



**Hearing before the New York City Council
Committee on Parks & Recreation
Oversight: Fiscal Year 2015 Preliminary Budget
March 27, 2014**

Testimony By: Liam Kavanagh, First Deputy Commissioner

Good afternoon, Chair Levine and members of the Parks and Recreation Committee. I am Liam Kavanagh, First Deputy Commissioner at the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. I am joined here today by a number of our senior staff. On the panel with me are Deputy Commissioner, Larry Scott Blackmon and Karen Becker, our Director of Government Relations. Additionally, we have with us our Deputy Commissioner for Management, Budget & Public Programs, Robert Garafola, Deputy Commissioner for Capital Projects, Therese Braddick, and Assistant Commissioner for Fiscal Management, David Stark. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to discuss the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2015.

The Parks Department's Fiscal Year 2015 Preliminary Budget is \$385 million, which is an increase of 1.2% from the Fiscal Year 2014 Adopted Budget of \$380.4 million. Thanks to the support of the City Council, our total agency full-time equivalent headcount as of January 31st, including seasonal staff and Job Training Participants, is 5,696. The Preliminary Budget contains 3,803 full time positions, an increase of 41 positions from FY 14. With the help of the Council, in FY 14 the Parks Department enjoyed the largest expense budget in its history and we are happy to see this trend continue.

The Fiscal 2015 Preliminary Budget preserves the new staffing added to the Parks Departments ranks as the City emerged from the recession; Staffing that has allowed us to improve service and launch new initiatives. Park and playground conditions, as measured by the Parks Inspection Program, currently stand at 88% acceptable for overall condition and 92% acceptable for cleanliness, exceeding the targets set in the Mayor's Management Report and the highest level achieved in 8 years. We are adding new mobile technology for field staff as part of our "Ops 21" initiative to modernize daily Parks Operations and a successful program focusing on playground equipment that was piloted in Queens is being expanded Citywide. A new HVAC team is restoring heating and cooling systems to optimal working condition, which extends the useful life of critical mechanical systems, while making our facilities more welcoming to the public. Forestry staff developed a comprehensive program to inspect and manage over 48,000 trees on streets and in parks that were inundated by salt water from Hurricane Sandy. Contracts to remove and replace salt damaged trees are in the process of being awarded and monitoring will resume this spring as the trees begin to leaf out. And of course the additional staff were invaluable during the frequent storms we experienced this winter.

The Mayor's FY 15 Preliminary Budget also baselines funding for key programs including keeping all of our pools open for the entire season, restoration to the Parks Opportunity Program (POP), the Kids in Motion program, our seasonal workforce, and funding for tree pruning and stump removal. The baselining of this funding restores roughly \$30 million to our budget and allows us to focus on planning and service delivery rather than preparing for unfortunate contingencies.



As we testified before this committee last month, tree maintenance is an important component in our agency's mission and operations. Last year, \$2 million was baselined to our budget for tree pruning. At the current funding level, Parks should be able to prune every street tree within a 10 year time frame.

In addition to tree pruning, \$2 million for stump removal was also baselined to our budget in FY 14. Stump removal has not been funded since FY 09 when PlaNYC funding provided for \$2 million with an additional \$366,000 in the baseline budget. This funding will help us address nearly 5,000 of the estimated 25,000 street stumps throughout the city.

While sustainability has been at the forefront of the agency's mind since Superstorm Sandy arrived at our doorstep in October of 2012, we were also able to obtain several notable achievements in the three r's: Recreation, Rebuilding, and Resiliency.

Recreation

Our Recreation Division operates 35 fee-based recreation centers, 11 field houses, and 6 centers programmed by community based organizations. Recreation center amenities include: indoor pools, weight rooms, gymnasiums, indoor tracks, dance studios, art studios, game rooms and computer class rooms. Recreation centers offer a wide range of programs for seniors, adults and children. Most programs are free or low-cost, and are open to the general public. Our programs include fitness and sports, afterschool programming for children ages 6-13, teen programs for youth 14-17, computer access and instruction, as well as a variety of leisure activities.

In 2013, NYC Parks added a new category for membership at its 35 recreation centers so that young adults, ages 18 to 24, can join for only \$25 per year. This was an important goal for Parks as we work in partnership with our sister agencies to tackle the prevalence of obesity in our city. In the first year we are proud to report we enrolled over 15,000 young adults in this category.

Overall our recreation center membership is growing. There are currently 147,905 active members at the NYC Parks recreation centers. This represents a 12% increase since the beginning of FY14, and a more than 32% increase in active membership since June 2012.

Also in 2013, we re-opened the fully renovated Gertrude Ederle Recreation Center on Manhattan's West Side, completed renovations on the Williamsbridge Oval Recreation Center in the Bronx, and restored indoor pools at Brownsville Recreation Center in Brooklyn and Hansborough in Manhattan. From Staten Island to Queens, Brooklyn to the Bronx, and Harlem to Chelsea, hundreds of pieces of new top-quality fitness equipment arrived at our gyms. Hundreds of fitness classes taught by the best instructors in the city were available on a daily basis to anyone who wanted to "Shape Up" or "Walk NYC" through partnerships with Empire Blue Cross and Equinox Gyms.



Lyons Pool & Fitness Center unveiled its new state-of-the-art fitness room on June 6th. After the demise of the Cromwell Recreation Center three years ago, Staten Island lost its sports and fitness hub. The Staten Island team, however, has been able to transform the Lyons Pool locker rooms into arguably the best fitness facility of our 35 recreation centers. Representing a \$140,000 investment, all construction was completed in-house by Staten Island shops.

Launched in January 2011, Swim for Life is dramatically changing the way public agencies and private organizations work together to access swim facilities and deliver swim instruction to NYC's public school children. With a centralized administration through NYC Parks and informed by some of the best swim models nationwide, Swim for Life has aligned New York City's lead swim providers with a common curriculum and program delivery mechanism to provide swim instruction to NYC's second graders. Since 2011, this program has expanded from 10 to 35 sites and has served students at 193 public schools. To date, more than 27,000 second graders have learned basic water safety skills through Swim for Life.

In January, the Flushing Meadow Corona Pool transitioned from USA Pools care to NYC Parks stewardship. Today, there are 50 NYC Parks employees that work from this site. These staff provide high quality swim instruction through the NYC Parks Aquatics programming, dedicated building maintenance through City Park Workers and other maintenance staff, a safe and secure swimming area through trained and professional NYC Parks Lifeguards, and high quality customer service.

Our Kids in Motion program, which has been historically supported by the Council and recently baselined, received 312,087 visits in 2013 at 93 sites. The Kids in Motion program also works with the NYC Department of Education's Free Summer Food Program to offer healthy and delicious lunches to all participants at select sites. In 2013, more than 55,000 summer meals were distributed at Kids in Motion sites.

In previous years, the Council allocated funding of \$1 million that provided for the staffing of 30 Playground Associates that offer year-round programming in recreation centers and parks citywide. Playground Associates organize group or team games, tournaments, multi-game events and other recreational activities. This funding has also been baselined.

Two other popular free programs run by our Recreation Division are Shape Up NYC and WalkNYC. Shape Up is a long standing partnership with NYC Service and Equinox and garnered new financial support from Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield through the WellPoint Foundation. Shape Up offers 261 free fitness classes at 134 locations which include both park and non-park locations such as schools, senior and community centers, hospitals, and libraries. Class offerings are varied and include Yoga, Pilates, Zumba, Kickboxing and Cardio Sculpt. Beginning in May 2010 through March 2014, Shape Up NYC has received more than 529,713 visits to more than 28,517 classes. In 2013 alone, there were 143,839 visits to 8,074 classes.

In addition to Shape Up NYC, Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield also provides financial support to Walk NYC. Walk NYC is a free, citywide initiative encouraging New Yorkers to get fit, stay fit, and engage in healthy activity—all while enjoying the



outdoors of NYC Parks. With funding from Empire Blue Cross Blue Shield, this program provides qualified walking instructors to lead a program focused on stretching, form, and core muscle strength not only as a part of the walk, but also as a part of designated warm-ups and cool-downs. Since April 2011, Walk NYC had 47,218 visits to more than 3,600 walks.

The Urban Park Rangers operate from 11 Nature Centers. Each serves as an in-park community center for public education, recreational activities, and environmental studies. The centers serve as starting points for walking tours and workshop sites for educational programs for the whole family.

UPR led 3,401 programs for 80,684 participants and served 12,805 additional people through nine nature centers in 2013. The Rangers served a total 34,164 people through 1,606 free weekend recreation programs; 3,695 summer campers through 150 outdoor recreation programs, and 9,445 people through 394 ropes course programs at the Alley Pond Adventure Course and responded to 332 animal conditions. In addition, non-UPR community groups and other partners led 175 programs for 4,380 participants at our nature centers last year.

The Natural Classroom is a series of hands-on, park-based education programs developed by the Urban Park Rangers in conjunction with the National Geographic Society and the Department of Education to help students meet academic performance standards in Math, English, Science and Social Studies. Programs are available through Ranger nature centers in New York City's flagship parks or can be scheduled in a neighborhood park. In 2013, 33,140 school children were served through 1,236 TNC programs.

Rebuilding

Parks' capital budget includes \$2.5 billion over the next four years. This funding will enable us to continue creating and building parks and playgrounds with transformative designs that contribute to what we modestly refer to as the country's best park system. On average, we completed 120 projects each year and currently have 427 active projects in our design, procurement and construction processes.

The Council has always been a major supporter and funder of park projects across the city. Recently, with the support of the local council member we were able to complete several key projects and I am happy to mention some of those successes with you today.

In Morningside's 123rd Street Playground we completed the first phase of this project which features new play equipment, safety surfacing, a spray shower, basketball courts, a children's overlook, benches, game tables, picnic tables and plantings.

Canarsie Park Playground was completed in October opening a playground with new play equipment and safety surfacing, benches, fencing, and plantings and infiltration gardens to conserve water and reduce site runoff.

Finally, three heavily used soccer fields in Flushing Meadows Corona Parks were reconstructed with new synthetic turf and reopened.



In addition to the great work happening in our neighborhood parks, we also continued to make progress on some of our larger park projects.

In Manhattan at Fort Washington Park, we are developing new waterfront parkland along the Hudson River. New Yorkers will soon enjoy expanded access to the beloved Little Red Lighthouse and spectacular views of the New Jersey Palisades and the George Washington Bridge.

In south Brooklyn, Parks is transforming the 73-acre Calvert Vaux Park, located near Coney Island. The park currently features two new synthetic turf fields, restored aquatic and coastal habitats, a main entry rain garden, parking lot, and security lighting. A comfort station and field house are currently in design.

On Staten Island, NYC Parks is partnering with the City's Department of Design and Construction on a world-class indoor track and field facility at Ocean Breeze Park that will provide a home and training ground for children, high school, collegiate, and professional athletes, as well as an extraordinary year-round resource for the community.

In the Bronx at Soundview Park, we have opened a new field house and restored a lagoon and wetlands and construction is nearly complete on the Soundview Track and Field and Metcalf Playground.

In Queens, where the reservoir in Highland Park once served as the back-up water supply for Brooklyn and Queens, we have reconstructed the reservoir's perimeter walkways with trails so New Yorkers can appreciate the natural landscape.

Rockaway Beach now offers sports courts, a synthetic turf football field, a skate park, a new comfort station, a climbing wall, and a new playground, all of which weathered Sandy well as a result of sustainable design.

First opened in 1848 and standing majestically over the Harlem River, the 1,200-foot-long High Bridge walkway was closed to the public four decades ago. This year, the restored High Bridge will once again connect Bronx residents to upper Manhattan, including the Highbridge Pool and Recreation Center and upper Manhattan parks.

In order to stay on pace with the capital commitment, while at the same time rebuilding our parks from the damage of hurricane Sandy, Parks hired 30 temporary FEMA-funded design professionals (architects, landscape architects, and engineers). In addition, we hired 43 permanent design and construction staff positions that the Council had advocated for on our behalf.

Resiliency

After causing more than \$800 million worth of damage to our parks, Superstorm Sandy has taught us that we need to build for the future. Sandy inundated over 5,700 acres of the Park system and damaged approximately 430 Parks sites. We have been working since to not only recover what was lost but to actively build a more resilient park system.



