

For many youngsters, the move from elementary school to a middle-level school is one of the most challenging events of their school years. Faced with the pressures of early adolescence, students also must cope with a bigger building and larger school population, many new teachers and subjects organized by department.

Through the Corridor Initiative, a collaboration of the Fund and the New York City Public Schools, clusters of schools serving the same neighborhoods have found ways to work with community partners to smooth students' transition from elementary school to the middle grades.

According to Fund Program Director, Janet Price, the clusters range from three to six schools and typically include a middle-level school and the elementary schools feeding into it.

One approach is to offer continuity of instruction from one school to the other. For example, the District 8 cluster in the Soundview section of the Bronx runs an environmental studies program that spans grades kindergarten through nine, with services to students provided by the Bronx Zoo, the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater and other community organizations. Common to all Corridor clusters, professional development is built into the program.

"Teachers from PS 93, CS 152 and JHS 123 attend after-school orientation workshops prior to bringing their classes to the zoo," said Ann Robinson, Assistant Director of the Bronx Zoo's Education Department. "They are introduced to our programs and the zoo's logistics and receive related materials they can use in the classroom to provide a sense of continuity to what the students learn on their multiple visits to the zoo," continued Ms. Robinson. "We are helping children develop positive attitudes towards wildlife by giving them a first-hand introduction to many animals and birds from near and far.

The "Success Garden" in District 5 is a magnificent

COMMUNITY AS CLASSROOM



Students from District 10's Corridor cluster "jam" with a graduate student from Lehman College.

urban park created by students in Harlem who are participating in the Parks Council's Green Neighborhoods Program. Elementary and middle school students work side by side planting trees and beautifying the once barren space.

The project's Director, Joseph Pupello, observed, "collaborations like this increase the number of our community parks and strengthen the constituency of responsible people for open city spaces." In addition, the garden and related projects are sites for both professional development for teachers and science lessons for students at the elementary and middle school levels.

Community partnerships give students opportunities to learn by doing. At the same time, they

strengthen ties between the schools and their communities. Thus, the Moshulu Preservation Corporation helps seventh graders in the District 10 cluster (in the Norwood Triangle Section of the Bronx) produce *Corridor Chronicles*, a monthly news supplement to a neighborhood newspaper widely distributed by local merchants.

The student reporters cover newsworthy events at all the elementary schools in the neighborhood as well as in their own school. "In their role as reporters, my students get involved in local matters," said their teacher, Laura Spalter. "They're hooked on attending school-based management meetings and they have attended community board meetings. I have seen them mature from shy students to people who really feel a part of the process. And besides that, we have fun."

Working with community partners gives students an outlet for untapped talents and unexpressed feelings. Lisa Davis, an art instructor at the Lehman College Gallery, works with students of different ages in District 10. "We're not part of the system and we're not parents," said Ms. Davis. "We don't give grades, so the students often talk about issues that really worry them. We provide them with a non-threatening situation, as well as a way to assess and talk about art." ▼

"Students participating in the Corridor program average 20 percent better attendance and have improved their academic achievement."

Fund for New York City Public Education

YES! I want to support lasting improvements in our city's public schools.

Name

Address

City State Zip

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of:

☐ \$2,500
 ☐ \$1,000
 ☐ \$500
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 ☐ \$50
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☐ Please do not list my name as a contributor in the Fund's bi-annual report.

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To the Point

FUND FOR NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC EDUCATION

Spring 1992
Vol. 3, No. 2

To provide quality education for all children, schools in New York City and throughout the country are compelled to address numerous problems that deter learning. Many students, for example, live in communities crippled by poverty, violence, crime, homelessness, racial tension, substance abuse and lack of adequate health care.

In many neighborhoods, local businesses, community organizations, housing authorities, the police and public health agencies build on the unique strengths of a particular community and provide children and their families with assistance in obtaining health, recreational, cultural and social services.



Students in District 5's Corridor program and the Parks Council's Weekend Conservation Corps plant trees on Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd.

Broad-based collaborations between schools — the one institution capable of reaching every child — and service providers have the potential to create a continuous loop of support. These

LINKING SCHOOLS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD

partnerships increase services available to children in schools and provide enriched cultural, educational and recreational opportunities for people of all ages. They also link students with the

world of work and offer professional development for teachers and other school personnel.

Unfortunately, some collaborations fail to reach their full potential because they are not integrated directly into or connected with the schools' educational programs.

To remedy this situation, the Fund for New York City Public Education serves as a bridge between the schools and the outside world. For many of our 21 programs, the Fund matches schools with appropriate businesses, agencies and community organizations and establishes mutually comfortable structures for communication, joint planning and collaborative activities.

Unlike collaborations forced upon schools by constricting guidelines from government agencies or other funding sources, the Fund gives schools the freedom to address their priorities. We assist schools in assessing their needs and empower them to select partners who can

best meet those needs.

Relationships, of course, are not always harmonious and they require work. But outside partners say they feel more welcome at the table

when schools have invited them to participate in planning programs that will improve the quality of life in the community. The sense of trust among all participants is palpable and results so far are impressive.

Blossoming school/community partnerships in all five boroughs are helping the Fund achieve its long-term goal — comprehensive, system-wide reform of our public schools.

This issue of "To The Point" highlights Fund-supported programs that help schools and communities work together to give New York City public school students the first-rate education they deserve. ▼

Beth J. Lief
Executive Director

KEYS TO SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATIONS

- Include parents, school professionals and outside partners in determining the needs of the students and the schools.
- Link schools with community partners who can best meet those needs.
- Engage a skilled facilitator to promote trust and effective working relationships, particularly with new partnerships.
- Maintain ongoing communication among all partners.
- Set concrete goals and continually evaluate the success in meeting them, making adjustments when necessary.



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DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL

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From: ~~David~~ Linda Leavickoff
The Parks Council

Subject:

ACTION

Assigned To:	Date:	Action Required:	Due Date:
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CHAPTER 45—URBAN PARK AND RECREATION RECOVERY PROGRAM

Sec.

- 2501. Congressional findings.
- 2502. Congressional statement of purpose; short-term complementary program authorization; terms and conditions.
- 2503. Definitions.
- 2504. Federal assistance grants.
 - (a) General purpose local governments eligible for assistance; basis; publication in Federal Register: list of eligibles, criteria of eligibility.
 - (b) Other general purpose local governments eligible for assistance; limitation of funds.
 - (c) Priority criteria for project selection and approval.
- 2505. Rehabilitation and innovation grants.
 - (a) Authorization; transfer; payments; modification.
 - (b) Special considerations.
- 2506. Local commitments to system recovery and maintenance.
 - (a) Recovery action programs; preliminary action programs; five-year recovery action programs; continuing planning process.
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- 2513. Limitation of use of funds.
- 2514. Sunset and reporting provisions; reports to Congress.

Cross References

Annual appropriation of not less than \$10,000,000 for programs pursuant to this chapter, see section 1457a of Title 43, Public Lands.

§ 2501. Congressional findings

The Congress finds that—

- (a) the quality of life in urban areas is closely related to the availability of fully functional park and recreation systems including land, facilities, and service programs;
- (b) residents of cities need close-to-home recreational opportunities that are adequate to specialized urban demands, with parks and facilities properly located, developed, and well maintained;

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(c) the greater ties, and program neighborhood level

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(c) the greatest recreational deficiencies with respect to land, facilities, and programs are found in many large cities, especially at the neighborhood level;

(d) inadequate financing of urban recreation programs due to fiscal difficulties in many large cities has led to the deterioration of facilities, nonavailability of recreation services, and an inability to adapt recreational programs to changing circumstances; and

(e) there is no existing Federal assistance program which fully addresses the needs for physical rehabilitation and revitalization of these park and recreation systems.

(Pub.L. 95-625, Title X, § 1002, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3538.)

Historical Note

Short Title. Section 1001 of Pub.L. 95-625 provided that: "This title [this chapter] may be cited as the 'Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978'."

Code of Federal Regulations

Applicable provisions, see 36 CFR 72.1 et seq.

Library References

United States Code, 82(2), 85.
C.J.S. United States §§ 122, 123.

§ 2502. Congressional statement of purpose; short-term complementary program authorization; terms and conditions

The purpose of this chapter is to authorize the Secretary to establish an urban park and recreation recovery program which would provide Federal grants to economically hard-pressed communities specifically for the rehabilitation of critically needed recreation areas, facilities, and development of improved recreation programs for a period of five years. This short-term program is intended to complement existing Federal programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Community Development Grant Programs by encouraging and stimulating local governments to revitalize their park and recreation systems and to make long-term commitments to continuing maintenance of these systems. Such assistance shall be subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary considers appropriate and in the public interest to carry out the purposes of this chapter.

(Pub.L. 95-625, Title X, § 1003, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3539.)

§ 2503. Definitions

When used in this chapter the term—

(a) "recreational areas and facilities" means indoor or outdoor parks, buildings, sites, or other facilities which are dedicated to recreation purposes and administered by public or private nonprofit agencies to serve the recreation needs of community residents. Emphasis shall be on public facilities readily accessible to residential neighborhoods,

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including multiple-use community centers which have recreation as one of their primary purposes, but excluding major sports arenas, exhibition areas, and conference halls used primarily for commercial sports, spectator, or display activities;

(b) "rehabilitation grants" means matching capital grants to local governments for the purpose of rebuilding, remodeling, expanding, or developing existing outdoor or indoor recreation areas and facilities, including improvements in park landscapes, buildings, and support facilities, but excluding routine maintenance and upkeep activities;

(c) "innovation grants" means matching grants to local governments to cover costs of personnel, facilities, equipment, supplies, or services designed to demonstrate innovative and cost-effective ways to augment park and recreation opportunities at the neighborhood level and to address common problems related to facility operations and improved delivery of recreation service, and which shall exclude routine operation and maintenance activities;

(d) "recovery action program grants" means matching grants to local governments for development of local park and recreation recovery action programs to meet the requirements of this chapter. Such grants will be for resource and needs assessment, coordination, citizen involvement and planning, and program development activities to encourage public definition of goals, and develop priorities and strategies for overall recreation system recovery;

(e) "maintenance" means all commonly accepted practices necessary to keep recreation areas and facilities operating in a state of good repair and to protect them from deterioration resulting from normal wear and tear;

(f) "general purpose local government" means any city, county, town, township, parish, village, or other general purpose political subdivision of a State, including the District of Columbia, and insular areas;

(g) "special purpose local government" means any local or regional special district, public-purpose corporation or other limited political subdivision of a State, including but not limited to park authorities; park, conservation, water or sanitary districts; and school districts;

(h) "private, nonprofit agency" means a community-based, nonprofit organization, corporation, or association organized for purposes of providing recreational, conservation, and educational services directly to urban residents on either a neighborhood or communitywide basis through voluntary donations, voluntary labor, or public or private grants;

(i) "State" means any State of the United States or any instrumental-ity of a State approved by the Governor; the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and insular areas; and

(j) "insular areas" means Guam, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

(Pub.L. 95-625, Title X, § 1004, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3539.)

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§ 2504. Federal assistance grants

(a) General purpose local governments eligible for assistance; basis; publication in Federal Register: list of eligibles, criteria of eligibility

Eligibility of general purpose local governments for assistance under this chapter shall be based upon need as determined by the Secretary. Within one hundred and twenty days after November 10, 1978, the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register, a list of the local governments eligible to participate in this program, to be accompanied by a discussion of criteria used in determining eligibility. Such criteria shall be based upon factors which the Secretary determines are related to deteriorated recreational facilities or systems, and physical and economic distress.

(b) Other general purpose local governments eligible for assistance; limitation of funds

Notwithstanding the list of eligible local governments established in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, the Secretary is also authorized to establish eligibility, at his discretion and in accord with the findings and purpose of this chapter, to other general purpose local governments in standard metropolitan statistical areas as defined by the census: *Provided*, That grants to these discretionary applicants do not exceed in the aggregate 15 per centum of funds appropriated under this chapter for rehabilitation, innovation, and recovery action program grants.

(c) Priority criteria for project selection and approval

The Secretary shall also establish priority criteria for project selection and approval which consider such factors as—

- (1) population;
- (2) condition of existing recreation areas and facilities;
- (3) demonstrated deficiencies in access to neighborhood recreation opportunities, particularly for minority, and low- and moderate-income residents;
- (4) public participation in determining rehabilitation or development needs;
- (5) the extent to which a project supports or complements target activities undertaken as part of a local government's overall community development and urban revitalization program;
- (6) the extent to which a proposed project would provide employment opportunities for minorities, youth, and low- and moderate-income residents in the project neighborhood and/or would provide for participation of neighborhood, nonprofit or tenant organizations in the proposed rehabilitation activity or in subsequent maintenance, staffing, or supervision of recreation areas and facilities; and
- (7) the amount of State and private support for a project as evidenced by commitments of non-Federal resources to project construction or operation.

(Pub.L. 95-625, Title X, § 1005, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3540.)

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Library References

United States 82(2).
C.J.S. United States § 122.

§ 2505. Rehabilitation and innovation grants

(a) Authorization; transfer; payments; modification

The Secretary is authorized to provide 70 per centum matching rehabilitation and innovative grants directly to eligible general purpose local governments upon his approval of applications therefor by the chief executives of such governments.

(1) At the discretion of such applicants, and if consistent with an approved application, rehabilitation and innovation grants may be transferred in whole or in part to independent special purpose local governments, private nonprofit agencies or county or regional park authorities: *Provided*, That assisted recreation areas and facilities owned or managed by them offer recreation opportunities to the general population within the jurisdictional boundaries of an eligible applicant.

(2) Payments may be made only for those rehabilitation or innovative projects which have been approved by the Secretary. Such payments may be made from time to time in keeping with the rate of progress toward the satisfactory completion of a project, except that the Secretary may, when appropriate, make advance payments on approved rehabilitation and innovative projects in an amount not to exceed 20 per centum of the total project cost.

(3) The Secretary may authorize modification of an approved project only when a grantee has adequately demonstrated that such modification is necessary because of circumstances not foreseeable at the time a project was proposed.

(b) Special considerations

Innovation grants should be closely tied to goals, priorities, and implementation strategies expressed in local park and recreation recovery action programs, with particular regard to the special considerations listed in section 2506(b) (2) of this title.

(Pub.L. 95-625, Title X, § 1006, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3541.)

Cross References

Cost sharing amount in addition to implementation grant authorized in this section, see section 2507 of this title.
Limitations on expenditures for innovation grants, see section 2512 of this title.

§ 2506. Local commitments to system recovery and maintenance

(a) Recovery action programs; preliminary action programs; five-year recovery action programs; continuing planning process

As a requirement for project approval, local governments applying for assistance under this chapter shall submit to the Secretary evidence of their

commitments to maintenance programs which include other federal programs. During an initial chapter, this record of preliminary and implementation and commitment. Following this Secretary, as a and recreation

(1) system implementation

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Action program considerations:

(1) Rehabilitation of general recreation structures, architecture

(2) Local and project recreation schools and use of open recreation

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16 § 2506

commitments to ongoing planning, rehabilitation, service, operation, and maintenance programs for their park and recreation systems. These commitments will be expressed in local park and recreation recovery action programs which maximize coordination of all community resources, including other federally supported urban development and recreation programs. During an initial interim period to be established by regulations under this chapter, this requirement may be satisfied by local government submissions of preliminary action programs which briefly define objectives, priorities, and implementation strategies for overall system recovery and maintenance and commit the applicant to a scheduled program development process. Following this interim period, all local applicants shall submit to the Secretary, as a condition of eligibility, a five-year action program for park and recreation recovery that satisfactorily demonstrate:

(1) systematic identification of recovery objectives, priorities, and implementation strategies;

(2) adequate planning for rehabilitation of specific recreation areas and facilities, including projections of the cost of proposed projects;

(3) capacity and commitment to assure that facilities provided or improved under this chapter shall thereafter continue to be adequately maintained, protected, staffed, and supervised;

(4) intention to maintain total local public outlays for park and recreation purposes at levels at least equal to those in the year preceding that in which grant assistance is sought beginning in fiscal year 1980 except in any case where a reduction in park and recreation outlays is proportionate to a reduction in overall spending by the applicant; and

(5) the relationship of the park and recreation recovery program to overall community development and urban revitalization efforts.

Where appropriate, the Secretary may encourage local governments to meet action program requirements through a continuing planning process which includes periodic improvements and updates in action program submissions to eliminate identified gaps in program information and policy development.

(b) Recovery action program special considerations

Action programs shall address, but are not limited to the following considerations:

(1) Rehabilitation of existing recreational sites and facilities, including general systemwide renovation; special rehabilitation requirements for recreational sites and facilities in areas of high population concentration and economic distress; and restoration of outstanding or unique structures, landscaping, or similar features in parks of historical or architectural significance.

