

# Parks

## R-E-S-P-E-C-T: Yield is what it means to me

**T**HIS SUMMER AND SUMMER THE Parks Department and NYPD have greatly increased bicycle enforcement in Central and Prospect Parks. Parks and Police officials cite an increased number of complaints about dangerous cyclists and increased bicycle-pedestrian crashes as the motivation (though, neither agency has released current crash and complaint figures or numbers from 2005 or previous years to compare).

NYPD and Parks officials say that are focusing enforcement on cyclists who endanger pedestrians and create public safety hazards. So be on your best behavior in our



Last summer petition signers in Central Park asked for a car-free park; this summer they enjoy more car-free hours.

T.A. FILE



PAUL S. WHITE

Many park-goers traveling at many speeds can lead to conflicts in Prospect and Central Parks. Cyclists should yield to pedestrians and be courteous to slower cyclists.

crown jewel parks, for your own good, and the safety and betterment of everyone's park experience.

Remember that bikers, joggers, walkers, moms and kids are winning the fight for car-free parks together and ought to enjoy our car-free parks together. The only way for this to happen is to respect one another and show that respect in every interaction. □

### TakeAction!

**TAKE THE YIELD TO PEDS PLEDGE.** We cannot win cycling improvements without the support of non-cyclists. Take a minute to tell them you care about their safety too! [transalt.org/pedspledge](http://transalt.org/pedspledge)

## New Yorkers Love New Car-Free Hours

**E**VERY SUMMER NEW YORK CITY'S crown jewel parks serve as a backyard for millions of residents and visitors and this summer is no different. The meadows are filled with sunbathers, the sports fields are stocked with players and the loop drives are jammed with runners, skaters and cyclists of all types.

All of these people out and about in the great green spaces of our city not only shows the dawning of healthier lifestyles, fitter kids and an appreciation for the outdoors; it lets the city know that when parks are car-free more people will come to enjoy them.

It is all but official; the Mayor's fractional closure of the loop drives is working. Sources at the Parks Department, the Central Park Conservancy, and the Prospect Park Alliance all believe the additional closures have gone mostly unnoticed by drivers and are greatly

appreciated by park users of all varieties.

The only complaints we have heard about are people who have become so accustomed to a loop drive free of cars that the presence of automobiles bothers them all that much more.

"The contrast is so much starker now," said one Thursday night cyclist. "The West Drive [which is car free in the evening] seems like a paradise and the East Drive [which has cars in the evenings] is a nightmare."

To help us prove this point and sure up our case for car-free parks next summer, we will be surveying park users and neighborhood residents in the coming months. The questionnaires will focus on ease of access to the park, quality of recreation in the park and traffic around the park. If you want to help out with any of these surveys or have some suggestions about what type of questions we should ask, email [parks@transalt.org](mailto:parks@transalt.org). □

## Can't We All Just Get Along?

- Everyone ought to be safe and courteous
- Remember to signal properly
- Use your hands, your bell or your voice
- Communicate your decisions before you act
- If others know where you are going, they can react
- Make yourself visible (day or night)
- Make sure to where reflective clothing and announce your presence before getting too close to other users
- Yield to all pedestrians and any users in front of you
- Pedestrians always have the right of way, as do the users in front of you
- Be aware of where you are on the road
- Faster moving users ought to stay right, slower moving users ought to stay left
- If you are unhappy with the enforcement or structure of park rules email, call or write the police precinct responsible for your park, the Parks Department, the Central Park Conservancy and/or the Prospect Park Alliance. You can also email [parks@transalt.org](mailto:parks@transalt.org) to find out other ways to get involved.