

Hearing before the New York City Council Committee on Parks & Recreation Oversight: Partnerships for Parks November 17, 2016

Testimony By: Sabina Saragoussi, Director of Partnerships for Parks, Heather Lubov, Executive Director of City Parks Foundation, & Kate Spellman, Chief of Community Outreach, NYC Parks

Good morning, Chair Levine and members of the Committee on Parks and Recreation. My name is Kate Spellman, and I oversee Community Outreach at NYC Parks, including the Partnerships for Parks program, a joint program of NYC Parks and the City Parks Foundation. Robust community engagement is central to this administration's efforts to create thriving public spaces for all New Yorkers, and the work Partnerships for Parks does every day to connect New Yorkers to their parks is critical to the success of our key programs, from the Community Parks Initiative to Anchor Parks and Parks Without Borders. We believe that our parks are better designed when they are designed with input from broad groups of community stakeholders. We've seen our parks come to life when communities use them as spaces for their shared experiences. And we know that our parks are sustained in the long term by the dedication of thousands of volunteers and park leaders across the city who commit countless hours to their care. Partnerships for Parks has been at the forefront of connecting New Yorkers to their parks for over two decades, and their long-term success is thanks in no small part to the dedication of our partners at the City Parks Foundation.

I'm Heather Lubov, Executive Director of City Parks Foundation, an independent, nonprofit organization that provides free, park-based programs to all New Yorkers. Everything we do is designed to bring people into their parks. We present performing arts, sports instruction and environmental education for youngsters – free of charge -- in parks in all five boroughs, with an emphasis on those communities in greatest need, as a way to encourage all New Yorkers to use their parks. And we are a proud partner with NYC Parks in the Partnerships for Parks program, providing technical assistance to the thousands of volunteers – regular New Yorkers – who want to take greater responsibility for the success of their neighborhood parks.

It is my pleasure to introduce Sabina Saragoussi, Director of Partnerships for Parks (PfP).

Thank you and good morning. For over 20 years, Partnerships for Parks has been a public-private effort supporting and championing an ever-growing network of leaders caring and advocating for neighborhood parks and green spaces. We equip people and



organizations with the skills and tools needed to transform public spaces into dynamic community assets. By developing occasional volunteers into community leaders, we build long-term investment in public space and strengthen the social fabric of our neighborhoods. Ultimately, we envision parks as spaces where community members and civic leaders like yourselves work together to shape our city.

The Partnerships for Parks model is based on a continuum of community building: "Build, Connect, Sustain." The image on the screen demonstrates the community engagement process. We build relationships with community members and institutions by identifying pressing needs within communities and developing programs that bring people into their parks, connect people, ideas, initiatives with the resources they need to succeed, and sustain local groups by creating diverse networks of skilled park leaders. The slide on the screen shows the many partners that help contribute to a successful and sustainable network. Using this model, Partnerships for Parks has helped to build strong advocacy organizations that care for, preserve, program and fundraise for critical NYC green space, including the Bronx River Alliance, the Highbridge Park Coalition and Green Shores NYC.

Partnerships for Parks operates on an annual budget of nearly \$4.4 million, \$2.9 million of which is provided by NYC Parks and \$1.5 million from City Parks Foundation, including \$712,000 from the NYC Council through the Parks Equity Initiative. We have a staff of 52, which includes 16 full time Outreach Coordinators. These Coordinators, all of whom are Parks Department employees, serve as liaisons between the Parks Department, City Parks Foundation, local institutions and community stakeholders. They identify new volunteers and support existing volunteers and park groups by connecting them to projects, supplies, grants and other resources. In the last year alone, our Outreach Coordinators identified more than 320 new groups around the city interested in getting involved in their parks, while also supporting and sustaining nearly 700 existing park groups.

Our signature It's My Park program, which is jointly supported by NYC Parks and CPF, provides a year-round opportunity for community groups, non-profit and corporate partners to support needed physical improvements in their parks. Projects take place in all 51 Council Districts, and include painting, weeding, planting, raking, litter removal and other activities that enhance and beautify these spaces. These projects are also important tools for groups to grow membership and strengthen their ties to the surrounding neighborhoods. In 2015, Partnerships for Parks supported over 30,000 volunteers who coordinated and worked on more than 1,000 It's My Park projects, and we expect to exceed this in 2016 once the season is complete.



Partnerships for Parks also includes an extensive Technical Assistance program, the majority of which is funded by City Parks Foundation resources, providing and connecting neighborhood volunteers to a wide breadth of resources that help them realize their visions and ensure the long-term sustainability of their groups. We offer free skill building workshops on fundraising, event planning, organizational development, working with elected officials and more. We provide small grants to community park groups, offer tools for visioning around park design and programming, and support website and publication development.

Our most intensive outreach effort is Catalyst, a multi-year staff intensive program that focuses community development efforts in historically underserved communities. Through Catalyst, Partnerships supports local action in diverse neighborhoods, empowering residents and organizations to respond to conditions that may be affecting their parks. Catalyst is also funded by City Parks Foundation resources, with sites chosen using data on population density, poverty and other demographic information. In 2016, our focused work continues in the three Catalyst sites where work began in 2015 - Thomas Jefferson Park in Manhattan, Faber Park in Staten Island, and Kaiser Park in Brooklyn.

Thanks to the support of Mayor de Blasio, NYC Parks' Community Parks Initiative (CPI), launched in 2015, has presented an incredible opportunity to bring capital investment, dedicated maintenance, free programming and community building support to some of the highest needs parks in the city. Partnerships for Parks has led the effort to build community engagement in these CPI sites and to date 52 community input sessions have given over 2,100 New Yorkers the opportunity to re-envision their community parks.

At the same time, the City Council launched the Parks Equity Initiative, which provided critical funding for City Parks Foundation's contribution to Partnerships, and has enabled us to add 3 new staff members to the technical assistance program and grow our workshop offerings by 200%. The Parks Equity Initiative has also allowed individual Council Members to identify parks within their districts that are in need of additional support, by funding service projects and group development. The impact of this work is evident in the exciting and inspiring stories of park groups across the city, working in collaboration with neighbors, local institutions and decision makers to help make their parks thrive. The Friends of Mosholu Parkland is one great example. They have participated in our extensive training program, received a capacity building grant, hosted numerous It's My Park projects and most recently, hosted a community visioning event and service day which brought together over 100 participants to express their vision for the future of the park.



In Coney Island, the importance of a well-established network of park stewards went beyond Kaiser Park. In the aftermath of Superstorm Sandy, Partnerships assisted the Friends of Kaiser Park and Coney Island Generation Gap with the preparation of applications for recovery grants and helped them secure donations of food and clothing for those severely affected by the devastating storm. Together, these partners and numerous others organized 4 recovery projects with over 600 volunteers, contributing over 13,000 hours of service and removing 2 tons of waste. In March of 2015, Partnerships staff helped to form the Making Waves coalition, dedicated to local waterfront discussions. On November 3, the Coney Island Beautification Project in partnership with local organizations, schools and city agencies, led their 3rd annual Sandy Commemorative Day of Service to beautify the community and continue to uplift and inspire the neighborhood.

