



**Hearing before the New York City Council  
Committee on Parks & Recreation / Subcommittee on Capital Budget  
Fiscal Year 2020 Preliminary Budget  
March 8, 2019**

**Testimony By: Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP, Commissioner & Matt Drury, Director of Government Relations**

Good afternoon, Chair Grodenchik, members of the Parks Committee, Chair Gibson, members of the Subcommittee on Capital Budget, and other members of the Council. I am Mitchell Silver, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, and I am joined here today by a number of our senior staff, including First Deputy Commissioner Liam Kavanagh, Deputy Commissioner for Capital Projects Therese Braddick, and Matt Drury, our Director of Government Relations.

As you are aware, NYC Parks' primary responsibility is the stewardship of over 30,000 acres of green and open space – 14 percent of New York City's land mass – including 10,000 acres of natural areas. We oversee nearly 4,500 individual properties, ranging from parks and playgrounds to community gardens and Greenstreets. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to discuss the agency's Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2020, and to provide an overview of our agency's recent efforts and initiatives in building and maintaining our city's green and open spaces for all New Yorkers. We're proud of our achievements over the past year, and welcome this chance to update the Council on our continuing work. With tremendous support from Mayor de Blasio and in partnership with the City Council, NYC Parks will continue to find innovative ways to improve our maintenance and operations, and expand programs and services to improve the experience in parks and public spaces. We are working smarter and more efficiently, streamlining the capital process, and continuing to improve the quality of life for New Yorkers all over this great city.

As the Mayor noted when he presented this year's Preliminary Budget, it is relatively cautious and conservative, in light of potential economic impacts faced by the City in relation to dynamics at the state and federal level, but it still gives our Agency the resources we need to get the job done. The Preliminary Budget reflects our agency's on-going priorities, providing for operating expenses of \$542.8 million dollars. That number includes pay raises to \$15 per hour for our Parks Opportunity Program employees, and over \$1 million in new funding, for rat mitigation efforts to increase late-day cleaning and collection service in parks in Rat Mitigation zones in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Manhattan, as well as new exterminator positions to help address additional concerns. The Preliminary 10-Year Capital Plan, including the current Fiscal Year, provides a total Parks Capital budget of \$5 billion, with \$71 million in Mayoral funding for approved new capital needs.

2018 was an exciting year for NYC Parks, and I hope you'll agree that our achievements of the last 5 years have been considerable, and that we're continuing to build momentum – in more ways than one. Specifically, our agency's ability to deliver capital projects and improve our parks continues to be my top priority. In Fiscal Year 2018, we completed construction on 123 park improvement projects, with 88% coming in on-time/on-budget. 27 of those projects, over 20%, completed construction 30 or more days ahead of schedule. And more improvements are on the way - we completed design on 167 park capital projects in Fiscal Year 2018, a 70% increase over the 98 projects that completed design in Fiscal Year 2014. The internal reforms we've instituted for our design process since this administration took office – streamlined reviews and reducing internal process -- are having a transformative impact. On average, the single-site landscape projects in Fiscal Year 2014 took over two years to complete design, but for the projects that completed design in Fiscal Year 2018, we cut that average timeline in half. When projects encounter complications or delays, we're tackling those challenges head-on, working with internal and external partners to clear logjams and get projects back on track. Upon my arrival at the agency, a backlog of over 150 previously existing projects had run into serious delays. I can report that close to two-thirds of those delayed projects, which had pre-dated this administration, have now been completed. The remaining projects are nearly all in construction, with a few projects expected to begin construction shortly. Though the City's capital process can be complicated and lengthy, we're proud to do our part in keeping these projects moving forward as quickly as possible, and we are committed to working with the Council and our agency partners to continue finding practical solutions and making improvements.



With this spirit in mind, I'd like to update the Council and outline some agency highlights for 2018 in all five boroughs. Starting with Queens, we're continuing to make progress with a key agency initiative—our Anchor Park program, which is investing \$150 million of capital funds to make old parks new again with five projects, one in each borough, for parks that serve as vital open spaces for thousands of New Yorkers. Phase 1 of the project at Astoria Park, which will include a synthetic turf soccer field and improved site amenities, is in construction and expected to be completed later this year, and we anticipate that Phase 2, which will completely reconstruct the comfort station and Charybdis Playground, will begin construction this summer. The Anchor Park projects in the other four boroughs are progressing as well, and we look forward to unveiling these revived community spaces soon. We were also pleased to make Fisher Pool in East Elmhurst one of the pilot sites for our "Cool Pools" initiative. We gave a new look and feel to five outdoor pools in under-served neighborhoods throughout the City, none of which had seen significant renovation since they were built in the 1970s. We utilized a creative approach to reactivating these spaces by providing fun polar-themed wall art, lounge chairs for sunbathing and relaxing poolside, cabana-style shade structures to help keep swimmers cool, and free poolside activities, including games, sports, arts and crafts, and fitness classes. Cool Pools was a tremendous success, improving the outdoor pool experience so much that we saw increased attendance of 27% at these five pools, which people in these neighborhoods began calling "resort pools." We're currently examining ways to expand this approach to other pools throughout the City, and we look forward to providing the Council with an update soon.

In Brooklyn, we were delighted to cut the ribbon on a complete reconstruction of Lieutenant Joseph Petrosino Park in January —~~three months ahead of schedule~~— as part of this administration's commitment towards parks equity—the Community Parks Initiative, or CPI. As you're well aware, CPI is the signature program of NYC Parks' effort to invest \$318 million of Mayoral capital funds for improving parks throughout the City, many of which had been overlooked for decades. 67 parks and playgrounds were included in this incredible initiative to completely reimagine and reconstruct these vital community amenities, and I'm pleased to announce that we have already completed 35 of the 67 projects, with an additional 17 sites in construction. The remainder are slated for completion by 2021. Earlier this year, we also delivered another major capital renovation in McCarren Park — two months ahead of schedule. The park now has a beautifully reconstructed synthetic turf multi-use field and running track. Visitors to McCarren Park are also benefiting from our implementation of new innovative strategies to clean and maintain our heavily-used parks. In Brooklyn, we have instituted our Zone Management Plan to better manage trash and other maintenance concerns at McCarren Park, as well as Fort Greene Park. We piloted this approach at Crotona Park in the Bronx in 2017, and having expanded our approach to these two new sites in Brooklyn, we have seen tremendous results in improved cleanliness ratings at all three locations.

In the Bronx, we're investing \$60 million to restore the majestic Orchard Beach Pavilion, with an additional \$35 million allocated for a second phase of improvements for visitors at this beautiful beach. Our agency partners at EDC now have designers on board for this exciting project, and we have held two public community input sessions, so that local residents throughout the Bronx can help shape the design for this sorely-needed restoration. We're also reactivating and re-energizing the Aqueduct Walk, a park constructed atop the Old Croton Aqueduct, in a community that has faced significant challenges. Earlier this year, we announced that we're adding the Aqueduct Walk to our Catalyst program, our highly-regarded intensive community engagement program, led by our dedicated staff at Partnerships For Parks, a joint program with our friends at City Parks Foundation. The Catalyst program targets historically underserved neighborhoods and utilizes a focused organizing approach to work with local advocates and volunteers to improve our parks and build community. We're excited to see the Catalyst program help establish a steady network of park stewards to sustain long-term improved conditions along the Aqueduct Walk, as the program helped build supportive communities surrounding parks in neighborhoods all over New York City.

In Staten Island, the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex recently hosted the USA Track and Field Indoor Championships, highlighting its national status as a premier athletic facility. This amazing 3-day event allowed New Yorkers the opportunity to witness history, as World and U.S. records were broken in the Men's 600-meter and Women's 600-meter races. This was the first time in nearly two decades that USATF brought the indoor championship back to New York City, and we look forward to hosting even



more elite track events at this incredible facility. 2018 was also an exciting year for new Staten Island park spaces, as we were proud to formally incorporate Brookfield Park into our agency portfolio after years of coordination between State and Local partners. This acquisition pushed our open space holdings to over 30,000 acres, and more importantly, this new park, on the site of a former landfill, delivers much needed green space to a community where open space is well needed and deserved.

In Manhattan, at Jackie Robinson Park and Seward Park, two exciting capital projects are underway with funding provided by our Parks Without Borders initiative, utilizing \$40 million in Mayoral investment in all five boroughs to enhance neighborhood access and extend the beauty of parks out into the surrounding communities. At Seward Park, we're creating a more inviting community space adjacent to the beautiful nearby library by reactivating a former street bed and improving park edges, sidewalks, and the existing garden space. In Jackie Robinson Park, we're reconstructing a damaged staircase, re-opening entrances, and central pathways to increase access and beautify park edges. All 8 of our signature Parks Without Borders projects throughout the City are progressing nicely, and the design approach we're incorporating into other projects are changing the way in which New Yorkers think of their parks and open space. While keeping our parks in the best condition possible is our top priority, we continue to find new creative ways to keep New Yorkers engaged with their local park, which is why we were delighted to unveil the beautiful "Next Stop: NYC Parks" transit map that was available at our stand at this past season's Union Square Holiday Market. The map, which mimics a NYC transit map, highlights local parks, many of which are just steps away from a subway stop, and the overwhelming demand we saw from New Yorkers was a testament to just how much this City loves and cares for its parks and open spaces.

This spirit of caring for our parks guides all of our strategic efforts, including the work of our GreenThumb division, which in 2018 celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of supporting community gardens, and is now embarking on an exciting partnership with NYCHA, through which up to 50 resident gardens at 50 different NYCHA developments will work with GreenThumb over the next three years to receive modest site improvements, and will receive support in the form of garden materials, tools, and technical assistance. Our Urban Park Ranger division, which will be celebrating its own 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, continues to fulfill its mission to educate New Yorkers about our natural areas and wildlife and in 2018, engaged thousands of students and curious adults through our classroom educational programming, in-park events and of course, our incredible Nature Centers. Our Public Programs and Recreation division makes sure that New Yorkers can enjoy free and low-cost exercise and recreational opportunities, whether it's a seniors enjoying Shape-Up fitness class, or families coming out in the evening to enjoy one of our Movies Under the Stars, held outdoors at hundreds of our neighborhood parks. Our Forestry, Horticulture & Natural Resource division continues to care for our urban tree canopy, an incredibly important part of our City's natural infrastructure, and in 2018, worked with the Natural Areas Conservancy to launch the Forest Management Framework, a new vision for urban forest management in New York City, which outlines recommendations and best practices for restoration and comprehensive management of all 7,000 acres of our City's forested natural areas.

I'll close by noting our efforts to improve and protect New Yorkers' connection to another important natural resource—the waterways that surround our City. In the midst of high-rise buildings and busy avenues, it's easy to forget that our location along the water is what helped make this City the global capital that is today, and this administration is working to preserve and improve this important legacy, by implementing thoughtful projects that serve to reconnect us with our waterfront, but also provide vital protection and resiliency measures in a changing global environment. With our partners on the Federal level, the City was proud to announce the successful execution of a Project Partnership Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and New York State, to lock in funding for the construction of the Staten Island Levee project, a \$615 million project, of which two-thirds will be federally funded. The U.S. Army Corps plans to break ground on the project in 2020, and expects full completion in 2024. The Mayor also announced his vision for a complete Manhattan Waterfront Greenway, to close key gaps in waterfront access in Midtown East, Inwood, and in East Harlem, where we are making a \$100 million investment in a new waterfront park between East 125<sup>th</sup> and East 132<sup>nd</sup> Street. We continue to make significant investments for the East River Esplanade, identifying opportunities to repair and reconstruct this vital waterfront infrastructure which suffered from decades of neglect. Moving further south, the Mayor's Preliminary Budget also includes \$56 million in additional funding for the East Side Coastal Resiliency project protecting Manhattan neighborhoods along the East River, to add a "fly-over" bridge to serve as an important access point near the Con-Edison building at East 14th Street and replace the



existing narrow sidewalk at that location. On the other side of the East River, in Brooklyn, we continue to make progress on our commitment to build Bushwick Inlet Park, as we began design on two additional parcels that will receive \$17.5 million in capital investment, creating new open space for the residents of Williamsburg & Greenpoint. In Queens, we'll be seeing exciting upgrades at Flushing Bay, with \$45 million secured to reconstruct the World's Fair Marina. Of course, I have to offer an update for a beloved waterfront destination, the Rockaway Boardwalk. The Boardwalk was badly damaged after Superstorm Sandy, but thanks to a complete reconstruction, it has re-emerged as a major attraction for New Yorkers and out-of-towners alike. Portions of the shoreline have been threatened by increased erosion, and as you may be aware, we had to implement some targeted closures along the beach last summer, but we worked closely with the community and local vendors to make sure that the Rockaways could enjoy another successful and safe beach season. Earlier this week, we were delighted to announce an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to use dredged sand to re-nourish and restore Rockaway Beach between Beach 92nd Street and Beach 103rd Street. Though there are several variables at play, including weather patterns and the pace of the dredging work from which the sand will be sourced, the project should allow for the reopening of this stretch of beach this coming summer season, which we know will be good news for Rockaway residents and all New Yorkers, as these opportunities and spaces for rest, relaxation and enjoyment are vital for protecting our health and well-being.

