

NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE

During the first four months of Fiscal 2000 the Department acquired 8.3 acres of parkland, including the 1.13-acre Point Yacht Club in the Bronx, the 0.35-acre Goodwin Gardens in Brooklyn, the 0.48-acre Ninth Street Community Garden and Park in Manhattan, the 1.83-acre Vernam Barbadoes Park addition in Queens, and the 0.43-acre Hoe Holzka Community Garden in Staten Island, bringing its total parkland holdings to 28,134.95 acres citywide. Since Fiscal 1994, 1,800.63 acres of the City have been converted into new parkland, an increase of 6 percent; by comparison, only 302 acres were converted to parkland from Fiscal 1989 through 1993.

On September 26, 1999, Mayor Giuliani and Governor Pataki opened the completed first phase of Hudson River Park, a two-block stretch of newly-developed parkland on the Hudson River between West Charles Street and West 11th Street. Surrounded by magnificent views of the Hudson River and the Manhattan skyline, Phase One is the first section of what will soon become a 550-acre, five-mile park. Hudson River Park is a joint project of New York State and New York City to create a world-class park along five miles of Manhattan's shoreline, from Battery Park to 59th Street. Phase One, a two-block stretch built at a cost of \$1.6 million, will eventually become part of a five-mile continuous esplanade. The park will include 13 piers dedicated to public recreation; play and sports areas for adults and children; and beaches, balconies and other places that provide access to the water for swimming and fishing. Including the river area between the piers, Hudson River Park will add over 550 acres of open space to the City. Established by State legislation, the \$330 million park will be the newest and most significant public space to be created since Central Park. The Park is being planned and built by the Hudson River Park Trust, a unique State-City partnership whose sole mission is to design, build and operate the park. Construction began in 1998 and is scheduled to be completed in 2003.

MAYOR'S ANTI-GRAFFITI TASK FORCE

On July 11, 1995 Mayor Giuliani signed Executive Order No. 24, formally establishing the Mayor's Anti-Graffiti Task Force as a vital part of the Administration's effort to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers. The objectives of the Task Force are to bring together City resources to mount a concerted and coordinated effort for the purposes of enforcing existing local laws; developing new legislative initiatives; initiating mechanisms to encourage and aid in the clean-up of graffiti; and informing the public about the negative impact of graffiti, such as the millions of dollars spent yearly on clean-up costs.

The Task Force includes representatives of the Mayor's Office, including the Office of Operations and the Community Assistance Unit (CAU); the departments of Consumer Affairs, Business Services, Cultural Affairs, the Economic Development Corporation, Environmental Protection, Parks and Recreation, Youth and Community Development, Housing Preservation and Development, Buildings, Probation, Sanitation, Transportation, and Citywide Administrative Services; the Police Department and Fire Department; the New York City Housing Authority; the Human Resources Administration; the Landmarks Preservation Commission; and the New York City Transit Authority. The City's coordinated anti-graffiti program combines prevention and education, enforcement, removal, surveying, technical solutions, and community outreach.

In August 1999 the Mayor's Anti-Graffiti Task Force homepage (www.ci.nyc.ny.us/html/nograffiti) was introduced on NYC LINK™, the City's official web site. The anti-graffiti homepage describes the activities and recent accomplishments of the Task Force, including the activities of NYPD units assigned to fight graffiti and vandalism; reproduces relevant City and State anti-graffiti legislation; lists City agency telephone numbers to report graffiti and to become involved in cleanup efforts, including the NYPD Graffiti Hotline (212-374-5914); and furnishes an on-line application form for the Mayor's Paint Program, which provides free paint and supplies to community members seeking to remove graffiti from their neighborhoods.

