supporting the professional development of the people in our industry is a priority for The Toro Company.

PAULA SLIEFERT,
Senior Manager, Sports Fields and Grounds
The Toro Company



The schools cover a wide range of topics, everything from Event Management and Sustainability to Medical Transport Leadership and Association of Zoos and Aquariums

Professional Development. This year marks the 50th Anniversary of Park and Recreation Maintenance Management School. As one of the most popular schools that NTC offers, Maintenance Management has a 28-30 person waiting list every year.

The Toro Company is an industry leader in the turf, landscape and construction space. Covering everything from design and manufacturing to marketing and support, The Toro Company provides innovative equipment and solutions that keep thousands of parks, public spaces and stadiums in pristine shape. In 2010, The Toro Company joined the NTC group of partners to support the people who use their equipment everyday with continuing education opportunities.

"Supporting the professional development of the people in our industry is a priority for

The Toro Company. By aligning the company with the Maintenance Management School's 50th anniversary, we saw an outstanding opportunity to connect to our customers beyond our bottom line. These scholarship dollars are well placed to ensure that our industry continues to innovate and invest in the industries that support our corporate mission providing tools to help with the beautification and sustainability of the land," Paula Sliefert, The Toro Company's senior manager, sports fields and grounds shared.

This year as the exclusive sponsor of the Maintenance Management School, The Toro Company, along with The Toro Foundation, is providing scholarships to 2nd and 3rd year MMS students. The Toro Company's



commitment is scheduled through 2024 with the option to renew.

"The incredible part of the NTC experience as a whole is that the schools, the students,



Sherry DiMuccio,
NTC Executive Director

and the instructors are so energetic. They're passionate about what they do in the field and are excited to share their stories and experience with the rest of the group," DiMuccio offered. "They are subject matter experts and come from all over the world. Having

the opportunity to witness this diverse group of industry leaders is really inspiring to me."

In 2019 the NTC launched the Park Foundation School. An exciting two year curriculum focused on the development and implementation of best practices for park support and advocacy, with none other than our own Eriks Janelins as one of a dozen instructors. This past August, the first graduates included Oglebay Foundation's Kathryn Kelly (Director of Grants and Proposals) and

Michael Hires (Director of Annual Giving and Communications).

The next school to join the roster is the Playground Maintenance Technician Program which is slated to begin in September 2022 in cooperation with Indiana University's Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands, a new partnership for NTC.

The concept for NTC was straight forward: offer accommodations to organizations looking to bring large groups together for training during low occupancy periods at Wilson Lodge. By leveraging resources, sharing expertise, and staying open to every possibility, the NTC team continues a rich history of education and enlightenment at Oglebay. History repeats itself. We believe Earl Oglebay would be pleased that his beloved farm continues his tradition of excellence. 🌱



The Toro Company's first foray with NTC resulted in the Green School, now the Sustainability Institute. First year class photo – professors in the front row include: Eriks Janelins (first left) and Paula Sliefert (6th from left), 2012.

Because
of you

Winter
is more
fun.



Thanks to the help of
our generous donors,
children in Ohio County,
regardless of family
income, have access
to the many activities
Oglebay and Wheeling
Park have to offer.



Make a gift to your park.

Make Your Gift Today!

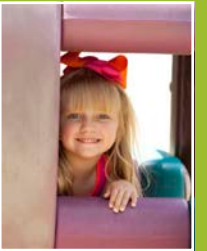
Scan the QR code with your
phone's camera.

oglebayfoundation.org/give

Donor **IMPACT:**

2020 Year-End Giving from Nov. 1 – Dec. 31

\$715,000 raised in matching grant funds supporting:



+ Good Zoo Expansion

+ Trees and Trail Maintenance

+ Garden Improvements

+ Access to the Parks

Cumulative Unrestricted Giving

made the following possible:



2017 Aerial Challenge Course

2018 Celebrating 90 Years of Oglebay

2019 Swan Paddle Boats

2020 32-Foot-Tall Climbing Wall

2021 70-Foot-Tall Welcome Tree

"I discovered a passion for food
I didn't realize I had."