Eight public beaches underwent a \$270 million restoration in 2013. NYC Parks is hard at work with the Economic Development Corporation to design and build a new Rockaway boardwalk that is stronger more resilient and is integrated into a multi-layer system of coastal protection; sand replenishment is underway with the Army Corps of Engineers where we are pumping 3.5 million cubic yards of sand onto Rockaway Beach, and another 600,000 cubic yards onto Coney Island and we are grateful to our partners in government for their support.

Along Rockaway in Queens and at South, Midland, New Dorp, Oakwood, and Cedar Grove Beaches in Staten Island a total of 55,000 linear feet of protective berms were installed. In Rockaway, 5,000 linear feet of concrete baffle walls were also replaced to prevent sand drifting.

Much of our work has been in coordination with the Army Corps of Engineers. We are closely collaborating with the Corps on the Rockaway Beach and Jamaica Bay Reformulation Study which will develop new coastal protection strategies for those communities. Currently, we are also working with the Army Corps to complete Phase I of the Staten Island Shoreline Protection alternative which runs from Fort Wadsworth to Oakwood Beach and a Phase II study of protection measures for Great Kills to Tottenville.

In Rockaway, Parks is leading a Rockaway Parks Conceptual Planning process to create a blueprint for a comprehensive park system from Beach 9th to 149th Streets, beach to bay, and the southern tip of Broad Channel. The plan includes recommendations to replace recreational amenities lost in Hurricane Sandy, and integrate resiliency into NYC Parks' plans. The final plan is currently being reviewed by our stakeholders and will be released this April.

Building sustainably and responsibly is the norm at NYC Parks. Our Maintenance and Operations team has been weatherizing our 1,000 buildings, and revamping our boilers for maximum efficiency. We implemented new storm-water capture systems at sites such as Bushwick Inlet Park in Brooklyn, completed in Fall 2013, and at hundreds of Greenstreets. We've built or retrofitted dozens of green roofs, and the NYC Parks facility known as 5-Boro, features a green roof laboratory visited by experts from all over the country and around the world. Our Capital and Planning divisions are working to update the High Performance Landscape Guidelines to ensure that all of our parks are being designed with sustainability in mind.

At a new and unprecedented Science and Resilience Institute located in Jamaica Bay, NYC Parks and the National Parks Service will be joined by the City University of New York and a consortium of educational institutions to explore new measures with which to face storm impacts and climate change in the years ahead. This historic partnership improves one of our great natural treasures even as it offers more outdoor recreation and access for everyone, from boating and hiking to biking and camping adventures.

148 miles of coastline, equal to 27% of the City's shoreline, is in Parks' jurisdiction and the coastline and development of our waterfront management systems are at the forefront of our resiliency planning efforts.



Parks plans to use information generated by a city-wide waterfront mapping effort from the Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability (OLTPS) and EDC to inform the design and implementation of a comprehensive Parks waterfront inspections initiative. Working alongside EDC, Parks is developing a plan for comprehensive inspections of our waterfront properties, which comprise 27% of the City's shoreline. These inspections will enable Parks to better understand the City's coastal resiliency needs and continue Parks' responsible stewardship of the City's parklands.

Parks envisions advancing long-term resiliency through many short and longer term goals. These include mapping and creating plans through community engagement for vulnerable open spaces, playgrounds, and facilities; Creating design standards for open spaces and waterfronts; Implementing a comprehensive program of stewardship, creation, consolidation, and management of wetlands and natural areas for climate change mitigation and flood attenuation; Expanding and integrating green infrastructure into the open space design process; Enhancing recreational and public space as part of a community protection strategy against flood and stormwater risk and; Mitigating heat impacts of climate change and urban heat islands through tree and plant shade.

Dunes are essential for protection against damaging coastal storms. Beach grass helps to increase the size of dunes by trapping windblown sand and its fibrous root system strengthens dunes by keeping sand in place. In April, Parks will be holding several volunteer events to plant beach grass along the crests of the dunes that will be built as community protection measures. These events will take place on Staten Island on April 6th at Crescent Beach and on April 19th at Conference House Park and In Rockaway on April 26th and 27th. We invite all to attend and to help us spread the word on these very important projects.

At the root of many of our successes stands the commitment from our dedicated volunteers. These volunteers are essential to achieving many of our goals including those related to resiliency.

Last year alone, Partnerships for Parks, a joint program of NYC Parks and City Parks Foundation, provided support to nearly 500 community groups across the city. Partnerships assisted community groups with the coordination of over 115 service projects and 190 events, facilitated over 25 meetings for partner groups and attended nearly 400 community meetings to provide information and guidance. This does not include the work they do for It's My Park Day, which has been expanded to It's My Park Month, where last year we engaged 11,250 participants throughout the five boroughs benefitting 260 parks across NYC.

One of Partnerships' key programs is People Make Parks, a joint project of Hester Street Collaborative and Partnerships for Parks, that seeks to help New Yorkers participate in the design of parks and green spaces. People Make Parks provides community groups with tools and resources to effectively contribute to NYC Parks' building and design process. The initiative promotes collaboration between invested communities and NYC Parks, encouraging a diversity of participants to participate in the creation of meaningful places. On average, the neighborhoods where these projects are taking place have fewer acres of green space per resident than 59% of NYC community districts.



Another is the Catalyst program which is a multi-year community development program that fosters engagement in neighborhood green spaces in underserved communities. Currently, Catalyst is focused on three waterfront parks—East River Park in Manhattan, Kaiser Park in Brooklyn, and Soundview Park in the Bronx. The program utilizes three core strategies—engagement, programming, and physical improvement. The Catalyst Program is committed to the formation and building the capacity of community groups to serve as stewards through the development of shared goals, local leadership, and participation. Catalyst will be focused on the following sites beginning in Fall 2014 - Faber Park in Staten Island, parks and green infrastructure sites in East Harlem, and will continue work in Kaiser and Calvert Vaux Parks in Brooklyn. These two flagship programs of Partnerships for Parks are crucial to community engagement of New Yorkers in their parks.

Partnerships for Parks isn't the only division at Parks that actively engages New Yorkers. With over 600 gardens, our GreenThumb program plays a pivotal role in the communities that surround our gardens.

GreenThumb is the nation's largest urban gardening program focusing on sites in CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) eligible areas. Its mission is to educate and support community gardens and urban farming while preserving open space. Our community and school gardens are hubs of activity, providing a myriad of environmental, economic, and social benefits to our diverse communities. By providing materials and technical support for our community gardens, we enable the volunteers who manage the gardens to strengthen their community.

With urban farming growing in popularity and individuals concerned with obesity related illnesses, the GreenThumb program provides a key service in a changing urban landscape. We have been fortunate to receive \$50,000 from NYC Service to assist with rebuilding and repairing garden sites affected by Hurricane Sandy. In addition, GreenThumb secured \$25,000 in funds to complete the design and construction of 15 new gardens. These gardens are located in at-risk areas, as identified by the Mayor's Obesity Task Force, to help combat the prevalence of obesity in these neighborhoods.

Finally, the Natural Areas Volunteers (NAV) was created to engage a network of volunteers who are actively caring for reforestation sites across the city in our forests, wetlands, and coastlines. NAV volunteers plant trees, shrubs, and grasses; remove harmful invasive exotic vegetation; care for street tree beds; and remove debris from our wetlands. Last year in FY14, the Natural Areas Volunteers Program hosted 108 volunteer projects with 4,066 volunteers contributing 14,231 volunteer hours. Through the stewardship program called NAVigators, they trained 47 long-term volunteers who logged a total of 555 independent hours to help improve reforestation sites.

From our staff to our volunteers, from recreation to resiliency, there are so many people actively dedicated and engaged in making our 29,000 acres the best they can be. Thank you for allowing me to testify before you today and we look forward to partnering with you to make our parks greener and greater. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.



**New York City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation
Hearing on the FY15 Preliminary Budget
March 27, 2014**

Testimony of Tupper Thomas, New Yorkers for Parks

Good afternoon Chairman Levine and members of the Parks Committee. I'm Tupper Thomas, Executive Director of New Yorkers for Parks. Last Friday really was an inspiring day for park advocates in New York City. Mayor de Blasio and Commissioner Silver offered thoughtful, even-handed commentary centered around a clear goal: a fairer park system for all New Yorkers. We left the announcement with genuine optimism. And we're also pleased to see that the mayor's preliminary budget for Parks not only baselines many of the important restorations made over the past few years, but funds items up front that are usually subject to the annual budget dance.

This good news gives us the opportunity to turn our attention to the larger issue of addressing inequities across the park system. The solution is complex and nuanced. While many of the large park conservancies are ready to work with the commissioner on bringing more private resources – financial and otherwise – to parks in need, it's clear, as this committee's chairman noted in the *Huffington Post* last week, that addressing inequities must begin with the public budget. There are several specific budget and policy reforms that the administration and Parks Department can undertake in the name of equity and fairness.

On the expense side, this will require addressing the top concern of many local park advocates: there simply isn't enough full-time staff assigned to the parks that need them most. Rather, 75 percent of DPR's maintenance staff is made up of Job Training Participants who work at the Department up to six months but are almost never given an opportunity for permanent employment once their training is complete. "Almost as soon as they're really up to speed on the park, they cycle out," a local advocate told us recently. Her comment rings true across the city. At the same time, many advocates tell us that having full-time staff – a familiar face in the park – gives users the sense that someone is accountable, and goes a long way toward improving the overall park experience. These issues offer Mayor de Blasio and Commissioner Silver an opportunity to both address park equity issues and create good jobs.

What would those jobs be, where would they make the most immediate impact, and how much money is needed to create them? Here are some great ways to get started in the highest-use, highest-need neighborhood parks:

- \$2 million for 10 full-time workers per borough to staff playgrounds with comfort stations.

- \$1.5 million for five skilled full-time gardeners per borough to help maintain larger neighborhood parks. Our organization learned first-hand how important these positions are when we helped lead the Neighborhood Parks Initiative almost 10 years ago.

Not only would these new positions start making a difference for parks most in need right away, but they'd offer an opportunity for the Department's part-time workers to gain full-time employment through a new, robust training program to help transition JTP staff into full-time maintenance workers and gardeners.

- Additionally, though the Parks Department has shortened its street-tree pruning cycle thanks to recent budget restorations, DPR still prunes very few park trees. \$2 million would allow the Department to at least prune about 25,000 trees in parks: a good start toward a pruning cycle.

These are possible suggestions for a better operating budget. If the Council could establish a neighborhood parks fund of \$5-6 million, Commissioner Silver could work with the Council on a plan that really addresses needs in underserved parks.

Last Friday ushered in a new era for New York City's parks. We're eager to work with Commissioner Silver and the leading conservancies on ways to bring more private money into high-need parks throughout the city, but we're also hopeful that the Parks Department will now turn its primary focus to large-scale budget and policy reforms aimed at addressing inequity – and, in turn, lifting the park system as a whole.

###

MARCUS GARVEY PARK ALLIANCE

Comments at the Parks Committee of the NYC Council

Good afternoon, members of the committee. My name is Valerie Jo Bradley and it pleases me to have this opportunity to speak about the work of the Marcus Garvey Park Alliance and the invaluable assistance our group has received from the City Parks Foundation. As a 34-year-long resident of my community, I have come to know and love its dynamic and eclectic nature. Harlem is a magical neighborhood in this wonderful city that we all love. Like the rest of the city, Harlem has many world famous sites but is unique in its reputation as the capital of African American culture. Home to many famous night clubs and theaters where Black entertainers and literary giants found inspiration and honed their skills, Harlem also has a treasured oasis of calm and green space – Marcus Garvey Park (formerly Mt. Morris Park for which the surrounding neighborhood was named). It has been canonized in such literature as Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*, Henry Roth's *A Star Shines Over Mt. Morris*, Rosa Guy's *The Friends*, and in the autobiographies of American music genius Richard Rodgers and *On The Water Front* screenwriter Budd Schulberg.

