

Clayborn & Lewis Playground Transformed

On June 17, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR) teamed up with the Pennsylvania Municipal League, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR) and local community members to revitalize the Clayborn & Lewis Playground. The PA Municipal League members, in town for their 115th Annual Convention, kicked off their stay with this West Philadelphia service project.

Led by PPR's Stewardship Unit, the 57 volunteers completed seven service projects to spruce up the playground and kick off the summer season. Volunteers assembled new playground equipment, repainted the basketball court and surrounding walls, repainted the picnic tables, planted new flower beds, redesigned bulletin boards and had a general clean up of the playground and surrounding area.

In addition, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation staff installed a much-needed air conditioner for the community room inside the building. PPR TreeKeepers, PowerCorps PHL members and District 8 Operations, led by Lori Hayes and Rob Gilliam, helped clear the overgrown wooded area behind the playground while PPR Skilled Trades pitched in with special support from painters Bill Bowens and Crystal Covington, along with playground specialist Mike Grone and his team. Despite the hot weather, DJ Patty-Pat Kozlowski kept everyone whistling while they worked.

The volunteers worked hard straight through to lunchtime (Philly-style: hoagies and pretzels) and by the end of the service day, the playground was transformed.

Said Mayor Michael Nutter, "Thanks to the great work which was done today, in partnership with Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and the PA DCNR, children and families in this neighborhood will have a wonderful, safe place to get active and stay healthy."

Special thanks to Leroy Lewis, a community leader who volunteers at the playground year-round. This is a labor of love for Leroy, who serves his community in memory of his brother, one of the playground's namesakes.



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