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Out2Play to Deliver 40 New Playgrounds across the Five Boroughs

Thousands of NYC public school children to receive bright, stimulating play spaces for the first time

A record-breaking 40 New York City public school yards will be transformed into child-friendly play spaces by Out2Play this summer. As a result, over 26,000 students (43% of whom, statistically, are either obese or overweight) will be returning to new play structures, basketball courts and kickball diamonds this September. The schools, located throughout the five boroughs, are part of this year's roster of playgrounds to be built by Out2Play, a non-profit group with a mission of delivering playgrounds to economically disadvantaged NYC public schools.

Out2Play has already successfully completed 40 playgrounds around the City since 2005, transforming over 900,000 square feet of dilapidated, vacant lots into active, safe play spaces. The 40 new playgrounds doubles the three year old organization's past efforts, bringing the total number of completed playgrounds to 80 by the end of 2009.

"Out2Play's main focus is nurturing the health and development of our city's youth," said Andrea Wenner, founder and Executive Director of Out2Play. "With childhood obesity continuing to affect almost half of New York City school children, this is an ongoing struggle that none of us can afford to lose."

The renovated playgrounds will include play structures with slides and monkey bars, basketball courts, kickball diamonds, soccer and football fields, tracks, hopscotch, four square and other blacktop games, chess tables, trees, benches and more.

A break down of this year's projects are as follows: 12 projects planned in the Bronx (PS 6X, PS 62X, PS 71X, PS 81X, PS 90X, PS 103X, PS 109X, PS 112X, PS 160X, PS 186X, PS 211X, and PS 306X), 13 in Brooklyn (PS 5K, PS 17K, PS 31K, PS 34K, PS 67K/CRCS, PS 73K, PS 110K, PS 116K, PS 132K, PS 157K, PS 159K, PS 316K, and PS 319K), seven in Manhattan (PS 87M, PS 155M, PS 166M, PS 175M, PS 185M, PS 187M, and PS 208M), four in Queens (PS 88Q, PS 182Q, PS 224Q, and PS 877Q), and four in Staten Island (PS 20R, PS 22R, PS 29R, and PS 44R).

Out2Play estimates that currently there are 118 elementary schools in New York City lacking playground access, leaving over 100,000 children without a safe outlet for activity during the school day.

Since its founding, Out2Play has raised over \$17 million from public and private sources, gaining the support of the Borough Presidents, several New York City Council members, prominent philanthropists, foundations and corporations. Some of the group's major private funders this year include the Barclays/Nets Community Alliance, the Carson Family Charitable Trust, the David Wright Foundation, the New York Community Trust and Newmark Knight Frank.

With the cooperation of the Department of Education and School Construction Authority, Out2Play has developed a streamlined project process that allows completion of projects in a quick and cost-efficient manner. Once projects are completed, the organization supplements its program by partnering with Asphalt Green to provide training related to safety and supervision and recess activities.