(2) Local commitments to innovative and cost-effective programs and projects at the neighborhood level to augment recovery of park and recreation systems, including but not limited to recycling of abandoned schools and other public buildings for recreational purposes; multiple use of operating educational and other public buildings; purchase of recreation services on a contractual basis; use of mobile facilities and recreational, cultural, and educational programs or other innovative

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approaches to improving access for neighborhood residents; integration of recovery program with federally assisted projects to maximize recreational opportunities through conversion of abandoned railroad and highway rights-of-way, waterfront, and other redevelopment efforts and such other federally assisted projects as may be appropriate; conversion of recreation use of street space, derelict land, and other public lands not now designated for neighborhood recreational use; and use of various forms of compensated and uncompensated land regulation, tax inducements, or other means to encourage the private sector to provide neighborhood park and recreation facilities and programs.

The Secretary shall establish and publish in the Federal Register requirements for preparation, submission, and updating of local park and recreation recovery action programs.

(c) Recovery action program grants

The Secretary is authorized to provide up to 50 per centum matching grants to eligible local applicants for program development and planning specifically to meet the objectives of this chapter.

(Pub.L. 95-625, Title X, § 1007, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3541.)

Cross References

Innovation grants, special considerations, see section 2505 of this title.
Limitations on expenditures for grants for development of local park and recreation recovery action programs, see section 2512 of this title.
Reasonable local costs of program development as part of local matching requirements, see section 2508 of this title.

§ 2507. State action incentive; Federal implementation grants, increase

The Secretary is authorized to increase Federal implementation grants authorized in section 2505 of this title by providing an additional match equal to the total match provided by a State of up to 15 per centum of total project costs. In no event may the Federal matching amount exceed 85 per centum of total project cost. The Secretary shall further encourage the States to assist him in assuring that local recovery plans and programs are adequately implemented by cooperating with the Department of the Interior in monitoring local park and recreation recovery plans and programs and in assuring consistency of such plans and programs, where appropriate, with State recreation policies as set forth in statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plans.

(Pub.L. 95-625, Title X, § 1008, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3542.)

§ 2508. Matching requirements; non-Federal share of project costs

The non-Federal share of project costs assisted under this chapter may be derived from general or special purpose State or local revenues.¹ State

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categorical grants, special appropriations by State legislatures, donations of land, buildings, or building materials and/or in-kind construction, technical, and planning services. No moneys from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (77 Stat. 49), as amended [16 U.S.C.A. § 460/-5], or from any other Federal grant program other than general revenue sharing and the community development block grant programs shall be used to match Federal grants under this program. Reasonable local costs of action program development to meet the requirements of section 2506(a) of this title may be used as part of the local match only when local applicants have not received program development grants under the authority of section 2506(c) of this title. The Secretary shall encourage States and private interests to contribute, to the maximum extent possible, to the non-Federal share of project costs.

(Pub.L. 95-625, Title X, § 1009, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3543.)

¹ So in original. The period probably should be a comma.

Historical Note

References in Text. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (77 Stat. 49), as amended, referred to in text, probably means the Land and Water Conservation Fund established by

Pub.L. 88-578, Title I, § 2, Sept. 3, 1964, 78 Stat. 897, which enacted section 460/-5 of this title.

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§ 2509. Conversion of recreation property

No property improved or developed with assistance under this chapter shall, without the approval of the Secretary, be converted to other than public recreation uses. The Secretary shall approve such conversion only if he finds it to be in accord with the current local park and recreation recovery action program and only upon such conditions as he deems necessary to assure the provision of adequate recreation properties and opportunities of reasonably equivalent location and usefulness.

(Pub.L. 95-625, Title X, § 1010, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3543.)

§ 2510. Coordination of program

The Secretary shall (a) coordinate the urban park and recreation recovery program with the total urban recovery effort and cooperate to the fullest extent possible with other Federal departments and agencies and with State agencies which administer programs and policies affecting urban areas, including but not limited to, programs in housing, urban development, natural resources management, employment, transportation, community services, and voluntary action; (b) encourage maximum coordination of the program between appropriate State agencies and local applicants; and (c) require that local applicants include provisions for participation of community and neighborhood residents and for public-private coordination in recovery planning and project selection.

(Pub.L. 95-625, Title X, § 1011, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3543.)

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§ 2511. Recordkeeping; audit and examination; access to books and records

Each recipient of assistance under this chapter shall keep such records as the Secretary shall prescribe, including records which fully disclose the amount and disposition of project undertakings in connection with which assistance under this chapter is given or used, and the amount and nature of that portion of the cost of the project or undertaking supplied by other sources, and such other records as will facilitate an effective audit. The Secretary, and the Comptroller General of the United States, or their duly authorized representatives, shall have access for the purpose of audit and examination to any books, documents, papers, and records of the recipient that are pertinent to assistance received under this chapter.

(Pub.L. 95-625, Title X, § 1012, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3543.)

§ 2512. Authorization of appropriations

There are hereby authorized to be appropriated for the purposes of this chapter, not to exceed \$150,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1979 through 1982, and \$125,000,000 in fiscal year 1983, such sums to remain available until expended. Not more than 3 per centum of the funds authorized in any fiscal year may be used for grants for the development of local park and recreation recovery action programs pursuant to sections 2506(a) and 2506(c) of this title, and not more than 10 per centum may be used for innovation grants pursuant to section 2505 of this title. Grants made under this chapter for projects in any one State shall not exceed in the aggregate 15 per centum of the aggregate amount of funds authorized to be appropriated in any fiscal year. For the authorizations made in this section, any amounts authorized but not appropriated in any fiscal year shall remain available for appropriation in succeeding fiscal years.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, or any other law, or regulation, there is further authorized to be appropriated \$250,000 for each of the fiscal years 1979 through 1983, such sums to remain available until expended, to each of the insular areas. Such sums will not be subject to the matching provisions of this section, and may only be subject to such conditions, reports, plans, and agreements, if any, as determined by the Secretary.

(Pub.L. 95-625, Title X, § 1013, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3544; Pub.L. 98-454, Title VI, § 601(a), Oct. 5, 1984, 98 Stat. 1736.)

Historical Note

References in Text. This Act, referred to in text, means Pub.L. 95-625, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3467, as amended, known as the National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978. For complete classification of the Act to the Code, see Short Title of 1978 Amendment note set out under section 1 of this title and Tables volume.

Codification. In text "section 2505 of this title" read in the original "section 6 of this title" and was editorially translated as section 2505 of this title to reflect the probable intent of Congress in view of the subject matter of section 2505, which relates to innovative grants.

Ch. 45 URBAN

1984 Amendment
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§ 2513. Li

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§ 2514. S

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Ch. 45 URBAN PARK RECOVERY PROGRAM

16 § 2514

access to books

1984 Amendment. Pub.L. 98-454 substituted "section" for "subsection" following "For the authorizations made in this".

Legislative History. For legislative history and purpose of Pub.L. 98-454, see 1984 U.S. Code Cong. and Adm. News, p. 2908.

Keep such records as fully disclose the section with which amount and nature of supplied by other effective audit. The states, or their duly purpose of audit and rds of the recipient ter.

Library References

United States 85.
C.J.S. United States § 123.

§ 2513. Limitation of use of funds

No funds available under this chapter shall be used for the acquisition of land or interests in land.

(Pub.L. 95-625, Title X, § 1014, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3544.)

3.)

§ 2514. Sunset and reporting provisions; reports to Congress

(a) Within ninety days of the expiration of this authority, the Secretary shall report to the Congress on the overall impact of the urban park and recreation recovery program.

(b) On December 31, 1979, and on the same date in each year that the recovery program is funded, the Secretary shall report to the Congress on the annual achievements of the innovation grant program, with emphasis on the nationwide implications of successful innovation projects.

(Pub.L. 95-625, Title X, § 1015, Nov. 10, 1978, 92 Stat. 3544.)

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any other law, or l \$250,000 for each nain available until ot be subject to the e subject to such determined by the

Pub.L. 98-454, Title

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The Parks Council

The Urban Center
457 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022



Joseph Pupello

Director

Green Neighborhoods

(212) 838-9410 ext. 231/Facsimile: (212) 371-6048

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1993

Neighborhood Report

H A R L E M

The Playground That Plastic Built

A new school playground on 134th Street has 20,000 plastic containers and 34,000 aluminum cans, according to its donor. But it is a proud count: recycling has turned the castoffs into the makings of a jungle gym and slide. Even the mats to cushion children's falls are fashioned from old tires.

The playground, at P.S. 175, was donated by Lever Brothers, which makes cleaning products like All, Wisk and Snuggle. The company is using the playground, and similar ones in six other cities, as an example of what recycled materials can do.

"Plastic was getting such a bad rap that we were looking for ways to turn it into a positive idea," said Melinda Sweet, Lever's director of environmental affairs. "Recycling isn't just putting the stuff outside or at the end of the driveway."

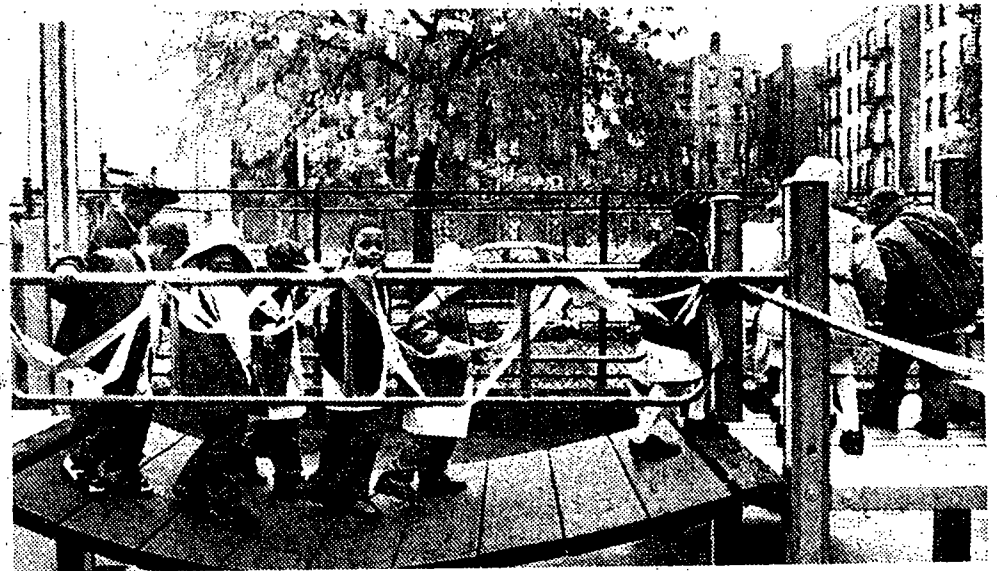
The playground equipment, built by Landscape Structures, features a special lamination that keeps plastic surfaces from being slippery when wet, as it was on Wednesday,

when the playground opened. Children climbed up stairs and ladders processed to look like wood or hung from bright red aluminum monkey bars.

Lever Brothers has given money to P.S. 175 before, to pay for an environmental education program. It includes a curriculum developed by Keep America Beautiful called "Waste in Place," which teaches how to make recycled paper and what the recycling numbers on plastic containers mean.

The program has also included a "Success Garden" across the street from the school. Three years ago the garden was a vacant lot piled with garbage, but the school, with the help of the Department of Sanitation and the Parks Council, a nonprofit group that creates community gardens, fashioned a place where students can work and play. Other lots on the street are now being cleared for more gardens, some led by community groups inspired by the Success Garden.

EMILY M. BERNSTEIN



Jack Manning/The New York Times

A new playground at Public School 175 is composed of recycled materials.

AUG 20/92



Wanda Carela, a counselor at Success Gardens, smiles as the work gets done.



Roland Wright enjoys using his hands.

Dream Is Still Alive

Harlem youths find ways to clean up neighborhood

By Eric L. Smith
STAFF WRITER

Replacing crack dens and debris-filled lots with blooming fruit and vegetable gardens was the goal of a city program when it debuted two years ago. Today, the dream is still alive as more Harlem youths are drawn to find ways to clean up persistent eyesores in their neighborhoods.

Success Gardens began in 1990 as a pilot program to turn a vacant lot across from an elementary school into a vegetable garden. Despite initial skepticism from many corners, the program's director says the project, on West 134th Street between Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard and Lenox Avenue, has been a success and is expanding.

"We're moving from the boundary of Success Gardens to other open spaces on the block," Bill Swindler said. "Our goal is to develop the en-

tire block."

The purpose of the program, for 14- to 17-year-olds, is two-fold, Swindler said. By developing abandoned lots once infested with drug dealers into productive food gardens, the project not only cleans up a neighborhood, but gives the young people a direct purpose.

"It's important for the community because it's obvious that a lot of adults in the inner cities do not feel that it is their responsibility to take care of the environment," Swindler said. "We want to teach the young people at an early age that it is their responsibility."

Lewis Porter, a 14-year-old from Harlem, has been involved with Success Gardens since its debut. Lewis said he was reluctant to take part at first because he didn't believe the program would get off the ground.

"I never believed it would be a garden because it was always filled with junk," he said. "The next year we started planting fruit trees there. I was amazed. You can actually eat what you plant," he said.

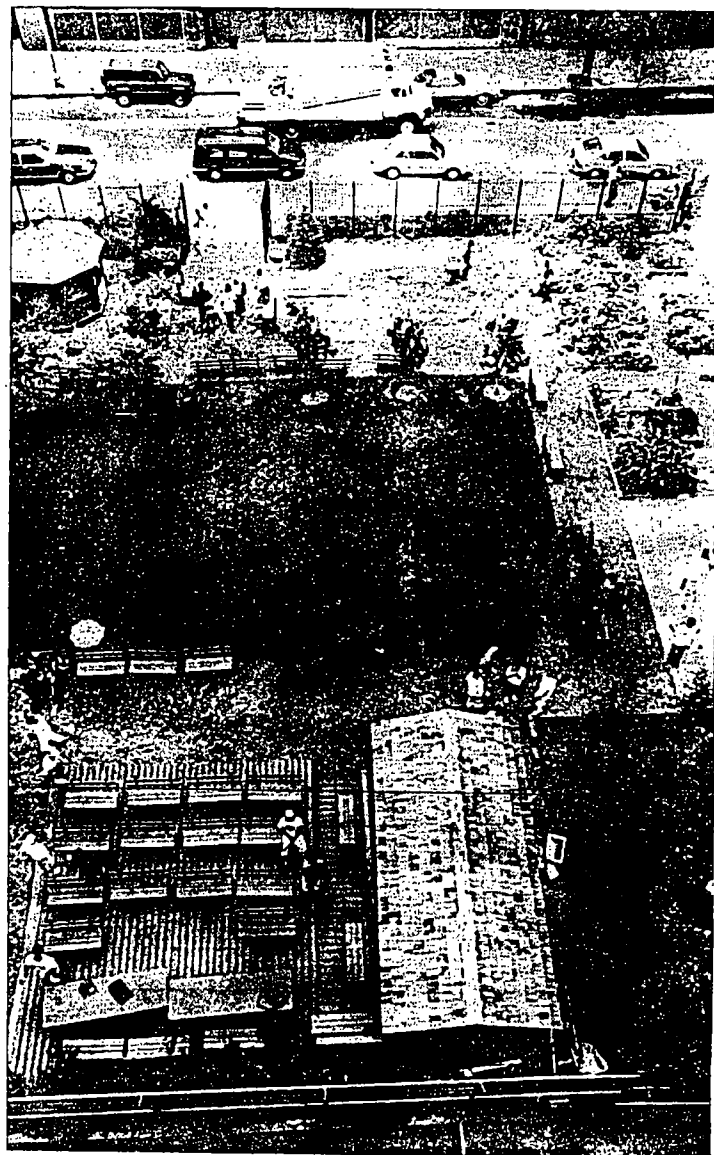
Wanda Carela, a 23-year-old college student who works with the youths throughout the summer, said they get to learn about landscaping, gardening and horticulture. Carela said she has noticed a growing sense of accomplishment from the participants as they work in the garden. "At first they're not too excited about it, but as time goes on they get excited and concerned. They start looking at it as their garden," she said. "They take pride in their doing."

Swindler agreed, saying he hoped more city students would have a chance to have a garden of their own.

"We want this to become institutionalized so every school district has a Success Gardens," he said. "The possibilities here are endless."



Leon Conyers gets ready.



An overview of Success Gardens in Harlem. The garden includes a gazebo, upper left, and the tool shed, lower right.

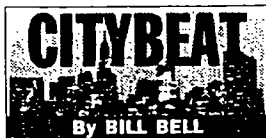
Planting pride in Bronx

DAILY NEWS, Monday, September 7, 1992

ALL in all, it wasn't such a bad summer for Gerald Jourdain, who lives in the Mott Haven area of the Bronx and starts sixth grade Wednesday at the Alexander Burger Intermediate School.

For one thing, Gerald, 12, had a coveted summer job that paid \$4.25 an hour.

For another, he discovered



earthworms.

Gerald was clearing debris one day last week from a cluttered vacant lot on E. 141st St., the gateway to a new community park, when he spotted something wriggling near his feet. He leaped back.

