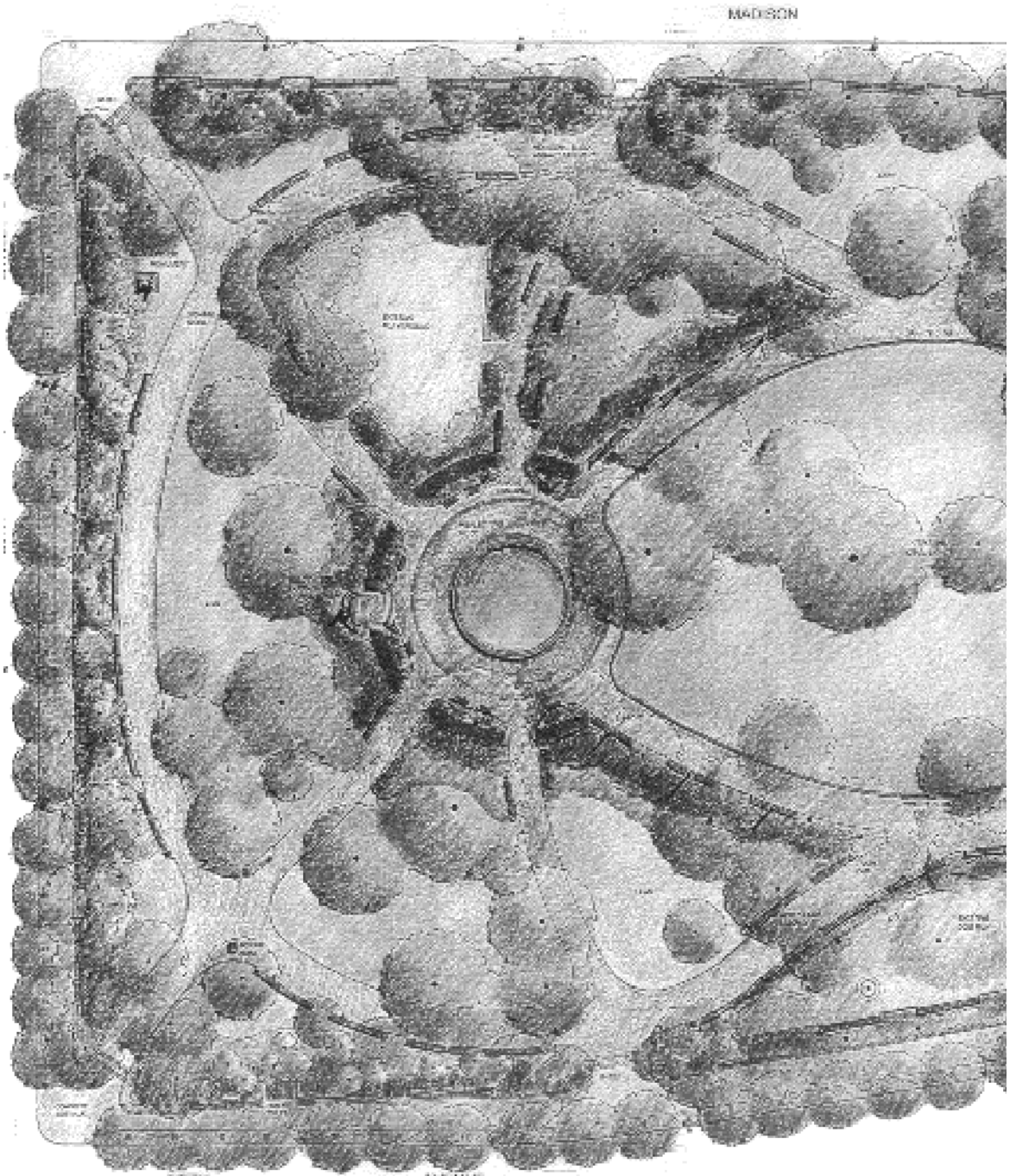
