For Immediate Release
August 18, 2009

Prospect Park Alliance

Contact: Eugene Patron
(718) 965-8954
epatron@prospectpark.org
www.prospectpark.org

[Digital Images Available]

Prospect Park Alliance Vice President for Design & Construction to be Named a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects

Christian Zimmerman Recognized for His Work at Landmark Prospect Park

Brooklyn, N.Y – Christian Zimmerman, Vice President for Design & Construction at Prospect Park, will be inducted into the Council of Fellows of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) at the Society's Annual Meeting in September. Zimmerman has worked at Prospect Park for 19 years, revitalizing and restoring the 585-acres that comprise the Park, the adjacent Parade Ground and Brooklyn's Grand Army Plaza.

Induction into the ASLA's Council of Fellows is among the highest honors the organization can confer upon a member, and recognizes their exceptional accomplishments over a sustained period of time. Individuals considered for this distinction must be members of ASLA in good standing for at least ten years, and must be recommended to the Council of Fellows by the Executive Committee of their local chapter, the Executive Committee of ASLA, or the Executive Committee of the Council of Fellows.

Zimmerman's work at Prospect Park includes woodland restoration, playgrounds, fields, buildings and infrastructure; more than $120 million in capital expenditures. He is at once a landscape architect, sculptor, and multi-disciplinary coordinator. Each project Zimmerman undertakes begins with consideration of the Park's original design by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, and then must account for current ecological practices, meet the needs of the twenty-first century public and respond to the realities of maintaining an urban park with more than 8 million visits per year.

Zimmerman leads the design team for the Prospect Park Alliance's ambitious new $60 million capital project: Lakeside. The project will restore more than 26 acres in the Park's southeast quadrant. Plans call for the rebuilding of Prospect Lake's Music Island (an element of the original 1874 Olmsted & Vaux design for the Park), and the reconstruction of the lower Concert Grove terrace to Olmsted's original design. The project will also replace the aging Wollman Rink with the Lakeside Center, a year-round destination for recreation (including two skating rinks), designed by acclaimed architects Tod Williams and Billie Tsien.

"As one of the world's signature urban parks, Prospect Park demands a landscape architect with intricate knowledge of the work of Olmsted and Vaux, as well as the skill to execute new visionary works that are keeping with this historic landmark," said Adrian Benepe, New York City Parks Commissioner. "Christian has carried this off with aplomb, and I congratulate him on his selection to be a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects."

(cont.)

"Prospect Park has been twice blessed; once by Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux and once by Christian Zimmerman," said Tupper Thomas, Administrator of Prospect Park and President of the Prospect Park Alliance. "Christian approaches design holistically, bringing together just the right members for each project team, including community users and park managers as well as engineers and consultants, and he listens to them all. It is miraculous then, to see the beautiful solutions that emerge in response to myriad issues."

The ASLA Fellows-elect will be formally inducted into the Council during the ASLA Annual Meeting in Chicago, September 18-21, 2009. Thereafter, they may use the suffix "FASLA" after their names, denoting recognition of their achievements by their peers. Founded in 1899, the American Society of Landscape Architects is the national professional association representing landscape architects. For more information on the ASLA, visit http://asla.org.

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

Dial 311 for all Parks & Recreation information

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.

# # #