

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

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June 30, 2025

Start: 11:46 a.m.

Recess: 11:51 a.m.

HELD AT: COMMITTEE ROOM - CITY HALL

B E F O R E: Shekar Krishnan, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

David M. Carr  
Robert F. Holden  
Linda Lee  
Julie Menin  
Mercedes Narcisse  
Vickie Paladino  
Sandra Ung

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Gale A. Brewer

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, good  
3 morning. This is a microphone check for the Committee  
4 on Parks and Recreation. Today's date is June 30,  
5 2025. This recording is done in the Committee Room by  
6 Ginelle Yearwood.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, Welcome  
8 to today's New York City Council hearing for the  
9 Committee on Parks and Recreation.

10 Please silence all cell phone electronic  
11 devices and do not approach the dais.

12 Chair, we are ready to begin.

13 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: [GAVEL] All right.  
14 Too much fun being had here for a Committee vote, way  
15 too much fun.

16 Good morning, everyone. I am Shekar  
17 Krishnan, Chair of the City Council's Committee on  
18 Parks and Recreation.

19 Today, the Committee will vote on two  
20 bills. Proposed Intro. Number 566-B sponsored by my  
21 Colleague, Council Member Brewer, and Proposed Intro.  
22 643-A sponsored by Council Member Riley.

23 Intro. 566-B would require the Department  
24 of Education in consultation with the Parks  
25 Department to submit an annual report on how to

expand public access to school playgrounds. The report would need to prioritize playgrounds that are located in environmental justice areas and include a list of at least 15 school playgrounds each year that could be opened for use to the public on weekends and after school. A great idea and a very easy way to expand access to green space for all of our New Yorkers.

Intro. 643-A would require the Parks Department and DOE to post information on its websites on how to access DOE indoor basketball courts when the weather does not allow for the use of outdoor basketball courts. The bill would also require Parks with DOE to conduct a study on how to improve overall access to indoor basketball courts including an evaluation of how to improve the efficiency of the permitting process for indoor basketball courts and the feasibility of allowing members of the public to use DOE indoor courts on bad weather days during times when school is not in session.

These bills were first considered at a hearing held by this Committee on April 23rd. Both of these bills further an important goal of this

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2 Committee which is to equitably improve recreational  
3 access and access to green space for all New Yorkers,  
4 and I urge Members of this Committee to vote in favor  
5 of each of these bills.

6 I want to congratulate Council Member  
7 Brewer and Council Member Riley.

8 Just want to mention who all we have here  
9 for the vote today. We are joined by Council Member  
10 Holden, Council Member Lee, Council Member Menin,  
11 Council Member Ung, Council Member Carr, and Council  
12 Member Paladino as well as Council Member Brewer.

13 I'm now going to turn it over to Council  
14 Member Brewer to say a few words about her  
15 legislation.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER BREWER: Thank you very  
17 much, Chair, and I am really excited about this bill  
18 only because about 20 years ago I am standing on a  
19 hot summer day in front of a playground that is  
20 locked and it has about, I don't know, three-quarters  
21 of the block. It's huge and right next door to it is  
22 a NYCHA building and nobody can use the playground.  
23 Even to this day, it is locked, and so this is really  
24 exciting for me because we all need, particularly  
25 young people, outdoor recreation. It's critical for

physical, mental, and social well-being and, as you indicated, this bill would grow 15 schoolyards per year, prioritizing low-income communities with the least access to outdoor open space. Just so you know, there are 945 school buildings with an outdoor yard. 288 of them, about 30 percent, are open to the public outside of school hours either through Trust for Public Land or the joint operating with Parks and DOE. That is how you capitalize on outdoor recreation space that already exists. So Intro. 566-A is sponsored by the New York Communities for Change, New York Restoration Project, New York League of Conservation Voters, Open Plans, Randall's Island Park Alliance, Riverside Park Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, Wellness in the School and many more.

I want to thank Shula Puder and Cynthia Hornig from my office; Parks Committee Staff, Chris Sartori, Patrick Mulvihill, Michael Sherman, and Ann Driscoll; and also I want to thank IBO who did a report on this topic and Beta NYC which has mapped every single outdoor playground in every single school, open or closed. Thank you very much.

CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much, Council Member Brewer.

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2 I also want to note we've been joined by  
3 Council Member Narcisse, and now I'd like to ask the  
4 Clerk to call the roll, please.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good  
6 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call  
7 vote, Committee on Parks and Recreation. Both items  
8 are coupled. Chair Krishnan.

9 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Aye.

10 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Holden.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER HOLDEN: Aye.

12 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Lee.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Menin.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER MENIN: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

18 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ung.

19 COUNCIL MEMBER UNG: Aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Carr.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Paladino.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER PALADINO: Aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: With a  
3 vote of eight in the affirmative, zero in the  
4 negative, and no abstentions, both items are adopted.

5 Mr. Chair, that is a full Committee.

6 CHAIRPERSON KRISHNAN: Thank you so much.  
7 Thanks, everyone. Congrats to the Council Members on  
8 their bills. The vote is now closed. [GAVEL]

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C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date August 4, 2025