"It looks like some kind of little snake," he said.

He said it was the first one he had ever seen and shook his head when somebody suggested he pick it up.

"I'll pick up the trash," he said, "but that thing, uh, uh, no way."

Gerald was one of 45 youngsters employed by the Parks Council this summer to work on a project that eventually will turn the lot and much of the property around the adjoining St. Ann's Church into a park and playground with a fountain, fruit trees, science center, amphitheater, meditation garden, gazebo, and flower and vegetable garden.

If it works out the way it was planned by Karneal Thomas and his advisers — a dozen fourth and fifth-graders — it will look like a plot of paradise set in one of New York's most hellish environments.

"Some of the most dangerous streets in the city are right here," said Thomas, a city landscape architect who turned the kids' suggestions into a blueprint. "In fact, we called off one of our outdoor meetings because of gunfire."

If anything, Thomas understated the danger. A Daily News series two years ago listed a tiny park next to Public School 40, one block from where Gerald discovered earthworms, as one of the "Devil's Playgrounds" that drug dealers ruled through violence.

This new project was inspired by Success Gardens in Harlem, which opened last September and quickly became a focus of community pride and activity.

Thomas, who also designed Success Gardens with student input, began planning this park in April with six boys and six girls. By June, he had turned their ideas into a blueprint.

"I put in my 2 cents," said Thomas, "but everybody voted on everything and majority ruled."

He wasn't kidding about the voting. One aspect of the shape of wooden containers for plants, went on for hours. The boys favored round con-

tainers. The girls preferred square. The girls won, but only when one boy broke ranks to vote with them.

"My idea was to grow some fruit trees in the shape of an arch," said Gerald, "but they changed it." (The fruit trees made it, but not the arch — "too complicated," said Thomas.)

One change was made in Thomas' original layout, in the lot facing E. 141st St., where the weeds were so tall that all he saw when clearing began were three huge, protruding boulders.

"I was planning a kind of rock garden," he said. "But, once the weeds were cut, I saw all the rich soil, and I turned it into a real garden."

Work started Aug. 18, and within 10 days the lot was clear.

By then, work was under way on the grounds of St. Ann's, a historic 19th century Episcopal church with a celebrated cemetery containing the graves of Lewis Morris, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and Gouverneur Morris, one of the authors of the Constitution.

'WERE in this all the way," said the Rev. Luis Barrios, the pastor. "There are lots of sad stories and here, but this is not one of them."

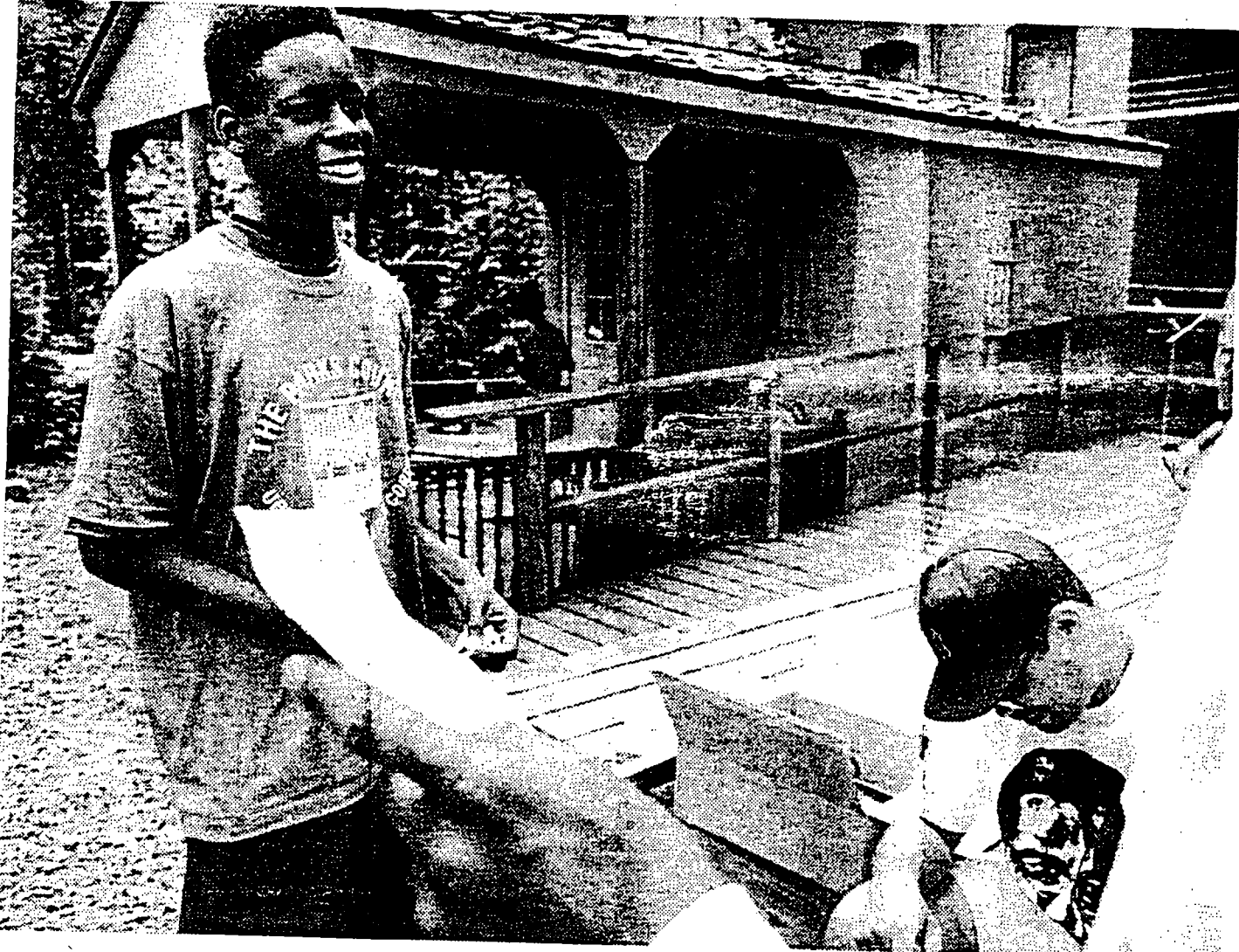


YOUNGSTERS clear lot at E. 141st St. in the Bronx. Site will become a new community park.

GERALD HERBERT/DAILY NEWS

The Metro Section

The New York Times
SAT., JULY 4, 1992



Adam Fernandez/The New York Times

Lewis Porter will spend the summer maintaining Success Gardens in Harlem and will be paid for work he had done previously on a volunteer basis. The Federal Government has made money available to pay for 22,000 more summer jobs for city youths.

Summer Job Hunters Get Unexpected Help

NYT 7/4/92

By MARIA NEWMAN

When 14-year-old Leslie Caraballo heard that summer jobs were available through New York City for needy youths, she promptly took herself down to the Grosvenor Neighborhood House on West 105th Street, one of several community centers taking applications. That was in April. She was told that she was No. 748 on the center's list of those who wanted work, and at most, maybe only 440 would be hired.

The lanky Ms. Caraballo was disappointed, but did not let the news discourage her. "I really wanted to work, for the most obvious reasons," she said. "I need the money. I want to be able to buy my own things."

Ms. Caraballo, who lives near the center in a neighborhood where there is plenty to

lure young people from the straight and narrow, continued to ask about jobs. Her perseverance finally paid off this week when she was told she would get a job, although the center does not yet know where it will place her.

Hope Springs From Despair

Because of a bill President Bush signed into law last week, money is available to give 22,000 more youths from 14 to 21 years old in New York City summer jobs, in addition to the 30,000 who began working on Monday. Ms. Caraballo, who will be a 10th grader at Bronx High School of Science next fall, will be among them.

Scenes like this, of disappointment followed by elation, are being repeated throughout the nation following the announcement of the \$1 billion urban aid

package that includes \$500 million for the Summer Youth Employment Program. The new funds will help cities and states provide jobs for hundreds of thousands more youths from poor families, in addition to those they had already hired.

But the package, prompted by the Los Angeles riots, has also created a bureaucratic scramble from California to Connecticut to create jobs and fill them in time.

In New York City, the youths will clean parks, provide office help, act as translators at hospitals or provide other services that government agencies, colleges, hospitals and other institutions might otherwise not be able to afford. The organizations that put them to work are essentially getting

Continued on Page 22

Summer's Job Hunters Get Unexpected Help

Continued from Page 21

from labor Secretary and Federal Government is picking up the tab.

The youths, hired with the new money, will work seven weeks starting July 20. Officials chose to use some of the funds to allow those youths who began working on Monday to work for 10 weeks instead of seven.

In the New York metropolitan region, officials say they will have no trouble finding youths who want jobs.

"The number of kids in this town who need jobs is so vast," said New York City's Employment Commissioner, Dr. Josephine Nieves. "We've got the kids. What we need are the job sites. That's what we've been doing round the clock."

The city estimates there are 250,000 poor youths from 14 to 21 in the five boroughs, Dr. Nieves said. In the 1970's, the city received enough Federal funds to hire about 100,000. Until this year's money came along, Federal financing for youth employment programs had declined steadily

From the ashes of Los Angeles, some help for New York.

during the last two administrations.

This summer, Mayor David N. Dinkins had set a goal of putting about 100,000 youths to work, Dr. Nieves said, some of them through Federal financing, the rest with money from the city's budget and money donated by private industry in campaigns the Mayor had spearheaded.

"We're ecstatic and delighted about this new money," Dr. Nieves said. "But I wish that next time we would not wait for the riots to take place before this is done."

The appropriation will more than double New York City's original \$24.8 million for summer youth employment. Through funds that were awarded directly to the nation's 75 largest cities, New York City will now get an additional \$17.9 million. It also will receive \$14.5 million from the state's share of \$28.6 million.

Newark will receive an additional \$1.05 million and Jersey City \$618,000. The state of New Jersey will receive an additional \$9 million. Connecticut is to receive \$3.4 million from the new Federal funds.

"These jobs provide a number of services for our kids," Mr. Torres said. "It's not just the work aspect of it, but it also helps keep them in school, it motivates them, it prepares them for the labor force, which benefits all of us in the future."

They will work 20 hours a week for \$4.25 an hour. The new appropriation has also allowed the city to extend the work week to 28 hours from 24 hours, Dr. Nieves said.

"For some of these youths, their take-home pay is the only salary in the household," she said. "The job is becoming more meaningful."

Ms. Caraballo said she plans to save some of her wages for college, and she will help her mother, who is raising three daughters by herself.

Good News Back Home

Sh'Dell Nichols, who is 16 and lives with his grandmother in Castle Hill Houses, a public housing project in the southeast Bronx, just learned he will have a job this summer. He had gone to West Virginia to visit his mother, and when he returned, went to inquire about a job at Pathways for

Youth, which runs a community center at the housing project. They told him they had just gotten word of the new Federal money.

"I'll spend most of the money I make," he said. "But helping my grandmother — that comes first."

About 50 nonprofit groups contract with the city to match the youths with jobs. Because they operate in communities throughout the city, the groups are well-placed to put the call out for job seekers. They put up posters as early as February to ask youths to sign up, and they mail postcards to those who worked the summer before, reminding them that it is time to plan for the summer. Others learn through posters and fliers put out by the city. Most, however, learn through word of mouth.

The immediate reward is in the paychecks. But in the long run, the process helps prepare youths for the routine of looking for work in the real world, said Florence Cronin, director of the Children's Arts and Science Workshops in Washington Heights.

Training for an Interview

D'Angela Saavedra, who is 14 years old and will be a ninth grader at Cardinal Spellman High School in the Bronx next fall, found a job as a clerical worker at Columbia University, her first job ever, through the Workshops. Ms. Saavedra, who wore a plaid skirt and black pumps and had tied her hair back in a neat bun for the interview, recalled later how relieved she was that it was over.

"I thought a lot about what I was going to say," she said. "I practiced a lot with a friend. She told me, 'Take your gold jewelry off' — I like to wear a lot of jewelry — 'Talk intelligently.'"

"And then we practiced what I would say when they asked me if I had ever worked before," she said. "I told them, 'I know that I'm not very experienced, but I feel that I'm qualified because I accept the challenge.'"

Ms. Saavedra, who lives with her mother and four brothers and sisters in Washington Heights, said she wants to be a doctor, lawyer or dancer. For now, she said, she will help her mother with expenses, and wants to save money to buy clothes for school.

Her mother, Karen Saavedra, said teenagers need more activities to keep them busy during the summer.

"Especially the girls," she said. "You've got to keep girls busy, because they do get bored."

The work can be as varied as the youths.

Lewis Porter and Damon Eason, both 14, will spend the summer tending the soil and the lush plants at Success Gardens, a community park across from Public School 175 on 134th Street in Harlem.

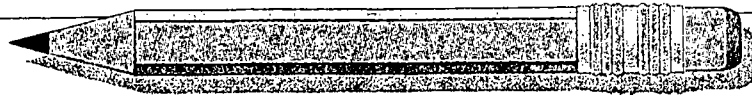
Preserving Greenery

The park was built on a vacant lot as a joint project between the school, the community and the Parks Council, a nonprofit group that works with the city to preserve open spaces.

The two boys, who last month completed the eighth grade, helped turn the rubble-strewn lot into a verdant paradise. This summer, along with others in the summer employment program, they will help turn several other lots on the block into parks.

Linda Davidoff, the Park Council's executive director, said the program was originally allotted 500 slots to hire youths for various environmental or parks projects this summer. Because of the new money, they now will have five times as many.

"It's nice to get this little election-year boost," she said. "It would be nice to get it every year. We can put every single kid to work. We could put 10,000 to work."



The private side of education

Education has traditionally been a state-run industry in the U.S., but increasingly, private enterprise is making inroads in big and small ways. The big: entrepreneur Chris Whittle's plans for a chain of profit-making schools. The small: the growing numbers of educational products for use at home. In today's section, a sampling of private matters in public schools.

USA TODAY • WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 1992 • 5D

Private funds, public projects

Boosting innovation, creativity in cash-strapped schools

By Pat Ordozensky
USA TODAY

New York City public school students this year studied dance in after-school classes, produced their own community newspaper and built a park on what once was a Harlem trash heap.

Cost to the city's beleaguered taxpayers: zero. These and several dozen other New York school projects are financed with private money.

In Denver, private dollars pay for multicultural awareness programs in the public schools. In Chattanooga, Tenn., they're supporting programs to stimulate teachers.

The thread linking these efforts — and scores of others in cities from Grand Rapids, Mich., to Ocala, Fla. — is a community fund that collects and distributes the private dollars. In most cases, the fund has been created within the past 10 years.

"We channel money and expertise from private corporations to projects tailored to the desires of the funder and link them up with the proper schools," says Joe Coencas of the Fund for New York City Public Education. It has raised \$16 million in three years from corporations, foundations and individuals.

Most of the funds, like New York's, are controlled by a board comprising corporate executives, community leaders and educators.

"Their very presence testifies to the community's concern about public education," says Wendy Puriefoy, direc-



PLANTING SEEDS OF PROGRESS: Teacher Bill Swindler and students Kryste Addison, left, Deniqua Robinson, Vance Bennett, Dequan Watson and Derek Jones work in their Success Garden, a former Harlem trash heap turned floral area. By Larry Ford

you've got a great idea let's try it out."

Private money has been dabbling in public schools for decades. But the community fund phenomenon took root in 1983 with a Ford Foundation grant to a Pittsburgh group trying to coordinate corporate concern for schools.

With Ford backing, the Pittsburgh folks helped start education funds in 58 communities. And their organiza-

tion with information, advice and a chance to compare notes.

Puriefoy estimates the network's 58 members have raised \$70 million to \$80 million, still a tiny fraction of the nation's school spending.

The Council for Aid to Education reports \$300 million in private funds from all sources — or \$7.50 per student — was spent on public schools last year. Average expenditure of tax dollars was \$5.45 per student.

school system. Because they aren't controlled by the superintendent, she says, "they can stand back and be both supporter and critic."

Most funds started by offering grants to teachers to try new ideas. And most have substantially expanded.

In Chattanooga, the fund encourages colleges, museums and other institutions to create programs that will stretch public school teachers intellectually. The incen-

In Grand Rapids, the fund has assembled a community-wide committee that, says director Beth Dille, "is setting out on a redesign of the school system that will be extraordinary. . . . The schools and the community will be so meshed you will have difficulty separating them."

"It's not enough any more to identify a problem," Puriefoy says. "You must . . . be prepared to build community-wide support beyond the

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PART OF
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POWELL JR

ADAM CLAYTON

WESTLEY WILLIAMS

PL.

