

**City of New York
Parks & Recreation**



2006 - 2007 Report

Front cover:

**Children enjoying a summer day at Sachkerah Woods Playground
in Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx.**

Back cover:

A sunflower grows along the High Line in Manhattan.



City of New York
Parks & Recreation



Daffodils

Named by Mayor Bloomberg as the official flower of New York City

As the steward of 14 percent of New York City's land, the Department of Parks & Recreation builds and maintains clean, safe and accessible parks, and programs them with recreational, cultural and educational activities for people of all ages.

Through its work, Parks & Recreation enriches the lives of New Yorkers with personal, health and economic benefits. We promote physical and emotional well-being, providing venues for fitness, peaceful respite and making new friends. Our recreation programs and facilities help combat the growing rates of obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure. The trees under our care reduce air pollutants, creating more breathable air for all New Yorkers. Parks also help communities by boosting property values, increasing tourism and generating revenue.

This Biennial Report covers the major initiatives we pursued in 2006 and 2007 and, thanks to Mayor Bloomberg's visionary PlaNYC, it provides a glimpse of an even greener future.



Dear Friends,

Great cities deserve great parks and as New York City continues its role as one of the capitals of the world, we are pleased to report that its parks are growing and thriving.

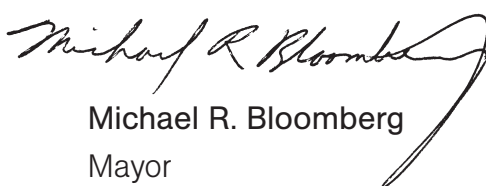
We are in the largest period of park expansion since the 1930s. Across the city, we are building at an unprecedented scale by transforming spaces that were former landfills, vacant buildings and abandoned lots into vibrant destinations for active recreation. We are also creating innovative new recreational opportunities in existing parks, such as our first high ropes challenge course, mountain biking trails, and kayak and canoe trails.

Expanding parks and green spaces has never been more crucial, because by 2030 it is estimated that the city will have one million additional residents, putting a strain on all of our existing resources. New York City has a history of doing the unexpected for the benefit of future generations and as PlaNYC demonstrates, we have the courage – and the resources – to dream big. With our commitment to plant one million additional trees, complete eight major regional parks, convert 290 schoolyards to playgrounds and improve our athletic fields, we lay the groundwork for all New Yorkers to enjoy a better quality of life.

Any park system, especially one of more than 29,000 acres, is only as successful as the employees and volunteers who care for it. That is why we are working to develop a citizenry of “Green Collar” New Yorkers. These stewards will ensure the success of our park system for future generations.

With the help of New Yorkers and our many partners, the future of our parks is brighter, and greener, than ever. Please review this Biennial Report for 2006 and 2007 and feel free to reach out to us if you are interested in helping create the park system of the 21st century.

Sincerely,


Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor


Patricia E. Harris
First Deputy Mayor


Adrian Benepe
Commissioner

Children reach new heights by scaling the low climbing wall at the Alley Pond Adventure Course.



New York City is investing in a new era of recreation and is increasing the options for our amateur athletes with a challenge course, mountain biking trails, surf beaches, skate parks, accessible facilities, new state-of-the-art recreation centers and much more.

Alley Pond Adventure Course

In 2007, we opened the first high ropes challenge course in a New York City park and the largest of its kind in the Northeast. The Alley Pond Adventure Course in Queens is an outdoor personal development and team building activity course with zip lines, climbing walls, webs, swings, trust falls and balance boards. It is the newest component of the Urban Park Rangers' Alley Pond Park Adventure program, which also offers canoeing, fishing, hiking and overnight camping.

Mountain Biking Trails

Parks opened the first official mountain biking trails in New York City in Highbridge Park in Manhattan and Cunningham Park in Queens during 2007. The trails are complete with cross-country, free-ride and dirt jump/BMX trails, which are maintained with the assistance of volunteers. They were created through a public-private partnership among the State and City Parks, NYC Mountain Biking Association and the International Mountain Bike Association. A third course is currently in design at Wolfe's Pond Park in Staten Island.

