

Randall's Island Park



Where NYC Goes to Play

www.randallsisland.org

MAY/JUNE 2011

Randall's  Island

Sports Fields Hotline 212-860-1830 • www.randallsisland.org/sportsfields

Springtime in the Park



RFK Bridge from Wards Meadow



Artists Enjoy the Park's Pastoral Lawns



Central Road at
Cherry Blossom Time



Daffodil Project Greenacre Foundation Partnership



Baseball at Sunken Meadow



Harlem River Picnic Area



Jesse Owens Track & Field at Icahn Stadium



New York Skyliners Marching Band at Practice

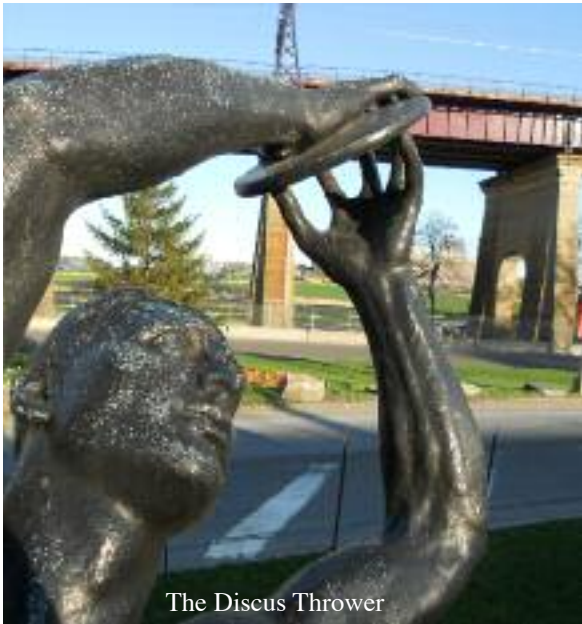
Springtime in the Park



Rock Garden at the Ferry Dock



Soccer at Wards Meadow



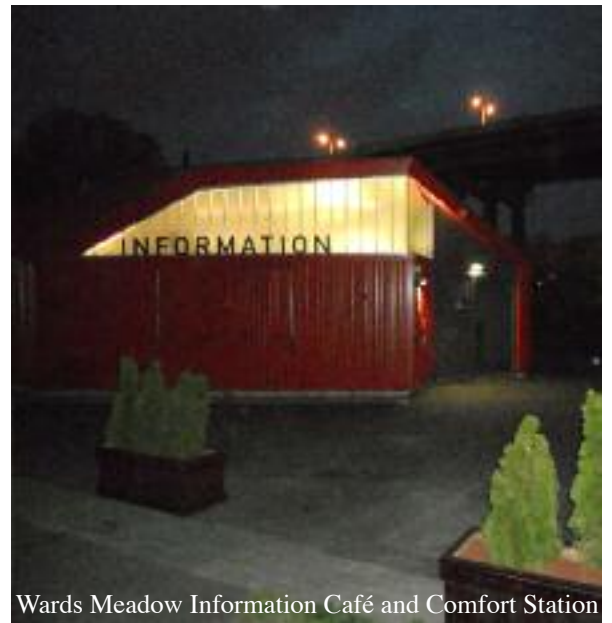
The Discus Thrower



Wards Meadow Field 75



RISI Youth Series Clinic Stretching Before a Race at Icahn Stadium



Wards Meadow Information Café and Comfort Station

Spring Volunteer Efforts



This spring, we turned our tree-planting attention to the Sunken Meadow, our major bat-and-ball field complex at the northeast corner of the Island. With the support of MillionTrees NYC and Parks' Central Forestry division, and the support of volunteers, we planted nearly 400 trees in and around the Sunken Meadow Fields. In the fall, we plan to complete our loop around the Sunken Meadow with several hundred additional trees. Providing shade and beauty, these trees will also help to retain groundwater and topsoil around the fields.



On Thursday, April 14, we had a tree-planting double-header at the Sunken Meadow Fields. In the morning, New York Cares volunteers planted with our horticulture crew. In the afternoon, Zog Sports staff took the field to plant.

Fulbright Scholars from around the world joined the effort on Friday, April 15, as part of our MillionTreesNYC campaign, and were followed on Saturday by more volunteers from New York Cares' Hands on New York Day.