Today, more than three years after welcoming a significant increase in funding for our program, we have seen both the number of supported park groups and the number of It's My Park projects increase by over 40%, with the greatest growth in grants and workshop participants in the CPI neighborhoods, those communities that are in greatest need of park improvements. 60% of our grants awarded and 60% of our workshop attendees were from CPI zones. We are proud to report that we are directly addressing this administration's strong focus on equity.

But this growth has also identified new challenges, and we are making modifications to our service delivery to accommodate all of the new groups and new needs we've identified. The newest groups we've identified are at the most critical stage in their development, and need extra time and attention — more than a single outreach coordinator might be able to provide - to ensure that they grow and prosper. For this reason, we are restructuring our Catalyst program so that each staff member will provide intensive support to a handful of parks over the course of a year or so, after which, we know that our outreach team will be able to help the group continue to develop.

At the other end of the spectrum, those groups that are more mature are facing different challenges – how to keep motivating their volunteers, how to develop a board or fundraise for a new program. We are adding more advanced workshop topics to our training program, and we have added a new staff person with specific expertise in advanced leadership development to help counsel and guide these groups as they change and grow.

Partnerships for Parks has played a critical role in helping New Yorkers create greener more vibrant parks, and ultimately, more livable neighborhoods. Our program has won national awards, and we are called upon by cities around the country and the world to share our model for community engagement and public-private partnership. We would



like to thank the City Council for making this work possible and hope to continue this great partnership well into the future. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. We would now be happy to answer any questions you might have.

New York City Council Partnership for Parks November 17, 2016

FOR THE RECORD

Coney Island Beautification Project, Inc. Pamela Pettyjohn, President

Coney Island Beautification Project enthusiastically supports Partnership for Parks requested funds for the betterment of New York City parks.

One year after devastating super storm Sandy, CIBP was a fledgling organization with the vision of volunteering to restore our valuable Kaiser Park and our commercial corridor, Mermaid Avenue to beneficial environmental green spaces. The very first group we encountered was PfP, what a fortunate meeting! PfP helped us embark on an extremely successful journey. With their assistance and contribution CIBP has grown from a few well-meaning volunteers to a small army of learned park stewards. We have been able to organize members of our 50k residential community to host many effective events in the park as well as along our 21 blocks commercial strip. It was beneficial for us to have had the help of Outreach Coordinators. Hopefully each Community Board district of the city can also profit by the same.

We feel that a major by-product of our outreach is the acknowledgement of the importance of parks to our community especially by our elected officials. At every event our elected officials have been in attendance. We are most proud of the participation of our public school students and their pride of ownership of the park and street tree beds.

Most definitely Kaiser Park and the many smaller parks in the Coney Island area need all the support the City Council can provide. The year round residents deserve nothing less. Therefore please give PfP requests your outmost consideration.

Thank you





Clinton Housing Development Company

Testimony on Partnership for Parks to New York City Council November 17, 2016 Julie Lawrence, Clinton Housing Development Company

Honorable Council Members,

Thank you so much for this opportunity to comment on the important work of Partnership for Parks for local parks advocates throughout New York City.

I first became aware of the work of Partnership in the early 2000s as a member of my community board and an open space advocate in North Brooklyn. In 2006, attending the Bronx Speak Up as part of my work for the Bronx Land Trust, I participated in my first Partnerships mini-workshop, and have been lucky to work with Partnerships staff in a variety of capacities over the years.

Since my arrival at Clinton Housing in 2015, we established a strong relationship with Kristy DiCario, our Outreach Coordinator, who helped us to establish the groundwork for a community engagement campaign at DeWitt Clinton Park in Northwest Hell's Kitchen. We expect to continue visioning and planning for the park with the counsel and resources provided by Le'alani Boykin. With the support of Michael Mullaley, we also received a Partnerships Capacity Grant this year which will support greater community engagement as we plant our annual sidewalk gardens in spring throughout Hell's Kitchen.

While Kristy has recently moved on from Partnerships, I know that the qualities her work and that of her colleagues noted above are characteristic of the work Partnership does. Kristy has been a strong advocate, and helped us enhance our long-term relationships with Parks Department staff and city-wide greening organizations. Kristy has been a life-line for us in many ways.

Partnership provides a vital link for groups small and large to leverage their strengths and broaden their reach. In addition to borrowing tools for events, our organization and staff have benefitted from a range of workshops on fundraising, understanding and making the most of elected officials, networking with other organizations, and accessing a host of other resources.

I have attended outstanding visioning and planning workshops for other parks groups, and we look forward to working with the Parks Department and Partnerships' dedicated staff to build an even better park for our neighbors in Hell's Kitchen and beyond.

Thank you for your continuing support of this critical resource for New York City's park spaces and park advocates. Please ensure that this support continues so that all parks receive the attention, resources and support they deserve.



Re: Testimony for the NYC City Council Parks Committee Hearing 11/17/16: Oversight-An Overview of the Partnerships for Parks Program

Good afternoon. Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Christina Taylor and I am the Executive Director of the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park. First of all, I want to thank our Councilman Andrew Cohen and Councilman Mark Levine for their ongoing support of the efforts of the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park.

The Friends are an independent community based organization that actively promotes the conservation and improvement of Van Cortlandt Park through environmental education and restoration and enhancement of the Park, its forests and trails. The Friends' have grown to become Van Cortlandt Parks' primary free educational organization—developing educational and stewardship programs for over 6,500 children and adults each year.

The Friends is excited to be celebrating our 25th Anniversary next year. A large part of our success over the last 24 years has been thanks to the wonderful partners we work with such Partnerships for Parks. Over the years, we have reached out to our Partnerships for Parks Outreach Coordinators for advice, help in promoting events, free bulbs and tools, to organize Its My Parks Days and sometimes much needed financial support through their Capacity grants.

However, the support they provide for organizations like the Friends, cannot be compared to the support they provide small parks groups especially those that are just beginning. I've received phone calls from new organizations asking for advice in the past and the first thing I tell them is to reach out to Partnerships for Parks as they are the main source of information and provide much needed guidance to new Parks groups. Partnerships for Parks plays a vital role in supporting all of our parks. Personally, I think the support that Partnerships for Parks provides to Parks Groups throughout the City is the most valuable aspect of the work they do.

I have also had the pleasure of working with the Outreach Coordinators during the planning of our annual Bronx Parks Speak Up as a co-chair of the Bronx Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces. The Bronx Parks Speak Up will be holding its 23rd Annual event in February. In the past, Partnerships for Parks has provided various types of support but has always been involved and we hope they are at the planning table once again this year.

I would like to speak today as a Board Member of Bronx Council for Environmental Quality who are grateful for what Partnership for Parks does for Bronx Parks and would like to once again state that we need to bring the Catalyst Program to the Harlem River- there is need for their expertise for all of the Parks and green spaces along the Harlem River and for the River itself.