Thank you for allowing us to testify before you today and for your dedication to providing great parks and open spaces for all New Yorkers. We look forward to continuing to work with the Mayor and the City to create a bright, green future with a more equitable and innovative park system. We value your partnership and thank you for your support of our agency. We would now be happy to answer any questions that you may have.



Good afternoon Chair Grodenchik and members of the Committee on Parks and Recreation. I'm Heather Lubov, Executive Director of City Parks Foundation, a 30-year old non-profit that brings public programs into parks to help create strengthen communities. Each year, we reach 300,000 New Yorkers in more than 400 parks.

Partnerships for Parks is a joint program we manage with the Parks Department to help improve parks by encouraging communities to actively use and care for them. Thanks to the Council's Parks Equity Initiative, Partnerships supports nearly 600 active volunteer "friends" groups, helping them plan beautification projects and community events, and teaching them how to advocate for their park's needs. We help plan more than 1,100 volunteer projects, contributing 72,000 volunteer hours and engaging nearly 24,000 volunteers. We offer extensive training and capacity building for volunteers to ensure their work is sustainable in the long-term. Finally, our Catalyst program sends an outreach worker into communities that have difficulty building or maintaining volunteer efforts. In Commodore Barry Park, for example, our year-long Catalyst effort addressed long-time contentious relations by bringing together residents, park user groups, the Parks Department, and others to identify their shared vision for the park's upcoming renovation. I ask that the Council continue funding the Parks Equity Initiative in FY20.

Also thanks to the Parks Equity Initiative and the Council's Leadership support, our environmental education programs reach nearly 5,000 young people who will be the next generation of park stewards. This year we're bringing a new, STEM-based after-school program to three communities to teach middle school students the importance of marine health and waterfront preservation. We keep 13,000 kids and seniors healthy and active in their parks through golf, tennis, track and field, soccer, fitness walking, and yoga instruction, and are expanding our 5-day-a-week multi-sport summer program. And we are presenting more than 100 free PuppetMobile performances and more than 80 free SummerStage concerts across the city, removing barriers to access. I ask that the Council continue its leadership support for our work in FY20.

On June 1, thanks to capital funding from the Council, we'll open our newly refurbished SummerStage in Central Park with a new stage and sound system, new lighting, and raised seating with improved sight lines. To close out the project, we are seeking \$515,000 in capital funding from the Council to increase the venue's electrical power. We are at the upper limit of the existing power, will be forced to scale back touring productions that bring in additional equipment, and are likely to experience damage to the system in the future unless we upgrade.

Everything we do depends on the support and dedication of the Parks Department. As members of the Play Fair Coalition, I ask the City to baseline the much needed maintenance, gardener, and city park worker positions in the budget. Parks are in every neighborhood and are our most fundamentally democratic public spaces, yet receive only 0.6% of the budget. It's time to play fair for parks.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify, and thank you for your support for City Parks Foundation.

**City Parks Foundation  
Select Program Accomplishments**

**Partnerships for Parks**

<b>Community Outreach</b>	<b>NYC FY18</b>	<b>NYC FY19 (YTD)</b>
Groups continuing engagement	547	471
New groups engaged	137	32
TOTAL groups engaged	684	503

<b>Catalyst Outreach</b>	<b>NYC FY18</b>	<b>NYC FY19 (YTD)</b>
Community forums/ meetings	32	2
Attendance	576	85
Groups engaged	183	57
New sites engaged	6	1
Total sites engaged	6	7

<b>It's My Park Service Projects</b>	<b>CY 2018</b>	<b>CY 2019 (YTD)</b>
Projects	1,149	24
Project hours	3,462	59
Attendance	23,820	482

<b>Technical Assistance Support</b>	<b>NYC FY18</b>	<b>NYC FY19 (YTD)</b>
Public training workshops	50	22
Workshop attendees	784	399
Fellowship training graduates	31	40
Groups receiving community visioning consultations	23	12
Groups receiving coaching or short-term consulting	n/a	8
Group websites and publications produced	13	6

**CityParks Shows**

<b>Program</b>	<b>CY 2018</b>
SummerStage in Central Park	43 shows

	144,142 audiences
SummerStage in neighborhood parks	47 shows 56,930 audiences
TOTAL SummerStage	90 shows 201,072 audiences
Swedish Cottage Marionette Theatre	399 shows 30,971 audiences
PuppetMobile	108 shows 16,078 audiences
TOTAL audiences served	248,121 audiences

### CityParks Learn Environmental Education

Program	CY 2018
Learning Gardens	1,848 youth
Seeds to Trees	2,115 youth
Coastal Classroom	322 youth
Green Girls	204 youth
Community gardeners	40 adults
Community events	1,316 youth and adults
Volunteers	75 adults
TOTAL served	5,920 youth and adults

### CityParks Play

Sports Programs	CY 2018 Attendance
Tennis	5,716
Golf	3,041
Track & Field	2,240
Street Hockey	80
Soccer	476
Everyday Play (fitness 5 days/week)	90
Seniors Fitness	925
Family Adventure Races (5 total)	296
TOTAL sports participants	12,864

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

March 8, 2019

Hearing on the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation Budget

Testimony of  
Carter H. Strickland, Jr.  
New York State Director  
The Trust for Public Land

Thank you Chairperson Grodenchik and Members of the Committee for the opportunity to testify on the FY20 budget for the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, and the priorities reflected in that budget.

My name is Carter Strickland and I am the New York State Director of The Trust for Public Land, a national non-profit organization that creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. One of The Trust for Public Land's guiding principles – supported by numerous studies – is that parks and open space are critical infrastructure that make cities and their residents healthier, happier, more prosperous, cleaner, greener, and more resilient. Since 1978, The Trust for Public Land has worked with New York City residents to improve their neighborhoods by creating public spaces where they can safely play while connecting with nature and each other.

I am testifying today on two issues related to the budget. The first is to voice my support for the Play Fair campaign and its goal of increasing the Parks Department operational budget by \$100 million. The second reason I am testifying today is to make

the case for a fairer distribution of capital investments across the boroughs and specifically for investment in the QueensWay, which will be New York City's next great park and will provide new parkland for the residents of central Queens.

### **The Play Fair Campaign**

The operational budget of the parks department is too small. As City Councilmember Grodenchik mentioned during the Play Fair Rally, "in the early 1960s, over 1.1 percent of the total budget in the city went to parks." Now, the Parks Department receives 0.59 percent of the city budget. This low percentage does not reflect the positive impact that parks have on our city, and that parks are critical infrastructure for physical and mental health, protection from climate change, and strong communities. Parks are where we get our exercise and relax, boosting public health and reducing health care costs. Parks are increasingly important as global temperatures rise because they can reduce the temperature of urban heat islands by as much as 7-12 percent and absorb stormwater. Also parks play a critical social role, strengthening our communities and reducing crime. Parks create opportunities for organized events such as art fairs, athletic events, food festivals, concerts and political and social justice rallies. Finally, parks have positive economic impacts on adjacent communities by supporting local jobs, increasing spending at local businesses, and generating local tax revenue.

I note that Central Park has 42 million annual visitors, which is greater than annual attendance at the Met (7 million), Lincoln Center (6.5 million), Yankee Stadium (3 million), Citi Field (2.8 million), and MOMA (2.8 million) combined. The City's budget should reflect these priorities.

Every year The Trust for Public Land ranks the park systems of the 100 largest cities in America in our ParkScore report. In 2013 New York ranked second, in 2017 we ranked seventh, and in 2018, New York dropped to ninth. Peer cities such as San Francisco, Arlington, Portland, Washington D.C., Cincinnati and Chicago have moved ahead of us over the past six years. New York is renowned for innovation and world class amenities but anything less than the top, number one ParkScore ranking is not good enough.

The good news is that over 97% of New Yorkers have a park within a ten minute walk from their home, and a unique feature of our park system is that we have more than 1,700 parks, many of which are small, neighborhood parks near where people live. This is an order of magnitude higher than other park systems (of the top 10, the next highest is Chicago with just over 600 parks). However, we need to focus on the quality of New York City parks, many of which are old (on average 73 years old) and have not seen capital upgrades in over 20 years.

The greater number of parks in New York City means a greater need for gardening and operational staff. Increased funding for the Parks Department that the Play Fair campaign hopes to achieve could be used to staff, maintain, and secure our parks to ensure that we all have access to high quality parks.

Of course we recognize that an additional \$100 million has to come from somewhere. One place to look is savings in the capital budget. First, there is a tradeoff between capital and operational expenses; it is less expensive in the long run to keep parks in good condition so that upgrade cycles can be longer. We should invest in maintenance now to reap capital savings later. Second, improving delivery of capital

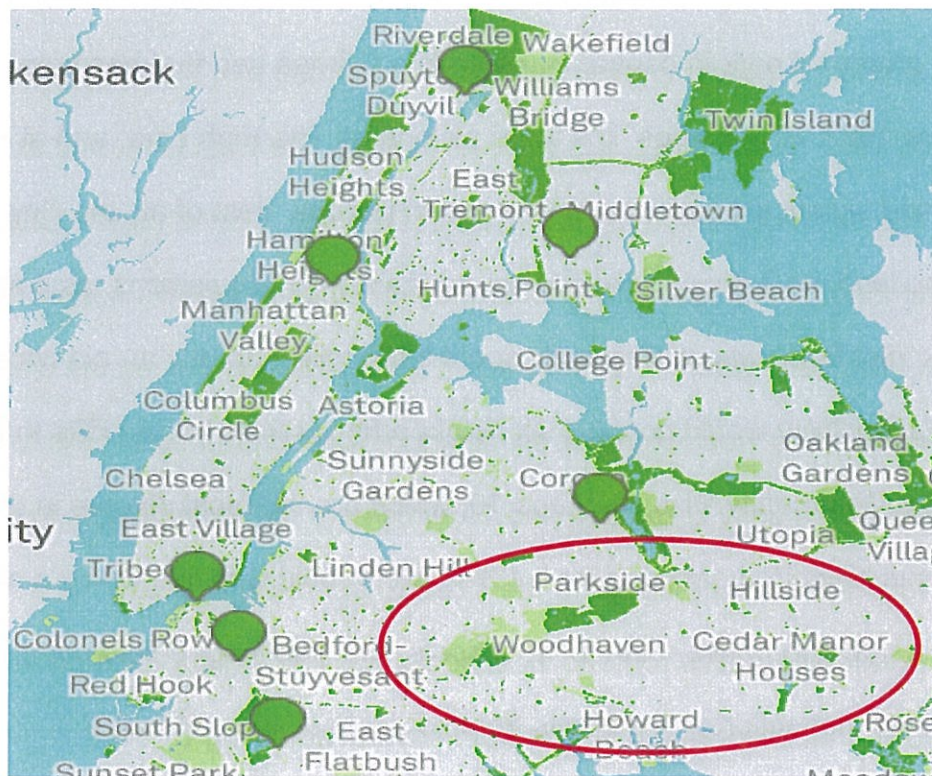
projects can produce immediate savings. The current NYC Parks capital budget is \$4.6 billion for fiscal years 2018-2022, or approximately \$920 million a year. Reforming the capital delivery through streamlining approvals, providing for design-build, paying contractors within 30 days, and creating project-management teams could easily save at least \$100 million a year in capital funds immediately.

