



City of New York
Parks & Recreation



Prospect Park Alliance

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Photo/Live Shot Opportunity:
March 7 @ 11 a.m.

**INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SUPPORTS NEW
RECREATION FACILITY AND LANDSCAPE RESTORATION AT
PROSPECT PARK**

\$1.5 million is first major grant for the Park's Lakeside Center project

***Celebrate "Independence Day" with FREE Admission to
Prospect Park's Wollman Ice Skating Rink all day on Friday, March 7***

Brooklyn, NY – The goal of improving recreation opportunities at Prospect Park receives a big boost, thanks to a major \$1.5 million challenge grant from the Independence Community Foundation.

**NYC Parks & Recreation Commissioner, Adrian Benepe, Brooklyn Borough President, Marty Markowitz, Prospect Park Alliance Board Chairman, Albert Garner, and honored guests will thank the Foundation for its visionary challenge grant.
11 a.m. on March 7, at Prospect Park's Kate Wollman Rink.**

The funding from the Brooklyn based Independence Community Foundation (ICF) will go toward underwriting the design costs for the Park's planned Lakeside Center: a year-round destination for recreation, events, education programs and visitor amenities, as well as improved access to the Park's natural and historic landscape. The centerpiece of the project will be two new, state-of-the-art ice-skating rinks to replace the current rink built in 1961. The new building is being designed by Tod Williams and Billie Tsien Architects LLP. Major landscape restoration of the Park's lakeshore and areas adjacent to the project will be designed by Prospect Park Alliance landscape architect Christian Zimmerman (RLA/ASLA), and the staff of Alliance's Design and Construction office.

"ICF is thrilled to be the lead private funder of the Lakeside Center," said Marilyn Gelber, Executive Director of Independence Community Foundation. "This major grant, one of our largest to date, reflects this Foundation's strongly held view that Prospect Park is Brooklyn's great public space, a democratic oasis of calm and green that is welcoming to all. Lakeside is particularly exciting in that it will simultaneously restore Olmsted's and Vaux's original park design while creating a state-of-the-art, year-round skating, recreational, and educational facility to better serve Brooklyn and beyond. This grant also serves as an enthusiastic challenge to other foundations and individuals to join ICF in supporting this truly transformational project."

"With the new Lakeside Center at Prospect Park, New Yorkers will double their fun on two ice skating rinks," said Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe. "We are grateful to the Independence Community Foundation for their generous grant to help make this vision a reality. Thanks to the efforts of Mayor Bloomberg, our elected officials, spirited support from our partners in the Prospect Park Alliance, and a supremely talented creative team, we look forward to building an innovative year-round structure to introduce generations of children to the joys of skating and to lifetimes of fitness and health."

(cont.)

ICF grant for Prospect Park, cont.

“This major grant to the Lakeside Center Project is just the latest example of the Independence Community Foundation’s commitment to Prospect Park and our millions of Park users,” said Prospect Park Alliance Board Chairman, Albert Garner. “The Foundation has helped fund many of the wonderful programs at the Park’s Audubon Center, and they made it possible for us to acquire our much loved electric touring boat, which we gave the fitting name the *Independence*. Time and time again, the Foundation has been first in line to support the Alliance’s ongoing restoration work, and our expanded public programs at the Park.”

The Independence Community Foundation’s \$1.5 million grant is the first major private grant to the Lakeside Center project. As a Challenge Grant with its 2 to 1 matching requirement, it will also provide significant leverage for raising additional private funds. More than \$25 million has been committed to the project by the Office of Mayor Michael Bloomberg, the City Council lead by Council Speaker Christine Quinn, and Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz. Federal funding of \$1 million for the Lakeside Center, which is estimated to cost more than \$60 million, was secured by Congressman Anthony Weiner and former Congressman Major Owens. The Prospect Park Alliance continues to work with our city, state and federal officials, as well as private funders, to raise additional funds for the project.

To celebrate the Independence Community Foundation’s generous grant, the Foundation, the NYC Parks Department and the Prospect Park Alliance invite the public to come skate for free all day on Friday, March 7th, from 8:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. at the Wollman Rink in Prospect Park. Admission to the Rink (normally \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors and children under 15) will be waived, with ice skate rentals available for \$6.

Kate’s Corner snack bar will also be open, selling warm food, hot chocolate and lots of great snacks.

Wollman Rink – Brooklyn’s only open air ice skating rink – will remain open for the season daily through March 16. Free parking is available. Information (718) 965-8999 • Skate School (718) 282-1226 • Skating Parties (718) 287-6215 • Group Reservations (718) 287-5252

Directions: Wollman Rink is located near the Parkside and Ocean Avenue entrance to Prospect Park. Enter the Park at Lincoln Road & Ocean Ave., Parkside & Ocean Aves., or Flatbush Ave. & Empire Blvd. (Willink entrance) and follow the directional signs. By train: Q, S, or B to Prospect Park Station. By bus: B-16, B-41, B-43 and B-48 will bring you close to the Park’s Willink entrance.

For more information on Prospect Park events, programs, membership and volunteering at the Park, call the Park Hotline at (718) 965-8999 or visit www.prospectpark.org

Dial 311 for all Parks & Recreation information

The primary mission of **Independence Community Foundation** is to help renew neighborhoods by promoting economic growth, educational attainment and housing development. The Foundation is committed to advancing a program of comprehensive and sustainable community development that builds upon and enhances local charitable giving. The Foundation is focused on promoting collaboration among community nonprofits and cultural and educational institutions in order to produce measurable and lasting results, to provide replicable models for neighborhoods, and to promote the efficient use of philanthropic and public sector dollars.

In partnership with the City of New York and the community, the **Prospect Park Alliance** restores, develops, and operates Prospect Park for the enjoyment of all by caring for the natural environment, preserving historic design, and serving the public through facilities and programs. Prospect Park’s 585 acres of meadows, waterfalls, forest, lakes, and athletic facilities comprise a masterwork of urban green space.

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