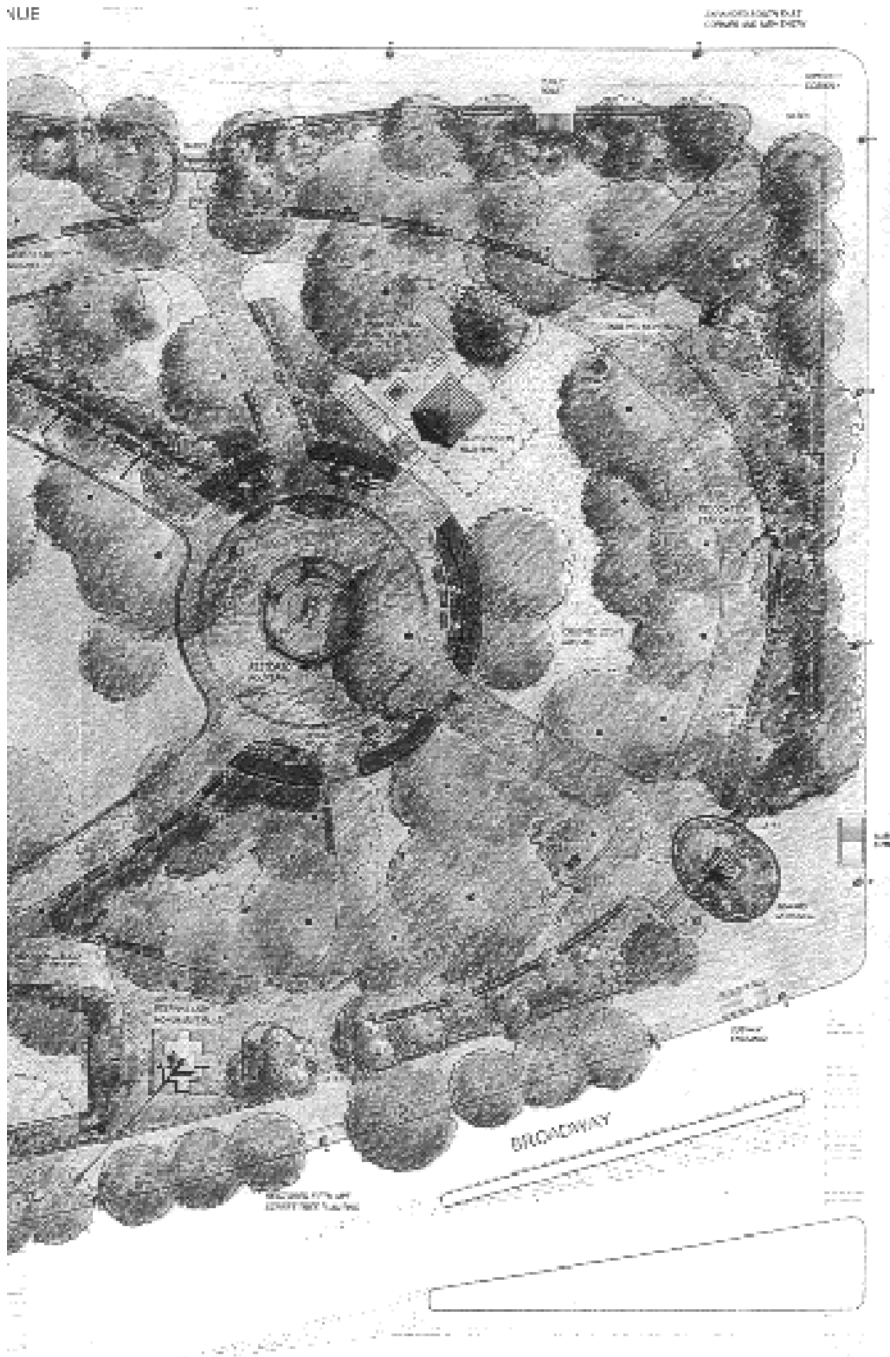