I want to use this as an opportunity to personally thank all of those at Partnerships for Parks who I have had the pleasure of working with over the years. Partnerships for Parks has provided vital support to the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park and numerous other Park groups and for that I am truly grateful.

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New York City Council Committee on Parks & Recreation Oversight Hearing - An Overview on the Department of Parks and Recreations' Partnerships for Parks Program November 17, 2016 Tupper Thomas, Executive Director

Good morning, my name is Tupper Thomas, and I am the Executive Director of New Yorkers for Parks. I want to thank the Council Committee on Parks and Recreation for inviting us to speak on this issue. For almost thirty years the Partnerships for Parks program has provided an invaluable service to the city, and we believe New York's communities would be best served with one Outreach Coordinator in every community board district. The attached map shows the areas they currently cover.

Over the past two years New Yorkers for Parks has held borough and citywide meetings with parks advocates and stewards from across the five boroughs. Almost every group spoke very highly of the support they've received from their Partnerships Outreach Coordinator. But we also heard again and again that the Outreach Coordinators are stretched too thin, and unable to provide the level of support the groups are looking for. We've also heard this from current and former Partnerships staff members – they love the work that they do and see how important it is to the city, but are frustrated that they cannot accomplish more due to lack of staff.

The volunteerism and advocacy of "Friends of Parks" and other community groups has a significant impact on the quality of our parks. For many of these groups, a large part of their success can be attributed to the support they receive from Partnerships staff, particularly Outreach Coordinators. Without Partnerships many groups would not be able to get off the ground, much less thrive.

This support is especially important in low-income communities that may not have the resources to start a group without assistance. Volunteers often become advocates for their parks, working with community boards and elected officials to improve open space. The experience of starting and sustaining a successful parks group can inspire confidence and optimism within communities, and empower them to form additional groups tackling other issues when they see the tangible results they can achieve in their park.

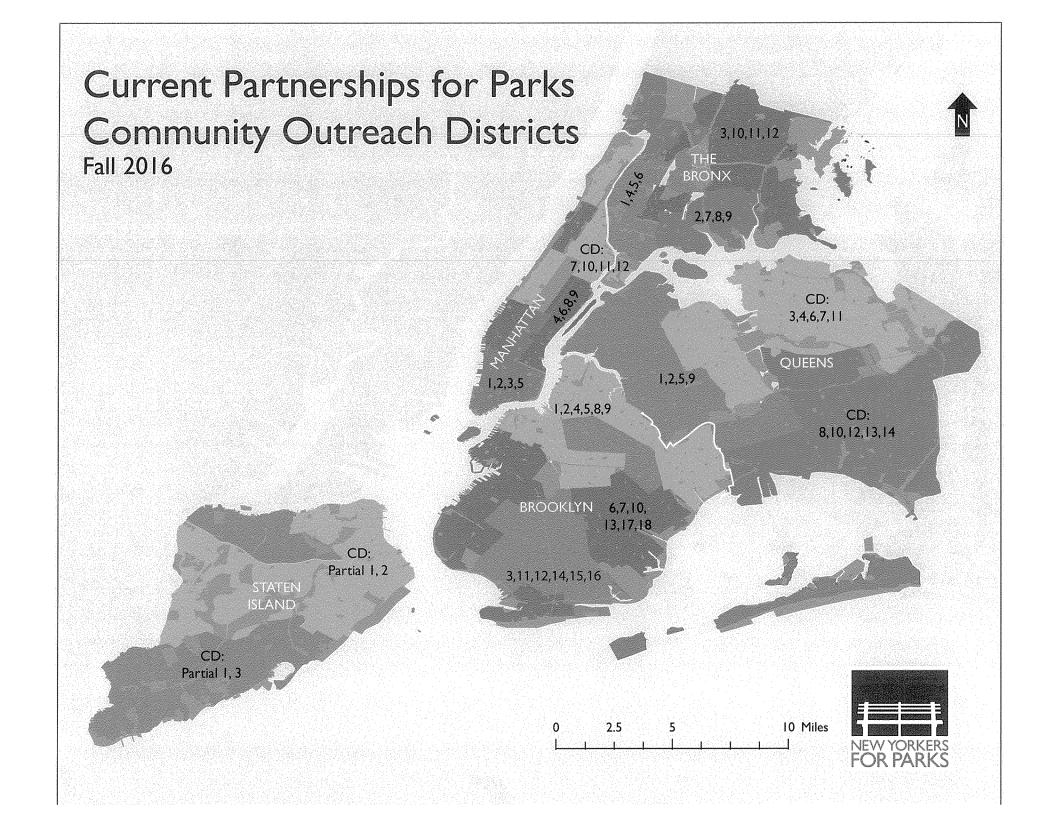
Partnerships currently works with 700 parks groups, and has 300 more starting up. From March through November they host 100 "It's My Park Day" events every month. These do not include the Partnerships Academy, networking and other events they host.

The true success of the CPI capital program, which has moved so quickly through the process, is the enormous work done by the Outreach Coordinators to bring residents to the Community Visioning Sessions.

Partnerships for Parks plays a major role in New Yorkers for Parks' partnership with the Parks Department on the Daffodil Project by distributing and planting our daffodil bulbs in communities across the city.

This is an impressive amount of work, to put it mildly. Imagine how much healthier our parks would be if Partnerships for Parks had enough staff to provide adequate coverage to all New York City neighborhoods. To start to reach this goal we recommend having one Outreach Coordinator in every community board district.

