



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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### **Park Foundation Director Jon Jensen Announces Upcoming Retirement**

Jon Jensen, current Executive Director of the Park Foundation, has announced his plan to retire on September 30, 2019 after twelve years with the organization. Park Foundation provides support to local and national nonprofits. During Jensen's tenure, the Foundation awarded over \$250 million in grants from 2008 through 2018 in the program areas of Higher Education, Media, Environment, Democracy and Civil Society, Animal Welfare. The Sustainable Ithaca and Community Needs programs awards over \$2million in grants in Tompkins County where the Foundation is based.

Highlights of Jon's leadership include the creation and direct management of the Sustainable Ithaca program, expansion of staff responsibilities, refinement of program directions including efforts related to the opposition to natural gas hydrofracking. He was also critical to the development and monitoring of the Program Related Investment program and the growth of the Mission Related Investment program. Jon shepherded the Foundation's move to a new LEED Platinum and Green Plus certified office in 2015. He also worked with community members to bring the We Are Ithaca project to fruition in 2018.

Jensen's retirement at 66 concludes nearly 40 years in environment and foundation philanthropy leadership including founding trustee roles for the Environmental Grantmakers Association, Funders Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities, and Confluence Philanthropy. He has also served as chair of the board for each of those national organizations. Other nonprofit board membership includes American Rivers, Institute for Conservation Leadership, Wildlife Preservation Trust International and Yellowstone Ecosystem Studies in addition to numerous advisory councils. His volunteer work has included community build and arts projects, and trips to Puerto Rico to aid in hurricane Maria recovery.

Jon came to the Park Foundation after fourteen years as Senior Program Officer for Environment at the George Gund Foundation in Cleveland. Other positions included serving as Senior Program Associate of the Pew Charitable Trusts, Associate Director of the Pew Conservation Scholars Program, and Executive Director of the Wildlife Preservation Trust

International. He has presented at local, regional and national conferences and higher education institutions on subjects such as endangered species conservation, nonprofit management, green buildings, smart growth, watershed conservation, foundation philanthropy, nonprofit leadership, journalism, higher education and mission related investing.

Jensen observed that, “It has been a pleasure and honor to work with the nonprofit community, Trustees and staff of Park to execute the vision of its founder Roy H. Park Sr.” He will continue as the Executive Director through September and will stay on as an advisor through the end of 2019.

“The Board of Trustees wants to express its deepest appreciation and thank Jon for all that he has done for the Park Foundation over the past 12 years. His contributions have been instrumental in many of Park’s accomplishments,” said Adelaide Park Gomer, President of the Foundation. “I want to acknowledge Jon’s dedication and service to our Foundation and wish him every success in the future. We will truly miss him,” Ms. Gomer added.

A tiff image of Jensen is attached below:

