



**Roosevelt Island
Operating Corporation**

CHERRY BLOSSOM SEASON 2026

**Petal Protector
Volunteers**

OVERVIEW

- Roosevelt Island is home to hundreds of cherry blossom trees, primarily along the West Esplanade near Cornell Tech.
- Thousands of visitors are expected annually between early April and May.
- RIOC's Communications Team will update and distribute the 2026 Travel Advisories as needed through the [RIOC Advisory System](#).
- No RIOC-hosted events are planned during this time, but operational adjustments by PSD, Grounds, Transportation, Communications, Tramway, and Operations will be made to accommodate increased foot traffic.



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What Do I Do On the Day I Volunteer?

You've selected your date and time for volunteering online through our portal (thanks again!). On the day of your Petal Protector shift:

- Arrive at the front desk of Sportspark's west side entrance at 250 Main Street approximately 5-10 minutes before your shift begins.
- Speak with the Sportspark front desk team and sign your waiver.
- After signing your waiver, you'll be given your Petal Protector pink vest, cherry blossom palm cards, and sunglasses.
- Then head out and keep an eye on our Cherry Blossoms!
- At the conclusion of your shift, return the vest and remaining palm cards to the Sportspark front desk. You get to keep the sunglasses as a thank you.



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What Do I Do On the Day I Volunteer?

Promote Exploration of the island!

- This year we are partnering with The Roosevelt Island Business Association (TRIBA) to help promote visitor exploration of the island.
- Petal Protectors should encourage visitors to check-out the island's many restaurants, shops, historic landmarks, parks, scenic views and green spaces.
- Each palm card has a QR code that links to the Visit R.I. app, which has maps of the island, information on local shops, free Red Bus tracking and much more!

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Protect the Cherry Blossoms!

Please help us preserve our beautiful Cherry Blossoms by:

- Staying on the sidewalks to protect tree roots
- Not picking the blossoms
- Not climbing or swinging on the tree branches

Thank you for protecting Roosevelt Island.

Scan the QR code here to explore the island's shops, restaurants, landmarks and attractions!



Disclaimer: RIOCI is not responsible for the content on any external third-party websites. Links to third-party websites are provided solely for convenience purposes and do not imply endorsement by RIOCI.





TREE HISTORY

The 1912 Gift:

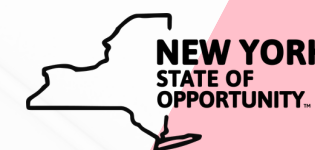
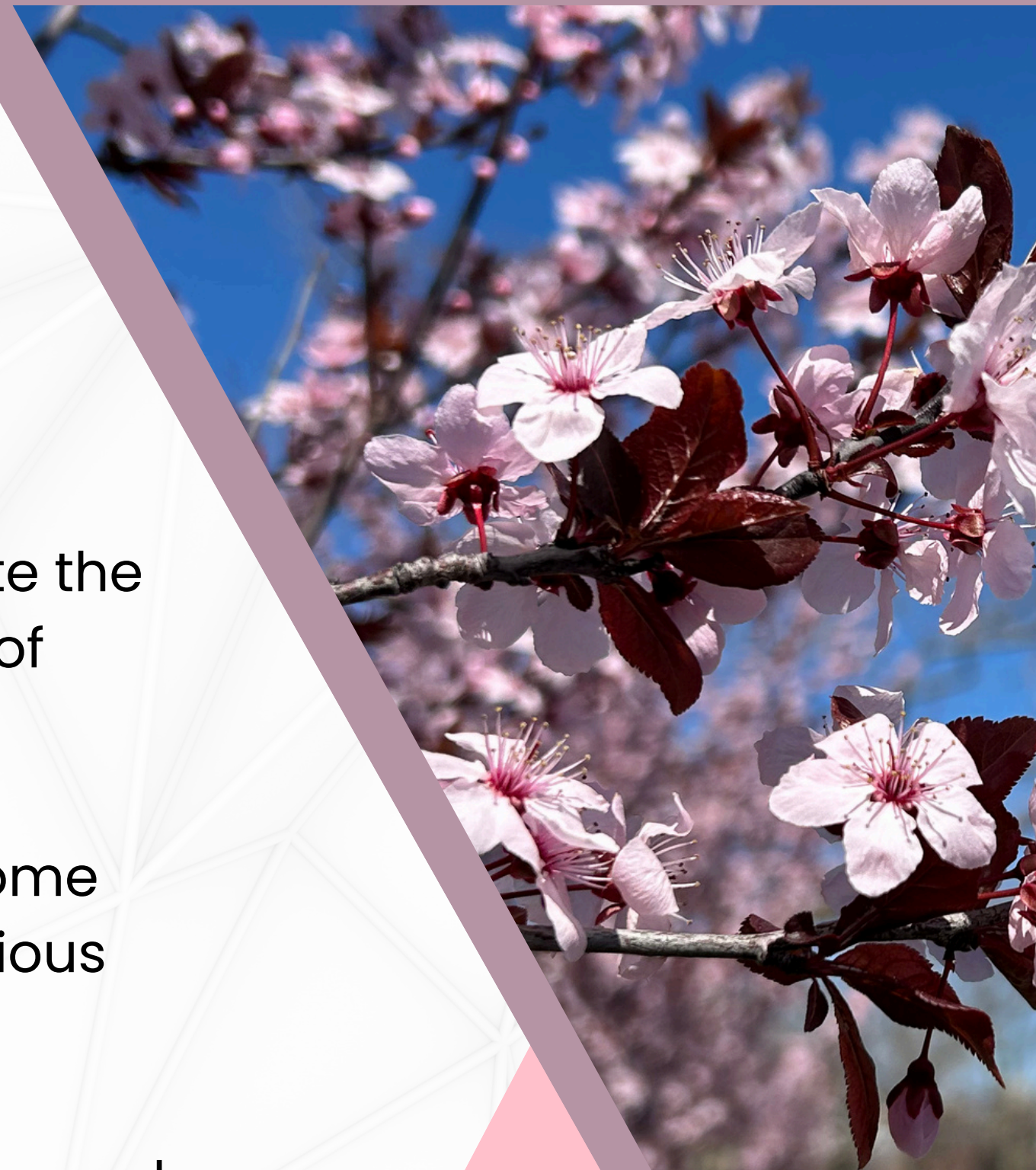
- Japan gifted the US 3,020 cherry trees in 1912 as a symbol of friendship. These trees were part of a larger plan to celebrate the Hudson-Fulton Celebration, marking the 300th anniversary of Henry Hudson's arrival in New York.

Roosevelt Island's Trees:

- While many of the trees were planted in Washington D.C., some were also brought to New York City and were planted at various locations, including on Roosevelt Island.

Symbolism:

- Cherry blossoms are a powerful symbol of friendship, beauty, and the fleeting nature of life in both Japanese and American culture. The gift of the cherry trees reinforced the strong ties between the US and Japan.



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GROUNDS AND HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT

- The RIOC Grounds and Horticulture Department team performed “Vertical Mulching” around the Cherry Blossom Trees to enhance Aeration, drainage, and nutrient availability, which help the trees to stay and grow healthy.
- Additional staffing on weekends starting April 1st.
- Additional garbage receptacles and pick-up runs will be implemented for added coverage with a focus on the Southpoint Park comfort stations.
- “Protect the Cherry Blossoms” poster will be posted at both East and West promenade entrances near Cornell Tech.
- “Protect the Cherry Blossoms” palm cards will also be made available at the visitors’ kiosk, which include a map of where the different Cherry Blossom Trees are located on the island.



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PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT



SUBWAY EXTERIOR (2 OFFICERS)

Monitor crowd levels and report to the desk officer as needed.



SOUTHPOINT PARK INTERIOR (2 OFFICERS)

Oversee park activities, check comfort stations, and manage crowd control.



