

ECPC News welcomes submissions from all parks friends groups to elmcityparksconservancy@yahoo.com or ECPC News at the above address.

ECPC is supported in part by the New Haven Department of Parks, Recreation & Trees.



INAUGURAL JOCELYN PARK COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Over two hundred residents of the Jocelyn Square Park community attended the first Community Festival, on Saturday, September 3rd, to celebrate both the completed renovations to the park and our fourth year participating in the URI Greenspace Program.



8th Ward Alderman Michael Smart, Board member, Easter Howard, & community activist Gerry Adams at the festival awards ceremony

Adults were all smiles as they relaxed on the new park benches, ate a hot dog or hamburger at the picnic tables, and watched their children dart from one activity to another. Children played on the jungle gym, swings, water sprinkler, and basketball court; had their face painted by two colorfully dressed clowns; ran in the water relays; practiced drills during the basketball clinic; and watched two adolescent neighborhood teams play street ball. Adults were also able to sign up for or get information on programs at Farnam Neighborhood House, a community agency specializing in children and youth activities.

The recognition program was a very special moment at the festival because three community residents, Gerry Adams, Pearl Smokes and Theresa Carr were honored for their hard work in actively pursuing the renovations. Each were honored with a special award. Participants of URI Greenspace program, Maria Ramiez, Elvira Matos, Pearl Smokes, James Hill, John Ahern, Charlene McMillan, and Claire and Michael Howard were each given a certificate of appreciation for cleaning, planting and beautifying two corner lots at Walnut and East Streets and Walnut and Wallace Streets this summer. Bob Levine and Christie Hass of the Parks Department and Dave Mosley of the City Plan were given certificates of appreciation for their work with the community residents during the renovations. Michael Smart, 8th ward Alderman, Jorge Perez, Board of Alderman President and Karen Dubois Walton, Mayor DeStafano's Chief of Staff, were also in attendance at the festival.

The festival was organized by the Friends of Jocelyn Square Park. The sponsors included local businesses, the Community Foundation of Greater New Haven, The City of New Haven Mayor's Community Grants Program, Elm City Parks Conservancy, Humphrey Place Condominium, NAACP- New Haven Chapter, Stop the Violence Tour, and Friends of Jocelyn Square. Friends of Jocelyn Square, composed of community residents with an interest in keeping the park clean and attractive and in neighborhood beautification, worked with URI in implementing the greenspace program. *-Easter Howard*

ECPC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Wilcox, *President* - Cordalie Benoit, *Vice President*
 Easter Howard, *Secretary* - Anna Schildroth, *Treasurer*
 Chris Ozyck, Dave Reher, Dave Demers, Michelle Maitland, Marge Ottenbreit, Colin Caplan, Kris Sainsbury,
 Paul Larivee, Barbara Schlein *Staff* - Illisa Kelman

BOARD MEETINGS

6-7:30 pm, 4th Wednesday of each month, New Haven Parks Offices
 720 Edgewood Avenue. Open to the public.
 Please call 946-5713 in case of scheduling changes.

Citizen-based and not-for-profit, **Elm City Parks Conservancy** is the only parks advocacy organization serving New Haven's parks system. Our mission is to partner with parks friends groups, parks users and New Haven's Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Trees to strengthen public awareness, participation and preservation of New Haven's beautiful and historic parks system.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope you had a great summer in the New Haven parks. The end of summer does not have to mean the start of a long winter indoors. It goes without saying that fall is a great time of year to spend outside in our parks, but the parks in winter are enjoyable as well. We at ECPC feel the parks don't get used as often as they should during the cold months. We are trying to change that with some new activities for the long winter. After all, it is cold for at least 1/3 of the year in Connecticut. We have to make the best of it.