ASHLEY OLESNEVICH
EXECUTIVE SOUS CHEF

Food and Beverage (F&B) is an incredible revenue generator for the Wheeling Park Commission. Beginning in 2019, the Oglebay Foundation began a multi-year renovation plan to update all the event and meeting spaces throughout Wilson Lodge.

Leadership gifts from donors including Jeremy McCamic, Joan and Fred Stamp, and Flip and Gary West were leveraged to make the beautiful upgrades we see today possible.

These investments have paid off handsomely. Comparing calendar year 2020 to calendar year through October 31, 2021, F&B total revenue is 28% higher and our two strongest months of the year are just under way.

Beautiful spaces and décor create the ambiance for incredible dining experiences, but it always comes down to the food. The following profiles give you a glimpse into the F&B team that make our taste buds sing.



Building the TEAM



Ashley Olesnevich Executive Sous Chef

Spoiler Alert: We LOVE Ashley.

Ashley grew up helping her great grandmother and grandmother cook meals for the family. She enjoyed baking cakes for family celebrations. While studying to become a paralegal, the Pennsylvania Culinary Institute (now part of the Culinary Institute of America) held an open house to gauge student interest. "I discovered a passion for food I didn't realize I had," Ashley mused.

The course work that sparked her interest was "Garde Manger" the technical term for cold food display such as salad plating, making Pâtés, sausages and charcuterie. Ashley loved building tallow sculptures and canapés.

As part of her studies, Ashley had to intern as an apprentice which she did at Oglebay starting on July 1, 2002 – we're glad she did! Upon graduation in February 2003, she was hired full-time as Third Cook. Ashley's hard work, attention to detail and overall positive can-do attitude saw her through the ranks to Second Cook, Garde Manger and Banquets, First Cook – supervising an entire department of up to four cooks depending on the season.

F&B IMPACT: 28% increase
year to date with our strongest
months still to come!

In November of 2011 Ashley was promoted to Sous Chef and Garde Manger overseeing breakfast. By 2019, Ashley was overseeing all banquets and this past October Ashley was made Executive Sous Chef, overseeing the entire kitchen.

When asked to describe her role Ashley explained, "Chef Mirko sets the standard. He creates the menu and directs how food is to be presented. My job is to make sure Chef's standards are implemented."

Ashley's favorite style of cooking is the hearty home cooked meals of her childhood. She has been influenced by many chefs including Gordon Ramsay – "his direct, to the point cooking" and Anthony Bourdain, as well as strong female chefs including Giada De Laurentiis, Rachel Ray and of course Julia Child. "Honestly, you have me with any dish that profiles roasted garlic and parmesan cheese."

"In 2007 we attended a CIA cake decorating class in Washington D.C. It was a wonderful experience

including the opportunity to visit the Smithsonian and see Julia (Child)'s kitchen."

Exploring Ashley's Oglebay experience she shared, "The first time I came to Oglebay was in the fall, the park took my breath away, the trees, the colors, everything. I look for opportunities to get out and see the park every day. Everyone always asks what keeps me here. While there have been opportunities for me to go elsewhere, I love the park and the people I work with."

Her typical day starts between 6 and 7 am ensuring breakfast is going smoothly. Depending on how busy the restaurant(s) is she'll work the omelet station. She then does the ordering for the coming days, inventorying the store room. Her office is just off the line, so she can tell when the pressure is on and her team needs her to jump in.

Ashley's food philosophy, "Follow your gut. If you think it will taste good, go for it! Tweak the seasonings until you get the results you're looking for. If it doesn't work out order a pizza and try again tomorrow!"



Jonathan Story
Director Food & Beverage

Jonathan Story comes to Oglebay from Atlanta where he held the position of Director of F&B at Callaway Gardens.