SUBWAY
STATION

LENOX

Garrett Myers

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P.S. 175

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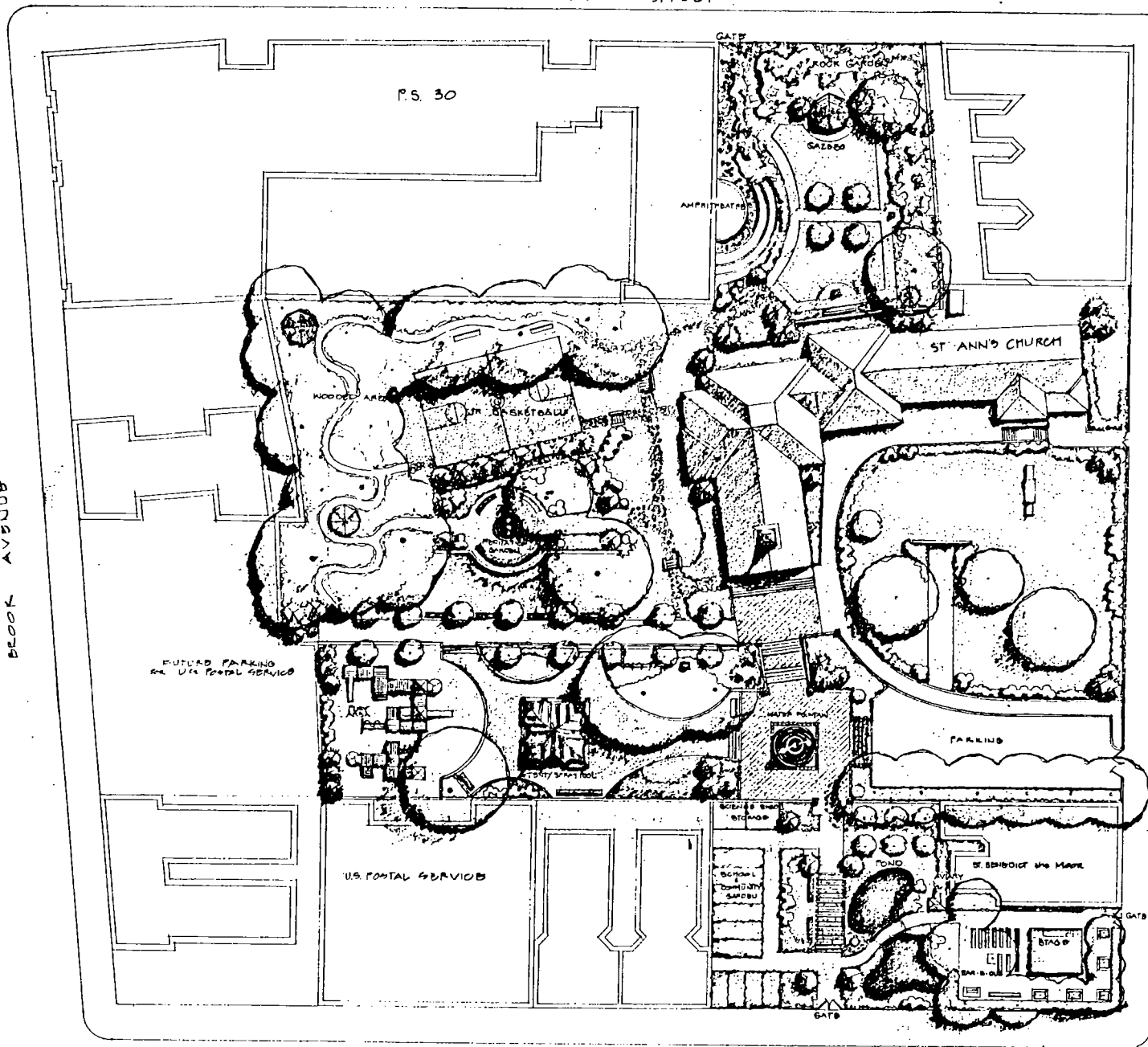
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141ST STREET

BROOK AVENUE

ST. ANN'S AVENUE



EAST 139TH STREET

P.S. 30/ST. ANN'S COMMUNITY GARDENS BRONX, NEW YORK

SCALE: 1" = 20' 0"
SEPTEMBER 1972



DESIGN TEAM:
CARLOS BATISTA, RONCIA DAVIS,
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SPONSOR:
THE PARK COUNCIL
GARDEN LIAISON:
JOSEPH PETERLIN, PRESIDENT



NEW YORK POST

LATE CITY FINAL

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 1992 Partly sunny, low 70s today; Clear, near 50 tonight / Details, Page 2 ★★

40¢ in New York City 50¢ elsew.

EXCLUSIVE *Dope dealers now leasing their turn*

FOR RENT



139th St. & Brook Ave.
BX. CORNER LOT
Excellent for selling
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Bronx corner (left), rented by drug peddler from big time dealers. SEE PAGE 2

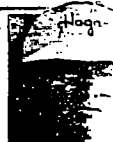
**YANKEES
BEAT O's**

Details: Page 46



**KITE WINS
U.S. OPEN**

Details: Page 48



—Brazen deals for lucrative crack corner outrage cops— DRUG LORDS 'SELL' CITY STREETS FOR UP TO \$1M

By ROCCO PARASCANDOLA

A Harlem drug dealer has sold the "exclusive rights" to his most lucrative street corner to a competing gang for \$1 million — a record deal in an illicit market that treats public property like a criminal franchise, police sources told The Post.

In parts of upper Manhattan, The Bronx and Brooklyn, street toughs have found a profitable sideline selling and renting public real estate.

The unprecedented sales price for a small corner where drugs are sold openly on the Harlem-Washington Heights border has stunned even cops, who are used to seeing brazen thugs armed with the latest weapons parade as millionaires.

"I see stuff every day that doesn't bother me," a police source told The Post.

"When I heard this, I said, 'What the f--- are we coming to?' To me that's the ultimate disgrace. We're outarmed by the dealers and this is the end result."

"This is the first time we have ever come across this," said Detective Sgt. Michael Race, who works out of the Sutter Avenue station house in Brooklyn's East New York section, where a drug ring that rented out space was recently busted.

"They're actually selling city property," Race added.

Police sources told The Post they're seeing more and more chunks of city

POST EXCLUSIVE

sidewalk commandeered by ruthless drug dealers and then sold or rented to other dealers.

Among the deals that cops are aware of:

- The sidewalk in front of 2354 Walton Ave. in The Bronx, where one drug gang is allowed to sell crack because it pays another crew more than \$312,000 in annual rent.

- Sections of The Bronx's Mott Haven area. The corner of 138th Street and Brook Avenue, one of the premier heroin outlets in the city, was rented for \$260,000 a year. The "lease" may have expired recently when the drug kingpin who was collecting the rent was killed.

- The notorious East New York intersections of Fulton Street and Norwood Avenue, and Pine Street and Pitkin Avenue have each rented for \$260,000 a year, police sources said.

The \$1 million corner, near the Harlem-Washington Heights border, and its "owners" are not being named by The Post because several investigations into murder and



DRUG CORNER: Another hot spot for dealers is 139th and St. Ann's Avenue in The Bronx.

drugs linked to the site are under way, and police expect to make arrests soon.

The corner was considered a gold mine because of its proximity to the George Washington Bridge, bringing customers from New Jersey and elsewhere in the tri-state area.

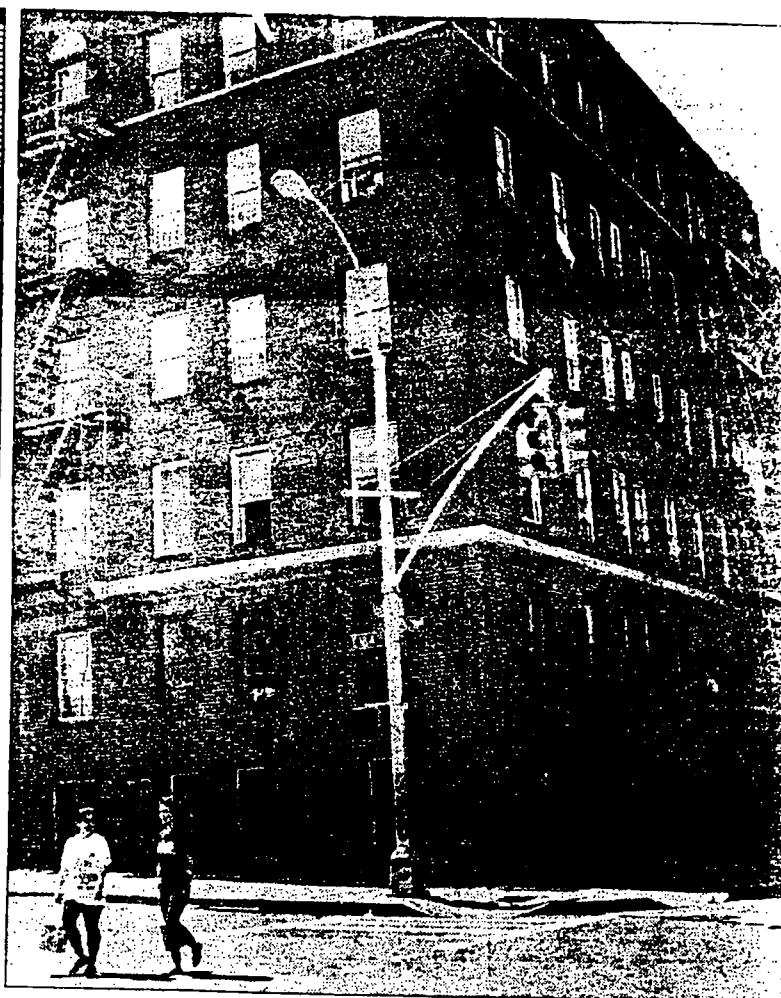
Sources say a murderous Dominican gang "bought" the corner about a year ago — but police didn't find

out about the sale until recently.

The gang now controls the entire block and pulls in at least \$1 million a month selling heroin, a source said.

"They have the rights to that block," the source said. "Anybody wants to move into that spot, they suffer the penalty."

"There's no warning," the source added. "The penalty is death." See DRUGS on Page 14



New York Post: Michael Schwartz

RICH PICKINGS: The corner of East 184th and Walton Avenue in the Bronx brings in more than \$300,000 a year for a drug gang that leases its turf.

Drug gangs do brisk trade leasing turf to rivals

from Page 5

dealers, like good entrepreneurs, are reluctant to ever give up their corner of the market once they have won control. But instead of using the site themselves, they sometimes rent it out for up to \$10 a week — or \$520,000 a year.

They do it to distance themselves from the law and to establish themselves as the neighborhood power brokers.

"They want to be like the big shots," Detective Vinny

Lopane of the Ryer Avenue station house in the Tremont section of The Bronx told The Post. "They want to sit on the corner with their hats on and their fancy cars. It's power and money."

But these streets of gold almost always turn to blood.

One Bronx heroin supplier, George Calderone, made \$75,000 a week by renting pieces of his Mott Haven turf to about 20 dealers — who paid him \$2,000 to \$5,000 each week — before he was murdered

in February.

Another dealer, Jose Montalvo, who ran an \$800,000-a-week cocaine operation — and who has been linked to rogue cop Michael Dowd — met a similar fate in February 1991.

When Montalvo returned to his native Santo Domingo two years ago, he rented out his "property" to associates for \$10,000 a week — with the option to take it back when he returned, Lopane said.

Rather than give it back, they shot Montalvo dead outside a Webster Avenue

seafood restaurant, sources said.

Authorities have pinned the murder on La Compania, or The Company, a now dismantled drug gang that sold cocaine in East New York, where it rented space to other dealers.

Similar bloodshed occurred earlier this year during a battle for control of a five-story building at 2354 Walton Ave. in the University Heights section of The Bronx.

Two crack gangs, Red Top and Black Top — named for the colors of

their crack vial lids — had each been earning about \$25,000 weekly, sources said.

Red Top, figuring it could make more if the two gangs merged, planned what would be considered on Wall Street as a "hostile takeover."

They tried — unsuccessfully — to kill Black Top's money man, Francisco Marcellino.

Police suspected Red Top member Carlos Bergos in the hit. Bergos wouldn't talk — and his pet ferret even attacked Lopane.

"I almost had a heart attack," Lopane said. "I told Bergos you might as well talk to us. You're liable to get shot when you walk out of here."

Minutes after police left, Bergos — and his ferret — were shot.

Bergos survived. The ferret didn't.

The merger went through — despite the bad blood — with Red Top agreeing to pay Black Top \$6,000 per week, Lopane said.

Today, the business continues to thrive.

No one is safe — especially heroin 'landlords'

By ROCCO PARASCANDOLA

Buying or renting a valuable piece of drug turf does not guarantee you'll do business without a hitch — especially if you operate in the murderous Mott Haven section of The Bronx.

The current bull market in the heroin trade — coupled with an attempt by Manhattan drug gangs to usurp established dealers

— has turned Mott Haven into a battlefield.

Homicides have nearly doubled in the 40th Precinct — 47 from January to May, compared with 28 for the first five months last year.

Now no one is safe — no matter how powerful.

Take George Calderone. Until his murder last month, Calderone, 35, was the quiet but feared enforcer of a five-block area

centered at 138th Street and Brook Avenue — earning \$75,000 a week since 1989 by renting out pieces of his drug empire.

By police accounts, he did his job well.

"When Calderone took it over, we had less homicides," said a police source familiar with Calderone. "He had a firm handle on things."

"He was the muscle guy," the source said. "He was

the guy they were all afraid of."

Calderone, born and reared on 139th Street, made his fortune with the help of Dominican drug dealers from the Lower East Side whom he met while serving a six-month drug sentence three years ago.

As part of the deal they struck, Calderone was both enforcer and supplier.

He cut the number of

dealers peddling heroin from 40 to 20 to tighten his grip over the operation, supplied them with brand names like "DOA" and "Tango and Cash" and charged the dealers a weekly rent, sources said.

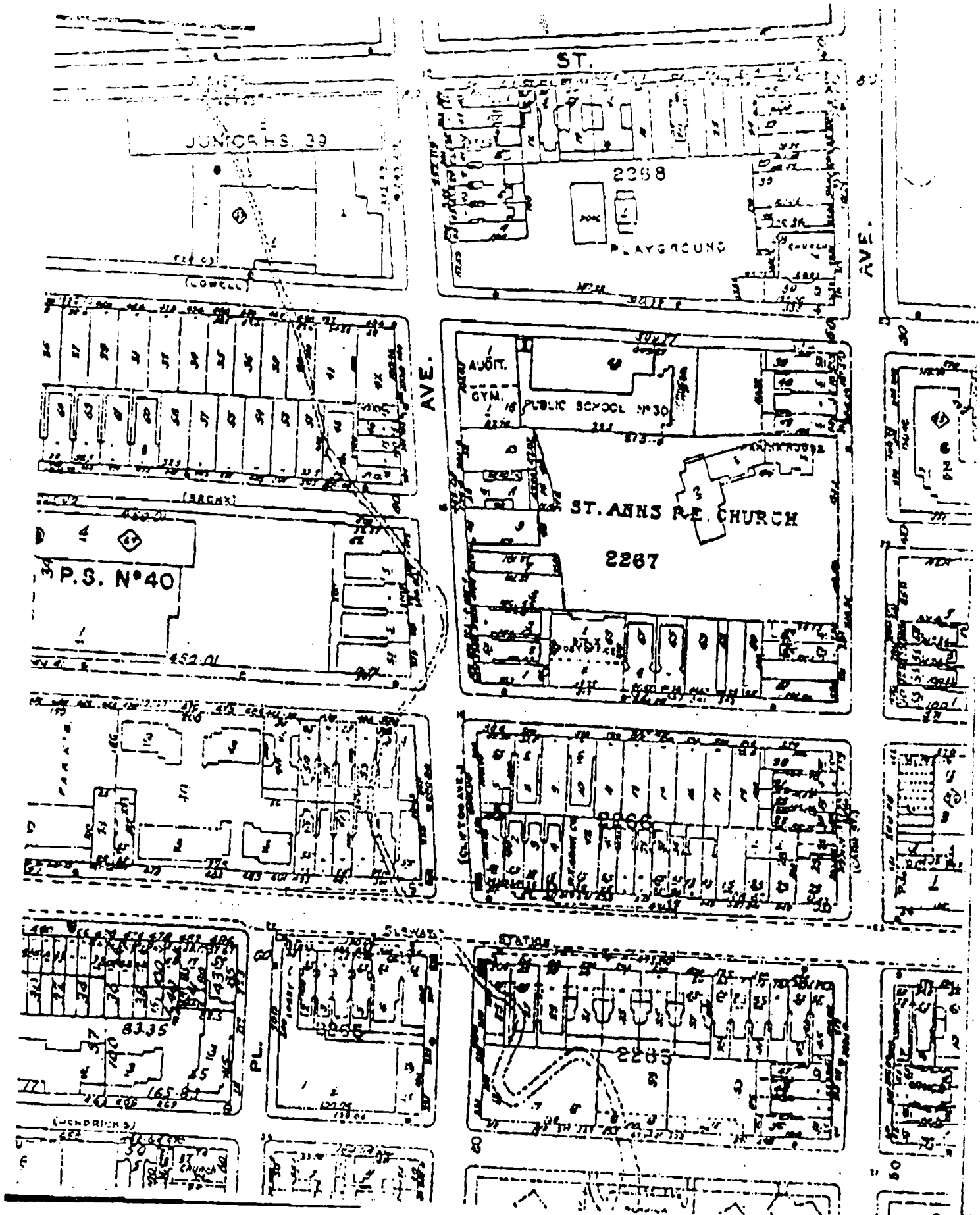
"It could be as low as \$3,000 a week. It could be as high as \$5,000, depending on his relationship with the individual," Detective Sgt. Richard Bushrod told

The Post.

