



Campaign to Support Funding for Parks & Recreation

April, 2011

The Philadelphia Parks Alliance along with our supporters and partners from all walks of life understand the economic challenges of the last several years. We are also deeply troubled that on top of decades of underfunding of Philadelphia's Parks and Recreation, the new Department has now been cut to the bone, when a small investment would produce enormous dividends. Extraordinary staff efforts and the leveraging of private funding have led to exciting successes. But, in order for the Department to make a long-standing impact on our children; to maintain basic amenities and programs; support the health and safety of our citizens and the sustainability of our City and its neighborhoods - municipal government must step up to do its part and partner with potential private investors.

We call on City Council to Stop This Downward Slide so that Philadelphians and Our City Are Not Left Behind.

Mayor Nutter has proposed for Fiscal Year 2012:

- **Operating Budget: \$46.1 million.** (This is \$180,000 more than the FY 2011 budget. The actual FY 2008 budget was \$51.8 million. Since then the Mayor has proposed several increases that have not been realized because of the general economy and the lack of revenue to fund them. Instead, there have been further cuts.)
- **Capital Budget: \$8.7 million.** (The capital budget in FY 2008 was \$13.9 million; FY 2009 was \$15 million; FY 2010 was \$17.8 million; FY 2011 was \$10.4 million.)

Parks and Recreation Staff have been cut more than 25% since FY 2000.

FY 2000: **832** Employees

FY 2010: **614** Employees

In FY 2008, Philadelphia's Park & Recreation expenditure per person was \$43.

Cleveland and Pittsburgh spent \$88
Chicago spent \$124

Boston spent \$112
Cincinnati spent \$154

Why Invest in Philadelphia's Parks and Recreation?

- **Well funded parks & recreation provide safe, clean places for children & adults to play, learn, interact and succeed.**
- **Well maintained park amenities reduce crime & undesirable behavior.**
- **Healthy parks promote healthy, fit people - by reducing asthma, heart disease and obesity; enabling faster recovery from illness and the resulting decrease in healthcare costs.**
- **Parkland slows runoff, flooding, sewage back-up in basements & erosion; and it helps keep our water & air clean.**
- **In their present state Philly's parks & recreation generate more than \$1 billion annually in income & savings...**
- **A small investment would significantly increase that number, bring economic prosperity & a better quality of life for residents, businesses & visitors.**

For more information contact the Philadelphia Parks Alliance: Call 215-879-8159; Email friends@philaparks.org

Check out our website at: www.philaparks.org