

GO Park

NYC PARKS 2013

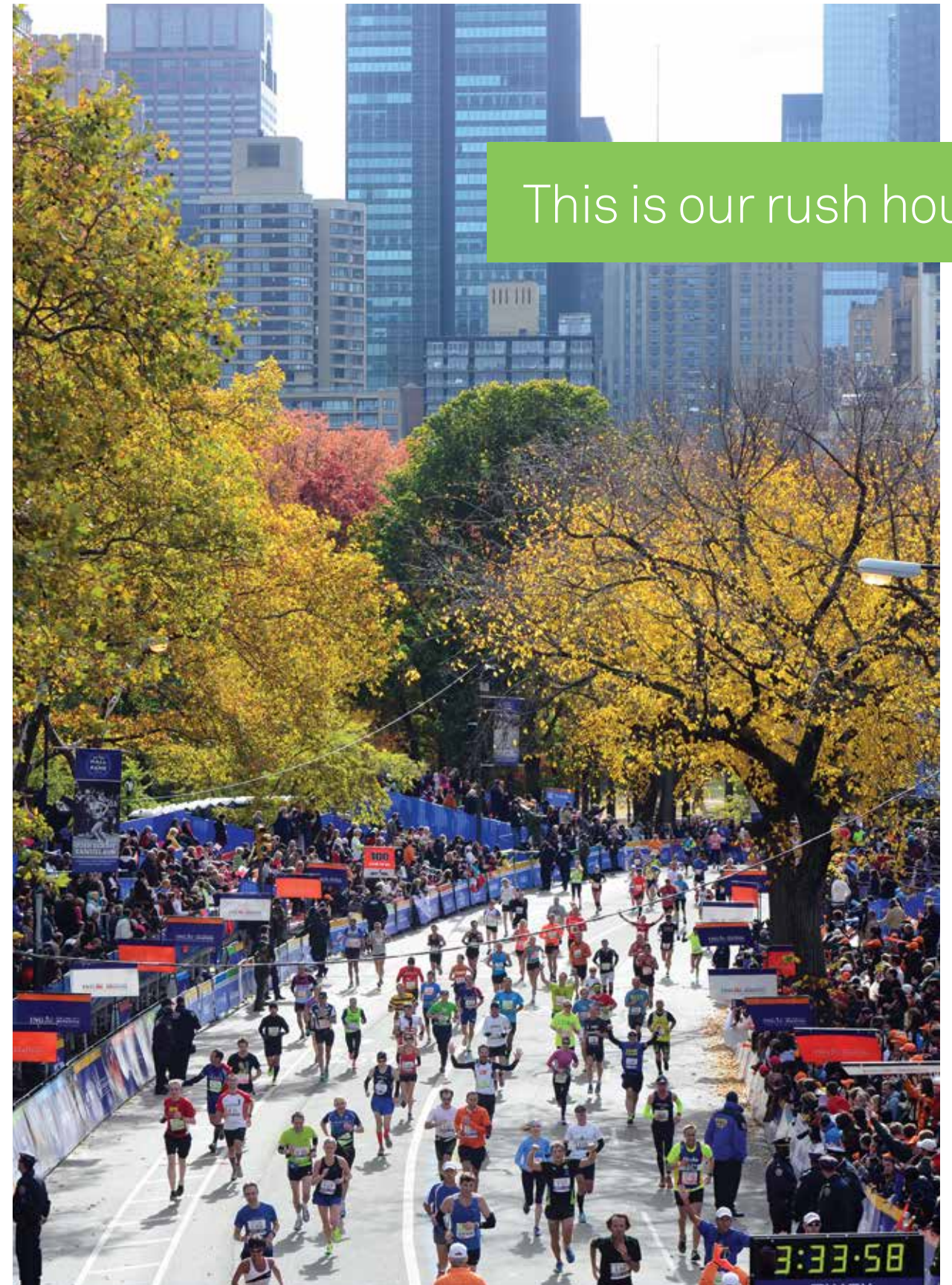


NYC Parks

City of New York Parks & Recreation
Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Patricia E. Harris, First Deputy Mayor
Veronica M. White, Commissioner

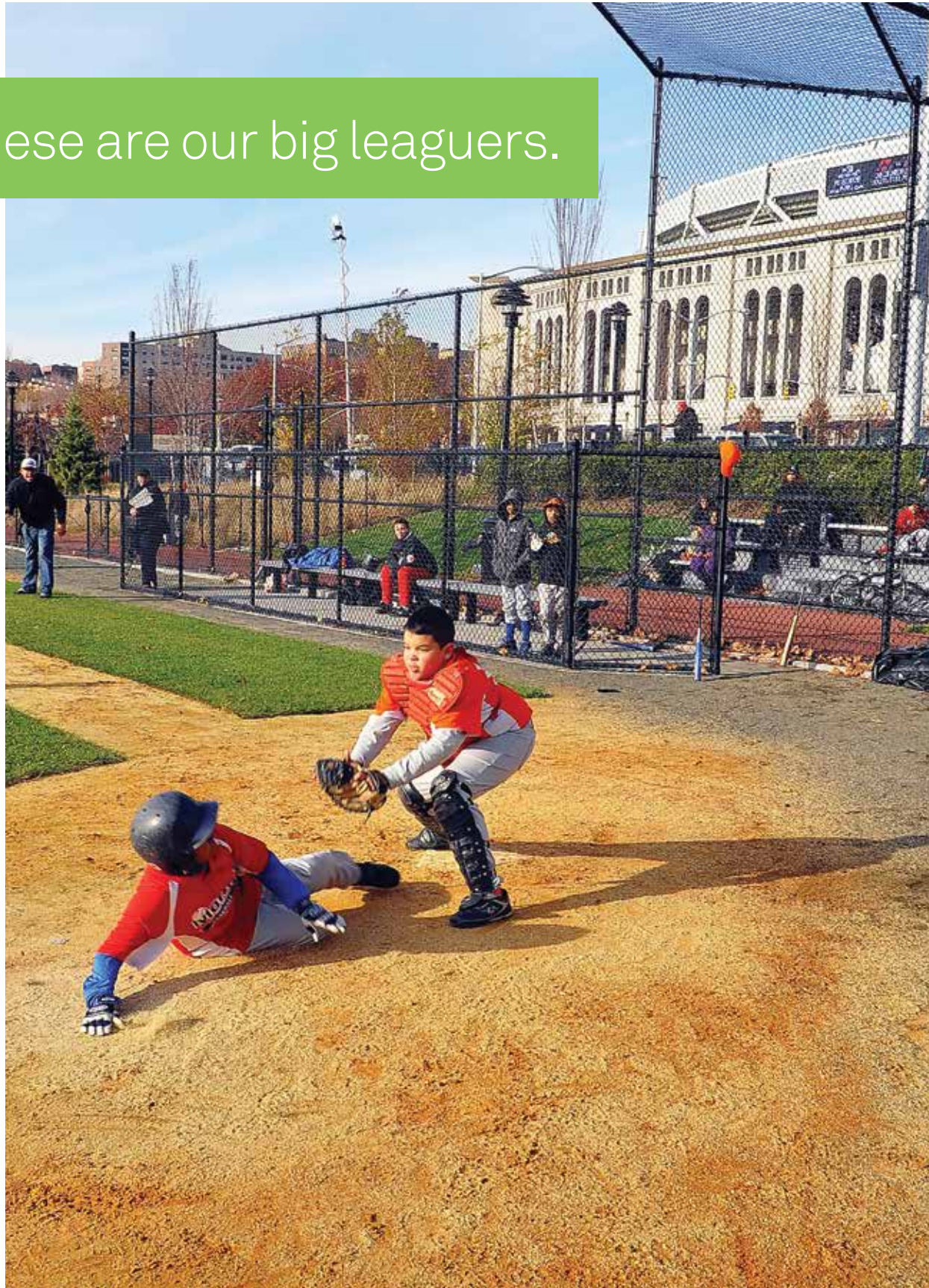
nyc.gov/parks

Welcome to
NYC Parks.