When asked to describe how

he came to Oglebay, Jonathan explains, "My preference was to stay in the south east, but my recruiter kept bringing the Oglebay opportunity to me – like three or four times – telling me just take a look. When I got here, I was blown away by the beauty and the mountains. After speaking with Bob (Peckenpaugh, Wheeling Park Commission President & CEO), I knew right away I wanted to be a part of the Oglebay team. Bob's enthusiasm for the parks as we experience them today and his vision for their future really sold me."

Describing his entry to the F&B industry, Jonathan confessed, "I was giving an oral report in a college history class that my professor recorded. When I

watched myself stammering, red-faced and sweating, I knew I needed to force myself to be in front of people. So, I got a job in a restaurant knowing nothing about wine or liquor and very little about food. I didn't know the difference between vodka and whiskey. I instantly fell for the industry. The whole experience of dining, the camaraderie of the people, it all fell into place."

Fast forward 23 years, Jonathan and his wife Sonja are living at Oglebay. The couple is often spotted wandering the park with their dog, Stella, or exploring their new community.

Jonathan sees a great deal of unmet opportunity with F&B in the park. He and the team are mapping out plans for 2022 and beyond.



Mirko Loeffler
Executive Chef

Chef Mirko started his career as an apprentice chef in southern Germany in 1974. His culinary experience has taken him across Europe, the United States, China and the Caribbean. He has owned and operated restaurants, taught in culinary schools and served as the Executive Chef for multiple 5 star properties around the world.

Most recently, Mirko was the Executive Chef at Bedford Springs. While in the final discussions about an opportunity in North Carolina, a friend and former colleague, Wes Perry, (Oglebay's director of maintenance) called him about an opportunity here.

After a marathon week of interviews, cooking and conversations, Mirko accepted the position of Executive Chef at Oglebay.

Talking to Chef, his love of food is clear. "I love any kind of ethnic cuisine that honors the flavors, taste and traditions of that culture," Chef offered. "The most important part of my job is making people happy. We want them walking in and out with a smile while making their next reservation."



"Oglebay is a unique property, with a great team. They're very upbeat, always smiling. It's clear they work hard, regardless of how busy we are; the team gets the job done. They're able to accomplish so much. I'm proud to be the chef of this family."

2021 Light Up Night, showcased some of Chef Mirko's talents and 2022 will demonstrate his and the entire culinary team's talents with a new dining option on the lake view patio in the works, updates to the Garden Bistro and more. 🌿



PLANS Making a Difference IN THE PARKS

Charitable planned gifts offer a tremendous opportunity for you to provide valuable financial support, receive a benefit in return, and leave a lasting legacy.

Wheeling Park was created through 170 leadership gifts made in December of 1924, and 97 years later the community continues to benefit from the visionary philanthropy of civic leaders who purchased Wheeling Park and created the Wheeling Park Commission.

Through a bequest, Earl Oglebay left a legacy of 750 majestic acres, gardens, historic farm buildings, a tradition of quality hospitality, and a vision for a future of first class recreational opportunities that has grown into the park we all know today.

You don't have to be rich to leave a legacy. There are several giving strategies that can be used to fund the things you love.

An estate gift is one of many ways you can make a difference in the parks. At the Oglebay Foundation, Eriks Janelins can guide you or your financial advisor on the giving vehicle that makes the most sense for your circumstances.

IRA ROLLOVER BENEFITS

An IRA rollover allows people age 70½ and older to reduce their taxable income by making a gift directly from their IRA.

Benefits of an IRA charitable rollover

- Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to the Oglebay Foundation
- Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts
- Support an area of Oglebay or Wheeling Park that you love.

