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LEAFLET

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The bulletin of Partnerships for Parks, an initiative of the City Parks Foundation and the City of New York/Parks & Recreation

SPRING INTO SPRING



As the first signs of spring appear, trees bud, flowers bloom, people picnic and play, and the busy season in parks begins. In April and May, hundreds of organized events take place in parks.

Some are organized by Parks & Recreation itself, others by local groups that support their parks. To find out about the most prominent events, call the Special Events hotline at 1-888-NY-PARKS.

The types of events organized by local groups vary widely. For example, the group "Save a Park to Save a Child" in Fred Samuel Playground has lined up a series of events, including: "A Salute to Fred Samuel" on May 1; "It's My Park" Day on May 22; Youth Awareness Day on May 30; Puppets in the Park on June 13; Storytelling on June 26; and Children's Day in the Park on August 28.

Other groups are working with Parks to organize activities in parklands along waterways. For example, the River Ecosystem Expeditions are an opportunity for people to take canoe tours with the Urban Park Rangers. Just call 718-430-1832 for more information.

Sometimes a number of groups work together on joint events. One such example is the Bronx River Golden Ball Event - Meet me at the River! On April 24, 1999, eight community events and clean-ups will take place along the Bronx River as part of a celebration and awareness-raising event along the length of the river. For more information call 718-707-1384.

Beyond attending activities in the parks, there are hundreds of ways to get involved in helping parks and fighting for them. You can join the group in your neighborhood working on behalf of your local park. To find out about a group near you, just contact Partnerships Outreach Coordinators who serve as liaisons between groups and Parks & Recreation - Bronx: 718-430-1861; Brooklyn: 718-965-8992; Manhattan: 212-408-0214; Queens: 718-520-5913; Staten Island: 718-815-7194. If no such group exists, the Outreach Coordinators can help you start one. Spring offers the perfect time to engage people in a new group and get them involved.

From that point, your options are endless: for example, you could help bring life to a park by making your voice heard at community board meetings, working with the police to address safety and security issues, and engaging local business support for the park. You can also organize events like those mentioned in Fred Samuel Playground, or others such as concerts, family days, athletic tournaments, arts and crafts sessions, planting projects, clean ups, environmental education lessons and more! All of these activities serve as an excellent way to increase a group's membership base and help build alliances with other local groups.

Whether you want to get actively involved, or simply stay informed, Partnerships aims to provide ideas and strategies as you embark on your spring use of parks. Most importantly, enjoy the warmer days, be safe, and have fun!



CITY-WIDE SPRING EVENTS

There are many chances to help clean, green, and celebrate New York City's parks so mark your calendars now!

Hop over to New York City's largest Easter Celebration on Saturday, **April 3** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Central Park. Children from throughout the city will have the opportunity to decorate and hunt eggs, create arts & crafts, make Easter baskets, in-line skate with Rollerblades, get their faces painted, and watch Broadway performances all free of charge. Last April over 60,000 adults and children participated in the Easter festivities in Central Park. This year we would like even more New Yorkers to enjoy the Eggstravaganza!!!



Help out the city's largest parks by participating in cleaning and greening projects on **New York Cares Spring Clean-Up Day** on Saturday, **May 8**. Call New York Cares, a citywide volunteer organization at 212-228-5000 for information on registering.

Join the City of New York/Parks & Recreation, *Partnerships for Parks*, and the thousands of New Yorkers that volunteer to clean and green over 200 neighborhood parks on **"It's My Park!" Day** on Saturday, **May 22**. Participating sites must be registered by Thursday, **April 15** -- call your Outreach Coordinator for more information.

Celebrate the city's parks at ***You gotta have Park!***, which takes place at selected sites across the city on the weekend of **May 22-23**. Call 212-360-1357 for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Every year, Nickelodeon sponsors large youth volunteer events in cities across the country. **Nickelodeon's "The Big Help"** will be held in New York City on Saturday, **April 24** from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Adult volunteers are needed at six parks citywide to help oversee children as they paint, plant, and clean. Call 1-888-NY-PARKS or go to www.PartnershipsforParks.org for more information.

In conjunction with the Mayor's Millennium Committee, Parks & Recreation will be planting 2,000 trees for the year 2000. Volunteers are needed for **Parks & Recreation's Arbor Day Event** on Friday, **April 30** from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at five sites citywide to oversee students from neighborhood schools as they plant a portion of the 2,000 trees. Call 212-360-8126 for more information.

BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE: CONSERVATION IN THE FACE OF UNCERTAINTY

On Friday, April 30 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday, May 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation at the American Museum of Natural History will host a seminar in which scientists, natural resource managers, conservationists, and policymakers will explore the consequences of global warming on the planet's biodiversity and address conservation planning. The conference will feature a special session examining the past, present and future effects of a changing climate on New York City and conservation planning at the community level. To register, please call 212-769-5200 no later than April 15.

