



TAKING IT TO THE BEACH (& POOL)

What can you do to beat the heat of summer in the city? For many New Yorkers, the answer to that question is to visit Parks & Recreation's 14 miles of beaches and 33 full-sized outdoor pools. Last year 10 million people visited the beaches, and 1.5 million swam in the pools.

Parks works hard to ready its beaches and pools for the summer months. For the July 2 pool opening, all of the facilities were in great shape: decks clean and smooth, pool interiors freshly blue, water fresh and clean. In all, \$4 million went into pool repairs. According to Commissioner Henry J. Stern, "Our pools are in the best condition they have been in years, thanks to our aggressive capital repairs. For example, Astoria Pool has received a new pumping system, deck, surface, spray showers and lighting."

Each pool is open daily for general swim. Many pools also offer a variety of programs, from Senior Splash, where seniors can swim in a kid-free environment at Asser Levy Pool in Manhattan, to daily lap swims at Lyons Pool in Staten Island (and many other pools citywide). In addition, 5,600 children and adults will learn the ways of the water in free Learn to Swim programs offered at every Parks & Recreation pool. Call 718-699-4219 for more information on Learn to Swim, which is sponsored by City Parks Foundation.

Parks has seven beaches: Coney Island and Manhattan Beach in Brooklyn, Orchard Beach in the Bronx, Rockaway Beach in Queens, and South, Midland, and Wolfe's Pond Beach in Staten Island. Efforts to prepare and maintain these fourteen miles, which opened for use on Memorial Day weekend, are intense. At Rockaway Beach in Queens, and other beaches, Parks built dunes to help control erosion. To do this, snow fencing is erected in affected areas. Over time, sand sticks to the fence and forms a dune. Eventually, grass is planted to ensure stabilization. As Parks' beaches become cleaner and less polluted, endangered species are returning. Last year there were ten pairs of piping plovers nesting on Rockaway Beach. Other endangered species found on New York City beaches are the Least Tern, another shorebird, and the Sea Beach Amaranth, a plant. The Urban Park Rangers are charged with protecting these species. For more information on the Rangers programs, which include tours of these beaches and other parks, call 212-360-3456.

GET INVOLVED

Many local and citywide organizations are involved in New York City's ponds, bays, and rivers. Here are just a few:

The **American Littoral Society**, a national organization that devoted to shores and marine life. Join them in the International Coastal Cleanup on September 19. 718-471-2166.

Floating the Apple, a community-based organization working to restore safe, universal access to New York's waterways. 212-564-5412.

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater/Friends of Clearwater, a group that organizes education and advocacy programs and celebrations of the river. 212-460-5430.

Bronx Riverkeeper Program, which does river monitoring and water testing on the Bronx River. 718-933-4079.

Shorewalkers, an organization dedicated to exploring and preserving shores and wetlands of the City. 212-663-2167.



AND TO THE WATERWAYS

Throughout the summer months, New York City's rivers and bays are also crowded with water-sport enthusiasts and people seeking relief from the heat.

If you have a kayak or canoe of your own, you are invited to launch it from any of six launch sites designated and maintained by Parks & Recreation. In order to use the launch sites, you must first get the \$2 Kayak/Canoe Launch Permit available from Parks permit offices around the city; at \$2 it's the least expensive of all Parks fee permits. Call 212-360-8134 for more information on the permits. Launch sites are as follows: in the Bronx, Clason Point, the foot of Soundview Ave. and in Pelham Bay Park at the Orchard Beach Lagoon; in Manhattan, at the Riverside Park Marina at 79th Street, in Riverside Park at 148th Street, and in Inwood Hill Park at Dyckman Street; and in Queens, at the Bayside Marina.

If sailing's your passion, Parks also has marinas where you can rent a berth for your boat. In Brooklyn, try All Seasons Marina (718-253-5434). In Manhattan, there's the 79th Street Boat Basin (212-567-5120) and the Dyckman Street Marina (212-496-2105). In Queens, visit the Bayside Marina (718-229-0097) or the World's Fair Marina on Flushing Bay (718-478-0480). If you're in need of lessons, **TASCA Sailing School and Club** offers introductory and advanced sailing classes at Meadow Lake in Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Contact Sherrie Jackson or Les Eldridge at 718-699-1951-+ or tasca@dorsai.org.

A few of the City's other opportunities for boating are: The **Manhattan Kayak Company** at Chelsea Piers (at 23rd Street and the Hudson River in Manhattan) rents kayaks and offers paddling classes and tours. 212-336-6068.

The **Downtown Boathouse** (between Hubert Street and North Moore Street on the Hudson River in Manhattan), a volunteer organization, lends kayaks on a first-come basis, offers lessons, tryouts, supervised river tours on the weekends. 212-966-1852. **New York Outrigger** (Pier 63 Maritime at 23rd Street and 12th Ave. in Manhattan), a canoe club, offers outrigger canoe clinics and excursions. Contact Simone Petersen at 212-684-0812.