How an IRA charitable rollover gift works

- Contact your IRA plan administrator to make a gift from your IRA to support the Oglebay Foundation.
- Your IRA funds will be directly transferred to the Oglebay Foundation (FEIN: 55-0750128) to ensure the park you love is here for generations.
- Please note that IRA charitable rollover gifts do not qualify for a charitable deduction.
- Please contact us if you wish for your gift to be used for a specific purpose.

Wheeling native, C.J. Kaiser is a law partner with Phillips, Gardill, Kaiser & Altmeyer, PLLC focusing on Corporate and Commercial Law. His wife, Debbie who was born in Ridgewood, New Jersey, is a retired elementary school teacher. Debbie taught at Woodsdale Elementary for over 30 years. The couple met at Wittenberg University and will celebrate their 50th Anniversary this summer.

They raised their three sons, Perry, Chris and Jeff, here in Wheeling, spending many afternoons and weekends exploring Oglebay's Good Zoo and walking the paths and trails throughout the park. Today the Kaisers enjoy exploring the zoo and the park with their six grandchildren.

Last year, Debbie and C.J. saw firsthand the challenges pandemic related closures were having on the park and decided to make a generous donation using IRA funds. The gift was used in part for a matching campaign that raised \$715,000 to support Trees and Trails, the Good Zoo and Gardens – a great fit for the couple's interest and use of the park.

"When we made the gift we suggested to Eriks (Janelins) please use the gift wherever the need is greatest, but if possible leverage our donation for activities, so that when vaccines are available, Oglebay will be the center of the community getting back in the swing of things," C.J. explained.

The Foundation exceeded its 2020 year end goal. So with donor intent in mind, some of Debbie and C.J.'s gift went to fund expanded live music that was offered in multiple venues 5-6 nights a week all summer long. The Kaisers continue to support the park in many ways... talk about making a difference! 🌱



For more information on ways your estate can shape the parks you love, go to oglebaygiving.org or contact the Foundation at 304-243-4166.



“

Winter, a lingering season, is a time to gather golden moments, embark upon a sentimental journey, and enjoy every idle hour.

– John Boswell

”


Oglebay

BY THE NUMBERS


168
WEDDINGS


20,000+ HOURS
TO SET UP LIGHTS

44%
INCREASE IN
FESTIVAL
of LIGHTS
TRAFFIC


30% INCREASE
IN SWIMMING

DINING

3,650+
DOZENS OF
EGGS 


7,500+
POUNDS OF
BUTTER

 **10,000+**
GLASSES OF
CHAMPAGNE
TOASTED

THE WEST SPA


3,005
MANICURES
+ PEDICURES


3,485
MASSAGES

GOLF

 **1 MILLION+**
PAR 3 RANGE
BALLS HIT

85,570 
ROUNDS OF GOLF
AT PARK COURSES

 **361**
JUNIOR GOLFERS
IN PROGRAMS


9,739
ACCESS
TO THE PARK
USES


LODGING

 **50,868**
ROLLS OF
TOILET PAPER

 **9,972**
BOXES OF
TISSUES

 **971,365**
FLOWERS
IN HANGING
BASKETS

Wheeling Park

2,470 | **20,470** | **12,641**
HOURS OF INDOOR TENNIS | ICE RINK ADMISSIONS | ACTIVITY BANDS

Forever Grateful

Skiing opens up the world

Skiing at Oglebay had humble beginnings back in 1939. It all started with two tracks on the hill above the Crispin Golf Course, one was designated for skiing, the other for sledding and tobogganing. These tracks welcomed winter sports to the park and with Oglebay's

tradition of hospitality, a log fire was set in the Pine Room to keep everyone warm with refreshments offered.

The Oglebay Ski Club (OSC) was organized in early 1940. The club raised money and purchased a ski-tow consisting of one thousand feet of rope that ran back and forth from the No. 9 green to the No. 4 hole powered by a tractor.