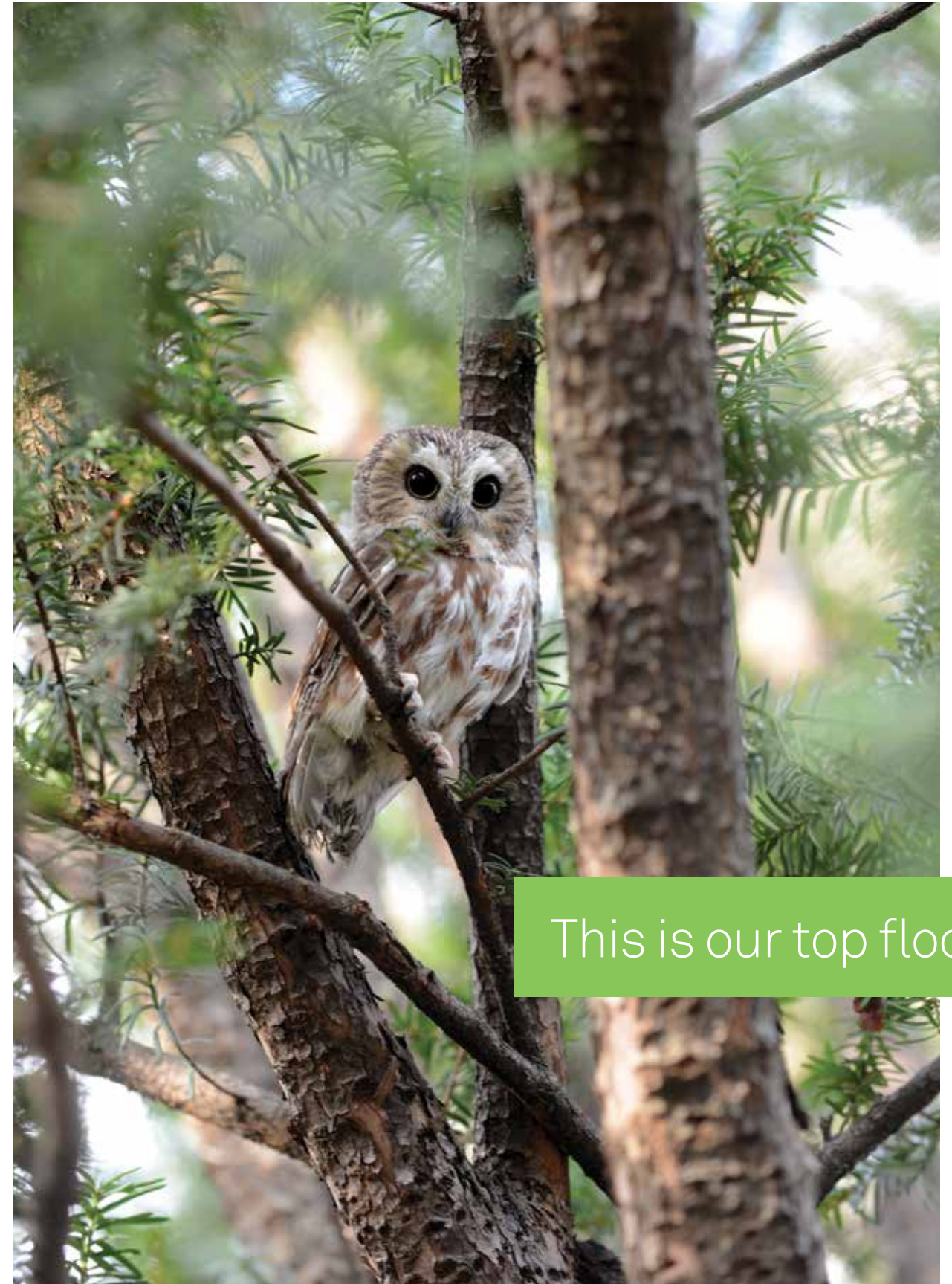


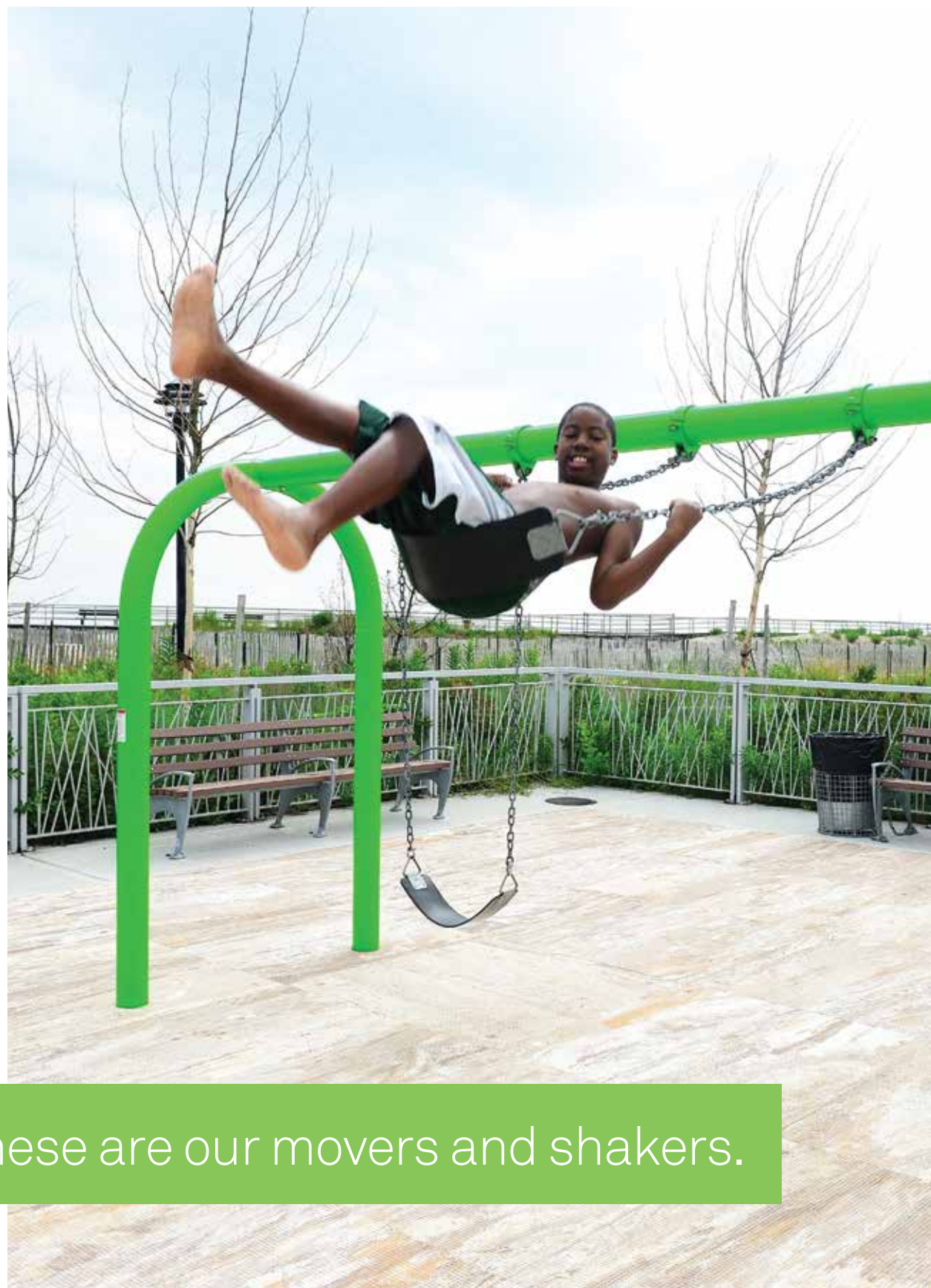
This is our rush hour.

