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Fairmount Park Conservancy and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Announce 5th Annual LOVE Your Park Week

PHILADELPHIA – April 25, 2016 – The Fairmount Park Conservancy and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation are excited to announce the 5th Annual LOVE Your Park Week, May 7-14, 2016. LOVE Your Park is a weeklong celebration of Philly’s parks, featuring eight days of service projects, exciting events, and family fun at 100 neighborhood parks across the city.

LOVE Your Park Week kicks off on Saturday, May 7 with a Citywide Service Day. Over 80 neighborhood-based Park Friends Groups will host volunteer work days to clean and green their local park, including cleaning up litter, mulching trees and garden beds, planting flowers, painting, and more. Together, we are calling for 2,000 volunteers to help prepare Philly’s parks for summer! Visit loveyourpark.org for a complete list of participating parks and to sign up.



The LOVE Your Park Program receives critical support from lead sponsors Chubb Charitable Foundation and NovaCare Rehabilitation.

Kickoff Service Day at Pleasant Hill Park on Saturday, May 7

The Fairmount Park Conservancy and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation will host a special LOVE Your Park Service Day at Pleasant Hill Park in northeast Philly (Linden Ave & State Rd, 19136) with Mayor Jim Kenney, PPR Commissioner Kathryn Ott Lovell, the newly formed Friends of Pleasant Hill Park, and over 100 volunteers from sponsors Chubb Charitable Foundation and NovaCare Rehabilitation. Volunteer Day begins at 8:30 am and press photo opportunity is at 11:30 am.

One of the event highlights will be the planting of seven new trees along the fishing ponds at Pleasant Hill Park in celebration of the 70th anniversary of Almo Corporation, a northeast Philadelphia-based company. Almo has generously donated 70 trees to Philadelphia’s parks in honor of the anniversary, and

along with Mayor Kenney, we will plant the first seven at Pleasant Hill on the LOVE Your Park Kickoff Service Day.

Special Events

From May 7-14, Philly's parks will host over 70 special events that invite Philadelphians to enjoy the city's community green spaces with friends and neighbors. With events in nearly every neighborhood in the city that vary from the annual Fitler Square Spring Fair to a Michael Jackson tribute concert at Powers Park to a guided hike in the forests of Cobbs Creek Park, there's something for everyone! **See the list of highlighted events below or visit loveyourpark.org/events for a complete schedule.**

"Our large and diverse park system provides every citizen with an opportunity to connect to nature, neighbors, and fun experiences," said **Mayor Jim Kenney**. "LOVE Your Park Week is a celebration of our great parks, our Parks & Recreation employees, and all the volunteer groups that help us steward more than 115 parks across the City. That's why I'm excited about the opportunity to infuse \$300 million into our parks, recreations centers, and playgrounds, as well as libraries, through the Rebuild program."

"LOVE Your Park Week honors our parks and the people who love them," said **Parks & Recreation Commissioner Kathryn Ott Lovell**. "Park volunteers are essential to the success and sustainability of our park system. I want to thank them for their work in our parks throughout the year and for the cleaning, greening, and celebrating they will do with us during the fifth annual LOVE Your Park Week."

"This year's LOVE Your Park Week festivities will be bigger and better than ever," said **Fairmount Park Conservancy Interim Executive Director Tim Clair**. "With fun new events like Philly Parks Quizzo and classics like the Citywide Service Day, there truly is something fun for every Philadelphian to do in a park from May 7-14. The Conservancy is proud to partner with Parks & Rec, our network of dedicated Park Friends Groups, and our generous sponsors to make this celebration happen every year."

LOVE Your Park is supported by Chubb Charitable Foundation, NovaCare Rehabilitation, Albert Lofgren-Antoinette Farrar Seymour Donor Advised Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation, Bank of America, Almo Corporation, Dow, PECO and the Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation.

"NovaCare Rehabilitation is proud to be in our 14th year as a partner and supporter of the Fairmount Park Conservancy's effort to clean, revitalize and enhance the city's community parks," said **Dan Bradley, President of NovaCare Rehabilitation**. "As a physical therapy provider throughout the Philadelphia area, our goal is to help members of the community get back to the things they enjoy. These great parks are located in the communities where our patients and employees live and work. It's a natural fit for us to help provide places where neighbors have a fun and safe environment to come together and enjoy life."

