



Kathryn Ott Lovell

Kathryn Ott Lovell was appointed Commissioner of the Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Department by Mayor Jim Kenney in January 2016. As Commissioner, Kathryn oversees 700 employees and over 10,100 acres of land, 500 buildings, 225 miles of trail, 250 playgrounds and thousands of programs and events throughout Philadelphia's Parks and Recreation system.

In just a few months, Kathryn has led innovative initiatives to activate the City's parks and engage residents and visitors throughout Philadelphia. She has played an integral role in the creation of Parks on Tap, a mobile pop-up beer garden; Swim Philly, a program designed to increase amenities at neighborhood pools; and the Philadelphia International Unity Cup, a soccer tournament that celebrates the rich cultural diversity of Philadelphia.

Under her leadership, the Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Department will experience a drastic transformation over the next four years. In June, the City of Philadelphia approved Mayor Kenney's sugary and sweetened beverage tax, through which a 300 million dollar investment will be made in the City's Parks, Recreation Centers and Libraries.

This investment, called the REBUILD Plan, will allow Kathryn to activate neighborhoods across Philadelphia by connecting with members of the communities the parks and recreation centers serve. The REBUILD Plan will also require her to collaborate with various organizations and individuals within the city and beyond, many of which she is already quite familiar.

Prior to her appointment as Commissioner, Kathryn served as the Executive Director of the Fairmount Park Conservancy, a key partner of Philadelphia Parks and Recreation department. In that role, she elevated the organization's profile and ushered in a dramatic shift in its strategic vision, building a host of new programs, executing high-profile projects, and securing funding from an array of local and national funders.

The Conservancy saw rapid expansion during her tenure, increasing its budget by more than 500% in her first four years and growing the staff from 3 to 24 members, all while maintaining a sustainable organizational structure, a growing but steady array of program services, and a diversified mix of incomes sources.

Kathryn also served as Chief Advancement Officer for the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program for six years, during a time of significant growth and programmatic shift for the organization. The Mural Arts Program is another trusted and active partner of the Philadelphia Parks and Recreation Department, providing colorful art displays to many parks and recreation centers, as well as artistic programming.

In January 2012, Kathryn championed a successful campaign to save her alma mater, St. Hubert Catholic High School for Girls, from closure and currently serves on the board of the Friends of St. Hubert. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance and St. Francis de Sales School.

Kathryn is a 1996 graduate of the University of Scranton. She lives in the Cedar Park section of West Philadelphia with her husband, Andrew, and two daughters, Lucy (8) and Johanna (2).