The popularity of winter sports was apparent from the start. By 1962, a wood and stone clubhouse was erected on the opposite side of Route 88. Built to support both, the Par-3 golf course, and the newly-reoriented ski slope on the north edge of the park which now featured a 385 foot drop. The idea of combining the ski area with the Par-3 golf course streamlined operations because the facility was designed to convert

easily from a ski lodge to a golf shop with the change of the seasons.

The OSC assisted with the purchase of compressors that could manufacture enough snow for skiing in two days, provided the temperatures dipped below 28 degrees. The snow-making equipment and a 1,200 foot Pomalift (the first of three) cost approximately \$30,000.

Several local families have multiple generations of ski enthusiasts who have enjoyed Oglebay's slope. Bill Jones, Oglebay Foundation Board Member and former Wheeling Park Commissioner, remembers his father putting a snow suit on over his business suit to ski on his lunch break from running Stone & Thomas Department Store. It's incredible to think that the Ohio Valley has a ski area within 15 minutes of downtown Wheeling.



“
Thanks to the sport, my family and I have
experienced so much. Skiing opens up the world.
”

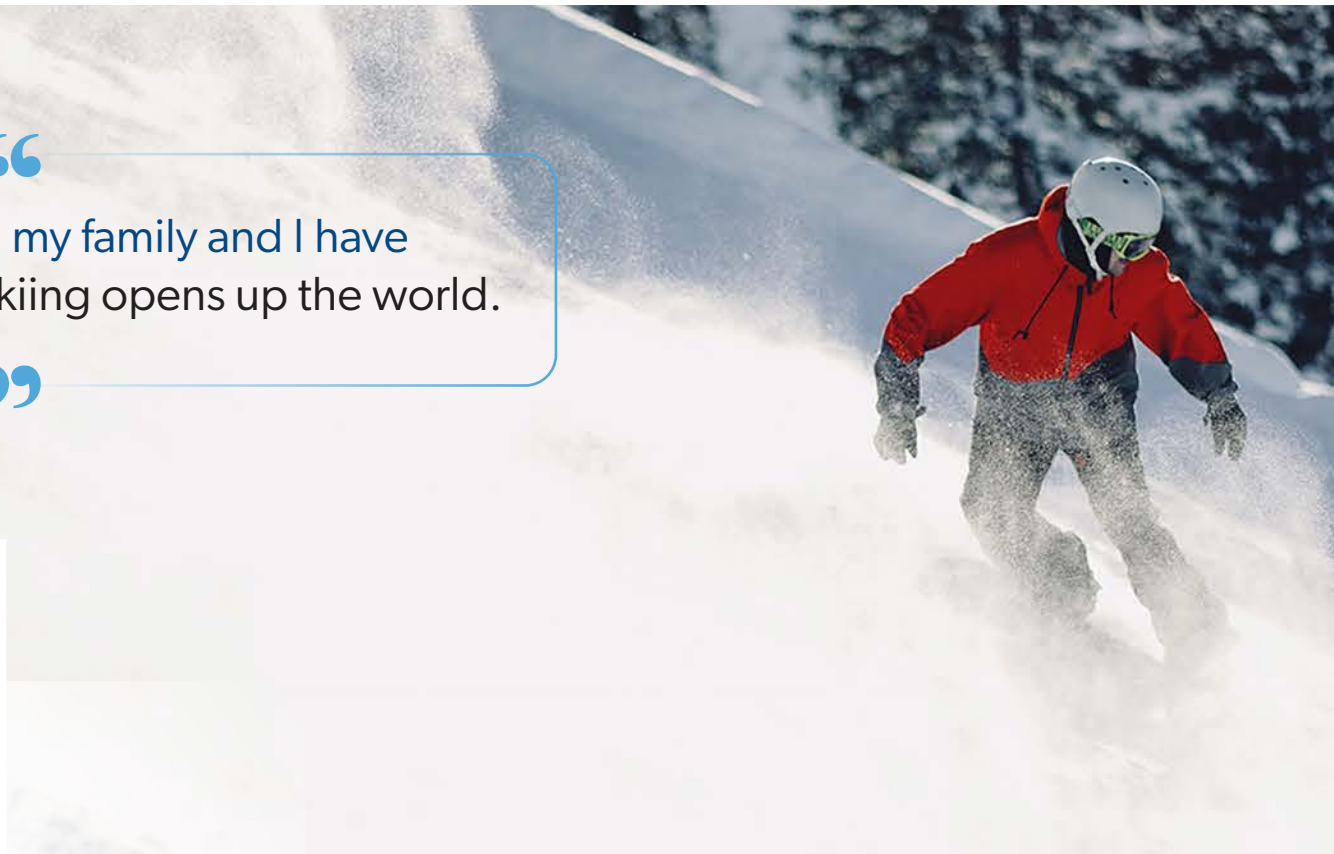


Paul Exley and grandson
Paul Perkinson hit the slopes.

Once bitten by the ski-bug, Paul was hooked. “As children we had to attend church and Sunday school weekly... unless it snowed. I prayed for snow.” Growing up, during the season, he skied at Oglebay after school every chance he got. He went on to captain the WVU club team and was a competitive skier on the pro-circuit from 1975-1979. Measuring life by ski seasons, Paul says he’s in his 65th ski-season, and it all started at Oglebay. “Thanks to the sport, my family and I have experienced so much. Skiing opens up the world.”

Paul and his wife, Hali, raised their two daughters, Jessica and Christina, in their home near the park. Given their proximity to the slopes, Paul and Hali along with Paul’s parents, Ben and Bonnie, made sure that the girls learned to ski – and at very early ages. Jessica’s lessons started at 18 months!

Paul Exley started skiing at Oglebay in 1956. The then three-year old skied with his family and remembers the rope-tow crossing Route 88 with the slopes going right into the Crispin Golf Course. “My mom and dad started skiing in their 40s and it became a family passion. As their youngest, I would ride between my mom’s skis. Their passion for the sport was so contagious that in addition to our entire family enjoying the sport, they started taking business associates out west on ski trips to Aspen and Vail.”