The Dominicans also paid Calderone \$10,000 a week to run their operation out of 550 E. 139th St.

Calderone was murdered last month as he walked from the state parole office on 181st Street to his BMW.

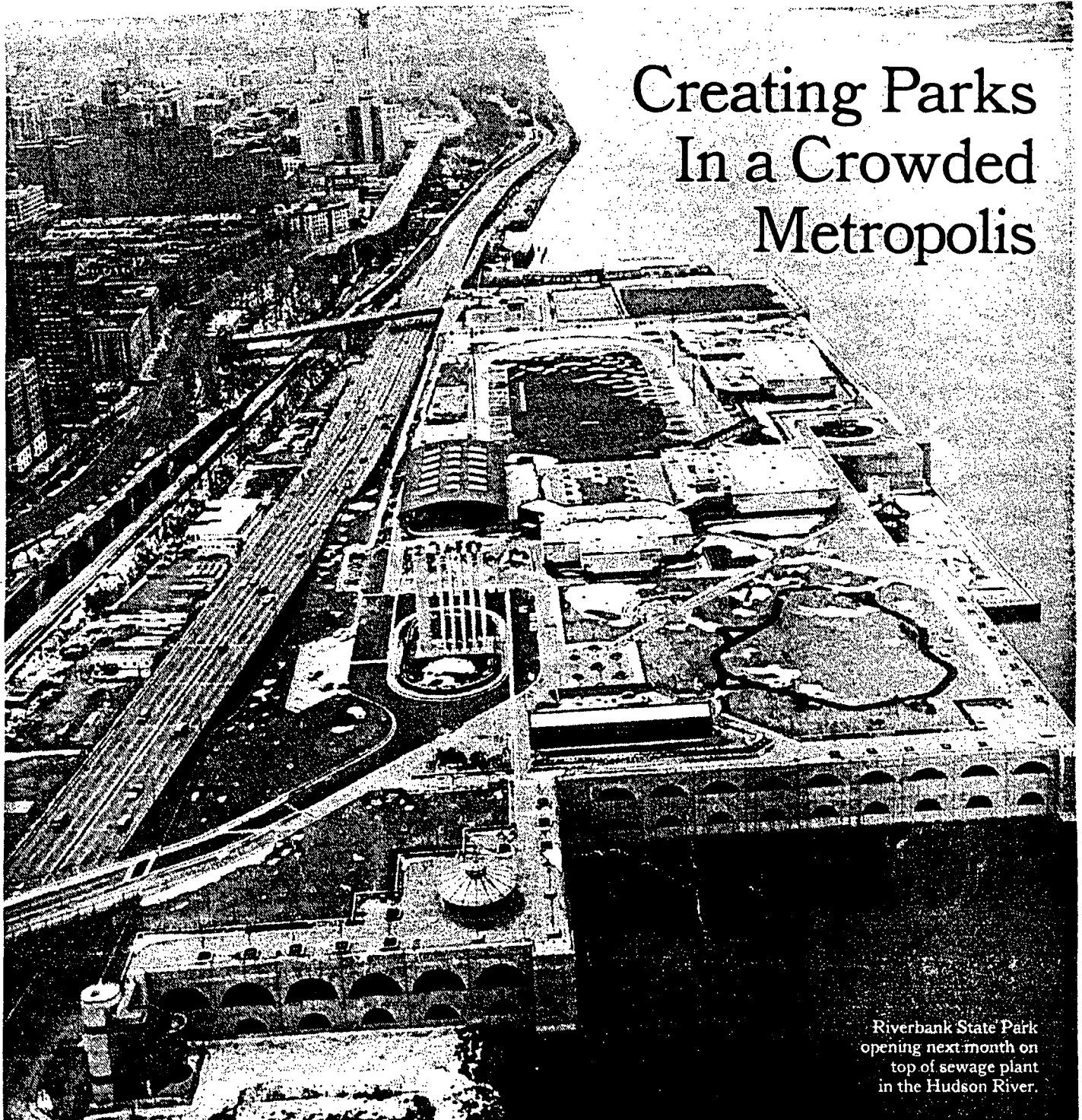
Police don't know who killed Calderone, or why, but with control of the area up for grabs, they are expecting even more violence.



—New District Center!

Sunday, April 4, 1993

Creating Parks In a Crowded Metropolis



Riverbank State Park opening next month on top of sewage plant in the Hudson River.

A 28-Acre State Park Sits Atop a Sewage Plant

By MERVYN ROTHSTEIN

IN their effort to create new parks and playgrounds in sections of New York City that do not have enough of them, government agencies and nonprofit organizations are understanding more and more that, as Kermit the Frog would say, it's not that easy being green.

Seeking to establish open spaces, Lilliputian or Brobdignagian, in underserved communities throughout the

five boroughs, they are devising new strategies to cope with diminishing budgets and are increasingly turning to the unexpected: vacant lots, abandoned buildings and the top of a huge sewage-treatment plant on the Hudson River in West Harlem.

"Looking for parkland in a city as densely populated as this one is a matter of taking advantage of opportunities wherever you find them," said Elizabeth Goldstein, New York City regional director of the state's Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

As she spoke, Ms. Goldstein was standing atop one of those opportunities: the concrete roof of the euphemistically named North River Water Pollution Control Plant, the home of the new \$129 million, 28-acre Riverbank State Park, which is the only state park in Manhattan and is to open May 27.

"Building a park on top of any other kind of structure is a very urban concept," Ms. Goldstein said. "In the entire world there are 11 parks atop waste-treatment plants, and the other 10 are in Japan. And that may well be for the reasons that this was a logical option. When you've got this kind of density of population and very little land, this is one of the things you do — you go up."

Built with Federal, state and city funds, the park, on the Hudson between 137th and 145th Streets, includes indoor and outdoor swimming pools, an 834-seat auditorium for cultural events, a 1,270-seat gym with facilities for basketball, volleyball, gymnastics and martial arts; locker rooms for more than 1,000 people; a 200-foot-long rink for ice skating and roller skating; a softball field; a 400-

Sara Krulwich/The New York Times

Carving Out Parks for a Crowded New York City

Continued From Page 1

meter running track around a football/soccer field; outdoor courts for basketball, handball, paddleball and tennis; a restaurant; an amphitheater; children's play areas; a carousel, and a greenhouse.

Ms. Goldstein anticipates that the park will draw about 10,000 people a day on weekends in nice weather, and a total of 2 million to 3 million people a year.

The park is a direct result of the plant, which processes 170-million gallons of raw sewage a day. When government officials selected the site in the 60's against the strong objections of the Harlem community and its elected officials, Ms. Goldstein said, residents soon began pressing for a recreational facility on the roof. The park, she added, "is what was finally negotiated between the community and the State of New York."

ONE reason the community so vehemently demanded a recreational facility, of course, was that West Harlem was like many sections of the city: There was no sizable one in the neighborhood or in the immediate area. Now West Harlem finds itself among the park-privileged.

"Indeed, this facility is quite unique in the City of New York," Ms. Goldstein said. "There are city-run recreation centers in a number of places, but there's nowhere that has the concentration of this level of indoor and outdoor activity in such a small space. And there's nothing else like this that's so close to a residential neighborhood. Many city parks that have a lot of these kinds of facilities are very far from public transportation and much less easily accessible."

The park will be open 18 hours a day, from 6 or 7 A.M. to midnight or 1 A.M. Bridges at 138th and 145th Streets link it to Riverside Drive. An elevator-stairway tower in the northeast corner provides a direct entrance from Riverside Park below. Buses on Riverside Drive and along 145th Street, the 145th Street stop on the No. 9 line, which is a block away, and other lines connecting to the 145th Street bus will also provide easy access.

As far as getting there by car, though, forget it.

"There is practically no public parking here at all," Ms. Goldstein said. "The community felt very strongly in the original planning for the park that it did not want to encourage people to come by car."

Riverbank is the fifth state park in New York City. The first, Roberto Clemente State Park in the Morris Heights section of the West Bronx, a full-service recreational park like Riverbank, opened in 1973. The others are Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park next to the Brooklyn Bridge in Brooklyn, which contains the Empire Stores historic warehouses and is a strolling area rather than a recreation park; Clay Pit Ponds State Park Preserve, a 250-acre wildlife refuge on Staten Island, and Bayswater Point State Park Preserve, in Far Rockaway, Queens, which is run by the Audubon Society.

There is, naturally, one inherent disadvantage in building a park atop a sewage-treatment plant: odors. There have been complaints for years about the odors from the plant. Ms. Goldstein, however, said that the problem was infrequent and that the park's planners were working to resolve the difficulty.

"Time will tell," she said. "Once people start using the park, the issue may fall away."

Not every underserved section of the city, of course, gets the opportunity to have such a waste-treatment plant dropped in its lap, and to get such a large park in recompense. So when New York City's Department of Parks and Recreation seeks to add dabs of green to neighborhoods that do not have enough of them, ways have to be devised that take into account the financial squeeze that has reduced the department's budget and work force by 20 percent in the last three years. Ways usually involve work on a small scale and the use of city-owned land.

City-owned vacant land is a key, said Jack T. L. assistant commissioner for government relations. "There's no cash cost to the city in transferring property from another city agency to ours," Mr. Linn said. And, he



C.M. Hardy for The New York Times

Success Garden, once rubble-strewn lots on 134th Street off Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard.

added, less is very definitely more.

"In the inner city, the built-up sections of the city, what you have the opportunity to get your hands on tends to be a small parcel anyway," he said. "And the marginal difference in our operating budget to maintain an extra acre or two is not significant."

Jane P. Cleaver, the department's director of park lands, said the department had "made a conscious decision a few years ago to create one new active recreational community park per borough, in neighborhoods that do not have a neighborhood or community park."

"We started out with a list of five," she said, "and we're a third of the way through the list."

THE first two sites are at the northwest corner of 177th Street and Walton Avenue in the Mount Hope section of the Bronx, the Mount Hope-St. Edmund's Community Park, and on a block bounded by Prospect Avenue, Clyde Place, Harvard Avenue and Arnold Street in the West New Brighton section of Staten Island, in what will be the Cottages Hill Playground.

The 2.8-acre Staten Island playground, combining two existing empty park lands with the former site of Public School 17, will include two tennis courts and a preschool playground and will cost almost \$1.5 million. The 1.7-acre Bronx site is to include two basketball courts, play equipment and a spray shower and is to cost \$680,000. Construction on both is to begin this spring, Ms. Cleaver said, and take from a year to 18 months.

Finding ways to make existing small parks and playgrounds bigger is a major department technique, Ms. Cleaver said. "Looking for adjacent land and adding it to the park is a big strategy," she said. "It doesn't always make a huge difference, but it means that a rehabilitated park comes back a little bit bigger. Probably a third of the additions we have made since 1989 have been in this add-a-lot program."

Very often, she said, city-owned land turns up adjacent to existing parks that are being redesigned. "A good example," she said, "is Joseph C. Sauer Playground, on East 12th Street between Avenues A and B. It has had two small additions since 1989, one lot .07 percent of an acre and the other .02 percent of an acre. So it only gave us a tenth of an acre more. But it allowed us to go from a midblock park to the corner."

And, she added, it helped improve the quality of the neighborhood. "The first addition," she said, "was a vacant lot, where addicts in a crack house next door used to throw their used needles. And the second lot was the crack house itself."

Still another technique, Ms. Cleaver said, is linking park land. The Environmental Quality Bond Act of 1986 let the city use the value of certain city-owned land as a match for state cash. Using this law, the city has received a \$2 million redevelopment grant to take city-owned land between West 155th Street and West 158th Street near the Hudson River to connect Riverside Park with Fort Washington Park.

One of the best methods to create or redevelop open spaces, said Marilyn Gelber, executive assistant to Brooklyn Borough President Howard Golden, is to do so in conjunction with new or rehabilitated housing. She said that the Nehemiah houses at Belmont and Sutter Avenues and Livonia Avenue and Mother Gaston Boulevard, both in Brownsville, and Ten Eyck Plaza, at Ten Eyck Street and Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, were notable examples of this process at work.

"It's critical if we create open space in so-called underserved, or badly developed, or poor areas to do it in a smart way, to have a community built around it that will help maintain it," Ms. Gelber said. "If you plan things in conjunction with new housing development, then it's a win-win situation."

The city's Department of Housing Preservation and Development runs an Open Spaces Program to complement urban-renewal sites or projects or other city housing developments. Valerie Jo Bradley, a department spokeswoman, said that budget cuts had eliminated city financing for the program but that the Brooklyn, Bronx and Manhattan Borough President's Offices had donated \$1.5 million to continue it in the current fiscal year.

Projects completed last year, she said, included the \$130,500 Pearl Street Park, a triangular area at Water and Fulton Streets in Manhattan near Southbridge Towers, a Mitchell-Lama co-op housing complex, and the \$284,000 David F. Feingold Park, next to a housing development for the elderly built with Federal funds on Himrod Street, near Myrtle and Central Avenues, in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn.

Because there is less public money to go around, the private sector — businesses, foundations, nonprofit lobbying groups and

Park planners still trying to resolve the problem of odors atop the sewage plant.

Powell Boulevard. Working with Public School 175 and Community School District 5, the council turned a series of debris-filled, city-owned lots into a flowering playground, garden and environmental learning center. Conceived by Joseph Pupello, a council official, the project cost about \$80,000 and was built using government grants and funds from foundations, corporations and individuals.

"This block was honeycombed with vacant lots," Ms. Davidoff said. "The school's main entrance was on this block, but there was so much drug and crime activity the school locked it and told the students to come in through the asphalt playground. Once the site was cleared and fenced, other people on the block got the idea of setting up gardens on their adjacent properties. And the block improved in appearance so much that the school gate could be reopened."

NOW the council is involved in a second such garden, to be known officially as the School District 7 Center for Horticulture and the Urban Environment at P.S. 30, in the Mott Haven section of the South Bronx. It involves a double-block site, including a vacant lot owned by the Board of Education and a yard owned by St. Ann's Church, between St. Ann's and Brook Avenues and 139th and 141st Streets. It is scheduled to be completed next year and it is to include a meditation area, a rock garden, community gardens, an aviary, a pond and a gazebo.

The council is also working with residents of SoHo, TriBeCa, Little Italy and Chinatown in open-space-deprived downtown Manhattan on plans for a park on vacant land by Canal, Grand and Wooster Streets and the Avenue of the Americas.

Ms. Gotbaum, the Parks Commissioner, said that she understood the Parks Council's concern about the need for new park space, but cautioned that things were not all that simple.

"If a piece of open space becomes available," she said, "we make an attempt to take a very good look at it to see if in fact it's really desirable, if it's feasible to fix it. And it's also very important to find out what the community really wants."

Mr. Linn, the assistant commissioner, said there was always competition for the use of a piece of real estate. "People want housing," he said. "They want jobs. They want parks. The collision of public purposes is sort of normal, and you try to sort that out with some rational planning for the whole of the neighborhood."

Crime, he said, is another concern — trying to discern whether the city can reasonably control the open space, keep out drug addicts, and make the neighborhood residents feel that they and their children can use the park or the playground without fear.

Ms. Goldstein, the state park regional director, said that when it came to dealing with the potential for crime "we have a very serious advantage that city parks unfortunately do not — a separate state parks police force."

The police presence at Riverbank State Park, she said, will consist of 40 patrol officers in addition to supervisory staff. "We want this to be a place where parents will be comfortable sending their young children by themselves," she said, "because the parents are comfortable that the youngsters will be safe here."

Ms. Goldstein added that she had "heard rumors that there are large discussions going on in the illegal segments of this society about whose turf this park will be as far as drug sales."

"Well," she said, "they've got a big surprise coming."

the communities themselves — are getting more involved in creating, restoring and maintaining parks. The \$8.9 million renovation of Bryant Park in midtown Manhattan was supervised by the Bryant Park Restoration Corporation, a private nonprofit group, using money from sources that included the city, private donors and the property owners and businesses around the park.

Other public agencies are also into green. The Battery Park City Authority is responsible for the new Hudson River Park and the planned South Park on the Lower Manhattan waterfront. The city's Operation GreenThumb, which is part of the Department of General Services and gets its money from the Federal Government, has for 15 years leased vacant city lots to community groups for use as gardens. Jane Weissman, its director, said that its more than 700 community groups and more than 1,000 gardens produced \$1 million worth of fruits and vegetables each year.