## PARTNERSHIPS

*The City Parks Foundation is coordinating the \$5 million restoration plan for Madison Square Park, half city-funded and half funded through a partnership with local businesses*





Partnerships are essential to maintain the Emerald Empire of over 28,000 acres. From individuals and community groups to non-profit organizations, Parks' partners have helped raise the bar in what New Yorkers expect from their green spaces.

# PARTNERSHIPS

## CITY PARKS FOUNDATION

The City Parks Foundation (CPF) was formed in 1989 by Commissioner Stern to raise private funds for programs. In FY98 and FY99, CPF raised \$22 million for programs in parks. With an endowment of \$5.5 million, CPF has given Parks yet another way to provide fun, free programs for New York City's children. More children than ever participated in Parks recreation programs including **Youth Tennis** for 27,000 children, *Learn to Swim* for more than 15,000 youngsters, the **Nike Metro Swoosh Basketball League** for 172 teams in 11 recreation centers, and **Summer Fun in the Playground** camps for nearly 80,000 kids.

**Central Park SummerStage** has become an internationally renowned mainstay in the park. The FY99 summer season was Parks' most diverse ever, featuring artists from 34 countries during the season's 98 performances. CPF's Manhattan **Concerts in the Parks** series was also a great success, drawing audiences of more than 10,000 for performances by The Delfonics, The Chi-Lites, BT Express, Jovenes del Barrio, and other soul and Latin legends. For younger audiences, Parks' newest **Puppets**

*Africa Fete at SummerStage, August 14, 1999*



in the **Parks** production, *The Reluctant Dragon*, entertained more than 10,000 children and will continue throughout the year at schools and recreation centers.

## PARTNERSHIPS FOR PARKS

Partnerships for Parks was founded by Commissioner Stern in 1995 as a joint initiative of Parks and the City Parks Foundation on a simple notion: parks thrive when they are actively supported by local communities.

Partnerships' fourteen outreach coordinators provide outreach and assistance to community groups. In just four years, Partnerships' database of parks volunteers has grown from 500 to 45,000 New Yorkers.

Since 1995, Partnerships' outreach coordinators have worked with community leaders to help park groups grow and prosper. In 1999, outreach coordinators

attended more than 1,400 community meetings and special events. A small central staff manages recognition programs, technical assistance workshops, publications, community group grants, and citywide volunteer

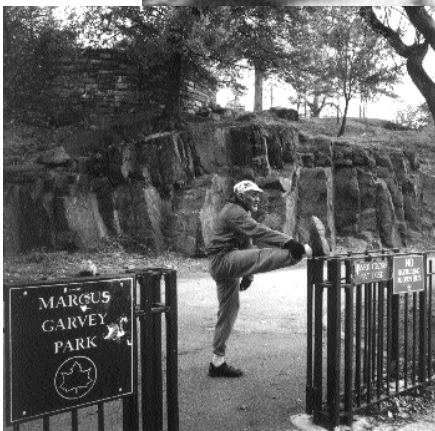
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projects. In 1999, more than 100 community leaders attended “**Meet the Commissioner**” luncheons at the Arsenal where park volunteers had the opportunity to speak to Commissioner Stern about local and citywide issues. One volunteer per borough each month is also honored as “Partner of the Month” and receives a Park name. Park groups join forces all over the

1. Mastodon, animal art at Sutphin Playground, Baisley Pond Park, Queens
2. Crotona Park, Bronx, Family Fun Day
3. Marcus Garvey Park, Manhattan

city at “**Clean Up Day**” and “**It’s My Park! Day**” each fall and spring. The events bring over 5,000 volunteers together throughout the city at more than 200 sites. In Spring 1999, Partnerships teamed up with **Nickelodeon’s Big Help** to organize a clean up day for kids and their parents at one site in each borough for over 4,400 volunteers. Partnerships also hosted ten corporate clean up events in 1999, bringing increased attention and support to lesser-known parks. Partnerships publishes a series of informative brochures about particular parks, in which Marcus Garvey Park, Seton Falls Park, Morningside Park, and the Bronx River were covered in 1999.

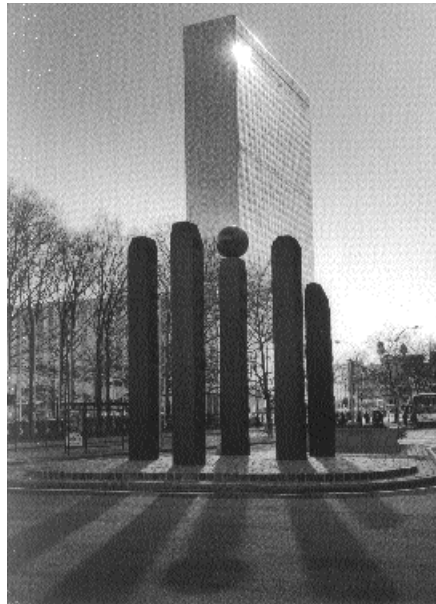
*Raoul Wallenberg Monument (Hope) by Gustav and Ulla Kraitz, Sweden 1998 (Gift of the family of Hilel Storch of Stockholm)*

Supported by a \$900,000 four-year grant from the **Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Fund’s Urban Initiative, Partnerships’ Catalyst Program** targets specific parks where constituencies are fragile. This grant was awarded to Partnerships in 1999 and covers five sites: Crotona and St. James Parks in the Bronx, Fort Greene Park in Brooklyn, Marcus Garvey Park in Manhattan, and Baisley Pond Park in Queens. Through full-time Catalyst Coordinators in each of the five parks, Partnerships is working with Parks on improving the programming, physical improvements, community involvement, and maintenance and operations at these parks.

Partnerships’ unique approach helps generate community support and appreciation of parks, creating a model for park systems across the United States.

