



PARTNERING WITH PARKS

When asked about their most important relationships, parks volunteers will often tell you that it's crucial to know and work with Parks & Recreation employees, especially your park's Supervisor and Manager. In fact, the whole idea behind *Partnerships for Parks* is that a park does best when the community and the agency work together as a team.

PARKS 101

Primary responsibility for parks maintenance falls to the **Borough Commissioner**, whose **Chief of Operations**, along with his or her **Deputy Chief**, oversee day to day operations. For the purposes of management, the City's parklands are divided geographically into **Park Districts**, which generally correspond with Community Board districts. Park Districts are the responsibility of a **Principal Park Supervisor (PPS)**, who oversees other **Park Supervisors (PSs)** and manages the cleaning and maintenance duties performed by **Associate Parks Service Workers (APSWs)**, **City Parks Workers (CPWs)** and participants in the **Work Experience Program (WEPS)**. Principal Park Supervisors report directly to **Parks & Recreation Managers (PRMs)**, each of whom is responsible for several Districts, together known as a **Sector**. Each borough also has a **Volunteer Coordinator** or **Outreach Coordinator** who acts as a liaison between the agency and the volunteers and "Friends of the Park" groups.

RELATIONSHIPS IN ACTION

The improvement of Berry Playground in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, is a particularly good example of what community groups and agency personnel can do when they work together. While the playground is awaiting major renovations, **Axel Miranda** and **El Puente**, a social service organization, have painted the existing fixtures in wonderful colors and designs and painted games for children on the blacktop. All of this could not have been done without the help of **Art DeCesario**, the district's Parks & Recreation Manager, and the Principal Park Supervisor, **John Dwyer**, who have provided attention, technical assistance, tools and supplies. Axel

also credits Art with expediting funding for a fence for the playground and convincing the Department of Transportation to provide floodlights to illuminate the playground at night. The community is so pleased with the help they have received from their "Parkies" that they plan to publicly thank them at the August 16 carnival to be held at Berry Playground.

Jennifer (Birdsong) Finch-Karol of the **Friends of Madison Square Park** also developed a particularly strong relationship with her Park Supervisor, **Mary Ellen Burtner**. Jennifer, an artist, worked with Mary Ellen in creating a 15 foot mural, entitled "Animal Parade," for a playground in **Union Square Park**.

TIPS ON BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Here are a few simple actions that you can take to improve your relationship with your PRM, PPS, or PS:

Let them know who you are. Introduce yourself and your group members. Set up a meeting to discuss your shared goals and visions for the park.

Ask them what they think needs to be done. They know their parks. Work with them to develop realistic goals that work for both of you.

Keep them in the loop. District personnel need to know what is going on in their area. Let them know what you're up to. Tell them far in advance when you're planning a clean-up or event. Send them your newsletter. Remember, they can talk to you about more than just supply requests.

Know their schedules. Many PRMs, PPSs, and PSs work from very early in the morning to mid-afternoon and are rarely in their offices because they have so much territory to cover, not just your park. Find out from them the best time to reach them.

Thank them, officially. When they've been helpful, write them a thank you note. Feel free to send a copy to the Borough Commissioner to make sure that they get recognition for their efforts. Needless to say, if Parks people are rude or unhelpful, it's OK to let their supervisors know that, too.

FREE TRAINING WORKSHOPS AND RESOURCE PACKETS

To register for workshops or order packets, call Bodi Luse, the new Technical Assistance Coordinator, at 212-360-8186.

TRAINING WORKSHOPS

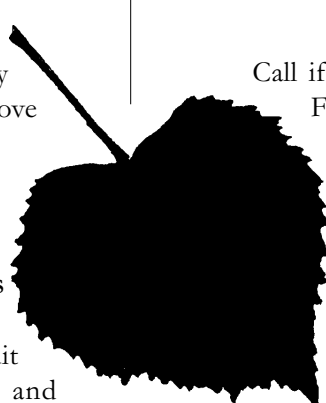
ESTABLISHING A FRIENDS OF THE PARK GROUP - Recently formed groups and older groups that are looking to move to the next level can hear how others have built solid, long-lasting, effective groups.

October 1, 6pm, the Arsenal, Manhattan

PLANNING SUCCESSFUL CLEAN UPS AND OTHER EVENTS

Events you hold in the park, like Clean-Up Day (October 18) and Halloween, can be used to recruit new members, enhance your image, raise money, and strengthen your group. Come to a workshop in your borough to find out how. Free "It's My Park" t-shirts for attendees (limit 2 per group).

Bronx - September 4, 6pm, Owen Dolen Senior Center
Queens - September 8, 6pm, the Overlook, Forest Park
Brooklyn - September 10, 6pm, Litchfield Villa, Prospect Park
Staten Island - September 11, 6pm, Cromwell Recreation Center
Manhattan - September 15, 6pm, the Arsenal, Central Park



NEW RESOURCE PACKETS

Call if you want our two new packets, **Establishing a Friends of the Park Group** and **Making Your Park Safer**, or our previous kits on fundraising, event planning, and alliance building.