Thank you



Last Name	First Name	Address	Address	City	Zip Code	Organization	Number of Residents Represented	Comments
Abdalian	Arline	47-27 243rd Street		Douglaston	11362-1103	Friends of Douglaston/Little Neck Library	410	We endorse 100% the work of New Yorkers for Parks. We have planted their free daffodil bulbs in the tree wells at the Library, and taught our area's children how to plant their own bulbs in containers. They have helped to make us green and beautiful!
aleexeva	elena	38 Delancey Street	2nd Floor			Evolution Enrichment Center	About 20 people: Karen Reyes Karina Reyes Rene Ceballos Shayna Streeter Erica Santiago Alexandra Vera Jaqueline Wong Elizabeth Gonzalez Latoya Colbourne Wendy Dubar Beth Lobasov Kate Buccholtz Divia Patel Elena Alexeeva Milana Shabekova Rosella Molinu Maria Fadden Meredith Godsall Anne Hsieh	Our staff and our students absolutely love this park and try to utilize it as much as we can. The students love learning about the different kinds of animals and plants that make up the park.
ALERS	MARIA	750 PROSPECT AVENUE		BRONX	10455-1823	PUBLIC SCHOOL 130		
Alvarez	Jon	299 13th St Apt 3C		Brooklyn	11215-4953			I appreciate NY Partnership for Parks because they connect so many groups and organizations with parks in their neighborhoods. Thank you for your continued support of them!! -Jon Alvarez
Appel Azevedo	J. Nicole	301 E. 62nd St. #15J 27 N 6TH STREET	4)	New York Brooklyn	10065-7758 11249-3774	Green Park Gardeners NYC	As volunteer stewards of the Andrew Haswell Green Park garden at East 60th on the East River Esplanade, and an affiliated committee of Friends of the East River Esplanade, we indirectly represent thousands of neighbors in the East 50's, 60's, and 70's (Council Districts 5 and 6) who frequently visit the park (one of the few bits of open space in this neighborhood) and enjoy the garden in all seasons.	Our group has successfully expanded our public outreach thanks to PFP support and feel that it is critical to have a conduit for communicating with Parks and helping volunteer groups be more effective. With more coordinators, PFP can be even more useful.
Baggett	Gregory	204 West 118 Street #3B		NEW YORK	10026-1716	New York Council of Housing Development	85,000 units of cooperative housing and rental housing	Through a creative partnership with the Partnership, we envision organizing residents in HDFC properties to collaborate with residents in NYCHA properties to provide stewardship over the green spaces located near NYCHA and HDFC properties.
Baldwin	Kelley	62 North 7th street		Brookyln	11249-2991			
Bangera Barkoski	Harinakshi Danielle	57-22 157 street flushing 97 McGuinness Blvd	Apt 2r	NY Brooklyn	11355 11222-3318	Evergreen cammunity garden	In this garden 300 gardners. This garden. have. most of the seniors. I.am a volunteer	I really enjoy to do the daffodil projects
Bartosiewicz	Edward	55 Hill Road		Goshen	10924-5041	nagg		
Beauchamp-Jacks		1561 Metropolitan Ave	apt #2B	Bronx	10462-6278			
Belan	Veronica	147 Remsen Street 220-13 146th Avenue	Apt 4A	Brooklyn Springfield Gardens		Volunteers for Springfield Park, Inc.	10,000	After several years of a deplorable 23-acre of park a group of three women with the assistance of our park coordinator, Partnership for Parks we were able to restore our park and bring the quality of life back into our community.
Bell	Susan	6 Rivington St.	Apt. 2	New York	+	M'Finda Kalunga Community Garden		
Bell	Reid	120 N. 7th St., Apt 4D	1	Brooklyn	11249-3057	1		

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Berland	Robyn	1030 Park Place Apt. E9		Brooklyn	11213-1968	Friends of Brower Park	Friends of Brower Park is a Friends an all volunteer group that draws on the community to help care for Brower Park. Our mailing list contains 400 names. The community we serve has approximately	We are a small group of volunteers who could not care for Brower Park's 7 acres without the support of Partnership for Parks. The Fellowship Academy helped us begin to efficiently organize our organization, workshops and networking have been invaluable.
	Sharalana.	CO Chillenge Avenue		Brooklyn	11211 2200	Go Green Brooklyn		Our parks elevate the quality of all of our lives, improve the air for all of our children. Other cities allocate 7% of their budget to parks. It is appalling how little we spend. We need more help!
Binns	Charlotte	68 Skillman Avenue	And CE		11222-3945	do dreen brooklyn	2000	We field more flerp:
Bishop	Kevin	415 Leonard St.	Apt. 6E	BROOKLYN	11222-3945			
							do to beautify this space. Our gardens at 61st	We have worked with P4P for much of our 5 years. It has been a very beneficial relationship for us. P4P has been unfailingly helpful and supportive. And now we
blackwell	susan	36 Sutton Place So	Apt 2-D	New YOrk	10022-4331	GreenParkGardenersNYC	until one reaches Carl Schurz Park.	support them.
Blancero	Andrew	21-37 45th Road		Long Island City	11101			
Blocker	Alexander	208 Meserole St	Apt 6	Brooklyn	11206-7800	Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park		
Boykin-Mason	Helen	178 Legion Street		Brooklyn	11212	Fantasy Garden	Fantasy Garden is a community non-profit	New York's Partnership for Parks has been instrumental and supportive in the quest of our organization to provide a healthy, safe environment for the community in which we live. It so important to have like minds work together for the common good.
							400	Vital service to the whole of the city and all
Brawer	Wendy	175 Rivington #1D		New York	10002-2569	Green Map System	100	its ?commons??! Key to a resilient future
Brennan	Claire	222 East 16th Street	And the	New York		Friends Seminary	750 students, 250 faculty & staff.	We are so grateful for the beautiful daffodils that we receive from Partnership for Parks. We spread them in outdoor areas around the school and donate the ones that we can not use to the community by holding family plantings throughout the year.
Brennan	Courtney	76 Roebling Street	Apt 2B	brooklyn	11211-2124			
		3555de Reimer avenue		bronx	10466	Baychester garden club	5 active	We need to take more care of our parks and make more use of our vacant lands. The Bronx has lots of lands all around that could be used to develop flower gardens. Our trees need compost and seeds around them.
brown	ladacea							
brown Cardinale	adassa							
brown Cardinale Castillo	Jenna Aida	125 Hawthorne Street #5L 2966 Fulton Street		Brooklyn Brooklyn	10033		10,000	

