



New York City's Parks Movement Shines at Great Parks/Great Cities Conference

This summer, friends of parks were delighted to find delegations of visitors from across the country and around the world learning about their favorite New York City green spaces and the groups that support them. These visitors consisted of more than 400 people from 90 cities and 10 countries. They were taking part in a conference organized by the Project for Public Spaces' Urban Parks Institute and funded by the Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund, which used the involvement of neighborhood groups in New York City parks, community gardens, and recreation facilities as prime examples of successful neighborhood renewal.

In July, the sixth annual "Great Parks/Great Cities" conference attracted elected officials, park advocates, non-profit leaders, and community activists who wanted to learn more about the role that parks can play in revitalizing urban areas. Over the course of four days, attendees heard from experts who have worked with parks and community groups in a variety of cities, striving to improve their neighborhoods.

Chicago's Mayor Richard M. Daley spoke about the economic benefits of parks, while Enrique Peñalosa, the former mayor of Bogota, Colombia, talked about his successful efforts to create more than 1,000 parks in three years. Participants also heard about *Partnerships for Parks'* efforts to help strengthen community groups, as well as the Parks 2001 campaign's goal to make funding for parks a higher priority for New York City public officials. Remarks were also made by Commissioner Henry Stern and Tim Tompkins; workshops were led by many Parkies as well.

For many conference-goers a particular highlight of the event was the tours of city parks and community gardens. These tours, organized by *Partnerships* and GreenThumb and led by community groups, provided an opportunity to showcase the efforts of volunteers in several parks around the city.

The conference also included the presentation of awards to parks and urban spaces that have made a difference in their communities. Brooklyn's own Prospect Park was honored with the William H. Whyte overall achievement award for its track record of making Prospect Park the setting for diverse community activities and for significantly helping to improve the city's social, economic and environmental health.

One primary outcome of the conference was that delegates from across the country were able to meet like-minded individuals who are dedicated to improving their cities by bettering local parks. *Partnerships* staff spoke with parks advocates from Chicago, Denver, San Francisco, San Antonio, St. Louis, and Las Vegas, who were eager to create programs similar to *Partnerships*. These conversations helped delegates feel that they were part of a national movement to improve urban parks.

Efforts are also underway to create a national urban parks advocacy organization. The new City Parks Alliance's founders include many of the New York City's parks organizations such as *Partnerships*, the Project for Public Spaces, the Central Park Conservancy, and the Prospect Park Alliance, as well as representatives from 15 other organizations across the country.

Formally launched at the conference, this Alliance was created by a coalition of national and local parks groups that previously received funding from Wallace-Reader's Digest Funds. The Alliance will support efforts between the public and private sector to improve parks, link groups similar to *Partnerships* across the country, and establish a voice for urban parks within the national agenda.

The "Great Cities/Great Parks" conference was a networking opportunity resulting in new and exciting national and international partnerships. So, next time you're on a trip out of town, don't forget to check out the local parks and green spaces. Find out what's going on!

This article was written by Ellen Flax.

Fall Clean Up Day is Coming: Saturday, October 20, 2001

Join *Partnerships for Parks* and the thousands of New Yorkers who will show their solidarity and support



*Painting in Stuyvesant Park
Clean-Up Day 2000*

for parks by gathering, planting bulbs, painting fences, labeling trees, raking leaves, and caring for their neighborhood parks at the **Annual Fall Clean Up Day on Saturday, October 20, 2001.**

If your group is registering for the first time, participation in a Clean Up Day workshop is required.

To register or to attend a workshop, contact your **Outreach Coordinator.**

- Bronx:**
718.430.4641
- Brooklyn:**
718.965.8902
- Manhattan:**
212.408.0214
- Queens:**
718.520.5913
- Staten Island:**
718.815.7194



*Cleaning up Crotona
Clean-Up Day 2000*

For more information, visit www.itsmypark.org

THE TERRIBLE EVENTS OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 HAVE AFFECTED ALL OF US. OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH THE VICTIMS OF THIS TERRIBLE TRAGEDY, THEIR FAMILY AND FRIENDS. AS THIS IS GOING TO PRINT, WE ARE BEGINNING TO PLAN DIFFERENT WAYS THAT PEOPLE CAN GET INVOLVED TO HELP IN THE WEEKS TO COME. MORE IN THE NEXT LEAFLET.

GET CONNECTED: GO ONLINE FOR NEWS AND MUCH MORE!

Partnerships for Parks online is a great resource for information about **grants** (like City Parks Foundation quarterly grants), **seasonal events** (like upcoming Halloween celebrations), **ParksCard benefits** (like EMS Club Day on October 27, 2001), **workshops**, and **volunteer opportunities**. The site also features inspiring **Success Stories** and the latest on **Partners of the Month**. Find out what's going on in your park, ideas for park events, or follow the links to other groups' and organizations' websites. Log on to: **www.itsmypark.org**



Editor's Note: The July/August issue incorrectly stated that Clean-Up Day would be Saturday, October 21. The correct date is Saturday, October 20, 2001 (see front page for more information).

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

www.itsmypark.org
www.nyc.gov/parks

Partnerships for Parks, a joint initiative of City Parks Foundation and City of New York/Parks & Recreation, 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.

Peter (Donegal) Crumlish, Deputy Director

Dana (Violet) Litvack, Director of Operations

This issue of the Leaflet was edited by Blaise Alysén (Breeze) Kearsley



CITY PARKS FOUNDATION



City of New York
Parks & Recreation

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

FREE WORKSHOPS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Community group members are invited to attend *Partnerships* workshops being held this fall citywide. To register for a workshop or to receive any of the workshop materials, call Charlotte (Weaver) Kaiser at 212.360.8180.

Make Your Garden Grow:

Fall Horticulture Techniques

How can you be sure your plantings will bloom again next spring? Come to this workshop and learn techniques from a professional gardener for wintering over your garden. Also, learn how to identify trees and how to receive tree labels for your park.

Wed., Oct. 10; 6-8pm; The Arsenal, Central Park

Making Your Park Safer: Fighting Crime in Parks

Learn techniques for forming anti-crime alliances with key community members and how to drive out negative activity by organizing small actions that will have a big impact. This workshop will include a presentation from a community member who has effectively made his park a safer place.

Thurs., Oct. 11; 6-8pm; Litchfield Villa, Brooklyn

Tues., Dec. 4; 6-8pm; The Overlook, Queens

Money Matters: Fund-raising for Park Groups

Learn techniques for approaching businesses, individuals, and foundations for support, and get tips on writing grant proposals. This workshop will also feature a presentation by a group that has successfully raised money for a neighborhood park. Parks groups only, please.

Wed., Nov. 14; 6-8pm; The Arsenal, Central Park

Looking Ahead to 2002:

Event Planning and Fund-raising

What's next for your group? How can you keep people engaged over the winter? This workshop will offer ideas for developing a twelve-month calendar, planning events, and finding funding and resources for your projects. Join a discussion with a community member whose group has successfully held regular events.

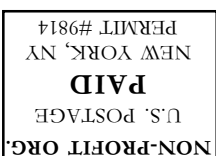
Tues., Nov. 13; 6-8pm; St. James Recreation Center, the Bronx

Thurs., Nov. 15; 6-8pm; The Overlook, Queens

"We have nothing to fear and a great deal to learn from trees, that vigorous and pacific tribe which, without stint, produces strengthening essences for us, soothing balms, and in whose gracious company we spend so many cool, silent and intimate hours."

Marcel Proust; Pleasures and Regrets, 1896

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



Partnerships for Parks
CITY PARKS FOUNDATION
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10021

