



Invitation to Cover

Contact:

Tomasia Kastner / tomasia.kastner@parks.nyc.gov / (212) 360-8284

Christina Pettit / cpettit@cityparksfoundation.org / (212) 360-8162

**Partnerships for Parks
It's My Park Awards Reception
Queens Volunteers to be Honored**

Kissena Corridor Park Conservancy will be Awarded for Outstanding Service, Activism and Collaboration

Awards To Be Held Next Wednesday, March 27, 2019

March 22, 2019 -- NEW YORK, NY -- Partnerships for Parks is proud to announce its 6th annual *It's My Park* Awards Reception, recognizing New York City park volunteers who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to their local parks through service, advocacy, and collaboration. *It's My Park* is Partnerships for Parks' signature program to engage volunteers in hands-on service projects throughout New York City neighborhood parks. The reception will be held next Wednesday, March 27, at the Prince George Ballroom, Manhattan. Partnerships for Parks will present seven awards at the ceremony, including the 2018 Golden Trowel Awards for each of the five boroughs, as well as the Rookie of the Year Award and the Tim Tompkins Leadership Award.

This year's honorees are seven outstanding community groups selected from over 280 that participated in the 2018 *It's My Park* program. Together, these groups amounted to more than 24,000 New Yorkers who organized and participated in over 1,100 park service projects in nearly 340 parks across the city. These volunteers are vital to improving and sustaining New York City's 29,000 acres of green space, from parks and street trees to playgrounds and skateparks. Their dedicated stewardship helps build long-term investment in these public spaces and strengthens the social fabric of their neighborhoods.

The ceremony will include remarks from **Sabina Saragoussi**, director of Partnerships for Parks; **Heather Lubov**, executive director of City Parks Foundation; NYC Parks Commissioner **Mitchell J. Silver**, FAICP; NYC Parks Assistant Commissioner **Sam Biederman**; and NYC Council Member **Barry Grodenchik**, chair of the NYC Council's Committee on Parks and Recreation. All five leaders will be on hand to honor and celebrate these inspiring volunteers for their outstanding service.

The Golden Trowel Award recognizes volunteers' commitment to transforming their parks and green spaces into dynamic community assets. It is presented to a community group from each borough that has led *It's My Park* and other programs, and has demonstrated exceptional organizational growth. **This year's Golden Trowel award for Queens goes to Kissena Corridor Park Conservancy, led by Dorothy Woo, Roland G Wade, Denise Winters, and**



Erika Brassoi.

For well over a decade, the Kissena Corridor Park Conservancy has been serving the Flushing, Queens community by working with NYC Parks to care for the vast, open spaces of this 100-acre park. Encompassing most of the parkland of eastern Queens, Kissena Corridor Park hosts basketball and handball courts, baseball, cricket, football, and soccer fields, fitness equipment, and multiple playgrounds. Because of these amenities as well as its sheer size, the park is utilized by nearly everyone in the community. The conservancy is a non-profit organization that engages community members through park beautification projects, conservation efforts, and public education. The conservancy runs two *It's My Park* projects a year, bringing out almost 150 community members to volunteer. The conservancy also works to address issues of public concern. Because of the park's expansive size and abundant natural space, it had become a site for crime. To address this, the conservancy worked with Council Member Peter Koo to secure two Parks enforcement officers to patrol the area. In 2018, the conservancy hosted their first movie night and successfully advocated for funding for capital improvement projects throughout the park, including a meditation garden.

For more information on the *It's My Park* Program, please visit www.partnershipsforparks.com

It's My Park award winners were self or peer nominated and vetted by a Partnerships for Parks selection committee that focused on nominees' achievements in the past year. Special regard was given to nominees who overcame a challenge in their park or within their community group, coordinated an It's My Park project, and/or acted as an inspirational role model for NYC community park volunteers.

When: March 27, 2019 / 6:30 pm – 9 pm

Members of the press are invited to attend.

Please RSVP to Tomasia Kastner – Tomasia.Kastner@parks.nyc.gov or (212) 360-8284

Where: Prince George Ballroom

15 E. 27th St., New York, NY 10016

On-Site Contact: Tomasia Kastner / Tomasia.Kastner@parks.nyc.gov

Visuals: Remarks from NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, City Parks Foundation Executive Director Heather Lubov, NYC Parks Assistant Commissioner Sam Biederman, NYC Council Member Barry Grodenchik, and Partnerships for Parks Director Sabina Saragoussi
Amanda Foster and Sara Healey, Social Impact, TD Bank; and Steven Beer, trustee, City Parks Foundation, presenting awards
Seven local community groups taking the podium to accept their awards
200 local NYC parks volunteers networking and enjoying refreshments



About Partnerships for Parks: Partnerships for Parks is a unique public-private partnership between City Parks Foundation and NYC Parks that supports and champions neighborhood volunteers by giving them the tools they need to advocate and care for their neighborhood parks and green spaces. More information about Partnership for Parks is available [here](#).

Generous private support is provided by Altman Foundation, Con Edison, and the MJS Foundation. Public support is provided by the NYC Council under the leadership of Speaker Corey Johnson. Supporting sponsor TD Bank.

###