								
Catto Cave	Jennifer Lynn	1369 Dean Street 1349 Dean Street		Brooklyn Brooklyn	11216-3403 11216-3403		150 in our block association	We love Brower Park—it nurtures all ages in our community and is a common space for us to engage in ways that allow us to build better bridges across our community. Please continue to invest in Brower Park staffing, plantings, clean ups and more. Partnership for Parks has played a crucial role in activating & enhancing local organizations engaged in the care for new
								& existing open spaces in their neighborhoods. Keeping them going keeps
Chesler	Steve	980 Manhattan Ave	#3	Brooklyn	11222-1842	Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park	200,000	the light & spirit going in communities.
chew	jackie	65 Columbia St #18A		new york	10002-2718			
Christensen	Constance	35 Prospect Park West	1	Brooklyn	11215-2393			
cramer	Peter	247 east 2nd st		New York	10009-8971	Allied Productions,Inc/Petit Versailles	As a local non profit arts umbrella organization, Allied Productions, Inc. is the steward of the community garden Le Petit Versailles that provides free public events throughout the garden season as well as serves individual artists and groups as fiscal sponsor and resource providor. 3000 is an approximate number of NYers that we represent.	Having a voice in the shaping of current and future parks policy is essential for the well being of gardens that serve local communities and visitors as public social spaces as well as greenspaces that provide food, clean air and manage food waste.
Croteau	Nickolas	806 Herkimer St	#2	Brooklyn	11233-3032			Brooklyn
Custer Dailey	Erika Christy	3564 89th Street	Apt F 45 Lispenard Street	Jackson Heights New York	11372-5742	Jackson Heights Beautification Group	100s	I've only lived in NYC for 6 years, but I so appreciate all that is done to make the city greener. I LOVE the It's My Park Day events that involve everyone from toddler to retirees and Million Trees NYC program. Brooklyn
Del Buono	Catherine	712 Halsey Street		Brooklyn	11233-1207	Halsey-Patchen-Ralph block association	125	Our community in Bed Stuy is always in need of the city's help with beautifying our block and allowing us to have events that bring us together. There is a mix of races and social statuses, but this is still a lower income area so any help is welcome.
	Debbie	114 Vanderbilt Avenue		Brooklyn	11205-2348	Traisey Teterieri Naiph Block association		mostic area so any neip is welseme.
	Monica	30 Broad Street		30th Floor		NYLCV		
Dilworth	Vanessa	57 Norman Ave	apt 3R	Brooklyn	11222-2942			
Dorie	Vivian	390 First Avenue	Apt. 4G	New York	10010-4938			please support partnership for parks.
Douglas	Jessica	208A Calyer St. #3		Brookyn	11222-2778			With the riding population of Greenpoint there is not enough park space. McCarren park is buckling under form overuse. We
Dow	Bruce	209 Franklin Street		Brooklyn	11222-1332			need this park now!
Dowd	Tara	675 Walton Avenue	Apt 4C	Bronx	10451-2573			
Dunn	John	314 W 77th St	Apt 8B	New York		Miles Davis Way Beautification Project50	50	
Earhart	Kristin	404 13th St., #2		Brooklyn		Ps 107 in Brooklyn	a total of over 600 students and staff	
Evers fanguy	Sarah Iance	258 East 5th Street 175 zoe street	apt 5d	Brooklyn staten island	11218-2404 10305-1157			
Feliberty	Jaime	1750 Gleason Avenue	aptou	Bronx		Friends of Soundview Park	Hundreds	Partnerships for Parks is indispensable for our parks.
	Sara	603 Isham St		New York	10034	Friends of Inwood Hill Park		

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								Above all other NYC organizations instituted to help volunteer groups in parks — Green Thumb, City Parks Foundation, Greenbridge, NY4P, Grow NYc, New Restoration Project, etc., Partnerships for
_	1_	and D. Oliff		l			1	Parks has been the only NYC agency to help
Frances	Susan	6815 Bay Cliff Terrace		Brooklyn		The Owl's Head Park Horticulture Group	20	us
Furgiuele	Patrizia	629 kappock st	6d	Bronx	10463-7766			
Gallagher Gerlach	Sarah Erik	1136 First Avenue 76 India Street	A21	New York Brooklyn	10065-7963 11222-1864	Upper Green Side	Upper Green Side's the environmental group on the Upper East Side, local sponsor of area Greenmarkets, organizer of It's My Parks Days, gardening projects under the shared banner of Upper Green Side and Friends of the East River Esplanade 60th-120th Streets, organizer of the Bicycle Island Garden Project 60th-96th Streets and more.	Really, New Yorkers 4 Parks Partnership for Parks has been essential to the maintaining of the Upper East Side's established green oases and provided unfailing support to groups seeking to re-green or reclaim neglected UES open space.
Geriach	Erik	76 India Street	A21	вгоокіуп	11222-1864			
Glass	Debra	118 Forsyth Street #6		New Yor		M'Finda Kalunga Community Garden	~50 individuals and families	Now, more than ever, parks can be the necessary gathering spaces that will keep us united, healthy, and whole. P4P plays a vital role in making sure that underfunded parks can sustain and build communities. Thank you!
Goodwyn	Kahlil	30 Montrose Ave. #22Q		Brooklyn	11206			
Greem	Renee	14 Prince Street, Apt. 3A		New York		Friends of Elizabeth Street Garden		
Harada	Mark	190 E 2nd Street , #12		New York	10009			
Hausner	Marise	411 East 53rd Street		New York	10022-5106	GPGNYC	20	
Hawkins	Dian	1081 Jerome Ave #5h		Bronx	10452-4808	Friends for parks	unknown	the park department are short staff, it is vital that more partnership for parks coordinator are provide in order to support volunteer groups in the upkeep and beautification of our parks in our communities.
Helmke	Franz	425 East 25th Street		New York	10010-2547	Hunter-Bellevue School of Nursing	660+ live-in student dormitory residents, plus faculty, staff and non-boarding students	
Hill	Alan	123 Java Street		Brooklyn		Open Space Alliance	100,000 - all residents in Brooklyn CB1	As stated above, parks need all the help they can get. Any support, private or public, is vital to maintaining current standards, which are barely sufficient. Please support this initiative.
Hiss	Tony	22 East 8th Street, Apt. 3A	Apt. 3A	New York	10003-5920		,	
Holbrook	Chandler	85 Adams Street, 13C	1.7.	Brooklyn	11201-1408			
Houston	Julie	450 Fifth Street		Brooklyn	11215-3402			
Hoy	Kate	176 Meserole Ave		Brooklyn	11222-5343			
Ingalls	Alex	805 Willoughby Ave		Brooklyn	11206-7008			Brooklyn
Israel	Michele	330 18th Street		Brooklyn	11215-6111			
Jackson	Shirley	301 W 110th Street	Apt. 10-E	New York	10026-4063			
Jackson	Li	18 India St		Brooklyn	11222-1506		68	
James	Earline	142 Putnam Ave		Brooklyn New York		Block association	Approx. 250.	
Janner	Irene	101 Clark Street, apt. 7D		Brooklyn		Cadman Park Conservancy	Events in the park have drawn over one hundred people.	In our district, active recreation space is very deficient. Our local schools lack yards for activity and come to our parks (vying for the same space as residents). Downtown Brooklyn is being rapidly overdeveloped with no open space.
jaramillo	maria	58 METROPOLITAN AVE	PHC	BROOKLYN	11249-3991		au poopiei	Commission of the contraction of
Daverring	Titlatig	TOO WILLING FOR THIN AVE	prine	IDVOCKTIA	1-17-13-2231	1	I	L

