

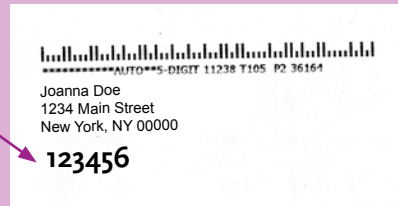
LEAFLET

THE NEWSLETTER OF *Partnerships for Parks*

THE LEAFLET IS GOING GREEN: NEXT ISSUE ONLY BY EMAIL

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THE IMMIGRANTS & PARKS COLLABORATIVE

PARKS, VITAL TO ALL CITY DWELLERS, play a special role in immigrant communities. Immigrant New Yorkers use parks as backyards, sports arenas, parade grounds, political stages, classrooms, and meeting halls. Due to language barriers and lack of familiarity with city government, immigrants can sometimes feel excluded from influencing decisions about their parks. City Parks Foundation and the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation are devoted to changing that, in part through the Immigrants & Parks Collaborative, which was founded by the J.M. Kaplan Fund to support community-based organizations facilitating immigrant civic engagement in neighborhood parks. Partnerships for Parks and the New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC) provide technical assistance and bring participating organizations together to share successful approaches, and NYIC lends its expertise in advocacy.

Immigrants & Parks Collaborative member Queens Community House (QCH) offers social and education services in Jackson Heights, one of the city's most diverse neighborhoods. QCH's free English classes bring together Jackson Heights residents who collectively speak 27 different languages. Anna Dioguardi, QCH's Director of Community Organizing, says "our goal is to help people realize that the park is more than just a place to bring their kids. It is a venue for civic engagement and a place they can help shape." QCH provides a venue for people from different places to share their ideas about park activities, which are often based on how parks are used in their country of origin. One program developed by the group was multilingual storytime, offered weekly in Spanish, Bengali, and English.

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DEAR FRIENDS,

City Parks Foundation and the NYC Department of Parks are working together to support the Immigrants & Parks Collaborative. Parks is also launching its first language access plan to involve immigrant communities in parks. The plan is online at www.nyc.gov/parks and outlines a program of multi-lingual signage, interpretation services at recreation centers and marinas, and translated material that will be offered citywide. Parks has developed a volunteer language bank to take advantage of the diverse backgrounds of our staff, especially for the six languages other than English which are spoken most commonly in New York City: Spanish, Chinese, Russian, Italian, Korean, and Haitian Creole. CPF and Parks look forward to working closely with our community partners as we improve language access for all.

Sincerely,
Adrian Benepe, Commissioner,
Parks & Recreation
David Rivel, Executive Director,
City Parks Foundation

Through the Immigrants & Parks Collaborative, QCH has developed a relationship with the longstanding volunteer group Friends of Travers Park (FTP), a committee of the Jackson Heights Beautification Group. QCH members attend meetings of the friends group and volunteer at events, and FTP is able to reach immigrant communities through QCH's network.

When FTP applied for a Partnerships for Parks grant to create a brochure, they looked to QCH for help with translation and distribution. QCH members not only translated the text into Spanish and Bengali, but also attended meetings with Partnerships Art Director Anne LaFond. Anne led a design meeting that was simultaneously translated into Spanish, and stressed the importance of involving QCH members from the beginning: "It's not just that the brochure is available to non-English speakers. They weighed in on developing content and layout, and as a designer I needed support for proofreading and typesetting, especially in Bengali because I was working in a different alphabet." The completed brochures are

distributed by FTP and at the QCH offices, where they are used to introduce students in English classes to other opportunities in the park.



QCH Action Group members Uzma, Alicia and Silvia (left to right) at the Travers Park 78th St. Play Street, August 2009.

QCH and FTP recently took their collaboration to a new level by jointly applying for and receiving a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to create a Green Agenda for Jackson Heights. The Green Agenda process asks community members to define what local sustainability means to them and develop a blueprint for greening Jackson Heights. Len Maniace, Chair of the Friends of Travers, explains that "because of the shortage of parks and open space in Jackson Heights, Friends

of Travers is looking into expanding parkland and organizing around broader environmental issues." For the Green Agenda, residents define comprehensive sustainability for themselves, addressing park issues as well as housing, transportation, jobs, education, etc. It also helps people connect their larger concerns to park stewardship – for example, how can the park be a venue for green jobs or environmental education? The Green Agenda was launched at a workshop in November 2009, when a visioning workbook designed by the Pratt Center for Community Development was released. The workbook makes the visioning process portable and allows partner organizations working with various immigrant constituencies to complete it at their own meetings in their own language. QCH and FTP agree that the Green Agenda project would not have come to be without the Immigrants & Parks Collaborative.

The Green Agenda approach illustrates two of the lessons learned through the Collaborative: immigrant communities can connect to parks via larger

City Parks Foundation presents *Three* January 12 – June 25

Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre in Central Park
Three is an adventurous retelling of the classic three-themed fairy tales: The Three Little Pigs, Three Billy Goats Gruff, and The Three Bears, starring the Big Bad Wolf. Reservations are required. Tickets are \$5/children and \$8/adults. Visit www.CityParksFoundation.org for showtimes and directions and call (212) 988-9093 for reservations.