On Friday, April 29, volunteers from Bloomberg participated in a project to plant a row of columnar hornbeam trees along the border between baseball field #30 and the FDNY Academy.

Randall's Island Learning Garden



are the tomatoes?" The answer is that many fruit-bearing favorites such as tomatoes, eggplants and peppers will only thrive in the heat of summer and it's still too early to plant them. Once the weather warms, the Garden will also foster okra, callaloo, tomatillos, squash, beans, and many others. Other plans include building a new worm bin to demonstrate how compost is made, painting murals about nutrition and healthy choices, and harvesting the delicious produce we have grown together.

Spring has sprung and with it the learning garden is growing. School groups are visiting to tour the growing vegetables, learn where our food comes from and work to sustain the garden. Together, the Horticulture Crew and friends have sown or planted over 25 different varieties of spring season vegetables! These include cool weather crops such as peas, broccoli, kale, cabbage, onion and cilantro. Special thanks to students from PS 182 and our friends from Bloomberg LP, (left) who helped build a rice paddy to demonstrate how this imperative grain is grown. Did you know that there are over 100,000 different varieties of rice world-wide?! Volunteers also built several new potato and sunchoke cages, to allow growth of more edible tubers in less space.

One question the Crew often hears is: "Where

Randall's Island Wetlands Stewardship

The Randall's Island Wetlands have been a very busy place this spring, filled with local wildlife and local New Yorkers. The Natural Areas Crew has facilitated visits from schools and programs including Central Park East 2 Elementary in Harlem and the Hyde Park Leadership Academy and Hunt's Point Recreation Center After School Program in the South Bronx, and has hosted students ranging from 1st to 11th grade.

The Wetlands Stewardship program's recent expansion to include middle and high school students has been a particularly fruitful development. In terms of studying the sites, a 9th grade class from Hyde Park Leadership Academy in Hunt's Point was able not only to learn about wetland ecology but also to conduct water quality



tests in the salt marsh. Throughout 2011, the Crew will assist all middle and high school groups in conducting such water quality tests and recording their results on a chart. This chart will be posted in our new, dedicated Wetlands Stewardship classroom in Icahn Stadium, so that students can compare their results and see how they change over time.

To keep the wetlands clean and healthy, RISF conducted a major trash removal project, thanks to the help of 25 students from The High School for Environmental Science in East Harlem, and in partnership with a Philadelphia-based organization called United By Blue (above). Together, we removed over 400 pounds of trash from the salt marsh!

Run the ING NYC Marathon in Support of RISF



Randall's Island Sports Foundation is thrilled to be a Bronze Level Charity in the 2011 ING New York City Marathon, the Premier Event of the New York Road Runners. RISF has a limited amount of guaranteed race entries into the marathon for those who want to run and raise funds to support RISF! Our team members will get not only a guaranteed entry into the marathon, but also other perks such as assistance fundraising, apparel, a team dinner and free entry into our Run the River 5K on October 22. For runners who have already received an entry into the marathon from NYRR, we have opportunities for you to join our team as well. To join Team Randall's Island visit <http://randallsisland.org/events/ing-new-york-city-marathon/>

New Park Amenities at the Information Café



The new "Information Café" has opened at the Park's southern end! The bright orange facility can't be missed, and is sure to become a favorite destination for visitors seeking a snack. It is now open from 12-6PM on Fridays and on Saturdays and Sundays from 8AM-6PM, and serves up a range of food and beverages alongside helpful visitor information – and public restroom facilities. In coming weeks, look for extended hours as well as a second bright orange Café by the Sunken Meadow Fields to the Park's north. For additional information or special event requests, contact RCano Events at (718) 937-6622.

Park Security

After a successful pilot program last year, RISF has invested in increased Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) presence in the Park. Sergeant Jessica Torres and seasonal officers Leofar Ventura and Melody Rivera have returned to the Island for the season, and they are joined by Martha Molina. PEP (Parks' enforcement division), staffed by shielded peace officers and trained security guards, assists with patron education, enforces park rules and is able to issue parking, environmental control and criminal court summonses; they can make arrests if needed. Having PEP in the park will help us maintain order with regard to parking and vehicle use, foster safety and comfort for our patrons, and enforce restrictions on alcohol, glass bottles, loud music and other safety and quality-of-life concerns. When you see PEP on patrol, say hello and know that they are here to keep you and the park safe.