BETSY GOTBAUM, the city's Parks Commissioner, said that in some neighborhoods the communities themselves maintained new or renovated small parks. "In Greenwich Village, for example, at the intersection of Eighth Avenue, Greenwich Avenue and West 13th Street, there's a little park called Jackson Square Park," Ms. Gotbaum said. "We've lost more than 1,000 people, so how are we going to get there to keep it up? But the community locks it and opens it up and cleans it and sweeps it. There's a community organization that keeps it beautifully."

The Parks Council, a nonprofit group that works with the Parks Department and other organizations to preserve open spaces, is very much involved in helping to arrange public-private partnerships to build parks, playgrounds and gardens in the city's underserved areas. The council is strongly urging that as much as possible of the thousands of acres of city-owned vacant land be set aside for park use.

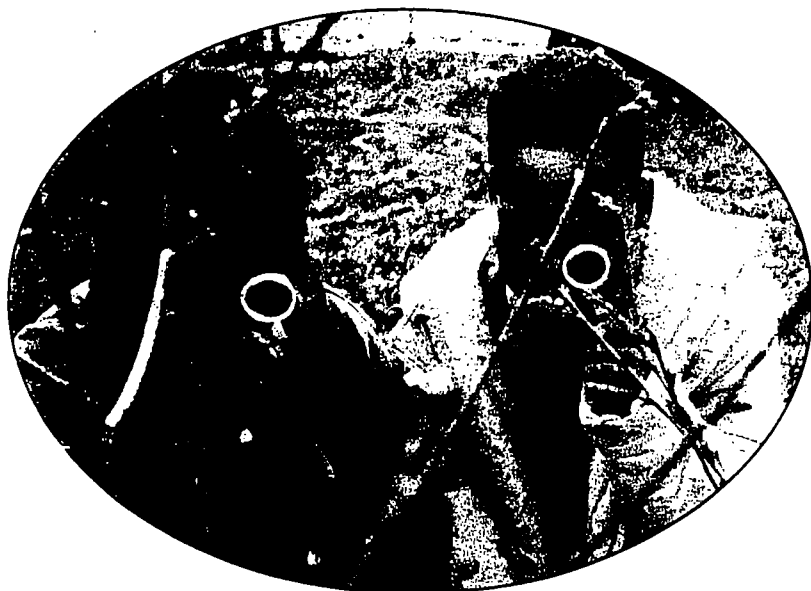
"It's primarily the low-income communities that are deprived of adequate open spaces," said Linda Davidoff, the council's executive director. "Whole stretches of Queens and Brooklyn and the South Bronx, where most of the poorer people live, are distant from where most of the parks are."

As an example for the city, the council points to Success Garden, on 134th Street between Lenox Avenue and Adam Clayton

SERVING STUDENTS THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Through the Corridor Initiative, educators have forged valuable and exciting partnerships with a variety of community organizations. Having control over Corridor grant money has allowed participating schools to negotiate for the services they really need. In some cases, they have built on existing relationships with a community partner, as in District 1, where Henry Street Settlement House revamped its arts programs to support the educational theme at each Corridor school. In other cases, having settled on common needs, clusters have investigated their options with help from district office staff and pulled together a variety of partners whose services are coordinated by the cluster. The District 8 cluster, for example, invited potential partners for its environmental studies program to present workshops at an all-day planning retreat to which parents, teachers and administrators from all cluster schools were invited.

Community partnerships can give students opportunities to "learn by doing" and at the same time forge closer ties between the schools and their host community. Thus, the Moshulu Preservation Corporation helps seventh graders in the District 10 cluster produce a monthly news supplement, *Corridor Chronicles*, as part of a neighborhood newspaper widely distributed by local merchants. The students' teacher, Laura Spalter, said "in their role as reporters, my kids really get involved in local things. My kids are hooked on attending school-based management meetings and they have attended community board meetings. I have seen them mature from shy students



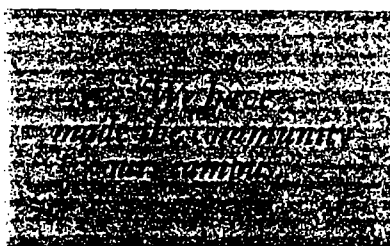
Young nature detectives on a scavenger hunt with New York Horticultural Society's Appleseed Program in the District 5 Cluster

to people who feel really a part of the process. And besides that, we have fun."

The "Success Garden" in District 5 is a magnificent urban park created by Harlem students working with the Parks Council's Green Neighborhoods

explained. "We're not trying push some particular curriculum. We are providing a menu of environmental opportunities for the teachers."

Working with cultural partners can give students an outlet for untapped talents and unexpressed feelings. Describing a project with Henry Street to improve the visual environment of PS 110 with a mural in the school cafeteria, Janet Sygar, a teacher in the Corridor school, noted, "there was a sixth grade boy last year who rarely spoke. But as time went by he learned to speak through his art. He designed many beautiful things for the mural and then painted them himself."



NAOMI KLEINHANDLER
DISTRICT 10

Program. Its director, Joseph Pupello, observed, "collaborations like this increase the physical open space of our communities and strengthen the constituency of responsible people for city open spaces." The garden and related projects are the sites for both professional development and science lessons for students. "This partnership has allowed a framework of options for the schools to plug into," Mr. Pupello

An art instructor at the Lehman College Gallery, Lisa Davis, who works with sixth grade students in District 10, observed, "We are not part of the system, and not parents, and we don't give grades, so they often talk about issues that really worry them. This provides a good escape for them, as well as a way to assess and talk about art."

THE CORRIDOR INITIATIVE



CLUSTERING SCHOOLS TO SUPPORT REFORM

Over the past three years, the Corridor Initiative's clustering of schools serving the same communities has proven an effective strategy for sharing resources, expertise and information to better meet students' needs. The seven Corridor clusters range from three to six schools and typically include a middle school and the elementary schools feeding into it.

Clusters have worked together to identify promising instructional strategies, launch professional development programs that meet teachers' expressed needs, encourage parent participation and develop worthwhile partnerships with community organizations.

In a number of Corridor projects, the clustering of schools has resulted in better articulation between the participating elementary schools and the intermediate or junior high school. This year, for example, one of the district clusters is initiating an alternative assessment project using student portfolios that will pass from elementary to junior high teachers. Instead of relying on rumors, elementary school students and their parents learn first-hand about programs and services offered at the intermediate schools. In some cases, enrollments in intermediate and junior high schools have increased over the past two years, an outcome that teachers and administrators often attribute to the Corridor projects.

Principals report that clustering has fostered a more collaborative spirit among them. Teachers have cited participation in cluster work as a critical ingredient in their personal development as leaders within their schools. The creation of clusters has served to break down the traditional barriers that isolate teachers and schools from one another.

*Dr. Dennis H. Holmes,
Investigator for the McKenzie Group's evaluation of the Corridor Initiative*

A COLLABORATION OF THE NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND
THE FUND FOR NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC EDUCATION

THE WHITE HOUSE
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

CAROL H. RASCO
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

To:

Brian Burke

Draft response for POTUS

and forward to CHR by: _____

Draft response for CHR by: _____

Please reply directly to the writer

(copy to CHR) by: _____

COB 3/15

Please advise by: _____

Let's discuss: _____

For your information: _____

Reply using form code: _____

File: _____

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Designee to attend: _____

Remarks: _____

The Parks Council

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Linda Davidoff
Executive Director

February 24, 1994

Hon. Carol Rasco
Assistant to the President
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Ms. Rasco,

I'm writing to suggest a policy direction for the Administration that would:

-- cost extremely little, at least during its first two to four years and as compared to other major policy initiatives

-- and satisfy the urgent needs of two major national constituencies.

The direction is "the greening of urban America." It consists of converting derelict vacant land, the bulk of it owned by the cities themselves as a result of tax defaults as population and landowners have fled inner cities, to productive use as miniparks, gardens, outdoor environmental classrooms, and sports and recreation fields.

The greening process provides useful employment for young and low-skilled workers, and recreation for young people that keeps them from less productive or even criminal activities.

Greening takes an unused and destructive asset, vacant lots which now serve as breeding grounds for vermin and crime and accelerate the downward spiral of poor neighborhoods, and converts it to socially and economically productive use.

One of the most powerful attractions of a greening program direction is that it helps to stabilize the real-estate value of the remaining intact housing and commercial structures in a community -- rather than causing an increased propensity for abandonment and neglect. The existence of a garbage-filled crime sanctuary next to a housing unit causes an increased likelihood of abandonment and decay; the existence of a well-tended playground and garden next to the same unit of housing tends to stabilize the profitable tenancy of that unit.

Operation of the program:

-- the Corporation for National and Community Service sponsors teams of young people who clean, plant, fence, and maintain the new gardens

-- the Department of Education supports curriculum development in elementary and high schools, which use vacant lots adjacent to schools for outdoor science, math, environmental science, and social studies/urban planning labs

-- the Department of Housing and Urban Development helps plan re-use of vacant land adjacent to and within public housing projects, newly-developed HUD-assisted units, and within urban renewal, Empowerment Zones, and other special areas of inner cities

-- The Department of the Interior uses its urban aid and youth wilderness experience funds to support Urban Conservation Corps jointly sponsored by the Corporation for National and Community Service

--The Department of Agriculture provides, through the Extension Service, technical assistance and modest funding to support food-crop farming on formerly vacant lots.

Other agencies of government can also be involved as appropriate.

Private funders of environmental programs can and will be supportive.

City governments already own the land in question, and can allocate modest funds from their property-management, housing, youth service, and other agencies to support the effort on a matching basis.

State park, urban assistance, education, and environmental agencies can provide matching funds and other assistance.

I enclose a memo briefly describing some of the theoretical issues and a set of materials describing The Parks Council's Urban Conservation Corps and Green Neighborhoods Program; and a supportive letter we have recently received from the Corporation for National and Community Service. We are also in touch with Interior and HUD, and Members of Congress.

An important feature of a "Greening of Urban America" program is that **the policy framework is already, to a large extent, in place and only needs public announcement and coordination to take its place in the national consciousness as a signature program of the Clinton Administration.**

Another important feature is that **environmental programs in the inner city signal serious Administration attention to the needs both of the inner-city community (for jobs; recreation; and community revitalization) and of the largely suburban and middle-class environmental community** (which sees the need to preserve land; to create green relief for the harsh concrete-and-asphalt environmental of inner cities; and to restore and revitalize urban communities so as to prevent further major decentralization of urban populations).

I look forward to your response to this letter, and to the concepts I set forth.

Many thanks for your interest and attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "LD", written over the printed name and title.

Linda Davidoff
Executive Director

MANAGING NEW YORK CITY'S VACANT LAND INVENTORY

Linda Davidoff, Executive Director, The Parks Council
October 15, 1993

The City of New York owns vast quantities of land in the lowest-income areas. Under the city's tax laws, after three or more years of tax delinquency, real property reverts to city ownership. Because of the collapse of the real-estate market in the lowest-income neighborhoods over the two great waves of recession in the 1970's and 1990's, the City has become the owner of vast tracts of land -- about 14,000 parcels of varying acreage.

Neglected vacant land in low-income areas quickly becomes a dumping ground for crime, garbage, and prostitution. The city's current policy with respect to the vacant lots is to attempt to keep them clean and fenced while marketing them for sale to private developers or for building needed city facilities such as housing projects. However, there are no buyers for the vast bulk of the inventory; and city capital projects take many years and vast amounts of money to build. In the meantime -- often, for decades -- the land becomes a magnet for garbage, crime, and decay.

If the City were to adopt a policy of interim across-the-board "greening" of its vacant land inventory, these lots could function to bolster the existing fabric of low-income communities, rather than to accelerate their decay. Community miniparks and gardens, school environmental education classrooms, and sports fields, developed at low cost and within short time frames, provide urgently needed recreation, relief, and visual pleasure for residents of **any** community. Private buildings located next to garbage-filled vacant lots tend to decay faster; buildings located next to parks and gardens tend to be stabilized and to be capable of private or public reinvestment.

The communities within which the vacant lots are located need permanent parks and gardens. The lowest-income neighborhoods in the city are also those with the least access to improved parks and open space -- since higher-income housing consumers can afford to pay the premium for housing located near well-kept parks. Therefore a substantial portion of the city's vacant lots should eventually be consolidated into permanent parks and gardens to serve these neighborhoods. However, individual lots that are converted to gardens for interim use can be re-used for housing or for needed community facilities, as long as long-range planning for local communities places appropriate emphasis on parks and open space

These issues apply to most of the older industrial cities of the Northeast and Midwest. Middle-income people have been leaving cities for the suburbs for decades; vacant land and crumbling buildings have been left behind; and a national policy for the "greening of urban America" is urgently needed.

CORPORATION FOR
NATIONAL
AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICE

February 14, 1994

Linda Davidoff
Executive Director
The Parks Council
The Urban Center
457 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Ms. Davidoff:

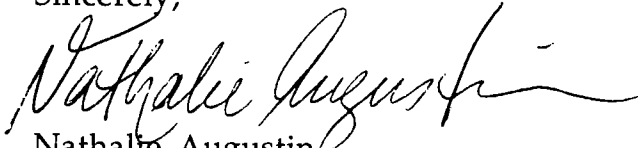
Thank you for your letter, dated December 3, 1993, to Eli Segal. Mr. Segal referred your letter to me as the Urban Conservation Corps (UCC) received funding under the American Conservation and Youth Service Corps program of the Commission on National and Community Service (Commission) and I managed that program. In my new position with the Corporation for National and Community Service (Corporation), in addition to new responsibilities under the National Service program, I continue to be responsible for the Fiscal Year 1993 youth corps grants.

In May, 1993, I had the opportunity to visit one of the projects of the Urban Conservation Corps (UCC). This project was located in the South Bronx where corpsmembers were preparing a vacant lot, adjacent to Public School 30, for the development of an urban garden designed by children of the school. The design called for a gazebo, an amphitheater, flower beds, and a learning laboratory. I was very impressed by the results of the hard work and dedication of the corpsmembers. I was also impressed with the meaningful partnership that the UCC had formed with the school and the surrounding neighborhood to ensure that the service provided was valued by the community. These are the types of community partnerships upon which we hope all National Service programs will be founded.

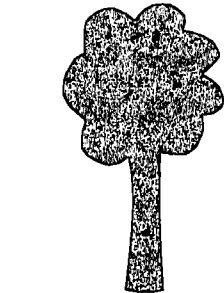
Funding from the Commission was used to support the expansion of community-driven youth corps programs like the UCC. The Corporation recognizes the contribution of these programs to the communities they serve and wishes to continue to support those that have used Commission funding well to develop quality youth corps programs. Accordingly, in the competitive distribution of National Service funds to states, the Corporation will give special consideration to youth corps programs that were previously funded under the Commission.

If you have any questions on the National Service program or on the application process, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202/606-5000, extension 116. If you would prefer to come in and talk in greater detail, I would be happy to meet with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nathalie Augustin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nathalie Augustin
Senior Program Officer



Map designed by John Tauranac
Brochure designed by Stephanie McClinton
Printing Courtesy of Philip Morris Companies Inc.

People Make Parks draws on concepts and images developed for *Public Space for Public Life*, a joint project of The Parks Council and the Central Park Conservancy.

The Parks Council is grateful to the Arthur Ross Foundation, Milson Foundation, Lever Brothers Company, New York State Council on the Arts and Philip Morris Companies Inc. for their support of this exhibit.

Portrait of Success Garden in Harlem by Mimi Gross

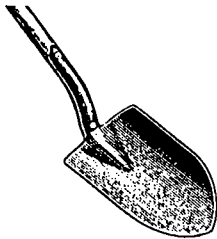
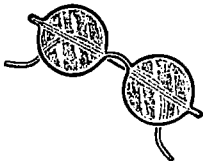
Joseph Pupello, Director, Green Neighborhoods Committee;
Lynden B. Miller, Chair, Green Neighborhoods Committee;
Gerald A. Rosenberg, President;
for The Parks Council;
Exhibit created by American History Workshop



Credits

The Parks Council
(212) 838-9410

Trust for Public Land
(212) 677-7171



The Parks Council Presents

PeoPLe make PaRks

Public Space for Public Life



If you live in New York City you know open space is not empty space. It's room to breathe, to imagine, to play.

You can be one of the people who make parks!
Join the efforts of The Parks Council and other groups working to create community parks and gardens, greenways, and waterfront open space.

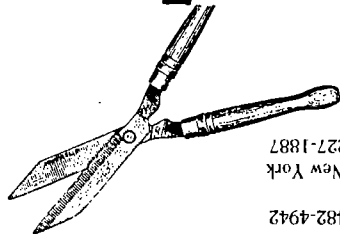
A vision of a greener 21st-Century city is illustrated on this map. Can you think of other places where there should be open space?

Please turn to the back for a list of groups that can help green your neighborhood.