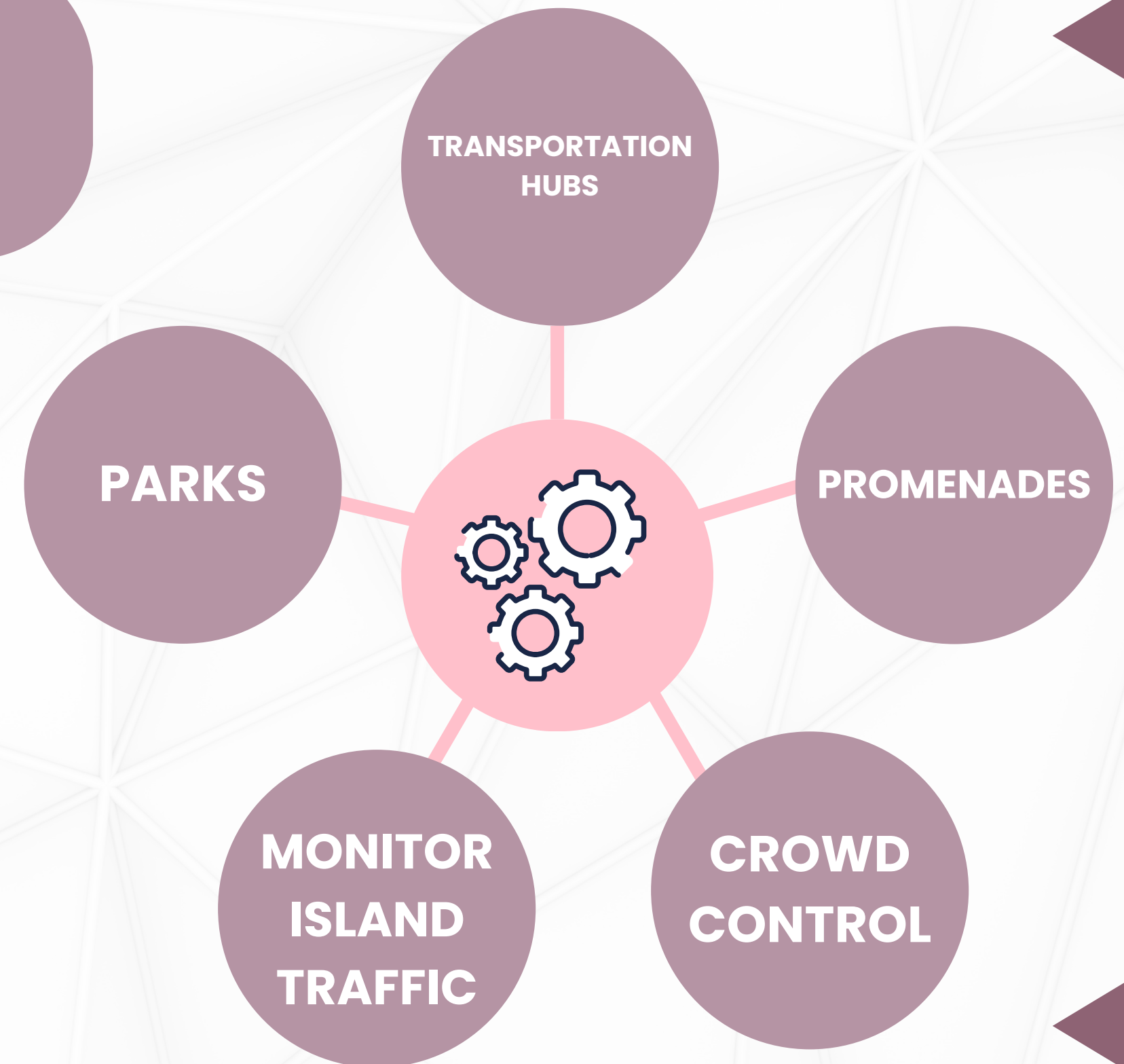
TRAMWAY (6 OFFICERS)

Monitor tramway queues, manage crowd flow, and communicate with the desk officer.