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 7

LOVE Your Park Week Kickoff Service Day! - Citywide

Join thousands of volunteers as we kick off LOVE Your Park Week 2016 with a service day in 100 parks across the city! Visit www.loveyourpark.org for participating parks and to register.

loveyourpark.org | (215) 490-3700

Ridge Runners Car Show - Gorgas Park

8am-6pm
6300 Ridge Ave., 19128
roxboroughridgerunners.com

Spring Fest & Bird Pageant - Carpenter's Woods

8:30am-8:30pm
Wayne Ave. & West Sedgwick St., 19119
focw.org

Heads Up Pumpjam - Philly Pumptrack at Parkside Evans

10am-2pm
53rd St. & Parkside Ave., 19131

Annual Spring Fair - Fitler Square

10am-4pm
23rd St. & Pine St., 19103
fitlersquare.org

Bicycle Rodeo - Mifflin Square Park

11am-1pm
6th St. & Ritner St., 19148
facebook.com/MifflinSquarePark

Celebrating Mothers - Stinger Square

1pm-5pm (Rain date 5/8/16)
32nd St. & Reed St., 19146
loveyourpark.org

SUNDAY, MAY 8

Bird Philly Bird Walk: City Hall Falcons - Dilworth Park

9am-10:30am
1 S. 15th St., 19102 (West side of City Hall)
birdphilly.org

Mother's Day Tea Ceremony - Shofuso Japanese House & Garden

1pm-2pm
Lansdowne Dr. & Horticultural Dr., 19131
japanesehouse.org

TUESDAY, MAY 10

Let's Move Outside! Volunteer Fair - Sister Cities Park

Join us for a special LOVE Your Park Week volunteer fair focused on outdoor service opportunities!
Several organizations from the Greater Philadelphia Area will share information and resources on how

you and your friends and family can get involved – outside! Let's Move Outside! is a national initiative that encourages Americans to learn, play, work, and serve outdoors.

11am-2pm

18th St. & Benjamin Franklin Parkway, 19103

loveyourpark.org

Quizzo: LOVE Your Park Edition! - Cherry St. Tavern

129 N. 22nd St., 19103

How much do you LOVE your park? Join Quizzmaster Brad Maule of Hidden City Philadelphia for a fun session of Quizzo designed to test your knowledge about Philadelphia's world-famous park system.

Prizes for the winning team!

6pm-8pm

loveyourpark.org

Girard Park Meet & Greet

7pm-9pm

2500 S. 21st St., 19145

facebook.com/FriendsofStephenGirardPark

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

Japan Uncovered: The 1876 Centennial Exposition - Shofuso Japanese House & Garden

4pm-6:30pm

Lansdowne Dr. & Horticultural Dr., 19131

japanesehouse.org

The Secret Garden: Pay-What-You wish Fundraiser for the Fairmount Park Conservancy

Join the Fairmount Park Conservancy and the Arden Theatre for the final dress rehearsal of *The Secret Garden* before it opens to the public. Tickets will be available at the door and will be pay-what-you-wish.

All proceeds benefit the Fairmount Park Conservancy's Neighborhood Park Stewardship Program!

8pm

Arden Theatre Company

40 N. 2nd St., 19106

loveyourpark.org

THURSDAY, MAY 12

Bird Philly Bird Walk: Wissahickon - Wissahickon Valley Park

7:30am-8:30am

300 W. Northwestern Ave., 19138

birdphilly.org

Thursday Night Mountain Bike Race & Ride - Belmont Plateau

5pm-8pm

Montgomery Dr. & Belmont Mansion Dr., 19131

loveyourpark.org

East Fairmount Park Bike & History Tour - Lloyd Hall, East Fairmount Park

Enjoy a FREE bike tour of East Fairmount Park and its historic mansions. Learn how this series of private summer estates owned by wealthy Philadelphians became one of the biggest and most famous urban parks in the world. Tour will begin at Lloyd Hall and end with a tour of Woodford Mansion. Please bring your own bike, or arrive early to rent one from Wheel Fun Rentals at Lloyd Hall (at your own expense).

