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SPRING INTO PHILLY PARKS
Seasonal Opportunities to Take Home a Tree, Take Out a Boat, Dig in the Dirt, and Grab a Bite

Philadelphia, March 20, 2017 – This spring, Fairmount Park Conservancy is collaborating with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation to bring residents fun ways to connect with nature and enjoy the outdoors. In April and May, Philadelphians will be able to take home a tree through TreePhilly, take out a boat (or bike) at FDR Park, dig in the dirt during LOVE Your Park Week, and grab a bite (and beer) at Parks on Tap. There will also be exciting opportunities to get outside with hikes, outdoor yoga, trail runs, and a place in the Broad Street Run.

Take Home a Tree - TreePhilly

This spring, there are four chances for Philadelphians to pick up a yard tree that they can enjoy for years to come. The trees are free to Philadelphia residents courtesy of Fairmount Park Conservancy, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, and program sponsor TD Bank. The TreePhilly program is offering 12 different trees to choose from, ranging from large shade trees like Red Oak to smaller fruit trees like Sweet Cherry. At each pick-up event, residents will learn how to plant and care for their new tree and receive a free bag of mulch.

Pre-registration is encouraged, but walk-ins will be accepted during each event, while supplies last. To register, see: <http://treephilly.org>

Dates and Locations:

- Saturday, April 1st, 2017, 10am-12pm
Congreso de Latinos Unidos courtyard, 216 W. Somerset St., 19133
- Sunday, April 2nd, 2017, 12pm-2pm
South Philadelphia High School, 2101 South Broad St., 19148
- Saturday, April 8th, 2017, 10am-12pm
Roxborough TD Bank Store, 5501 Ridge Ave., 19128

- Sunday, April 9th, 2017, 12pm-2pm
Frankford Avenue TD Bank Store, 6635 Frankford Ave., 19135

TreePhilly's Community Yard Tree Giveaway Grant has provided additional trees to two community organizations for distribution; for details, visit the organization's websites: [Nueva Esperanza, Inc.](#), and [Diversified Community Services](#).

Take Out a Boat (or Bike) with Wheel Fun Rentals

Wheel Fun Rentals operates a concession through Fairmount Park Conservancy and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation that offers locals and tourists alike ways to experience the parks from a different perspective – while boating or cycling. Family-friendly options include double pedal boats, double kayaks, surreys that seat two and four people, and tandem bikes. At FDR Park, visitors can boat on the lake or bike along the Delaware River. In East Fairmount Park, bikers can ride past the iconic Boathouse Row and along the Schuylkill River.

Dates and Locations:

- **Opening Day Festivities at FDR Park, Saturday, April 15, 12pm-5pm**
FDR Park, 1500 Pattison Avenue, 19145 (at the Boathouse)
Featuring opening-day rates of 20% off rentals;* live music from local group Andorra; food, wine and beer for purchase (including some of Philly's favorite mobile food vendors Cow and the Curd, Nic's Roast Beef, and Farm Truck); and special activities for kids including the Claymobile, petting zoo, egg hunt and special appearance by the Easter Bunny.
* The first 100 guests will receive an annual Wheel Fun pass providing half-price rentals at both locations for the year.
[Visit location website](#)
- **Daily bike rentals in East Fairmount Park as of Saturday, April 15**
1 Boathouse Row, 19130
[Visit location website](#)

Dig in the Dirt – LOVE Your Park Week

Philadelphia's eighth annual LOVE Your Park Week kicks off on Saturday, May 13 with a citywide day of service focused on cleaning and greening more than 100 neighborhood parks. Activities include planting flowers, mulching tree beds, and cleaning up debris. Tools and instructions are provided. Throughout the week of May 14-21, the Park Friends Network, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, and Fairmount Park Conservancy are

organizing scores of activities at neighborhood parks, including bird watching, spring festivals, and plant sales.

Dates and Locations:

- Thursday, April 13, 9am
Online registration opens for volunteer service
- Saturday, May 13, 9am-1pm
VIP kickoff event at Fernhill Park
Citywide park clean-up events
- Sunday, May 14-Sunday May 21
Scores of celebrations and activities in Philadelphia's parks



This year, for the first time, a free raffle will be held to award a volunteer at each participating park a gift membership to Fairmount Park Conservancy. The full schedule of events will be posted on April 13; to register as a volunteer or plan an outing, visit: <http://loveyourpark.org>.

Grab a Bite (and Beer) – Parks on Tap

Back for a second season, the Parks on Tap mobile beer garden opens during LOVE Your Park Week on Wednesday, May 17. This year's schedule is expanding to 20 weeks, through October 1, welcoming residents of more neighborhoods with the opportunity to walk to their local park for a drink, light meal, and socializing.



Dates and Locations:

- Wednesday, May 17-Sunday, May 21
Azalea Garden, East Fairmount Park/Boathouse Row
- Wednesday, May 24-Monday, May 29 (Memorial Day)
FDR Park Boathouse, South Philadelphia
Featuring a “happy hour” discount of 20% on Wheel Fun bike and boat rentals (5-7pm, Wednesday-Friday)

Other confirmed locations include Schuylkill Banks, Gorgas Park in Roxborough (new location for 2017), Penn Treaty Park, Shofuso Japanese House and Garden in Fairmount Park, Lemon Hill, Belmont Plateau, and Columbus Square in South Philadelphia. Saturdays,

1pm-11pm; Sundays, 12pm-10pm. The full schedule, along with menus, activities, and other special additions for 2017, will be announced shortly.

Recreation Opportunities

In addition to all of the above special events, Fairmount Park Conservancy offers unique recreation opportunities throughout Fairmount Park, including guided trail runs, plant identification walks, outdoor yoga classes, and guided hikes with meditation. All classes are free for members and \$10 for non-members (annual membership is \$35). To see what's happening, visit: myphillypark.org.

Finally, runners looking to participate in the Broad Street Run on May 7th can still get a charity bib through Fairmount Park Conservancy by paying the \$25 registration fee and committing to raising \$475 by June 15th. To register, go to: www.crowdrise.com/bsr2017.

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Fairmount Park Conservancy exists to champion Philadelphia's parks. We lead capital projects and historic preservation efforts, foster neighborhood park stewardship, attract and leverage investments, and develop innovative programs throughout the 10,200 acres that include Fairmount Park and more than 100 neighborhood parks around the city. Philadelphia has one of the largest urban park systems in the world, providing residents with extensive health, environmental, social, economic and cultural benefits – including access to 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.

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR) advances the prosperity of the city and the progress of her people through intentional and sustained stewardship of nearly 10,200 acres of public land and waterways as well as through hundreds of safe, stimulating recreation, environmental and cultural centers. PPR promotes the well-being and growth of the city's residents by connecting them to the natural world around them, to each other and to fun, physical and social opportunities. PPR is responsible for the upkeep of historically significant Philadelphia events and specialty venues, and works collaboratively with communities and organizations in leading capital projects and the introduction of inventive programming. To learn more about Philadelphia Parks & Recreation, visit us at www.phila.gov/parksandrec, and follow @philaparkandrec on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or Tumblr.

Photos by Albert Yee for Fairmount Park Conservancy. High resolution versions available upon request.