



Come have fun at ECPC's
Q-River Discovery Project
For all ages: Kids - Adults - Families!
July & August at the Clifton St. Canoe Launch
FRIDAYS 2-5 PM & SATURDAYS, 9 AM-4 PM
See reverse, call or email for more info!
FREE - RAIN OR SHINE

ECPC News welcomes submissions from all parks friends groups. Submissions may be emailed to ecpc@newhavenct.net or mailed to: **ECPC News** at the above address

¡The Coolest Parks!

HEY KIDS! Don't be disappointed that no one is allowed in the beautiful new fountain on the green in New Haven. New Haven has 6 places where you can enjoy water in New Haven Parks, open from 10am to 8pm, daily throughout the summer.

The newest and most elaborate place to cool off is the splash pad at **Light House Point Park**, where colorful creatures spray and squirt water. I saw a dinosaur and a flower and maybe a snake. *What did you see?* We also have wonderful water features at: **South Jenesse Park's** new playground, **Ann Street Park**, **Trowbridge Square**, **Jocelyn Square Park** and the one many of us remember from our own childhoods, the spray shower in **Edgewood Park**.

So grab your towel, don your bathing suit and shower shoes and head off to the coolest park in your neighborhood. Remember too that if your car is registered in New Haven, your admission and parking sticker is FREE.

- Cordalie Benoit

New ECPC program: "Parks Presents"

This summer, ECPC launches "Parks Presents." Each month from June through October, we will hold a community service event in a different city park. Our goals are to organize needed maintenance and beautification- a present to each park, while also becoming a greater presence throughout the parks system. By participating in a Parks Presents event near you, you'll meet neighbors and improve the quality of your environs. Of course, attend events at parks across town too to see what like-minded people in our other city neighborhoods are up to! Our first Saturday, an old fashioned "fence raising" was a blast!

(see President's Message, at right) Please join us:

SATURDAYS, 9 AM-NOON

July 17, Jocelyn Square Park - cleanup, planting

Contact Easter Howard at 562-6723

August 15, East Rock Park - trail maintenance

Contact Michelle Maitland at 773-9307

EXCHANGE FINALLY FLOWS IN WEST RIVER

The Friends of West River Memorial Park has been lobbying the City of New Haven for four years to modify one of twelve tide gates stretching across the West River, downstream of West River Memorial Park, and on February 19, 2004, finally saw results with completed modification to the gate! The intent is to introduce brackish water to the West River above the tide gates, reestablishing an estuarine environment.

Allowing the flow of salt water into the park will have many beneficial effects including increased fish passage, enhanced recreation potential, aesthetic improvements and improved water quality. A grant to Save the Sound from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, directed to improving anadromous fish passage, funded the modifications and David Moser, of the New Haven City Planning office, managed the project.

The modified gate will allow a regulated volume of tidal water into the park during each tidal cycle. This flushing will increase water levels, eliminate surface algae, increase dissolved oxygen and may lower high bacterial levels. The higher water level and salt content may eliminate some colonies of Purple loosestrife also but will not be high enough to effect desirable vegetation or the restored Edgewood Park duck pond.

- Dave Reher

Parks and Families:

ECPC's Theme for 2004

New Haven's parks are for all to enjoy, but because families often make special use of these assets ECPC has named 2004, **The Year of Parks and Families**. We wish to highlight what families and city parks can offer one another and to remind members that ECPC is a family friendly organization where kids are always welcome! So, pack up the family and come to an ECPC function or pack a picnic and discover the entertainment value to be found around the corner in your local park!



COOL KIDS HELPING OUT AT THE 6/26 ECPC
BAYVIEW PARK FIRST ¡PARKS PRESENTS! EVENT.
THANKS TO ALL WHO CAME!

