

## NYC Fleet Spotlight: Parks Supervisor Jose Baez, 5-Boro

By: Keith Kerman and Lenin Fierro

When we think of our fleet program, we usually focus on police vehicles, fire and garbage trucks, vans, pickups, and cars. Our fleet program also manages nearly 20,000 listed equipment pieces and fleet components. This week, we recognize Jose Baez, a Park Supervisor who manages the largest of our equipment efforts, the 5-Boro Horticultural Equipment Shop.

Located on Randalls Island, the Parks 5-Boro Shop manages over 12,000 horticultural equipment pieces and components listed in the fleet management system NYC Fleet Focus. These include weed-whackers, snow blowers, chain saws, riding and lawn mowers, leaf blowers, light equipment trailers, pumps, and small generators. FDNY, DOT, DOC, DSNY, FDNY, DCAS, and NYCHA also manage light equipment pieces in the fleet system.

Jose assists with the procurement, salvage, and distribution of Parks horticultural equipment which is used every day to help maintain and upkeep our City parks, playgrounds, trees, ballfields, and beaches. He coordinates with our mechanics and auto service workers to implement preventive maintenance, address oil changes, change blades, and perform more substantial repairs. Parks has also implemented some electric equipment options for field equipment.

Jose started at NYC Parks as a volunteer and joined as an employee in August 2006. Jose has played various roles at Parks. He helped the Green Apple Core bring the first mountain bike course to Highbridge Park in the Bronx, and worked with the Natural Resources Group (NRG) to plant native trees while removing invasive species. Jose holds a Class B Commercial Drivers License (CDL) and can be found operating heavy equipment including backhoes, front end loaders, and flatbed trucks.



Jose is a graduate of All Hallows High School in the Bronx and attended Stony Brook University. He has been a three-time Parks Employee of the Month, a rare feat (joining a co-writer of this article) and has received an Alma Achievers Award by the Parks Latino Society. As we know this is Hispanic Heritage Month, which is one more great reason to recognize Jose.

When asked about the best part of his job, Jose said, “It’s the people. I like the diversity of the people.” Jose resides in Washington Heights with his wife Rosemary, twin daughters Rochay and Leylani, and his dog Otis. His hobbies include mountain biking, canoeing, fishing, and music. He once played in a band and may make a comeback.

NYC Fleet and NYC Parks congratulate and thank Jose for his contribution to our City’s public spaces and our citywide equipment program.

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