With help from the City Parks Foundation and Partnerships for Parks, the MGP Alliance has taken back the park for the community and it is once again a place where all stakeholders from around the city, the country and the world come to enjoy both quiet times and an exciting array of dynamic cultural events and programs. The City Parks Foundation has provided financial support and technical assistance to MGP Alliance since the earliest days of the Alliance's existence. We received a \$10,000 capacity building grant from the City Parks Foundation/Mellon Foundation Grant Program. With help from CPF, we applied for and were granted a \$295,000 matching grant from the NYS Department of Parks and Recreation and Historic Preservation that was matched by then City Councilman Bill Perkins. With that money we were able to repair the pathways leading up to the acropolis

in the park, the location of our iconic and landmark Fire Watchtower. CPF acted as our fiscal sponsor until we became a 501 (c) (3) organization. In 2001, CPF assigned a catalyst coordinator to Marcus Garvey Park whose work continues to yield benefits to our organization and to the park. Tamara Greenfield, the Partnerships for Parks catalyst coordinator, helped inaugurate several events such as the annual film festival, the Dance Harlem festival and the interfaith holiday celebrations that continue to this day. More important, she helped us organize two important community visioning sessions – one where the community established the priorities to revitalize the amphitheater and to revitalize the fire watchtower and acropolis, and second the session that identified what the amphitheater should contain to accommodate world-class events. Even now, we continue to grow as an organization when our members participate in Partnerships for Parks workshops. Partnerships gives us not only tools that help us to grow organizational capacity but they also give us gardening tools and supplies used during It's My Park Day events.

The MGPA has successfully worked to attract a variety of exciting cultural events and programs to the park. As a result of our efforts, we have our own events including, our annual Historic Harlem Parks Film Festival, Dance Harlem and the Easter Egg Hunt, and we have attracted CPF programming to the park. Due to our successful campaign to revitalize the Richard Rodgers Amphitheater, the community and visitors from across the country and around the world now enjoy CPF theatrical, music and dance performances every summer in our state of the art facility. We work well with Shamell Martin, our Partnerships for Parks Outreach Coordinator and we look forward to a long and continuing collaboration with the CPF and Partnerships for Parks. We expect, in the near future, to open a CPF funded children's reading and library circle in the park.

We will continue to introduce new features, such as the reading circle, and new equipment, events and programming to the park. The success of the Alliance in revitalizing and reclaiming Marcus Garvey Park for the community is built upon the commitment of our community group working in collaboration with the City Parks Foundation and Partnerships for Parks. Thank you.



WOODSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

ONE COMMUNITY – ONE FUTURE

41-35 63 Street

Woodside, NY 11377

(347) 527-0620

www.woodsidenighborhoodassociation.com

ON THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION PROPOSED EXPENSE BUDGET FOR FY2015 TESTIMONY BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

David Rosasco, Chair, Woodside Neighborhood Association
Elba Santiago, Board Member, Woodside Neighborhood Association

March 27, 2014

Firstly, allow me to speak on behalf of myself, Elba Santiago and the entire team of the Woodside Neighborhood Association in thanking the Chairperson Mark Levine, Majority Leader and Committee Member Councilmember Jimmy Van Bramer, who also, it must be noted, is our representative in this body, and other members of the Committee on Parks and Recreation for this opportunity to testify on behalf of our organization as it pertains to the proposed FY2015 budget for the New York City Parks and Recreation. It is indeed an honor we share with not only the members of our group, but with the thousands of residents of the Woodside community, in whose name we are here today.

The Woodside Neighborhood Association, small in size, with almost no funding, but underpinned by substantial determination and unwavering willpower, has, we strongly believe based on the evidence of our work that is easily identifiable to even the most casual observer, restored large sections of the entire Woodside zip code in good order at no cost to the taxpayer, and indeed raised the level of our enterprises, and those of our people, where simple tasks are repeated often until perfect and repeatable by others, bringing hands to iron in the discharge of our enterprises one would expect from free peoples.

Under our three (3) pillars of greening, cleaning and graffiti remediation, conceived and interwoven in such a way that the entire public space is renewed to almost pristine condition, but, moreover, the spirit of our people in this Town of Woodside is strengthened, bringing all of the souls within it together as equals and as leaders who serve, ask for nothing except for their patience and endurance to stay with us on this long journey to reconcile word with deed, make the revitalization of this community and the public order in practical, easily visible examples of this work that, it is hoped, prepares the next generation to carry on the struggle to preserve and, as it were, expand our endeavors to each street up to the very borders of our home.

The staggering number of completed projects over the course of the past three (3) years could warm even the hardest of hearts. These are not exaggerations, but a carefully, well-conceived roll-out of tasks designed specifically to raise the level of our working class community with first-class values that other, ancient and very well-funded organizations would have trouble formulating, much less acting upon given the all-star quality of the members of this team and the skill sets they offer freely, meaning that the great reversal of fortunes towards a better future is suddenly upon us.

WOODSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

ONE COMMUNITY – ONE FUTURE

41-35-63-Street

Woodside, NY 11377

(347) 527-0620

www.woodsideneighborhoodassociation.com

Meanwhile, one may ask how is it that this small band of people with almost no funding and limited resources achieved all it did, and of course one would have to observe our team in action, but also have an understanding of the Woodside Strong concept that binds our people to cause and the general welfare of each individual.

In the Town of Woodside, for example, our entire budget having not yet reached \$10,000 over these years was made wholly possible through the belief in our mission by two local businesses I must mention. First, Paint Place NY, known widely as Gleason's Paint Store, has buttressed this entire endeavor with material support and expertise on the graffiti remediation area of our work, and secondly, we cite Sean Ogs Bar & Restaurant, both having risen to the challenge posed by humble people attempting to carry out such projects, and without their assistance, it is safe to say, we could have never realized even half of the ongoing projects as we look toward 2020 as the target year for the completion of all the restoration work. Moreover, based on a small grant of \$2,300 from the Citizens Committee for New York City, and the direct involvement of Arif Ullah, their grant coordinator, we were able to procure more substantial material supplies in 2013 that brought all scheduled tasks to fulfillment. Further, I note with particular gratitude the work of allied organizations such as the LDS Ministries of Woodside, St. Jacobus Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Sebastian's Roman Catholic Church and the Ahlul Bayt Islamic Center for their stepping up to assist us across the entire scope of the project.

But today, we must tell you of the critical work in the greening area, being in our view, the turn key that nourishes all other projects. The Partnership for Parks, under the Greening Western Queens Project, since the very moment our destinies crossed paths almost at the same time we began our augmented agenda, has been the single most important piece of the complex and overlapping plans our group has initiated. The sheer number of initiatives made possible through their programs and expertise not only raises our skill level with respect to greening, it is even this day adding value so that one day, to be sure, a future generation will sit under a tree, or on a park bench that was maintained in its proper order directly because of their belief in us, and our faith in them.

Under the Greening Western Queens Project, 192 trees known to us have been planted in Woodside over the past two years. More recently, tree guards, a collaboration of TreesNY with the strong backing of Sam Bishop, their Education Coordinator, and others, are being installed to these newly planted trees, which we mulch and water, clean and plant daffodil bulbs within the tree beds, to the tune of thousands, most of which were procured from our close ties with the Partnership.

The small parks in Woodside, ones people actually utilize, have witnessed routine repainting of public fixtures, varnishing of benches, trimming of trees and bushes, cleaning and all of this, with tools, materials and expertise provided by the Partnership. Could you conceive of what our group could do given more funding to the Partnership, and by extension, the Parks Department?

And why would we, in an age of economic instability and prioritization consider green spaces or trees as a priority, could be answered simply by the results of our worthwhile efforts in Woodside. We recognized early that, if it be our generation has failed to carry the banner, and our entire mission and its governing philosophy centering on people in their toils and the many degradations they have endured, then, indeed, remnants of the great doers in life would work to elevate those few who refuse to concede our defeat by creating a public space

BRITE LEADERSHIP COALITION

Contact: Vincent Riggins

Park Volunteer and Coalition building for 30yr

A Brief History of Parks in Urban Areas

Until the late 19th century much of our city space was owned by private landlords. Squares were gated, streets and Parks were controlled and enjoyed by the people at their discretion. Many of whom had been expelled from the south by economic realities, were also excluded from desirable parts of town in urban areas in the north.

Social reformers and democratic movements tore down the barriers, and public space became a right, not a privilege. A world made safe for selling mountains of pointless junk to tranquillized shoppers and a "sleep walking" constituency, *that have accepted the violation of their freedom.* Spontaneous gatherings of any other kind – unruly, exuberant, open-ended, or family friendly are regulated, oppressed or banned. Young, homeless, eccentric and beverage consumers are, in the eyes of those upholding this dead-eyed, sanitized version of public order, guilty until proven innocent.' To oppress what's good for the sake of the rule is counter productive to the foundational necessity to encourage fellowship and mentorship between our youth and seniors. The resent so called "Knockout" occurrences confirms the disconnect between our youth, elders and the community. I know that ones sense of community has a direct correlation to reduce senseless crime and violence. The activities that occur in parks can bridge the gap. For the train of thought, with objections that may be rational, the only impediment is creative legislation or at the very least lax enforcement for minor (so called) violations.

A great way to add value to interrelationships between generations in the urban area is "cook outs". So I would like to encourage the proliferation of cook-out amenities where the need arise and space is available.

Yet regulations and prohibitions have made it impossible to institute spontaneity into a family friendly dialogue and or activities. We reject

and at the very least, question the need for the citizens to request permission from government to fellowship with resident of our community without prior notice (especially if that fellowship does not interfere with others).

Brite Leadership Coalition was founded in 1985 (previously Spring Creek Park Committee, a subsidiary of Spring Creek Athletic Federation Inc) by Katherine Riggins and I, her son Vincent Riggins, specifically to build a bridge of understanding and fellowship between the youth in targeted developments. One of the major supporters during those challenging times was Councilmember Pricilla Wooten who actually funded Basketball Tournaments to Bridge that gap. Because of these initiative friendships where developed between young men/women that were at odds with one another, for in part because of a ravageist drug infestation that effected all communities and sometimes for no other reason than living in a different development or on a different block. Because of our initiative points of contention where minimized friendships were established and a sense of one community prevailed. Youth that were once at odds with each other, actually teamed up to compete together around the city, representing ENY.

Linden Park was our only oasis during this challenging time, when ENY was the murder capital of the nation. All "beefs" where kept outside of the park with one exception, when a youth was shot playing a board game and died. We chased and caught the perpetrator and handed him to the police. To the best of my knowledge there haven't been a shooting around activities since.

BLC continued it's activism as a (Linden Park) Park volunteer . During the 1980's the city had severe budget challenges that resulted in Park personal layoffs and a shortage of resources to maintain parks. With the help of then Boro. President Howard Golden the park volunteer program was born. He made available everything from paint, brushes, brooms, shovel, gloves, garbage bags and more. BLC took responsibility to help with the maintenance, from general clean up to painting of handball walls complete with lines. We also provided and attached cushions to protect youth from the single basketball support poles that use to be on the courts In fact BLC is directly responsible for developing the

methodology for keeping the walls graffiti free and the Parks dept employee the same technique until today.

I'll like to give special recognition to PFP outreach coordinator for Linden (Emily Sherrod and her predecessor Hassan King who has moved on to another assignment). The Park Volunteer program has now transition to an improved "Partnership For Parks". PFP is the stabilizing organization that encourage community participation and initiatives, that keep our urban oasis sustainable. Their input, suggestion and advocacy should be considered when space is a issues and grants are made. We believe that established PFP members should have priority excess and waiver of all fees even for special events.

We are currently conducting membership drives and coalition building with the local Tenant Associations, Block Asso. and other progressive organization to increase capacity. We know when a community take ownership of the sustainability of our urban oasis, the quality of life improves.

Thank You for all that you do and the extra time that you may have granted.

For more information contact: Vincent Riggins 917-754-2426

E-Mail: blceny@aol.com

Website: blceny.com



Good afternoon Committee Chair Mark Levine and committee councilmembers of Parks and Recreation. Thank you for the opportunity to testify at this preliminary budget hearing for the upcoming fiscal year.

My name is Michael Palma, and along with many other volunteers, we run the Montefiore Park Neighborhood Association in the heart of Hamilton Heights; an oft overlooked neighborhood in upper Manhattan, wedged between Morningside Heights and Washington Heights.

Montefiore Park itself is located at 137th St and Broadway.

Since 1994, when Alida Palma founded the Montefiore Park Neighborhood Association, it has been one of many grassroots organizations promoting parks as a way to increase the quality of life in our Hamilton Heights neighborhood -- a community which had keenly felt the depredations of poor City policy of the 1960's, the government's continued divestment in the 70's, and the ravages of the drug epidemic of the 80's.