### **Borough Equity**

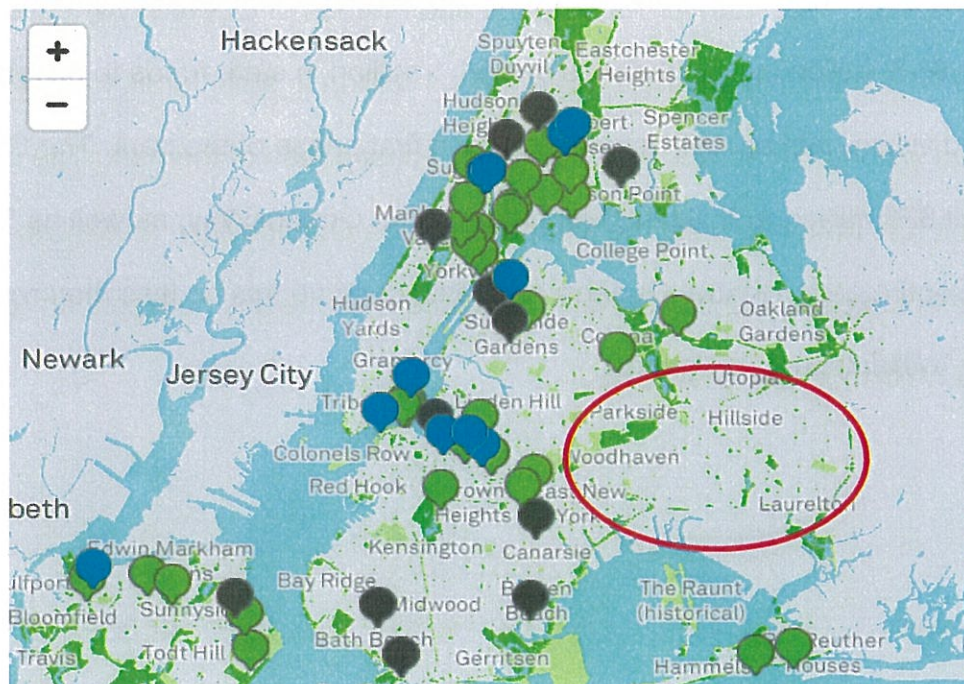
I also want to address equity of parks investments. All of the big investments in parks have been in Manhattan or in the waterfront or far western Brooklyn and Queens, just one or two subway stops in from Manhattan. For example, the City recently announced \$50 million (matched by another \$100 million) to renovate Lasker Pool in Central Park, is spending another \$100 million to complete approximately 10 blocks of the Manhattan Greenway, spent \$160 million to acquire one piece of Bushwick Inlet park in Williamsburg, and committed \$375 million for an additional three acres of parkland at Hudson Yards. In addition the cost of Hudson River Park is projected to approach \$1.5 billion. The City is spending \$150 million on five “Anchor Parks” – Saint Mary’s Park in the South Bronx, Highbridge Park in Manhattan, Betsy Head Park in Brooklyn, Astoria Park in Queens and Freshkills Park on Staten Island – but those leave significant gaps around the city. For example, we aren’t seeing those large investments in other boroughs, and in particular central and eastern Queens.

With regard to smaller investments, we applaud the City’s Community Parks Initiative and Parks Without Border program. However, as the screenshots from Parks web-based maps show, there are very few park investments in central and eastern Queens:

## Parks Without Borders



## Community Parks Initiative





One way the City could address these borough inequities is by investing in the QueensWay, a proposed park in central Queens on a railroad bed that has been abandoned since 1962. At 3.5 miles, it is twice as long as The High Line, and at 47 acres, it would add significant parkland to this part of the city. Best of all, the City already owns the land, so it doesn't have to spend money on acquisitions, as it had to do for Bushwick Inlet Park, where it recently spent \$160 million to buy an old warehouse and pier. The QueensWay would connect six neighborhoods from Forest Hills to Ozone Park, would serve Community Districts 9 and 10, which are the most diverse in the City, and would add much-needed parkland for the 322,000 people who live within a mile. It would allow for a safe alternative route to 12 schools, two little league field complexes, and Forest Park, so that children and adults from several adjoining Queens' neighborhoods would not have to cross dangerous roads, thereby bolstering the Vision Zero program. Queens residents could bike or walk safely to seven subway lines (from north to south, the E, M, F, R, J, Z, and A lines), as well as the Long Island Railroad at the Forest Hills stop. The Trust for Public Land and Friends of QueensWay have invested over \$1.8 million in private funds and \$1.1 million in state funds to develop a community-led vision plan as well as a design for a first phase of the park. The City should commit \$21 million to build the first phase of the QueensWay, as well as \$140 million for the entire park. Central Queens' residents deserve this no less than residents of Manhattan, Williamsburg, or Astoria.

### **Conclusion**

New York's park system is good but not good enough. We need to increase operational funding to take care of our many parks under the Play Fair Campaign. We also need to make the park system more equitable by building New York City's next great park, the QueensWay.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.



**New York City Council  
Committee on Parks & Recreation Preliminary Budget Hearing  
Support for Increased Funding for Natural Forests in NYC Parks**

March 8, 2019

Testimony By: Hunter Armstrong, Natural Areas Conservancy, Deputy Director,  
Development and Communications

Thank you, Chair Grodenchik and members of the Parks Committee, for giving us the opportunity to voice our support for increased funding for parks and New York City's natural forests. The Natural Areas Conservancy is an independent, nonprofit organization that was formed in 2012 with the goal of increasing the capacity of NYC Parks and its partners to restore and manage the 10,000 acres of forests, grasslands and wetlands under the agency's jurisdiction.

We appreciated the opportunity to present our recently released 25-year plan – "The Forest Management Framework for New York City" – to this committee on October 25, 2018. We created the framework in partnership with NYC Parks, and it includes a 25 year budget and management plan to protect, restore and make more accessible New York City's 7,300 acres of natural forests. They constitute one quarter of the entire system. (The Forest Management Framework is online at [www.naturalareasnyc.org/forests](http://www.naturalareasnyc.org/forests).)

We were motivated by the large turnout at the October 25 hearing. More than 18 groups and individuals testified in support of the management framework and for increased funding and resources for New York City's natural forests. These forests are in every borough and cover a land area that is over eight times the size of Central Park. They stretch across the four corners of the city – Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, Alley Pond Park in Queens, Marine Park in Brooklyn and Conference House Park in Staten Island.

We are pleased to testify today in unison with New Yorkers for Parks, the New York League of Conservation Voters, DC37 and the other 90 members of the growing Play Fair Coalition.

We support the Play Fair platform and specifically want to speak in favor of increased investment in forests – one of the resources that the Natural Areas Conservancy was created to protect.

Adding \$100 million to the Parks Department's budget would have profound impacts on all parts of the agency's efforts. This should include:

- \$4 million to manage the one-quarter of New York City parkland that is comprised of natural forests, making them healthier and safer for New Yorkers.

- \$3 million to hire 50 new Urban Park Rangers could be hired to connect New Yorkers with the nature that surrounds us
- \$6 million to hire 80 additional Parks Enforcement Patrol officers to preserve and protect parks across the city.

New York City's natural areas forests are critical to mitigating the effects of climate change: reducing extreme heat, capturing stormwater to reduce flooding and absorbing greenhouse gases. They also represent the primary means of access to nature for most New Yorkers: to go for a hike, see wildlife or escape from the clamor of the city.

New Yorkers deserve better. We urge you to increase funding for parks and forests which are essential to our quality of life and future resilience. Thank you.







Van Cortlandt Park, Bronx





Cunningham Park, Queens





Inwood Hill Park, Manhattan



## Environmental Justice Initiative\*/ New York Environmental Law & Justice Project

affiliated with National Lawyers Guild Environmental Justice Committee

Joel Richard Kupferman, Esq. Executive Director

Columbia Fiero, Documentarian & Editor

Annie Wilson, Senior Energy Advisor

John Low-Beer, Esq., Art Giacalone, Esq., Stephanie Kupferman, Esq. Cooperating Attorneys

Emma Dismukes, Jack Agosta, Fall Law Interns

225 Broadway Suite 2625

New York NY 10007-3040 USA

[envjoel@ix.netcom.com](mailto:envjoel@ix.netcom.com) [admin@nyenvirolaw.org](mailto:admin@nyenvirolaw.org)

[www.nyenvirolaw.org](http://www.nyenvirolaw.org) <https://www.facebook.com/EJIforHAITI/>

P: 212-334-5551 F: 212-658-9540 Cell: 917-414-1983

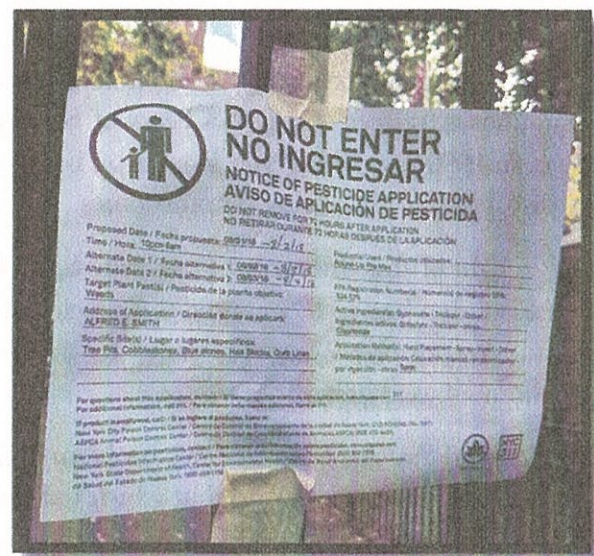
\* 501(c)(3) tax-exempt

August 31, 2018

To Whom it May Concern

We are writing on behalf of the people of New York City regarding the use of Roundup in city parks. This is particularly significant given the outcome of Johnson v. Monsanto Co., the recent \$289 million California Court finding toxic and carcinogenic effects of the herbicide, Roundup. Our present concerns stem mostly from the New York City Park Department continued use Roundup, and other glyphosate and surfactant based products, in city parks, especially playgrounds. This practice has continued despite significant scientific evidence of its toxicity, now recognized by the courts. This use presents an imminent endangerment to the health of the community and the environment, particularly those working directly and indirectly with this herbicide and children who use these playgrounds. It is important to note that children are 10 times more susceptible to harm from toxic pesticides and carcinogens.

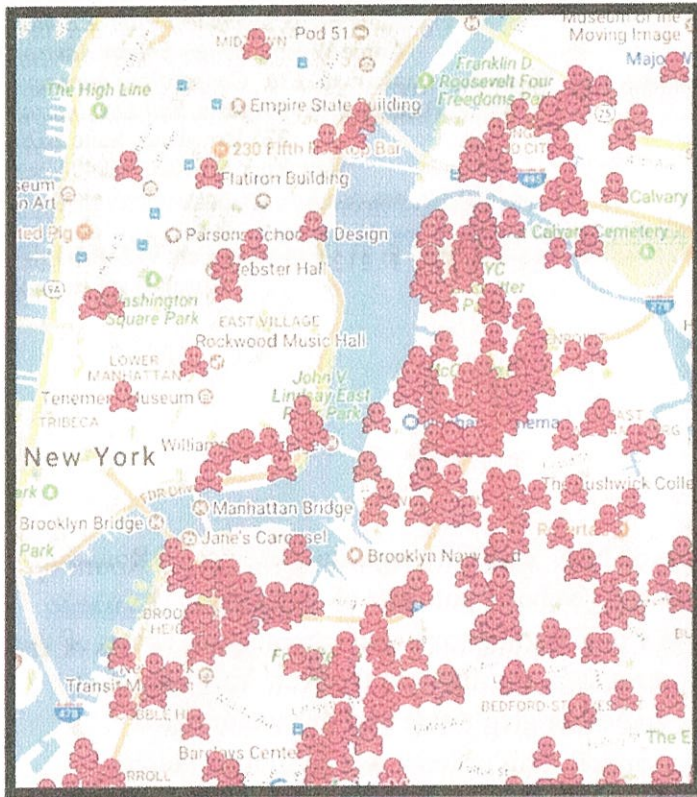
This combination of chemicals has long been recognized as a possible or probable carcinogen and is believed to cause a number of other health issues, as well. In March 2015, the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified glyphosate as "Probably Carcinogenic to Humans" based on numerous scientific studies linking the chemical to a range of cancers, including non-Hodgkin's lymphoma,



Sign indicating the use of Roundup in a NYC playground located at Oliver & Madison Streets taken by Joel Kupferman



renal cancers, skin cancers and pancreatic cancer. IARC initially published its conclusion in the *Lancet Oncology Journal*, the world's premier scientific journal for cancer studies.



Map showing all reported uses of Roundup but the City Parks Department alone. Via Reverend Billy and the Stop Shopping Choir, using data from the Department of Health.

The use of these chemicals is most deleterious to those who come in close contact with the product and those who are most susceptible to harm. While the benefits of using Roundup are purely cosmetic, the costs are not only the health and safety of the City's workers and children alike, but also potential liability for civil action against the City. Since the California ruling on August 10th, more than 5,000 cases have already been filed against Monsanto.

Monsanto's disingenuousness was revealed in the trial. In the 1990's 4 genome studies caused Monsanto to hire an independent genotoxin expert. Monsanto paid for studies to be conducted on Round-up, both concluded that Round-up is genotoxic, meaning it is damaging to DNA; pertaining to

agents (radiation or chemical substances) known to damage DNA, thereby causing mutations or cancer. (Dr. James Perry of Swansea University). The next study by Dr. Perry in 1999 concluded that Round-up is a clastogen, an agent that can induce mutation by disrupting or damaging chromosomes.

It is in light of this this recent California State Court decision, in which a jury determined that Roundup had in fact caused the development of non-Hodgkin lymphoma in a school groundskeeper, that we are led to call for a city-wide moratorium on the use of glyphosate-based herbicides.

We demand that the City face this problem head-on and address these issues now to limit health consequences, beyond that which has already occurred. Preventing the further use of Roundup and similar products now will prevent costly litigation in the future. It is for these reasons that we demand the Mayor and the respective commissioners of the Parks and Health and Mental Hygiene Departments invoke a moratorium on the use of

glyphosate-based herbicides within the city. Furthermore, we urge the Health and Parks Departments to both acknowledge this issue and develop a remedial action plan including the minimization of potential exposure. Finally, we demand that the City publish the details of the locations, quantities, and frequency of this type of herbicide application, as well as the name of all sub-contractors used by Parks and other agencies. Workers and the community have the Right to Know.