Paul and Hali Exley

One hiccup in the family’s Oglebay skiing saga is the period from 1997-2004. During this time, the park made the difficult decision to close the slope due to the increased costs in making snow, but there was no greater champion about the power of the sport and its importance in the community than Paul Exley.

In 2004, technology improvements made snow making more affordable. Thanks to the leadership and generosity of the Nutting family and a group of enthusiasts spearheaded by Paul and Hali, the Oglebay Foundation raised more than \$1 million to bring skiing back to the park. Combined with a grant from the National Park Service Land & Water Fund, the park was able to purchase and install a triple chair lift, a modern snow-making system and make possible other improvements, including purchasing new



rental equipment. The 1962 clubhouse was then named the Nutting Winter Sports Complex. With the slopes re-opening, Paul saw an opportunity to encourage interest in the sport by opening Alpine Skis & Boards, a local ski shop selling equipment from all the top brands.

Paul and Hali have made ongoing annual investments improving the skiing experience at Oglebay. “My dad always told me, ‘We need to give back to the community.’” The



The Exley family

fire pit and patio outside the clubhouse was funded with a gift in 2006 and the pit was converted to gas a few years later.

In 2020, the couple donated money to make Oglebay NASTAR (National STandard Race) certified. Bringing NASTAR to Oglebay, means that not only can skiers of all ages perfect their racing strategy but also qualify to race nationally. Paul has been NASTAR racing for 40 years and believes that this added dimension will create a new dynamic in the park – keeping our little hill feeling fresh and relevant.

“I can’t tell you how many parents express their gratitude for the ski area. They can bring their kids up to Oglebay after school or on a blessed-snow day, drop them off knowing the kids will have a great time without any problems. Mom and dad can watch from the lodge or set a pickup time to collect them,” Paul said. Additionally, some of their older neighbors and friends shared that they don’t

want to drive two-plus hours, fighting big crowds at the next closest ski area.

