

## NEW YORKERS CITYWIDE BAND TOGETHER TO RESTORE AND CELEBRATE

TWICE A YEAR, PARTNERSHIPS FOR PARKS COORDINATES "IT'S MY PARK!" DAY, DURING WHICH THOUSANDS OF NEW YORKERS JOIN FORCES TO CARE FOR AND CELEBRATE THEIR LOCAL PARKS BY PARTICIPATING IN CLEAN UP AND RESTORATION PROJECTS AND ENJOYING FREE EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES.

"It's My Park!" Day is a vital part of Partnerships' ongoing effort to increase involvement in and awareness of neighborhood parks. Each spring and fall an impressive schedule of free events and projects are planned by community groups and Parks in all five boroughs, providing ample opportunity for neighbors, families, friends, members of civic groups, local merchants, corporations, and others to join in and be a part of the rewarding day.

On the 18th of October, 185 projects and 20 events took place at 161 parks. Over 4,500 volunteers from 162 organizations participated in projects ranging from planting native plants and performing trail restoration, to preparing parks for winter by painting, raking, and cleaning up.

At Todd Memorial in Brooklyn's Red Hook Park, Added Value, in cooperation with Parks & Recreation, GreenThumb, private and public partners, and dozens of volunteers continued a project to convert an underused asphalt recreation field into an urban farm. On this day, the group of volunteers raised a greenhouse that will extend the farm's growing season year-round. Meanwhile, at St. John's Recreation Center, after cleaning up the ballfield, volunteers participated in a friendly game of flag football to celebrate.

Elsewhere, other events also brought many different groups together to volunteer in parks. In the Bronx, for example, neighborhood children, parents and the Fordham Housing Complex Group re-seeded the lawn at Poe Park. The Friends of Clove Lakes Park in Staten Island led volunteers in park cleaning, trail restoration, planting, and pond skimming. In Manhattan's Christopher Park, volunteers revitalized the park's gardens and planted daffodil bulbs.

One group leader from Sara D. Roosevelt Park's M'finda Kalunga Garden on the Lower East Side reported, "The garden looks better and is more functional than ever. We recommitted ourselves and others to the ongoing task of keeping our neighborhood clean and beautiful; we had fun and got to know our neighbors and each other better. Not



bad for a day's work." "It's My Park!" Day events also included seeing falcons and hawks up close and personal with the Urban Park Rangers in Central Park, a Halloween festival at Queens' Socrates Sculpture Park, a harvest fair with the Friends of Bennet Park, and an Historic House Trust tour at King Manor in Rufus King Park in Queens. There was also a City Parks Foundation institute for educators on how to enhance curriculum by integrating environmental awareness. (View pictures from past "It's My Park!" Day events like these at [www.itsmypark.org](http://www.itsmypark.org).)

Special thanks goes out to everyone who helped make October 18th's "It's My Park!" Day such a success. The citywide event was made possible through generous support from **Snapple Beverage Group**. In addition, raffle prizes were donated by Telarc/HeadsUp, Eastern Mountain Sports, and some of Central Park SummerStage's partners including presenting sponsor Heineken USA.

Spring "It's My Park!" Day on **May 15, 2004** is just around the corner. Site registration will begin in April. We're looking forward to seeing you out there!

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## PARKS NEWS: 10-YEAR CAPITAL PLAN

Parks & Recreation is working on a 10-Year Capital Plan to help identify goals for and guide the development of our parks. Visit [www.nyc.gov/parks](http://www.nyc.gov/parks) for more information and to fill out the on line community input survey. You may also send comments or questions to [capital.plan@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:capital.plan@parks.nyc.gov). Parks & Recreation will present an overview of the 10-Year Capital Plan process at borough park forums hosted by New Yorkers for Parks. Visit [www.ny4p.org/advocacy/index.php](http://www.ny4p.org/advocacy/index.php) for information on dates and locations.