Please see a compilation of some key research below and visit our [dropbox folder](#) for access further research on this matter.

Sincerely,

Joel Richard Kupferman, *Esg. Executive Director*  
Emma Dismukes, *Law Intern*  
Jack Agosta, *Law Intern*

On Behalf of **The Emergency Taskforce for the Prohibition of Roundup**

**Assembly Bill 4971** to prohibit glyphosate in parks and plays grounds see <https://www.dropbox.com/s/1ve3y0pq7ojeo6g/%3D%2B%204971%20NYS%20Ban%20Glyphosate%20original.pdf?dl=0>



## Health Concerns, Generally

### 1. Glyphosate (Roundup):

*Glyphosate (Roundup)*, Beyond Pesticides (2017), <https://www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/pesticides/factsheets/bp-fact-glyphosate.082017.pdf>.

#### Key Points:

"Despite the prevalent myth that this widely-used herbicide is harmless, glyphosate . . . is associated with a wide range of illnesses, including non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL), genetic damage, liver and kidney damage, endocrine disruption, as well as environmental damage, including water contamination and harm to amphibians . . ."

## ChemicalWATCH Summary Stats

**CAS Registry Number:** 1071-83-6

**Trade Name:** Roundup, Rodeo

**Use:** Nonselective herbicide for broadleaf weed and grass control on food and non-food field crop sites.

**Toxicity rating:** Toxic

**Signal Words:** Caution

**Health Effects:** Eye and skin irritation, associated with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, and spontaneous abortions. Other ingredients in formulated products are linked to developmental abnormalities, decreased sperm count, abnormal sperm, and cell death of embryonic, placental and umbilical cord cells. Functions as an antibiotic.

**Environmental Effects:** Weed resistance due to use in genetically engineered crop production, water contamination, soil quality degradation, toxic to soil microorganisms and aquatic organisms. A source of phosphate pollution in water.

### 2. Differences in the Carcinogenic Evaluation of Glyphosate Between the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA):

Christopher J. Portier et al., Differences in the Carcinogenic Evaluation of Glyphosate Between the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), 70 J. Epidemiology and Community Health 741 (2016), <https://jech.bmj.com/content/jech/70/8/741.full.pdf>.



**Key Points:**

"The IARC WG concluded that glyphosate is a 'probable human carcinogen', putting it into IARC category 2A due to *sufficient evidence* of carcinogenicity in animals, *limited evidence* of carcinogenicity in human and strong evidence for two carcinogenic mechanisms."

"In the RAR, almost no weight is given to studies from the published literature and there is an over-reliance on non-publicly available industry-provided studies using a limited set of assays that define the minimum data necessary for the marketing of a pesticide. The IARC WG evaluation of a *probably carcinogenic to humans* accurately reflects the results of published scientific literature on glyphosate and, on the face of it, unpublished studies to which EFSA refers."

- ▶ The IARC WG found an association between NHL and glyphosate based on the available human evidence.
- ▶ The IARC WG found significant carcinogenic effects in laboratory animals for rare kidney tumours and hemangiosarcoma in two mouse studies and benign tumours in two rat studies.
- ▶ The IARC WG concluded that there was strong evidence of genotoxicity and oxidative stress for glyphosate, entirely from publicly available research, including findings of DNA damage in the peripheral blood of exposed humans.

### Health Concerns, Children

1. California Proposes Safe Level for Roundup More Than 100 Times Lower Than EPA Limit:

Olga V. Naidenko, *California Proposes Safe Level for Roundup More Than 100 Times Lower Than EPA Limit*, Environmental Working Group (Jun. 21, 2017), <https://www.ewg.org/research/california-proposes-safe-level-roundup-more-100-times-lower-epa-limit#.W4b5gCOZPsk>.

**Key Points:**

"A tenfold children's health safety factor is also supported by the recommendations of the 1993 National Research Council Report, *Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children*, which highlighted that children are both exposed to more pesticides than adults and are more susceptible to the toxic effects of pesticides, particularly those that cause cancer."

"[A]pplying the tenfold children's health factor and a one-in-a-million cancer risk standard, EWG believes that the No Significant Risk Level for glyphosate should be no more than 0.01 milligram, or 10 micrograms, per day. This maximum intake limit should apply to all exposures."

2. Breakfast with a Dose of Roundup:

Alexis Temkin, *Breakfast with a Dose of Roundup*, Environmental Working Group (Aug. 15, 2018), <https://www.ewg.org/childrenshealth/glyphosateincereal/#.W4b7hiOZPsk>.

**Key Points:**

"[B]ecause children and developing fetuses have increased susceptibility to carcinogens, the federal Food Quality Protection Act supports including an additional 10-fold margin of safety. With this additional children's health safety factor, EWG calculated that a one-in-a-million cancer risk would be posed by ingestion of 0.01 milligrams of glyphosate per day."

3. Stop Spraying Weed Killer in our Parks: Glyphosate isn't Worth the Risk:

Linda Rosenthal & Jose Serrano, *Stop Spraying Weed Killer in our Parks: Glyphosate isn't Worth the Risk*, NY Daily News (Aug. 26, 2018), <http://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-roundup-glyphosate-20180823-story.html>.

**Key Points:**

"Children naturally spend more time close to the ground, which means they may be more likely to inhale, ingest or otherwise be exposed to dangerously high levels of glyphosate on the grass or in the soil."

"Overgrown weeds may be unsightly, but cancer is a killer. New York is home to hundreds of parks where kids should be able to take off their shoes and run in the grass, and their parents should feel safe in the knowledge that they are not exposing them to potentially cancer-causing chemicals while doing so."

"We shouldn't have to wait for a child to become sick to take action to protect them against a known risk. New York must ban the use of glyphosate in public parks and playgrounds statewide."

### Legal Implications, the Monsanto Case

1. Historic Ruling Against Monsanto Finds Company Acted with "Malice" Against Groundskeeper with Cancer:

*Historic Ruling Against Monsanto Finds Company Acted with "Malice" Against Groundskeeper with Cancer*, Democracy Now! (Aug. 14, 2018), [https://www.democracynow.org/2018/8/14/historic\\_ruling\\_against\\_monsanto\\_finds\\_company](https://www.democracynow.org/2018/8/14/historic_ruling_against_monsanto_finds_company).

**Key Points:**

"California has ordered Monsanto to pay \$289 million in damages to a school groundskeeper who developed cancer after regularly using the weed killer Roundup. The 46-year-old man, Dewayne Johnson, has non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Doctors say he is unlikely to live past 2020. Judge Suzanne Ramos Bolanos read the Jury's verdict."

**JUDGE SUZANNE RAMOS BOLANOS:** Would a reasonable manufacturer, distributor or seller under the same or similar circumstances have warned of the danger or instructed on the safe use of Roundup Pro or Ranger Pro? Answer, yes. Was Monsanto's failure to warn a substantial factor in causing harm to Mr. Johnson? Answer, yes. Claim of damages. What are Mr. Johnson's damages? Past economic loss, \$819,882.32. Future economic loss, \$1,433,327. Past non-economic loss, \$4 million. Future non-economic loss, \$33 million. With regard to punitive damages, did you find by clear and convincing evidence that Monsanto acted with malice or oppression in the conduct upon which you base your finding of liability in favor of Mr. Johnson? Answer, yes.

2. Groundskeeper Who Used Monsanto's Herbicide Roundup and Contracted the Cancer non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) Wins \$289 Million Jury Verdict:



*Groundskeeper Who Used Monsanto's Herbicide Roundup and Contracted the Cancer non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) Wins \$289 Million Jury Verdict*, Beyond Pesticides, <https://beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/2018/08/groundskeeper-used-monsantos-herbicide-roundup-contracted-cancer-non-hodgkin-lymphoma-nhl-wins-289-million-jury-verdict/> (last visited Aug. 31).

**Key Points:**

"[W]e believe that the verdict is a clarion call to manufacturers that ignore the devastating impact that their products can have on unsuspecting workers, consumers, and families. We look forward to the day in the not-too-distant future when we recognize as a society that products like glyphosate (Roundup) are not necessary, and effective and affordable land and building management can be achieved without toxic chemicals. The case should also signal to all levels of government – local, state, and federal – that we have a social, public health, and environmental responsibility to remove toxic pesticides from use with a high degree of urgency"

## DAILY NEWS BLOG

• U.S. Court Tells EPA to Ban Chlorpyrifos

Take Action: Tell USDA that Purposeful Mutagenesis is Genetic Engineering •

### Groundskeeper Who Used Monsanto's Herbicide Roundup and Contracted the Cancer non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) Wins \$289 Million Jury Verdict

12 Aug

(Beyond Pesticides, August 12, 2018) In a stunning legal victory for a man who contracted non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) after using the herbicide glyphosate (Roundup), a federal judge in California awarded him a \$289 million jury verdict against the manufacturer, Monsanto. The jury was awarded \$289 million in damages for the man's cancer, which was caused by his use of Roundup. The jury also awarded \$250,000 in punitive damages. The man, Dewayne Johnson, is a groundskeeper who has used Roundup for over 15 years. He was diagnosed with NHL in 2009. The jury's verdict is the highest in the history of the federal court system. The man's lawyer, R. Brent Wisner, said the verdict is a "clarion call" to manufacturers to stop ignoring the health risks of their products. He said the verdict also signals to all levels of government that they have a responsibility to remove toxic pesticides from use.



Mr. Dewayne Johnson wins \$289 million jury verdict after being diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) after using glyphosate (Roundup).

### 3. Dewayne Johnson v. Monsanto Trial Exhibits:

*Dewayne Johnson v. Monsanto Company: California State Court*, Baum, Hedlund, Aristei, & Goldman, <https://www.baumhedlundlaw.com/toxic-tort-law/monsanto-roundup-lawsuit/dewayne-johnson-v-monsanto-company/#exhibits> (last visited Aug. 31, 2018).

**Key Points:**

See Plaintiff Opening Slide Presentation by R. Brent Wisner: <https://www.baumhedlundlaw.com/pdf/monsanto-dtrial/Johnson-Trial-Plaintiff-Opening-Presentation.pdf> which provides a full overview of the case and scientific arguments.



## Overview of this case:



### City Accountability and Transparency

#### 1. Pesticide Use by New York City Agencies in 2015:

Bureau of Env'tl. Surveillance and Policy N.Y.C Dep't of Health and Mental Hygiene, Pesticide Use by New York City Agencies in 2015 (May 2016), <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/pesticide/pesticide-use-report2015.pdf>.

##### Key Points:

"Pesticide use arranged by privately operated facilities by their subcontractors is not required to be reported and is not included in this report, which includes only pest management services contracted directly . . . ."

#### 2. Are NYC Parks Becoming More Toxic?:

Amelia Pang, *Are NYC Parks Becoming More Toxic*, The Epoch Times (Jan. 18, 2016), [https://www.theepochtimes.com/are-nyc-parks-becoming-more-toxic\\_1940550.html](https://www.theepochtimes.com/are-nyc-parks-becoming-more-toxic_1940550.html).

##### Key Points:

"The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation has been steadily increasing its use of Roundup, a weed-killer with a primary ingredient that is linked to cancer."

### Breadth of Impact

#### 1. Glyphosate:

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, *Glyphosate*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ipcsneng/neng0160.html> (last visited Aug. 29, 2018).

**Key Points:**

See chart below for CDC recommendations on impact of glyphosate and best practices.

TYPES OF HAZARD/ EXPOSURE	ACUTE HAZARDS/ SYMPTOMS	PREVENTION	FIRST AID/ FIRE FIGHTING
<b>FIRE</b>	Combustible. Gives off irritating or toxic fumes (or gases) in a fire.	NO open flames, NO sparks, and NO smoking.	Flamers, alcohol resistant foam, water spray, carbon dioxide.
<b>EXPLOSION</b>	Finely dispersed particles form explosive mixtures in air.	Prevent build up of electrostatic charges (e.g., by grounding). Prevent deposition of dust; closed system dust explosion-proof electrical equipment and lighting.	
<b>EXPOSURE</b>		<b>PREVENT DISPERSION OF DUST:</b>	
• <b>INHALATION</b>	Cough.	Avoid inhalation of fine dust and mist.	Fresh air rest.
• <b>SKIN</b>	Redness.	Protective gloves.	Remove contaminated clothes. Rinse and then wash skin with water and soap.
• <b>EYES</b>	Redness, Pain.	Safety goggles.	First rinse with plenty of water for several minutes (remove contact lenses if easily possible), then take to a doctor.
• <b>INGESTION</b>	Burning sensation in the throat and chest.	Do not eat, drink, or smoke during work. Wash hands before eating.	Rinse mouth. Do NOT induce vomiting.