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Jed	Joyce	544 8th Street		Brooklyn	11215	The GreenWorks Team		Only with the excellent support of Emily Sherrod, Outreach Coordinator, a beautiful garden was planted and maintained in McLaughlin Park for the past three years, and will continue for future years, enjoyed by the community. Outreach Coordinators needed!
Jones	Penny	55 Spring St.	Apt. 5	New York	10012-5766	Liz Christy Community Garden	18 volunteer members; 2,000-6,000 visitors a weekend depending on the season; countless pedestrian commuters, tourists, and locals walking by outside our block-long fourseason landscape design.	As we head toward a population of nine million we need to preserve, enlarge, and care for all the green space that we can. Partnership has been viewed as a solid, efficient organization by the gardening community for many years.
Karell	Michelle	54 Maujer Street	TAPE: 5	Brooklyn	11206-1022		Season tanascape design.	Community for tharty years.
	Wilchelle	443 west 25th street #6B		NY	10001-6504			
keitt kerzner	paul	443 West 25th street #bb		Ridgewood		ridgewood property owners & civic assn	495 families in Ridgewood who are all homeowners	we could not ask for a better core organization to help outer borough organizations secure resources, to help beautify the grass roots neighborhoods that make up our city.
Kleinman	Louis	310 West End Ave		New York	10023	3	n/a	
Kurland	Chad	117 Midwood street		Brooklyn	11225-5060			
Lazarus	Trevor	584 Sackett Street	Apartment 2	Brooklyn	11217-3019			
Lea	Jane	78 1/2 norman ave		Brooklyn	11222-2935			Parks make the city so much better and more liveable. They are a valuable resource that need to be supported (and improved!)
Leblanc	Lauren	417 St Johns Place		Brooklyn	11238	3		
LeCount	Russ	165 Indian Ridge Rd.		Leeds	12451	Bissel Gardens Inc.	30	
Leidy	Darlene	Mott Hall Community School	650 Hollywood Ave 2nd Fl	Bronx	10465-2352	Mott Hall Community School	350	
Lo	Rich	111 Lawrence ST APT 35F		Brooklyn	11201-3889			Park equity is important to Brooklynites. Please support Partnership for Parks.
Loeber Pasarell	sherrie	3995 hillman ave	apt B2	Bx	10463-3033	as individual~		
Long	Amy	108-14 72nd Ave. 3rd Floor		Forest Hills	11375-5301	Earth Citizens Club at Ehrenreich Austin	We have 10 core volunteers, and each of our events directly impacts 30-60 people. The beautification projects we do at the park benefits all park visitors, which can be hundreds on a daily basis.	Partnership for Parks and the Outreach Coordinators are instrumental in providing a simple and effective way for citizens to take ownership for their community and to connect to achieve common goals. Please support PfP and their great work!
							15 Dedicated Members 40 General Members	NYC parks would not be able to function without the dedication of Partnership for Parks. NYC is made up of many moving
Lopez-Gilpin	Martha	36-14 21st Avenue	2nd Floor	Astoria	11105-1939	Astoria Park Alliance	facilitating between 100 to 400 volunteers a year	pieces and PFP is essential in putting those pieces together for parks.
Loven	Zazel	359 West 22nd Street	2nd Floor	New York	10011-2605	Chelsea Waterside Park Association	year Our association has several hundred members, and we represent everyone who uses our park.	, -
			2nd Floor			Chelsea Waterside Park Association	year Our association has several hundred members, and we represent everyone who	pieces together for parks. Chelsea street tree beds, bike lane tree beds, and parks have benefited for years from our association with NewYorkers4Parks and their valuable contributions to the greening of our city.

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Marino Mathrani	Michael Varsha	575 Grand Street 136-04 cherry ave. #3b	#E901	New York flushing	10002-3575 11355-4843	Friends of Corlears Hook Park	Our work most directly impacts the over 3,000 families in the Vladeck public housing project and the East River Housing Corporation which directly surround the park but is also a benefit to all visitors of the park and Lower East Side.	We are a relatively new group, having been founded in October of 2014, and we good not have accomplished all that we have in the few short years of our existences without the guidance, resources, and help of Partnership for Parks.
Marifalli	Valsila	130-04 Cherry ave. #30		Illustring	11333 4043			
Mayock	Joe	79 North 11th Street		BROOKLYN	11249-1913	Open Space Alliance for N. BK (OSA)	OSA is the official private partner to the NYC Parks Dept. for maintaining and activating 45 parks and playgrounds in Greenpoint and Williamsburg, serving 200,000+ Brooklynites. The OSA mailing list has nearly 7,000 subscribers. OSA has over 300 individual donors.	North Brooklyn parks and OSA receive valuable support from PfP. PfP helps OSA and other park groups with training and volunteer service projects. Currently PfP has 1 OC for CB1 & 5 other CBs. She does an outstanding job, but is spread too thin!
Mazur	Richard	125 Milton St.		Brooklyn	11222-2501	gwapp		We in CB#1 are woefully underserved as far as open space per capita. Increasing budget allocations for Partnership for Parks is the least the City Council can do to give our community the parks, support that we deserve.
McCreight	Grace	815 St John's Place	Apt 3L	Brooklyn	11216-5010			Increasing the number of Outreach Coordinators would help New Yorkers care for the public spaces that are so important for exercise, community building, and all the other health and mental well-being benefits of nature.
McDowell	Andy	1158 Manhattan Avenue		Brooklyn	11222-1030			Brooklyn needs more parks, more funding for outdoor activities, more outdoor space for all, and more funding for groups that will help us achieve this.
McFadden	Bridget	85 Java St		Brooklyn	11222-1638	OSA		
McKeever	Trina	133 Oak St		Brooklyn	11222-2513	Brooklyn CB1	Residents of Greenpoint and Williamsburg.	Our parks are crumbling, promised Parks have yet to be built. The city must put needed funds into parks' budget. You can't get blood from a stone. Come on!!!
		44000 70 Dalam 400		Faces kills	11275 5524	Erianda of MacDonald Park	100s	Dear City Council, P4P has been a vital link between our community and the NYC Parks Dept for a number of years. We couldn't have completed numerous projects in MacDonald Park without them. Their support has been priceless. Funding is vital.
Melnick	Stephen	11220 72 Drive, A29		Forest Hills Floral Park		Friends of MacDonald Park Queens County Farm Museum	400,000	
Meyer Mino	Sarah	73-50 Little Neck Parkway 315 W 33rd Street	20E	New York	10001-2791		400,000	
Mino Miranda	Robert Mike	213 M 22IG 2H66£	200	Brooklyn	11215	my family	10	Don't be "penny wise, and pound foolish".
Morales	David	41 India Street		Brooklyn	11222-1522	The second secon		
Morhaim	Elizabeth	374 s. 2nd st		Brooklyn	11211-5766			
Morrissey	Sola	327 Graham Avenue	1	Brooklyn	11211			
Mulvihill	Jillian	86-10 109th Street	1	Richmond Hill	11418	3	<u> </u>	

