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**New York Junior League celebrates 26th year of city park revitalization
with its Playground Improvement Project**

3,500 volunteer hours culminated at ribbon cutting at Jackie Robinson City Park in Harlem

New York, NY—A ribbon cutting ceremony was held today at Jackie Robinson Park in Harlem to commemorate the revitalization efforts volunteers have undertaken this spring in the park. The New York Junior League’s (NYJL) Playground Improvement Project in conjunction with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation organized the renovations.

Suzanne Manning, NYJL President and William Castro, Manhattan Borough Commissioner of New York City Department of Parks & Recreation cut the ribbon to officially re-open the park to the community. The event also featured activities in the park including live music, parachute games, face painting and a craft station for kids.

The revitalization included planting over 3,200 plants and painting benches and fences in the park with approximately 50 gallons of paint. Volunteer work also included clearing, planting, and mulching the many flowerbeds throughout the park. Volunteers have donated over 3,500 hours of their time over the past five weekends. This is the second time the New York Junior League has helped revitalize Jackie Robinson Park; the last time was in 2006.

NYJL President Suzanne Manning said, “It’s been over ten years since the New York Junior League’s Playground Improvement Project has helped revitalize Jackie Robinson Park. We are proud to provide updates to this park as it provides recreational opportunities for the entire local community by providing pastimes for children, teens, adults, and the elderly.”

NYJL’s Playground Improvement Project also gives a capital installation to a park, in the past it has included BigBelly Solar Compactors, playground equipment, and re-turfing soccer fields. NYJL’s Playground Improvement Project works with NYC Parks Department to determine the specific needs of that park.

The Playground Improvement Project is one of NYJL’s longest-running community initiatives and the impact has helped improve shared spaces across Manhattan. In selecting a park, NYJL looks at criteria to include: location, size of the park, prior partnership with NYJL at park, accessibility to public transportation for volunteers, projects involved, and possibility of indoor space for projects due to inclement weather. A full list of Playground Improvement Projects includes:

- 1992** Junior High School 47M, NY School for the Deaf, Gramercy
- 1993** PS 169 Robert F. Kennedy and PS 226, Upper East Side
- 1994** PS 111 Adolf Ochs School, Clinton
- 1995** PS 15 Roberto Clemente School, East Village
- 1996** PS 146 Anna M. Short School, East Harlem
- 1997** PS 2 Meyer London School, Chinatown/Lower East Side
- 1998** PS 197 Howard Bennett Playground, Harlem

- 1999** PS 194 Countee Cullen Literacy Academy, Harlem
- 2000** PS 125 Ralph Bunche School, Morningside Heights
- 2001** Thomas Jefferson Park, East Harlem
- 2002** Baruch Playground, Lower East Side
- 2003** Marcus Garvey Park, Harlem
- 2004** Highbridge Park, Washington Heights
- 2005** Tompkins Square Park, East Village
- 2006** Jackie Robinson Park, Harlem
- 2007** Seward Park, Chinatown/Lower East Side
- 2008** JJ Walker Park & Tony Dapolito Recreation Center, Greenwich Village
- 2009** Morningside Park, Harlem
- 2010** St. Nicholas Park, Harlem
- 2011** Sara D. Roosevelt Park, Lower East Side
- 2012** East River Park, Lower East Side
- 2013** Fort Tryon Park, Washington Heights
- 2014** Tompkins Square Park, East Village
- 2015** Columbus Park & Foley Square, Chinatown/Lower East Side
- 2016** Marcus Garvey Park, Harlem
- 2017** Jackie Robinson Park, Harlem

The New York Junior League (NYJL) is an organization of women committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Since 1901, the NYJL has been a leader in identifying and responding to unmet community needs. Through direct service, collaborations with other community organizations and advocacy, the NYJL provides a positive force for change within the communities it serves.

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