Along the way the Exley family grew. Jessica and her husband Joe Hoover have two sons, Brayden (7) and Easton (4). Christina and her husband, Kyle Perkinson have a son, Paul (3). Paul shared that skiing was a requirement to joining the family for both sons-in-law. As with so much of life, Paul and Hali love having the opportunity to teach their grandsons not just to ski, but to love the sport; everything comes full circle.

2020 was a tough year on many fronts, but Oglebay was a safe haven. The park saw an amazing influx of golf and tennis play, lots of people on the hiking trails, people just wanting to be outside. Skiing was no exception. “People who may have tried a sport in the past gravitated to those sports again last year,” Danny Ackerman, General Manager of Golf and Ski at Oglebay and Wheeling Parks observed.

Given the success of skiing in particular, the Wheeling Park Commission has made a commitment to invest in ski updates again this year. The park is continuing the momentum by focusing on: maintaining equipment; expanding and maximizing our snow making capabilities – growing the number of snow guns and increasing our electric capabilities, as well as maximizing water efficiency; training staff on best snow making practices to ensure an increased efficiency in snow making; investing in new rental equipment; and working on a 5-year plan to ensure the future of skiing at Oglebay.

Technology improvements and park investments still have to reckon with Mother Nature. All of these investments are changing the dynamic. The current snow making system will be enhanced with additional portable snow guns and hydrants allowing for better coverage on the main slope. These improvements will increase our snow capacity, especially during warmer periods.

The investment in local year-round recreational opportunities for the community is driving the decision. Paul Exley offered, “Wheeling is fortunate to have local skiing available. We have to invest in its future to make sure we can keep it going.”

The community continues to rally around skiing. The sport can do so much for so many people. Skiing is part of the Access to the Parks program, so cost is not an obstacle for any child in our community to participate. Skiing builds friendships, it fosters a love of the outdoors, it brings people together.

Paul and Hali Exley have made a five year commitment to investing in skiing at Oglebay. When asked about their investment, Paul offered, “I’m forever grateful to the sport and the community. That little ski area shaped my whole life. Of course I’m going to make sure that skiing is available for generations to come.”



Oglebay's snow machines are ready to assist.

Skiing returns to Oglebay (2004)





FESTIVAL of LIGHTS

LIGHT UP NIGHT

NOVEMBER 4 2021



FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS • 2020 IMPACT:

85,000+ visitors stayed at least one night in Wheeling generating more than **\$4 million in room revenue** plus another **\$2.8 million in visitor spending**, clearly demonstrating the positive economic impact of Oglebay's Festival of Lights.



Frank O'Brien
Executive Director
Wheeling/Ohio County Convention and Visitors Bureau



WE WANT TO KNOW!

"Great getaways! Lots of options for food on site. Family fun games and activities if needed. Views are incredible! The land is Super easy to walk around. 🥾"

Angela, October 22

"We stayed at Oglebay last weekend for our wedding anniversary. We had an amazing time. Everything was beautiful. The holiday displays in the lodge made it feel like we were in a Hallmark movie. 🎄 We loved exploring the grounds and the live music in the evenings in the lodge. November is the perfect time to see the trees changing colors."

Kristy, November 14

WHAT MAKES YOU
#OglebayProud?

"If you want to feel like a kid again, go to Oglebay's Festival of Lights. I just love it. ❤️"

Ann, November 5

"Awesome beauty surrounds this vast stately and impressively manicured property."

Shawn, September 17

"Tracy at the front desk went above and beyond 😊 - took her time, explained everything to us. Very informative and so friendly."

Margie, October 5

*We're so glad to hear from you via email, social media, or in person.
Whatever form of communication works for you, works for us!
Let us know how we're doing and what we can do for you!
foundation@oglebay.com • 304-243-4166*



The Oglebay Foundation is on social media.

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