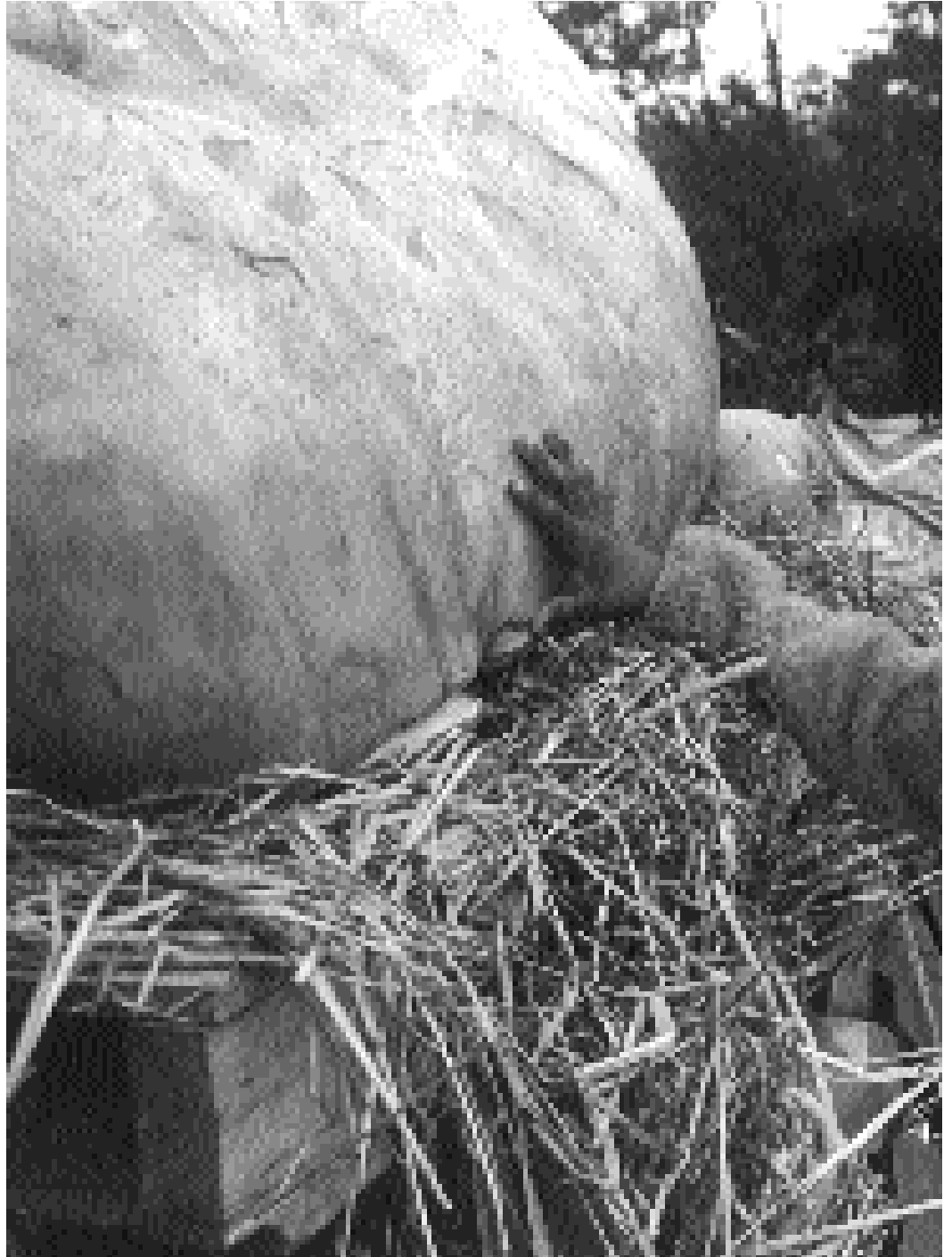


PUBLIC ACCESS



*Exploring
the Pumpkin Patch
at Parks'
Great Halloween Party
at Bethesda Terrace
in Central Park*



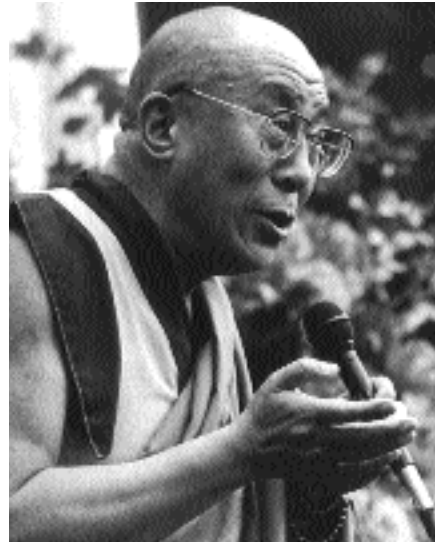
Parks that are frequently used attract more park users, are safer, and improve a neighborhood's quality of life. With this simple premise, Parks finds new and innovative ways for people to take advantage of the city's green spaces. From the largest concerts to weekly "Learn To" instruction, New Yorkers visited more parks in greater numbers than ever before.