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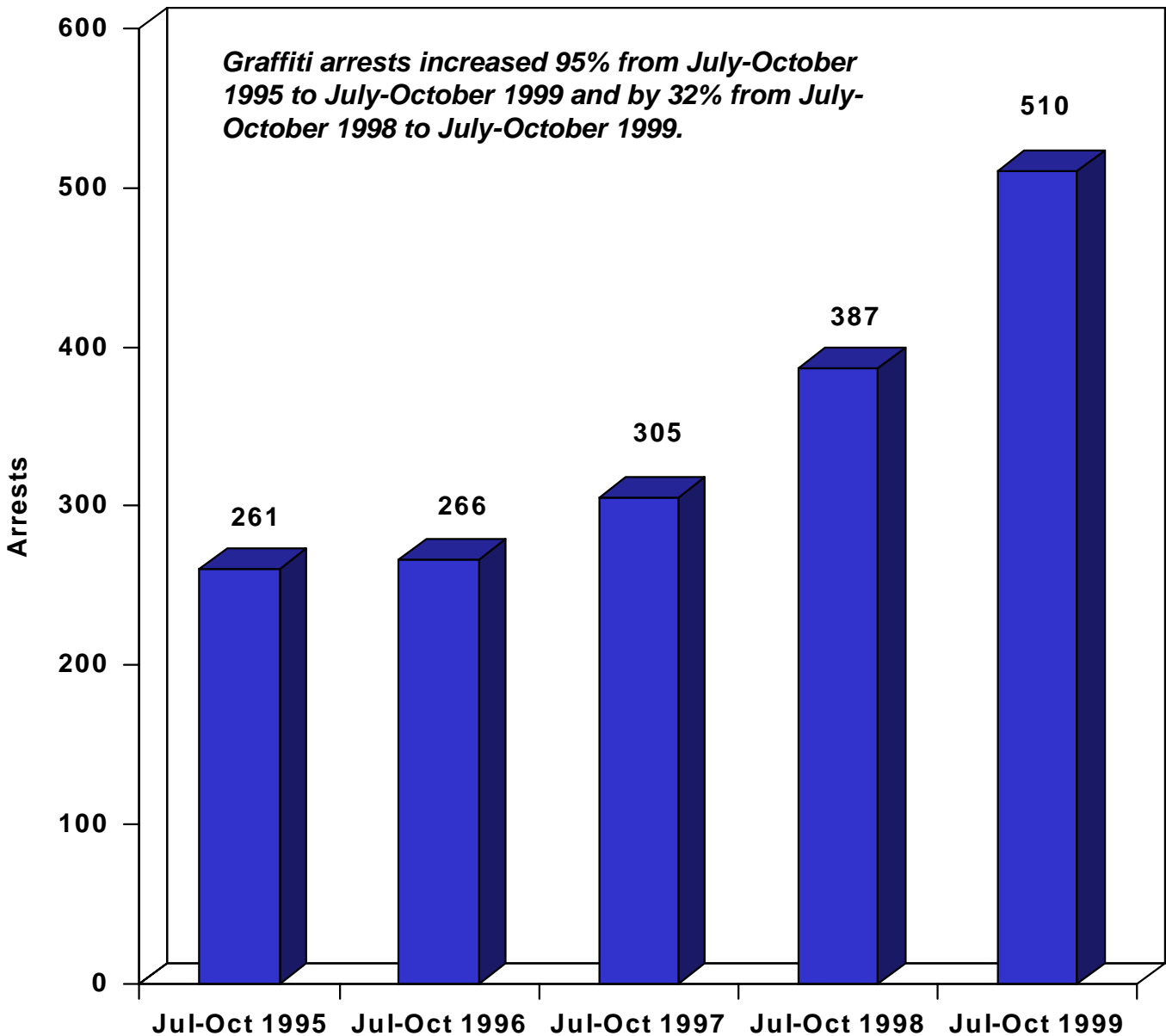
From September 1998 to the present, the Task Force has coordinated a series of neighborhood cleanup initiatives involving City agencies and community volunteers in an intensive effort to eradicate graffiti and organize prevention efforts in selected areas. Cleanup campaigns to date have included the Elmhurst and Bayside areas and the Long Island Expressway corridor in Queens; Central Harlem, Lenox Hill, Hell Gate, Morningside, Chinatown, Soho, and the Lower East Side in Manhattan; the Bushwick, Borough Park, Bay Ridge, and Sunset Park sections of Brooklyn; the Soundview and Hunts Point sections of the Bronx; and the North Shore area of Staten Island. Prior to each campaign, the Community Assistance Unit coordinates the collection of waivers from area merchants and residents who agree to have their properties cleaned. Volunteer cleanup efforts are assisted by agencies including the Departments of Transportation, Environmental Protection, Housing Preservation and Development, Parks and Recreation, and Probation (through the activities of its community service workers), as well as the Police Department, the Fire Department, and the New York City Housing Authority. The Department of Sanitation is a major participant in each cleanup initiative, making its special cleaning equipment available on an as-needed basis for power-washing and painting selected properties. The Human Resources Administration, through the efforts of Work Experience Program (WEP) participants, conducts separate cleanup campaigns which are coordinated with Task Force cleanups in several areas.

