



Bike New York Wins Best of Parks Award
Learn-to-Ride Partnership Reached Hundreds of Children

New York, October 24, 2007--Bike New York's Bicycle Education Program received the Best of Parks Best Partnership Award from City of New York Parks and Recreation in a ceremony today, in recognition of the success of the "Teach Your Child to Ride a Bike" classes offered through a new collaboration between the two organizations and other local agencies. In just the first year, more than 400 young riders and their parents learned cycling skills through the program.

Beginning this past May, New York City's Bike Month, some 15 Teach Your Child to Ride a Bike classes were offered in city parks throughout the five boroughs to kids ages 3-13. Bike New York trained Parks staff and Urban Park Rangers in the "balancing first" teaching method, conducted promotional outreach, tracked registrations, and provided staff and volunteer support for the programs. Partnership for Parks, Transportation Alternatives, the Department of Health, and the Department of Transportation were also part of the effort.

In presenting the bike-shaped award, Deputy Commissioner Kevin Jeffrey noted that participants from his staff found this to be "by far one of the most rewarding programs of their career," and that the feedback from parents was equally positive.

According to Bike New York Executive Director Pam Tice, "This kind of partnership, where we share our expertise with other groups in order to reach the next generation of cyclists, is exactly what we envisioned when we established the Bicycle Education Program in 2004. Receiving the prestigious Best of Parks Award is a great honor for our staff, and serves as inspiration for future efforts."

Bike New York's Bicycle Education Manager Rich Conroy began teaching the "balancing first" method in 2005, after learning about it from a former coworker at a bike shop. The promise to parents is a low-stress way to help their children learn, no running behind the bike required. Children are lured by the idea of mastering one of the most fun and healthy ways to get around—without worrying about scraped knees.

The 2008 class schedule will be posted at www.BikeNewYork.org, with sessions beginning in the spring.

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Bike New York is a non-profit that promotes and encourages bicycling and bicycle safety through education, public events, and collaboration with community and government organizations. Best known as producer of the nation's largest recreational cycling event, the Commerce Bank Five Boro Bike Tour, Bike New York also organizes smaller rides and runs a Bicycle Education Program offering free classes and workshops for adults and children. For more information on Bike New York's rides and programs, visit BikeNewYork.org.