Hold on tight! The zip line at the Alley Pond Adventure Course redefines outdoor recreation opportunities in City parks.





Expanding our Network of Skate Parks

In 2006, the second skate park in the Bronx opened at Bruckner Playground. Developed with the input of young skaters from the community, it is designed for beginner and intermediate skaters. In 2007, the second skate park in Brooklyn (the eighth in New York City) opened at Seba Playground in Marine Park. Additional skate parks are currently in the works at Astoria Park in Queens and McCarren Park in Brooklyn.

Surf's Up!

In response to the overwhelming popularity of the first surf beach which opened in 2005 at Rockaway B. 87-91 Streets, we opened the second surfing beach in 2007 in the Rockaways at B. 67-69 Streets, to the delight of metro-area surfers. The beach was chosen by the surf community for its great waves – it was already used by the teen mentoring organization, Stoked Mentoring, as their instruction site.

Expanding Access for Disabled New Yorkers

During the summer of 2007, Parks installed specially designed mobimats at four beaches to allow mobility-impaired New Yorkers to fully experience the beach. At least one wheelchair football and softball field was created in every borough to host practices and competitions, as well as clinics for kids. Parks also offers aquatic therapy instruction, wheelchair sports clinics, sit aerobics classes and accessible fitness equipment at our recreation centers.

Clockwise, top left this page:

A young mountain biker shows off his form at Highbridge Park.

The Rockaways are a surfers' paradise, hosting two great surf beaches.

A skateboard enthusiast enjoys Bruckner Skate Park.



Clockwise from left:

Hurling a strike at a wheelchair softball tournament at Shea Stadium.

Willie Randolph tutors young athletes as part of the Summer Sports Experience.

Mobimats allow disabled individuals access to our City's beaches including here at Coney Island.

Right Page; top to bottom

Flushing Meadows Corona Park Aquatic Center – the largest recreation venue ever built in a City park.

Young swimmers take a dip at the new FMCP Pool.

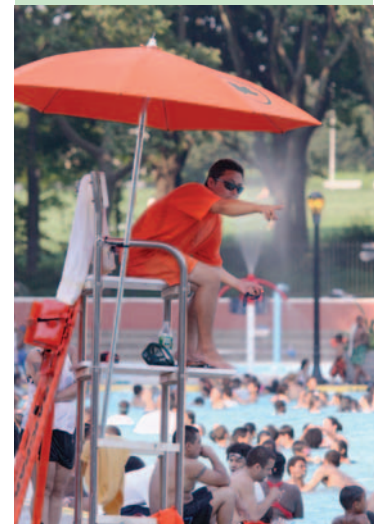
The watchful eyes of Parks lifeguards ensure a safe summer for all.

New Recreation Centers

On Staten Island, we opened the Greenbelt Recreation Center in 2007. An example of adaptive reuse, this former hospital underwent a \$9 million transformation into a fitness center, computer resource facility and special events venue. Already more than 12,000 new members have signed up. In early 2008, we opened the largest recreation complex ever built in a City park – the \$66 million, 120,000 square-foot Flushing Meadows Corona Park Pool & Rink. It has an Olympic-sized indoor public pool with an adjustable floor and diving tank for public swim and competitive meets. The NHL-standard indoor ice hockey rink will serve as a year-round facility for competitive leagues and individual skaters. Right across the street on Fowler Avenue, a new recreation center will open in 2008.

Building Lifetimes of Fitness and Health

Parks is working to teach children how to play sports to develop lifetime fitness habits. Partnering with the Willie Randolph Foundation, the Summer Sports Experience provides kids ages 7-15 in low-income areas with free, intensive instruction from adult athletes in baseball, softball, soccer, track and basketball. In 2007, the



program reached about 2,700 kids at 10 parks. The City Parks Foundation also partners each year to give free lessons to more than 10,000 kids in tennis, golf and track & field. For the first time, tennis programs were offered in the winter at indoor courts. We are also teaching our kids how to swim. The Learn to Swim program expanded to 33 sites in 2007 and drew 13,000 participants. In partnership with the Department of Education, Parks taught an additional 4,000 public school students through the Swim to Safety program.

