

## Partnerships Academy: Growing Your Potential

### Who we are:

A joint program of the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation and City Parks Foundation, **Partnerships for Parks** helps New Yorkers work together to make neighborhood parks thrive. We strengthen our diverse, growing network of dedicated park volunteers and groups by creating opportunities for them to celebrate their parks and accomplishments, access resources, become more effective leaders in their communities, and work with government to affect decisions about their parks.

Through its Technical Assistance Program, **Partnerships for Parks** provides tools and training to park groups including workshops, consultations, outreach publications, small grants, and an online resource library.

### Program description:

**Partnerships Academy** is a free fellowship program that supports community-based parks groups and individual volunteers to achieve sustainable success through in-depth project and group development. Fellows learn new skills, network and share best practices, hear from experienced resource speakers, and are eligible for a selective mini-grants program. All sessions are tailored to fit the unique needs of park volunteers.

Fellows will have the opportunity to develop closer relationships with **Partnerships for Parks**, and our two parent organizations, **City Parks Foundation** and the **New York City Department of Parks & Recreation**. Session topics include defining goals; developing an action plan; approaching and pitching to potential partners; community outreach; event advertising; website implementation; grant writing; and group dynamics, among others.

Over the course of the year, fellows will attend 4 workshops, 4 consultations, and 3 peer learning sessions. Fellows will also have the opportunity to choose from a number of exciting and dynamic electives. After completing the yearlong **Academy** program, fellows will receive exclusive access to future events and workshops, and will become part of an ever-growing network of dedicated community leaders.

### \*Examples of potential projects

These are a few examples of projects that fellows from previous classes have or are working on:

- Forming a group of community members to develop programming in a park or playground.
- Partnering with biking organizations to raise awareness of alternative transportation options and its impact on parks.
- Launching innovative waterfront activities to educate about and encourage sustainable usage of NYC waterways.

\*Do not feel limited by these ideas - Be creative!

### Who is eligible?

Any community-based groups or individual volunteers working in Department of Parks and Recreation sites across the five boroughs of New York City are welcome to apply. Applicants should have a specific goal or project in mind, and must commit to the full one-year Academy program of workshops, consultations, peer-learning sessions, and assignments. Those with prior working experience with **Partnerships for Parks** may be given preference.

The ideal candidate(s) will:

- Propose a sustainable project, which will benefit their park(s), community, and/or the City of New York.
- Be open to new ideas, methods, and information to better accomplish their projects and/or build a successful group.
- Commit to working collaboratively with other fellows and **Partnerships for Parks**.

*We encourage you to call us to discuss your application at (212) 676-6054.*