Hamilton Heights lost gathering places like movie houses and live theaters, dance and music halls, fine and healthy eateries and cafes, healthy produce and grocery stores, community civic centers, ball fields, swimming pools and play grounds.

Montefiore Park, and indeed Hamilton Heights, has come a long way from those devastating days but the neighborhood has not fully recovered.

Indeed, the heart of the sweeping urban renaissance occurring in our City now, but slow to reach our neck of the woods of Hamilton Heights, is spurred by newly revitalized parks.

One only has to look at the High Line in the Lower West Side as perhaps the most prominent and shining example of how a park can change a neighborhood, but there are many others examples.

Going on 20 years the Montefiore Park Neighborhood Association has worked cooperatively with the City agencies to care for, maintain, and physically improve Montefiore Park in order to revitalize and bring back a sense of community in Hamilton Heights.

Many of our park programs and activities would not have been possible without the support of the Parks Department and the direct assistance of its community outreach arm, Partnership for Parks.

Partnership for Parks provides workshops for volunteer park leaders to be better community organizers, programmers and advocates.

Their technical assistance has led to the creation of our first website (montefiorepark.org) and program brochure, which builds our capacity to increase community involvement.

They also facilitate securing permits, provide gardening tools, supplies and plants, helped us learn how to navigate intricate City agencies, introduced us to key players, and offer the joyful and empowering city-wide opportunity to engage our neighbors, like "It's My Park Day."

In great part to Partnerships for Parks support, we are able to organize our gardening and pruning Saturdays, ecological educational activities for children, Playstreets along the park, art installations, and our holiday tree lighting and end of year volunteer appreciation celebration.

As Partnerships for Parks ~~that~~ provides us with technical assistance for a broader outlook and community vision, our collaborative efforts with the Parks Department focus on immediate and physical park concerns.

In all our park activities, the Parks & Recreation Managers and the Park's Maintenance & Operations team have been key partners in our success to bring family programming and multi-generational community events to Montefiore Park.

Because of this, it has been painful to observe how thinly parks staff members are spread over their districts, and how the numbers of parks they are responsible almost exceeds their ability to give each their proper attention.

This, I have been told, is largely due to budget and staff cuts over the last few years.

I beseech you, please reverse this short sighted and hurtful budget cutting trend!

Especially in low and middle income neighborhoods of which we have many in NYC, parks take on a greater significance beyond a pause or break from the dense cityscape.

Parks are our back yards, our escape from the rush and hectic city life, a community's only accessible place where people can rest, exercise and interact with each other and nature.

Parks are vital to the social and economic fabric of a community, especially in lower income neighborhoods where they have proven to be a catalyst of neighborhood improvement and an increased quality of life.

Parks serve as green engines to help address critical community needs such as health, education, and environmental justice, and they counter economic depression and combat crime.

Parks should be safe, beautiful and diligently maintained.

As active park volunteers and on behalf of all residents of Hamilton Heights and the great City of New York, we urge you to increase their capital and expense budgets to ensure that the Department of Parks and Recreation can continue to improve our parks and maintain a consistent, skilled and ample Maintenance & Operations team, so that every park in every NYC neighborhood, can be as livable and glorious as each should be. Thank you.

March 25th 2014 Testimony of Greg Mays – Founder, A Better Jamaica, Inc. and Chair of Queens Community Board 12 Parks Committee

Good day. I'm Greg Mays, Founder and Executive Director of A Better Jamaica. We're a non-profit community service organization engaged in activities designed to strengthen a set of southeast Queens neighborhoods known collectively as Jamaica.

In the summer of 2006, I went over to Forest Park to see "The Wizard of Oz" with a couple of nephews and a next-door neighbor's child. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience of watching a great movie under the stars, but left asking a single question: "Why do I have to leave my neighborhood, to have such a community building experience?"

Being an action oriented person, I decided that I did not have to. In January of 2007, I started a non-profit that would — among other things — show movies in my neighborhood so that my neighbors could have a fantastic community building experience as well.

After establishing A Better Jamaica, I asked different elected officials in southeast Queens for funds. Former City Council Member Leroy Comrie gave us \$5,000 to show movies.

We quickly turned that \$5,000 over to Fresh Air Flicks, and we showed "Happy Feet" and "Pride" in the summer of 2007 in Saint Albans Park. Last summer, with our own equipment, we showed 21 movies spread across five different parks in Jamaica, Queens.

We view what we do as providing a free means to establish/renew community/family ties. There is nothing like watching a great movie underneath the stars with family, friends, and neighbors.

We obviously could not do what we do without access to clean and safe parks in our neighborhood. Until recently, because we are a non-profit that doesn't charge anything to see our movies, we were able to use the parks free of charge.

Several years ago, we were asked to start paying overtime for the parks staff that would help us maintain safety and security, and keep the restrooms open until the end of the movies. As you might imagine, having to pay overtime put a serious dent in our budget — to the tune of about \$3,000.

Despite these additional costs, today I am here to sing the praises of the parks department, and to encourage all who have it within their power to increase spending for parks.

My involvement with the parks department ultimately led to my becoming the chair of the parks committee for Queens Community Board 12 — a position that I have held now for just over two years.

As parks chair, we've adopted the mission of advocating for the appropriate amount, nature, and quality of park space within Community Board 12. We're presently advocating for a skatepark in southeast Queens and have a skatepark rally planned for this coming Saturday at Laurelton Playground.

I relish my role as chair of the parks committee for Community Board 12 because I know that for some, New York City Parks are the equivalent of the Hamptons — a place to retreat, especially in the summer.

In fact, we have everything the Hamptons have except the fancy houses. We have beaches, film festivals, fancy restaurants like the Shake Shack, and beautiful green spaces that play host to sporting activities and fabulous concerts.

~~March 25th 2014 Testimony of Greg Mays – Founder, A Better Jamaica, Inc. and Chair
of Queens Community Board 12 Parks Committee~~

It is my sincere hope that you will see fit to increase spending for parks in the coming fiscal year.

27th Street Community Builders
Nancy Perez
20-16 27th Street Astoria, NY 11105
917 750-4111/ nancyperezrod@gmail.com

Hearing before the New York City Council
Committee on Parks & Recreation
Preliminary FY 15 Budget Hearing
March 27, 2014

Testimony By: Nancy Perez

Good afternoon, Chair Levine and members of the City Council's Parks and Recreation Committee. My name is Nancy Perez and I am a member of the 27th Street Community Builders.

Partnership for Parks has enabled 27th Street Community Builders to flourish as we began working together to form a group of neighbors who longed to connect and work together to not only make our street more green but to get to know each other. Living in NYC is a challenge and neighbors often find themselves isolated in a city of many. It was one of the focuses of this group to help break away from that and build relationships among neighbors.

We began with a social gathering in order to get to know each other as well as setting up workshops that we participated during the year. In April of 2012 we drafted up and distributed fliers to announce our 27th Street Spring Season Gathering. We noticed that our Harvest Season Gathering, the prior October, had brought out many neighbors to our initial information session to discuss the need

for trees on our street. That allowed us to get people to attend the first tree care training on October 29th of 2011 at the public library. It was well attended in spite of the freakish snowstorm that day. The trees were planted November 2011. In April of 2012 we received a Capacity Fund and began making plans to purchase the materials for the tree guards from Home Depot with the intention of assembling them in the summer of 2012.

The first Tree Care Workshop of that year was on Saturday May 25th, 2013. We chose to hold this on 27th Street as neighbors contributed iced coffee, iced tea, bagels and other baked goods to support a day of assembling our tree guards.

In preparation for this day a few neighbors met the prior weekend, Saturday May 18, 2013 to measure, cut and package materials into shopping bags for the assembly of each tree guard. This made the distribution of material well organized and easy to work with.

All this work helped give shape and vision to the future of 27th Street Community Builders as the Summer gave way to many passer bys who commented on the feel and look of the work we had done. A well-laid-out plan.

Neighbors enjoyed the positive reaction of those strolling the street and encouraged a Fall planting held over two weeks in November of 2013.

It is with the support and guidance of Partnership for Parks that we have been able to develop this vision for our street and have made it possible. They have been able to connect us with people and resources at other city agencies who help us become self-sufficient in continuing our plans for better and healthier streets and communities. For example I will soon begin a fellowship with Partnership for Parks and it is my intention to use this program to learn how to set up a block association in the coming months.



Luther Gulick Park is located on the south side of Delancey Street between Willett and Columbia Streets on the Lower East Side. The neighborhood demographic north of Delancey is predominantly low income; the neighborhood south of Delancey is predominantly middle income. It was built in the 1930s and offered recreational space and programs for a diverse and vibrant community. Over the years, it was neglected and fell into misuse. The final blow came in the late 1990s when an infestation of longhorn beetle took hold and 90% of the trees had to be destroyed and benches and tables were removed. It became a wasteland of cobble stones and weeds in a neighborhood desperately lacking green space.

In spring 2009, David Bolotsky, a life-long Lower East Side resident, looked at the derelict park at the end of his street and decided to take action. With encouragement from the Parks Department and Partnership for Parks he founded Friends of Gulick Park, whose mission was to restore and renovate the park to once again serve the community.

Friends of Gulick Park began at the Parks Academy where we attended workshops on group dynamics and organization, fund-raising and grant-writing, community engagement and event planning. Through Partnership for Parks grants we developed a brand and website, held visioning events and produced a comprehensive report on the community's wish list for their park. With support from Parks for *It's My Park Day* events we swept, raked, planted, painted, and slowly transformed that once desolate space. When our fund-raising efforts hit the \$1 million benchmark we began to work closely with Parks landscape designers to ensure that the community's vision for their park was realized. The plan was to renovate the park in two phases.

As a result of our efforts, the unwavering support of our elected officials, and a couple of unexpected funding sources today we now have \$5.5 million to renovate Luther Gulick Park in one phase.

You may say "mission accomplished" but our job is far from over. We now are focusing our energy on developing programs for the park, finding funding to add restrooms, and addressing maintenance, security and sustainability concerns. We are planning our May *It's My Park Day* that will include Parks play mobile, a table tennis tournament, a

basketball clinic, and the usual clean-up and planting. In partnership with Henry Street Settlement we will launch *Urban Drive-In* in July and will be showing fun family films in the park. We are particularly interested in having a park associate to organize activities for kids during the summer months.

Friends of Gulick Park stepped in to fulfill an obvious community need and desire for a safe and lively green space. All that we achieved has taken constant effort over the course of five years by a handful of volunteers; an overwhelmingly responsive and engaged community; other neighborhood non-profit organizations; and the support of Community Board 3, Parks Department, Partnership for Parks, and elected officials.

I pledge to you today that Friends of Gulick Park will continue to make our park a wonderful resource for the community. We clearly cannot accomplish this alone and respectfully request that you continue to fund these essential Parks programs and recognize the importance of Partnership for Parks.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elizabeth DeGaetano".

Elizabeth DeGaetano
Friends of Gulick Park Steering Committee



**New York City Council
Committee on Parks & Recreation
Preliminary Budget Hearing
March 27, 2014**

**New York Restoration Project Testimony
By Deborah Marton
Executive Director**

INTRODUCTION

Good afternoon, Chairman Levine, Committee members and distinguished colleagues. My name is Deborah Marton and I am Executive Director of New York Restoration Project, or NYRP. I am honored to be here today to testify on the success of NYRP's role as a citywide conservancy for parks and open spaces in under-resourced neighborhoods.

We all know New York City suffers from a discrepancy in the quality of its public open spaces. New York Restoration Project works to fill that gap. Since our founding in 1995, we've invested over \$120M in our city's highest need communities to ensure that every New Yorker has access to safe and beautiful open space. Our work falls into three broad categories: work in parks, in community gardens owned by NYRP, and tree planting as the city's partner in the MillionTreesNYC initiative. Our work spreads across all five boroughs with our strongest presence in the South Bronx, East Harlem, central Brooklyn, and northern Manhattan. One in every two New Yorkers lives within a 10 minute walk of an NYRP tree planting, community garden, park restoration, or other greening project.

PARKS

Working closely with the Parks Department, NYRP has revived parks that were once trash-filled and unusable, including Fort Tryon, Fort Washington, and Highbridge Parks, and we've planted trees and performed cleanups in dozens more. To maintain a 24-hour presence and introduce new visitors to Fort Tryon Park, we operate the New Leaf, a destination restaurant and sought-after venue for weddings. We are still also actively engaged in management of 40 acres on the north side of Highbridge Park.