## 2. *Pesticide Use by New York City Agencies in 2015:*

Bureau of Env'tl. Surveillance and Policy N.Y.C Dep't of Health and Mental Hygiene, *Pesticide Use by New York City Agencies in 2015* (May 2016), <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/pesticide/pesticide-use-report2015.pdf>.

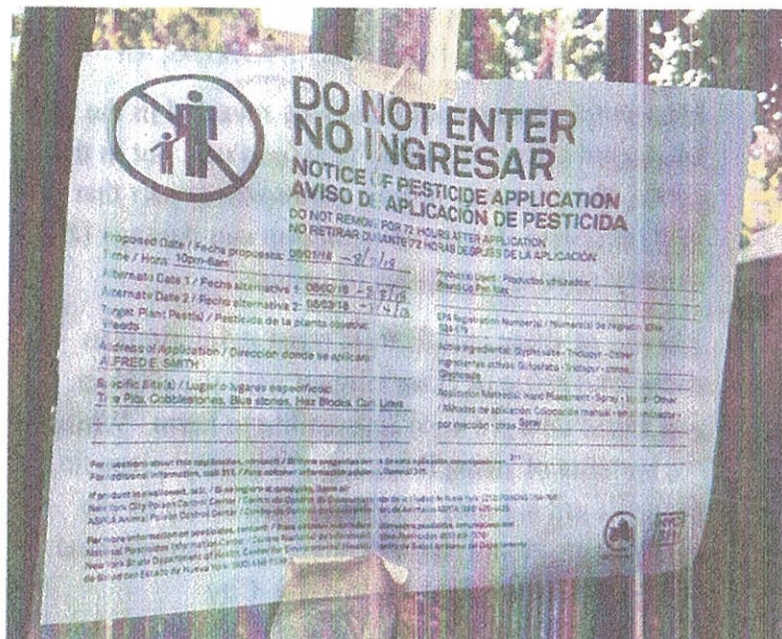
**Key Points:**

See chart below for New York City Agency list of herbicides used in 2015.

- Note similarity of ingredients between Roundup and Roundup alternatives and likelihood of similar health impacts

<b>Herbicides</b>									
239-2657	ORTHO GROUND CLEAR TOTAL VEGETATION KILLER	6.00	0.00	6	Glyphosate, isopropylamine salt, Imazapyr, isopropylamine salt	2	NO	NO	
524-579	ROUNDUP PROMAX	1.67	0.00	5	Glyphosate, potassium salt	3	NO	NO	
9198-129	TEE TIME TREFLAN 5G	0.19	0.00	4	Trifluralin	3	YES	NO	
228-366	RAZOR HERBICIDE	0.01	0.00	3	Glyphosate, isopropylamine salt	3	NO	NO	
524-517	ACCORD XL HERBICIDE	0.09	0.00	2	Glyphosate, isopropylamine salt	3	NO	NO	





## PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES

The use of glyphosate-based herbicides poses a significant public health and safety risk.

New York City Parks Department continues to use Roundup and other glyphosate and surfactant-based products in city parks, especially playgrounds. This practice has continued despite significant scientific evidence of its toxicity, now recognized by the courts. This use presents an imminent endangerment to the health of the community and the environment, particularly those working directly and indirectly with this herbicide and children who use these playgrounds. In light of this recent California State Court decision ELJP and the Emergency Taskforce for the Prohibition of Roundup is calling for a city-wide moratorium on the use of glyphosate-based herbicides while pursuing a permanent solution via State and City legislation. Many municipalities and states have banned or significantly restricted the use of Roundup. This combination of chemicals has long been recognized as a possible or probable carcinogen and is believed to cause a number of other health issues, as well. In March 2015, the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) felt there was enough evidence to conclude that glyphosate is probably carcinogenic to humans, including non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, renal cancers, skin cancers and pancreatic cancer.

1

**CARCINOGENIC  
AND OTHER HEALTH  
DAMAGES**

2

**AGGREGATE  
EXPOSURE TO THE  
COMMUNITY**

3

**CHILDREN ARE  
MORE SUSCEPTIBLE  
TO HARM**



### Aesthetic Practice

The presence of weeds does not represent a public health risk, this practice is purely aesthetic.

**NYC**

### Lack of Transparency

Agencies do not publish locations and amounts of herbicides used on public land.



### City Legal Liability

Preventing the further use of Roundup and similar products now will prevent costly litigation in the future.

NY ENVIRONMENTAL LAW  
AND JUSTICE PROJECT

THE EMERGENCY  
TASKFORCE FOR THE  
PROHIBITION OF ROUNDUP



Glyphosate is **still** being used by the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation

The most heavily used liquid herbicides were glyphosates, best known as Roundup® products. Glyphosate shows little acute toxicity, but there has been growing concern that chronic exposure may increase risk of certain cancers. **There is also some evidence that heavy use of the chemical in warm climates with soil high in certain toxic metals could present significant risk in developing severe kidney damage in agricultural workers.** Currently no regulatory determination has been made at the federal or NY State level that would change the prohibition status of these herbicide products under Local Law 37, despite growing evidence of toxicity. Glyphosate use had increased as agencies phased out the use of other herbicides prohibited under Local Law 37, but began to decline in 2013. In 2016, 53% of liquid herbicide use (by volume) contained glyphosate.<sup>1</sup>

Jury says Roundup caused the development of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma in school groundskeeper

Monsanto's disingenuousness was revealed in the trial. Monsanto claims Roundup is safe to use, but in the 1990s, the company hired a genotoxin expert that said otherwise. He found Roundup can damage DNA, thereby causing mutations or cancer.<sup>2</sup>

The use of these chemicals is most deleterious to those who come in close contact with the product and those who are most susceptible to harm. While the benefits of using Roundup are purely cosmetic, the costs are not only the health and safety of the City's workers and children alike, but also potential liability for civil action against the City.

There are more than 760 cases against Monsanto pending in courts in California, all alleging health effects as a result of coming in contact with Roundup.<sup>3</sup> Lawyers are soliciting complaints against all applicators, including municipalities.

Image of Dewayne Johnson, school groundskeeper with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, from PowerPoint of Brent Wisner's opening statement at trial



### TAKE ACTION!

Support Assembly member Linda Rosenthal and Senator José Serrano's Bill A4971/S3210, banning the use of glyphosate in parks and playgrounds, by contacting your representative via the survey at the bottom of this webpage:

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2017/A4971>

<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2017/S3210>

Input and recommendations needed in drafting a NYC Council bill with the same parameters.

**Demand a moratorium on the use of Roundup in our parks!**

<sup>1</sup> Pesticide Use by New York City Agencies in 2016, p. 43 (<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/pesticide/pesticide-use-report2016.pdf>)

<sup>2</sup> Dr. James Perry of Swansea University, as part of 4 studies in the 1990s

<sup>3</sup> <https://usrtk.org/monsanto-papers/>





# Glyphosate (Roundup)

## SUMMARY

Despite the prevalent myth that this widely-used herbicide is harmless, glyphosate (N-phosphono-methyl glycine) is associated with a wide range of illnesses, including non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL), genetic damage, liver and kidney damage, endocrine disruption, as well as environmental damage, including water contamination and harm to amphibians. Researchers have also determined that the "inert" ingredients in glyphosate products, especially polyethoxylated tallow amine or POEA—a surfactant commonly used in glyphosate and other herbicidal products—are even more toxic than glyphosate itself. Monsanto, manufacturer of glyphosate, formulates many products such as Roundup™ and Rodeo™ and markets formulations exclusively used on genetically engineered (GE) crops. Glyphosate is one of the most widely used herbicides in the world, due in large part to the increased cultivation of GE crops that are tolerant of the herbicide.

## GENERAL

First registered for use in 1974, glyphosate is used to kill a variety of broadleaf weeds and grasses. Labeled uses of glyphosate account for approximately 276 million pounds applied in 2014 on over 100 terrestrial food crops, as well as other non-food sites, including forestry, greenhouses, rights-of-way, turf, garden beds, and hardscapes.<sup>1</sup>

The greatest overall glyphosate use by acreage is in the Mississippi River basin where most applications are for weed control on GE corn, soybeans, and

## ChemicalWATCH Summary Stats

**CAS Registry Number:** 1071-83-6

**Trade Name:** Roundup, Rodeo

**Use:** Nonselective herbicide for broadleaf weed and grass control on food and non-food field crop sites.

**Toxicity rating:** Toxic

**Signal Words:** Caution

**Health Effects:** Eye and skin irritation, associated with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, and spontaneous abortions. Other ingredients in formulated products are linked to developmental abnormalities, decreased sperm count, abnormal sperm, and cell death of embryonic, placental and umbilical cord cells. Functions as an antibiotic.

**Environmental Effects:** Weed resistance due to use in genetically engineered crop production, water contamination, soil quality degradation, toxic to soil microorganisms and aquatic organisms. A source of phosphate pollution in water.

cotton, as well as other crops. Contrary to industry claims that GE crops would result in lower pesticide use rates, glyphosate use in agriculture rose 300-fold from 1974 to 2014, with non-agricultural uses increasing by 43-fold during the same time.<sup>2</sup>

Plants treated with glyphosate translocate the systemic herbicide to their roots, growing points, and fruit, where it blocks the activity of the enzyme 5-enolpyruvylshikimate-3-phosphate synthase (EPSPS), a key enzyme in the shikimate pathway of aromatic amino acid production, ultimately leading to the plant's death by starvation.<sup>3</sup> Because plants absorb glyphosate, it cannot be completely removed by washing or other food preparation.

It persists in food products for up to two years.<sup>4</sup>

## GLYPHOSATE FORMULATED PRODUCTS AND OTHER INGREDIENTS

Glyphosate products (Roundup) are more toxic than glyphosate alone, resulting in a number of chronic, developmental, and endocrine-disrupting impacts.<sup>5,6,7,8,9,10</sup> The "inert" ingredients in Roundup formulations kill human cells at very low concentrations.<sup>11</sup> At least some glyphosate-based products are genotoxic.<sup>12</sup> One "inert," polyethoxylated tallow amine (POEA), is extremely toxic to aquatic organisms.<sup>13,14</sup> It accounts for more than 86% of Roundup toxicity observed in microalgae and crustaceans.<sup>15</sup>



## ACUTE EXPOSURE TO GLYPHOSATE

Although EPA considers glyphosate to be “of relatively low oral and dermal acute toxicity,”<sup>16</sup> symptoms following exposure to glyphosate formulations include: swollen eyes, face and joints; facial numbness; burning and/or itching skin; blisters; rapid heart rate; elevated blood pressure; chest pains, congestion; coughing; headache; and nausea.<sup>17</sup> In developmental toxicity studies using pregnant rats and rabbits, effects of glyphosate in high dose groups include diarrhea, decreased body weight gain, nasal discharge and death.<sup>18</sup>

## CHRONIC EXPOSURE TO GLYPHOSATE

Since EPA’s classification of glyphosate as a Group E carcinogen—or “evidence of non-carcinogenicity for humans,” the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in 2015 classified glyphosate as a Group 2A “probable” carcinogen, which means that the chemical is probably carcinogenic to humans based on sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in experimental animals.<sup>19</sup> As of July 7, 2017, glyphosate is listed as a cancer-causing chemical under California’s Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65). This requires cancer warning labels be placed on end-use glyphosate products in California.<sup>20</sup> It has been specifically linked to non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma (NHL),<sup>21,22,23</sup> and multiple myeloma.<sup>24</sup>

Glyphosate causes DNA and chromosomal damage in human cells.<sup>25</sup> Glyphosate and its formulated products adversely affect embryonic, placental and umbilical cord cells, affect fetal development, and increase the risk for spontaneous abortions.<sup>26</sup> Detectable concentrations of glyphosate have been found in the urine of farm children.<sup>27</sup> Chronic, ultra-low dose exposure to glyphosate in drinking water results in adverse impacts on the health of liver and kidneys.<sup>28</sup> Glyphosate is considered to be an endocrine disruptor.<sup>29</sup> It can cause changes to DNA function resulting in the onset of chronic disease.<sup>30</sup>

## GLYPHOSATE IS AN ANTIBIOTIC

Glyphosate works by disrupting a crucial pathway for manufacturing aromatic amino acids in plants—but not animals—and, therefore, many have assumed that it does not harm humans. However, many bacteria use the shikimate pathway, and glyphosate has been patented as an antibiotic.<sup>31</sup> The destruction of bacteria in the human gut is a major contributor to disease, and the destruction of soil microbiota leads to unhealthy agricultural systems with an increasing dependence on agricultural chemicals.<sup>32</sup> Disturbing the microbiota can contribute to a whole host of “21st century diseases,” including diabetes, obesity, food allergies, heart disease, antibiotic-resistant infections, cancer, asthma, autism, irritable bowel syndrome, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, celiac disease, inflammatory bowel disease, and more. The rise in these same diseases is tightly correlated with the use of the herbicide glyphosate, and glyphosate exposure can result in the inflammation that is at the root of these diseases.<sup>33</sup> Glyphosate appears to have more negative impacts on beneficial bacteria, allowing pathogens to flourish.<sup>34,35</sup>

## ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

Bacteria resistant to the most commonly prescribed antibiotics result in longer-lasting infections, higher medical expenses, the need for more expensive or hazardous medications, and the inability to treat life-threatening infections. The development and spread of antibiotic resistance is the inevitable effect of the use of antibiotics.<sup>36,37</sup> Use of antibiotics like glyphosate in agriculture allows residues of antibiotics and antibiotic-resistant bacteria on agricultural lands to move through the environment, contaminate waterways, and ultimately reach consumers in food.<sup>38</sup> Both the human gut and contaminated waterways provide incubators for antibiotic resistance.