A Message from the President

How many people who drive daily on I-95 South know that as they pass the New Haven Register building, they are also passing within sight of what used to be one of the most beautiful parks in New Haven? Sitting gracefully at the tip of the City Point neighborhood, the popular **BAYVIEW PARK** was bordered on two sides by lovely views of New Haven Harbor. The park featured a pond with a little island in the center reached from two wooden bridges. In the winter neighbors skated on the frozen pond and used the island to rest and change their skates, in warmer weather they relaxed beside a Civil War memorial in the center of a large, well manicured lawn.

But this all changed in 1958, when I-95 was built, severing the park in two. Little was done to mitigate the destruction of this urban gem. People go to parks to escape the noise of the city-- but no sound barriers were built. The walking paths that used to lead to the monument, sixty years later, still end abruptly at the highway, and the benches that faced the monument now offer views of an endless river of red taillights.

But all is not lost. Although beaten and brusied, Bayview Park, which is bordered by Howard Avenue, 6th Street and Hallock Avenue, has survived. The community continues to push for change and demonstrating it is not always too late to correct past mistakes, the Parks Department just finished renovating the north side of the park with state-of-the-art playground equipment and a brand new basketball court. The paths that used to lead into the highway were replaced with a new walkway that gently meanders through the half-park, and there are new benches and trees which Ikea paid to move from its Long Wharf/Perelli building site. While on the other side of the highway, on the as-yet unrenovated south side, neighbors, with the help of Urban Resources Initiative (URI), have planted trees and shrubs and began construction of a fence to begin to block the view and reduce noise of the highway.

On **JUNE 26**, in our first Elm City Parks Conservancy project of the summer, and funded by an ECPC ¡Experience Your Parks! grant, members of ECPC hosted a work party to extend the fence. Working together, ECPC members with URI volunteers and Bayview neighbors were able to more than double the size of the fence. And although it was hard work, everybody had a great time and stayed to enjoy a barbeque afterward to celebrate the new, improved park. This was significant not just as the first neighborhood picnic at the park in years, but as another step closer to reclamation of this great urban space. Please come on down to witness the ongoing restoration of Bayview Park, enjoy the improved facilities and see for yourself what participation and support of ECPC means for New Haven!

So when is ECPC's next opportunity for you to join up with others and improve our parks? JOCELYN SQUARE, SAT., JULY 17. I hope to see you there! Have a great summer and enjoy the parks.

Stephen Wilcox, President, ELM CITY PARKS CONSERVANCY



Keep your eyes out this summer for Q-River Discovery Coordinator **TOM STRAUB** (at left) and ECPC/SCA Interns **ROSANA GRAFALS** & **ANTHONY CARDULLIS** working in the parks! And if you see them please say hello and introduce yourself as an ECPC member!

ECPC'S SUPER SUMMER STAFF

WELCOME to 2004 summer staff: Q River Discovery Coordinator, Tom Straub, and our two ECPC/SCA (Student Conservation Association) interns, Anthony Cardullias and Rosana Grafals.

Tom Straub, a New Haven resident and avid paddler, teaches high school and middle school biology. He will administer the Q-River Discovery Program which is an ECPC all-ages science discovery project for city neighborhoods near the river and funded by the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven to teach residents about the Quinnipiac River and their local natural environment. Tom will lead free Friday and Saturday programs, will work with area community groups and supervise the interns' associate participation in hikes, canoeing, science projects, games and more.

Anthony Cardullias, who hails from Cleveland, is entering his senior year at Kent State where he is studying conservation. He works for a nursery in his town, loves the outdoors and is enthusiastic about getting to know our city. **Rosana Grafals** moved to New Jersey from San Juan, Puerto Rico, to do graduate work in geography at Rutgers. We hope to make use of Rosana's sunny personality and Spanish skills to increase our outreach in the Fair Haven community.

Attention Parks Friends groups and parks enthusiasts: Did you know you can hire our interns for 1, 2 or 3 days of work in your park? Trail maintenance, gardening, education, ranger assistance ñ what does your park need? The cost is \$5/hr per intern. We stipulate that they work as a team and that one of your group members remains on site as a supervisor while they work. Contact ECPC staffperson Illisa Kelman for more info at ecpc@newhavenct.net, or 946-5713.