The 16th Annual Bronx Parks Speak Up "Open Spaces, Environment & Health" Saturday, February 27, 11:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Lehman College, Faculty Dining Room
If you would like to table, reservations will be accepted until February 19 on a first come, first served basis. Please send an email inquiry to speakuptabling@hotmail.com. For more information, email bxspeakup@hotmail.com. Sponsored by the Bronx Coalition for Parks & Green Spaces, Lehman College, Con Edison and Verizon.

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social concerns, and park groups have the most success outreaching to new immigrants when they partner with organizations already composed of, and serving immigrants. Partnerships for Parks is developing an immigrant outreach toolkit to make these and other tips available online.

For more information about the Immigrants & Parks Collaborative, visit www.immigrantsparks.org. ☆



Families work on chalk murals organized by QCH Action Group members on the Travers Park 78th St. Play Street.

Partnerships Launches Corporate/Community Projects at “The Jungle”

In the summer of 2009, Rande Morgan and Krista Wozniak were looking for a way to give the tennis courts at Fredrick Johnson Park—known in their Harlem neighborhood as “The Jungle”—a fresh coat of paint. The special non-slip paint needed was beyond the budget of their recently founded group, the Jungle Tennis Players Association. Around the same time, Partnerships’ Volunteer Project Manager Leah Worrell was seeking community-identified projects for PFP’s Corporate Volunteer Program, which connects corporate employee groups to volunteer projects in New York City Parks.



Interactive One employees painting at “The Jungle.”

Leah and Rande worked with the park manager to create a project plan and a supply wish list to pitch to companies. Media firm Interactive One accepted the proposal, and on September 30, fifteen employees painted the court, bringing “determination, empathy, zeal and a sense of community” to the task, according to Rande. When asked why other community groups should consider participating in this program, Krista called it a “blessing and a very pleasant surprise to have Partnerships take on the role of soliciting and advocating for corporate funds from a sponsor who could identify with our goals and desires.”

Is your group interested in having corporate volunteers complete a maintenance or beautification project in your park? Contact Leah Worrell at (212) 360-8156 or leah.worrell@parks.nyc.gov to learn more.

The 3rd Annual Going Green in Queens Saturday, March 27, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

At Oerter Recreation Center, 131-40 Fowler Ave., Flushing
Going Green in Queens is an annual forum to bring people together to learn about and address environmental issues. Look for Going Green in Queens on Facebook and Twitter!

MillionTreesNYC has plenty of opportunities to get involved this spring!

MillionTreesNYC Research Symposium
Friday, March 5 & Saturday, March 6

Citywide Tree-Planting Day

Saturday, April 24

For details on how to get involved or to register for these events, visit www.milliontreesnyc.org.

Spring It's My Park Day Saturday, May 15

Join thousands of New Yorkers in caring for and celebrating New York City parks on It's My Park Day. Participate in clean up and planting projects, enjoy free events or just get outside to enjoy your park. Check www.PartnershipsForParks.org for updates.

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How to reach us

www.PartnershipsForParks.org

www.nyc.gov/parks

www.CityParksFoundation.org

To contact Partnerships for Parks or for information on volunteering in parks, call (212) 360-1357 or call the City's non-emergency hotline, 311.

PARTNERSHIPS for PARKS



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.

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
City of New York

Adrian Benepe, Commissioner
Parks & Recreation

David Rivel, Executive Director
City Parks Foundation

Jason Schwartz, Director
Partnerships for Parks

WRITERS: *Kate Louis, Leah Worrell* DESIGN: *Anne LaFond*



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THE NEWSLETTER OF *Partnerships for Parks*, A JOINT PROGRAM OF CITY PARKS FOUNDATION AND THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION

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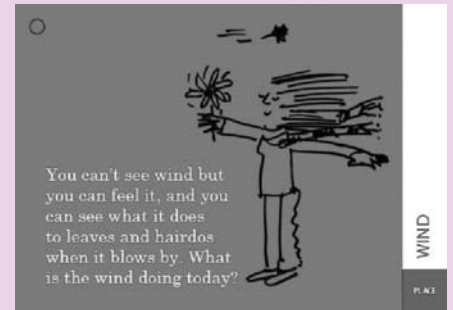
did you know

Partnerships for Parks collaborated with No Time To Lose (NTTL) on a series of workshops with PlayLab Play Cards—a kid-friendly guide to discovering science in city parks.

Each set of PlayLab Play Cards includes 25 brightly illustrated cards that lead children and grown-ups through an easy scientific process of wonder and inquiry. NTTL led activities and explorations on how participants can help keep kids and their caregivers actively engaged in scientific learning outdoors (and indoors on cold days.)

For more information about PlayLab Play Cards visit www.jcca-nyc.com/playlab.html.

No Time To Lose is a group dedicated to creative thinking about the environment and informal learning outdoors. *NTTL is a project of the non-profit Open Space Institute, Inc.*



Sample of a PlayLab Play Card.

Attention: For address corrections call (212) 360-1357

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