



UNITING IN SUPPORT OF PARKS

Throughout the City, tens of thousands of volunteers and hundreds of "Friends of the Park" groups are helping and fighting for their parks and playgrounds. Now, many of them are banding together to create boroughwide constituencies for parks. They are focused on next fall, when, because of term limits, there will be a whole new crop of candidates and elected officials who need to be educated about park issues and funding.

The **Brooklyn Park Advocates (BPA)**, a new coalition consisting of some 80 "Friends of the Park" groups and neighborhood associations in that borough, was one of the first such groups to form. By working together to create a unified voice to support Brooklyn's parks, they hope to improve the conditions of all the borough's green spaces. "By bringing people together, we can advocate more strongly and effectively for increased park spending," says Richard Green, the coordinator of the BPA, and a board member of the Prospect Park Alliance. "Many people don't realize this, but over the last 30 years, across different administrations and fiscal crises, the full time work force at Parks has been cut by 70% and the expense budget by 40%. Only one-half of one percent of the City's expense budget goes to parks. The next generation of City officials needs to know this and act on it."

To address this, the BPA has adopted a core mission to restore basic services to all Brooklyn parks. Specifically this means: 1) Regular cleaning and recreation staff for parks; 2) Increased park enforcement and more park rangers; 3) Increased volunteer programs in every district; and 4) Staff and resources to provide horticultural and forestry services to every park. To accomplish these goals, BPA has been approaching City Council members and local community boards to urge additional funding for parks programs and personnel. Recently, through a petition drive, BPA has collected over 6,000 signatures in support of its 4-point program.

Last spring, the group made a presentation to the Brooklyn delegation of the City Council. Susie Monagan, a BPA member who is part of the McCarren Park Moms, recalled that she spoke about how "the numbers [of Parks staff] are ridiculous given the amount of work." The result is that local groups sometimes do things that "shouldn't be a volunteer's responsibility." In the coming year, BPA hopes to run educational forums for City Council and Borough President candidates about the importance of parks and the need for increased public funding.

Friends groups in other boroughs have also been talking about forming similar borough-wide advocacy groups. For example, groups in the Bronx are planning to invite prospective City Council candidates to their next Bronx Speak-Up in February to learn more about where they stand on parks-related issues.

If you are interested in getting in touch with BPA or other groups in your own borough that are pursuing a similar agenda, contact your borough Outreach Coordinator by calling 212-360-1357.

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH PARKS

Throughout the City, Friends of Parks groups, civic associations, and Parks & Recreation will be celebrating the holiday season with festive park events. To get the latest information about an event near you, please check our website at www.itsmypark.org. If you don't have Internet access and would like a printed version of holiday events, please call us at (212) 360-1310. On behalf of *Partnerships for Parks*, we wish you and your loved ones a healthy and happy holiday season.

PARTNERSHIPS RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD

Partnerships for Parks is one of 10 winners selected from 1600 applicants nationwide to receive an Innovations In American Government Award, a prestigious public service award which will provide a \$100,000 grant to our program. Partnerships was honored for developing a broad-based, committed constituency for parks throughout the City.

"This is something that is meaningful in the lives of a lot of people and is helping to create a sense of community," said David Gergen, Chairman of the National Selection Committee. "We found that this program had a certain charm to it that was attracting all sorts of people back into the parks to support them."

The Innovations In American Government Awards "bring public attention to the quality and responsiveness of American government and helps foster the replication of programs that work." The program is funded by the Ford Foundation and administered by the John F. Kennedy School Government at Harvard University in partnership with the Council for Excellence in Government.

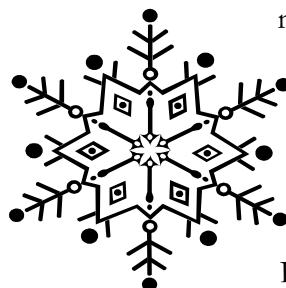
FREE WORKSHOPS

Members of community groups are invited to attend the following Partnerships' workshops in December:

Bronx: Incorporating Your Parks Group: How to File for 501(c)3 Status, Thursday, December 14 at St. James Recreation Center from 6:30 to 8:00pm.

