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Bryant Park has had Wi-Fi for four years. (Mitch Jacobson)

Wi-Fi adopter draws raves

In Bryant Park, which has offered wireless service since June 2002, the program is viewed by park directors and visitors as a huge success. Last month, an average of 251 people a day used Bryant Park's wireless network, a number that has risen each year.

"Wi-Fi is one of our 15 or 20 uses that keep people in the park for a long time and make them loyal to it," said Daniel Biederman, executive director of the Bryant Park Restoration Corp. "On beautiful days in the summer you have large numbers of users who would not otherwise be there. They're between

meetings, they're doing an interview, just as we have users who play chess there, and we have users who eat sandwiches."

Corporate sponsors fund the service, which cost about \$18,000 to set up and costs another \$1,400 monthly to run, according to the Bryant Park Restoration Corp.

John Weston of Queens, who owns his own music research business, said he frequently brings his laptop to Bryant Park.

"Besides just the wireless access, there's always an event going on," he said. "It's a beautiful environment." (Melanie Lefkowitz)