Across Tenth Avenue from Highbridge Park, we have invested more than \$20M to date to create Sherman Creek Park, where we also manage daily maintenance and operations. Located next to the New York City Housing Authority's Dyckman Houses, this Harlem River waterfront park is home to the Peter Jay Sharp Boathouse, constructed by NYRP in 2004. Every day at the boathouse, hundreds of underserved public high school students participate in a program designed to help them secure scholarships to top colleges. Run by Row New York, the program has a 99% success rate. To make sure that continues, we're currently collaborating with the New York City Council who provided critical funding to undertake repairs needed to keep the boathouse afloat, and we are most grateful for that support. The latest addition to Sherman Creek Park will be a new \$5M fully resilient environmental education pavilion and community boating facility, to be built over the next two years with private funds secured last month.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

In 1999 we acquired 52 community gardens slated for development, so they could continue as green havens in some of the city's least green neighborhoods. Our gardens produce thousands of pounds of fresh vegetables and fruit every summer, host community celebrations, introduce children to horticulture and the natural world, and encourage young and old alike to become better environmental stewards. In fact, NYRP recently applied for City Council funding to expand our garden programming through a pilot called *Garden Growers*. If granted, we'll use the funding to provide hands-on lessons in urban agriculture and ecology to public school students who might not otherwise understand where their food comes from. *Garden Growers* will introduce thousands of students, educators, and caregivers to our spaces and provide roots to strengthen urban communities.

MILLIONTREESNYC

Finally, as the Department Parks & Recreation's lead partner on MillionTreesNYC, NYRP has been instrumental in exceeding the ambitious goals of this campaign, and in fact we anticipate reaching our goal of one million new trees a full two years ahead of schedule. We've been able to do this in part by partnering with numerous community organizations to encourage more New Yorkers to plant—and care for—trees on their own property. This spring alone, we'll partner with 75 local community groups to distribute 12,000 free trees, predominantly in lower-income, not-green-enough neighborhoods. Since more than 25% of our city's land is residential property with area for planting, our giveaways are perhaps the most efficient way we have to ensure that low income communities enjoy the health and quality of life benefits trees provide.

CONCLUSION

With a field team of more than 50 experienced gardeners, arborists, horticultural and community engagement experts deployed across the city, NYRP is well prepared to respond to environmental crises at a moment's notice. For example, when a tornado hit Maria Hernandez Park in Bushwick, we worked with the community to replant 74 trees within months. And after Superstorm Sandy, we deployed NYRP staff from Fort Tryon Park to Staten Island's Conference House Park to clear debris, restore pathways, and replant trees.

Whether planting trees on Staten Island, creating new park space, or supporting community gardens across the five boroughs, NYRP's projects improve air and water quality, reduce energy usage, and increase biodiversity. Those things are all vitally important, but in the end, everything we do is for the people who use the spaces we own or care for. That's what's most important – our gardens help transform neighborhoods into communities by engaging families, by providing a place for neighbors to meet, and generally bringing people together to care for a shared and cherished resource, yes, but also for one another.

I thank you for your partnership thus far, and look forward to our continued collaboration to make sure that every New Yorker enjoys clean, safe, and beautiful green spaces.

Thank you

Parks Committee

City Council

Dart Westphal

Bronx Council for Environmental Quality

Good afternoon. My name is Dart Westphal and I have been working on open space development issues for the past 35 years: from building gardens with the South Bronx Open Space Task Force to helping to found the Bronx River Alliance.

In all of these efforts, various strands of effort, support and resources have had to be woven together to make extraordinary things happen.

I believe that remains the case. How can this weaving together of public and private resources be continued in a way that is equitable and serves the public broadly?

First the public support of the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation has to be sufficient. This is particularly true now that so much has been invested in the capital reconstruction and expansion of the Parks system. At one of the "talking transition" sessions last summer, former Parks Commissioner Adrian Benape suggested that the full time year round parks staff should be increased from about 3700 to 4500 or 5000.

Whatever the right number is, some increase will be required as new parks come on line or are more fully developed. Examples in the Bronx include Soundview, Bridge Park, Pugsley Creek, and Ferry Point and Jerome Park Reservoir.

The Parks department must be sufficiently funded to do the things that it does such as, keeping parks clean, the fields mowed, bathrooms and spray showers running, fixing things when they break and running recreation programs.

That probably means that the 2015 expense budget should be bigger than the 2014 budget.

At the same time, secondly, funding from other sources has been found to make every park a source of pride for every community. Gardens, sophisticated turf care, natural areas management and increased programming and community engagement are all areas where private philanthropy, volunteers, service learning opportunities and partnerships with other levels of government can make all of New York City's parks welcoming places of beauty for all. Partnerships for Parks, the Natural Areas Conservancy and all of the partnering groups around the City need the support and assistance of everyone who cares about parks. They also need to know that their efforts are not replacing resources that should come from the City. I have had personal experience of raising money for a staff person for a park only to have a City Park Worker transferred out of that same park in return. Some sort of maintenance of effort has to be understood if partnerships are to be forged for the long term. It is harder to develop resources in poorer communities than in rich ones; but we all must work at it or we will have some communities that have truly splendid parks and some communities that have merely adequate parks and that is just not fair. Thirdly, if we are to have a unified system there has to be planning for long term capital needs and that means a citywide capital budget, which includes ten year cycle updates. Local elected officials have done marvelous work providing capital funds for parks in their communities but some parks, such as Van Cortlandt Park, require more than local capital allocations can provide. Relying on funding from unrelated capital projects like stadiums and water filtration plants is not a rational way to fund a Park system.

The Parks Department needs a capital budget, enough funding to hire enough people to do its job and the support of every facet of the Civic community.



Sara Roosevelt Park Community Coalition
<http://sdrpc.mkgarden.org/>

Good afternoon, My name is K Webster, President of the Sara Roosevelt Park Community Coalition.

The Parks Department has been our active partner in caring for this essential open space in our crowded and diverse neighborhoods. We appreciate Partnership for Parks for their ongoing support of this alliance. They provide steady guidance for the Coalition's stewardship in this park.

Parks need the community working in them: deciding, gardening, and creating in collaboration with the Parks Department. Not outside the fence waiting to be "served". We want a dynamic, ongoing relationship where we come to the table with common goals, disagreements, and with each group's unique expertise. We get smarter together.

Our parks and open spaces are the country homes, science labs, nature preserves, places of play, respite and community gathering for most city dwellers. They keep life more alive here.

Therefore our parks need dedicated, assured funding commensurate with these vital roles and funding for an expanded role we think they need to play going forward.

We need a living wage for our underpaid WEP workers. We can't maintain our parks on the backs of poor people.

But, urgently, climate mitigation, resiliency and recovery must now be part of the core mission of Parks.

We need innovative and decisive actions to meet the challenges of climate change and the present lack of adequate financial resources. We need to build a cadre of skilled and savvy citizen stewards and Park's workers to meet both those challenges.

Every park can become a model of sustainable practices: from solar lighting to recycling. They can be beacons of information about bird and bee habitat, indigenous plantings, and water reclamation. Our parks buildings can provide sites of learning on climate resiliency, sites of recovery, solar-powered charging stations, bike repair shops and think-tanks for technologies that show a way forward. We can educate our city on their stake in their own environment.

Our city also has a global reach. We can join efforts in earnest to shift the balance on climate disruption. Military leaders, 97% of scientists, along with us tree huggers all agree: we are at a tipping point.

This will be challenging and we can do it. And there really isn't any other choice.

Thank you for your time.

K Webster

President
Sara Roosevelt Park Coalition

CHRISTOPHER PARK PARTNERSHIP
10 SHERIDAN SQUARE, #11B
NEW YORK, NY 10014-6824

Hearing before the New York City Council's
Committee on Parks & Recreation
Preliminary Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Hearing
March 27, 2014

Testimony By: Jamila Dphrepaulezz
Christopher Park Partnership

Good Afternoon Chair Levine and members of the City Council's
Parks and Recreation Committee. Thank you for allowing me to
testify at this preliminary budget hearing.

My name is Jamila Dphrepaulezz and I am a Park Steward and
Volunteer Gardener in Christopher Park, located in Greenwich
Village, bordered by Christopher and Grove Streets.

A park of some historic significance visited by people from around the
world, Christopher Park is home to Joseph Pollia's bronze Statue of
civil war cavalry commander, General Phillip Henry Sheridan (1936),
the flagpole which commemorates several members of an elite Civil
War unit that wore uniforms styled after North African tribesmen
(1936) and Philip Segal's statues (1992) which honor the Gay
Liberation Movement,

I am a member of a volunteer group, Christopher Park Partnership,
formed in 2001 with the assistance of Partnerships for Parks. We are
not a 501(c)(3) nonprofit yet; however, we have a fiscal sponsor, City
Parks Foundation.

Christopher Park Partnership has succeeded in bringing many
positive changes to Christopher Park. Some of our accomplishments
include beautifying the park by:

Planting and maintaining a variety of plants and flowers which yield a
colorful palate in Spring, Summer and Fall.

Caring for all of the street trees which surround the Park.

Sponsoring an annual community event that includes a pumpkin painting party for children.

Christopher Park Partnership does this because we care about the community we live in and feel that a clean, well maintained park filled with plants, flowers, birds, bees and worms is essential to living a good life in the city. It provides balance.

We could not accomplish this without a strong relationship with Partnership for Parks and more specifically a strong working relationship with our Outreach Coordinator, Kirsti Bambridge.

Partnerships for Parks provides guidance, advice and support to our volunteer group. They are the people to go to in all matters concerning Christopher Park. They never hesitate to help reach out to people who are able to assist us in any matter that may arise.

In recent years our volunteer group dwindled from a high of 10 to a low of 2 people and it has been a struggle to keep up with the demands of the Park.

Partnerships for Parks was instrumental in getting the word out that we needed help and within a relatively short period of time, a new group of volunteers joined us.

With this renewed energy and sense of purpose, Christopher Park Partnership has begun a new chapter in our goal to make Christopher Park a destination to take in the gorgeous flora and fauna, to learn about history and to experience the joys of people watching in Greenwich Village.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

City Parks Department Budget Hearing

March 27, 2014

Testimony provided by Diana LaMar

Good afternoon, my name is Diana LaMar, I am a gardener, born-again environmentalist and student of sustainability and permaculture design ethics. In 2011, I formed a volunteer based organization, EnviHarlem, promoting green initiatives in the West Harlem community, where I've resided for the past sixteen years.

I thank, Committee Chair, Mark Levine, and councilmembers of Parks and Recreation, for the opportunity to offer testimony, I do so on behalf of myself, the many volunteers that have worked on EnviHarlem community projects, my neighbors and the like-minded community organizations in West Harlem.

I'll now address a few issues that may not have been highlighted today:

Vacant Land & Green Spaces

Green Thumb empowers citizen's to know what their rights are in their effort to create more green spaces and navigate the city's bureaucracies to determine land ownership and opportunities. News Flash: There is ONE Green Thumb Outreach Coordinator per borough!

Green Your Block Grant

Former Manhattan Borough President, Scott Stringer, attempted to allocate funding for tree guards with capital money in 2012, but funding was disallowed by the Office of Management and Budget. If tree guards are not capitally eligible, alternative funding streams to allow for their installation must be identified. Manhattan Borough President, Gale Brewer's Office, has been kind enough to provide me with the 2012 list of applicants desiring tree guards, but never received them. EnviHarlem is administering a grant to install tree guards within Hamilton Heights and I hope there is a way to work cooperatively to fulfill all the original Green Your Block Grant requests, and more. Five hundred and seventy-three (573) of the seven hundred and fifty-four (754) tree guards requested fall within the general Hamilton Heights/West Harlem area.

Inadequate Park Staffing

Outreach **C**oordinators at *Partnership for Parks* connect people to people, direct volunteers to supply sources and grant opportunities, not only do they build parks, they create an atmosphere for friendships to flourish, build stronger and safer communities, and that contribution is priceless. We depend on them and they are stretched thin. I am witness to the outcomes that Partnership for Parks produces. Their support of the Montefiore Park

Neighborhood Association resulted not only in a parks transformation, but community building.