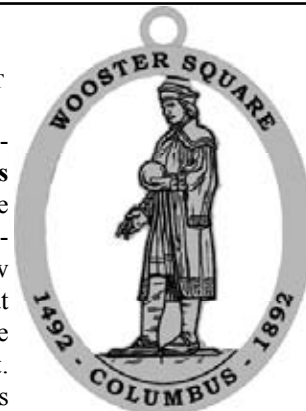
It is in that spirit that ECPC wants to announce the birth of our new winter festival, **First Day New Haven**. Every New Years day we sponsor **Polar Plunge for Parks** into the frigid waters of Long Island Sound. This event has attracted more people and more press coverage each year. Last year we even got the mayor to take the plunge. So this year, we will build a new winter festival around the Polar Plunge at high noon on New Years Day.

We at ECPC feel New Haven needs a winter festival to give residents a great reason to get out of their warm, cozy houses and out into the parks in the winter. I am really excited about this festival. Preliminary plans call for live music, ice sculpting, lighthouse tours, children's games and much more. We want this to become a New Haven winter tradition. We are thinking BIG. So plan on keeping this New Year's day open, whether you plunge or you just want to be a spectator and enjoy the festivities, we always guarantee a great time, and this year is going to be the best yet.

Stephen Wilcox, President
 ELM CITY PARKS CONSERVANCY

ECPC CELEBRATES THE NEWLY RESTORED CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS MONUMENT

ECPC introduces our second Ornamental Icon: the **Christopher Columbus Monument** of Wooster Square. With the Columbus medallion, we are continuing our effort to bring attention to New Haven's historic public monuments that we began in 2004 with the release of the Five-Mile Point Lighthouse ornament. The City of New Haven and the Parks Department are systematically conserving each piece of sculpture, stone and bronze. To raise public awareness and appreciation of these sculptures and the renewed interest in their conservation, ECPC is selling these collectible ornaments.



The Lighthouse ornament - still available - has been popular, and with the Columbus medallion, we hope to increase the breadth and effectiveness of this program. By purchasing these ornaments, you are demonstrating support for public art while aiding ECPC's advocacy efforts. As a small gift or distinctive decoration, these ornaments are both attractive and affordable at **\$12 each or \$30 for 3**. **ECPC members receive discounted pricing of \$10 each or \$25 for 3**. To purchase your ornament, call, email or visit our web site: <http://cityofnewhaven.com/parks/ecpc.htm#programs>. Download an order form in "Public Art in the Parks".

ECPC'S WEBSITE IS UP & RUNNING

thanks to New Haven Parks Department and its great web consultant, James Baird!!

<http://cityofnewhaven.com/parks/ecpc.htm>

Keep posted on upcoming events and activities.
 Contact a Park Friends group.
 Read old newsletters.

CALL OUT for PHOTOS. If you have photographs from an ECPC or neighborhood park event, please send us copies, through email or snail mail, along with the name of the photographer. We'll live up the web site with your credited images.

CELEBRATE BAY VIEW 2005

The Friends of Bay View Park held our Second Annual Bay View Park Celebration on Saturday, June 11. We flyered our neighborhood from South Water to Third Street, encouraging everyone to set aside the 11th and join in our celebration of life. We held many interesting activities for our friends and neighbors to enjoy, including a craft table, an interactive martial arts display, story telling, bubble blowing contests, a show bike display, and a best bike in show contest. Refreshments were served throughout the event.

The Howard Avenue Engine Company joined us again this year, bringing two trucks to our party for children of all ages to explore. The Fire Fighters spoke to us about fire safety, and



reminded all to act responsibly with fire. They left us with this quote, Remember, the life you save may be your own!

We concluded our celebration with a piñata bust. Children lined up and took turns attempting to break open the piñata. After many blows, it broke open, raining multi-colored candy onto the children waiting below. Before everyone left, we gathered together for the Bay View Cheer (a call-and-response):

caller: *Whose park is this?*
 crowd: *Our park!*
 caller: *What's the name of your park?*
 crowd: *Bay View*
 caller: *I can't hear you! What's the name?*
 crowd: *BAY VIEW PARK!*

The Friends of Bay View thanks ECPC for helping us make our Celebration an experience to remember. *-Kris Sainsbury*

RESOLVE YOUR NEW YEAR'S DAY PARTY PLANNING NOW!

POLAR PLUNGE FOR PARKS WITH ECPC AT OUR INAUGURAL FIRST DAY FESTIVAL!!