Some recent anti-graffiti activities on the part of City agencies are outlined below:

- In the first four months of Fiscal 2000 the Police Department made 510 graffiti arrests, a 32 percent increase from 387 arrests during the same period of Fiscal 1999. During this period the Department's Anti-Graffiti/Vandalism Unit (AGVU) made 28 percent of the Department's 510 graffiti arrests, or 144 arrests. AGVU collects graffiti-related intelligence, including information on citywide graffiti arrest statistics, graffiti vandals and their identifying symbols, court dispositions and active bench warrants. It also provides assistance and information to other City agencies.
- The Department of Probation coordinates and conducts supervised work crews throughout the City, consisting of probationers who perform community service tasks as a condition of probation. In the first four months of Fiscal 2000 graffiti was removed from 2,144 sites; over 120,000 square feet of roll-down gates, walls, mail boxes and hydrants were cleaned. As part of neighborhood cleanup initiatives mounted by the Task Force during Calendar 1999, community service work crews were assigned to extensive mailbox graffiti removal projects in Hell Gate, Lenox Hill, Morningside, and Central Harlem in Manhattan; Hunts Point in the Bronx; and Sunset Park and Borough Park in Brooklyn.
- During the first four months of Fiscal 2000 the Department of Transportation (DOT) removed 2.85 million square feet of graffiti from bridges and arterial highways, compared with 2.37 million square feet during the same period in Fiscal 1999. DOT also removed stickers from 5,429 signs and poles. In addition, DOT participated in Task Force cleanup efforts in several communities including the Lower East Side and Harlem in Manhattan, the Long Island Expressway Corridor in Queens, the North Shore of Staten Island, and McKinley Park in Brooklyn. The work is performed by Community Service workers and Work Experience Program (WEP) participants.
- During Fiscal 2000 the Department of Environmental Protection has removed nearly 3,100 square feet of graffiti from its facilities around the City.
- The Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) continues its efforts to remove graffiti on City-owned buildings by power-washing or painting over graffiti on buildings with painted exteriors. During the first four months of Fiscal 2000, two buildings received power-washing treatments and 22 buildings were treated using the paint-over method. Since the program's inception, 95 buildings have received power-washing treatments; another 274 buildings have been treated using the traditional paint-over method. As part of the second stage of this initiative, HPD began to use both private contractors and Supported Work Group providers to expand power-washing services citywide.

