

PARKS. People. Safe. Clean.

Healthy. Fun. Life!!!



CUT PARK FUNDING... and Get
More ... Trash. Crime.



Short Dumping.
Pollution. Blight.



The Park and Recreation Budget already is BARE BONES!

- Fairmount Park (FPC) and Department of Recreation (PDR) budgets were already cut by 20% in November 2008. NOT every department was cut.
- The Fairmount Park budget is less than half of what it was 20 years ago (adjusted for inflation).
- Additional cuts of 10% or 20% or 30% - will be amputations of the bone.
 - In 1970 Fairmount Park had 637 full time employees. Today it has 169.
 - In 2000, Department of Recreation had 613 full time staff. In 2008, it had 469, with only 1 full time person and just 40 part-time seasonal workers assigned to the 76 Rec. parks.
 - Of the largest 75 cities in the country – Philadelphia ranks 64th on how much it spends per resident on parks and recreation. Before the budget cuts, Philadelphia spent just \$47 per resident. The large city average is nearly double that at \$91. And cities like Seattle spend \$242 per resident.

The REAL COST of CUTTING Parks and Recreation!

- Kids have fewer clean and safe places to play and learn. Crime goes up.
- Asthma and obesity increase. People get sick. Health costs go up.
- Trash and short dumping take over parks and playgrounds. Vandalism. Graffiti.
- Infrastructure like retaining walls and bridges continue to crumble. More Deferred Maintenance.
- More Flooding. More clogged residential drains.
- More trees die. Fewer trees are planted. More air pollution.
- Home values drop further. Few visitors. City collects less revenue.

Our Parks are an Economic Engine ... They Stimulate Growth ... But Not if We Don't Invest in Them!

- The economic value of Philadelphia's parks and recreation system is over \$1.2 billion, through health care savings, increased tourism and property values, and beneficial environmental savings. For a small investment in the parks and recreation system, we get a large return. It's doesn't make sense to not invest in the very things that help generate income, wealth and well-being.
- Last November, citizens of Philadelphia overwhelming approved legislation to create a new combined Department of Parks and Recreation with a new Commission and Commissioner. More funding cuts make these otherwise promising and historic reforms all the more difficult.

We Can't Afford to Cut Parks and Recreation!

The Mayor has said "everything is on the table." Therefore, indispensable operating departments and the people they serve should not have to compete for the same dollars for essential services. Let's take this opportunity to look elsewhere in the City's budget.