Finally, you can swim the waterways with the **Manhattan Island Foundation**, which sponsors a 28.5 mile marathon swim around Manhattan each summer, as well as other swims. For more information, call 212-873-8311 or visit them on the Internet at www.swimnyc.org.

OR JUST RELAX

Here is a partial list of scenic places in parks (besides beaches) where you can enjoy a day at, on, or near the water:

Brooklyn: Marine Park, Prospect Lake, Sheepshead Bay, Tucker Park, Belt Parkway Bike Trail, Owl's Head Park

Bronx: Soundview Park, River Park, Crotona Lake, Bronx Park

Queens: Captain Tilly Park, Brookville Park, Springfield Park, Baisley Pond Park, Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, Udall's Cove, MacNeill Park, Socrates Sculpture Park

Manhattan: Central Park, Riverside Park, Carl Schurz Park, East River Park, Inwood Park

Staten Island: Silverlake Park, Clove Lakes Park

ANNOUNCING: CLEAN-UP DAY 1998

Parks & Recreation's annual fall day of cleaning and greening will take place this year on **October 17, 1998**. Thousands of volunteers at hundreds of sites citywide will paint fences, plant bulbs, rake leaves and beautify the parks in many other ways. Please contact your Outreach Coordinator as soon as possible to let them know if you will be taking part.

CLEAN-UP DAY WORKSHOP: We encourage everyone to attend our Clean-Up Day workshop to learn how to make the most of your event. **Groups that have never participated in Clean-Up Day must attend this workshop or make special arrangements with their Outreach Coordinator to receive the information.** Call Alyssa Weiss at 212-360-8166 to register.

**Monday, September 28, 6pm in the Arsenal,
830 5th Avenue, Central Park**

PARTNERSHIPS FIRST ANNUAL BENEFIT

Save the date! *Partnerships for Parks'* first annual benefit will be held on Wednesday, September 16 from 5:30 - 8:30 pm in Tompkins Square Park. Tickets start at \$50. Call Alyssa Weiss at 212-360-8166 for information.

IN MEMORIAM

Ralph Valentine, a fixture in volunteer gardening on the Upper West Side and a founder of the Garden People of Riverside Park, died in June after a long illness. The miniature houses and villages that he created in his garden are well known to Riverside Park visitors. The Garden People will hold a memorial service at their Fall Festival.

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

Parks on the Web: www.nycparks.org

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 support their local parks, links these groups so they are stronger collectively, and promotes citywide appreciation of our parks.

Tim (Sailfish) Tompkins, Director

This issue of the Leaflet was written by Bodi (Sunlight) Luse.



CITY PARKS FOUNDATION



City of New York
Parks & Recreation

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

NEWS FROM THE BOROUGHES:

JUNE PARTNERS OF THE MONTH

On June 26, *Partnerships* announced and celebrated June's Park Partners of the Month at a luncheon with Commissioner Stern. These community leaders exemplify the best of local activism on behalf of parks:

Bronx: Cynthia "Devoted" Grant, of **His Glory Bible Fellowship**, a local church, has been an active member of the Friends of St. James Park for the past year. During this year's "You Gotta Have Park!" celebration, she helped start a fundraising initiative with businesses around St. James Park by asking them to place posters in their windows. Recently, Ms. Grant has also put much energy into nearby **Devoe Park**.

Brooklyn: Because of the efforts of **Karieema "Dahlia" Jordan** and the **Underwood Park Improvement Crew (UPIC)**, **Underwood Park** is home to a wonderful garden and strong community spirit. In the last year, Karieema has helped build and design a stone wall, plant a moon garden and organize a planting day during "It's My Park" with children from the neighborhood.

Manhattan: Helen "Mount Morris" Murray is the president of the **Mount Morris Park Community Association**, a community-based organization in Harlem which is very active in **Marcus Garvey Park**. She has been instrumental in getting other groups in the community involved in volunteering in the park. Helen has planned several successful volunteer clean-up projects during the year which have brought in scores of community residents to clean, weed, rake, paint benches and plant flowerbeds.

Queens: Ken "Thunderbolt" and Valerie "Valle Girl" Cohen founded the **75th Avenue Playground Volunteers Inc.** Through their work with local schools and civic organizations, their Community Board and their police precinct, they have made **Playground 75** in Flushing a vital center of their community. Aside from their everyday volunteer activities, each summer they supplement the Police Athletic League recreation program in the park by sponsoring various special events to foster community pride.

Staten Island: Lucy "Chrysalis" Bauer, District Director of the **Federated Garden Clubs of New York State**, administers six Staten Island garden clubs that conduct many valuable volunteer projects in Staten Island's parks. She also works to educate the public about Staten Island wetlands and open spaces that are very important to the conservation of natural habitats.

I must go down to the seas again, for the call of the running tide
Is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;
And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying,
And the flung spray and the blown spume,
and the sea gulls crying,
-- John Masefield, "Sea Fever" (excerpt)

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

Address Service Requested

New York, NY 10021
830 Fifth Avenue

CITY PARKS FOUNDATION



Partnerships for Parks