These are our big leaguers.

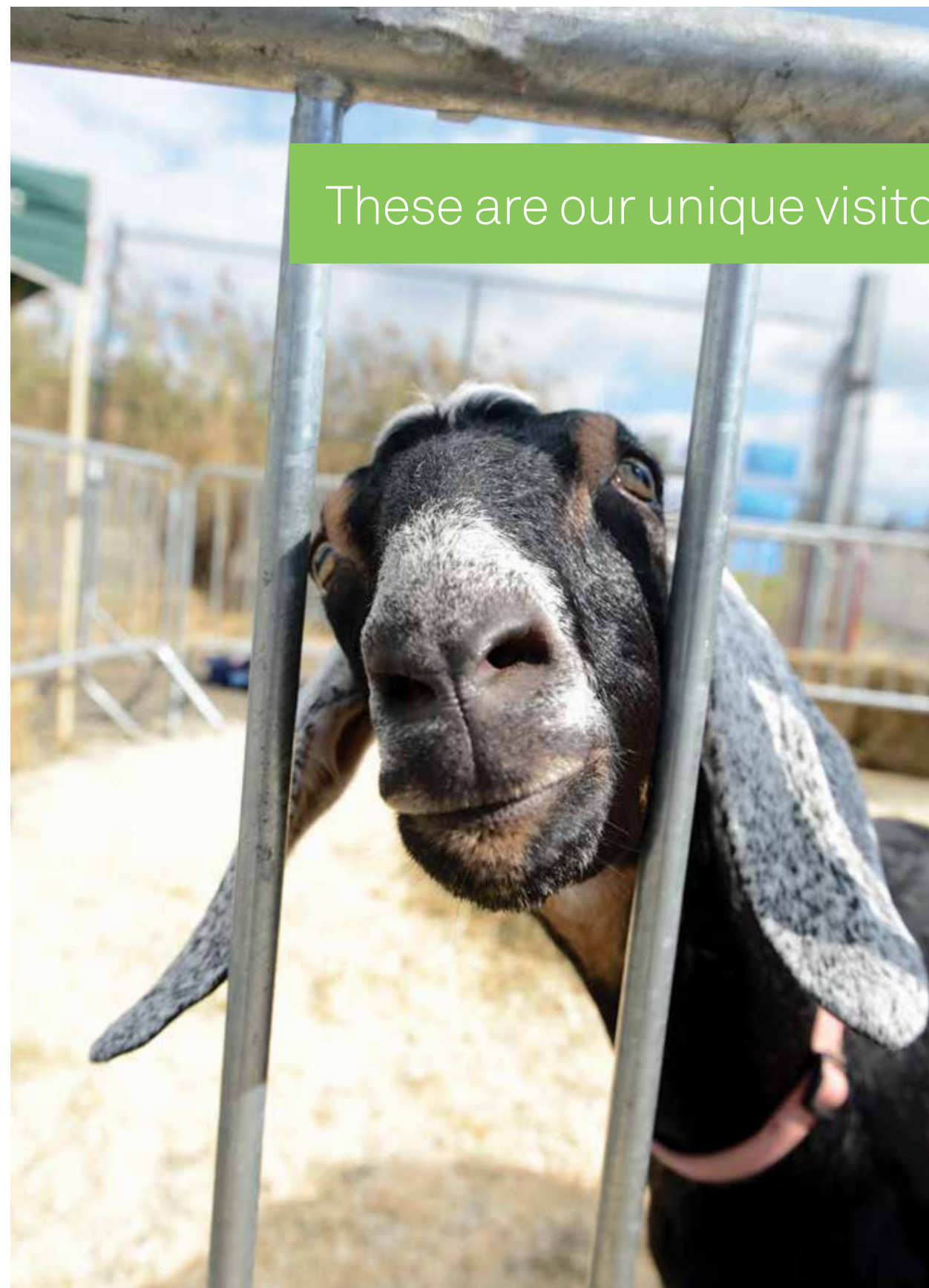


This is our top floor.



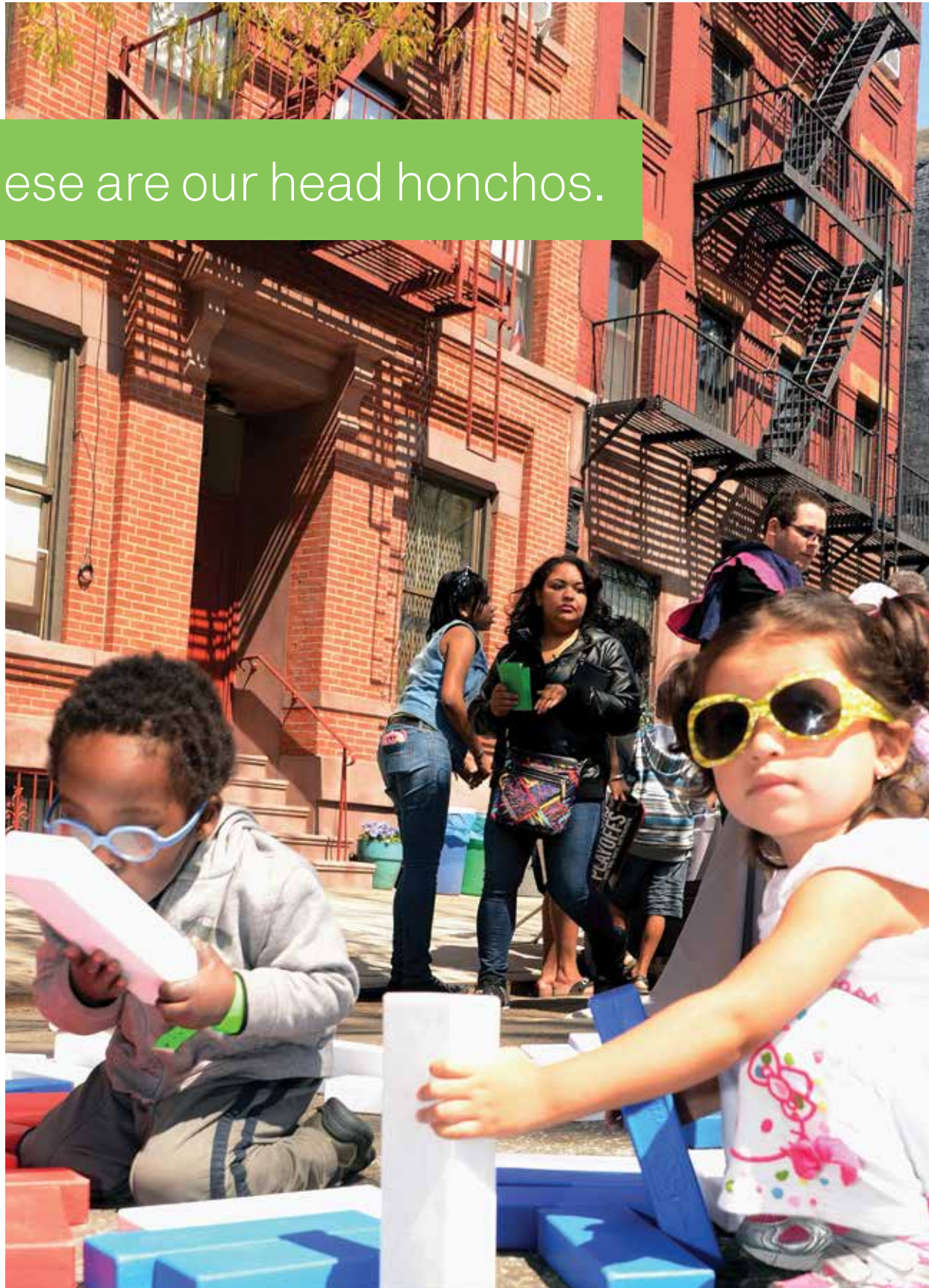


These are our movers and shakers.

