



'TIS WINTER AND THE SEASON FOR PLANNING



Winter is an excellent time of year for planning. Here are some suggested activities for parks groups in the off-season. Though many of these things can and should be done year-round, we recommend that you give them some extra thought during the winter, when there is less happening in parks.

Hold a Calendar Planning Meeting and a General Membership Meeting. Winter is an excellent time to discuss program and fund-raising goals for the year. Get together with your core members and lay out a schedule for the year. Your group can also brainstorm possible ways to bring people into the park during the off-season; for example, your group could host environmental education walks.

Apply for Grants. If you start preparing early you will have more time to talk to the funder and revise, therefore improving your chances of success (see below for possible grant opportunities).

Publish a Newsletter to keep people informed and involved. Include your year's calendar of events and solicit volunteers to help plan any of the scheduled events.

Form Partnerships. If you would like to work with another group (school, church, etc.) during the spring and summer, approach them during the winter.

Build Skills. Attend workshops hosted by *Partnerships* and other non-profits and bring along other group members (see below for some possible workshops).

Meet with your Elected Officials. You want to cultivate relationships with your elected officials, especially your Council member and Borough President, since they are the primary funders of Parks reconstructions, known as capital projects. The City Council puts together its budget in the spring, so make sure your voice is heard throughout the winter, beginning in January. Talk to your Council member or Borough President about major capital projects as early as you can in order to ensure support for your park needs in the budget.

Renew Dues-Paying Memberships. Securing financial support in the winter can allow your group to plan a yearly budget in relation to your project goals. You may have more time in the winter to contact members about dues.

Reserve Parks Services. Contact the Urban Park Rangers by February to schedule a time for them to host events in your park in the spring and summer; contact your borough Special Events office for a Wenger Wagon (a portable stage) several months in advance; and make your request for a Mobile Recreation Van in the early Spring.

Incorporate and become Tax-exempt. If you are an established parks group, you may want to consider becoming a registered non-profit. For more information you can contact the Non-Profit Coordination Committee of New York at 212-925-5340 or www.npccny.org/checklist.htm.



FREE WORKSHOPS

Members of community groups who want to learn about successful techniques practiced by other community leaders are invited to attend *Partnerships'* workshops. *Partnerships* can offer the following workshops on request for your group: **Starting a Friends of the Park Group, Fund-Raising for Parks Groups, Building Alliances, Making Your Park Safer, Planning Successful Events, or Advanced Outreach.** To request a workshop simply call Alyssa Weiss at 212-360-8166. All workshops are free of charge.

For January and February, *Partnerships* has already scheduled the following workshops which you can attend:

Bronx: Fund-raising for Parks Groups, Wednesday, January 27 at St. James Recreation Center from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. A tutorial in basic fund-raising techniques, including soliciting donations from local businesses, applying for grants, and running successful fund-raising events.

Midtown Manhattan: Making Your Park Safer, Wednesday, February 17 at the Arsenal from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Techniques in forming anti-crime alliances with key community members, organizing small actions with a big impact, and driving out negative activity, such as drug dealing and graffiti.

To register, please call Alyssa Weiss at 212-360-8166.

Some other organizations that offer workshops are: the Citizens Committee, 212-989-0909; Green Guerrillas, 212-674-8124; GreenThumb, 212-788-8059; The Nonprofit Connection, 718-230-3200; and Community Resource Exchange, 212-344-0195.



VOLUNTEER GREENING AWARDS

Now is the time to start thinking about applying for these awards. They acknowledge volunteers who have a proven track record by funding the tools, equipment, plants, and materials necessary for greening projects in City parks. Contact your Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator for more information; applications are due March 15, 1999.

GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINES

February 9, 1999: Philanthropic Collaborative - Youth, Community Gardens, and the Urban Environment Grant Program. Grants for urban greening projects that convert abandoned lots into community gardens, science learning labs and open space learning centers. 212-649-5614

February 15, 1999: Waterworks; Bronx River Grant Program. Grants for new community groups that educate and promote appropriate use and the health of the Bronx River. 718-430-4648

March 5, 1999: Environmental Protection Agency - Environmental Justice Small Grants Program. Grants for projects that address problems of pollution, raise awareness of environmental issues, and find solutions to these problems in low-income communities. 212-637-3639

March 15, 1999: Hudson River Foundation Fund. Grants for projects that enhance the public use and enjoyment of the Hudson River and its shores. 212-924-8290

April 1, 1999: City Parks Foundation Quarterly Grants Program. Grants for community groups that support their parks and playgrounds. 212-360-8181

NOVEMBER PARTNERS OF THE MONTH

Bronx: Michelle "Honeysuckle" Fox of **South Bronx Churches Morrisania Cluster** has worked tirelessly with her neighbors to take back **Youth Village Park** from negative activity.

Brooklyn: Melissa "Tormenta" Ortiz has demonstrated her commitment to **Sunset Park** by working with **Neighbors Helping Neighbors** and her local precinct's Explorers program to organize a highly successful Clean-Up Day and help 18 Young Explorers plant a new garden.

Manhattan: Jennifer "Birdsong" Finch-Karol has worked many years to create song bird habitats, organize volunteer days and construct a dog recreation area in **Madison Square Park**.

Queens: Through his dedicated outreach as president of **Police and Community Together**, Ron "Pasture" Vega helped **Sean's Place** receive funding for a complete renovation. Ron has also led *Partnerships'* workshops and shared his experiences in the Leaflet.

Staten Island: Community activist and new head of the **Friends of Clove Lakes Park**, Francesca "Foxglove" Rendell has long been encouraging her community to become more involved in Clove Lakes Park. She faithfully attends community board meetings to advocate park improvements.



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

DECEMBER PARTNERS OF THE MONTH

Bronx: As President of the **Friends of St. James, Santiago "Cat" Milland** has helped organize myriad events in the park each year, including a free Summer Youth Tennis Program.

Brooklyn: Chris "Sugar Cane" Watler of the **Crown Heights Community Mediation Center** has organized two large clean ups at **Lincoln Terrace Park** and is developing a photo-documentary project for young people to capture life in their parks and neighborhoods.

Manhattan: After gas tanks were excavated from **Convent Garden** in Hamilton Heights, **Juliette "Miami" Davis** and her volunteers have beautified this now thriving garden.

Queens: Within his first month on the job, **Harlan "The Pitbull" Chaney** of **Neighborhood Housing Services of Jamaica** spearheaded **Baisley Pond Park's** Second Annual Old Fashioned Christmas celebration.

Staten Island: John "Thunder" Calhoun has recruited volunteers and provided supplies at semi-annual clean ups at **Buono Beach** and **Clove Lakes Park**, and has devoted hours to restoring the grounds at **Alice Austen House** to their turn of the century glory.

GreenThumb: Under the leadership of **Jenny "El Angel" Benitez**, the **Riverside Valley Community Garden** has won many grants and awards. The group works hard to keep its garden vibrant and beautiful year round.

BRONX PARKS SPEAK UP

On Saturday March 6, Lehman College in the Bronx will host the annual Bronx Parks Speak Up from 1 to 5 p.m. Community members and greening groups from all over the Bronx will gather to discuss how to better their parks and natural areas. We hope that this will be a model for all other boroughs as a way to increase citizen awareness and participation in parks. For more information call **Dart "Eastrise" Westphal** of the **Bronx Council for Environmental Quality**, at 718-920-6316.

PARKS GROUPS BENEFIT

700 Parks' supporters came out on December 17, 1998 for the first-ever benefit organized by a collaboration of city-wide and local groups affiliated with Parks. Proceeds from the event will benefit two-dozen parks groups around the city. The Museum of Natural History offered an excellent venue for a sneak preview of the generously donated Disney film, *Mighty Joe Young* followed by dancing and entertainment in the Whale room. Special thanks goes to sponsors Daffys and Hidden Valley as well as all the individual contributors.

He that plants trees loves
others beside himself.
— Thomas Fuller, 1732

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

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CITY PARKS FOUNDATION



Partnerships for Parks