New York City Police Department

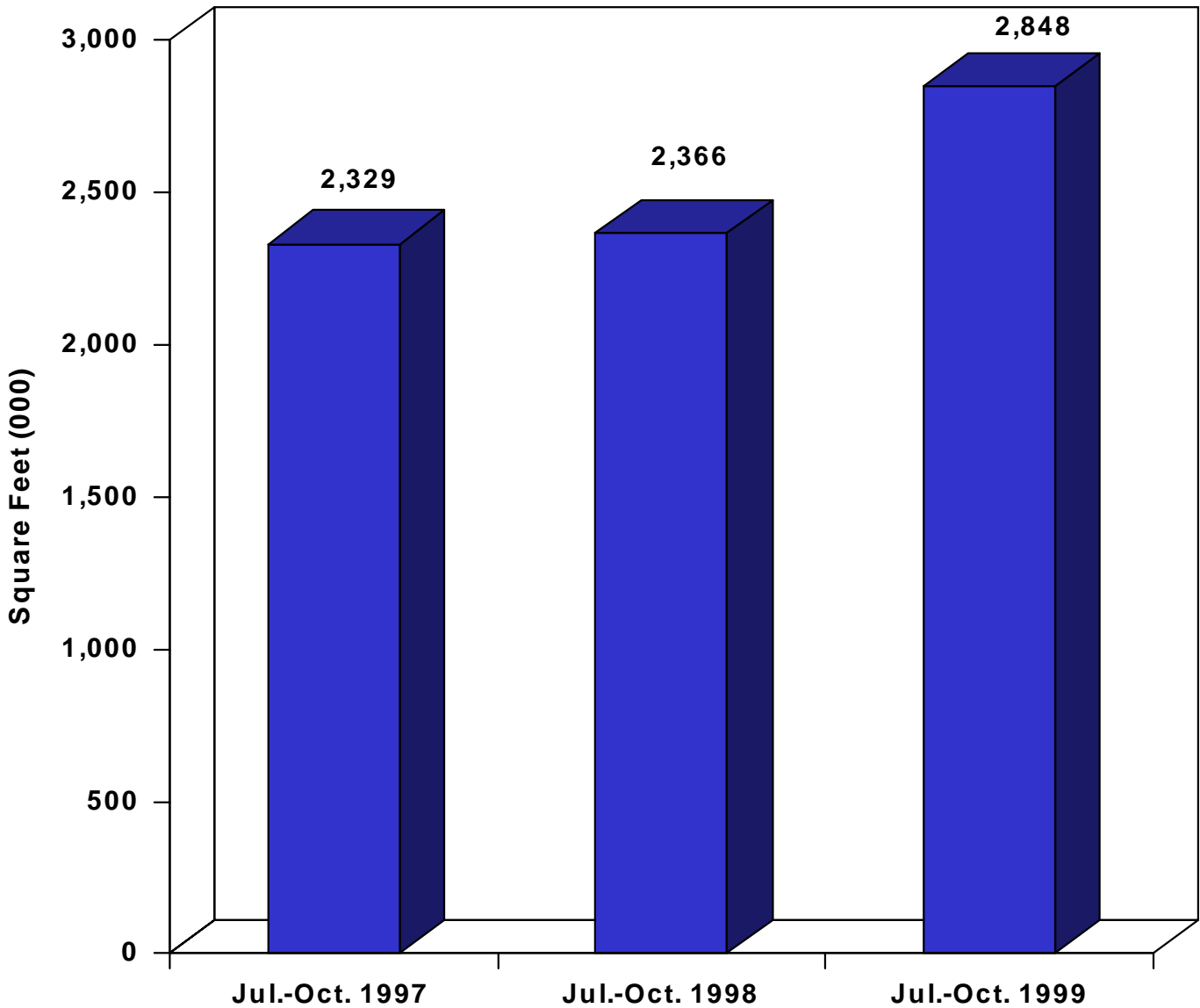
Graffiti Arrests July - October 1995 - 1999



Figures are based on preliminary data

Department of Transportation

Graffiti Removal from Bridges and Arterial Highways July - October 1997 - 1999



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- As of January 2000, 61 public housing developments and 184 buildings participated in the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA) citywide anti-graffiti program. The program expanded to four additional developments and 12 additional buildings since the start of Fiscal 2000. Community service sentencees are assigned by the District Attorneys' offices to the Authority's Anti-Graffiti Unit to help NYCHA staff remove graffiti from buildings. During the period July through December 1999, 814 community service workers completed their sentences while working with NYCHA's Anti-Graffiti Unit. The police component of the program includes 16 officers and four sergeants of the NYPD Housing Bureau, who patrol the developments and investigate graffiti and vandalism crimes. From July to December 1999, officers within the NYCHA anti-graffiti program made 75 arrests for graffiti (including one felony arrest) and 256 arrests for other offenses, and issued over 1,500 summonses.
- The Department of Sanitation (DOS) continues to play a leading role in the Administration's anti-graffiti efforts. During Calendar 1999 DOS removed 212,968 square feet of graffiti from 359 sites, as part of Task Force cleanup initiatives in 12 neighborhoods around the City. The Department also continues to maintain equipment and facilities that are graffiti-free.
- The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) conducts one of the most aggressive anti-graffiti programs of any municipal park system in the nation. Any graffiti discovered by maintenance and operations staff or parks inspectors is reported to Central Communications via a special radio code; members of the public can also report graffiti 24 hours a day, seven days a week using 1-800-201-PARK. All graffiti is catalogued and tracked; managers of the area in question are immediately notified of graffiti in their area. Any graffiti reported before 10 a.m. must be removed before noon on the same day, while graffiti called in after 10 a.m. must be removed before noon of the following day.
- The Department of Cultural Affairs (DCLA) focuses on education and outreach through the arts to help citizens – especially youth – form new attitudes about use of and respect for public spaces. A total of 75 teachers and over 2,500 public school students participated in the 1998-1999 CarCard Program, in which children's drawings are placed on the City's subways and buses. The program is organized annually in conjunction with the Metropolitan Transit Authority's Arts for Transit unit and the United Federation of Teachers' Art Teachers Association. Teacher workshops are held each year to encourage new ways to approach the theme of public spaces and art.
- During Fiscal 1999 the Department of Business Services and other City agencies worked with Business Improvement Districts, such as those at Grand Street and MetroTech in Brooklyn, the Alliance for Downtown New York, the 34th Street Partnership and the Times Square District Management Association in Manhattan to remove graffiti, improve cleanliness, and increase security. In addition, the Department's Business Assistance unit worked with the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit to prepare for Task Force cleanup initiatives, concentrating outreach efforts to business areas affected by graffiti in all five boroughs. Businesses benefiting from graffiti removal were located in areas including Hunts Point in the Bronx, Harlem and Tribeca in Manhattan, New Utrecht and Bushwick in Brooklyn, Fresh Meadows in Queens, and Port Richmond in Staten Island.