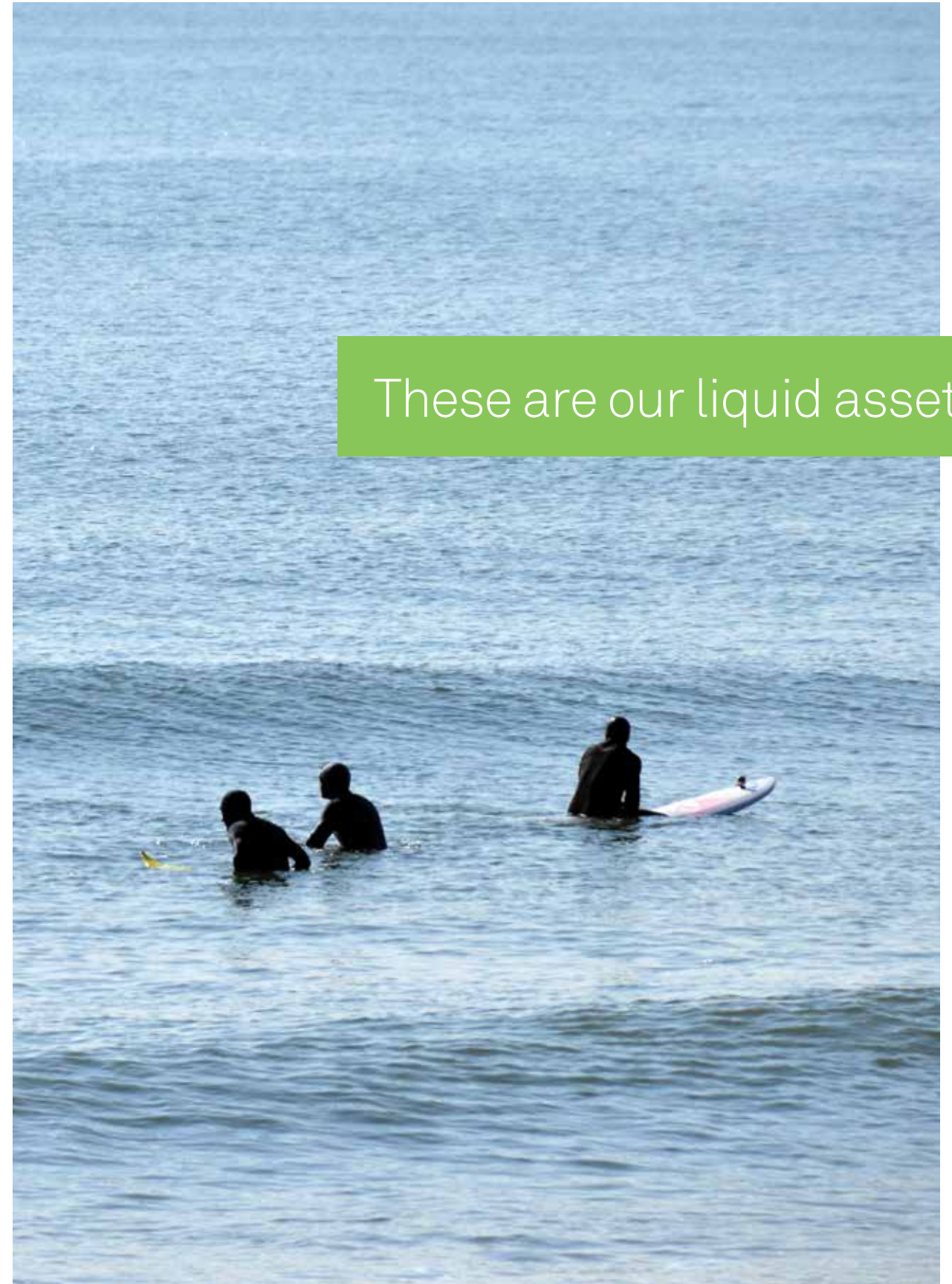


These are our unique visitors.

These are our head honchos.



These are our liquid assets.





First Deputy Mayor Patricia E. Harris, Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, and NYC Parks Commissioner Veronica M. White stand in front of artist Orly Genger's "Red, Yellow, and Blue" installation at Madison Square Park on May 1, 2013. NYC Parks curates the largest municipal outdoor art museum in the United States. Each year, 30-35 temporary art exhibits are installed in parks throughout the City, in addition to the permanent collection of 1,000 monuments and works of art regularly maintained by NYC Parks.

A WORD FROM

MAYOR MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG
FIRST DEPUTY MAYOR PATRICIA E. HARRIS
PARKS COMMISSIONER VERONICA M. WHITE

Dear Friends:

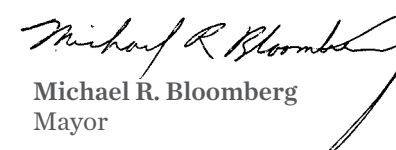
New York has come a long way in building an environmentally-sustainable future, and with more than 29,800 acres of parkland, we are well on our way to becoming the greenest city in America. Our city's parks improve quality of life for all New Yorkers, and over the last 12 years, our Administration has invested \$5 billion in rebuilding, revitalizing, and preserving these essential resources.

Through NYC Parks, we have created and restored new outdoor spaces in every borough. In Queens, industrial areas have been replaced with Elmhurst Park and Hunter's Point South Waterfront Park. We transformed the Bronx River and its shoreline into a clean, peaceful environment for park-goers of all ages. Manhattan is now home to one of our most innovative parks, the High Line, which has redefined the West Side. Brooklyn Bridge, Transmitter, and Bushwick Inlet Parks have brought new life to the industrial Brooklyn waterfront. And in Staten Island, the Fresh Kills landfill will soon become our city's largest new park in more than a century.

We have also worked to ensure that these spaces provide our residents with opportunities to enjoy outstanding art and innovative design. NYC Parks curates the largest municipal outdoor art museum in the United States, with a permanent collection of 1,000 monuments and art pieces installed across the city and more than 30 temporary exhibits showcased each year. Our green spaces are a study in good design as well, seamlessly blending the natural landscape with manmade structures and paying homage to the rich history of New York.

Even after last year's Hurricane Sandy, our city has remained firm in our commitment to build for the future. In the wake of the storm, and facing the huge job of rebuilding our waterfront communities and beaches, we promised our residents that we would build back a more resilient, more protected coastline. Thanks to the hard work of NYC Parks staff, we were able to meet that goal and develop new infrastructure that is better prepared to handle major storms.

This report highlights our hard work and tremendous progress in re-imagining the role of parks in the 21st century, and together we will continue our efforts to make New York a greener, greater city.


Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor


Patricia E. Harris
First Deputy Mayor


Veronica M. White
Parks Commissioner



The High Bridge will reopen to pedestrians and bicycles for the first time in 40 years in 2014.

A TOUR OF OUR PARKS WITH COMMISSIONER WHITE

The Bloomberg administration's plan for our City's parks has been a comprehensive five-borough success story that will long stand and inform best practices for adding parks where they are most needed, in underserved neighborhoods and overlooked former industrial sites. Hundreds of new parks, playgrounds, and community gardens now stand to represent this vision, as well as hundreds of other revitalized and renovated ones.

