

## **Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Withdrawal of Treetop Adventure Course Concept**

The Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Department views the City's parks and recreation facilities as community building resources that are essential in connecting citizens to the outdoors and to each other. As outlined in a statement of its Strategic Objectives, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation (PPR) strives to:

- Provide and expand wide-ranging, diverse and high quality programs for participants of all ages utilizing the department's outdoor recreation, environmental, cultural and historical assets
- Expand efforts to link and engage youth in new outdoor activities, to discover different adventures and to learn new skills in Philadelphia's outdoor spaces
- Use outdoor activities to promote stewardship and interest in the Department

PPR has made significant progress towards these goals through its own efforts (e.g., new Outdoor Recreation programs, deeper collaborations with Stewardship Groups) as well as through external agreements (e.g., bicycle rentals, enhanced sport venues). The Treetop Adventure Course concept proposed for the Wissahickon Valley is one more exploration of an innovative and environmentally sound concept to engage citizens of all ages in the richness of Philadelphia's outdoor spaces. While Philadelphia Parks & Recreation maintains that experiential programming such as a Treetop Adventure Course is an appropriate strategy to promote environmental education as well as to engage future park stewards, PPR also recognizes that there are significant differences in public opinion regarding the proposal. This public divide is counter to PPR's commitment to unify neighborhoods and in adherence with this larger mission, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation will no longer pursue the development of a Treetop Adventure Course within Philadelphia.

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation is appreciative of the broad support and public trust that its past actions have merited and is committed to promoting the well-being of the City, its citizens and visitors on a daily basis. Philadelphia Parks & Recreation will maintain a leadership role in providing activities and opportunities that improve the City and region's environmental, social, cultural and physical health.