Guarding the Waters

As we educate the next generation of swimmers, Parks seeks out new lifeguards to staff our City's 64 pools and 14 miles of beaches. This past year, the largest lifeguard recruitment and training program in the City's history led to the hiring of almost 1,100 lifeguards and the opening of more beachfront than in any recent year.



Above:
Mayor Bloomberg and
Bette Midler water the first
tree to be planted as part of
MillionTreesNYC.

Volunteers tend to a newly
planted tree on 156th Street
in the Bronx.

Below:
Young saplings stand in line
and wait their turn to take
root!



By 2030, it is estimated that the City will have one million additional residents, putting a strain on all of our existing resources. On Earth Day 2007, Mayor Bloomberg announced a far-reaching plan to fight global warming and create a more livable city. The visionary PlaNYC will improve our air quality, upgrade our energy infrastructure, reduce water pollution, clean up brownfields and create more affordable and sustainable housing. Recognizing that parks are vital to sustaining a greener city, PlaNYC charts a dynamic course of action with plans to complete eight underdeveloped regional parks, rebuild and open 290 school playgrounds to the public, add 800 new Greenstreets and fill the streets, parks and open space of New York City with one million new trees.

Planting One Million Trees

MillionTreesNYC is a PlaNYC initiative to plant one million trees across the City within the next ten years. Partnering with Bette Midler's New York Restoration Project, this effort will yield many benefits including more beautiful neighborhoods and parks; cleaner air and water; higher property values; energy savings; cooler streets, yards, and open spaces during the summer; and a healthier, more environmentally sustainable city.

Over the next decade, Parks will plant 600,000 trees in public parks and city streets. The City's partners, including non-profit and community organizations, businesses,



developers and volunteers will plant the remaining 400,000 trees. In all, we will fill every available tree pit and reforest our parks, woodlands, gardens and greenways.

After the spring 2008 planting season, more than 80,000 trees were planted, including 20,000 planted by volunteers on Hands On New York Day – the highest number of trees ever planted in our city on a single day. Building on this success, Parks will accelerate existing Trees for Public Health plans, planting large numbers of trees in neighborhoods with the lowest tree canopy and highest asthma rates. MillionTreesNYC outreach efforts include the Advisory Committee, with members from the public, private and non-profit sectors, a state-of-the-art website available in Spanish, and ongoing marketing and public relations efforts.

Converting Asphalt Fields & Installing Lights

Parks is working to transform asphalt yards to make them more desirable places to play. For example, at McLaughlin Park in Downtown Brooklyn, a barren asphalt lot was converted into a versatile synthetic turf baseball and soccer field. PlaNYC allows us to accelerate the conversion of 25 additional asphalt multi-purpose yards into synthetic turf fields, which can host a greater range of games and better absorb frequent and intensive use. Since turf fields can withstand a higher volume of play, we will install additional lights for nighttime use at 36 sites, allowing New Yorkers to play longer into the evening.



McLaughlin Park in downtown Brooklyn was transformed from a barren asphalt lot to a state-of-the-art turf field.

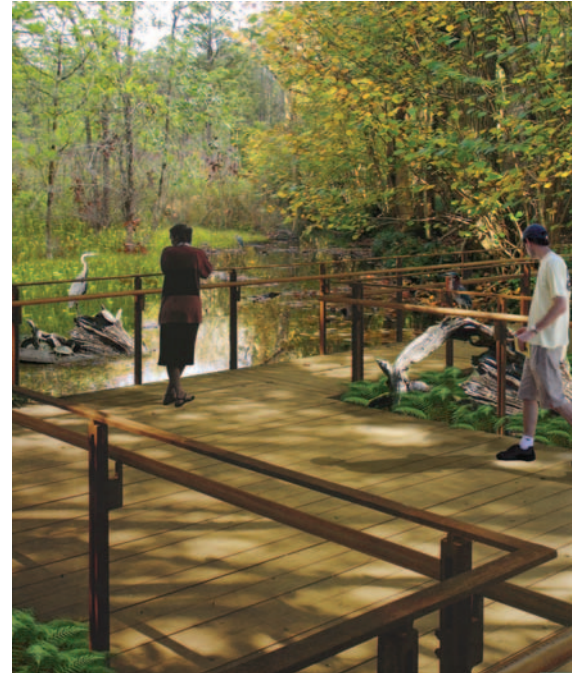
Night games are popular at Harlem River Ballfield thanks to the installation of lights.