*Fresh-cooked
brunch buffet*

Lighthouse tours

Live music

*activities & games
for all ages*

*Hot tub for
all plungers*



*Stay tuned for
pledge forms
and details.*

Hit the surf to raise \$\$ for a park, open space or environmental org!

ECPC'S SPONSORS PARK EVENTS!!!

ECPC regularly sponsors events in parks across the city, enabling community groups stretch their limited resources. The Parks Dept. generously allows us to extend our permitting and insurance coverage to parks and neighborhood groups for events that are free and open-to-the-public. ECPC sponsors the annual **May Day on the Green** and the **Ideat Village** at Temple Plaza. This summer, we supported the **Jocelyn Park Celebration, Celebrate Bay View Park, Hiroshima Day** on the Green, and EACH of the **Cityseed farmers markets** held at Russo, Edgewood and Quinnipiac Parks (onging until the end of October). This fall, ECPC sponsored the huge **West Rock Park Day Festival**. If your parks or neighborhood group is producing a public event in a city park, contact ECPC.

Dynamic Double L Duo paint the parks green

This summer, ECPC again hired two Student Conservation (SCA) interns for a ten-week stint. Lisa Beranek, a natural resource management senior at Michigan's Grand Valley State, and Lesley Pinsof, May graduate of Cornell College of Iowa, brought their unlimited enthusiasm to ECPC and New Haven.

Our intern program receives support from the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven's Quinnipiac River Fund. Lisa and Lesley (Double L) spent countless hours researching the ecology, culture, economy and history of oysters and New haven. Their final report will become a valuable community resource.



Lesley and Anna working at the New Haven Animal Shelter (above); Lisa felling invasive Norway maples, Edgerton Park (below).

The Friends of Edgewood Park hired Lisa and Lesley to restore the historic and largely unknown Rhododendron Trail. Look for the trailhead



sometimes marked by their hand-made purple placard across from the skateboard park behind Coogan Pavilion. In order to combat a chronic trash problem on this trail, they performed a trash experiment.

By moving a trash can onto the trail actually, they were able to actually decrease dumping.

Margie DeVane set her typically formidable pace at Edgerton Park, where Double L carried out an invasives eradication campaign. They cleared cut poison ivy and Japanese bittersweet, sawed down Norway maples, and sweated their way to Margie's house for lunches of fresh tomato sandwiches. They further waged their invasives campaign in West River Memorial Park alongside ECPC board member, Dave Reher. Dave also instructed them in constructing small animal habitat with the remains of *ailanthus* and other woody debris.

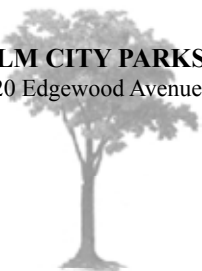
ECPC board Secretary, Easter Howard, and Board Treasurer, Anna Schildroth, led Lisa and Lesley in massive flower planting, weeding and mulching tours de force at Jocelyn Square Park and the New Haven Animal Shelter in Beaver Ponds, respectively. The Friends of Bishop Woods Bird Sanctuary asked the interns to begin a digital mapping project that will eventually result in what may be the first Bishop Woods park brochure. New England GeoSystems lent the time and GPS expertise of Dawn Fusaro to guide us on the mapping. Dawn and Illisa will finish collecting the data in the fall.

On Thursday evenings, the interns acted as ECPC's ambassadors at Jazz in the Parks. In order to grab listeners attention, Double L developed a children's game replete with small prizes. And they really showed their recruitment prowess at EPCP's annual fourth of July picnic atop East Rock, where they signed up 20 of the 24 new members that evening. (Extended duty policeman Officer Tony Campbell actually recruited the other four.)

Finally, Lisa and Lesley helped paint the West Rock Nature Center where they lived all summer. We miss these lovely women and hope to see them again in the Elm City.

ELM CITY PARKS CONSERVANCY

720 Edgewood Avenue, New Haven, CT 06515



ECPC NEWS: FALL '05

Please Open Immediately

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