



Restore \$8 Million to PARKS and RECREATION!

Now is the time to increase funding – not flat line it.

Thanks to Mayor Nutter & City Council, the new Department of Parks and Recreation has a visionary leader with a highly effective staff, that get the most out of every municipal dollar while leveraging private investment and volunteer sweat equity.

In the first year of his second term, Mayor Nutter has proposed a \$47.8 million operating budget for FY 2013. Although it appears to be an increase, \$2.1 million of that is not new money. It is revenue that the Department of Parks and Recreation previously received from other sources, that in FY 2013 would be dispersed through the general fund.

Therefore the current proposed budget actually flat lines the Department.

We know the City was forced to make cuts due to the recession and we've accepted reductions for the last four years. But enough is enough! After four years of broken promises and 30 years of chronic underfunding, our Parks and Recreation desperately need more resources in order to provide our citizens with safe, well-maintained, well programmed parks and recreation!

In 2008 park advocates fought to pass the Mayor's proposed "Parking Tax" increase which was promised as a dedicated funding source to increase the budget for parks. City Council approved the increase. The City collects the additional tax, but parks have not seen one penny of it. Eight million dollars more for Parks and Recreation gets the Department of Parks and Recreation's operating budget back to Mayor Nutter's first promise and to the level approved by City Council in FY 2009.

We Call on the Mayor and City Council to Restore \$8 Million to Parks and Recreation because...

- Well-funded parks & recreation provide safe, clean places for children & adults to play, learn, interact and succeed.
- Exercise and outdoor time keep children healthy and strong, enhance their imagination and attention spans, decrease aggression and boost classroom performance.
- Under-funded parks & recreation attract illegal & dangerous activity and cost millions in deferred maintenance.
- Healthy parks promote healthy, fit people by reducing asthma, heart disease and obesity and enabling faster recovery from illness, thereby decreasing healthcare costs.
- Parkland slows runoff, erosion and flooding. It helps keep our water & air clean and regulates summer city temperatures.
- In their present state Philly's parks & recreation generate more than \$1 billion annually in income & savings for the city and its citizens. Imagine how much more that could be.
- Restoration of \$8 million to the high performing Department of Parks and Recreation will pay enormous dividends in creating economic prosperity and a better quality of life for residents, businesses & visitors and will make Philadelphia a more competitive city.