## ENVIRONMENTAL FATE

Glyphosate has the potential to contaminate surface waters and is not broken down readily by water or sunlight in

surface water,<sup>39</sup> with a half-life of 70 to 84 days.<sup>40</sup> U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) surveys detect glyphosate and its degradate aminomethylphosphonic acid (AMPA) in the majority of samples,<sup>41</sup> persisting from spring through to fall.<sup>42</sup> Glyphosate and/or AMPA have also been detected in significant levels in rain in agricultural areas across the Mississippi River watershed, in more than 50 percent of soil and sediment samples, in water samples from ditches and drains, and in more than 80 percent of wastewater treatment plant samples.<sup>43</sup> Glyphosate also contributes to phosphorous pollution of waterbodies.

Residues of glyphosate may persist for months in anaerobic soils deficient in microorganisms. Heavy use of Roundup on GE crops appears to cause harmful changes in soil, potentially hindering yields of crops.<sup>44</sup> Concerns for soil health from long-term glyphosate use include reduction of nutrient availability for plants and organisms; disruption of organism diversity, especially in the areas around plant roots; reductions of beneficial soil bacteria; increases in plant root pathogens; disturbed earthworm activity; reduced bacterial nitrogen fixation; and compromised growth and reproduction in some soil and aquatic organisms.<sup>45,46</sup>

## EFFECTS ON NONTARGET ANIMALS

Glyphosate use directly impacts a variety of nontarget animals, including insects, earthworms, and fish, and indirectly impacts birds and small mammals.<sup>47</sup> Roundup kills beneficial insects, including parasitoid wasps, lacewings and ladybugs.<sup>48</sup> Repeated applications of glyphosate significantly affect the growth and survival of earthworms.<sup>49</sup> Environmental factors, such as high sedimentation, increases in temperature and pH levels increase the toxicity of Roundup, especially to young fish.<sup>50</sup>

Roundup, in sublethal and environmentally relevant concentrations, causes morphological changes in two species of amphibians by interfering with hormones.<sup>51</sup> It is “extremely lethal” to amphibians in concentrations found in the environment.<sup>52,53,54</sup>



## FOOD RESIDUES

Sampling by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration), under pressure after the release of the IARC report, found residues of glyphosate in honey and oats.<sup>55</sup> Residues, which have no established legal allowance in honey, were found in all samples and in some cases at double the allowable limit set in the European Union. FDA also found residues in oat products, including cereals for babies. These tests follow European findings of glyphosate residues in German beer and British bread, in addition to private testing in the U.S. in Cheerios, cookies, crackers, and wine.<sup>56,57, 58, 59, 60, 61</sup>

## ENDNOTES

- USEPA. 2009. Glyphosate Final Work Plan. Registration Review Case No 0178. Office of Pesticide Programs. Washington, DC.
- Ibid.
- Industry Task Force on Glyphosate, 2017. Glyphosate: mechanism of action. <http://www.glyphosate.eu/glyphosate-mechanism-action>.
- Pesticide Action Network, 1997. Glyphosate fact sheet. For more information about glyphosate visit <http://data.pesticideinfo.org/4DAction/GetRecord/PC33138>.
- Marco, P., Armelle, M., Claudia, B., & Silvio, P. 1998. 32P-postlabeling detection of DNA adducts in mice treated with the herbicide roundup. *Environmental and Molecular Mutagenesis*, 31(1), 55–59.
- Dallegrave, E., et al. 2003. The teratogenic potential of the herbicide glyphosate-Roundup® in Wistar rats. *Toxicology Letters*, 142(1–2), 45–52.; Dallegrave, E., et al. 2007. Pre- and postnatal toxicity of the commercial glyphosate formulation in Wistar rats. *Arch Toxicol*, 81(9), 665–673.
- Marc, J., Mulner-Lorillon, O., & Bellé, R. (2004). Glyphosate-based pesticides affect cell cycle regulation. *Biology of the Cell*(96), 245–249.
- Benachour N, Sipahutar H, Moslemi S, Gasnier C, Travert C, & Seralini GE. 2007. Time- and dose-dependent effects of roundup on human embryonic and placental cells. *Arch Environ Contam Toxicol.*, 53(1), 126–133.
- Richard S, Moslemi S, Sipahutar H, Benachour N, & Seralini GE. 2005. Differential effects of glyphosate and roundup on human placental cells and aromatase. *Environ Health Perspect*, 113(6), 716–720.
- Gasnier, C., et al. 2008. Glyphosate-based herbicides are toxic and endocrine disruptors in human cell lines. *Toxicology*, doi:10.1016/j.tox.2009.06.006.
- Benachour, N., & Seralini, G.-E. 2008. Glyphosate Formulations Induce Apoptosis and Necrosis in Human Umbilical, Embryonic, and Placental Cells. *Chemical Research in Toxicology*, 22(1), 97–105.
- EFSA. EFSA explains the carcinogenicity assessment of glyphosate. 12 November 2015. [https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/4302\\_glyphosate\\_complementary.pdf](https://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/4302_glyphosate_complementary.pdf).
- Brausch, J. M., & Smith, P. N. 2007. Toxicity of Three Polyethoxylated Tallow-amine Surfactant Formulations to Laboratory and Field Collected Fairy Shrimp, *Thamnocephalus platyurus*. *Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology*, 52(2), 217–221.
- Wang, N., et al. 2005. Influence of sediment on the fate and toxicity of a polyethoxylated tallowamine surfactant system (MON 0818) in aquatic microcosms. *Chemosphere.*, 59(4), 545–551; Brausch, J. M., Beall, B., & Smith, P. N. 2007. Acute and Sub-Lethal Toxicity of Three POEA Surfactant Formulations to *Daphnia magna*. *Bull Environ Contam Toxicol*, 78, 510–514.
- Tsui, M., & Chu, L. 2003. Aquatic toxicity of glyphosate-based formulations: comparison between different organisms and the effects of environmental factors. *Chemosphere.*, 52(7), 1189–1197.
- USEPA. 1993. Reregistration Eligibility Decision (RED) Document: Glyphosate. Office of Pesticide Programs.
- Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP). 1998. Herbicide Factsheet: Glyphosate (Roundup). *Journal of Pesticide Reform*.18(3):4.
- EPA. 1993.
- IARC. IARC Monographs Volume 112: evaluation of five organophosphate insecticides and herbicides. 20 march 2015. <http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/pdf/MonographVolume112.pdf>.
- OEHHA. Notice of Intent to List: Tetrachlorvinphos, Parathion, Malathion, Glyphosate. September 2015 <https://oehha.ca.gov/proposition-65/cnr/notice-intent-list-tetrachlorvinphos-parathion-malathion-glyphosate>.
- Hardell, L., & Eriksson, M. 1999. A Case-Control Study of Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma and Exposure to Pesticides. *Cancer*, 85(6), 1353–1360.
- Hardell L, Eriksson M, & Nordstrom M. 2002. Exposure to pesticides as risk factor for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and hairy cell leukemia: pooled analysis of two Swedish case-control studies. *Leuk Lymphoma*, 43(5), 1043–1049.
- De Roos, et al. 2003. Integrative assessment of multiple pesticides as risk factors for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma among men. *Occup Environ Med*, 60(9).
- De Roos, A. J. D., Blair, A., et al. 2005. Cancer Incidence among Glyphosate-Exposed Pesticide Applicators in the Agricultural Health Study. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 113(1), 49–54.
- IARC. IARC Monographs Volume 112: evaluation of five organophosphate insecticides and herbicides. 20 march 2015. <http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/pdf/MonographVolume112.pdf>.
- Arbuckle, T. E., Lin, Z., & Mery, L. S. (2001). An Exploratory Analysis of the Effect of Pesticide Exposure on the Risk of Spontaneous Abortion in an Ontario Farm Population. *Environ Health Perspect*, 109, 851–857.
- Acquavella, J. F., et al. (2004). Glyphosate Biomonitoring for Farmers and Their Families: Results from the Farm Family Exposure Study. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 112(3), 321–326.
- Mesnage, R, Arno, M, Contanzo, M, et al. 2015. Transcriptome profile analysis reflects rat liver and kidney damage following chronic ultra-low dose Roundup exposure. *Environmental Health*. 14:70.
- Gasnier C, Dumont C, Benachour N, et al. 2009. Glyphosate-based herbicides are toxic and endocrine disruptors in human cell lines. *Toxicology*. 262:184–91. The Endocrine Disruption Exchange, <https://endocrinedisruption.org/enews/tedx-list-pesticides>.
- Samsel, A and Seneff, S. 2016. Glyphosate pathways to modern diseases V: Amino acid analogue of glycine in diverse proteins. *J. Biological Physics and Chemistry*. 16:9-46.
- U.S. Patent number US7771736 B2. Glyphosate formulations and their use for the inhibition of 5-enolpyruvylshikimate-3-phosphate synthase. <https://www.google.com/patents/US7771736>.
- Littman, D.R. and Pamer, E.G., 2011. Role of the commensal microbiota in normal and pathogenic host immune responses. *Cell host & microbe*, 10(4), 311–323.
- Swanson, N.L., Leu, A., Abrahamson, J. and Wallet, B., 2014. Genetically engineered crops, glyphosate and the deterioration of health in the United States of America. *Journal of Organic Systems*, 9(2), 6–37.
- Shehata AA, Schrödl W, Aldin AA, Hafez HM, Krüger M. 2013. The effect of glyphosate on potential pathogens and beneficial members of poultry microbiota in vitro. *Curr Microbiol* 66(4):350-8. Krüger, M., Shehata, A.A., Schrödl, W. and Rodloff, A., 2013. Glyphosate suppresses the antagonistic effect of *Enterococcus* spp. on *Clostridium botulinum*. *Anaerobe*, 20, pp.74-78. Schrödl, W., Krüger, S., Konstantinova-Müller, T., Shehata, A.A., Ruff, R. and Krüger, M., 2014. Possible effects of glyphosate on *Mucorales* abundance in the rumen of dairy cows in Germany. *Current microbiology*, 69(6), 817–823.