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Murphy	Maria	1276 Fulton Avenue	4th floor	Bronx	10456-3402	Claremont Healthy Village Initiative		To the City Council, I can't type all i want so here are some points. A great support and resource for our community Great program for the community Great outreach coordinator
							Ocean by the Park Tree Club: 70+ volunteers on Ocean Avenue in Brooklyn, between Flatbush/Empire and Parkside Avenues MS 443 New Voices Middle School Green Team :20 Green Team Students plus over 500	PfP Outreach Coordinators have supported my school and my block by providing expert guidance. The Capacity Grant Program and Daffodil Project are invaluable resources for our city sustainability efforts. Thank you for your continued support of
Musick	Amy	125 Ocean Avenue	Apt 4J	Brooklyn		Ocean by the Park Tree Club/MS 443	students and 50 staff school-wide	PfP.
Naidich	Sandra	603 4th Ave		Brooklyn	11215-6746			
Nero	Veronica	9 Hampton Place		Brooklyn		Friends of Brower Park		
Ocansey	Joshua	2727 Henry Hudson Parkway		Bronx	10463-4740			
					44222 4004	ANG DOE NO MOV	250	Thanks to New Yorkers for Parks our students have participated in the Daffodil Project for the past 4 years. Students have planted bulbs in the school garden and surrounding street trees planting beds, helping to beautify their community.
Ouderkirk	Deborah	MS 340 K North Star Academy	227 Sterling Place	Brooklyn		NYC DOE MS 340K	230	helping to beautify their community.
Papandrea	John	110 west 90 street 212 Montrose Ave. #2		New York Brooklyn	10024 11206-2737		 	
Parga	Frank Samantha	50 Central Ave		E Brunswick	08816-4608			
Pedreiro		72 Berry St.		Bklyn	11249-1958			
Peri Portgal	Robin Zipporah	268 Berkeley Place		Brooklyn	11249-1938			
								As a Landscape Architect working on projects in all 5 Boroughs I know how important outreach coordinators are particularly in traditionally undeserved and disadvantaged neighborhoods. Public involvement seems particularly needed in
Prince	Nancy	440 East 62nd street	Apt 4C	New York	10065-8341	Individual city Landscape Architect		Queens and Brooklyn.
Purvis	Janice	1120 Prospect Place		Brooklyn	11213-2139			
Rasmussen	Sophie	49 North 8th Street		Brooklyn	11249-2878		4	
Roche	Brendan	62 South Oxford Street		1 Brooklyn	11217-1351			
Rodack	Soretta	310 East 6 St.		New York	10003-8705	Education Community Com-	100 homeowners	Parks, community gardens, and other green spaces are essential to NYC's quality of life issues. They provide recreational and relaxing spaces that bind neighborhoods and families together, as well as serving as refuge for plant and animal species.
Rogers	Jackie	4121 Beach Channel Drive		Far Rockaway	11691	Edgemere Community Group	Too nomeowners	
rome	christopher	118 java street	#1	brooklyn	11222-1603			Parks are essential for the good health and proper growth of our city. Please, let us try to live up to the legacy of the forward thinking that the city fathers showed with their visionary set-aside of land for Central Park. CR
Rosler	Eliza	210 20th Street, Apt. 1F		Brooklyn	11232			
Rosner	Jasmine	1 NORTHSIDE PIERS APT 15J		BROOKLYN	11249-3185		<u> </u>	
Rubio	Veronica	212 Montrose Ave Apt 2		Brooklyn	11206-2737			It's imperative that we have more parks and green space! Please!!!!

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							Friends of Amersfort Park is a grass roots volunteer organization that has had as many	Please continue to support P4Ps bring the community together a
							as 50 volunteers for a park painting project to as few as a committed group of 7	projects for maintenance and beautification of these urban sp
							neighborhood kids planting daffodils on a rainy Saturday morning. I would say we have	learned so much from them abo
	L .	lacre et al. 1. A	64740	Daniel de la constante de la c	11210 5012	Educate of Assessment Pools	70- 100 friends.	a diverse group of people for po- results.
Rucker	Desiree	1655 Flatbush Avenue	C1710	Brooklyn	11222-2325	Friends of Amersfort Park	70- 100 Mends.	results.
Rushefsky	Molly	734 Leonard St, #1R		Brooklyn	11222-2325			
								Each year, our students plant do
								around the school building, as p living environment curriculum.
								we are surprised by all the lovel
						•		that welcome us to a new seaso
Russell	Marie	PS 174Q	6510 Dieterle Crescent	Rego Park	11374-5029	PS 174 William Sidney Mount	650 students	wouldn't be able to do this with
	ļ					·		Partnership for Parks is such a v
							100s of people use the park every week!!!	service to small neighborhood p
							We have a group of 20 volunteers who plant,	Father Fagan Park in Manhattan
							water and advocate for the park, with the	gave us the very valuable advice
				ŀ			very appreciated help of staff from	to get our group together and he
Sale	Jennifer	200 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS	APT 5	NEW YORK	10013-1229	Father Fagan Park	Partnership for Parks. Thank you!!!	our park greener and cleaner.
								Partnership for Parks plays a vita
								maintaining and advocating for
								across the city, especially in con
					İ			where it is needed. We have pe
	l			l	44220 2500	N Vanla Danta anti-a Danta		benefited from their sponsored such as the daffodil project.
Salzman Saponara	Nina John	11 Jefferson Avenue 77 South 2nd Street	3R	Brooklyn Brooklyn		New York Restoration Project Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park	North Brooklyn	such as the danodii project.
Schiller	Janine	175 McClean Ave	J.K	Staten Island	10305-4648	Trends of Basilities filler falls		
Shalala	Edward	50 Delancey Street #101		NY	10002-2967		80	
						2		
								I am a member of the Prospect
								Alliance because it is absolutely
		1						that we protect, preserve, and e
								open green spaces in New York
								are invaluable for both environr
Shuford	Mary	373 Sterling Place		Brooklyn		Prospect Park Alliance	thousands	humanitarian reasons.
Smilow	Judy	110 west 96 Street	6C	New York	10025-6415			
Smock Soltysiak	Amanda Shannon	469 Eastern Parkway 576 Leonard Street FL 4		Brooklyn Brooklyn	11216-4440 11222-3252			
Soitysiak	Snannon	576 Leonard Street Pt 4		Бгоокіуп	11222-3232			
								Fund this program Not just a be
								program - positive impact on he
								and revitalization of neighborho
								Daffodil Project brings communi
								together who might never have together - grateful for the oppo
CA-II	1,	444 St. Marrier Direct	1	Staten Island	10201 2424	S.I. Partnership for Community Wellness	we outreach to the entire borough of Staten Island	they afford us
Stoll Sutton-Long	Jody Michael	444 St. Marks Place 725 Metropolitan Avenue, 2R		Brooklyn	11211-3875	3.1. Farthership for Community Weliness	ISIGNA	cicy anoid ds
oution-Long	Daniel	145 W 84th St.	UA School for Green Careers	New York	10024-4614		<u> </u>	
Tainow	Daniel		Apt 5K	Brooklyn	11249-3078			
Tainow	Maria				111173-3076	1		1
Tavella	Maria Christina	22 N. 6th Street			10464-0216	Bronx Coalition for Parks & Green Spaces	300	n
	Maria Christina Michael	C/o BCEQ 34 N 7th St	PO 265 NPH2-E	Bronx Brooklyn		Bronx Coalition for Parks & Green Spaces Center for Environmental Therapeutics	Web-based 300	