Midtown Manhattan: City Government 101, Thursday, December 7 at the Arsenal from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.

Queens: Structure and function in a Friends of the Park Group, Tuesday, December 5 at the Overlook from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.



Partnerships can also offer workshops on request for individual groups. For more information or to register for a workshop, please call Charlotte Kaiser at 212-360-8166.

HELP SAVE TREES!

The New York Tree Trust's new Tree Rescue Program works to ensure that some of the city's most vulnerable street and park trees remain strong and healthy. The program helps trees that are being damaged or maimed by constricting tree guards, grates and sidewalks. They also work to improve site conditions around trees by widening small tree pits, removing unsightly debris, and adding soil and mulch. Seemingly small threats, such as lights wrapped tightly around branches or sidewalks paved to within inches of a tree trunk, can cause irreparable damage if not corrected. Please contact Jennifer Greenfeld at 212-360-TREE to report tree rescue candidates.



CLEAN-UP DAY THANK-YOUs

Thanks to the efforts of over 3,500 volunteers at 191 sites throughout the City, Parks & Recreation's annual fall Clean-Up Day on October 21 was a great success! Volunteers came out and painted fences, planted bulbs, raked leaves, and beautified hundreds of parks. Special thanks are owed to our Clean-Up Day sponsors: Keeper Springs, the Gap Foundation, and Starbucks. We also gratefully acknowledge the support of our raffle prize sponsors: Eastern Mountain Sports, Broadway's Jekyll & Hyde, The Rocky Horror Show, Chelsea Piers, and Luna Park.

HELPFUL NUMBERS

<i>Partnerships for Parks</i>	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

www.nyc.gov/parks

www.partnershipsforparks.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 edited by Dana (Violet) Litvack



CITY PARKS FOUNDATION



City of New York
Parks & Recreation

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

FUNDING DEADLINES

Late December 2000/Early January 2001: Citizen's Committee Drug and Crime Prevention Awards. Awards to community group projects that tackle drug and crime problems. 212-989-0909.

January 1, 2001: City Parks Foundation Quarterly Grants Program. Supports projects developed by community groups for parks and playgrounds with grants of up to \$5,000. 212-360-8292.

January 31, 2001: Neighborhood Open Space Management Grant Program. Helps groups more effectively manage local open spaces, primarily community gardens, in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods. 212-677-7171.

Late February 2001: Neighborhood Environmental Action Program (NEAP). For community groups that tackle environmental problems in low-income neighborhoods, including protection of local open space, with grants of up to \$5,000. 212-989-0909.

March 1, 2001: Chase Volunteer Greening Awards. Small grants for active volunteers who need money for tools, equipment, plants, and materials necessary for greening projects in City parks. 212-360-8166.

Early March 2001: Environmental Justice Small Grant Program. Grants for grassroots organizations that address problems of pollution in minority and low-income communities. 212-637-3639.

NEW PARKSCARD BENEFIT FOR THE HOLIDAYS...

Start your holiday shopping with a 10% discount on all books at the **Urban Books Center** at 457 Madison Avenue in Manhattan. While there, pick up some *Partnerships for Parks* holiday cards with winter scenes from your local park. For Urban Books' recommendations of books for parks and garden lovers, call 212-360-8156 or check our website, www.partnershipsforparks.org, for a full list of these and other ParksCard benefits.

Oh winter, ruler of th' inverted year,
Thy scatter'd hair with sleet like ashes fill'd,
Thy breath congeal'd upon thy lips, thy cheeks
Fring'd with a beard made white with other snows
Than those of age, thy forehead wrapp'd in clouds,
A leafless branch thy sceptre, and thy throne
A sliding car, indebted to no wheels,
But urg'd by storms along its slipp'ry way,
I love thee, all unlovely as thou seem'st,
And dreaded as thou art!

— William Cowpers, *The Task: Book IV*,
The Winter Evening, 1785

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

Address Service Requested

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CITY PARKS FOUNDATION
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