



PHILADELPHIA
**PARKS &
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**Mayor Nutter Dedicates the Newly Restored Concourse Lake in
West Fairmount Park**

***Restoration project led by the Philadelphia Committee of the Garden Club of America
& Concourse Lake Committee, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and the
Fairmount Park Conservancy***

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., June 9, 2012- Today, Mayor Michael A. Nutter, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, the Philadelphia Committee of the Garden Club of America and the Concourse Lake Committee and the Fairmount Park Conservancy dedicated the newly restored Concourse Lake, which is a storm water reservoir in the Centennial District of West Fairmount Park.

The four-year, \$540,000 project included renovations across 17 acres of the park. Improvements include the revitalization of the lake, the installation of a walkway, propagation of native plants by Garden Club of America members and dredging of the lake and creation of a wetland area by Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and the Fairmount Park Conservancy. New groves of native trees, shrubs and ground covers were planted to restore the original tree canopy, reduce storm water run off and provide a more natural forest ecosystem in which visitors can walk, picnic and play. Concourse Lake now has six major entrances to welcome those who visit. The park will soon feature educational signage and seating areas. The project is supportive of Mayor Nutter's goal of making Philadelphia the greenest city in America.

"The restoration of Concourse Lake is a stunning visual and environmental achievement for Fairmount Park, the Parkside neighborhood and the entire City of Philadelphia," said Mayor Nutter. "This project brings Philadelphia one step closer to being America's greenest city by incorporating watershed management, preserving our open spaces, and restoring the natural ecosystem."

Restoring Concourse Lake also helps improve water quality. Storm water from Concourse Lake flows under the Avenue of the Republic into Centennial Lake. Surface water from the two-lake area of the watershed flows to the nearby Japanese Tea House

and ultimately into the Schuylkill River, supplying drinking water to a large part of Philadelphia and surrounding communities. Through a *Growing the Neighborhood* grant provided by the Fairmount Park Conservancy in 2009, Concourse Lake was able to be dredged and a planting was completed in the interior of the lake to create a wetland and pond habitat.

“I thank Gene Dilks, and the Garden Club of America for selecting Concourse Lake as the focus of its four-year commitment to produce a horticultural gift for the City in honor of its 100th Anniversary which will be celebrated in Philadelphia in April of 2013,” said Michael DiBerardinis, Deputy Mayor for Environmental and Community Resources. “This project with its significant storm water management and greening features significantly advances the Mayor’s goal of becoming the Greenest City in America.”

After reviewing various proposals, the Philadelphia Committee of the Garden Club of America selected Concourse Lake as the focus of its four-year commitment to produce a horticultural gift for the City in honor of its 100th Anniversary which will be celebrated in Philadelphia in April of 2013.

“The women of Pennsylvania and Delaware who have worked to create this educational and recreational resource are pleased to have been able to offer their efforts as a gift to the City of Philadelphia,” said Gene Dilks, Chairman of the Philadelphia Committee of the Garden Club of America. “The design and implementation of their vision embodies the goal of the Garden Club of America ‘to restore, improve and protect the quality of the environment through educational programs and action in the fields of conservation and civic improvement.’ Those who have been most intimately involved would like to thank the Parkside community for its graciousness and thoughtful input.”

Concourse Lake is part of Fairmount Park’s Centennial District, the 236 acres where ten million people celebrated the nation’s 100 birthday in 1876. Philadelphia has embarked on a multi-year, multi-million dollar plan led by the Fairmount Park Conservancy to revitalize the Centennial District. The plan aims to convert the underused park asset into a varied educational, cultural and recreational attraction for visitors and citizens. The refurbishment of Memorial Hall into the Please Touch Museum and the creation of the 5K loop trail are completed projects of the plan. The renewed Concourse Lake will help transform an underutilized section of Fairmount Park into a vibrant destination that connects visitors and community residents both to nature and to the rich cultural resources of the Centennial District.

For more information about the Concourse Lake restoration, please visit www.concourselake.org. For more information about Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, please visit <http://www.phila.gov/recreation>. For more information about the Garden Club of America, please visit <http://www2.gcamerica.org/index.cfm>. For more information about the Fairmount Park Conservancy, please visit www.myphillypark.org.

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ABOUT THE FAIRMOUNT PARK CONSERVANCY

The Fairmount Park Conservancy exists to champion the Fairmount Park system. Its mission is to work as a collaborative partner to lead and support efforts which preserve and improve Fairmount Park to enhance the quality of life and stimulate the economic development of the Greater Philadelphia Region. The Conservancy fulfills its mission by leading signature capital projects and innovative programs throughout Fairmount Park; by developing and leveraging resources for the park; and by promoting the parks' unique assets and contributions.

ABOUT PHILADELPHIA PARKS & RECREATION

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation is the City department that is most engaged in the lives of residents and visitors alike on a daily basis. Through its programs, policies and physical amenities, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation promotes the well being of the City, its citizens and visitors, by offering beautiful natural landscapes and parks, historically significant resources, high quality recreation centers and athletic programs, along with enriching cultural and environmental programs.