SAVE THE DATE

September 6 - GreenThumb Harvest Fair - to learn more about this celebration of urban gardening, call the Brooklyn Botanical Garden at 718-622-4433 ext. 202

September 20 - International Coastal Cleanup - to help clean a shorefront near you, call Barbara Cohen of the **American Littoral Society** at 718-471-2166.

October 18 - Clean-Up Day - call your Outreach Coordinator for details.

October 31 - Halloween - a great day for costume contests and haunted walks in the park.

Mid-Late December - celebrate the holiday season with music, pageants, arts & crafts, and tree trimmings.

GETTING MONEY FOR YOUR PARK

Many parks and playgrounds have been renovated in the last few years. But if yours hasn't, now is the time to start talking to someone -- everyone, to be more precise -- about getting construction funds put into the City's capital budget.

Begin by talking to your City Councilmember and Borough President, because they are the ones who fund most park renovations. Also, now is the time to talk to your Community Board because in September they start deciding what their budget priorities are. Don't forget that the Board also sets priorities for the expense budget, which pays for staffing like playground workers, maintenance people, Rangers and Park Enforcement Patrols.

For more information about the budget process, call Bodi Luse at 212-360-8186 or talk to your Outreach Coordinator (see list at right).

GRANT APPLICATION DEADLINES

SEPTEMBER 30: Brooklyn Arts Council Regrant Program.

Money can be used for performances. 718-625-0080.

OCTOBER 1: City Parks Foundation Quarterly Grants Program. Grants for community groups that take care of parks and playgrounds. 212-360-8181.

OCTOBER 15: Hudson River Improvement Fund. Funds projects that enhance public use and enjoyment of the natural, cultural, and scenic resources of the Hudson River and its shores. 212-924-8290.

NOVEMBER 3: Citizens Committee Drug and Crime Prevention Awards. Awards to community groups that tackle neighborhood drug and crime problems. 212-989-0909.

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:	212-360-3456
To report graffiti, vandalism, or crime:	800-201-PARK

Partnerships for Parks works to increase community support for parks throughout New York City. Founded in 1995 as a joint initiative of the City Parks Foundation and Parks & Recreation, *Partnerships* strengthens groups that care for local parks, links them so they can work together, and promotes citywide appreciation of our parks.

Tim Tompkins, Director

This issue of the Leaflet was written by Bodi (Sunlight) Luse and Michelle (Wisdom) Solomon



CITY PARKS FOUNDATION



City of New York
Parks & Recreation
Rudolph W. Giuliani, Mayor
Henry J. Stern, Commissioner

WHO'S WHO AT PARTNERSHIPS

Every borough has Volunteer/Outreach Coordinators who work with community groups that help their parks. Please call them for help working with Parks, organizing events, and starting, strengthening, or joining a "Friends of the Park" group.

BROOKLYN: Ras (Matazz) Kirmani & Denise (Gazelle) Holt, 718-965-8992; Carol Anastasio (*Prospect Park*), 718-965-8960.

BRONX: Samantha (Pebbles) Stone 718-430-1861; Fard (Riff) Johnson & Vanessa (Big Red) Irizarry Gaud, 718-430-1864; Valerie Davis O'Neal, 718-430-1836; Marianne (BIC) Anderson (*Van Cortlandt & Pelham Bay Parks*), 718-430-1890.

MANHATTAN: Mary (Priceless) Price, Margaret (Tavola) Asaro, & Sharon (Butterfly) Williams, 212-408-0215; Marcy O'Dell (*Central Park*), 212-360-2752; Joanne Morse (*Riverside Park*), 212-870-3070.

QUEENS: Andrea (Panther) Malloy & Carrie (Sister) Smedira, 718-520-5913; Kathy (Foxy) Dallojacono (*Flushing Meadows-Corona Park*), 718-760-6561; Josephine Scalia (*Forest Park*), 718-235-4151.

STATEN ISLAND: Janet Mahoney, 718-390-8033.

NEWS FROM THE BOROUGHS

Friends of the Park groups have been active throughout the city this summer. Here's just a few of the season's noteworthy happenings:

BRONX -- Local leaders in **Crotona** and **St. James Park** took advantage of **City Parks Foundation's** Arts in the Parks performances to publicize their groups and recruit new members. The **South East Bronx Community Organization** came out to take care of **Youth Village Park** on July 17.

BROOKLYN -- Great beautification projects took place in **Berry Playground, Von King Park, Lindover Park, Marion Hopkinson Playground, Lincoln Terrace Park, Owl's Head Park**, and others.

MANHATTAN -- The **Save a Park to Save a Child** committee hosted Family Caring Day in **Fred Samuel Playground**. The newly-formed **Friends of Ruppert Park** have made huge strides in organizing themselves. Much needed volunteer work was done by teams from **Credit Suisse First Boston; Paul, Weiss Law Firm;** and the **Center for Retardation and Mental Development**.

QUEENS -- The **Long Island City Interblock Association**, together with **Jeanette Banley-Abreu**, the Playground Associate for **Murray Playground**, organized a family festival and concert on July 19. Summer Youth Employment Programs are in full-swing in several parks this summer, coordinated by the **Wildcat Academy**, the **Parks Council, Community Board 13**, and **Catholic Charities**.

FOR ADDRESS CORRECTIONS CALL 212-360-1330

Address Correction Requested

New York, NY 10021
830 Fifth Avenue

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