As part of this effort, we have reclaimed the waterfront, opened our only freshwater river to recreation, rather than pollution, built world-renowned sports fields, and restored acres of natural areas.

New York City parks, recreation centers, pools, beaches, nature preserves, wetlands, golf courses, tennis courts, skating rinks, cricket pitches, baseball diamonds, and soccer fields compose 15 percent of the City's land. Every one of our 29,000-plus acres contains something interesting, life sustaining, or promising.

The depth and breadth of our parks is breathtaking. In 2013, we extended an invitation to all New Yorkers and millions of visitors to see for themselves, to Go Park! Go Park has enabled us to get the word out about all of our places and programs, from sharing photos you capture as you explore, to enticing you to walk, run, jump, eat, dance, swim, and fish, to promoting new and exciting membership programs for all ages and abilities.

Over the course of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's administration, \$5 billion has been invested in NYC Parks and programs. To maintain this commitment, the Mayor and City Council provided our agency with the largest expense budget in NYC Parks history: \$380 million for Fiscal Year 2014 (July 2013-June 2014). This belief in a greener and greater city has launched a renaissance for 21st-century parks, and the third of three great eras in park expansion.

The first era began in the 1850s and gave us the masterpieces of Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux — Central Park, Prospect Park, Riverside Park, Morningside Park, Fort Greene Park, and two parkways — Ocean and Eastern. Then in 1888 in the Bronx, six parks and three parkways were



Top: Mayor Bloomberg, Commissioner White, and First Deputy Mayor Harris at the ribbon-cutting for Transmitter Park on the North Brooklyn waterfront. **Bottom:** Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner White at the opening of Hunter's Point South Waterfront Park in Queens.

vested to the City of New York, quintupling the City's green space overnight.

The second era began in the 1930s. In the midst of the Great Depression, then-Parks Commissioner Robert Moses oversaw the construction of 658 playgrounds and 11 Olympic-sized outdoor swimming pools, from Astoria Pool in Queens to Sunset Pool in Brooklyn.

In the third great era, we are reclaiming the waterfront, putting more and more New Yorkers within a ten-minute walk of a park or playground, creating greenways for walking, running, and biking, building skate parks and eco-docks,

and converting landfills into recreational space — from a golf course in the Bronx to a landscape for birding and horseback-riding in Staten Island. These accomplishments would not be possible without the dedication of the NYC Parks staff, especially our Maintenance and Operations and Capital teams.

And if you get hungry, there are now hundreds of food options available at NYC Parks’ cafés and carts. Coming soon: a reborn Tavern on the Green, the iconic landmark restaurant in Central Park.

While we build, we also seek to protect our natural resources. On Staten Island, NYC Parks’ Greenbelt Native Plant Center participates in an international effort to “bank” every native seed in our region, and in 2013 it became a key cultivator of beach grass for Hurricane Sandy recovery.

On July 17, 2012, former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Mayor Bloomberg signed an agreement to cooperatively manage 10,000 acres of city and federal parks in and around Jamaica Bay — 18,000 acres including its wetlands — to combine our strengths and create a seamless park experience for visitors. In 2013, the Jamaica Bay/Rockaway Parks Conservancy was established to support conservation and development of the Jamaica Bay area parklands and waters.

In addition, Jamaica Bay will be the site of a new and unprecedented Science and Resilience Institute, where NYC Parks and the National Parks Service will be joined by the City University of New York (CUNY) and a consortium of educational institutions to explore new measures with which to face storm impacts and climate change in the years ahead. This historic partnership improves one of our



From top: Greenbelt Native Plant Center, Staten Island; Jamaica Bay, Brooklyn/Queens; Gertrude Ederle Recreation Center, Manhattan.

great natural treasures even as it offers more outdoor recreation and access for everyone, from boating and hiking to biking and camping adventures.

Much of what NYC Parks does takes place outdoors, but don’t overlook our vast and varied indoor spaces, where fitness



Free Shape Up NYC class with expert instructor at the Chelsea Recreation Center.

programs abound. In 2013, NYC Parks added a new category for membership at its 35 recreation centers, many with indoor pools, so that young adults 18 to 24 can join for only \$25 per year.

In 2013, we re-opened the fully renovated Gertrude Ederle Recreation Center on Manhattan’s West Side, completed renovations on the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center in the Bronx, and restored indoor pools at Brownsville Recreation Center in Brooklyn and Hansborough in Manhattan. From Staten Island to Queens, Brooklyn to the Bronx, and Harlem to Chelsea, hundreds of pieces of new top-quality fitness equipment arrived at our gyms. Hundreds of fitness

classes taught by the best instructors in the city were available on a daily basis to anyone who wanted to “Shape Up” or “Walk NYC” through partnerships with Empire Blue Cross and Equinox Gyms.

Building sustainably and responsibly is the norm at NYC Parks. Our Maintenance and Operations team has been weatherizing our 1,000 buildings, and revamping our boilers for maximum efficiency. We implemented new storm-water capture systems at sites such as Bushwick Inlet Park in Brooklyn, completed in Fall 2013, and at hundreds of greenstreets — pint-sized gardens located in former cement triangles and barriers along streets citywide. We’ve built or retrofitted dozens of green roofs, and



5-Boro Green Roof laboratory, Randall's Island, Manhattan.

Randall's Island, home of the NYC Parks facility known as 5-Boro, features a green roof laboratory visited by experts from all over the country and around the world.

Due in part to our improved parks, green spaces, and natural areas, New York City's air is now cleaner than it has been in 50 years, our population is healthier and longer-living than at any time in our history, and more than 76 percent of us now live within a 10-minute walk of a park or playground. The High Line and Brooklyn Bridge Park are must-see venues for millions of residents and tourists each year. Central Park attracts 40 million people annually. And the happiest place

in New York City? That would be Fort Tryon Park in upper Manhattan, according to an independent 2013 survey done by measuring Twitter posts.

Parks, greenstreets, and community gardens provide respite, shade, and beauty. Parks are also a catalyst for community development, creating new neighborhoods where families want to live and work.

On Earth Day 2007, Mayor Bloomberg announced PlaNYC, the most sweeping proposal to enhance our urban environment in modern history. NYC Parks plays a key role in its success. Under PlaNYC, we have invested in eight multi-

million-dollar regional parks projects citywide, turned hundreds of part-time schoolyards into public neighborhood playgrounds, and planted 800,000 trees towards a 2017 goal of a million trees in ten years — now two years ahead of schedule.

In 2012, we completed the reconstruction of McCarren Pool and Play Center in the Greenpoint-Williamsburg neighborhoods of Brooklyn. Opened in 1936, then closed in 1984 due to the deterioration of its systems, McCarren Pool was rebuilt as both an outdoor Olympic-sized pool and year-round recreation center. Since its opening, the pool has accommodated more than 255,000 swimmers and has hosted



Top: Autumn in Fort Tryon Park, Manhattan. Bottom: Reconstructing the High Bridge between the Bronx and Manhattan.

Since its opening in summer 2012, McCarren Pool has welcomed more than 255,000 swimmers.



free swimming classes and sessions for all ages. In 2013, it launched winter ice skating outdoors.

In 2014, the restored High Bridge will once again connect Bronx residents to upper Manhattan, including the Highbridge Pool and Recreation Center and upper Manhattan parks. First opened in 1848 and standing majestically over the Harlem River, the 1,200-foot-long High Bridge walkway was closed to the public four decades ago.

In south Brooklyn, Parks is transforming 73-acre Calvert Vaux Park (formerly known

as Dreier Offerman Park), located near Coney Island. The park features two new synthetic turf fields, restored aquatic and coastal habitats, a main entry rain garden, comfort station, field house, parking lot, and security lighting.