Schools Chancellor Joel Klein joins in the celebration of transforming the schoolyard at P.S. 76 in Manhattan into a playground.

Rendering of a boardwalk overlooking wetlands planned for Ocean Breeze Park.



Transforming Part-Time Schoolyards into Full-Time Playgrounds

To help meet PlaNYC's goal of having a park or playground within a 10-minute walk of every New Yorker, 290 school playgrounds are being renovated and opened to full-time public use. Of this total, 69 schoolyards were opened in the summer of 2007 and the Parks and Education Departments are redesigning 221 more. These schoolyards will be transformed into full-service playgrounds with new track & field amenities, sports turf, play equipment, trees, shrubs and gardens.

Major New Parks for a Growing City

Eight underdeveloped parks will be transformed into full-service recreational magnets with nearly \$400 million in new funds. Along with the capital funds required to build them, new expense funds have been allocated to ensure their maintenance and staffing.

The design for the reconstruction of Calvert Vaux Park in Brooklyn was unveiled in the summer of 2007 and the construction of new soccer fields is already underway. The seven other parks are currently being designed, in consultation with community residents and civic organizations.

The other projects include rebuilding the WPA-era McCarren Pool in Brooklyn, restoring the High Bridge that connects Manhattan and the Bronx over the Harlem



The High Bridge, the oldest bridge in NYC, will soon be restored and returned to public use.



Design of Calvert Vaux Park – creating a new recreational destination in southwest Brooklyn.

River, improving the infrastructure of Fort Washington Park in Northern Manhattan, rehabilitating Soundview Park in the South Bronx, creating a new destination park at Highland Park’s Ridgewood Reservoir on the Brooklyn/Queens border, providing new recreational amenities at Far Rockaway Beach in Queens, and restoring natural areas and building a massive indoor track and field facility and other athletic activities at Ocean Breeze Park in Staten Island.



Rendering of McCarren Pool, a WPA-era pool, that will be restored for swimming for the first time in 25 years.