Cleaning Up Vacant Lots
City Volunteer Corps (CVC)
(212) 475-6444
Center for Alternative Sentencing and Employment Services
(212) 732-0076
New York Cares
(212) 753-6670
NYC Department of Sanitation
(212) 788-3794
We Care About New York
(212) 686-1001

Creating Community Parks and Gardens
Bronx Green-up
(718) 220-8995
Citizens Committee for NYC
(212) 989-0909
Cornell Cooperative Extension
(212) 340-2930

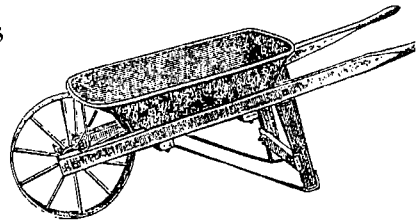
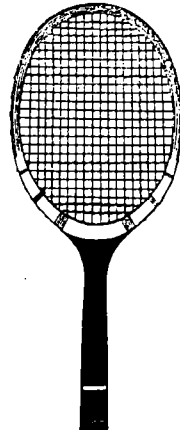
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation - Horticultural Division
(212) 360-1410
NYC Housing Authority Gardening Program
(212) 306-4181
Operation Green Thumb
(212) 233-2926



Planting Street Trees
Community Planning Boards
(212) 788-7418
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
(718) 482-4942
Trees New York
(212) 227-1887

These Groups Can Help You Put Your Neighborhood Park On The Map
Call the following groups for assistance in planting a tree on your block, cleaning a vacant lot, or creating a community park or garden. You also can become a member of many of the groups to receive information about their events and activities.

Put Your Neighborhood Park On The Map
Call the following groups for assistance in planting a tree on your block, cleaning a vacant lot, or creating a community park or garden. You also can become a member of many of the groups to receive information about their events and activities.





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A Guide to New and Old Parks for The 21st Century in New York City

-  Neighborhood Priority Neighborhoods for New Parks
-  Neighborhood Neighborhoods for New Parks
-  Planned Greenways
-  Existing Greenways
-  Planned Major Parks
-  Existing Major Parks
- Cemeteries

AN ECOLOGIST AT LARGE

BREAKING GROUND

by Tony Hiss

IN Mott Haven, in the southernmost—and most desperately poor—part of the South Bronx, a number of people have the idea that by planting a garden designed by schoolchildren they can dislodge a major street-corner drug-selling operation within the next year or so and in the process reclaim a small piece of the neighborhood as a safe haven for children. The garden will embrace all the open space in a double-sized city block running between St. Ann's Avenue and Brook Avenue, and between 139th Street and 141st Street (140th never having been extended through this one block). A good deal could be at stake here, for the city as much as for Mott Haven. A similar, somewhat smaller undertaking, Success Garden, which opened a year ago across from an elementary school in central Harlem, in what had been an overgrown lot roamed by crackheads and wild dogs, has already brilliantly lived up to its name. Students from an entire city public-school district hold outdoor environmental-science classes next to its new herb beds and in its new gazebo and its small orchard and its young birchwoods. The city has installed a new sidewalk in front of the garden, and this fall students will plant a line of new street trees. Success Garden itself is growing, spreading into vacant lots all around the block.

Private money paid for the garden, but the staff is paid for by a non-profit public-school fund, and its programs are paid for by the Board of Education; two other city departments, Parks and Sanitation, have quietly and repeatedly sent in crews and supplies to help out. A number of city-owned and private apartment houses and tenements up and down the block are getting new roofs and new boilers and new windows, and for the first time one building owner has been offered a homeowner's-insurance policy. Local children see that their own efforts can help change what a neighborhood looks like and what it adds up to.

Karneal Thomas, the city landscape

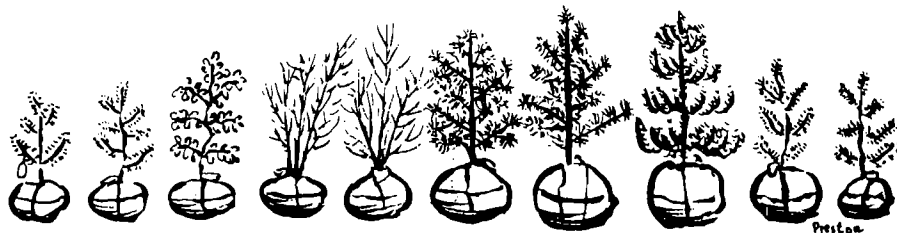
architect who volunteered to train the children who designed Success Garden, calls it "the shape of urban parks of the future." Albert F. Appleton, the city's Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection, says, "If New York has a future, this is it." Provided that the Mott Haven garden works, there are groups ready to push ahead with plans for ten more such gardens—in the Bronx, in Queens, in Harlem, and in East New York and other severely troubled Brooklyn neighborhoods.

COMMUNITY gardening seems to be one of those ideas from the nineteen-sixties or seventies, like recycling and health-food stores, that have reemerged in the nineties and are taking makeup tests. Early New York community gardens, planted back in the Flower Power, Greening-of-America days, brought beauty and bountiful harvests and renewed hope to abandoned lots all over the city, and they still do; there are perhaps eight hundred community gardens in New York—so many that they've been collectively called an alternative park system. But they've always

upwelling of enthusiasm. So Pupello reaches out, through children, to a would-be community spirit within people—one that in frightened neighborhoods too often has no outlet. He calls what he does "switching people over from the hiding mode to the healing mode."

Another insight of Pupello's into community dynamics comes from his background: he began life in show business, as a dancer and choreographer with a strong interest in staging spectacles and in celebrating every aspect of life. Ten years ago, Pupello, who is half Ukrainian and half Italian, founded the Manhattan Performing Ensemble, the first dance company to welcome dancers in wheelchairs into its ranks. Three years ago, he brought the same make-room-for-everybody sensibilities to the Parks Council. "Open space is the only way you can give a neighborhood a focus that's always visible from the street," he says. "A garden or a park brings all the strengths of a community out into the open."

Success Garden, one of Pupello's projects, showed eighties-hardened New Yorkers that Bambi could take on Godzilla and win. But the Mott Haven garden, another project that Pupello is right in the thick of, is far more ambitious, and this time both sides seem to have called in reinforcements. From the start, the new garden site has embraced the whole of the big block. The open



seemed a fragile venture—an annual, not a perennial. Usually, they've been the work of some local genius; and if the genius moved, or died, or found other projects, the garden would wither. It took Joseph Pupello, a thirty-year-old parks activist, who is the director of a green-neighborhoods program for a local non-profit organization called the Parks Council, to think of anchoring community gardens to institutions that endure, such as schools or churches. But that's only Step 1. Pupello wants community gardens to have two new sources of strength—stability and a permanent

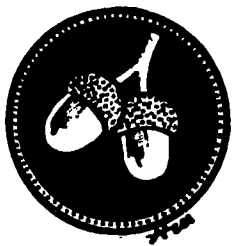
space here includes a twenty-foot-tall craggy gray rock outcropping at its north end, which has never been built on; a green churchyard sloping southward below it; a flat, weedy vacant lot down at the foot of the churchyard; and, to the east of that lot, on the corner of St. Ann's and 139th, a lot that was set up some years ago as a kind of homemade neighborhood park, whose main features are a few trees and a small, dilapidated open-air shed, which now serves as a market stall for drug dealers.

Not only are both hope and fear deeply embedded in this garden site; to

some extent they have intertwined. The public school on the block, P.S. 30, on 141st, just west of the gray rock, hums with discipline and striving; the hall floors gleam with fresh wax; the classrooms are silent with steady attention. It opens early, stays open late, and has adult-education programs, job counseling for parents, nutrition workshops, and clothing giveaways. Just below the crest of the rock hill sits St. Ann's Episcopal Church, a small mid-nineteenth-century country chapel built of rough stone; on its white steeple is a large picture of Jesus, laughing. St. Ann's is the resting place of Brigadier General Lewis Morris, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and in its churchyard, which is sheltered by a giant elm and a spreading willow, is the vault of his half brother Gouverneur Morris, the man who drafted the United States Constitution, framed the religious-freedom clause in New York State's Constitution, was the father of decimal coinage in this country, and is even said to have invented the words "dollar" and "cent."

The school and the church are co-sponsors of the new garden, which was designed last spring by nine P.S. 30 fifth and sixth graders working with Kameal Thomas. Two years from now, according to the plans, it will have a rock garden, a meditation garden, a vegetable garden, a science shed, a basketball court, a pond, and a fountain. An aviary is to replace the shed the drug dealers have been using.

For a number of years, the drug dealing out of this shed has been on a scale far bigger than that of any supermarket; it has been more like a drug-outlet mall, specializing in half-price heroin, although cocaine is available for free-basing. The shed has been heavily patronized in the early evening, like any other mall, by the stop-'n'-shop crowd—cars heading home to New Jersey, Connecticut, and Long Island. The Mayor's Office of Drug Abuse Policy has cited this part of the garden as one of the worst drug-selling corners in the city, both in sales volume and in the number of dealers murdered. Another worst corner is also on this block, at 139th and Brook Avenue.



If you only looked at the statistics, the neighborhood might seem to be close to flickering out of existence: the AIDS rate is frightening (at a nearby hospital, twenty-three per cent of the blood samples taken in the emergency room one night were H.I.V.-positive), and unemployment is at sixty per cent. At least a third of what economic activity does take place is drug-related; one drug lord, who was assassinated last spring, was referred to in the neighborhood as "our I.B.M. plant," because he had almost two hundred people on his payroll. Small-time drug dealers stay sharp by test-firing machine guns on the roofs of local tenements, shooting into the sky. "Death is all

around us," Aida Rosa, the principal of P.S. 30, says.

At the same time, Mott Haven is the first home in the United States for some of New York's most recent arrivals—Mexicans, Hondurans, Salvadorans. "I think of it as a place where the American Revolution is happening every day," Father Luis Barrios, the priest in charge of St. Ann's, says. A daytime walk through these blocks uncovers a complicated and, to an outsider, often puzzling neighborhood. There are signs of health and of ordinariness here—some new housing, several tenements being rehabbed. Every shop on 138th Street, the local commercial strip, is open for business and is full of people. Yet some of this ordinariness seems strangely out of place; for instance, there is a large and busy supermarket between 138th and 139th on St. Ann's, cater-corner from the drug dealers. And the same kind of strangeness surrounds people's thinking about George Calderon, the murdered drug lord: he is remembered positively by quite a few for hiring women, for giving his workers paid vacations and taking care of their hospital bills, for allowing a needle-exchange program to operate on his corner, and for refusing to sell crack, because, he said, crack destroyed neighborhoods.

THERE are moments in any area when an entire community seems to hold its breath, waiting to see what will happen next, or what it's still capable of. Such a moment was the

groundbreaking the other day for the new Mott Haven garden, held at noon outdoors on what had been drug dealers' turf—and was again later that afternoon, immediately after the ceremony ended. A chorus of thirteen children from P.S. 30, in blue dresses or blue shirts and pants, lined up in front of two hundred people and sang "Imagine." In the main speech, their principal, Mrs. Rosa, said, "We're all just seeds. Can we grow?" Drug dealers, the best-dressed people on hand, prowled the back of the crowd, occasionally uttering hostile remarks: "You're just making us a prettier place we can sell in," and "Whatever you build, we'll tear down."

Behind the crowd at the groundbreaking stood two steel poles. A year and a half ago, a community group, acting on its own, had tried to fence off the site. Drug dealers beat up the members of the fence crew, and the crew abandoned the job after putting in those first two poles. And now, above the crowd, hanging from the boughs of a few scraggly trees, were more than a dozen dirty Teddy bears and broken dolls. They were originally put there by a local sculptor in remembrance of a friend who had died from drugs. But the sculptor moved on, and the Teddy bears now serve as memorials to murdered drug sellers, and are guarded by the survivors. They've also become a kind of business trademark, like a pawnbroker's gold balls. Sometimes the police cut them down, but they're always replaced within a day.

Next month, the new gardeners will have a police escort when they put up a ten-foot-high steel fence around the garden site. According to Ralph Mosca, a Police Department community-service officer who patrols the neighborhood, there are at least some positive feelings about the new garden among the drug dealers: two young dealers who grew up on the block volunteered to help him sweep the sidewalk before the groundbreaking. Those two dealers told me last week that they thought neighborhood kids deserved to have a place all their own. Mosca thinks that if enough explaining and advance work is done in the community this month the garden will have no opposition. But maybe next month's new fence-raising will be an occasion when the whole city feels itself holding its breath. ♦

OPEN SPACE

A Publication of The Parks Council

Winter 1993



Building on Success

Bronx Garden To Be Next Model For 21st Century Parks Program

"Imagine . . ." A chorus of school children stood in a vacant lot near their school in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx one day last September singing John Lennon's classic song, as representatives of city agencies, local schools, churches and The Parks Council gathered to break ground for a new community garden and neighborhood park.

What the youngsters, students at P.S. 30, were imagining was the transformation of a cluster of drug-ridden school and church yards and vacant lots into a playground, garden and environmental learning center.

Parks Council officials and others envisioned something more. They saw the new garden, known officially as School District 7 Center for Horticulture and the Urban Environment at P.S. 30, as both a sequel to the highly successful

"Success Garden," which The Parks Council helped create in Central Harlem last year, and an important second step in a comprehensive city wide effort to create new open space in densely populated, low income neighborhoods.

Catalyst for Social Change

"In just one year Success Garden has become a vital center for learning and recreation, as well as a catalyst for positive change in Central Harlem," said Parks Council Executive Director Linda Davidoff. "It shows what can be done when city agencies, civic groups and community members work together to create and maintain neighborhood-based parks and recreational centers. We plan to make success happen again in Mott Haven and we are calling on the City of New York and local community groups to work with us to create ten similar parks (continued on page 6)

Urban Conservation Corps members break ground for a new community garden and park in the South Bronx.



Photo: Gerald Herbert, Daily News

Building on Success

(continued from page 1)

in other neighborhoods that desperately need these facilities."

The Mott Haven project, jointly sponsored by The Parks Council, Community School District 7, St. Ann's Church, St. Benedict the Moor, and P.S. 30, is gaining widespread recognition and support. Featured in *The New Yorker* magazine last October in an article by Tony Hiss, the project began when a representative of P.S. 30 asked The Parks Council for help in developing a "Success Garden" near the school.

Joseph Pupello, director of The Parks Council's Green Neighborhoods Program, visited the double-block site between St. Ann's and Brook Avenues, and 139th and 141st Streets, and saw "wonderful possibilities"—a church yard, a vacant lot owned by the Board of Education, and other empty lots, all with interesting topography, plus the most important ingredients for such an undertaking: committed community institutions willing to act as project anchors. The fact that the Mayor's Office of Drug Abuse Policy regarded the site as one of the worst drug trafficking spots in the city was, in Pupello's mind, a challenge, not a deterrent.

Designed by School Children

Like Success Garden, the Mott Haven park has been designed by elementary school children working under the direction of Karneal Thomas, a landscape architect from the City Department of Parks and Recreation, who volunteered his time. A host of agencies, including the New York City Board of Education, the Departments of Housing, Preservation and Development, Parks and Recreation, Police, Sanitation, the Mayor's Office of Drug Abuse Policy and Bronx Community Board No. 1, are cooperating in the effort.

When completed in the Fall of 1993, the new park will have community garden plots, a meditation area, a rock garden, a basketball court, an aviary, a pond with a bridge and a gazebo surrounded by trees. It will serve as an environmental learning laboratory for the school district, and its construction and maintenance will provide job opportunities for neighborhood teenagers. Last summer, 30 young people, working through The Parks Council's Urban Conservation Corps, restored existing play equipment and cleared the lots in preparation for the ground breaking.

Project coordinator Pupello believes that the "Success Garden" concept is a winning formula that combines the spirit of grassroots community gardens with the stability and resources of schools and churches that act as institutional anchors. "This is the best method," he says, "for taking vacant lots that are often community trouble spots and transforming them into resources for neighborhood stabilization. When you engage kids in making a positive change in their neighborhood, they get an enhanced sense of self-worth and they can have a tremendous impact on the community." It is a program, he believes, that can be replicated quickly and inexpensively in neighborhoods throughout the city.

Public Space for Public Life

Pupello isn't alone in his thinking. For the past year, leading parks advocates and professionals have been engaged in an effort to develop a comprehensive set of recommendations for parks in the 21st Century. Their plan, known as Public Space for Public Life (PSPL), will be released in 1993. Lynda Simmons, President of Phipps Houses and Chairwoman of the PSPL Committee on Equity in Open Space, says "the Success Garden model is one of the

least expensive, most effective ways to turn the tide of social disintegration in neighborhoods throughout the city."

Simmons' committee has identified ten neighborhoods in low income areas in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan that have both the conditions and the resources necessary to make the model work—high population density, a shortage of open space, available vacant lots and committed neighborhood institutions—and will recommend that the city commit its resources to building parks in these areas.

"These gardens aren't just green spaces," Simmons says. "They provide youth employment and educational opportunities, and with the continued involvement of strong community organizations, they become recreational centers that help stabilize entire neighborhoods."