- 35 Shehata AA, Schrödl W, Aldin AA, Hafez HM, Krüger M. 2013. The effect of glyphosate on potential pathogens and beneficial members of poultry microbiota in vitro. *Curr Microbiol* 66(4):350-8.
- 36 CDC, "Get Smart: Know When Antibiotics Work." <http://www.cdc.gov/getsmart/antibiotic-use/fast-facts.html>.
- 37 Thomas F. O'Brien, 2002. Emergence, Spread, and Environmental Effect of Antimicrobial Resistance: How Use of an Antimicrobial Anywhere Can Increase Resistance to Any Antimicrobial Anywhere Else, *Clinical Infectious Diseases* 2002; 34(Suppl 3):S78-84.
- 38 See GMOs, Glyphosate, and Antibiotic Resistance below.
- 39 EPA. 1993.
- 40 Extension Toxicology Network. 1996. Pesticide Information Profiles: Glyphosate. <http://ace.orst.edu/cgi-bin/mfs/01/pips/glyphosa.htm>.
- 41 Kolpin, D. W., et al. 2006. Urban contributions of glyphosate and its degradate AMPA to streams in the United States *Science of The Total Environment*, 354(2-3), 191-197.
- 42 Scribner, E. A., Battaglin, W. A., Dietze, J. E., & Thurman, E. M. 2003. Reconnaissance Data for Glyphosate, Other Selected Herbicides, Their Degradation Products, and Antibiotics in 51 Streams in Nine Midwestern States, 2002 U.S. Geological Survey, Open-File Report 03-217(101 p). 43 USGS. Common Weed Killer is Widespread in the Environment. [https://toxics.usgs.gov/highlights/2014-04-23-glyphosate\\_2014.html](https://toxics.usgs.gov/highlights/2014-04-23-glyphosate_2014.html).
- 44 Beyond Pesticides Daily News Blog. August 22, 2011. Roundup May Be Damaging Soil and Reducing Yields, Says USDA.
- 45 Kremer, R.J. 2017. Soil and Environmental Health after Twenty Years of Intensive Use of Glyphosate. *Adv Plants Agric Res.* 6(5): 00224.
- 46 Blackshaw, RE and Harker, KN. 2016. Wheat, Field Pea, and Canola Response to Glyphosate and AMPA Soil Residues. *Weed Technology*. 30(4):985-991.
- 47 Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides (NCAP). 1998. Herbicide Factsheet: Glyphosate (Roundup). *Journal of Pesticide Reform*. 18(3):4.
- 48 Hassan, S.A. et al. 1988. Results of the fourth joint pesticide testing programme carried out by the IOBC/WPRS-Working Group "Pesticides and Beneficial Organisms." *J. Appl. Ent.* 105: 321-329.
- 49 Springett, J.A. and R.A.J. Gray. 1992. Effect of repeated low doses of biocides on the earthworm *Aporrectodea caliginosa* in laboratory culture. *Soil Biol. Biochem.* 24(12): 1739-1744.
- 50 Folmar, L. C., Sanders, H. O., & Julin, A. M. 1979. Toxicity of the herbicide glyphosate and several of its formulations to fish and aquatic invertebrates *Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology*, 8(3), 269-278.
- 51 Relyea, R. 2012. New effects of Roundup on amphibians: Predators reduce herbicide mortality; herbicides induce antipredator morphology. *Ecological Applications* 22:634-647.
- 52 Relyea, R. 2005. "The lethal impact of Roundup on aquatic and terrestrial amphibians." *Ecological Applications*, 15(4), 1118-1124.
- 53 Howe CM, B. M., Pauli BD, Helbing CC, Werry K, and Veldhoen N. 2004. Toxicity of glyphosate-based pesticides to four North American frog species. *Environ Toxicol Chem*, 23(8), 1928-1938.
- 54 U.S.EPA. 2009. Glyphosate Summary Document Reregistration Review: Initial Docket (p10). Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances.
- 55 Carey Gillam, 2017. USDA Drops Plan to Test for Monsanto Weed Killer in Food. *Huffington Post*. 03/23/2017. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/usda-drops-plan-to-test-for-monsanto-weed-killer-in\\_us\\_58d2db4ee4b062043ad4af84](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/usda-drops-plan-to-test-for-monsanto-weed-killer-in_us_58d2db4ee4b062043ad4af84).
- 56 Glyphosat-Rückstände im deutschen Bier. [http://www.umweltinstitut.org/fileadmin/Mediapool/Downloads/02\\_Mitmach-Aktionen/11\\_Rettet\\_das\\_Reinheitsgebot/Glyphosat\\_Untersuchung\\_Umweltinstitut\\_2016.pdf](http://www.umweltinstitut.org/fileadmin/Mediapool/Downloads/02_Mitmach-Aktionen/11_Rettet_das_Reinheitsgebot/Glyphosat_Untersuchung_Umweltinstitut_2016.pdf).
- 57 Damian Carrington. 2014. Over 60% of breads sold in the UK contain pesticide residues, tests show <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/jul/17/pesticide-residue-breads-uk-crops>.
- 58 Moms Across America. 2014. Glyphosate Testing Full Report: Findings in American Mothers' Breast Milk, Urine and Water. [http://www.momsacrossamerica.com/glyphosate\\_testing\\_results](http://www.momsacrossamerica.com/glyphosate_testing_results).
- 59 Moms Across America. 2016. Widespread Contamination of Glyphosate Weedkiller in California Wine.
- 60 Food Democracy Now! And The Detox Project. Glyphosate: Unsafe on Any Plate: Food Testing Results and Scientific Reasons for Concern. [https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.fooddemocracynow.org/images/FDN\\_Glyphosate\\_FoodTesting\\_Report\\_p2016.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/media.fooddemocracynow.org/images/FDN_Glyphosate_FoodTesting_Report_p2016.pdf).
- 61 CIFA. Safeguarding with Science: Glyphosate Testing in 2015-2016. Science Branch Survey Report [http://static.producer.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/CFIA\\_ACIA-9123346-v1-FSSD-FSSS-Glyphosate-Final-Report-15-16\\_0184101.pdf#\\_ga=1.196489061.892407858.1492107204](http://static.producer.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/CFIA_ACIA-9123346-v1-FSSD-FSSS-Glyphosate-Final-Report-15-16_0184101.pdf#_ga=1.196489061.892407858.1492107204).

More info at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/sw1qpb1sp2pln9b/AABJKQdSCvIbXktikcjC4p60a?dl=0>



## BEYOND PESTICIDES

701 E Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003

202-543-5450 phone • 202-543-4791 fax  
info@beyondpesticides.org • beyondpesticides.org



## Environmental Justice Initiative\*/ New York Environmental Law & Justice Project

affiliated with National Lawyers Guild Environmental Justice Committee

Joel Richard Kupferman, *Esq.* Executive Director

Columbia Fiero, *Documentarian & Editor*

Annie Wilson, *Senior Energy Advisor*

John Low-Beer, *Esq.*, Art Giacalone, *Esq.*, Stephanie Kupferman, *Esq.* Cooperating Attorneys

Emma Dismukes, Jack Agosta, *Fall Law Interns*

225 Broadway Suite 2625

New York NY10007-3040 USA

[envjoel@ix.netcom.com](mailto:envjoel@ix.netcom.com) [admin@nyenvirolaw.org](mailto:admin@nyenvirolaw.org)

[www.nyenvirolaw.org](http://www.nyenvirolaw.org) <https://www.facebook.com/EJforHAITI/>

P: 212-334-5551 F: 212-658-9540 Cell: 917-414-1983

\* 501(c)(3) tax-exempt

August 31, 2018

To Whom it May Concern

We are writing on behalf of the people of New York City regarding the use of Roundup in city parks. This is particularly significant given the outcome of [Johnson v. Monsanto Co.](#), the recent \$289 million California Court finding toxic and carcinogenic effects of the herbicide, Roundup. Our present concerns stem mostly from the New York City Park Department continued use Roundup, and other glyphosate and surfactant based products, in city parks, especially playgrounds. This practice has continued despite significant scientific evidence of its toxicity, now recognized by the courts. This use presents an imminent endangerment to the health of the community and the environment, particularly those working directly and indirectly with this herbicide and children who use these playgrounds. It is important to note that children are 10 times more susceptible to harm from toxic pesticides and carcinogens.

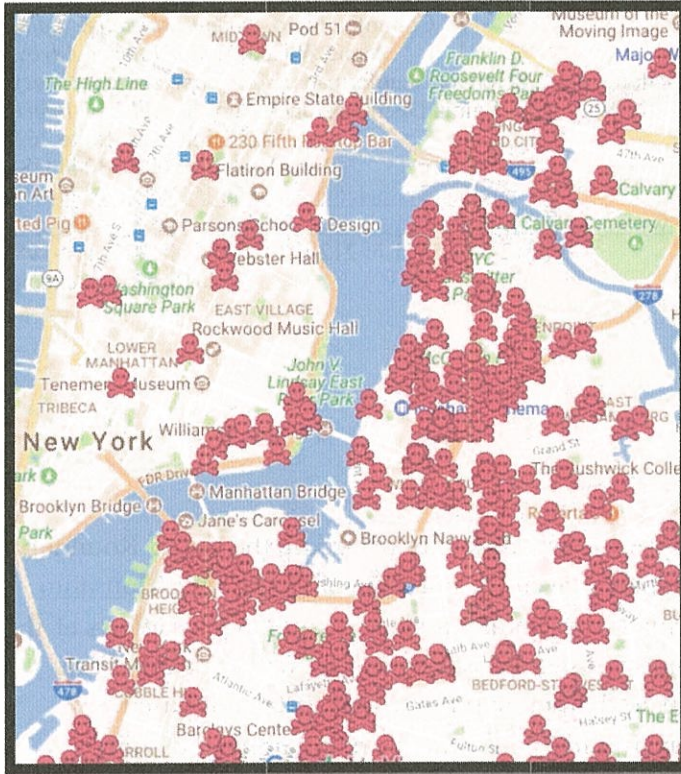
This combination of chemicals has long been recognized as a possible or probable carcinogen and is believed to cause a number of other health issues, as well. In March 2015, the World Health Organization's (WHO) International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) classified glyphosate as "Probably Carcinogenic to Humans" based on numerous scientific studies linking the chemical to a range of cancers, including non-Hodgkin's lymphoma,



Sign indicating the use of Roundup in a NYC playground located at Oliver & Madison Streets taken by Joel Kupferman



renal cancers, skin cancers and pancreatic cancer. IARC initially published its conclusion in the *Lancet Oncology Journal*, the world's premier scientific journal for cancer studies.



Map showing all reported uses of Roundup but the City Parks Department alone. Via Reverend Billy and the Stop Shopping Choir, using data from the Department of Health.

The use of these chemicals is most deleterious to those who come in close contact with the product and those who are most susceptible to harm. While the benefits of using Roundup are purely cosmetic, the costs are not only the health and safety of the City's workers and children alike, but also potential liability for civil action against the City. Since the California ruling on August 10th, more than 5,000 cases have already been filed against Monsanto.

Monsanto's disingenuousness was revealed in the trial. In the 1990's 4 genome studies caused Monsanto to hire an independent genotoxin expert. Monsanto paid for studies to be conducted on Round-up, both concluded that Round-up is genotoxic, meaning it is damaging to DNA; pertaining to

agents (radiation or chemical substances) known to damage DNA, thereby causing mutations or cancer. (Dr. James Perry of Swansea University). The next study by Dr. Perry in 1999 concluded that Round-up is a clastogen, an agent that can induce mutation by disrupting or damaging chromosomes.

It is in light of this recent California State Court decision, in which a jury determined that Roundup had in fact caused the development of non-Hodgkin lymphoma in a school groundskeeper, that we are led to call for a city-wide moratorium on the use of glyphosate-based herbicides.

We demand that the City face this problem head-on and address these issues now to limit health consequences, beyond that which has already occurred. Preventing the further use of Roundup and similar products now will prevent costly litigation in the future. It is for these reasons that we demand the Mayor and the respective commissioners of the Parks and Health and Mental Hygiene Departments invoke a moratorium on the use of



glyphosate-based herbicides within the city. Furthermore, we urge the Health and Parks Departments to both acknowledge this issue and develop a remedial action plan including the minimization of potential exposure. Finally, we demand that the City publish the details of the locations, quantities, and frequency of this type of herbicide application, as well as the name of all sub-contractors used by Parks and other agencies. Workers and the community have the Right to Know.

Please see a compilation of some key research below and visit our [dropbox folder](#) for access further research on this matter.

Sincerely,

Joel Richard Kupferman, *Esq. Executive Director*  
Emma Dismukes, *Law Intern*  
Jack Agosta, *Law Intern*

On Behalf of **The Emergency Taskforce for the Prohibition of Roundup**

**Assembly Bill 4971** to prohibit glyphosate in parks and plays grounds see <https://www.dropbox.com/s/1ve3y0pq7ojeo6g/%3D%2B%204971%20NYS%20Ban%20Glyphosate%20original.pdf?dl=0>

## Health Concerns, Generally

### 1. Glyphosate (Roundup):

*Glyphosate (Roundup)*, Beyond Pesticides (2017), <https://www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/pesticides/factsheets/bp-fact-glyphosate.082017.pdf>.

**Key Points:**

"Despite the prevalent myth that this widely-used herbicide is harmless, glyphosate . . . is associated with a wide range of illnesses, including non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (NHL), genetic damage, liver and kidney damage, endocrine disruption, as well as environmental damage, including water contamination and harm to amphibians . . ."

## ChemicalWATCH Summary Stats

**CAS Registry Number:** 1071-83-6

**Trade Name:** Roundup, Rodeo

**Use:** Nonselective herbicide for broadleaf weed and grass control on food and non-food field crop sites.

**Toxicity rating:** Toxic

**Signal Words:** Caution

**Health Effects:** Eye and skin irritation, associated with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, and spontaneous abortions. Other ingredients in formulated products are linked to developmental abnormalities, decreased sperm count, abnormal sperm, and cell death of embryonic, placental and umbilical cord cells. Functions as an antibiotic.

**Environmental Effects:** Weed resistance due to use in genetically engineered crop production, water contamination, soil quality degradation, toxic to soil microorganisms and aquatic organisms. A source of phosphate pollution in water.

### 2. Differences in the Carcinogenic Evaluation of Glyphosate Between the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA):

Christopher J. Portier et al., Differences in the Carcinogenic Evaluation of Glyphosate Between the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), 70 J. Epidemiology and Community Health 741 (2016), <https://jech.bmj.com/content/jech/70/8/741.full.pdf>.

**Key Points:**

"The IARC WG concluded that glyphosate is a 'probable human carcinogen', putting it into IARC category 2A due to *sufficient evidence* of carcinogenicity in animals, *limited evidence* of carcinogenicity in human and strong evidence for two carcinogenic mechanisms."

"In the RAR, almost no weight is given to studies from the published literature and there is an over-reliance on non-publicly available industry-provided studies using a limited set of assays that define the minimum data necessary for the marketing of a pesticide. The IARC WG evaluation of a *probably carcinogenic to humans* accurately reflects the results of published scientific literature on glyphosate and, on the face of it, unpublished studies to which EFSA refers."