Building the Parks of the 21st century

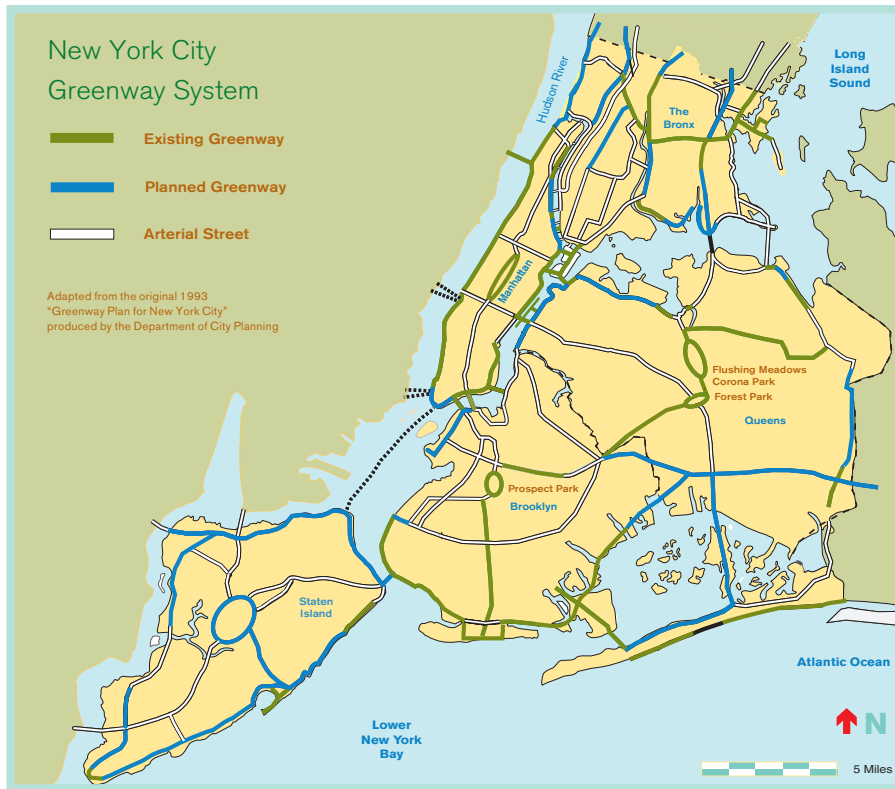


New York City is engaged in its third great era of park expansion. In the 19th century, Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux designed major parks such as Central Park and Prospect Park. In the 1930s, 80,000 Works Progress Administration workers designed, built, and opened parks across the city, tripling the acreage figures. Not since those days of Depression-era federal funds has the budget for park construction been so large. Thanks to a capital infusion from Mayor Bloomberg, the City Council and our legislators in Albany and Washington D.C., during the last two years, Parks broke ground on 289 projects and cut the ribbon on 244 projects. With nearly \$3 billion earmarked through the next decade, we are enjoying our largest budget ever to design and build the parks of the 21st century.

New Parks for the South Bronx

Construction of the new Yankee Stadium has provided an opportunity to build new and improved parks and recreational facilities in the South Bronx. As part of this exciting plan, the City will replace current parkland with new parks and playing fields, including more than 16 acres of newly created parkland along the Harlem River waterfront and at the current Stadium site. The City will invest \$190 million to create new parks and walkways. The first capital project under the Yankee Stadium Redevelopment Plan - the interim track and field - was completed in 2007 and all remaining projects are scheduled to be complete by 2011.





Left Page, counterclockwise, from top right:

The High Line begins its transformation from overgrown, abandoned rail yard to a vibrant park in the sky.

An apple tree grows along the High Line.

New parks as envisioned by the Yankee Stadium Redevelopment Plan.



Above:
It's a great day for a bike ride on NYC's greenways as cyclists enjoy the paths along Shore Road in Brooklyn and 12th Avenue in Manhattan.

Connecting our City with Greenways

Over the past two years, Parks has built 2.5 miles of new greenways, with as many planned for the next two years. In the longer term, we look forward to Phase I of the Queens East River North Shore Greenway and a route from Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn all the way to Laurelton, Queens, along Shore Parkway. Parks has also received funds to begin acquisition and design for the Putnam Rail trail, which already runs through Westchester. The new segment connects via Van Cortlandt Park, and ultimately brings riders down to 230th Street in the Bronx.

Developing the High Line

The 22-block-long High Line, a former elevated rail line, is becoming a grand, 7-acre public park. In 2008, the first section, from Gansevoort Street to 20th Street, will open to the public. Not only will the park offer incomparable views of the Hudson River and the Manhattan skyline, it will recall the era when the West Side of Manhattan was America's premier working waterfront. Construction of the second segment, from 20th to 30th Streets, is underway and landscaping will begin in 2008.

Gas Tank Park – The Price Was Right!

In 2005, the KeySpan Company sold a 6-acre plot of land – the former site of huge gas tanks – in Elmhurst, Queens to New York City for one dollar. Before the sale, the metal structure and tanks at the former Elmhurst Gas Tanks were dismantled and removed and the site was cleaned of contamination. The first phase of this \$5.2 million project began in 2007. It will create a green oasis in this densely populated community.

Building the Parks of the 21st century



Above, left to right:

Open air theater at Barretto Point Park is an ideal location to gather along the Hunts Point waterfront.

Concrete Plant Park on the Bronx River begins to take shape.

Major New Bronx Projects

Work is continuing on park improvements throughout the Bronx, made possible with more than \$200 million in mitigation from construction of the Croton Water Supply Filtration System under the Mosholu Golf Course in Van Cortlandt Park. Park needs were identified after years of input from the community. At the conclusion of 2007, we had completed 13 projects representing \$16 million. Twenty projects representing \$63 million are currently under construction and an additional 34 projects representing \$99 million are in design.