PUBLIC ACCESS

SPECIAL EVENTS

Central Park hosted several major events this year. On August 15, 1999, **His Holiness the Dalai Lama** gave a free public talk before 40,000 people, and on September 14, Sheryl Crow, Eric Clapton, Keith Richards, Sarah McLachlan, Stevie Nicks and the Dixie Chicks performed on the East Meadow before 25,000 people.

*The Dalai Lama
in Central Park*



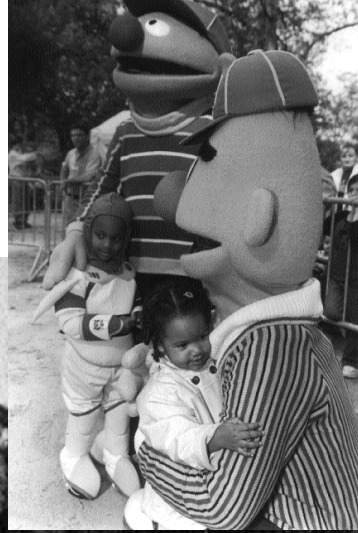
More than 50,000 New Yorkers attended **Newmark Real Estate's Great Halloween Party** in Central Park, enjoying Broadway performances, children's theater, arts and crafts, costume making, face painting, free inline skate rentals and shows, and the Dress Your Pet for Howl-O-Ween contest. Bethesda Fountain was transformed into a pumpkin patch with 7,500 pumpkins, free for the picking.

Billed by CNN as the world's largest Easter celebration, attendance topped 50,000 at the **Central Park Infogrames Entertainment Easter Eggstravaganza** in 1999. The Easter Eggstravaganza features egg dying, an Easter egg hunt, an egg roll, arts and crafts, and Broadway and children's theatre performances.

The citywide **pool openings** in 1998 and 1999 were major occasions. In 1998, Commissioner Stern and hundreds of neighborhood kids "unwrapped" Thomas Jefferson Pool to give the "gift of swimming" to all. The Independence Day bash featured 3,600 feet of red, white, and blue bunting, streamers, a 14-piece salsa band, and a summer barbecue, featuring a 378 lb. apple pie. In 1999, the pool opening moved downtown to the Hamilton Fish Recreation Center, featuring live music, and a barbecue for 1,000 people.

The **Citywide Beach Volleyball Tournament** continued to grow in 1998 and 1999, becoming the largest free amateur competition on the East Coast. Each year, more than 140 teams of doubles and quads played in

1



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- 1. Bert and Ernie at the Great Halloween Party in Central Park
- 2. Bethesda Fountain transformed into the city's largest pumpkin patch
- 3. Hiding in the egg patch at the Easter Eggstravaganza in Central Park
- 4. Giant carved pumpkin at the Great Halloween Party



Kids lace up their skates for Rock 'N' Rollerblade at Union Square Park, Manhattan

the five boroughs. The winners competed at Coney Island in the finals. The volleyball tournament was sponsored by Magnacare in 1998 and by Lipton Brisk Iced Tea in 1999.

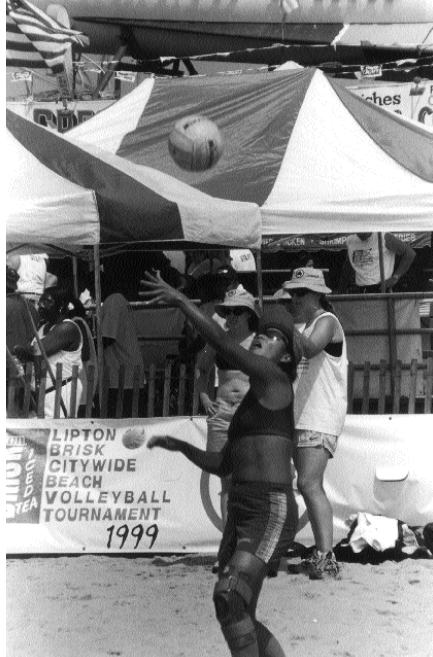
In 1998, Ciao-TV, and in 1999, Nutella partnered with Parks to produce the Fourth and Fifth Annual **Citywide Bocce Tournament**. Four-man bocce teams (and for the first time, sev-

eral women's teams) competed for the citywide title and a chance to ride up Fifth Avenue on a float in the Columbus Day Parade.