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								Partnership for Parks is a terrific organization that empowers the "local" parks organizations. They hold worksho on how to grow your organization, supp
		1	1				We have around 2,000 subscribers to our	park stewardship efforts with tools and
~1		121 Calamateria		Brooklyn	11222 2500	Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park	email list.	materials and offer guidence and advice
Thompson	Katherine	131 Calyer Street 5 fordham hill oval	 	Brooklyn	10468		errian list.	materials and oner guidence and advice
tyndall	carl	5 Tordnam nili oval	 	Вгопх	10468			The Partnership does a great job! Pleas
		la- a		B Lik	11208			expand their services.
Vazquez	Louis	3 Essex Street	<u> </u>	Brooklyn	11208			Partnership for Parks is a dedicated and
	İ				ĺ			valuable addition to New York City. The
								enhance low-income as well as other los
								communities with their work. They
			1				*	enhance the beauty and health of all
	1		1				40-50 individuals	residents.
Waisman	Phyllis	368 West 23rd Street	Apt. 4F	New York		Chelsea Garden Club	40-50 Individuals	
Walker	Emily	632 E. 14th St.	#16	New York		14 BC Coop Tree Committee	33	
walters	wendy	385 graham ave		brooklyn	11211-2400			
Wasmer	Christopher	1 Northside Piers #6D		Brooklyn	11249-3183			
Wasmer	Natalya	1 Northside Piers	Apt 6D	Brooklyn	11249-3183			
	,							
								The Parks Department has too small a
					ĺ			budget so it needs to develop a strong
					1			volunteer program. Partnership for Pai
								has shown a good capacity for finding a
						1	·	supporting volunteers and interacting w
Weille	Patsy	Hellgate Hill Highgate Commun. A	166 East 96th St., 1A	New York	10128-2512	Hellgate Hill-Highgate Community Assoc.	four regular volunteers; 16 on IMP days.	Parks. They deserve your support.
							Hundreds daily pass by and are rejunvenated	
	₋		1	.			1 7, 7	
Wells	Rachel	832 Metropolitan Ave		Brooklyn	11211-2515	Orient Ave GreenStreets Caretaker	and inspired by the garden.	Our community garden is so grateful for
	1							the support of Partnership for Parks!
					- 1			1
					- 1			Please keep this invaluable program go
				L	I		400	the parks and garden of NYC are the fut
Winters	Briar	157 Rivington Street	No. 11	New York		6&B Community Garden	130	of this city.
Zales	Susan	22 North 6th st.	PH2F	Brooklyn	11249-3075			

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November 17, 2016

Good morning.

My name is Nilka Martell, founder and director of GIVE, a grass root organization in the Bronx.

We started out in 2011, just a few neighbors, carrying out on a block beautification project.

Through the valuable work of Partnerships for Parks our efforts extended to include Bronx parks, like Virginia Park, Hugh Grant Circle, Starlight Park, Chief Dennis Devlin triangle and the West Farms Solider Cemetery.

PFP has a wonderful program called "It's My Park", where they assist community groups in creating and carrying out service projects in local parks. We have worked with PFP in coordinating several It's My Park projects, mobilizing hundreds of local volunteers and getting them involved in active change.

Through our work with PFP, we were exposed to other community groups, or "Friends of Parks" group who care for a specific park. We have engaged our volunteers in various Friends group projects, exposing them to other parks in the Bronx.

We also participated in PFP's Fellowship Academy. Our prjoect was to conduct an online fundraiser. We exceeded our fund raising goal by \$900.

We have attended several of PFP's workshops were we learned how to advocate for our parks, structure our group, use social media and navigate city agencies. They also send out a monthly email with events, resources and grant information.

Our growth is due largely in part to the support provided by Partnership for Parks. The one on one relationship with our outreach coordinator is essential for us to continue sustaining communities through civic engagement.

Can we all imagine a greener and cleaner NYC? It is possible, with more support, in the form of funding, so that PFP can continue to empower local groups. In turn, we can be the change the seek to see.

Thank you.



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

City Council Hearing: Partnerships for Parks

November 16, 2016

To the City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation:

My name is K Webster. I'm the President of the Sara Roosevelt Park Community Coalition and I came to add our voice to the chorus of volunteer park stewards on behalf of Partnerships for Parks' suggested goal of an Outreach Coordinator for every Community Board.

We are a long -time Park's advocacy group. We've been together since 1980 when the neighborhood organized to rid our park of drug dealers and pimps.

Since then we have created 5 community gardens, maintained a bird sanctuary, a turtle pond, and a chicken coop. We've held ladybug and firefly releases annually. We've advocated for funding and held community visionings for sports fields, playgrounds and several park houses. We've held countless festivals (to honor our diverse community), held film screenings run by teenagers and Coalition meetings to gather the neighborhood's input on our park. And together we are fighting for the return of a beloved nursing home.

With Partnerships for Parks help, whether financial, logistical or material, we've always felt we had a partner who cared about how we were doing. And not just us, but the entire city has been offered a personal relationship to their park through the dedication of individual Outreach Coordinators. In our case, Kirsty Bambridge is all you'd ever want in an ally. She's sharp, diplomatic, direct and a hard worker. She listens to and honors the local smarts of all her park stewards. And she has a sense of humor. Vital. But it's harder to keep that sense of humor if you are fraying because you can't provide the level of contact required to keep volunteers going.

I recently attended one of P4Pks mentoring programs. I met and formed a fast friendship with one of the smartest organizers I've ever met. And I was supposed to be the mentor. But in P4Pks settings it is always an exchange of information, we are always learning from everyone.

In these coming times more than ever, we need to invest in advocates who know that they are not only helping people to value their parks, but helping people fight for the kind of society that values *them*.

Let's invest in our future as we build an electorate that is willing to make common cause with everyone in their neighborhood, who will respond to problems with solutions, and who will stand up for their neighbors and those in need of help because they will feel entitled to do so and will have already been practicing in their local park.

Thank you.

K Webster President Sara Roosevelt Park Coalition http://sdrpc.mkgarden.org/

November 17, 2016

Good morning New City Council Elected Officers Ladies and Gentlemen

My name is Fay D. Hill a resident of Springfield Gardens, New York. A retired executive legal secretary and a volunteer of Springfield Park also in Queens, New York and a board member of Community Board 13.

I am here to testify on behalf of the communities as a whole and to thank Partnership for Parks on the remarkable work they have contributed to our communities. These are hard working leaders who have contributed to the awareness of the improvement of our parks and green spaces. Without their promotions and workshops we the volunteers would not have been able to do the work of improving our green spaces and the environment.

We need their continued services as well as the continued support of workshops to improve the volunteers' knowledge as well as how to manage our capabilities of improving our parks. Without their various workshops I have attended both in the city and in Queens I would not have known that I could apply for discretionary funds from my elected councilperson to improve our park which has been in deplorable conditions for several years. Now that we have made some minor improvements we need to continue that vein with their assistance. We have our parks coordinators who done a tremendous job in assisting us volunteers with activities and programs that are benefiting to us and the quality of life in our various communities.

We would like all elected councilpersons present here today to consider in your upcoming budget to make this one of your major priority to the contribution of fundings for Partnership for Parks and their offices.

Thank you all for listening to my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Fay D. Hill

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	nerthips for Parks	
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