## MONUMENTS

Parks conserves and maintains its extensive outdoor sculpture col-



lection through the efforts of its in-house monuments crew, capitol-funded projects, and a variety of public-private partnerships. Parks’ most extensive initiative in this area has been the **City Parks Foundation Monuments Conservation Program**. Launched in 1997, the program has conserved 28 sculptures/sculptural groups and performed maintenance at more than 55 sculpture sites. It has also helped train more than 20 conservation apprentices in the methods and precepts of outdoor sculpture conservation. The



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most notable project to date has been the David Schwartz Foundation–sponsored conservation of the immense sculptures on the **Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch** in Prospect Park, completed in December, 1999. Other major program sponsors included the Florence Gould Foundation, the American Express Company, the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, and the Laurance Rockefeller Fund.

Other significant monuments

support included the Adopt-A-Monument Program by the Municipal Art Society (MAS), and the Central Park Conservancy’s (CPC) sculpture conservation crew. In 1998, the **Adopt-A-Monument Program** and CPC co-sponsored the restoration of the **Richard Morris Hunt Monument** at Fifth Avenue and 70th Street. In 1999, the MAS, with the support of Stephen and Anna Kellen, sponsored the **Heinrich Heine Monument** restoration in Joyce Kilmer Park in the Bronx. The MAS also co-sponsored conservation of the Alexander Lyman Holley Monument in Washington Square Park. In 1999, CPC conserved the statue of **Fitz-Greene Halleck**, and in 1998 and 1999 performed maintenance on the 50 statues in the park system.

1. *Soldiers and Sailors Arch in Prospect Park, Brooklyn*
2. *Detail of Navy Sailors*
3. *Conservation with chemicals and torch*

The Randalls Island Sports Foundation, with the support of Michael Bloomberg, sponsored the conservation and reinstallation of the **Discus Thrower** statue on Randalls Island. The conservation of the **Abraham de Peyster** statue in Hanover Square was made possible with the co-sponsorship of the

large bronze historical medallions were also installed in Foley Square, and construction began on **Triumph of the Human Spirit**, a sculpture and fountain in the square's center.

#### PUBLIC ART

The Arsenal Gallery hosted 17



*Aerial photo of  
Battery Park, 1937,  
NYC Parks  
Photo Archive*

Alliance for Downtown New York.

Parks' monuments crew performed maintenance on more than 100 monuments each year in 1998 and 1999. Parks installed several new sculptures including **Athena** in Athens Square, Queens (1998), the **Raoul Wallenberg Monument** opposite the United Nations (1998), and the dolphin fountain at South Beach, Staten Island (1999). Five

exhibitions, including **Stepping Out: A Century of Dance in New York City Parks**; **Bathing Beauties and Ice Queens: A History of Women Swimming and Ice Skating in NYC Parks**; **Where New York Began: Envisioning the Battery**; **Smokestacks, Pagodas and White Castles: The New York That Was**; **Buds, Blooms and Boughs: Contemporary Botanical Art** (by the Guild of Natural Science Illustrators); **Wonders Never**

Cease: Kim Iacono's photographs of Coney Island; and Tula Telfair's Works on Paper.

Temporary art installations in the parks included the **Hunts Point Sculpture Garden** in Monsignor Raul del Valle Square in the Bronx, Jack Dowd's **Man and His Dog** in Tompkins Square Park, **Il Cavallo** in Cooper Square, Noa Bornstein's **Live Well** in Tribeca Park. The Public Art Fund sponsored several installations including: a multi-site installation of the sculptures of Tony Smith at Doris Freedman Plaza and Bryant Park; Andrea Zittel's **Points of Interest** and **A-Z Deserted Islands** in Central Park, Willem de Kooning in Doris Freedman Plaza in Central Park.

#### HISTORIC HOUSE TRUST

Throughout 1998 and 1999 the **Historic House Trust** worked to acquire the Hendrick I. Lott House, the Staten Island home of Frederick Law Olmsted, and the Riker-Lent Smith Homestead. The Trust also worked with Parks Planning to develop a Reuse Plan for the Fort Totten military base. The Trust manages 19 historic house museums and over 60 historic buildings in parks. With \$400,000 in private money, the Trust completed 15 restoration projects, including work at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum, Van Cortlandt House Museum, Lefferts Homestead, and Merchant's House Museum.

The Historic House Trust hosted many events, including historical bus tours in the five boroughs, a Black Tie dinner at the University Club celebrating the Trust's tenth anniversary, and the Annual New York City Oyster Festival co-sponsored with the Merchant's House Museum. The Trust's *Great New York Writers in Great New York Places* held monthly programs featuring readings by Sylvia Miles, Barry Bostwick, Tom Wompat, Ric Burns, Lawrence Block, and other literati. The Trust also co-sponsored a city-wide conference on preservation, where over 300 people discussed open space, urban planning, and the economic benefits of historic preservation.

