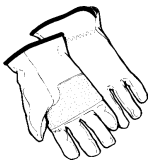




PARKS SPRING INTO ACTION

As winter weather merges into warmer days, there is no shortage of citywide park activities for all ages. Here is a little sampling of just some of the activities you can enjoy this spring, or think about planning in your own park.



Each semester, environmental studies students at Queens College engage in a project that benefits the community. This season, they have decided to embark on a **Trail Restoration Project** in Cunningham Park along Francis Lewis Blvd. and Union Turnpike with the help of Tom Panzone, *Partnerships'* Queens Outreach Coordinator. This long term endeavor is divided up into stages, so that each semester a new student group will take part until the restoration is complete. A similar project is also being considered for Kissena Park. To get involved, call Tom at **718.520.5948**.



The Urban Park Rangers and the Central Park Conservancy will showcase their park-based education programs on **Wednesday, May 8** with the **Great Central Park Field Day**. They, along with The Museum of the City of New York, City Parks Foundation, Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary, the National Museum of the American Indian, and the Arm-of-the-Sea Theater will host activities for over 600 kids and their teachers, grades K-8. For information about this event and about The Natural Classroom school programs, call **866.NYC.HAWK**.



The East Village Parks Conservancy will host the annual **Walks and Chalks** event on **Sunday, April 21** from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Tompkins Square Park. This event offers the opportunity for kids and adults alike to create large scale chalk drawings reflecting park and community themes with noted area artist De La Vega. *Walks and Chalks* also includes guided tours around Tompkins Square Park with leading historians, writers, and raconteurs speaking on park history, the environment, and the "colorful characters" who have made the East Village a fascinating, all-inclusive area. For information, call **212.353.9063**.



Spring into spring with **New York Cares Spring Clean-Up Day** on **Saturday, May 4**. Help spruce up parks and gardens citywide. For information call, **212.228.5000** or visit www.nycares.org. Just two weeks later, it's time for our annual **"It's My Park!" Day** on **Saturday, May 18**. Join thousands of New Yorkers as we beautify and celebrate in hundreds of parks across the City. Participating groups and sites must register by April 15. Call Eileen S. Remor at **212.360.8126** or your Outreach Coordinator to register. For volunteers looking for a specific project or more information, visit www.itsmypark.org. Please contact your Outreach Coordinator for drought-safe project ideas.



The Blue Heron Nature Center in Staten Island, along with the Urban Park Rangers and Friends of Blue Heron Park, is sponsoring children's programs, including **Kids' Krafts** and the **Natural Science Club**. They are also hosting events for adults such as **Herb Gardening** on **Saturday, April 28** and **Recycling Plastic Bags** on **Saturday, May 18**. For details, call the Nature Center at **718.967.3542**.

For more spring ideas call the Special Events Hotline at **1.888.NY.PARKS**, or call the Outreach Coordinator in your borough for event planning strategies in your park.
Bronx: 718.430.1861/ Brooklyn: 718.965.8993
Manhattan: 212.408.0214/ Queens: 718.520.5913
Staten Island: 718.815.7194

PARTNERSHIPS NEWS AND NOTES

CHANGES As you know, the City of New York/Parks & Recreation's new Commissioner is **Adrian Benepe**. City Parks Foundation also has a new Executive Director, **David Rivel**. **Tim Tompkins**, *Partnerships'* founder, recently became President of the Times Square BID, and **Peter Crumlish** serves as our new Director. Additionally, the Parks 2001 Campaign is continuing through the transformation of the Parks Council into New Yorkers for Parks.

LIFEGUARDS WANTED!

Earn \$10+/hr. If you are 16+, can swim 50 yards in 35 seconds, and have at least 20/30 vision in one eye and 20/40 vision in the other, Parks will train for free! Call **212.830.7880**.

KIDS' STUFF: THINGS TO DO

Educators:

- Have kids collaborate on a book about their local park by interviewing Parks staff, measuring park size, counting trees and benches, or researching the park's history.
- Students learning geometry can map their park and calculate its acreage.
- Even the smallest parks can be explored: identify trees, birdwatch, or get permission to plant flowers.
- Lead your own nature walks.
- The Urban Park Rangers conduct lessons from their "Natural Classroom" program in your park. Call them at **866.NYC.HAWK**.

Parents:

- Have "Readings in the Park" with local parents. Take turns choosing and reading books out loud to kids in the park. Later, the group can perform the story.
- Have a family potluck/festival with field games and scavenger hunts. Tap into that competitive spirit; form teams based on apartment buildings and keep score!

(Continued on back page)

DROUGHT EMERGENCY!

A Drought Emergency has been declared for the City's Water Supply System. For tips and mandatory restrictions on water use, see www.nyc.gov/parks and click on the **DEP "Save Water"** link. Please keep this in mind as you plan spring projects and visit www.itsmypark.org for ways to help your park.

FREE WORKSHOPS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Community group members are invited to attend *Partnerships'* free workshops being held this spring citywide. To register, for more information, or to receive workshop materials, call Charlotte Kaiser at **212.360.8180**.

Spring into Summer: Horticulture Techniques

Learn tips from a professional gardener on making the transition into the growing season. Discuss ways to help your garden survive a dry summer.

Saturday, April 13, 1-3pm

Conservatory Gardens, Fifth Avenue at 105th Street, Central Park

Looking Beyond Playgrounds: Activities for Kids in Parks

Whether you're an educator, parent, or community group leader, there are dozens of things you can do with kids in New York City's Parks. Attend this workshop to learn more and hear from a community leader who has been successful engaging the kids in her park.

Thursday, May 30, 6-8pm

The Arsenal, 830 Fifth Avenue, Central Park



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 that people will be more likely to 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



CITY PARKS FOUNDATION



City of New York
Parks & Recreation

KIDS' STUFF (CONTINUED)

Friends Groups:

- Look in to your groups' resources and talents. Is there an ornithologist, a dancer, martial artist, painter, puppeteer? Hold weekly lessons in the park. Build kites, make origami. Have a talent show or a parade.
- Sports tournaments are a great way to bring adolescents into the park in a constructive way; local businesses can offer t-shirts and prizes, and group members can be coaches and referees.
- Do a photography project. Have kids take pictures of the park and mount an exhibit in a local church or community center—or in the park itself!
- Have a “get to know the community” day in the park. Invite the police, the fire department, school administrators, merchants, and other community leaders to a potluck festival. Kids will love playing on the fire truck, the police officers and firemen can talk about safety issues, and the local hospital may be willing to donate materials on health and health care.

For more resources see the *Free Workshops* section on this page.

GREEN DAY

The City of New York/Parks & Recreation presents *Green Day*, an afternoon of gardening and horticultural instruction for interested beginners. Learn basic techniques from a variety of plant experts. Urban Park Rangers will give tours of Van Cortlandt Park. Plant sales and door prizes included.

Sunday, April 28, 11am-4pm (come anytime/all ages)

Citywide Nursery, Van Cortlandt Park.

For directions call 718.231.3845 or 718.760.6800.

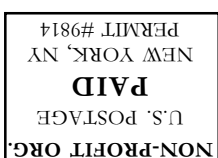


GRANT APPLICATIONS

Visit www.itsmypark.org and click on “Resources for You” to learn about funding opportunities like the National Tree Trust 2003 Community Tree Planting Grant, grant applications and upcoming deadlines, workshops, and more.

Nature never hurries: atom by atom, little by little, she achieves her work. The lesson one learns from planting is the manners of Nature; patience with the delays of wind and sun, delays of the seasons, bad weather, excess or lack of water. *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

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



Partnerships for Parks
CITY PARKS FOUNDATION

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