If I don't know my **Park Recreation Manager** and they don't know me, there's a problem. And, I'm not suggesting that they're not doing their job, I'm suggesting that the parks department is understaffed. If they had smaller districts to oversee there would be more supervision and greater interaction with the communities they serve.

POP is the nations largest welfare to work program. It is a highly valued program. However, lack of training and supervision is a disservice to those enrolled in the program and results in inconsistent park maintenance, increasing burdens on permanent park staff and volunteers.

West Harlem

Whether you are homeless, poor, working class, middle class, disabled or privileged, our parks, park amenities and the *quality* of those amenities should be available to everyone in all communities. But, a small percentage of the city budget is spent on parks, especially considering the amount of green spaces. There are fewer health and fitness opportunities available in my neighborhood parks. Our residents suffer high asthma rates, we endure toxic air quality indoors and out, excessive residential burning of #6 oil, bus depots, highway exhaust and the toxic emissions from the North River Waste Treatment plant, ingeniously disguised as a park. For this reason, I urge you to allocate funding for the development of our waterfront, dog runs and to assure that the 135th Street Marine Transfer Station ownership is transferred to the Parks Department. In addition, parks is an ideal partner to assist in local composting projects and I hope that this type of initiative will garner your support.

Closing

Programming offered through Partnership for Parks, Green Thumb, and City Parks Foundation, allows for the potential of a more even playing field. So that the Parks Department and these organizations can do a more effective job at what they already do so well and are deeply passionate about, please fund these programs and increase our parks budget.

Thank you.

To: NYC Council Committee on Parks & Recreation

From: Christina Taylor, Executive Director
Friends of Van Cortlandt Park

Date: 3/27/2014

Re: Hearing for Preliminary Budget for FY 2015

Good afternoon. My name is Christina Taylor and I am the Executive Director of the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park. The Friends is an independent community based organization which actively promotes the conservation and improvement of Van Cortlandt Park through environmental education and restoration and enhancement of the Park, its forests and trails. Last year, we served over 5,000 children and adults through our various education and stewardship programs. Over the years, we have worked closely with the Parks Department, Partnerships for Parks, the Van Cortlandt Park Conservancy and many other groups to help conserve and improve Van Cortlandt Park.

The Friends was founded in 1992 by a Bronx resident in response to a *New York Times* article describing the impact of declining budgets for parks like Van Cortlandt that lacked wealthy benefactors. It is unfortunate, that over 20 years later, the Parks Department is still not adequately funded. With the largest park in the City, Pelham Bay and the 3rd largest park, Van Cortlandt, the Bronx has more parkland than any other borough. But we often wonder if we are getting our fair share of the budget to maintain these parks and keep them at the level that Bronxites deserve. The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park would happily join you to urge Mayor de Blasio to increase funding for NYC Parks, especially those in the Bronx.

For the upcoming fiscal year, we would like to request funding for the following:

- 1.) A Pedestrian Bridge over the Major Deegan to connect Van Cortlandt Park's eastern and western halves. In 1999, the City Council determined that New York City Department of Environmental Protection should build a Pedestrian Bridge if it was "feasible" as part of the original agreement for building a filtration plant in our Park.. A study found it is feasible but the DEP still has refused to pay for it. This broken promise to the community needs to be made right.
- 2.) The Friends are asking that funding be allocated for the restoration of the hiking trails in Van Cortlandt Park. We have a Trails Plan that if implemented will allow the 20 plus miles of hiking trails in the Park to become a hiking destination in New York City.
- 3.) Maintenance funding! We strongly believe that NYC Parks is not funded at a level needed for the agency to properly maintain and care for all of its parks. Each year, we see funding allocated for Capital Projects which vastly improve our parks through the building of new playgrounds, repairing of sports fields, installing bathrooms, etc.. But we don't see an increase in maintenance funding to keep the new facilities in good shape. Instead, after a few years, they fall into disrepair and need new capital funding to restore them. This can be avoided with ongoing maintenance.

The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park fully support the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and its efforts to maintain and improve all parks in NYC. It is important to the future of the City that we fund our Parks!



March 27, 2014

Kamillah M. Hanks
President/CEO
Historic Tappen Park Community Partnership
1765 Victory Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10304
khanks@historictappenpark.com
www.historictappenpark.com

Re: New York City Council FY2015 Preliminary Budget, Mayor's FY'14 Preliminary Management Report and Agency Oversight Hearings

I would like to thank the Committee on Parks and Recreation for giving me this opportunity to testify on behalf of the Historic Tappen Park Community Partnership in Stapleton, Staten Island. In 2010, City Parks Foundation encouraged a small group of local residents, business owners & artists to start a "Friends of " group to program events at Tappen Park. The purpose was to provide the group with small grants and technical assistance with the goal that our group would eventually become a self-sustaining entity that would take the lead on programming events & activating Tappen Park.

I am hear today to speak about the importance & success of the Partnerships for Parks & City Parks Foundation's catalyst park programs that facilitate and organize residents, businesses and community groups in neighborhoods that have under served community parks. Further, I want to impress upon this committee how these essential resources and technical support helped our fledgling group transform (what was commonly known as) Stapleton's "Needlepark", into what is now proudly regarded as Historic Tappen Park.

Stapleton is the home of Staten Island's largest housing project, our neighborhood was widely thought of as unclean and unsafe. Partnership for Parks/CPF gave us an opportunity and tools we needed to turn our neighborhood around, by turning our local park around. Citywide programs such as "It's My Park Day!" encouraged the Stapleton community to participate in the beautification and planting of its local parks. We are now the Historic Tappen Park Community Partnership, thanks to a grant by the City Parks Foundation to form an official 501 c 3 nonprofit organization. With their assistance and support WE changed the narrative and the future direction of our neighborhood with plants, shovels,

Testimony of Ana Maria Moore, VP of Stuyvesant Park's Neighborhood Association for Hearing before the City's Council Park Committee

Good Afternoon, my name is Ana Maria Moore, I am here to testify on behalf of the good work that I have witnessed by the Park Department and Partnership for Parks in the parks in my neighborhood, specifically Stuyvesant Square Park between 15th and 17th street and bisected by 2nd avenue.

My family and neighbors helped establish Stuyvesant Park Neighborhood Association or "SPNA" about 50 years ago. My involvement with the Parks Dept. and Partnership for Parks began by attending monthly meetings with the district manager of Parks, the manager for our area from Partnership for Parks, PEP officer, police officers in our area, and other neighbors interested in improving our area. In the monthly exchanges, I have learned how hard the Agencies work with the resources that they have available, and often it is not much. We have had troubles with watering systems, at times no gardeners, in a heavily trafficked area of 4 acres. Without due care, the park gets overgrown and attracts vagrants and teenagers who vandalize, smoke drugs, and litter. Without vigilance, it would belong to them rather than the community of children, the elderly, and every day New Yorkers who seek to use the beautiful space.

I have seen the Park Dept. clean up an unbelievable amount of daily litter. They worked diligently with SPNA when the rats were running out of the park and down the street. Thank goodness, the vermin problem has been substantially contained. I think this is a direct result of consistency by the Parks Dept.: (i) rat poison, (ii) frequent removal of food and open containers, (iii) SPNA -provided containers that were harder for rats to climb into, and (iv) Parks-provided covers to help keep the vermin out.

About three years ago I started a volunteer maintenance effort when the gardener left. However, the effort went nowhere until the Parks Dept. hired a gardener and I started attending Partnership for Parks meetings. I learned how lean funding was and that without volunteer effort most NYC parks would not look the way they do. I went back to SPNA and related what I had learned in the way that Partnership taught me and the group got behind member outreach --not only for contributions of money but time as well. This volunteer effort drew support from the neighborhood but it was still slow. However, when Partnership for Parks directed volunteers from neighboring institutions, and SPNA supplied promotion of the event with flyers, emails, donuts and coffee, the result has been wonderful. Last fall, we planted 6000 bulbs, just last month our efforts resulted in clearing and mulching an area that had not been gardened much in 3 years. The neighbors were so encouraged that one co-op sent \$1000 to SPNA. In fact, each "monthly volunteer day " in conjunction with the Parks Dept sending mulch, providing gardeners, the crew chief and staff has resulted in more local residents volunteering time and money. Working, together, we are definitely more than the sum of our parts.

Clearly, if we continue to receive this support many more important contributions can be made possible for this vital part of New York City.

Thank you, Council members, for giving me this opportunity to speak on behalf of all those who cherish the resource that is Stuyvesant Square Park.



Testimony of Alison Tocci
President of City Parks Foundation
Thursday, March 27, 2014
NYC Council Parks Committee FY2015 Preliminary Budget Hearing

Good afternoon. Thank you, Chairman Levine and members of the committee, for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Alison Tocci. I am the President of City Parks Foundation (CPF).

I am here to introduce some of you to our organization and request your support for CPF's **\$200,000 City Council Leadership Expense Request** to assist us in providing our free education programs for youth, sports programs for youth and seniors, and community organizing initiatives in all five boroughs of New York City.

CPF is the only non-profit that offers free programs in parks in all five boroughs of New York City and has had a long history of providing free programs in parks. CPF focuses on offering its free programming in parks with the most need, in traditionally underserved communities, all over New York City. With the recent conversations around parks equity, we believe that there is a natural synergy between funding CPF and the Council and Mayor's desire to create equity among all parks. By supporting CPF and the work we do in providing free programs in parks, recreation centers, and schools and assisting in the creation and development of "Friends of" groups, the city will be one step closer to the goal of equity amongst parks throughout the city.

In addition, City Parks Foundation, through Partnership for Parks, its joint program with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, operates the Catalyst for Waterfront Parks program. This program has focused on three large waterfront parks for four years, providing an intense amount of resources and free programming. CPF had three full-time staff people working in each of these parks, creating a new "Friends of" group for Soundview Park and providing support to existing groups at Kaiser and Calvert Vaux Parks in Brooklyn and East River Park on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Beginning in fall 2014, Catalyst for Waterfront Parks will be at two new waterfront locations, Faber Park in Staten Island and East River Esplanade (from East 96th Street to East 135th Street) in Manhattan, and continuing at Kaiser and Calvert Vaux Parks in Brooklyn. CPF will be working in these communities until 2018.

Detailed descriptions of our free sports, education, and community building programs are included below. Attached to this testimony is a list of the parks, schools, and recreations where we offered our free programs in 2013 with the corresponding City Council Member. As a result of participating in our programs, youth have received college scholarships in sports, had their work featured during the Tribeca Film Festival, and participated in the US Open junior tournament.

City Parks Foundation's free programs are usually in sync with the City's plans and the Park Department's work. As a non-profit, City Parks Foundation is not directly funded by the City. In order for us to continue to be able to support your vision for parks in New York City, we need your financial assistance. Once again, thank you for hearing my testimony today and we look

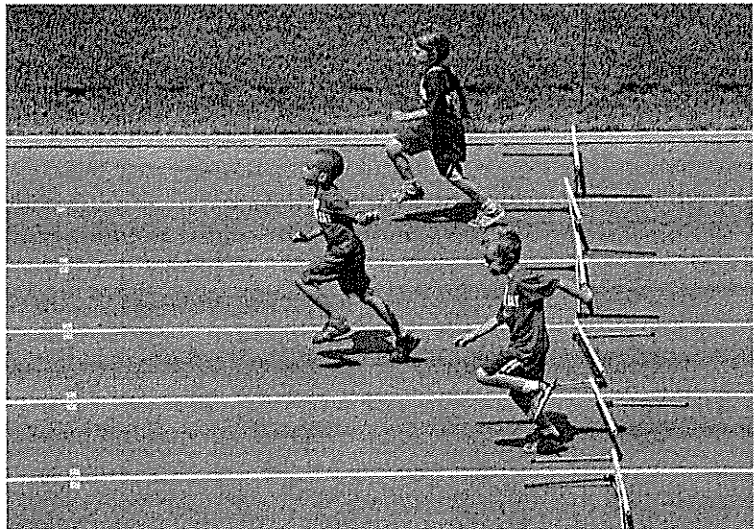
forward to working with you to continue to offer these free programs to the citizens of this great city.

SPORTS PROGRAMS

CPF's youth sports programs reach 13,000 kids city-wide, with instruction in track and field, tennis, and golf, emphasizing sports for a lifetime of fitness. All of our sports programs address the needs of the whole child—physical, cognitive, emotional and social—in a supervised, structured and supportive environment. Our programs are offered free of charge and our sports program not only provide free lessons, but also free use of all equipment. With childhood obesity on the rise, our free, regularly scheduled sports programs provide kids with opportunities to stay active in their local parks.