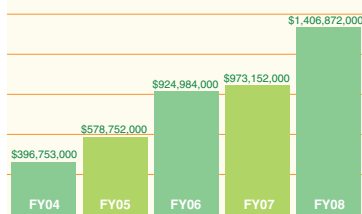
Bronx Waterfront Parks

Barretto Point Park, a new \$7.2 million waterfront park along the East River, opened in 2006, joining an expanding network of waterfront parks throughout the Bronx. Nearby is Hunts Point Riverside Park, a new \$3.3 million park that is a cornerstone of the Bronx River Greenway. Further north along the greenway is Concrete Plant Park, which is currently in construction. This former working concrete batch mix plant is being transformed into a \$10 million, 2.7-acre waterfront park, thanks to a partnership with the Bronx River Alliance. It is expected to open in the fall of 2008.

Spurring Kids Imaginations

With both public and private funds, Parks is creating the Imagination Playground – an innovative playspace at Burling Slip at the South Street Seaport. Staff members will invite kids to play with sand, water and other objects in a “free play,”

Total Capital Investment in Parks





unstructured environment that makes each visit to the playground unique. The “play workers” are trained adults who will work with the kids and spur their imaginations - while facilitating and supervising activities. The design of the Imagination Playground has been donated by David Rockwell.

Building Treasured Community Parks

South Oxford is a beautiful new park in the Fort Greene area of Brooklyn, built on a formerly empty lot. It includes a cat-tail-themed spray shower, a connecting water garden for small children and exciting new play equipment. The project was completed in 2006, four months early and under budget.

New Parks for a New Century

Progress is being made on the major flagship parks of the 21st century. The 2,200-acre Fresh Kills site in Staten Island has begun the transition from a closed landfill to a world class park. Construction is imminent for Owl Hollow Park and Schmul Park, adjacent locations that will provide access to the greater Fresh Kills site. The first phase of Brooklyn Bridge Park began in 2008. Stretching 1.3 miles, from Atlantic Avenue on the south to the Manhattan Bridge on the north, it will replace the abandoned piers, parking lots and storage sheds with waterfront recreational open space.

Above, left to right:

Whether playing in a cat-tail-themed spray shower or climbing play mountains, there is plenty for kids to do at South Oxford Park.

A “play worker” joins some young friends.



Rendering of majestic Freshkills Park in Staten Island.

Fostering the Park Stewards of the 21st Century

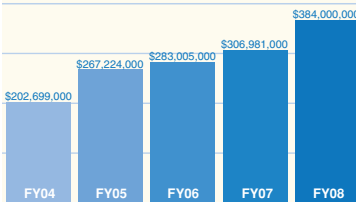


Above:

Parkies hard at work maintaining and improving our open spaces.

New York City has one of the largest and most complex municipal park systems in the nation with more than 29,000 acres. As our parks continue to grow, they require a coalition of ‘green collar’ New Yorkers to ensure their continued care. Recognizing that our parks are only as great as the employees and volunteers who diligently work to improve them, Parks is committed to developing the next generation of park stewards.

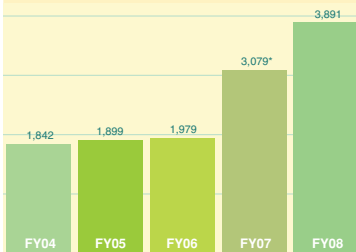
Expense Budget



Increased Staffing Levels

Our full-time staff has increased by more than 1,000 positions since Mayor Bloomberg took office in 2002 and significant strides have been made in the last two years. This is made possible thanks to a robust operating budget of \$384 million in FY 2008, the largest budget in the modern era, up from \$180 million in 2000. Over the last two years, Parks hired an additional 245 City Park Workers, 81 additional Parks Enforcement Patrol Officers, 74 Gardeners and Assistant Gardeners, 40 Climbers and Pruners, 40 Maintenance Workers, 36 Foresters and 33 Recreation employees, to staff the new Greenbelt and Fowler Recreation Centers. Factoring in our seasonal workers and lifeguards, Parks employs more than 11, 000 individuals during the height of the busy summer season.

Fulltime Staff



* Includes conversion of 1,004 year-round seasonals to fulltime.