On Staten Island, NYC Parks is partnering with the City's Department of Design and Construction on a world-class indoor track and field facility at Ocean Breeze Park that will provide a home and training ground for children, high school, collegiate, and professional athletes, as well as an extraordinary year-round resource for the community.



Top: Rendering of Ocean Breeze Track and Field, Staten Island, now under construction. **Bottom:** A restored lagoon, Soundview Park in the Bronx.

In the Bronx, at Soundview Park, we have opened a new field house and restored a lagoon and wetlands — and construction is nearly complete on the Soundview Track and Field and Metcalf Playground.

In Manhattan at Fort Washington Park, we are developing new waterfront parkland along the Hudson River. New Yorkers will soon enjoy expanded access to the beloved Little Red Lighthouse and spectacular views of the New Jersey Palisades and the George Washington Bridge.

In Queens, where the reservoir in Highland Park once served as the back-up water supply for Brooklyn and Queens, we have reconstructed the reservoir's perimeter





Fort Washington Park's Little Red Lighthouse, Manhattan.



From top: Rockaway Park, 30th Street Playground, Queens; Highland Park/Ridgewood Reservoir, Queens; MillionTreesNYC volunteers, Rockaway Community Park, Queens.

walkways with trails so New Yorkers can appreciate the natural landscape.

Rockaway Beach in Queens now offers sports courts, a synthetic turf football field, a skate park, a new comfort station, a climbing wall, and a new playground, all of which weathered Sandy well as a result of sustainable design.

PlaNYC encompasses more than parks. A major component is the initiative to plant one million trees across the city. When Mayor Bloomberg planted the 800,000th tree on Governor's Island in November, it put us well on the way to completing the MillionTreesNYC project two years ahead of schedule.





Pier 5 at Brooklyn Bridge Park.

2 LEGACY PARKS

New, world-renowned legacy parks have opened in all five boroughs, parks which will shape the City’s landscapes and encourage use of the urban environment for generations.

The High Line in Manhattan, our first park in the sky, is now in its third and final phase of construction. It attracts 4.6 million people a year. From Riverside Park South to Hudson River Park to East River Park, the waterfront of Manhattan is more available, more beautiful, and more resilient than ever before.

In Brooklyn Bridge Park and Bushwick Inlet Park, sustainable design and vast expanses of beautiful amenities — from beaches and carousels to fields of dreams — are now enjoyed by everyone. And we are all excited about a major new development in Prospect Park. The park’s original Olmsted and Vaux landscape was



Clockwise from top left: The High Line, Manhattan; Riverside Park South, Manhattan; Bushwick Inlet Park, Brooklyn; Elmhurst Park, Queens; Mill Pond Park, the Bronx; Macombs Dam Park, the Bronx; the LeFrak Center at Lakeside, Prospect Park, Brooklyn; Hudson River Park, Manhattan.

dismantled in 1960 for the construction of the former Wollman Ice Skating Rink. Now, working with our partners at the Prospect Park Alliance, we have opened Lakeside for ice skating, roller skating, water activities and strolling. The new 26-acre project replaces the rink, restores the park to its original roots, adds new green acreage where a parking lot once stood, and features unparalleled design by landscape architect Christian Zimmerman and architects Tod Williams/Billie Tsien. The project included restoration of Music Island, the esplanade, and the addition of a new 25,000 square-foot facility with two open-air skating rinks.

In Queens, Hunter’s Point South Waterfront Park became an instant magnet for its neighbors in Long Island City and beyond. Where huge gas tanks once stood along the Long Island Expressway, now we have a great neighborhood space, Elmhurst Park. On Staten Island, partnering with the NYC Department of Sanitation, we are transforming a former landfill into one of the largest parks in the city: Freshkills Park. This new park will exemplify the values and aspirations of contemporary New Yorkers, not just by providing a diversity of recreational opportunities — mountain biking, trail running, kayaking, horseback riding — but also by leading the way on environmental restoration and sustainability.

New York City’s parks are made even greater by our partners, donors, community stewards, and volunteers. Over the last 30 years, NYC Parks has developed and nurtured partnerships dedicated to engaging New Yorkers in the improvement of their parks. Starting with the foundation of the Central Park Conservancy in 1980, these partnerships have grown organically around the needs



Freshkills Park,
Staten Island.

and resources of a wide range of parks, and have matured into a collection of public-private partnerships citywide that now engage thousands of volunteers, advocate for scores of programs and improvements, and solicit philanthropic contributions to enhance the City’s parks. This network of public-private partnerships is further supported by the City Parks Foundation, which offers free concerts, sports clinics and other programs, and Partnerships for Parks, a joint initiative of the City Parks Foundation and NYC Parks which supports



Left: The Bronx River in spring. Right: Charlie Parker Jazz Festival, Tompkins Square Park, Manhattan.



Top: Free tennis clinics in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn. **Bottom:** Riding the Bronx River Greenway with Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz and Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda.

the growth of community-based parks groups and volunteer events including the semi-annual It's My Park Day.

In 2013, we realized there was one part of our parks that did not have its own coherent constituency — our scattered and diverse natural areas. We therefore launched the Natural Areas Conservancy (NAC) to expand the City's capacity to preserve and restore wetlands, native forests, and the 10,000 acres of natural areas which help protect our coastal city and give our constituents with four legs, wings, fins, or roots the support they need and deserve.

The thousands of people who work every day to make our parks the best in the



world are our most valuable asset. Your dedication makes all of what we do better. Thank you to everyone who creates, improves, maintains, protects, and enjoys New York City's parkland. **Go Park!**



It's My Park Day, May 2013, Morningside Park, Manhattan.



Rockaway Rebuilding, Queens. Installing one of 35 lifeguard comfort stations at the beach in preparation for summer 2013.

Kevin Quinn



Clockwise from top left: Restoration at Rockaway Beach, Queens; restoring the boardwalk at South Beach, Staten Island; rebuilding Steeplechase Pier in Coney Island, Brooklyn; painting the barriers on Shore Front Parkway in Rockaway, Queens.

3 REBUILDING AND RESILIENCE AFTER HURRICANE SANDY

On October 22, 2012, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued an advisory report that “Tropical Depression 18” had officially become “Tropical Storm Sandy.” She was yet to develop into a full-blown hurricane. One week later, Sandy was at our doorstep.

By the time Hurricane Sandy subsided, New York City’s beaches and shoreline were devastated. The initial recovery work, totaling more than half a million person-hours, included debris removal, salvage operations, and demolition work. People’s

homes and property had to be removed from the beaches; sand and boardwalk had to be removed from people’s homes and property. The waters around the beaches had to be cleared of dangerous debris. More than 40,000 cubic yards of debris — enough

to fill 12 Olympic-sized swimming pools — were removed. Eight thousand volunteers cleaned beaches and community parks in a program organized with the help of Partnership for Parks and NYC Service.

Once beaches were cleared of debris, restoration began. Our crews worked day and night to fulfill a promise: Get the beaches in Queens, Brooklyn, Staten Island and the Bronx open by Memorial Day weekend. The work included repair of boardwalks and planning for replacement of boardwalks destroyed; renovation of buildings for concessions and restrooms; design, construction and installation of resilient new modular buildings to serve as comfort stations and lifeguard

locker rooms; design and construction of boardwalk islands around beach amenities in the Rockaways; installation of ramps and stairs for beach access; rebuilding the Steeplechase Pier in Brooklyn; rebuilding a boardwalk in Staten Island and berms at South Beach, New Dorp, and Cedar Grove; implementation of shoreline protective measures; repairs to playgrounds and other recreational facilities; and installation of utilities. Much of this work was accomplished in partnership with the City’s Department of Design and Construction (DDC) and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Eight public NYC beaches underwent a \$270 million restoration. With plans



to make the beaches more resilient and better protected, the effort continues. NYC Parks is hard at work with the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to design and build a new Rockaway boardwalk; sand replenishment is underway with the Army Corps of Engineers where we are pumping 3.5 million cubic yards of sand onto Rockaway Beach, and another 600,000 cubic yards onto Coney Island. Along Rockaway in Queens and at South, New Dorp, Oakwood, and Cedar Grove Beaches in Staten Island, NYC Parks has installed sand-filled geotextile bags to create protective berms. In Rockaway, concrete baffle walls have been built to prevent sand drifting. On Staten Island, 26,000 linear feet of berm have been added.

