

FAIRMOUNT PARK

CONSERVANCY

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**FAIRMOUNT PARK CONSERVANCY HIRES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Nationally-Recognized Leader in Conservation and Urban Renewal**

PHILADELPHIA – June 21, 2016 – The Board of Directors of Fairmount Park Conservancy is delighted to announce the appointment of Rick Magder as the new Executive Director beginning September 1, 2016. For the past 16 years, Rick Magder has led the development of the Groundwork movement in the United States, a network of organizations created by the National Park Service and the Environmental Protection Agency in the mid-1990s focusing on the relationship between urban open space, waterways, and community renewal. Mr. Magder will fill the post left vacant at the beginning of the year when newly-elected Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney tapped then-head Kathryn Ott Lovell to be Commissioner of Philadelphia Parks & Recreation.

“The Board of Directors was greatly impressed by Rick’s credentials as someone who has demonstrated success working with local communities to create dynamic parks and open space,” said **John Gattuso, Board President of Fairmount Park Conservancy.** “Rick’s prior work, most notably at Groundwork Hudson Valley, NY and Groundwork USA, is evidence of a life-long passion for parks and open space, a commitment to thoughtful environmental stewardship, and a track record of working with diverse, often underserved communities, to achieve transformative results in both people and places.”



“I feel incredibly fortunate to be working in Philadelphia on issues I care deeply about and to work together with all of the talented people in town to restore and activate one of the greatest urban park systems in the country,” says **Rick Magder.**

Mr. Magder is coming to Philadelphia from Yonkers, NY, where he is the founding Executive Director of Groundwork Hudson Valley and the Executive Director of Groundwork USA. Groundwork Hudson Valley has achieved national acclaim for its innovative projects including the Science Barge, a floating sustainable farm on the Hudson River and the uncovering or “daylighting” of the Saw Mill River where it flows through downtown Yonkers. In addition, he launched the Yonkers Rail Trail that will connect New York City to downtown Yonkers while reclaiming miles of vacant brownfield sites through one of the NY region’s most underserved communities.

For Groundwork USA, the national organization, Mr. Magder led its development for nearly a decade as its board chair and then executive director. In this role, he expanded the Groundwork network to

communities across the United States; developed the National Green Team program, which brings highly trained urban youth to Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks; and helped establish and support EPA's National Urban Waters program.

Robert Baron, President and Board Chair of Groundwork Hudson Valley, said "As the first executive director of Groundwork Hudson Valley, Rick has made an indelible mark on Yonkers and the Hudson Valley, leading efforts that have transformed the physical environment and the lives of countless families who live there. From turning a parking lot into a new city park featuring a daylighted river, to mooring a floating hydroponic greenhouse powered by wind and solar on the Yonkers waterfront, Rick has been a dynamic innovator. He will be sorely missed, but we are excited for him -- and proud of him -- as he takes this next step in his career. Philadelphia and Fairmount Park Conservancy are fortunate to be getting such an incredibly talented leader."

Mr. Magder received the Conservation Hero award from the National Park Service in 2014 and accepted the prestigious Partners in Conservation Award from Secretary of Interior Sally Jewel in the same year. He earned a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Michigan and an M.P.A. from Columbia University with a concentration in urban policy. Mr. Magder will move to the Philadelphia area this summer with his wife and their two children.

About 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.

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