On August 6, 1998, Parks and Rollerblade inaugurated a new program - **Rock 'N' Rollerblade**, a free, open-air roller disco party. Nearly 5,000 people rolled into Union Square Park to enjoy disco music, live performances and free Rollerblade in-line skate rentals. In 1999, Parks and Rollerblade brought the event to a different borough each Thursday evening in August.

RECREATION

Over 10,300 children participated in tournaments in FY98 and FY99. In 1999, Parks hosted **city-**



wide tournaments for basketball, roller hockey, golf, board games, and soccer. From January through April, more than 1,700 boys and girls participated in the **Nike Metro Swoosh** basketball league at eight recreation centers, which hosted 32 teams. In March 1998, Parks hosted Junior Knicks League at 11 centers citywide in partnership with Nike and the Junior Knicks League, and 1,320 children participated. In April 1998, Parks created an intramural soccer league at eight recreation centers citywide. In summer 1999, Parks created an intramural basketball league at Playground Associate sites citywide. In June 1999, Parks hosted a roller hockey tournament featuring 23 teams and 345 children from throughout the city. In Summer 1998 and 1999 Parks competed in the 32nd and 33rd Annual United States Youth Games in Houston, Texas and

Birmingham, Alabama. Over 2,000 children participated in the games, representing 14 cities in eight sports.

Playground Associates provide structured recreational activities for children in neighborhood parks and playgrounds citywide. In Summer 1998, 242 Playground Associates were deployed to more than 200 sites in all five boroughs. Thanks to additional “Spring Spruce-Up” funding received from the Council, 153 additional Playground Associates were hired in 1998. In FY99, Parks deployed 280 Playground Associates to more than 230 sites in all five boroughs. Playground Associate sites are supported by visits from eight mobile recreation vans, which travel citywide, providing equipment and instruction for activities including in-line skating, baseball, and miniature golf. In 1998, Rollerblade donated two new vans, including staffing and equipment.

RECREATION CENTERS AND FREE INSTRUCTION

In FY99, Parks served more than 33,000 children in Learn-to clinics, including in-line skating, soccer, golf, baseball, tennis, and swimming. Last summer, over 2,700 kids participated in **Youth Baseball Clinics** and **Derek Jeter’s Turn 2 Clinics**, funded by the City Parks Foundation and Derek Jeter’s Turn 2 Foundation. The clinics ran for six weeks in each borough in July and August.

*Citywide Volleyball
Tournament
at Coney Island
Beach, Brooklyn*

Since the first **computer resource center** opened in April 1997 at the Al Smith Recreation Center in lower Manhattan, six additional centers opened at St. Mary's in the Bronx, St. John's and Brownsville in Brooklyn, Jackie Robinson in Manhattan, Lost Battalion Hall in Queens, and Cromwell in Staten Island. This program, funded partially by CPF and with donations of equipment from Sony and Microsoft, provides people of all ages with free access and instruction to state of the art computers. Each center has computers equipped with educational, recreational, and business oriented software for children and adults. Thanks to EarthLink all centers will have free Internet access.

*Right:
Chelsea Park
Soccer Fest 1999*



FY97. This increase is due in part to the reopening of Metropolitan Pool and Jackie Robinson Recreation Center after major renovations. In addition, new programming, major tournaments, and the opening of five computer resource centers in FY 98 boosted attendance.



In the last five years, Parks has completed renovations at 14 centers including, Al Smith, Carmine, Asser Levy, E. 54th St., Jackie Robinson, Hansborough, and J. Hood Wright in Manhattan; St. James in the Bronx; Lost Battalion and Sorrentino in Queens; Metropolitan Pool, Brownsville, and Red Hook in Brooklyn; and Cromwell in Staten Island.

*Derek Jeter's
Turn 2 Clinic
in Forest Park, Queens*

Attendance at recreation centers citywide increased to 2.7 million in FY99 from 1.7 million in

PARKS LIBRARY

On October 20, 1999, New York City received an unprecedented academic and community resource when the **Parks Library** was opened by Mayor Giuliani. Featuring books about nature, sports and recreation, landscape architecture, urban ecology, New York City history and politics, a vast collection of Parks-produced books, documents, and pamphlets, and the Robert F. Wagner Jr. collection, the Parks Library is free and open to the public. The library hosts special events, and serves as the headquarters for Parks historical signs initiative. Sponsored by Borders Books, the Parks Library is an excellent

resource for patrons ranging from school groups to university students, professionals and senior citizens. Open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., the Parks Library is located in Room 240 of the Arsenal, at 64th Street and 5th Avenue in Central Park.

Copies of this and all other Parks Reports can be found in the Parks Library.



*The first ever
Parks Library at
the Arsenal Building,
Central Park*