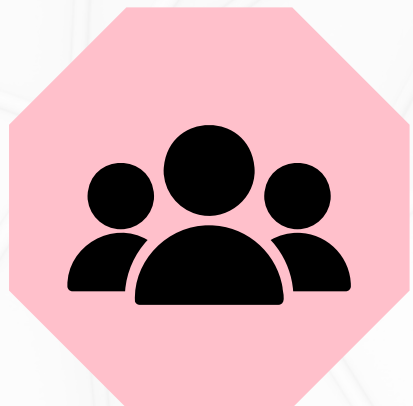


PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT ASSIGNMENTS

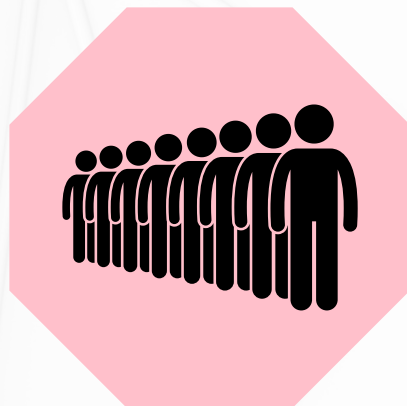
- Nine PSD Officers and a Lieutenant will be assigned to various locations such as the Transportation Hubs, Promenades and Parks, respectively.
 - The officers will oversee tram lines and control passengers on each platform, observe locations for unusual crowding, monitor island traffic, amongst others.



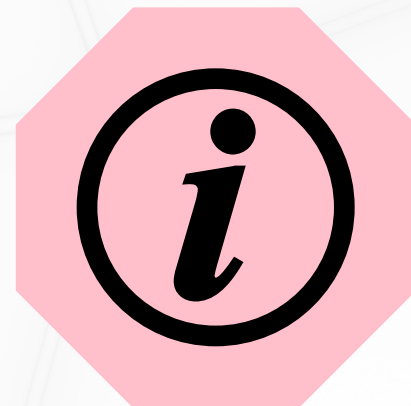
TRAMWAY ADJUSTMENTS



Additional staff will be scheduled for the Tram stations through the weekends of April into the first weekend of May.



Anticipated long lines at both stations during weekends and the week of April 2nd - 10th (Spring Break).



POMA Staff & PSD will provide clear instructions to riders when lines form.



No planned maintenance during this period; any emergency work will be communicated promptly.



[Roosevelt Island Tram Station Livestreams Access](#) (Also available at rioc.ny.gov: "Transit" button)



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ALTERNATIVE TRANSIT OPTIONS

MTA Q102 Bus Service

Roosevelt Island to Court Square (Jackson Av/Thomson Av)

First bus departs Roosevelt Island at 5:35 AM
Last bus departs Roosevelt Island at 12:35 AM

Court Square (Jackson Av/ Thomson Av) to Roosevelt Island

First bus departs Court Square at 5:05 AM
Last bus departs Court Square at 1:00 AM

[Click here or scan for the full Q102 schedule:](#)



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MTA **M**/**F** Train

- **M** trains operate **weekdays** between Middle Village-Metropolitan Av, Queens and Forest Hills-71 Av, Queens.
- During **nights** and **weekends**, **F** trains operate via 63 St (serving 21 St-Queensbridge, Roosevelt Island, Lexington Av/63 St, and 57 St).

[Click here or scan for the MTA M-Train schedule:](#)



[Click here or scan for the MTA F-Train schedule:](#)



Please refer to the NYC Ferry App for real-time departures.



[Click here or scan for the ferry schedule:](#)



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Portable Restrooms

a. Rental period: April 1 – May 5, 2026.

b. Serviced twice weekly (Mondays & Thursdays).

c. Locations:

i. Firefighters Field: (1) ADA, (1) Regular

ii. West Loop Rd (across from SportsPark): (2) ADA, (2) Regular

2. Coordinating with TRIBA on how to drive traffic to local businesses.

There will be no outside food trucks.

3. Added a new map of the island in Tram plaza to help visitors explore the island.

4. For more information visit [Cherry Blossoms Weekend Safety Plan](#) or call PSD at 212-832-4545



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**THANK
YOU!**



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