

**City Council
Testimony
4.27.11**

**Doris Gwaltney, President, Carroll Park Neighbors Advisory Council and
Philadelphia Parks Alliance Board Member**

Council President Verna and members of City Council:

Parks and recreation centers define neighborhoods. In the past the neighborhoods surrounding center city were not given the attention they deserved. Now, more than ever, under the leadership of the present administration, it is vitally important to use this opportunity to ensure that the city continues to support and fully fund the Department of Parks and Recreation. Park revitalization projects in various neighborhoods around the city are well on their way toward helping Philadelphia become a world-class city. After twelve years and a half million dollars in public and private funding, the Master Plan for Carroll Park was finished. My park and a handful of Philadelphia Green parks are now enjoying the gratitude of countless visitors to our revitalized parks. It would not make economic sense to allow these parks to fall back into abuse and neglect when prudent attention and timely maintenance would be acceptable and wise. Needless to say, *every neighborhood in Philadelphia needs and deserves a Carroll Park*. We, park and recreation volunteers, are doing our part to provide clean, safe places for our neighborhood residents to spend leisure time. We work long hours to plan and implement programs that engage adults and give children a reason to come by and participate in interesting and rewarding activities in an environment that encourages healthy attitudes, sportsmanship, and exercise. Fully staffed recreation centers and clean well-maintained parks are just as important to our neighborhoods as the Art Museum is to the city of Philadelphia.

Thank you.