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- Since September 1998 the Human Resources Administration (HRA) has mounted its own Graffiti Removal and Clean Buildings/Clean Streets Program in and near four Business Improvement District areas: Pitkin Avenue and Church Avenue in Brooklyn; Upper Broadway in Manhattan's Washington Heights; and The Hub-Third Avenue in the South Bronx. HRA arranged for a not-for-profit organization to supervise the Work Experience Program (WEP) participants that were assigned to clean all four areas as of December 1998. In April 1999, in conjunction with the Mayor's Anti-Graffiti Task Force's cleanup initiative in the Lower East Side, HRA completed a five-week graffiti removal effort there. By June 1999 HRA's program has expanded to 12 WEP crews operating in eight areas; the additional areas are Tribeca and Chinatown in Manhattan, Bushwick in Brooklyn, and the Woodside/Sunnyside section of Queens. WEP crews have swept and removed debris and scraped stickers from light poles, traffic control boxes and street signs on nearly 260 city blocks, and have painted over graffiti on approximately 340 sites. HRA's concerted effort in Chinatown cleaned graffiti from 100 sites. Since September 1998 approximately 684 WEP participants have worked in HRA's Graffiti Removal Program; by the end of 1999, the not-for-profit organization that supervises WEP crews in the program had placed 47 WEP participants in permanent unsubsidized jobs.
- The Department of Citywide Administrative Services removed 6,252 square feet of graffiti from City buildings and facilities during the first four months of Fiscal 2000. Since the graffiti removal team was created in 1995, over 173,436 square feet of graffiti have been removed from City facilities.

HOUSING

At the end of October 1999 the Department of Buildings (DOB) had assigned 21 inspectors and five support staffers to its Quality of Life Team, which is responsible for inspecting potentially illegal subdivisions of one-, two-, and three-family homes. The Department continues its extensive recruitment efforts to staff the Team with a total of 23 inspectors. Illegal conversions degrade the quality of residential neighborhoods by overtaxing infrastructure and creating uncomfortable and potentially unsafe living conditions for residents.

During the first four months of Fiscal 2000 the Department received 3,923 illegal conversion complaints, compared to 3,146 complaints during the same period of Fiscal 1999. The Quality of Life Team (the Team) made 5,514 field visits and issued 3,595 violations during this period, compared to 3,089 field visits and 2,043 violations during the first four months of Fiscal 1999. As a result of an increase in illegal conversion complaints in Brooklyn, the Department has recently expanded the Team's scope by responding to these types of complaints in that borough, as well as Queens. During the first four months of Fiscal 2000 the Team performed 816 field visits and issued 752 violations in Brooklyn. The Department will broaden the Team's efforts into the Bronx and Staten Island during Fiscal 2000.

In Fiscal 1999 DOB created a Special Enforcement Unit to identify violators warranting special enforcement and devise civil, criminal, administrative and other enforcement strategies tailored to each violator. The unit will also audit the Department's existing enforcement systems; propose legislative, regulatory, and/or organizational reforms; and participate in the development and implementation of those reforms. During the first four months of Fiscal 2000 the special Enforcement Unit referred four nuisance abatement actions to the City's Law Department, issued 33 criminal court summonses, arranged four vacate orders against properties owned by major offenders and referred three cases to the appropriate District Attorneys' offices for investigation/prosecution.

In January 1999 the Department created a new team of four inspectors to perform annual comprehensive construction inspections at all of the City's public school buildings. Between January and July 1999 the team performed the 1,400 necessary inspections. During the reporting period the Department conducted reinspections of all school buildings at which hazardous violations were issued prior to the start of the 1999-2000 school year.