Engaging Our Workforce

In 2006, Parks held a summit with 200 of our City Park Workers at Gracie Mansion to improve our communication and better support our workforce in the field. A quarterly newsletter, “Field Notes,” was launched following the summit to better share information. A network of career counselors was also created to help guide employees about goals, training and promotional opportunities.



Conserving Our Artistic Legacy

The Citywide Monuments Conservation Program provides conservation and maintenance for the more than 1,000 monuments and artworks in our parks. The work is performed by an in-house team of conservators and apprentices. The team works under the guidance of our Art & Antiquities division and receives funds through private donations. Each year, the Monuments Conservation Program cares for nearly 50% of its collection. Notable conservations included pilot projects at the Riverdale Bell Tower in the Bronx and the Soldiers' Monument at Calvary Cemetery in Queens, as well as a restoration of the statue of Columbus in Brooklyn.

Fostering New Opportunities

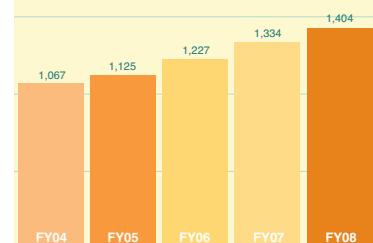
Our Parks Opportunity Program (POP) is the largest and most comprehensive welfare-to-work program in the United States. Career counselors train workers in job skills and find ways to place them in positions that suit their needs. In Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007, over 2,500 trainees found employment through POP. Several new initiatives were also launched including POP Plus and POP Ed – Horticulture. POP Plus was developed to provide services to 18 to 25-year-olds. Over the course of one year, trainees in this program are eligible to partake in adult education, vocational training, professional mentoring and career development opportunities, ultimately leading to employment and self-sufficiency. At POP Ed – Horticulture, horticultural training and education is offered.

Inspecting Our Parks

We measure the quality of the maintenance and cleanliness of our properties through the Parks Inspection Program. In 2007, we conducted nearly 5,000

Citywide Monuments Conservation Program conservators and interns restore (left to right) the Christopher Columbus statue at Columbus Park, Brooklyn, the Soldiers' Monument at Calvary Cemetery, Queens and the Temperance Fountain at Tompkins Square Park, Manhattan.

POP Job Placements



Fostering the Park Stewards of the 21st Century



Above, left to right:

An Urban Park Ranger teaches young campers about our natural environment.

Members of the Green Apple Corps work on an ecological restoration project.

Below:

What better way to see the wonders of New York City than while paddling a canoe!



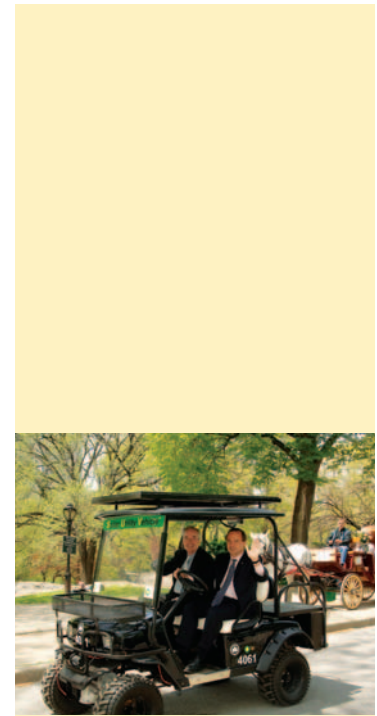
inspections of parks, playgrounds and Greenstreets and achieved overall condition ratings of 84% and cleanliness ratings of 91% acceptable. Water features have performed exceptionally well: comfort stations, spray showers and drinking fountains maintained ratings above 90% and safety surface ratings continued to hold steady at 92%. We are also efficiently distributing inspection information to both field managers and the general public. Managers are immediately alerted to hazardous conditions and quality-of-life issues noted during an inspection. We have also made several enhancements to our website to provide useful and current inspection data to the public.

Green Apple Corps

The Green Apple Corps provides New Yorkers with an opportunity to work in parks and natural areas in three fields – environmental education, ecological restoration and urban forestry. In the past two years, 28 members completed their service and 14 members secured positions in related fields. The Green Apple Corps also led two relief trips to New Orleans where, working with Habitat for Humanity and City Park New Orleans, they contributed 1,155 hours of service to reconstruction efforts.

