

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR THE FOURTH ANNUAL GOWANUS GRIND AT THOMAS GREENE PARK
APRIL 22**

NEW PRIZES!

Raffle: Family package @ Brooklyn Boulders - \$150 Value
2 Adults - Learn the Ropes
2 Children - Belay Adventure Time

Raffle: Skate Penny Board from Homage Brooklyn - \$100 Value

Plus a 50/50 Raffle

Continuing its efforts to bring improvements to the neighborhood, Friends of Douglass/Greene Park (FOD/GP) will host the **Fourth Annual GOWANUS GRIND** at Thomas Greene Park (Douglass and Degraw, between 3rd and 4th Avenues) on Sunday, April 22 from Noon to 4PM. The FREE event includes a skateboard clinic and contest with prizes, screen-printing, live music and food as well as games and activities for kids. Marking the recent commencement of construction on the first phase of the park renewal in February, this year's celebration also recognizes Earth Day with a community book swap and other recycling initiatives.

Friends of Douglass/Greene Park is a non-profit organization formed in 2005 after the Boerum Hill Association initiated a search for an underutilized green space in downtown Brooklyn to serve as a multi-use park for an underserved community. Since its inception, the group has worked closely with the New York City Parks Department as well as a broad cross-section of residents to assess and incorporate the needs of the community into the designs and plans for renovation. The group's mission is to maximize the park's ecological, educational and economic potential and benefits. With the goal of creating an attractive recreation destination for all generations and families, from toddlers to the elderly, the park will greatly enhance the quality of life for those living in the area as well as the neighborhood's diverse businesses. FOD/GP anticipates the restored park will draw 1,000 Brooklynites per day in the peak spring and summer months, with an estimated annual usage of 200,000. The neighborhoods served by the park are Boerum Hill, Carroll Gardens, Park Slope, and Gowanus, including the Wyckoff Gardens and Gowanus Houses.

Taking place in multiple stages, the renovations will eventually include a new pool, a pool house and comfort station with a green roof, a picnic and seating area, a large lawn and new landscaping, playground units with spray shower, new basketball and handball courts, a skate park and a track. In the interim, FOD/GP has facilitated the funding and installation of three large-scale skate elements, launched a bench painting campaign and successfully lobbied to keep the "DD Pool" open when the City Council threatened closure due to budget cuts. The park is a major part of the overall economic and environmental revitalization of Gowanus, which has historically been cut off from the rest of the city, lacking important amenities including healthy food options, culture and outdoor space for leisure activities.

Sponsors of the event include Brooklyn Boulders, Homage Brooklyn, Building on Bond and Ridgewood Savings Bank. Vitamin Water, Friends of Douglass/Greene Park previously received generous support from the Brooklyn Parks Department, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, and former City Council Members David Yassky and Bill deBlasio (currently New York City Public Advocate).

For more information, please contact:

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