

OUTLOOK

**THE
HILLSIDE TRUST**

Spring, 2023

Volume XLII Issue I

Landslide documentary broadcasts on PBS

The Hillside Trust is pleased to announce that WCET - Channel 48 is broadcasting the "Living with Landslides" documentary. It will air on Saturday February 18th at 7pm, and again on Friday February 24th at 9pm. The Hillside Trust appreciates the efforts of both WCPO TV and WCET TV in airing this important documentary.

In addition to these broadcasts, The Hillside Trust has presented private screenings of the film in front of several civic groups and the City of Cincinnati. Last Fall, The Hillside

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Rotational landslide damages Clifton home

3rd Annual Pope Coleman Awards - Thursday April 20, 2023

The Hillside Trust is hosting its Third Annual Pope Coleman Awards on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at the Anderson Pavilion on Mehring Way. The award is named after the late Pope Coleman, one of Cincinnati's foremost urban activists and preservationists. It was Pope's vision and inspiration that led to the creation of The Hillside Trust in 1976. The annual ceremony, named in his honor, recognizes civic and environmental leaders

who have made significant contributions to their communities.

This year's honorees are Leonard H. "Mike" Fremont, Pam Middendorff, and H.C. "Buck" Niehoff. Wade Johnston will be the keynote speaker for the event, and Julie Isphording will be the master of ceremony.

Mr. Johnston is the campaign manager for the CROWN, the Cincinnati Riding or Walking Network. The CROWN is a vision for Cincinnati's first-ever

urban trail loop, a 34-mile, multi-use paved trail that connects Cincinnati's iconic landmarks and hidden gems.

Ms. Isphording is a fitness expert and retired long-distance runner. She was a member of the inaugural women's marathon team of the 1984 Olympics. She is a well-known and sought after motivational speaker.

Sponsorships range from \$3000 to \$25,000 per table. Host

Please see awards page 2

City Hall considers action after viewing “Landslides” documentary

By Margaret A. McGurk, courtesy of Soapbox

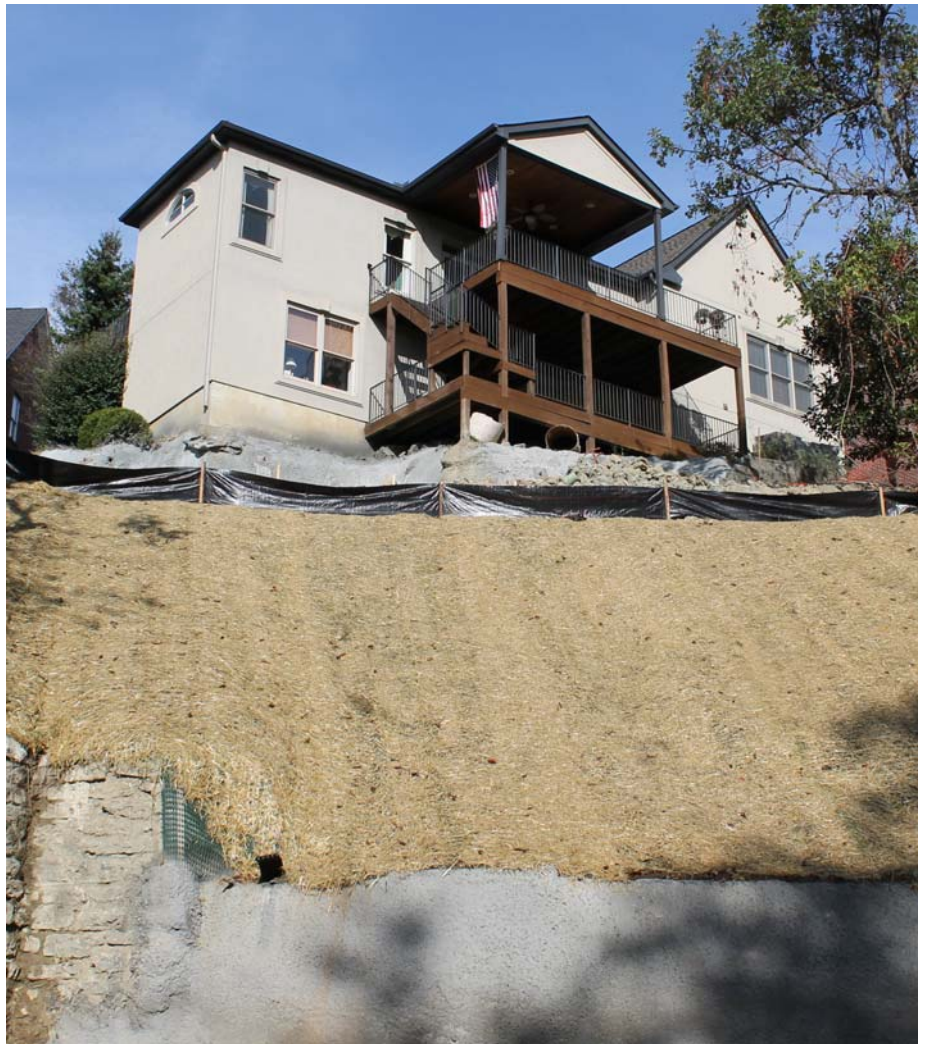
On January 19, representatives from six city departments watched “Living With Landslides,” which looked at the city’s long history of damage caused by unwise construction on unstable hillside property.

