

NEW YORK CITY PARKS' RITES OF SPRING

IT'S BEEN A LONG COLD WINTER IN NEW YORK CITY SO WE'RE LOOKING AHEAD TO WARMER WEATHER. Rest assured, when spring finally arrives, we'll be ready to celebrate across the city with a whole host of park events that may even inspire you to plan some neighborhood park activities of your own.



Partnerships for Parks is gearing up for spring with the planning of the semi-annual "It's My Park!" Day. This season's citywide event scheduled for **Saturday, May 17th**, will be bigger than ever. Join thousands of New Yorkers in parks in all five boroughs beautifying, supporting and celebrating New York City green spaces.

Groups that want to do a clean-up or planting project in their local park must register by April 14th. Call your Outreach Coordinator or contact Eileen S. Remor at **212.360.8126** for more information.

To participate in the many scheduled events and volunteer projects happening in parks across the city that day or to post information on your own event, please visit our website at **www.itsmypark.org**.

LEADING UP TO "IT'S MY PARK!" DAY, HUNDREDS OF FREE, PUBLIC, SPRING CELEBRATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE CITYWIDE. Be sure to check out what's happening in your borough now and in the coming months. Here are a few samples to get you started.

- Plan on joining fellow New Yorkers for an Easter celebration City-park-style like the one in **Central Park**. The **57th Annual Easter Eggstravaganza, Saturday April 19th** from 11am to 3pm includes dozens of fun, free activities, like the world's largest Easter egg hunt, bandshell entertainment, and a Greenmarket. To learn more call **1.888.NY.PARKS**, or visit **www.nyc.gov/parks**.

- **Earth Day** celebrations are popping up this April all over the city, like the one in **Queens' Alley Pond Park** on **Thursday, April 24th** from noon to 3pm.



Enjoy a free day of environmentally themed games, crafts, music, demonstrations, performances, giveaways and more. Call **718.520.5918**.

- Race into the season on **Staten Island** at the **High Rock 10K Adventure Challenge** on **Sunday, April 27th**. The third annual NYARA (New York Adventure Racing Association) event is a 10K run with intermittent mystery challenges along the route. Get in the game or cheer from the sidelines. Those interested in participating must register by visiting the **www.nyara.org** or by calling **718.442.6048**.

- For something completely different, try **Brooklyn's own Poop Pick-Up in Fort Greene Park** sponsored by the PUPs (Park Users and Pet Society). The month of March will mark the third annual pick-up with a prize for the "largest collection." Watch the official website, **www.fortgreenepups.org**, for details.

Finally, another chance to get your hands dirty and help clean parks and spruce up gardens citywide is at **New York Cares' Spring Clean-Up Day on Saturday, May 3rd**. To lend a hand call **212.228.5000** or check out the details online at **www.nycares.org**.

Find out what's happening in your neighborhood park this season. Call the **Special Events Hotline** at **1.888.NY.PARKS**. Or call your Outreach Coordinator and don't forget to ask them about planning strategies for your park. For the contact information of the Outreach Coordinator in your area, call **212.360.1357** or visit us at **www.itsmypark.org**. □

THE URBAN PARK RANGERS: EXPLORE MORE OUTDOORS

PARK RANGERS IN NEW YORK CITY? WHO KNEW? With over 28,000 acres of green space in New York City, The Urban Park Rangers are critical for preservation and protection of the parks and the education of the urban public about New York City's natural resources.



The Rangers have been a presence in New York City since 1979 and work in all five boroughs. Their mission is to link New Yorkers to the natural world, teach them to care for the environment in their parks, and protect the wild residents within parks to restore the City's natural heritage. Urban Park Ranger programs offer many in-park opportunities for urbanites to get outside and explore a city park 365 days a year. Here's how:

The Urban Park Rangers...

- Provide in-park environmental education to schools citywide through The Natural Classroom program. Program topics include Conservation, Botany, Ornithology, Native Americans and more.
- Provide educational, community-based programming, guest lectures and open mic nights at each of (Cont.)

