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## **LOVE Your Park Fall Service Day!**

### **Fairmount Park Conservancy and Philadelphia Parks & Recreation Host Citywide Celebration of Philadelphia Parks**

*Fairmount Park Conservancy announces 2012  
Growing the Neighborhood grant program recipients*

**Philadelphia, Pa.- November 19, 2012-** It's that time of year again! This past Saturday, the [Fairmount Park Conservancy](#) and [Philadelphia Parks & Recreation](#) hosted the [LOVE Your Park](#) Fall Service Day in parks across the city of Philadelphia. The LOVE Your Park Fall Service Day featured 58 cleanup projects where residents rake fall leaves, plant bulbs and prepare the parks for winter. Volunteers also planted 15 new dogwood trees and 4,000 daffodil bulbs, courtesy of the [Pennsylvania Horticultural Society](#).

"Thanks to our Parks & Recreation staff, The Fairmount Park Conservancy, our sponsors and over 1,700 park champions who have demonstrated their commitment to the City's wonderful neighborhood parks," said Michael DiBerardinis, Deputy Mayor for Environmental and Community Resources. "Congratulations to today's recipients of the *Growing The Neighborhood Grants*, the grants will further beautification efforts and community engagement at our neighborhood parks"

The signature cleanup site was at [Sedgley Woods](#) in East Fairmount Park which had over 150 volunteers. Work was conducted at both Sedgely Woods and Smith Memorial Playground where volunteers replaced 150 fence rails, planted daffodil bulbs and trees, removed invasive species and cleaned various park trails.

"LOVE Your Park Fall Service Day had an incredible 1,700 park champions volunteering their Saturday to clean and preserve their neighborhood parks," said Kathryn Ott Lovell, Executive Director of the Fairmount Park Conservancy. "We hope that residents will continue to show their love for Philadelphia parks all year round. We are very thankful for our LOVE Your Park sponsors: ACE Charitable Foundation, NovaCare Rehabilitation, U.S. Facilities, Inc., Bank of America, PRWT Services, Inc., and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society for making today possible."

The LOVE Your Park Fall Service Day culminated with a speaking program at Sedgley Woods Disc Golf Course featuring some of the city's biggest park champions, including Deputy Mayor Michael DiBerardinis; City Council President Darrell Clarke; Fairmount Park Conservancy Executive Director Kathryn Ott Lovell; John DiSciascio of Friends of Sedgley Woods; Steven Reiss of the ACE Charitable Foundation and Ray Pennacchia of NovaCare Rehabilitation.

The 2012 *Growing the Neighborhood* Grant Program recipients were also announced during the LOVE Your Park Fall Service Day. *Growing the Neighborhood*, a program founded and supported by ACE Charitable Foundation and NovaCare Rehabilitation, is designed to empower Philadelphia residents to improve their local parks by matching them with corporate support and volunteers. Since 2004, *Growing the Neighborhood* has revitalized 14 of Philadelphia's neighborhood parks through citizen-initiated improvements. Building on eight years of success, *Growing the Neighborhood* now includes a grant program for Park Friend Groups citywide. Park groups were invited to plan and submit ideas for improvement projects in their neighborhood parks to the Fairmount Park Conservancy, who selected several projects for implementation. Through this process, the Conservancy is able to work directly with Park Friend Groups across the city to transform our neighborhood parks into safer and cleaner green spaces through visible and sustainable improvements, while fostering strong partnerships between stewardship groups and city agencies to ensure effective collaboration.

The Park Friend Groups who received the program grants are: Campbell Square, Chew Playground, Cianfrani Park, Cliveden Park, Cobbs Creek Park, Dickinson Square Park, Fairhill Square, FDR Park, Fisher Park, Fotherall Square, Hawthorne Park, Louis I. Kahn Park, Malcolm X Park, Marconi Park, McMichael Park, Mifflin Square, Penn Treaty Park, Starr Garden and Vernon Park.

Of the 23 grant recipients, seven Park Friend Groups were awarded project grants, totaling \$48,000. Barkan Park in West Philadelphia received \$3,000 to create four creative, colorful banners for park light poles and Cianfrani Park in Queens Village also received \$3,000 to replace the current park bulletin board to be used for events and community announcements. Cliveden Park in East Mt. Airy received \$6,000 to create signage to promote the park and the Inn Yard Park of East Falls also received \$3,000 to install a new park entrance sign. Hawthorne Park in Bella Vista received \$3,000 to build a weather proof bulletin board to promote the new park's community news and events. The LOVE Your Park Fall Service Day signature site and Philadelphia's only disc golf course, Sedgley Woods, received \$10,000 to install new fencing, a new picnic table and bench, welcome signage, 27 new tee signs and conduct tree work and maintenance. The largest project grant of \$20,000 was awarded to Pennsport's Manton Street Park to conduct a total design and installation of the new pocket park.

"We were pleased to join together with the Fairmount Park Conservancy, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and NovaCare Rehabilitation and our other corporate sponsors to cast a spotlight on Philadelphia's wonderful parks and celebrate all they have to offer at the LOVE Your Park Service Day," said Steven J. Reiss Senior Vice President and Philadelphia Regional Executive, ACE USA. "We were happy to work alongside our employee volunteers and local residents on numerous volunteer projects in the effort to improve neighborhood parks."

LOVE Your Park is a collaborative year-round initiative to celebrate Philadelphia parks and includes the Fall Service Day and LOVE Your Park Week in the spring. LOVE Your Park is made possible thanks to the support of ACE Charitable Foundation, NovaCare Rehabilitation, Bank of America, U.S. Facilities, Inc., PRWT Services, Inc. and the Albert J. Lofgren & Antoinette Farrar Seymour Donor-Advised Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation. For more information about LOVE Your Park, please visit [www.loveyourpark.org](http://www.loveyourpark.org). For more information about the Fairmount Park Conservancy, please visit [www.myphillypark.org](http://www.myphillypark.org). Like the Fairmount Park Conservancy on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fairmountparkconservancy](https://www.facebook.com/fairmountparkconservancy) and follow the organization on Twitter @MyPhillyPark.

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#### **ABOUT THE FAIRMOUNT PARK CONSERVANCY**

The Fairmount Park Conservancy exists to champion the Fairmount Park system. Its mission is to work as a collaborative partner to lead and support efforts which preserve and improve Fairmount Park to enhance the quality of life and stimulate the economic development of the Greater Philadelphia Region. The Conservancy fulfills its mission by leading signature capital projects and innovative programs throughout Fairmount Park; by developing and leveraging resources for the park; and by promoting the parks' unique assets and contributions.

#### **ABOUT PHILADELPHIA PARKS & RECREATION**

Philadelphia Parks & Recreation is the City department that is most engaged in the lives of residents and visitors alike on a daily basis. Through its programs, policies and physical amenities, Philadelphia Parks & Recreation promotes the well being of the City, its citizens and visitors, by offering beautiful natural landscapes and parks, historically significant resources, high quality recreation centers and athletic programs, along with enriching cultural and environmental programs.