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## IN LIGHT OF THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays are upon us, and soon parks citywide will be illuminated with seasonal celebrations. Visit [www.itsmypark.org](http://www.itsmypark.org) and see the *What's Happening* section to find out what's happening near you. If you are sponsoring a park festivity that is not yet listed on our website, send an email to [blaise@partnershipsforparks.org](mailto:blaise@partnershipsforparks.org) with "holiday events" as the subject. Include the event name, date and time, exact location (including borough), a brief description, and whom to contact to find out more.

## WORKSHOPS FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Members of community groups working in parks are invited to attend free workshops being held this winter and spring in locations citywide. For a schedule of workshops visit [www.itsmypark.org](http://www.itsmypark.org) and click on "Technical Assistance" in the *Resources For You* section. To receive a workshop calendar, or to learn more, call **212.360.8180**.

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE AFTERSCHOOL

If you enjoy working with youth and are available one afternoon a week between 3pm and 6pm, there is a rewarding opportunity for you to volunteer as a reading and/or math tutor at a Parks afterschool program. You can also volunteer to assist in leading a wide range of other activities such as gardening, basketball, and creative writing.

Parks runs free afterschool programs at 33 recreation centers all over the city, serving 3,000 youngsters daily. Of these children, fewer than 50% are meeting their academic potential and are often in schools that perform poorly. More than 50% of these young people receive public assistance. Locate the afterschool program nearest you and learn how you can get involved by calling **212.360.3300**.

**Partnerships for Parks** 212.360.1310  
To volunteer or to join your local parks group: 212.360.1357  
For information about special events or to report graffiti, vandalism, or crime call The New York City Citizens Service Center: 311

[www.itsmypark.org](http://www.itsmypark.org)  
[www.nyc.gov/parks](http://www.nyc.gov/parks)  
[www.cityparksfoundation.org](http://www.cityparksfoundation.org)

*Partnerships for Parks*, a joint program of City Parks Foundation and New York City Department of 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.

*Jenny Hoffner, Director*  
*Dana Molina, Director of Operations*  
*This issue of the Leaflet was edited by Blaise Kearsley*

**Partnerships for Parks**

a joint program of

**CityParks**  
Foundation



City of New York  
Parks & Recreation

## PARTNERSHIPS NEWS & NOTES

Recently *Partnerships* said goodbye to director **Peter Crumlish** who, along with his family, decided to resettle in Maine this year. We are thankful for Peter's leadership and we wish The Crumlishes all the best. We are pleased to announce that in August we welcomed our new director **Jenny Hoffner**. Jenny has worked with *Partnerships* over the last six years on both the Bronx River and Catalyst Projects and is looking forward to working with park stewards throughout the city.

Starting this winter, the *Leaflet* will be available in an email format with content highlights and links to the newsletter online. You can subscribe to the email version by clicking on the link in the *What's New* section of our website at [www.itsmypark.org](http://www.itsmypark.org).

Got a burning question about parks? Looking for support from other parks groups? Our **new online Message Boards** are a great way to make connections, share knowledge, address challenges, offer suggestions, or submit questions. To visit the Networking page and access the message boards, go to [www.itsmypark.org/resources/networking.html](http://www.itsmypark.org/resources/networking.html)



*Partnerships* would like to thank everyone who completed our **organization survey**. The information about your organization's structure, resources, activities, problems, and goals helps us to target our resources and measure group development. We will make available a volunteer resources book for participants that will help community group leaders to network by neighborhood and interest area. If you haven't yet completed a survey, visit our web site at [www.itsmypark.org](http://www.itsmypark.org) and click on "Partnerships Organization Survey" in the *What's New* section.

"Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together."

- Vincent Van Gogh

Submit your favorite quotes to the *Leaflet*. Send them to [blaise@partnershipsforparks.org](mailto:blaise@partnershipsforparks.org)

ATTENTION: FOR ADDRESS CORRECTIONS CALL 212.360.1357.

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