One of the largest municipal programs in the country, *CityParks Tennis* provides free equipment and instruction to more than 7,000 kids, ages 5-16, each year. This free program lets young people learn the sport and progress through three levels of instruction, with additional opportunities to build their knowledge and skills through tournaments, clinics, and an advanced training academy. Hundreds of graduates have won college scholarships, achieved regional and national rankings, and a talented handful has even played at the US Open.

- *CityParks Track & Field* offers free instruction and use of equipment in a variety of track and field events, including short distance running with hurdles, the javelin, and long jump, to more than 2,000 children ages 5-16 each summer. The program culminates with a citywide track meet held at Icahn Stadium, the world class sports complex on Randall's Island, where our young athletes compete individually and in teams representing their home park in six track and field events.



- *CityParks Golf* brings free instruction to over 3,500 children ages 5-16 each year. In addition to beginner and intermediate lessons, we offer an advanced training program for 25 talented youth under the direction of PGA professionals, supplemented by instructional clinics with professional players and advanced tournament play. By offering free instruction and access to equipment in communities across the five boroughs, CPF has been able to introduce thousands of kids to the game, who would not otherwise have the opportunity.
- The *CityParks Junior Golf Center* is a state-of-the-art facility in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn that provides free golf instruction to more than 2,000 kids each year, ages 7-17. Completely free of cost and only open to juniors, The *Junior Golf Center* is first comprehensive facility of its

kind in the nation, and features a six-hole golf course, practice putting green, chipping green with sand trap, covered driving range, and a clubhouse with classroom space for learning.

- *CityParks Seniors Fitness* presents two sessions of classes (spring and fall) that introduce seniors to athletic activities in a supportive and social environment. In addition to promoting fitness and well-being, the program also encourages seniors to enjoy and utilize the community resource of their local park.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

City Parks Foundation's free and low-cost education programs help nearly 3,000 students meet state standards and connect teachers, students, and families with parks. CPF works in Title I schools that need educational support. Our education department works with teachers, providing development and training workshops, to equip educators with the skills to teach science and environmental classes in an outdoor setting. CPF works with special needs students, bi-lingual classes, and provides an alternative mechanism for children who may have difficulties learning in a traditional classroom setting.

- *Coastal Classroom* educates youth and adults about their waterfront and facilitates local action to improve it. The program uses the waterfront as an outdoor classroom with topics of instruction including the food chain; bioaccumulation; the impact of illegal dumping and sewage runoff; local habitats; invasive species; and restoration and preservation. *Coastal Classroom* fosters an increased awareness of the importance of the East River waterfront and local parks, and offers simple steps that everyone can take to protect and preserve them.
- *Seeds to Trees* introduces New York City elementary and middle school children to nature in the urban environment, and provides public school teachers with professional development workshops, empowering them to use city parks as an extension of the classroom. CPF asks partnering middle schools to implement projects linked to the themes of the in-class lessons and coastal ecology.



- *Learning Gardens* rehabilitates abandoned lots and turns them into vibrant community gardens, where we offer structured educational lessons to school children and community groups. CPF educators provide structured lessons during the academic year, a six-week summer program, a growing number of paid internships for high school students, and family days that are open to all community members. For elementary and middle school classes, the program offers a continuous series of interdisciplinary lessons in the classroom in the winter and in the garden in the warmer months. *Learning Gardens* also provides the teachers of participating classes with high-quality professional development workshops and sustained technical support, enabling them to effectively integrate garden lessons into their everyday teaching practice, thereby impacting students and classes for years to come. CPF currently maintains four *Learning Gardens*—at Grove Hill Community Playground in the South Bronx, Det. Keith L. Williams Park in Jamaica, Queens, Umoja Community Garden in Bushwick, Brooklyn, and Abib Newborn Garden in Brownsville, Brooklyn.
- *CityParks Youth Made Media*, an expansion of CPF’s technology after-school program formerly known as CityParks Productions, now operates out of five recreation centers, one in each borough, two in Brooklyn, and Bronx International High School. The program combines video and sound production, media literacy, and creative writing activities with academic support and life skills for middle and high school students. By providing free access to training in a variety of technological applications, *CityParks Youth Made Media* gives teens tools for academic success, as well as transferable skills for the workplace. Activities include: video production training (documentary and narrative); creative writing, storytelling, scriptwriting and poetry projects; photography and animation training; leadership development and internship training; and cultural field trips and workplace site visits. *Youth Made Media* operates out of the following locations: Hunts Point Recreation Center, Lost Battalion Hall Recreation Center, Red Hook Recreation Center, Brownsville Recreation Center, Faber Park Field House Recreation Center and Bronx International High School.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR PARKS

- *Partnerships* rallies people around park revitalization and stewardship, helping New Yorkers work together to make neighborhood parks thrive. *Partnerships* supports a growing network of 65,000 volunteers and 4,000 community groups respond to conditions in their parks where a strong, organized voice can make a difference. A joint public-private program in partnership with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, *Partnerships for Parks* operates on the belief that active, involved communities are essential to vibrant parks and a healthy city. *Partnerships for Parks* is a recognized model of success in bringing about concrete, lasting transformations in our parks and in changing the way various stakeholders work together to improve our city’s public spaces.
- *Catalyst* is a multi-year community development program that fosters engagement in neighborhood green spaces in underserved communities. Currently, *Catalyst* is focused on three waterfront parks—East River Park, Kaiser Park and Soundview Park. The *Catalyst* Program supports the formation and builds the capacity of local community groups to serve as stewards. The program utilizes three core strategies—community engagement, programming, and physical improvement. We build community participation and pride;

connect people, ideas, and efforts to develop shared goals; and sustain local leadership and green space stewardship. *Catalyst* is committed developing diverse and multifaceted programming in parks, fostering local leadership of green spaces, and creating opportunities and projects which empower groups. *Catalyst* will be focused on the following sites beginning in Fall 2014 - Faber Park, East Harlem parks and green infrastructure, and will continue work in Kaiser and Calvert Vaux Parks.



- *People Make Parks* (PMP) is a joint project of Hester Street Collaborative and *Partnerships for Parks* to help New Yorkers participate in the design of parks and green spaces. PMP provides community groups with tools and resources to effectively contribute to NYC Parks' building and design process. The initiative promotes collaboration between invested communities and NYC Parks, encouraging a diversity of participants to participate in the creation of meaningful places. On average, the neighborhoods where PMP projects are taking place have fewer acres of green space per resident than 59% of NYC community districts.
- *Partnerships for Parks* builds the capacity of volunteers and community groups to accomplish their goals and ensure the sustainability of their work. The *Capacity Fund Grant* provides seed money to developing grassroots community groups focused on local green space. We also act as free, expert consultants to help groups and volunteers reach their full potential through our *Partnerships Academy*, providing leadership and organizational development workshops and fellowships to community leaders. Outreach staff in all 5 boroughs provide direct support and connections to these programs as well as NYC Parks and city-wide decision makers.

2013 Bronx Programming

Park	CPF Program	Attendance	Council Member
Crotona Park	Kids, Music, Film	5,350	Arroyo
Grove Hill Community Garden	Learning Gardens	203	Arroyo
Haffen Park	Tennis, Golf, Kids	1,044	King
Hunt's Point Recreation Center	Youth Made Media	117	Arroyo
Macombs Dam Park	Track & Field	90	Mark-Viverito
Mill Pond Park	Tennis	27	Mark-Viverito
Mount Hope Playground	Kids	600	Cabrera
Pelham Bay Park	Tennis, Track & Field, Golf, Kids, Seniors Fitness	2,028	Vacca
Poe Park	Kids	510	Torres
River Park	Kids	400	Torres
Soundview Park	Track & Field, Music, Seniors Fitness	1,294	Palma
St. James Park	Tennis	120	Cabrera
St. Mary's Park	Tennis, Music, Family Day, Dance	8,840	Mark-Viverito
Van Cortlandt Park	Tennis, Kids	1,494	Cohen
Williamsbridge Oval	Tennis	106	Cohen
Woodlawn Park	Tennis, Seniors Fitness	157	Cohen
Total		22,977	

2013 Brooklyn Programming

Park	CPF Program	Attendance	Council Member
Abib Newborn	Learning Gardens	273	Barron
Betsy Head Park	Track & Field, Music	2,598	Mealy
Brower Park	Kids	200	Cornegy
Brownsville Recreation Center	Youth Made Media	153	Barron
Calvert Vaux	Catalyst	n/a	Gentile
Coffey Park	Kids	405	Menchaca
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park	Kids	765	Barron
Dyker Beach Golf Course	Junior Golf Center	2,364	Gentile
Fort Greene Park	Tennis	99	Cumbo
Herbert Von King Park	Golf, Kids, Music, Dance, Family Day, Film, Theater	10,732	Cornegy
Highland Park	Tennis	84	Espinal
Jackie Robinson Playground	Tennis	74	Cumbo
Kaiser Park	Tennis, Track & Field, Coastal Classroom	440	Treyger
Kelly Playground	Tennis	134	Deutsch
Leif Ericson Park	Tennis	91	Gentile
Lucille Ferrier Playground	Tennis	75	Gentile
Maria Hernandez Park	Kids	1,550	Reynoso
Marine Park	Tennis, Golf, Seniors Fitness	352	Maisel
McCarren Park	Tennis	79	Levin
McKinley Park	Tennis	188	Gentile
Prospect Park	Tennis	208	Lander
Red Hook Park	Music	5,950	Menchaca
Red Hook Recreation Center	Youth Made Media	30	Menchaca
South Oxford Park	Seniors Fitness	39	Cumbo
Sunset Park	Kids	740	Menchaca
Umoja	Learning Gardens	327	Mealy
Underwood Park	Kids	720	Cumbo
Total		28,670	

2013 Manhattan Programming

Park	CPF Program	Attendance	Council Member
Alfred E. Smith Playground	Kids	450	Chin
Carl Schurz Park	Seniors Fitness	94	Kallos
Central Park	Tennis, Kids, SummerStage Mainstage, Seniors Fitness	172,870	Rosenthal
Columbus Park	Kids	2,500	Chin
Courtney Callender	Kids	275	Dickens
East River Park	Tennis, Track & Field, Dance, Theater, Music	16,554	Mendez
John Jay Park	Seniors Fitness	36	Kallos
Eugene McCabe Field	Golf	62	Dickens
Hamilton Fish Recreation Center	Youth Made Media	87	Mendez
Inwood Hill Park	Tennis, Seniors Fitness	118	Rodriguez
Marcus Garvey Park	Kids, Music, Dance, Family Day, Film, Theater, Charlie Parker Jazz Festival	33,400	Dickens
Morningside Park	Kids	900	Levine
Riverside Park	Tennis	111	Levine
Seward Park	Kids	1,980	Chin
Thomas Jefferson Park	Track & Field, Catalyst	148	Mark-Viverito
Tompkins Square Park	Charlie Parker Jazz Festival	5,000	Mendez
Total		239,335	

2013 Queens Programming

Park	CPF Program	Attendance	Council Member
Alley Pond Park	Tennis, Golf	288	Weprin
Astoria Park	Tennis, Track & Field, Seniors Fitness	478	Constantinides
Baisley Pond Park	Tennis, Golf, Music	2,807	Wills
Brookville Park	Tennis	114	Richards
Cunningham Park	Tennis, Seniors Fitness	382	Weprin
Det. Keith L. Williams	Track & Field, Learning Gardens	93	Miller
Flushing Meadows Corona Park	Tennis, Golf, Seniors Fitness	1,020	Ferreras
Flushing Memorial Field	Tennis	114	Vallone
Forest Park	Tennis, Track & Field	538	Crowley
Hallet's Cove	Coastal Classroom	375	Van Bramer
Juniper Valley Park	Tennis, Track & Field	569	Crowley
Kissena Park	Tennis	213	Koo
Lost Battalion Hall	Youth Made Media	67	Koslowitz
Mario Fajardo Park, Field 10	Golf	108	Koo
Queensbridge Park	Kids, Music, Dance, Family Day, Film	5,225	Van Bramer
Rochdale Park	Kids	428	Wills
Roy Wilkins Park	Seniors Fitness	79	Miller
Rufus King Park	Kids	1,241	Lancman
Springfield Park	Kids	300	Richards
Total		14,439	