In Rockaway, as an interim measure to fill the boardwalk's role in the community as a transportation option, NYC Parks placed concrete jersey barriers along Shore Front Parkway to create a bike and pedestrian travel lane. During the summer of 2013, Parks organized a design contest for local artists, and three winners had their designs painted on the barriers by hundreds of volunteers. This one-and-a-half mile mural



Top: U.S. Army Col. Paul E. Owen, NYC Parks Commissioner Veronica M. White and Chief of Staff to the First Deputy Mayor Nanette Smith at the announcement for the Science and Resilience Institute for Jamaica Bay and Rockaway Parks. **Bottom:** Free summer fun at Cedar Grove Beach, Staten Island.

demonstrates people's devotion to their community, and it is a tribute to what makes this community so special.

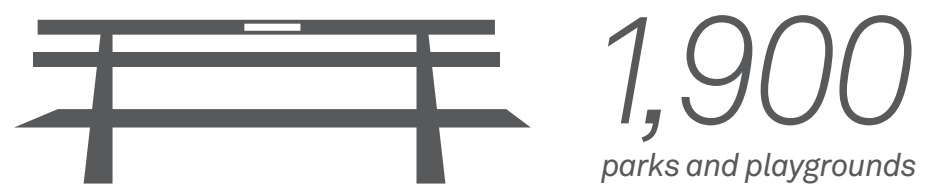
On May 24, 2013, through the efforts of hundreds of "Parkies," numerous City agencies, thousands of volunteers, and the unyielding support of the Mayor, Parks opened the beaches. In summer 2013, nearly fifteen million people enjoyed them.



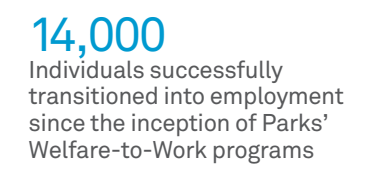
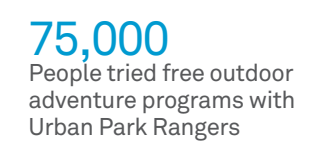
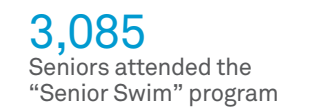
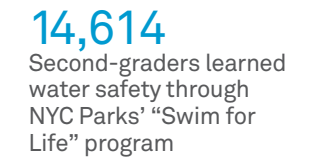
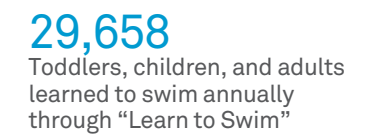
Summer after Sandy at Coney Island beach, Brooklyn.

4 NYC PARKS BY THE NUMBERS

In 2013, NYC Parks offered more places than ever to Go Park.



And more people than ever continue to take advantage. To date:



Information is current as of 11/30/13.



A free "Swim For Life" safety class at Asser Levy Pool, Manhattan.

5 A LOOK INSIDE NYC PARKS

NYC Parks strives to enable all New Yorkers to lead physically active lives through sports, fitness and outdoor adventure in all of our Parks and facilities by offering places to relax, to learn, to think, and to enjoy nature.

RECREATION AND FITNESS Recreation Centers

Indoors and outdoors, our goal is to provide every New Yorker with opportunities and options for getting fit, having fun, and becoming active and involved close to home and throughout the city. Our

recreation centers are a community resource year-round. In 2013, we focused on ensuring that the city's most vulnerable populations have access. We created a new \$25 annual membership for Young Adults (ages 18 to 24) at all 35 recreation centers citywide to ease the financial transition

between Youth membership (free through age 17) and full Adult membership (\$100-\$150 a year). As a result of this and other improvements, recreation center membership increased 17 percent in 2013.

Through our Recreation and Public Programs departments, NYC Parks offers a wide array of programs for children, teens, adults, and seniors. These include thousands of free Shape Up NYC fitness classes that target neighborhoods with high rates of obesity and obesity-related disease; free Walk NYC classes with trained instructors, and we have 35 recreation centers across the five boroughs that are working to keep New Yorkers fit.

Learn to Swim and Swim for Life

Learn to Swim is a long-standing free instructional program that runs at our indoor pools in the fall, winter and spring and at our outdoor pools in the summer. Its popularity continues to grow. We teach toddlers (ages 1½-5), children (ages 6-14), and adults basic swimming skills. In 2013, more than 29,658 toddlers, children and adults took part. Swim for Life has taught more than 14,000 second graders how to stay safe in the water since its inception in 2011.

Urban Park Rangers

These uniformed stewards of our Parks have been engaging New Yorkers since 1979, connecting them to the natural world through environmental education, outdoor recreation, wildlife management and active conservation. The Rangers mentor some 300 teenagers a year through experiential fieldwork and connect with some 75,000 young people and adults through outdoor recreation programs that include canoeing, hiking, fishing, and dozens of overnight camping trips. In addition, Rangers patrol



The fitness room at Pelham Fritz Recreation Center, Manhattan.

natural areas, rescue and rehabilitate native wildlife, and operate nature centers in parks across the city.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT MillionTreesNYC

MillionTreesNYC was launched in October 2007 as part of PlaNYC with the goal of planting one million new trees in the city by 2017. We anticipate reaching a million in 2015. MillionTreesNYC offers free training and tools to engage the public in caring for and appreciating the importance of trees. In October 2013, 1,200 volunteers joined NYC Parks and planted 20,000 trees and 5,000 shrubs in Rockaway Community Park.

Forestry, Horticulture, and Natural Resources

Our Natural Resources Group (NRG) was formed almost 30 years ago to conserve New York City's natural resources. During this time, NRG has restored some 1,300 acres of forest across the city along with 150 acres of grassland and 90 acres of salt marsh. In addition, working with the Bronx River Alliance, NRG has returned NYC's only freshwater river to a thriving state, improving habitat for migrating



In 2013, NYC Parks launched the Jamaica Bay/Rockaway Parks Restoration Corps.

fish, and has returned the beaver and the alewife to its shore and waters. NRG also runs the Greenbelt Native Plant Center on Staten Island, which produces more than 400,000 native plants a year for ecological restoration. A Greenbelt staffer spent the days before Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 gathering seeds of native beach grasses, enabling the NPC to re-establish these grasses on our beaches.

Natural Areas Conservancy

In 2013, we completed the formation of this conservancy to help manage 10,000 acres of natural parkland and all that lives and grows on those acres. The Natural Areas Conservancy (NAC) will increase public awareness and volunteerism, fund research and development, implement advanced

technology and management tools, and serve as an advocate for a constituency of wildlife, plants and land. Parks and NAC have begun the conservancy's first project—a citywide ecological assessment that will be used in the long-term management of our natural areas. This project is being conducted in partnership with the American Museum of Natural History, the United States Forest Service, The Nature Conservancy, and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Jamaica Bay/Rockaway Parks

In 2012, NYC Parks and the National Parks Service entered into a new partnership to cooperatively manage and improve the Jamaica Bay/Rockaway Parks area. The partnership hired 200 workers for the

Jamaica Bay/Rockaway Parks Restoration Corps to aid in the post-Sandy clean-up and recovery efforts. In August, Mayor Bloomberg and Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced the formation of a new Science and Resilience Institute. The Institute will be a top-tier research center promoting an understanding of resilience in urban ecosystems and their adjacent communities through an intensive research program focused on the restoration of Jamaica Bay.