SPRING'S SPOTLIGHT ON BROADWAY

DESPERATELY IN NEED OF MORE SIGNS OF SPRING? Keep your eye on the Broadway malls, the narrow stretch of center islands -- rooted with shrubs, trees, rocks, flowers, benches, and even sculptures -- that run in stops and starts from 60th to 168th Streets on Broadway. It is the goal of the Broadway Malls Association to plant, refurbish and maintain these park areas, varying the designs, adding new malls each year, and attracting more supporters and volunteers from all over the city.

While the BMA, which began as a small group of West Side residents in 1980, receives major contributions from the private sector and gains support through an annual benefit in June, the true success of their (Cont.)

BROADWAY MALLS ASSOCIATION (CONT.)

organization can be traced back to the commitment of their volunteers.

Scores of volunteers, made up of neighbors, merchants, students, professional gardeners, and members of local community groups to which the Association has reached out, come together each year to plant and replace flowering trees and groundcover plants. They also plant over 50,000 tulips and daffodils and hundreds of annuals that make Broadway literally bloom from early spring through the fall. The City of New York/Parks & Recreation maintenance and operations for the malls are supplemented by the BMA, and the Lincoln Square BID is responsible for the primary care of the malls between 60th and 70th Streets.

Rallying the troops along Manhattan's West Side has made Broadway's urban oases possible, making a heavily traveled New York City thoroughfare a more pleasant place to shop, stroll and even sit and enjoy the spring season's sights.

As Robert Herrmann, president of the BMA says, "We take pride in the partnerships we have formed... Our work with the community is central to our mission."

To learn more about the Broadway Malls Association visit their website at www.broadwaymall.org or call the **BMA Hotline** at 212.280.1708. □

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 program 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 people will join in efforts to restore and preserve them.

Peter Crumlish, Director
Dana Litvack, Director of Operations

This issue of the Leaflet was edited by Blaise Allysén Kearsley

Partnerships for Parks is a joint program of
 

URBAN PARK RANGERS (CONT.)

their nature centers citywide.

- Conduct outdoor recreation-based Explorer Programs where participants can canoe, camp, hike and fish in the heart of New York City.
- Facilitate the rescue and rehabilitation of wildlife, such as Red-Tail hawks, Peregrine falcons, Great horned owls, opossums, and turtles. Rangers also monitor, assess and reintroduce native wildlife species in parks through the Wildlife Management Program.
- Mentor New York City's high school students through the Ranger Conservation Corps, an after-school, community service program, performing restoration work in city parks.

So, the next time you spot an Urban Park Ranger ask how you can join them for a program in your park, or stop by one of their nature centers and pick up the Ranger events calendar. You can also call **1.866.NYC.HAWK** and find out what's going on in your borough and to sign up for the Rangers' newsletter, *The Red Tailer*. You never know. You may find yourself paddling the Bronx River in a canoe, planting flowers in a garden in Brooklyn, or rock climbing in Manhattan with the Urban Park Rangers. □

BE A NEW YORK CITY LIFEGUARD



GOOD-BYE, WINTER! Summer is just around the corner and the City of New York/Parks & Recreation is actively seeking qualified, mature, dependable candidates, to participate in our free lifeguard training course. You must be at least 16 years of age at the time of employment, have at least 20/30-20/40 vision (unaided), and be able to swim 50 yards in 35 seconds to qualify for the training program.

After completing the course and passing the final exam, you are guaranteed a job at one of our 7 beaches or 53 outdoor pools. The starting salary for first year lifeguards is a minimum of \$10.08/hour.

To sign up or to learn more call the **Lifeguard Hotline** at **212.830.7880**. □

"Come, let us see what kind of world
we make for our children."
- *Sitting Bull*

Know any nature related quotes that would be perfect for the *Leaflet*? Write to blaise@partnershipsforparks.org.

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

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