Save the dates THESE for events!

Jazz in the Parks

Thursday evening **FREE CONCERTS**, 7-9 pm
Presented by Empower New Haven and Jazz at Pilot Pen

July 8 - Lighthouse Point Park • **July 15** - Edgewood Park
July 22 - Trowbridge Square • **July 29** - Goffe Street Park
August 5 - Quinnipiac River Park

CANOE NEW HAVEN schedule

Sat. July 10	Canoe Safety Seminar (Lake Wintergreen)	10 am-2 pm
Sat. July 17	Paddle Day (Lighthouse-Morris Creek)	10 am-2 pm
Sun. July 31	Quinnipiac River	10 am-2 pm
Sat. August 7	Mill River	10 am-2 pm
Sat. August 28	Q. River Trip - \$20 p.p. Pre-Reg. required	10 am-2 pm
Sat. Sept. 18	Morris Creek Hawk Festival	11 am-3 pm
Sat. Sept. 26	West River	10 am-2 pm
Sat. Oct. 2	West Rock Day - Lake Wintergreen	10 am-2 pm
Sat. Oct. 16	East Rock Day - Mill River	10 am-2 pm
Sat. Oct. 23	Edgewood Day - West River or Edgewood Pond	10 am-2 pm

FUNdraising for ECPC

Though grant writing, member dues and support from the NH Dept. of Parks, Recreation & Trees helps fund ECPC, it is only with the added income of fundraisers that we are able to bring SCA interns to New Haven each summer to supplement parks staff, to support special Parksfriend projects and events, to do periodic monument restorations and plantings and to take on caretaking initiatives and important ad-hoc lobbying efforts. **Thanks to the many volunteers who help by chairing, staffing and supporting these events and of course, thanks too to those of you who faithfully come out each year and add friendship and funds to each day's festivities!**

This year's New Year's Day **Polar Plunge** was a great time! We lucked out again with mild weather, had many new plungers and a large audience enjoying the zaniness (including TV & papers), and a tasty brunch of fruit, pancakes, eggs, bacon and other goodies inside the Carousel building. Be sure to fit the festivities into your holiday plans for next year! January 1, 2005. (It is a great post-New Year's Eve family affair!) And if you plan to plunge remember too that half the profits from pledges you garner are shared with the Park, community garden or Greenspace of **your** choice. Our champion pledge-getter this year was newbie **Chris Randall of William Street Community Garden**. His winning technique-- ask everyone he knows for just \$5! Anyone have a suggestion for a sponsor or loaner of the hot tubs for next year? The tubs are a fun necessity but are also our biggest expense.

- Cordalie Benoit

¡ Sip into Spring! too was never better! Our annual early May wine tasting/auction/art exhibit at Lighthouse Point Carousel was co-sponsored again by ArtSpot Happy Hour (an event of the Arts Council of Greater New Haven) and featured a lovely day and a variety of delightful wines selected personally by Ajit Patel of **OddBin's Bottle Shop** at 11 1/2 Whitney Avenue. The **Greek Olive Restaurant** catered a sumptuous feast and watercolors by Terry Brophy and Majolica pottery by Christine Kossodo added to the scene. Carousel rides courtesy of **New Alliance Bank**, Jazz by the **Neighborhood Music School Premier Jazz Ensemble** and a stunning sunset just added to the magical night.

Business donors including *Alfresco Landscape, The Omni New Haven Hotel at Yale, The Shubert Theater, Verizon Wireless, Lyric Hall Restoration, Pilot Pen Tennis, Polo Grille, Yale Repertory* & many more made for a profitable silent auction, particularly for those with winning bids! And, yes, there were scrumptious desserts donated by **Stella's European Bakery, Atticus Cafe** and *many home bakers*. If you couldn't make it this year, we hope to see you next Spring!

- Anna Schildroth

ELM CITY PARKS CONSERVANCY is the only not-for-profit parks advocacy organization serving the New Haven's parks system. ECPC's 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.

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