2013 Staten Island Programming

Park	CPF Program	Attendance	Council Member
Conference House Park	Kids Fitness	110	Ignizio
Corporal Thompson Park	Track & Field	125	Rose
Egbert Field, I.S. 2	Golf	95	Matteo
Faber Park	Kids, Catalyst	190	Rose
Faber Park Field House	Youth Made Media	69	Rose
Greenbelt Park	Seniors Fitness	122	Matteo
Silver Lake Park	Tennis, Golf	361	Rose
Tappen Park	Kids, Music	1,585	Rose
Walker Park	Tennis	231	Rose
Willowbrook Park	Tennis	642	Matteo
Wolfe's Pond Park	Tennis	169	Ignizio
Total		3,699	

2013-2014 Education Partners

Education Program	Partner	Council Member
Learning Gardens	PS 333 The Museum School, Bronx	Arroyo
Learning Gardens	Kappa V Middle School 518, Brooklyn	Barron
Learning Gardens	MS301 The Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School, Bronx	Gibson
Learning Gardens	Young Women's Leadership School, Brooklyn	Reynoso
Seeds to Trees Elementary	PS 161, Manhattan	Dickens
Seeds to Trees Elementary	PS106, Brooklyn	Espinal
Seeds to Trees Elementary	PS 5, Bronx	Mark-Viverito
Seeds to Trees Elementary	PS971, Brooklyn	Menchaca
Seeds to Trees Elementary	PS274, Brooklyn	Reynoso
Seeds to Trees Elementary	PS21, Staten Island	Rose
Seeds to Trees Elementary	PS111, Queens	Van Bramer
Seeds to Trees Middle	K678, Brooklyn	Barron
Seeds to Trees Middle	Young Women's Leadership School, Bronx	Cabrera
Seeds to Trees Middle	IS 229, Bronx	Gibson
Seeds to Trees Middle	MS 145, Bronx	Gibson
Seeds to Trees Middle & Green Girls	I.S. 204 Oliver W Holmes, Queens	Van Bramer
Youth Made Media	Bronx International High School, Bronx	Gibson



Bangladeshi American Community Development & Youth Service

The Parks and Recreation Committee of the New York City Council at their annual hearing on the Preliminary Budget for the upcoming 2015 Fiscal Year.

March 27, 2014

TESTOMONY

As a long term resident of the City-Line East New York community who has advocated for years for more parks and green space in my community: I am honored to be here today among all of you interested parties fighting for one cause. As Founder of the Bangladeshi American Community Development and Youth Services organization I am here to testify on the extraordinary efforts Partnership for Parks has displayed in working with us during the last few years as we have successfully adopted Eldert Lane Park.

Thankfully to our relationship with NYC Partnership for Parks we have been able to take a community eyesore and transform it into viable space where community can once again share open space.

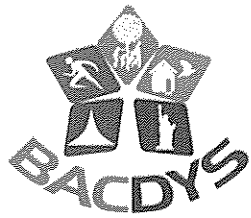
The partnership between NYC Parks Partnership for Parks has been used a supper resource in bringing like-minded individuals to share in the upkeep of community space. Often communities are detached from the community they live in. The continued support of the relationship with allows us to work with our friends and neighbors in finding commonalities and less division.

I also happened to be a longtime board member of a youth based soccer league. In my travels I have brought my youth to play in many parks throughout the five boroughs and in doing so I come across much of the work NYC Partnership for Parks has supported.

I have attached for your viewing the work we have done throughout the years. You will see child and adults a like working together side by side in the upkeep of our Park "Eldert Lane Park" which is really only a block long.

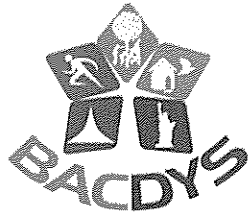
Thank you for your time,

Mr. Misba Abdin, CEO



Bangladeshi American Community
Development & Youth Service





Bangladeshi American Community
Development & Youth Service





99 Bay Street
Bronx, NY 10464
718-885-1906
paul@thegaia institute.org
thegaia institute.org
website

The Gaia Institute

March 27, 2014

Honorable Mark Levine

Chair of the New York City Council Committee on Parks & Recreation
City Hall
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chair Levine and Members of the Committee on Parks & Recreation,

The Problem:

Adequately valuing the contribution of Parks to the wellbeing of the citizens of New York City: While Parks have long been a center of the life of communities around the City, the value these verdant landscapes contribute to their surroundings has been ineffable to many. Frederick Law Olmsted himself famously demonstrated that properties adjacent to and around Central Park disproportionately increased in value, compared to otherwise similar real estate, but this, of course, could exclude all but those wealthy enough to own or rent property in such neighborhoods.

In their behavior, Parks themselves are intrinsically democratic, transcending class and wealth in their contribution to our wellbeing in two major dimensions of quality of life.

Parks capture and treat storm water. Every acre of vegetated landscape can capture about 27,000 gallons of water per inch of rainfall. Given the great extent of New York City Parkland, some two fifths of the 300 square miles of New York City, this greenspace contributes proportionally to water capture and treatment.

An inch of rainfall over out 300 square mile City delivers about five billion gallons of water. At the NYC water treatment cost of \$3 per 100 cubic feet of water, it would cost \$20,000,000 to treat this water at our 14 waste water treatment plants. Because Parks cover 2/5th of NYC land, were these lands to keep two billion gallons of water out of the combined sewer, the Parks eliminate \$8,000,000 of treatment cost for this inch of rainfall that does not enter the combined sewer.

The work of the Gaia Institute couples ecological engineering and restoration with the integration of human communities in natural systems. While much environmental engineering has the worthy aim of minimizing harm, the Gaia Institute explores, through research and development, design and construction, how human activities and waste products can be treated to increase ecological productivity, biodiversity, environmental quality, and economic well being.

Parkland not only captures water, but the vegetation in New York City Parks transforms this resource into a coolant, a major thermal regulator of this urban environment. The great Parks: Pelham Bay, Van Cortlandt, Forest, Prospect, Central, the Staten Island Greenbelt, together with smaller parks around the whole City, cool the air locally, and even export cool air to their surrounds.

The capacity of Parkland, as well as Greenstreets and green roofs, to cool local environment is a major contribution to the energy economy of the City. While it costs about \$3 to treat 100 cubic feet of water, this same volume of water, 750 gallons fed to Parks vegetation or green infrastructure, is worth about \$400 in terms of cooling or air conditioning value.

A livable future for the City may well depend on our capacity to properly value the contribution of Parks and green infrastructure to quality of life and costs of cooling the City and diminishing peak load demand on the electric grid that sustains the City. The \$20,000,000 contribution that Parks make by keeping two billion gallons of water out of the combined sewer is significant. That same two billion gallons of water, however, fed to vegetated parkland and green infrastructure, produces the equivalent of sixty million tons of air conditioning a day, valued at a billion dollars*.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul S. Mankiewicz'.

Paul S. Mankiewicz, Ph.D.
Executive Director

*(I will forward my peer reviewed paper describing this if you email me at paul@thegaia institute.org)

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/14

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Paul S. Markiewicz

Address: 99 Bay St

I represent: _____

Address: Bronx NY 10464

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/14

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Senator Daniel Squadron

Address: 250 Broadway

I represent: 26th Senate District

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)
Name: Jamila Dohelp Pulezz

Address: 10 Sheridan Sq 11B NY NY 10014

I represent: Christopher Park

Address: Greenwich Village

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 03/27/2014

Name: Michael Rosano (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: Gardeners, Growers and Landscapers

Address: Association of New York

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Valerie Jo Bradley (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: Marcus Garvey Park Alliance

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Tupper Thomas (PLEASE PRINT)

Address: _____

I represent: New Yorkers for Parks

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joe Puleo

Address: 125 Barclay Street

I represent: DC 37 Local 983

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Marlena Giga

Address: 718 924-9903

I represent: Local 983 APSW Paris Enforcement

Address: 125 Barclay St NY 10007

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MR. JOHN MEDINA

Address: 1695 LEXINGTON AVE 3B

I represent: COMMUNITY VOICES HEARD BOARD

Address: 115 EAST 106 STREET HARLEM DISTRICT 8

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: VINCENT RIGGINS

Address: 1530 Pennsylvanis Ave, BKlyn NY 11239

I represent: Partnership for Parks PFP

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DART WESTPHAL

Address: 3805 ORLOFF AVE

I represent: BRONX COUNCIL FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Address: BRONX

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: K Webster

Address: 246 BOWERY

I represent: Sara Roosevelt Park

Address: 30 Delancey St Coalition

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: DAVID ROSASCO

Address: 41-35 63 Street, Woodside NY 11377

I represent: Woodside Neighborhood Association

Address: 41-35 63 Street, Woodside NY 11377

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Christina Taylor

Address: 80 Van Cortlandt Park S. Bx

I represent: Friends of Van Cortlandt Park

Address: 80 Van Cortlandt Park S. Bx

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3.27.14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Diana LaMar

Address: 640 Riverside Drive #5C

NYC, NY 10031
I represent: Hamilton Heights Neighborhood & Envision Harlem

Address: See above

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/22/2014

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Michael Palma

Address: Coast W 136 St #23

I represent: Montefiore Park Neighbors Assoc

Address: Coast W 136 St #18

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 4-27-14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MISBA ARDIIV

Address: 181 FORBELL ST

I represent: BACDYS

Address: ELDER TIANE PARK

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jeff Croft

Address: _____

I represent: NYC Parks Advocates

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3-27-14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Ana Maria Moore

Address: 219 E 17th Street, NY NY 10003

I represent: Stuyvesant^{Park} Neighborhood Assoc. on behalf of

Address: Parks + Partnership for Parks
P.O. Box 1347, Cooper Station, NY NY 10276

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Nancy Pérez

Address: 20-16 27 Street

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Kamillah M. Hanks

Address: 37 Tappen Court, S.I., N.Y. 10304

I represent: Partnerships For Parks

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Macbrice

Address: 7315 E. 113rd St. NY, NY 10029

I represent: Concrete Suburbs

Address: See

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Christian Pillo

Address: 7315 E. 113rd St. NY, NY 10029

I represent: Concrete Suburbs

Address: 7315 E. 113rd St. NY, NY 10029

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: James Bond

Address: 2567 38th St. Astoria, 11103

I represent: James Bond nyc@att.net

Address: Partnership for Parkways

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Len Maniace

Address: 35-41 80 St Jackson Heights NY

I represent: Jackson Hts Beatification Group

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Deborah Marton

Address: 254 W. 31st St, 10th Fl, NY, NY

I represent: NYRP

Address: 254 W. 31st St, 10th Fl, NY, NY

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Allison Tucci

Address: _____

I represent: City Parks Foundation

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

Name: Karen Becker, Director of Gov't
(PLEASE PRINT)

Address: Arsenal Relations

I represent: Parks

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/14

Name: Larry Scott Blackmon, Deputy
(PLEASE PRINT)

Address: The Arsenal Commissioner

I represent: Parks Dept

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/14

Name: Liam Kavanaugh, First Deputy Commissioner
(PLEASE PRINT)

Address: The Arsenal

I represent: Parks Dept

Address: _____

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: KATHY ROMANELLI

Address: 290 HARBOUR RD S W Y R

I represent: MARINERS HARBOR CIVIC

Address: FOREST AVE S W Y

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/27/14

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SCOTT KEARNEY

Address: 633 11th St

I represent: U62# DC 39 LOCAL 375

Address: Chapel

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Grea Mays

Address: 114-73 178th St Jamaica NY 11434

I represent: A Better Jamaica

Address: Same

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Elizabeth DeGaetano

Address: 500C Grand St. 2A NY 10002

I represent: Friends of Gulick Park

Address: 500C Grand St. 2A 10002

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: _____

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: SARA A. FISHER

Address: 603 KHAM STREET NY, NY 10034

I represent: _____

Address: _____

**THE COUNCIL
THE CITY OF NEW YORK**

Appearance Card

I intend to appear and speak on Int. No. _____ Res. No. _____

more \$ for parks ☐ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/2/17

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: HARRY BUBBINS

Address: PO Box 801 Bx NY 10454

I represent: Friends of Brook Park

Address: STOP FISH DIRECT \$

Please complete this card and return to the Sergeant-at-Arms