5:30pm-8pm

1 Boathouse Row, 19130

loveyourpark.org

FRIDAY, MAY 13

Picnic in Cedar Park

5pm-8pm

49th St. & Baltimore Ave., 19143

loveyourpark.org

Michael Jackson Tribute Concert - Powers Park

6:30pm-8:00pm

Almond St. & E. Ann St., 19134

facebook.com/PowersParkConservancy

SATURDAY, MAY 14

The Art of Laurel Hill w/ the Barnes Foundation – Laurel Hill Cemetery

10am

3822 Ridge Ave., 19132

thelaurelhillcemetery.org

A Woodsy Walk to the Legendary Indian - Wissahickon Valley Park

10am-12pm

Valley Green Rd. at Wissahickon, 19128

fow.org

Annual Perennial Plant Sale - Overington Park

10am-1pm

4600 Leiper St., 19124

facebook.com/FriendsofOveringtonPark

Spring Festival - Marconi Plaza

10am-3pm

S. Broad St. & Oregon Ave., 19144

loveyourpark.org

Art in the Open: Family Day 2016 - Fairmount Water Works

10:30am-2:30pm

640 Waterworks Dr., 19130

artintheopenphila.org

4th Annual Party in the Park - Clark Park

4pm-8pm

4398 Chester Ave., 19104

friendsofclarkpark.org

Philadelphia Chinese Lantern Festival - Franklin Square

6pm-11pm
6th St. & Race St., 19102
historicphiladelphia.org

SUNDAY, MAY 15

Re-Imagine Bainbridge Green

10am-5pm
4th St. & Bainbridge St., 19147
facebook.com/bainbridgegreen

Forest Restoration & Plant ID Hike- Haddington Woods, Cobbs Creek Park

Citizens Participating in Research & Restoration is an innovative program of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation that engages local citizens in urban forest management. This FREE hike will be led by Dr. David Hewitt and will focus on ongoing forest restoration work in Haddington woods, along with plant survey and monitoring techniques.

1pm-3pm
6525 Vine St., 19139
loveyourpark.org

About LOVE Your Park

LOVE Your Park Week is a part of the Neighborhood Park Stewardship program, a collaborative partnership between the Fairmount Park Conservancy and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation. Together, we steward a citywide network of over 115 Park Friends Groups who tirelessly volunteer their time to clean, green, and activate Philly's neighborhood parks. Each May we coordinate LOVE Your Park Week, and each November we host the LOVE Your Park Fall Service Day. We believe that community engagement in public spaces is key to creating and revitalizing communities and maintaining safe, welcoming, and family-friendly recreation opportunities.

LOVE Your Park is supported by Chubb Charitable Foundation, NovaCare Rehabilitation, Albert Lofgren-Antoinette Farrar Seymour Donor Advised Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation, Patricia Kind, Bank of America, PECO, U.S. Facilities Inc., Dolfinger-McMahon Foundation, Dow, and Chevy.

About the Fairmount Park Conservancy

Fairmount Park Conservancy exists to champion Philadelphia's parks. Our mission is to work as a collaborative partner to lead and support efforts that preserve and improve the parks and recreation system in order to enhance the quality of life and stimulate economic development of the Greater Philadelphia Region. We fulfill our mission by leading capital projects and historic preservation efforts, fostering neighborhood park stewardship, attracting and leveraging resources for the parks, and developing innovative programs throughout the 10,200 acres that include Fairmount Park and more than 100 neighborhood parks around the city. The Fairmount Park system is one of the largest urban park systems in the world and includes some of the region's most famous attractions. For more information, please visit myphillypark.org, join us at facebook.com/fairmountparkconservancy, and follow us on Instagram and Twitter @myphillypark.

About Philadelphia Parks & Recreation

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation advances the prosperity of the city and the progress of her people through intentional and sustained stewardship of public land and waterways as well as through safe, stimulating recreation, environmental and cultural centers. PPR helps Philadelphia's children and other residents grow by connecting them to the natural world, to each other, and to fun, physical and social opportunities. For more information, find Philadelphia Parks & Recreation online at www.phila.gov/parksandrecreation and follow @philaparkandrec on social media:



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