City officials have given strong support to both the Success Garden and Mott Haven projects and are enthusiastic about the concept of replicating the model on other sites, but the question of funding remains unanswered for the moment. "The sites are ready to go," Pupello says. "We are prepared to build ten parks in Summer '93 if the money is there."

BOOK 70070

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FUTURE PARKING
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U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

EAST 137TH STREET

P.S. 84/ST. ANN'S COMMUNITY GARDENS
BRONX, NEW YORK

SCALE : 1" = 20' 0"
SEPTEMBER 1972

---08904 PPM---
CARLOS BATISTA, FORCIA DAVIS,
BERALO JOURDAN, MYRA LUE MARTINEZ
KATON OLIVIERI, EARMEN FALCARIO,
TANIA GOMEZ KATIANA SANCHEZ, I
JOEL SPOUN

---08904 ADVISOR---
JASMIN GONZALEZ, RAFAEL THOMAS ALA

SPONSOR
THE PARKS COUNCIL
1000 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004



SUCCESS BEGINS AT SUCCESS GARDEN

A grove of fruit trees is blooming on a Harlem lot on 134th Street, a place where just last year drugs were bought and sold. Across the street at P.S. 175, children in science classes are growing flowers, vegetables, and herbs to plant in the garden this Spring. When The Success Garden officially opens in September, it will be filled with flowers, a grape arbor, a gazebo, a pond, a theater, a science center and a small forest—all designed by local children. The success has already begun.

Success Garden was the idea of Joseph Pupello, Director of The Parks Council's Green Neighborhoods Program, who sees it as a pilot project and envisions a resource center in each school district for school programs, community groups and local gardeners. Pupello organized a

coalition of The Parks Council, the Board of Education, the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation's Greening of Harlem Program and The Harlem Hospital Injury Prevention Program to make it happen in Central Harlem.

The garden was designed by five sixth and seventh graders from P.S. 175 who learned about landscape architecture and gardens from Karneal Thomas, a landscape architect in the Department of Parks & Recreation, and from field trips with their science teacher, Lettie Hartwell. Thomas met bi-weekly with the students last Spring, showing them slides of gardens through history from the African bush to Villa d'Este and Sissinghurst. Hartwell took them on field trips to for-

Continued on page 3

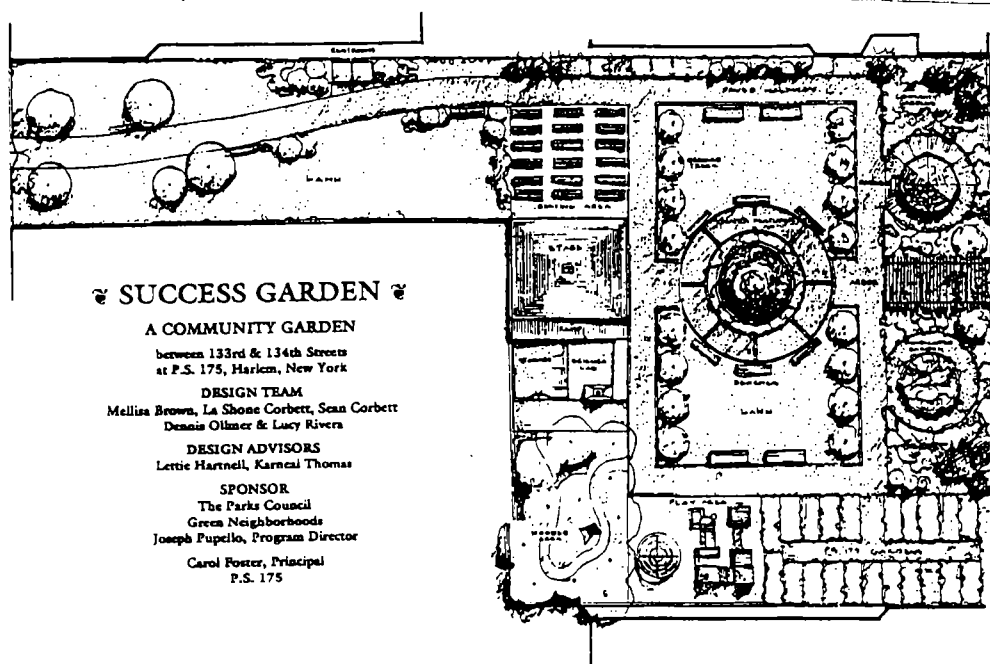
mal gardens in Central Park and to community gardens in East Harlem and on the Lower East Side. The students, many of whom had never seen a formal garden, became "experts" with definite ideas about what they wanted to see in their garden. Thomas taught them about scale so they could draw plans, and each student created an individual design that contributed to the final plan.

The garden site, a 32,000-square foot lot, cluttered with debris and the remains of an abandoned building, was leased to P.S. 175 by the city's Operation Green Thumb program. With a grant from the New York State Conservation Corps, The Parks Council hired 20 young people from the community and a supervisor to prepare the garden site in summer and afterschool programs. Bernadette Cozart, director of The Greening of Harlem Program, arranged heavy moving equipment and other resources from the Department of Parks & Recreation so that the teenagers could remove old building walls, excavate the site, and prepare the ground for planting. Their activity last summer discouraged the operation of two nearby crack dens, which eventually left along with the drug traffic that had crossed the lot daily. Work on the garden also inspired the city and local residents to remove debris around adjacent buildings, and three new gardens sprouted up in a three block radius.

The garden will complement indoor facilities planned by P. S. 175, including a greenhouse and library. Together, these

facilities will function as a horticultural and environmental studies center for all schools in Central Harlem's Community School District 5 and for community gardening and park groups. Teachers, school officials, Parks Council Board and Committee members, including Lynden Miller, Chairperson of the Green Neighborhood Committee, are working together with parents and students to plan school curricula and organize cultural activities, social service workshops, new neighborhood partnerships, drug prevention programs and year-round garden activities.

The Success Garden was also made possible by the generous contributions of The Bowery Savings Bank, Charles Hayden Foundation, Helena Rubinstein Foundation, National Recreation Foundation, The New York Community Trust, The New-Land Foundation, Surdna Foundation and Unilever United States Foundation.



Winter 1992

OPENS SPACE

A publication of The Parks Council

NEW GARDEN CENTER AND BASEBALL FIELDS ENRICH UPTOWN NEIGHBORHOODS

Enthusiastic young gardeners and eager baseball players brought new life to two formerly vacant and debris-covered lots in uptown Manhattan this year thanks to Parks Council initiatives that provide inner-city youngsters with opportunities for outdoor education and active recreation.

After almost two years of planning, clearing and building, Success Garden -- Community School District 5's Center for Horticulture and the Urban Environment -- officially opened on September 27. The garden, at West 134th Street between Lenox Avenue and Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard, was designed and built by students from nearby P.S. 175, and is the city's first school-district-based environmental learning center.

Joseph Pupello, director of The Park's Council's Green Neighborhoods Program, conceived the garden plan and organized the city, school, community, corporate and foundation support that converted a former Central Harlem crack haven into a classroom park and garden.

Commissioner says 'Play Ball'

Across town at 100th Street and First Avenue, hundreds of Little Leaguers cheered as Baseball Commissioner Fay Vincent, gave the order to "play ball" last August, officially opening two new sandlot baseball fields in a former parking lot owned by the city. Even before the playing started, the teamwork in East Harlem was impressive as The Parks Council joined forces with the City Department of Parks & Recreation, the Central Park



Maria R. Basile

Major League Baseball Commissioner Fay Vincent and local ballplayers inaugurated two new baseball fields in East Harlem last summer.

Conservancy, the City Parks Foundation, Major League Baseball, neighborhood groups and community leaders to clear the lot of rubble, construct two playing fields and provide baseball equipment.

In each case, community members expressed surprised delight at their neighborhood victories and talked of them in terms of Hollywood magic. "Everyone has heard of the 'Miracle on 34th Street,' School District 5 Science Coordinator Howard Nadler said. "Well, Success Garden is our 'Miracle on 134th Street.'"

East Harlem resident Pat Glover, the mother of a seven-year-old Little League player, coordinates programs at the new baseball field for the Metro North Housing Association. "The kids in East Harlem never had a place to play ball before," she said. "They are excited to have something that belongs to them. They call this their 'Field of Dreams.'"

Nothing Succeeds Like Success

From the very beginning, Success Garden has lived up to its name, providing

Continued from page 1

challenge and wonder to the Harlem school-children who designed it, assisted in site preparation, and planted trees, flowers and vegetables. "It was also the catalyst for the creation of a block association and a neighborhood clean-up effort," explained Billy Swindler, the on-site supervisor for the garden since its July 1990 groundbreaking.

While youngsters harvested peaches, apples, tomatoes, collard greens, peppers and eggplants this fall, Community School District 5, which runs from 123rd to 155th Streets, began designing a district-wide science curriculum, based on the garden. "We plan to develop a hands-on program that will introduce students to the natural environment," Science Coordinator Nadler said. "The garden will give them an appreciation for living things, develop their skills of inquiry and make them better students in all areas of problem solving."

Garden Opens Eyes

Success Garden has already opened the eyes of Lewis Porter, a 15-year-old eighth grader at P.S. 175, who hopes someday to become a doctor. Louis worked there during the spring and summer and recently completed a Citizen's Pruners Course the New York City Street Tree Consortium offered to students from P.S. 175 and the nearby Frederick Douglas Academy. "I never saw a gazebo before, or a stone wall or a raised flower bed," Louis said. "Now I know how to prune trees and plant flowers and what kind of vegetables can grow together. I never knew that plants could help the environment. Before the garden was here, this place used to be nasty and smell bad. Now I see that we can



Peter Morgan

Students from P.S. 175 in Harlem helped dedicate Success Garden, the new Center for Horticulture and the Urban Environment located across the street from their school.

really do things to help our neighborhood."

One goal, shared by The Parks Council and educators, is to use Success Garden as a model for science education that can be duplicated in other school districts. To supplement the education program, the Columbia School of Social Work has placed graduate students at the site to provide tutorial and social work assistance to youngsters involved in the garden program.

Funders of Success Garden include: Aaron Diamond Foundation, Bowery Savings Bank, Charles Hayden Foundation, Fund for New York City's Public Education Corridor Program, Helena Rubinstein Foundation, Littleton Foundation, National Recreation Foundation, the New-Land Foundation, New York Community Trust, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Pres-

ervation, the Surdna Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Tarr, and Unilever United States Foundation. Assistance was also provided by the New York City Board of Education, Community School District 5, Community Board 10, Harlem Hospital, and the New York City Departments of General Services, Housing, Preservation and Development, Parks & Recreation, and Sanitation.

Major Leagues Aid Baseball Dream

The baseball season began a little late last summer at East Harlem's "field of dreams." In July, rocks and bottles still covered the field, which had been scheduled for a spring opening, and the playing surface was uneven. Then The Parks Council's Urban Conservation Corps began a clean-up blitz, removing 25 bags of trash, rocks and bottles, and Major League Baseball stepped in with an infusion of cash and support. New York literary agent and minor league team owner Jay Acton donated substantial additional funds and began organizing a teen program that will use the field next spring.

By August, the two fields that share the four-acre lot were ready, and young players started stepping up to the plate and running the bases as soon as the opening day speeches ended.

"There were several games last season," said Pat Glover of the Metro North Housing Association, "and over 100 kids have signed up for the 1992 season already." Metro North, a non-profit organization that provides services to residents of the housing

ARTIST BLOSSOMS THROUGH GARDEN PROJECT

To complement the Success Garden project, Parks Council Green Neighborhoods Director Joseph Pupello wanted to create a map of the green spaces and natural areas in School District 5. He was still looking for the right artist when he attended graduation at P.S. 175 last June.

"There's my man," Pupello said to himself, when eighth grader Tayson White received an award for excellence in art. Tayson, 15, was enthusiastic about the project and as a result, he has had a rare opportunity for professional training by some of the top advertising designers in the city. As a service to The Parks Council, the design department of the Griffin-Bacal advertising agency has been working with Tayson, now a student at the High School of Graphic and Communication Arts, to develop and prepare a full color, high quality, professionally printed map. The map will be ready for distribution next spring.

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SHELTER RESIDENTS PLANT GARDEN IN BROOKLYN

Participants in a drug rehabilitation program at a men's shelter in Brooklyn have embarked on a neighborhood beautification project initiated by The Parks Council's Green Neighborhoods Program. Residents of S.T.A.R. (Short Term Assessment Rehabilitation) House have planted and cared for a lawn in front of their building, which is part of the Greenpoint Men's Shelter in Brooklyn, and have planted bulbs and flowers in a number of small garden areas, including nearby Cooper Park.

The Parks Council provided horticultural materials and assistance, and also worked with the New York City Street Tree Consortium to offer the shelter residents the Citizen's Pruners Course, enabling them to prune trees in the neighborhood.

The program is both a vehicle for improving relations between the shelter and the surrounding community and a therapeutic activity for the residents who learn to care about the environment and develop responsible work skills. The Parks Council is exploring the possibility of expanding the program to other facilities within the shelter system.

The Greenpoint Shelter was one of 250 New York City organizations that received bulbs last fall through The Parks Council's biennial plant giveaway program. Over 100,000 bulbs will bloom next May throughout the city's neighborhoods as a result of this program, which is supported by the Greenacre Foundation.

Uptown Enrichment Continued from Pg.3

development that surrounds the ball field, is working with the Police Athletic League to coordinate and sponsor a Rookie League program for boys and girls aged six and up. "Our teams will be co-ed," Glover said. "In fact, some of the girls play better than the boys."

Young teens will have the opportunity to be coached by some professional players through RBI (Reviving Baseball in Inner-Cities), an innovative program that Jay Acton plans to initiate at the field next spring. The program, which has the backing of Major League Baseball, was begun in Los Angeles in 1989; it uses baseball as a tool for teaching

social skills and discipline and as an incentive for staying in school.

The 1992 RBI program, which will be open to 13- and 14-year-olds from the local community, will include a regular season of games, workshops with big league players, and academic tutoring. "I see baseball as a passport to something else," said Acton. "It offers an opportunity to see other kids in other places and it teaches teamwork and responsibility."

Editor's Note: The Parks Council is grateful to The Metropolitan Gardener and to writer Eleanor Dwight for contributions to the coverage of Success Garden in the Spring 1991 issue of OPENSOURCE.

The publication of OPENSOURCE has been made possible by State Senator Roy Goodman and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation.

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NEW BOARD MEMBERS

On June 3, 1991, The Parks Council welcomed seven distinguished individuals to its Board of Directors. They are:

Squire N. Bozorth, a partner of the law firm of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy;

Ellen P. Crown, a volunteer fundraiser;

Luis Garden Acosta, founder and Chief Executive of El Puente, a community center in Williamsburg, Brooklyn;

Deborah A. Reich, landscape designer and topiarist;

Toni Schmiegelow, Executive Director of the City Volunteer Corps;

Charles A. Shorter, Jr., Senior Manager at Arthur Andersen & Co.;

Paul Willen, architect with Daniel Pang & Associates.



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OPENS SPACE

A Publication of The Parks Council

CITY PARKS IN CRISIS

New Solutions Sought to End Cycle of Boom and Bust

Budget cuts at the Department of Parks & Recreation have reduced the number of park workers to an all-time low. The previous low point was 3,800 workers in 1983. This year the number will drop below 3,000 workers. In the past two years, nearly one-third of the workforce has been lost through cuts and attrition. By 1996 it is scheduled to drop to 2,500. With 26,000 acres of parkland — the largest municipal park system in the country — New York City spends less on parks as a percentage of municipal spending than any other major American city (see chart on page 2).

Our parks, playgrounds, and green spaces face a crisis that threatens the underpinnings of the entire system:

- park structures are deteriorating without plans for repair;
- neighborhood parks and playgrounds no longer have maintenance or security staff on site;
- unpruned trees face irreversible decline;
- city-funded recreation programs in neighborhood parks and playgrounds no longer exist.

In the past ten years, the city has spent more than a billion dollars simply to repair the damage caused by neglect during the last fiscal crisis. The cost to young people and their families, deprived of green open space and recreational programs, is incalculable. The crisis threatening our parks demands greater public awareness and better solutions that can reach beyond this harsh cycle of boom and bust.

To meet this great need, The Parks Council, together with the Central Park Conservancy, has launched a comprehensive planning effort, known as "Public Space for Public Life." By the end of this year, the first comprehensive plan for the future of the parks system — together with a set of proposals for adequate financing of capital construction, reconstruction and maintenance of the system — will be pre-

Continued on page 2

Peace Blooms at Harlem Planting



On the May weekend when the Los Angeles riots sparked fears of racial unrest in cities across the nation, residents of Harlem gathered to beautify their neighborhood, planting trees, bushes and ivy along Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Boulevard during a tree planting parade organized by The Parks Council in cooperation with the Parks Department and local groups. More than 20 trees were planted, including one shown here by Damon Eason (left) and Anthony Brawington.

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