ENGAGING NEW YORK

Public-Private Partnerships

The work of NYC Parks is enhanced by residents, neighborhood groups, park conservancies, and other community partners. Throughout the city, individuals and organizations enrich our city's green spaces by recruiting volunteers, caring for parks, and providing support for new initiatives. By working with organizations like the City Parks Foundation, the Bronx River Alliance, and the new Natural Areas Conservancy, NYC Parks helps organizations to foster local support and raise private funds to augment park programming and development. These public-private partnerships complement the work of NYC Parks by helping to diversify the uses of and activities within parks, improving the range of public services, and building a broader base of park users.

Web and Social Media

Parks is a citywide leader in using our website to inform New Yorkers about our parks and programs — from public photo contests to opportunities to “give the gift of parks” by donating online. In just two years, web traffic has grown from just under 20 million page views to almost 26 million in 2013. For social media, the growth is even more remarkable: Since 2011, Facebook



From top: Overnight camping in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, with the NYC Parks Urban Park Rangers; Spring Planting Day, April 2013; Greenbelt Native Plant Center, Staten Island.

fans have increased by 148 percent, Twitter followers by 168 percent and Foursquare followers by 281 percent. The new Instagram account, launched summer 2013, already has more than 1,500 users.

Volunteerism and Stewardship

Each year, thousands of individuals and



Out of close to 800 entries submitted to NYC Parks' first #GoPark photo contest, the winner is park-goer Sean Sweeney's *The Morning Sun*, taken in Clove Lakes Park in his home borough of Staten Island.

hundreds of like-minded community groups and non-profits join NYC Parks to maintain, beautify and clean our green spaces and shorelines through stewardship and planting events run by Partnerships for Parks, City Parks Foundation and MillionTreesNYC. In the weeks after Hurricane Sandy struck, volunteers were essential to NYC Parks' post-storm clean-up efforts. 8,650 volunteers turned out to 83 sites citywide and collected 22,260 bags of debris. Thousands of volunteers continued their work year-round, helping to plant new trees, clean playgrounds, and support other parks projects.

Partnerships for Parks, a joint program of NYC Parks and the City Parks Foundation, runs most of these programs as it helps community-based groups and organizations improve their ability to care

for their parks. It's My Park Day events, held twice a year, mobilized 170,000 participants over the program's 15 years. As a result, 1,800 community park groups a year grow stronger, 56,000 individuals a year get connected to their local parks, 9,000 participants attend semi-annual It's My Park Day events.

City Parks Foundation is an independent, non-profit organization that offers park programs throughout the five boroughs. It works in more than 750 parks citywide to provide a broad range of free arts, sports, and educational programs. It reaches more than 600,000 people each year. One of its most popular venues is the "SummerStage" concert series.

Historic House Trust

The Historic House Trust of New York City (HHT) is a not-for-profit organization



Clockwise from top: NYC Parks' Pumpkin Fest, Central Park; wheelchair basketball at Al Oerter Recreation Center, Queens; Conference House, Staten Island.

founded in 1989 to help NYC Parks preserve its collection of 23 historic houses located in New York City parks. Among the most famous is Gracie Mansion, located in Manhattan's Carl Schurz Park.

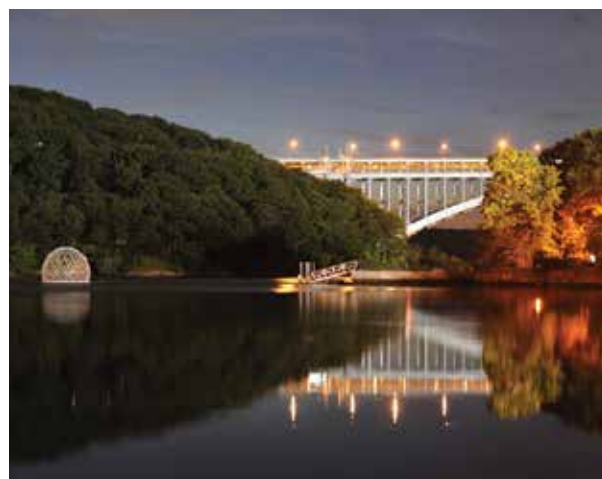
Accessibility

We are committed to ensuring that our parks and playgrounds, buildings and beaches are accessible to the more than 800,000 New Yorkers with disabilities. Our Capital, Maintenance & Operations, Concessions, and Historic Houses divisions make certain that all programs and services are accessible to all. We also work closely with the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities to provide

sports, fitness, and outdoor adventure for New Yorkers with disabilities.

Community Outreach

Community Outreach oversees NYC Parks' interactions with local, state, and federal government. The division works closely with neighborhood groups to provide educational events, activities, and programming to inspire connections to our parks and natural areas. It also oversees 600 community gardens as well as urban farm initiatives through its GreenThumb and GrowNYC departments. Key partners include City Parks Foundation and Partnerships for Parks for special events,



Andreas Symietz

Clockwise from top left: *Flock* by the Art Students League “Model to Monument” program, Van Cortlandt Park, the Bronx; *Dancers of the Wind*, by Gus and Lina Ocamposilva, East River Park, Manhattan; bronze bust of Brigadier General Winfield Scott Hancock by James W. A. MacDonald, Hancock Park, Manhattan; *Harvest Dome 2.0* by Amanda Schachter and Alexander Levi, Inwood Hill Park Inlet, Manhattan.

free sports clinics and nature programs, and volunteer It’s My Park days in parks throughout the city.

Special Events and Concessions

Special Events oversees permitting, contracts, and on-site management of more than 400 large events on parkland per year, including four annual NYC Parks events — Pumpkin Fest, Winter Jam, Adventures NYC, and Street Games. Concessions oversees 250 vendor services, from great food to bike and kayak rentals.

Art & Antiquities

NYC Parks’ Art & Antiquities division exhibits and preserves a world-class art and monuments collection, open to the public free of charge. Art in the Parks displayed 44 temporary installations across the city in 2013, showcasing a mix of emerging and established artists. Our Citywide Monuments Conservation Program cared for more than 500 sites, from the Washington Square Arch to the Unisphere. The Arsenal Gallery, the City’s oldest public art gallery, mounted six exhibitions



In 2013, NYC Parks launched the city’s first Fellowship and Conservation Corps.

on themes of nature, urban space, park design and history.

A PLACE TO GROW Fellowship and Conservation Corps

In his State of the City speech in February 2013, the Mayor announced that NYC Parks would launch a Fellowship and Conservation Corps program this year to develop the future leadership of our agency. Twenty-nine young people began working in September in our headquarters and throughout the city. The program is a paid 40-week public service commitment that features professional placements, ongoing professional development opportunities, and service projects. It is supported by a private grant through the Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City.

Parks Opportunity Program

Parks has a tradition of training people for our work force and the City’s labor force.

By giving people a chance to serve on the front lines of our agency in areas such as horticulture, maintenance, enforcement, and customer service we have continued this proud tradition. Ours is one of the largest and longest-running welfare-to-work and job training programs in the country, now in its 13th year. The Parks Opportunity Program (POP) offers six-month paid positions with career counseling for job-training participants who are New York residents transitioning from public assistance to financial independence.

More than 14,000 participants have transitioned from POP and our other workforce development programs into employment. As a reflection of the program’s success, 41 NYC companies took part in this year’s POP Awards Ceremony in June, having successfully hired from our pool of highly trained graduates.

GO Park



There's so much more to explore in our parks.