FEBRUARY PARTNERS OF THE MONTH

Brooklyn: As President of the **Independent Friends of McCarren Park**, **Helene "Kent" Leskin** is currently developing a recycling program and arts festival for the park.

Bronx: **Majora "Quinnahung" Carter**, Project Director for **The Point Community Development Corporation's Hunts Point Project**, led the installation of "Street Trees: The Hunts Point Sculpture Garden" and is developing safe and legal access to the Hunts Point waterfront.

Manhattan: **Ann "StreetTree" Mullen**, official caretaker of the street trees along **James J. Walker Park** is spreading her love of trees and gardening through horticulture projects for children at **Carmine Recreation Center**.

Queens: **Dave "Creator" Thomas** teaches children chess and basketball at **Detective K. L. Williams Recreation Center** and has played an integral in the construction and design of the new garden at the Center.

Staten Island: **Robert "Redtail" Zink** has devoted his life to the care of sick and injured wildlife. As Executive Director of **United for Wildlife** Bob will realize a dream this spring through the opening of a facility dedicated solely to the care and rehabilitation of orphaned or injured animals.

GreenThumb: **Dimas "Silverio" Cepeda**, greening the Bronx for over 18 years, is founder of **El Batey Borincano** garden which features a mural dedicating the site to Dimas' son who passed away, and where one can see people of all ages and backgrounds greening this four lot garden oasis.

HELPFUL NUMBERS

Partnerships for Parks 212-360-1310
To volunteer or to join your local parks group: 212-360-1357
For recorded information about special events: 888-NY-PARKS
To report graffiti, vandalism, or crime: 800-201-PARK

Parks on the Web: www.nycparks.org

Partnerships for Parks believes that parks are essential to the life of New York City, and that community involvement is essential to the life of a park. We work to start, strengthen, and support neighborhood park groups; to link them together so that they can learn from each other and be stronger collectively; and to promote parks in general so that people will be more likely to join in efforts to restore and preserve them.

Tim (Sailfish) Tompkins, Director

This issue of the Leaflet was written by Dana (Violet) Litvack.



CITY PARKS FOUNDATION



City of New York
Parks & Recreation

Rudolph W. Giuliani, Mayor
Henry J. Stern, Commissioner

1999 MAYOR'S CUP

SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

The United Athletic Association is holding qualifying rounds in all five boroughs this year, making the Mayor's Cup Softball Tournament a true city-wide championship. As your groups gear up for spring, think about registering for this exciting tournament. Qualifying rounds will take place in September, and finals will be held on Saturday, October 9 in Central Park. Event sponsors include: New York University Hospital for Joint Diseases - Event Physicians, Dudley Sports, and Dr. Jacqueline Muller. All funds raised will go to the City Parks Foundation for field maintenance and development and youth programs. If your league or team is interested in registering, please call 212-645-6488.

FREE COMPOST AVAILABLE

Starting in April, the New York Department of Sanitation and the City's four botanical gardens will be distributing free compost at various sites throughout the city. Residents may collect up to 60 gallons free of charge with their own containers; bins will be available for the reduced price of \$20. For more information about dates and sites of distribution near you call: Bronx - 718-817-8543; Brooklyn - 718-623-7290; Queens - 718-539-5296; Staten Island - 718-273-0629.

PARKS STORE

Parks & Recreation is happy to announce the opening of the new Parks store! Starting in mid-April from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, parkies and their friends can purchase park goodies from the store located in the Arsenal basement. The store will offer baseball caps, t-shirts, tank tops, frisbees, beach towels, and beach balls all featuring the Parks logo as well as *Partnerships for Parks* key chains, mugs and t-shirts. Merchandise will also be available at parks events near you, or if you would like to purchase something over the phone, just call 212-360-8181.

GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINES

July 1, 1999: City Parks Foundation Quarterly Grants Program. Supports projects developed by community groups for parks and playgrounds. Grants, up to \$5,000, are made in four areas: Playground Safety and Improvement, Recreation, Operations and Mechanization, and Horticulture and the Environment. 212-360-8181

April 16, 1999: Hudson River Foundation - New York City Environmental Fund Grants Program. Grants of \$5,000 to \$50,000 for projects that will foster restoration, care and public enjoyment of and education about the natural resources of New York City through encouraging stewardship, promoting community involvement, and focusing on education and/or action. 212-924-8290

A civilization flourishes when people plant trees
under whose shade they will never sit.
— Greek Saying

ATTENTION: FOR ADDRESS CORRECTIONS CALL 212-360-1357.

Address Service Requested

New York, NY 10021
830 Fifth Avenue

CITY PARKS FOUNDATION



Partnerships for Parks