Because of its particular geology, Cincinnati is one of the most vulnerable landslide regions in the country. Damages run into the millions annually. Most visible was the recent \$18 million repair of hillsides over Columbia Parkway. Individual homeowners can face repair costs in the hundreds of thousands, which home insurance does not cover.

After each of two screenings at a Water Works auditorium, personnel from city offices of Buildings & Inspections, Transportation, Law, Police, Fire, and Water Works had the chance to question experts who appeared in the movie and producers. The documentary was commissioned by The Hillside Trust and produced by filmmaker Laure Quinlivan.

“Cincinnati is a topographically hilly city. In the face of climate change and increasing heavy precipitation, it’s necessary that our hillsides are preserved and stable,” Cincinnati Councilmember Mark Jeffreys said in a written statement.

The administration is in the process of analyzing all its hillside regulations. “It is a comprehensive process and looks at a variety of regulations for construction, (including) smaller lots, downspouts, stormwater runoff, etc. This is being driven by geotechnical engineers and other relevant city employees,” Jeffreys said.



Landslide repair behind home on Spencerhill Ln - Mt. Lookout

The Hillside Trust favors requiring developers to post performance bonds to cover the cost of landslide damage. There is no specific deadline for the administration’s review, but a report could be ready this spring.

WCET Channel 48 will broadcast “Living With Landslides” on February 18 at 7pm and February 24 at 9pm. The documentary first aired on WCPO Channel 9 on September 7.

Awards, from page 1

and Patron support range from \$150 to \$250 per person.

Single tickets are \$100 per individual. Formal invitations will be mailed out in March. On-line purchases will be available at www.hillside-trust.org at that time as well. For more information, please contact Eric Russo at 513-321-3886. Eric can also be reached at his email, eric.hillside-trust@fuse.net.

The Hillside Trust is excited to honor this year’s awardees.

Rising costs of urban forestry assessments

On March 30, 2022, Cincinnati City Council passed Resolution No. 42-2022, declaring the necessity of, and an assessment for, the planting, care, maintenance, trimming, and removal of public trees in and along the public right-of-way within the City of Cincinnati's Urban Forestry Maintenance District for the year 2023. This assessment provides the City with necessary funding to conduct 24-7 emergency response for downed trees in the right-of-way, a six-year preventative maintenance cycle, routine stump grinding, replacement of

all trees removed, and systematic planting to improve tree canopy in the highest areas of need throughout the city.

This forestry assessment has been in place since the 1980s. The current assessed rate is now \$0.31 per front foot of each real estate parcel.

The Hillside Trust owns over 150 parcels of hillside land within the City of Cincinnati, totaling over 135 acres. While The Hillside Trust is exempt from paying annual property taxes, it is not exempt from paying annual forestry assessments.

The Hillside Trust recognizes the importance of having an urban forestry assessment. At same time, The Hillside Trust is now paying over \$7000 a year in assessed costs.

In 2021, The Hillside Trust began calculating rising forestry assessments in land donations it was considering. Several prospective acquisitions were turned down as the donor could not pay the required stewardship costs. It is getting to the point where The Hillside Trust will be less able to conserve land within the city.

Documentary, from page 1

Trust presented the film at the Redmoor Theater in Mt. Lookout Square on October 5th. On October 28th, it screened the film at the Esquire Theater in Clifton. On January 19th it provided a morning and afternoon screening in front of Cincinnati city employees at the Greater Cincinnati Water Works headquarters.

During these screenings, the film's producer, Laure Quinlivan, and the film's experts including, Tim Agnello, Brenda Hunda, and Eric Russo were available to answer questions from the audience. The Hillside Trust encourages community groups, and municipalities alike to consider hosting private screenings of the documentary. It is an excellent way to promote the content of the video, and to engage those who have questions about this subject.

The film runs 44 minutes in

length. The Hillside Trust suggests a minimum time slot of 90 minutes to show the film, followed by sufficient time for questions and answers.

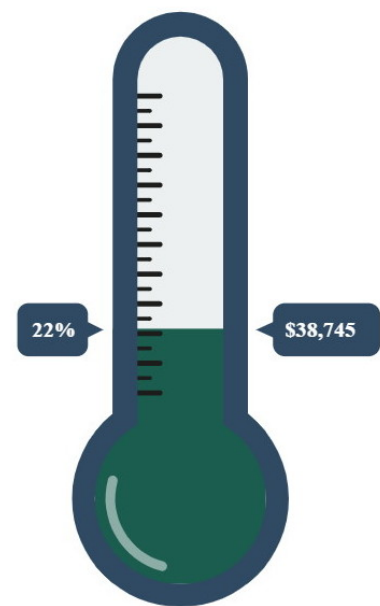
For information about scheduling a community screening, please contact Eric Russo at 513-321-3886. Eric can also be reached by email at eric.hillsideTrust@fuse.net.

Once WCET completes its broadcast schedule of the film, The Hillside Trust will archive it on its web page at www.hillsideTrust.org. It is estimated that this film will be available on its webpage some time by early spring of this year.

While the video will not be downloadable due to copyright protections, it will be available for repeat viewings free of charge. The Hillside Trust wants to make this documentary available to as many folks as possible, including teachers, students and government officials.

The Hillside Trust needs your support to reach its fundraising goal of \$180,000 in 2023.

GOAL: \$180,000



Reflects funds raised through February 1, 2023



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Salem Hills Preserve - Mt. Washington