#### HISTORICAL SIGNS

A historical sign is a wooden sign, installed in a prominent location in a park or playground, that explains who the site is named for and why. It also provides information about the history of the site, what it contains, and why it is important. The program began in 1989 with the installation of the first sign in Brooklyn's Commodore Barry Park. From 1997 to 1999, 250 historical signs were installed at sites that range from traffic triangles to flagship parks. In September, 1999, Parks recruited university students throughout the city to write signs. Through students, interns, historical societies and individual volunteers, Parks expects to produce over 1,500 new signs by the end



of 2001.

## FRIENDS OF PARKS

In the Bronx, the **Friends of Van Cortlandt Park** continued to grow. In FY99, they increased their budget by 33%, from \$75,000 to \$100,000. Utilizing their pool of approximately 240 volunteers, Friends of Van Cortlandt Park continue to improve the 1,116 acre park.

Brooklyn's **Prospect Park Alliance** once again worked with over 5000 volunteers who give their personal time each year. In FY99, they gave 24,234 hours to the park, more than ever before. The endowment grew substantially in FY99, jumping from \$1,154,599 to over \$2 million through investments, new gifts, and the reinvestment of interest income. FY99 brought the largest contribution ever to the Alliance - \$200,000 from the Henry and Lucy Moses Fund for a restricted Parade Grounds Fund, and another \$200,000 from the Gertrude T. Malmsea for the Woodlands Fund. During the year, contributions in the major gifts category increased from \$137,969 to \$195,033 (a 42% increase) and the number of major donors rose from 118 to 165 (a 40% increase).

Manhattan's **Central Park Conservancy** continued to help raise expectations for park-goers. In FY98 Mayor Giuliani and Commissioner Stern signed an

eight-year management contract with the Conservancy, officially designating the group "Keeper of the Park." The Central Park Conservancy's endowment for FY99 reached \$96 million, a staggering \$20 million increase from the \$75 million endowment from FY98. These monies fund day-to-day operations, aid capital improvements, and develop programs for visitors and volunteers. The park has the support of more than 2,000 conservancy volunteers who contributed more than 40,000 hours of work last year.

The **Riverside Park Fund** obtained a \$300,000 challenge grant in FY99 from the LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust for the design and construction of a new Volunteer House through the renovation of the existing tool house at 108<sup>th</sup> Street. The Fund raised \$780,000 in FY99, a 50% increase from \$518,000 in FY98. Volunteers contributed over 29,150 hours to the park, 23% above the 23,700 contributed in FY98.

The **Randalls Island Sports Foundation** was founded in 1992 to develop Randalls and Wards Island Park into a well-organized and self-sustaining sports and recreation center. FY99 brought in an operating budget of \$1,117,354, with funds coming from donations and grants. More than 850 volunteers also offered their personal time and energy to the foundation.

The **Conservancy for Historic Battery Park** raised \$1.2 million, with the City providing \$5 million toward the reconstruction of the Upper Promenade. This marks the second major capital project in a series that will ultimately complete the master plan for Battery Park. The conservancy raised \$1,805,887 for the FY98 and FY99 operating budget.

In FY98 and FY99 **Flushing Meadows-Corona Park** benefited from the 1,850 volunteers who worked at various events and clean up efforts. The numerous volunteers for FMCP are a valuable resource that continue to grow year after year. Over FY98 and 99, the park received \$179,810 in donations for park programs and improvements.

FY98 saw the creation of the **Forest Park Trust**, a not-for-profit group formed to assist the park in its fundraising efforts. Over the last five years, 3,000 volunteers helped clean, paint, restore trails, and worked at numerous park events. In FY99,

the Trust raised \$135,416, a 69% increase from the previous year's figure of \$93,464. On Staten Island, the Greenbelt Conservancy continued to provide educational opportunities for children, helping them to learn about and appreciate, their natural surroundings. The **Greenbelt Conservancy** raised \$485,124 in FY99, and \$478,130 in FY98. Over 225 volunteers gave nearly 3,250 hours in the two years.

The **Mariner's Marsh Conservancy** continued to support Staten Island's natural areas. Over FY98 and FY99, the conservancy removed thousands of cubic yards of trash, spent hours restoring plantings on the marsh and buffer areas, and provided invaluable support for the protection of the only remaining salt marsh in the Kill Van Kull.



*Andrea Zittel's  
A-Z Deserted Islands  
in Central Park,  
Public Art Fund*