

# The Year of the Volunteer

The Alliance declared 2009 to be the “Year of the Volunteer” and put forth a major effort to attract new volunteers and create new opportunities for our current volunteers. The results were quite amazing:

- Increase in volunteer visits over 2008: 43%
- Increase in volunteer hours over 2008: 3632 hours

In order to attract all of these additional volunteers, the Park participated in volunteer recruitment fairs sponsored by local elected officials, colleges, high schools, and community groups and did outreach on several electronic websites that are devoted to volunteerism.

The volunteer department underwent an identity and reorganizational change rebranding itself as the “Volunteer Corps.” A handsomely designed new logo was created and each volunteer group was re-named. Our volunteer opportunities focus on education and programming.



The Volunteer Corps now consists of the following groups:

- Monday: East Side Revival Corps
- Wednesday: GAP Corps; Wednesday Corps
- Thursday: Thursday Corps
- Saturday: Weekend Woodlands Corps
- Saturday/Sunday: Weekend Volunteer Corps

Volunteers play a huge part helping to maintain an ecological and beautification balance in the Park. They help care for the beautiful gardens throughout the Park as well as edging, planting, raking, painting, participating in aquatic projects, mulching, and recycling projects. Volunteers also assist at the Audubon Center, Lefferts Historic House, and the Carousel, and with general office duties in different departments in the Park. Of course the Board of Directors and all the people involved with our special fund raising efforts are also volunteers.

Many corporate, community, school, and college groups gave overwhelming support to the Volunteer Corps through their volunteer services. This year, twenty-nine (29) corporations, twenty-six (26) community groups and thirteen (13) schools and colleges volunteered in Prospect Park. Between July 2008 and June 2009, 1,013 volunteers gave 31,223 hours of service to Prospect Park.

## MEET THE VOLUNTEER

Tom Ilich was born and raised within walking distance of Prospect Park. He went on to become a vice president of Turner Construction. Now living in Falls Church, Virginia, he has turned a lifelong passion into a service for the Park. Tom has directed, filmed and edited three videos about Prospect Park. Everyone who has seen the videos loves them, and we certainly love Tom. His contribution is one more example of how our volunteers serve in their own very special ways.



This year President Obama and Mayor Bloomberg both encouraged everyone to participate in community service. We were proud to have joined that effort here in Brooklyn.