Ranger Summer Camps

We are teaching children to become the park stewards of the future. In the summers of 2006 and 2007, nearly 300 young adventurers between the ages of 8 and 11 participated in Junior Ranger summer camps at Orchard Beach in the Bronx, Marine Park in Brooklyn, Inwood Hill Park in Manhattan, and Blue Heron Park in Staten Island. Activities include seashore safaris, woodland walks, insect insanity,



Above, left to right:
An electric vehicle on display at the 2007 Fleet Show on Randall's Island.
Taking an SUV (Solar Utility Vehicle) for a spin.



Partnerships for Parks volunteers tend to their community on It's My Park! Day.

Junior Ranger Olympics and much more. Partial funding for the program is provided by the J.E. and Z.B. Butler Foundation.

Partnership with City Parks Foundation

Partnerships for Parks helps New Yorkers work together to make neighborhood parks thrive by fostering a growing network of volunteers. There are 57,000 registered volunteers and 56 percent of all parks have an affiliated group. In 2007, almost 30,000 people participated in 645 clean-up projects. In the past two years, the Partnerships Academy was developed. This is a free, year-long program that helps park volunteers succeed by learning the essential elements of partnering with Parks, the media, elected officials, funders and peer organizations.

Greening Our Fleet

As we increase our number of park stewards, we are ensuring that the resources available to them are as green as possible. All 800 of our trucks and equipment that use diesel fuel now use 20 percent biodiesel, a domestic renewable fuel. Parks is also looking for alternatives to gas vehicles. In partnership with DOT, new CNG fueling pumps were installed at Central Park and Flushing Meadows Corona Park. In May 2007, we received a donation of two Solar Utility Vehicles from BP America. We are also investing in electric technology. By the end of the summer of 2008 we will operate more than 600 electric, hybrid or CNG vehicles and by the end of the year, nearly 1,400 vehicles, or 63 percent of our fleet, will use alternative fuel. While greening our fleet, we are taking similar care to green our buildings. In June 2007, we installed our first green roof at the 5-Boro Shops on Randall's Island.



Minsuk Cho, *Ringed Dome Pavilion*.

As we reflect on the last two years, we look forward to continued cooperation with our partners to provide New Yorkers with first class recreational, cultural and educational activities.

We are eager to get started on the next 40 years of our Public Art Program. In 2007, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of this program with 40 outdoor installations and a gallery exhibit celebrating its history. Our parks serve as open air art exhibition spaces and we are pleased to curate the largest municipal outdoor art museum in the United States.

We will continue to provide New Yorkers with outstanding concerts, cultural events and annual celebrations. Each summer, beautiful music can be heard emanating from parks across the city thanks to partnerships with groups ranging from the New York Philharmonic to the Metropolitan Opera to the City Parks Foundation and more. In recent years, we also added new special event traditions such as Winter Jam, the Union Square Street Sessions and Adventures NYC.

In the preceding pages we presented many of our initiatives to build and maintain the parks of the 21st century. As we do so, we are grateful for the support of all of our partners. Park improvements have been buoyed by significant public-private partnerships over the last two decades. These partnerships include everything from conservancies for specific parks to bench adoptions to gardening groups. There are a variety of ways that individuals can support the development of parks in their communities and we look forward to working with New Yorkers in the coming years on this front.

For additional information and to learn how to get involved, please visit us at www.nyc.gov/parks or call 311.

See you in the parks!

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor

Patricia E. Harris
First Deputy Mayor

Adrian Benepe
Commissioner

Liam Kavanagh
First Deputy Commissioner

Therese Braddick
Deputy Commissioner for Capital Projects (2008 -)

Amy L. Freitag
Deputy Commissioner for Capital Projects (2002 - 2008)

Robert L. Garafola
Deputy Commissioner for Management and Budget

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Deputy Commissioner for Public Programs

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Estelle Cooper
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Parks & Recreation**

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Adrian Benepe, Commissioner