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SPRING FLINGS IN PHILLY'S PARKS

Fairmount Park Conservancy and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Bring Back Popular Seasonal Programs and Launch New Ones

PHILADELPHIA – March 22, 2018 – During what may be the busiest spring ever for Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and its nonprofit partner Fairmount Park Conservancy, Philadelphians will have access to a host of recreational, environmental, cultural and food-based programs throughout Fairmount Park and scores of neighborhood parks around the city.

Here are highlights for March-June 2018, including the opening of a new **park-within-the-park in the Centennial District** in West Fairmount Park and the **return of Parks on Tap**, opening earlier and running for 23 weeks across the city. Stay tuned for summer, when **The Oval+** will pop up on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway for another season of music, movies, art, and treats.



NEW THIS YEAR

Centennial Commons, the new park-within-the-Park: Approximately one year after a section of West Fairmount Park along Parkside Avenue at 40th Street was closed for construction, the area will re-open with brand-new walking paths, beautiful plantings, and giant porch swings, designed to make this historic public space more welcoming. A ribbon-cutting with Mayor Jim Kenney is scheduled for May 2, with a festive community day planned for later in May.

<https://myphillypark.org/what-we-do/capital-projects/centennial-park/>

FarmPhilly CSA Program, a great way to get fresh, locally grown veggies: FarmPhilly supports over 60 urban agriculture projects within Philadelphia's parks, including orchards, youth education gardens, and farmer's markets. The Carousel House Farm in Fairmount Park produced more than 3,500 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables last year. Starting this season, Philadelphians can purchase "shares" of the farm's output through a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program, which will offer produce or flowers for pickup each week for 22 weeks.

<https://squareup.com/store/myphillypark/>

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

We Walk PHL, a free guided walking program: After the popularity of the pilot last summer, guided walks will start up again in May and run through June with a second series planned for September-October. Locations this year will be: Hunting Park, FDR Park, East Fairmount Park, West Fairmount Park, and Tacony Creek Park. This free program is designed to help people achieve their fitness goals while meeting their neighbors.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1346769412082556/about/>

Parks on Tap, the traveling community beer garden: The beer garden that gives back created by Fairmount Park Conservancy and Philadelphia Parks and Recreation in partnership with FCM Hospitality will be back for a third season, the longest to date, running for 23 weeks from **April 25 through September 30**. Kicking off at the Azalea Garden at noon on April 25, each week Parks on Tap will travel to a different Philadelphia park on a Wednesday and stay through Sunday, offering a barbecue-inspired menu with rotating seasonal food and beer specials in a family-friendly setting. All Parks on Tap locations will include seating and tables, games, restrooms, and a menu of hot food, salads, and snacks. parksontap.com

The full schedule of parks for 2018 is as follows:

April 25 – 29, Azalea Garden (Fairmount)

*May 2 – 6, Lovett Park (Mt. Airy)

*May 9 – 13, Campbell Square (Port Richmond/Kensington)

*May 16 – 20, Fernhill Park (Germantown)

May 23 – 28, FDR Park (South Philadelphia)

May 30 – June 3, Gorgas Park (Roxborough)

June 6 – 10, Matthias Baldwin (Spring Garden/Center City)

June 13 – 17, Belmont Plateau (West Fairmount Park)

June 20 – 24, Schuylkill Banks (Center City)

June 27 – July 1, Columbus Square (South Philadelphia)

July 5 – 8, Shofuso Japanese House & Garden (West Fairmount Park)

*July 11 – 15, Glendinning Rock Garden (East Fairmount Park/ Kelly Drive)

July 18 – 22, Burholme Park (Northeast)

*July 25 – 29, Pastorius Park (Chestnut Hill)

August 1 – 5, Mt. Pleasant (East Fairmount Park)

*August 8 – 12, Dickinson Square (South Philadelphia)

August 15 – 19, Lemon Hill (East Fairmount Park)

August 22 – 26, Penn Treaty Park (Fishtown)

August 29 – Sept. 3, Clark Park (West Philadelphia)

*Sept. 5 – 9, Pleasant Hill (Far Northeast)

Sept. 9 – 16, Waterworks (Fairmount)

Sept. 19 – 23, Pretzel Park, (Manayunk)

Sept. 26 – 30, Strawberry Mansion Bridge

**Parks on Tap will visit these seven parks for the first time this year.*

FAN FAVORITES

LOVE Your Park, a week of service and celebration: Taking place this year May 12-20, LOVE Your Park Week kicks off with a citywide service day engaging 2,500 volunteers to clean and green Philly's parks, followed by 8 days of fun, free events in 100 neighborhood parks. Highlights this year include: a free nature photography class in Cobbs Creek Park, an open house at the historic homes of Fairmount, and the kickoff of a new summer yoga series in FDR Park. Volunteer registration opens April 12.

loveyourpark.org

TreePhilly, yard tree giveaways: Need some shade? Philadelphia residents can pick up a free tree to plant in their yard at one of TreePhilly's giveaway spots. This year's locations include Parkway Central Library (April 4), Cobbs Creek Community Environmental Center (April 14), and several bar/restaurants on "Arbrev Day" (April 20). Advance registration encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome at all events.

<http://treephilly.org/free-trees/yard-trees>

Broad Street Run Team of Park Champions: Join Fairmount Park Conservancy's Blue Cross Broad Street Run 2018 team of Park Champions and enjoy great perks while raising funds for everyone's favorite place to run: Fairmount Park. Team members get guaranteed entry into the run on May 6 and can participate in special training runs and VIP access to the post-race party at FDR Park.

<https://www.crowdrise.com/bsr2018>

West Park Arts Fest: In recent years, Fairmount Park Conservancy has joined West Park Cultural Center in presenting their annual festival, this year on Saturday, June 9, from 12-5 pm (South Concourse Drive between 41st Street and Memorial Hall Drive). In collaboration with Mural Arts Philadelphia, the free family-friendly festival includes brand-new art installations, local craft vendors, children's art activities, historical trolley tours, food trucks, and more.

<https://myphillypark.org/arts-and-culture-fpc/projects/west-park-arts-fest-2018/>

Wheel Fun, bike and boat rentals: Visitors to Boathouse Row can rent a bike or surrey from the Wheel Fun concession next to Lloyd Hall, 7 days a week starting March 26. At FDR Park in South Philadelphia starting April 14, Wheel Fun will rent paddle boats and kayaks in addition to bikes, on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays. Revenue from these operations goes to support the parks.

<http://wheelfunrentals.com/>

Download high-resolution images here: <http://bit.ly/ConservancyPressKit>

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.

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Love Your Park Week photo by Darryl Moran.