IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS:
THIRD OF A THREE-PART SERIES
FEATURING HOMEWOOD, THE HILL DISTRICT AND HAZELWOOD

The final installment of our “In the Neighborhoods” series focuses on Hazelwood, the former home of a sprawling coke-producing plant for the steel industry that once fueled the Pittsburgh region’s economy. Like many local communities that had steelmaking at the heart of their identity as well as their financial stability, Hazelwood once teemed with bustling streets and thriving businesses. Then, the mill closed, sapping vitality out of the neighborhood as the local economy eroded.

Yet, similar to Homewood and the Hill District — the other neighborhoods featured in this series — determined residents, community leaders and local supporters have been steadily writing new chapters about Hazelwood rather than closing the book on the neighborhood. Energy and investment have returned to the community, and its future looks brighter than it has in decades with efforts underway to ensure that longtime residents share in the opportunities.

The Heinz Endowments has been among the neighborhood’s largest investors as one of the foundation partners that purchased the 178-acre former mill site in 2002. Now known as Hazelwood Green, the property is an integral part of the neighborhood’s revitalization. However, the transformation expands beyond the brownfield into the rest of the community. A variety of initiatives and partnerships incorporate the talents and interests of current residents and include support from government, universities, foundations and a range of organizations.

Today, Hazelwood’s unfolding story is providing lessons on how redevelopment can move forward in ways that are inclusive and beneficial for all.
Pittsburgh’s Hazelwood neighborhood sits on the northern side of the Monongahela River, a major part of the community’s industrial past and revitalized future.