- ▶ The IARC WG found an association between NHL and glyphosate based on the available human evidence.
- ▶ The IARC WG found significant carcinogenic effects in laboratory animals for rare kidney tumours and hemangiosarcoma in two mouse studies and benign tumours in two rat studies.
- ▶ The IARC WG concluded that there was strong evidence of genotoxicity and oxidative stress for glyphosate, entirely from publicly available research, including findings of DNA damage in the peripheral blood of exposed humans.

### Health Concerns, Children

1. California Proposes Safe Level for Roundup More Than 100 Times Lower Than EPA Limit:

Olga V. Naidenko, *California Proposes Safe Level for Roundup More Than 100 Times Lower Than EPA Limit*, Environmental Working Group (Jun. 21, 2017), <https://www.ewg.org/research/california-proposes-safe-level-roundup-more-100-times-lower-epa-limit#.W4b5gCOZPsk>.

**Key Points:**

"A tenfold children's health safety factor is also supported by the recommendations of the 1993 National Research Council Report, *Pesticides in the Diets of Infants and Children*, which highlighted that children are both exposed to more pesticides than adults and are more susceptible to the toxic effects of pesticides, particularly those that cause cancer."

"[A]pplying the tenfold children's health factor and a one-in-a-million cancer risk standard, EWG believes that the No Significant Risk Level for glyphosate should be no more than 0.01 milligram, or 10 micrograms, per day. This maximum intake limit should apply to all exposures."

2. Breakfast with a Dose of Roundup:

Alexis Temkin, *Breakfast with a Dose of Roundup*, Environmental Working Group (Aug. 15, 2018), <https://www.ewg.org/childrenshealth/glyphosateincereal/#.W4b7hiOZPsk>.

**Key Points:**

"[B]ecause children and developing fetuses have increased susceptibility to carcinogens, the federal Food Quality Protection Act supports including an additional 10-fold margin of safety. With this additional children's health safety Factor, EWG calculated that a one-in-a-million cancer risk would be posed by ingestion of 0.01 milligrams of glyphosate per day."

3. Stop Spraying Weed Killer in our Parks: Glyphosate isn't Worth the Risk:

Linda Rosenthal & Jose Serrano, *Stop Spraying Weed Killer in our Parks: Glyphosate isn't Worth the Risk*, NY Daily News (Aug. 26, 2018), <http://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-roundup-glyphosate-20180823-story.html>.

**Key Points:**

"Children naturally spend more time close to the ground, which means they may be more likely to inhale, ingest or otherwise be exposed to dangerously high levels of glyphosate on the grass or in the soil."

"Overgrown weeds may be unsightly, but cancer is a killer. New York is home to hundreds of parks where kids should be able to take off their shoes and run in the grass, and their parents should feel safe in the knowledge that they are not exposing them to potentially cancer-causing chemicals while doing so."

We shouldn't have to wait for a child to become sick to take action to protect them against a known risk. New York must ban the use of glyphosate in public parks and playgrounds statewide."

**Legal Implications, the Monsanto Case**

1. Historic Ruling Against Monsanto Finds Company Acted with "Malice" Against Groundskeeper with Cancer:

*Historic Ruling Against Monsanto Finds Company Acted with "Malice" Against Groundskeeper with Cancer*, Democracy Now! (Aug. 14, 2018), [https://www.democracynow.org/2018/8/14/historic\\_ruling\\_against\\_monsanto\\_finds\\_company](https://www.democracynow.org/2018/8/14/historic_ruling_against_monsanto_finds_company).

**Key Points:**

"California has ordered Monsanto to pay \$289 million in damages to a school groundskeeper who developed cancer after regularly using the weed killer Roundup. The 46-year-old man, Dewayne Johnson, has non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Doctors say he is unlikely to live past 2020. Judge Suzanne Ramos Bolanos read the Jury's verdict."

**JUDGE SUZANNE RAMOS BOLANOS:** Would a reasonable manufacturer, distributor or seller under the same or similar circumstances have warned of the danger or instructed on the safe use of Roundup Pro or Ranger Pro? Answer, yes. Was Monsanto's failure to warn a substantial factor in causing harm to Mr. Johnson? Answer, yes. Claim of damages. What are Mr. Johnson's damages? Past economic loss, \$819,882.32. Future economic loss, \$1,433,327. Past non-economic loss, \$4 million. Future non-economic loss, \$33 million. With regard to punitive damages, did you find by clear and convincing evidence that Monsanto acted with malice or oppression in the conduct upon which you base your finding of liability in favor of Mr. Johnson? Answer, yes.

2. Groundskeeper Who Used Monsanto's Herbicide Roundup and Contracted the Cancer non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) Wins \$289 Million Jury Verdict:



*Groundskeeper Who Used Monsanto's Herbicide Roundup and Contracted the Cancer non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) Wins \$289 Million Jury Verdict*, Beyond Pesticides, <https://beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/2018/08/groundskeeper-used-monsantos-herbicide-roundup-contracted-cancer-non-hodgkin-lymphoma-nhl-wins-289-million-jury-verdict/> (last visited Aug. 31).

**Key Points:**

"[W]e believe that the verdict is a clarion call to manufacturers that ignore the devastating impact that their products can have on unsuspecting workers, consumers, and families. We look forward to the day in the not-too-distant future when we recognize as a society that products like glyphosate (Roundup) are not necessary, and effective and affordable land and building management can be achieved without toxic chemicals. The case should also signal to all levels of government – local, state, and federal – that we have a social, public health, and environmental responsibility to remove toxic pesticides from use with a high degree of urgency"

## DAILY NEWS BLOG

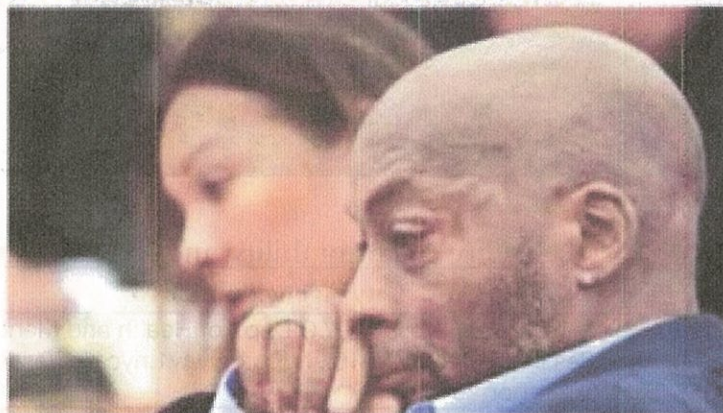
• U.S. Court Tells EPA to Ban Chlorpyrifos

Take Action: Tell USDA that Purposeful Mutagenesis is Genetic Engineering •

### Groundskeeper Who Used Monsanto's Herbicide Roundup and Contracted the Cancer non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) Wins \$289 Million Jury Verdict

12  
Aug

(Beyond Pesticides, August 12, 2018) In a stunning legal victory for a man who contracted non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) after using the herbicide glyphosate (Roundup), groundskeeper Dewayne Johnson won a \$289 million jury verdict against the chemical's manufacturer Monsanto. The jury on August 10, 2018 awarded the 46-year old Mr. Johnson \$30 million in compensatory damages, and \$250 million in punitive damages. This verdict



Mr. Dewayne Johnson wins \$289 million jury verdict after being poisoned from using glyphosate Roundup

#### 3. Dewayne Johnson v. Monsanto Trial Exhibits:

*Dewayne Johnson v. Monsanto Company*: California State Court, Baum, Hedlund, Aristei, & Goldman, <https://www.baumhedlundlaw.com/toxic-tort-law/monsanto-roundup-lawsuit/dewayne-johnson-v-monsanto-company/#exhibits> (last visited Aug. 31, 2018).

**Key Points:**

See Plaintiff Opening Slide Presentation by R.Brent Wisner: <https://www.baumhedlundlaw.com/pdf/monsanto-trial/Johnson-Trial-Plaintiff-Opening-Presentation.pdf> which provides a full overview of the case and scientific arguments.



## Overview of this case:



### City Accountability and Transparency

#### 1. Pesticide Use by New York City Agencies in 2015:

Bureau of Env'tl. Surveillance and Policy N.Y.C Dep't of Health and Mental Hygiene, Pesticide Use by New York City Agencies in 2015 (May 2016), <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/pesticide/pesticide-use-report2015.pdf>.

##### Key Points:

"Pesticide use arranged by privately operated facilities by their subcontractors is not required to be reported and is not included in this report, which includes only pest management services contracted directly . . . ."

#### 2. Are NYC Parks Becoming More Toxic?:

Amelia Pang, *Are NYC Parks Becoming More Toxic*, The Epoch Times (Jan. 18, 2016), [https://www.theepochtimes.com/are-nyc-parks-becoming-more-toxic\\_1940550.html](https://www.theepochtimes.com/are-nyc-parks-becoming-more-toxic_1940550.html).

##### Key Points:

"The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation has been steadily increasing its use of Roundup, a weed-killer with a primary ingredient that is linked to cancer."

### Breadth of Impact

#### 1. Glyphosate:

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, *Glyphosate*, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ipcsneng/neng0160.html> (last visited Aug. 29, 2018).

Key Points:

See chart below for CDC recommendations on impact of glyphosate and best practices.

TYPES OF HAZARD/ EXPOSURE	ACUTE HAZARDS/ SYMPTOMS	PREVENTION	FIRST AID/ FIRE FIGHTING
<b>FIRE</b>	Combustible. Gives off irritating or toxic fumes (or gases) in a fire.	NO open flames, NO sparks, and NO smoking.	Powder, alcohol-resistant foam, water spray, carbon dioxide.
<b>EXPLOSION</b>	Finely dispersed particles form explosive mixtures in air.	Prevent build-up of electrostatic charges (e.g., by grounding). Prevent deposition of dust; closed system, dust explosion-proof electrical equipment and lighting.	
<b>EXPOSURE</b>		<b>PREVENT DISPERSION OF DUST!</b>	
<b>•INHALATION</b>	Cough.	Avoid inhalation of fine dust and mist.	Fresh air, rest.
<b>•SKIN</b>	Redness.	Protective gloves.	Remove contaminated clothes. Rinse and then wash skin with water and soap.
<b>•EYES</b>	Redness, Pain.	Safety goggles.	First rinse with plenty of water for several minutes (remove contact lenses if easily possible), then take to a doctor.
<b>•INGESTION</b>	Burning sensation in the throat and chest.	Do not eat, drink, or smoke during work. Wash hands before eating.	Rinse mouth. Do NOT induce vomiting.

## 2. *Pesticide Use by New York City Agencies in 2015:*

Bureau of Env'tl. Surveillance and Policy N.Y.C Dep't of Health and Mental Hygiene, Pesticide Use by New York City Agencies in 2015 (May 2016), <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/pesticide/pesticide-use-report2015.pdf>.

Key Points:

See chart below for New York City Agency list of herbicides used in 2015.

- Note similarity of ingredients between Roundup and Roundup alternatives and likelihood of similar health impacts

<b>Herbicides</b>								
239-2657	ORTHO GROUND CLEAR TOTAL VEGETATION KILLER	6.00	0.00	6	Glyphosate, isopropylamine salt; Imazapyr, isopropylamine salt	2	NO	NO
524-579	ROUNDUP PROMAX	1.67	0.00	5	Glyphosate, potassium salt	3	NO	NO
9198-129	TEE TIME TREFLAN 5G	0.19	0.00	4	Trifluralin	3	YES	NO
228-366	RAZOR HERBICIDE	0.01	0.00	3	Glyphosate, isopropylamine salt	3	NO	NO
524-517	ACCORD XL HERBICIDE	0.09	0.00	2	Glyphosate, isopropylamine salt	3	NO	NO

March 8, 2019

Good afternoon City Council Members, ladies and gentlemen.

My name is Fay D. Hill, a resident of Springfield Gardens in southeast Queens. I am a retired executive legal secretary, and presently, Executive Director for *Volunteers for Springfield Park*. I am also a board member on Community Board 13 and Chairperson for its Parks and Environment Committee for the past six years.

I am here to testify on behalf of the communities as a whole and to thank *New York for Parks* on the remarkable work they have contributed to our communities. These are hardworking leaders who have contributed to the awareness and the improvement of our parks and green spaces around New York City.

I would like to take a pause to thank my Council Member, Donovan Richards, who has made it possible to budget for the parks in southeast Queens and Far Rockaway for the past five years. Major improvements have been done to our parks and we hope to continue doing so.

I have lived in Springfield Gardens for over 40 years and have seen our parks deteriorated condition with prostitution, being drug infested and our residents being unable to use their parks in Springfield Gardens, Rosedale and surrounding communities under other city council administrations. We were totally ignored for many years. The upper respiratory and asthma in our communities has increased and if we don't have trees and green spaces, our residents will continue to suffer.

We are advocating to the Budget Committee to be **Fair with Parks**. Presently, our parks have improved and the quality of life engendered has become a part of our residents' expectation in enjoying their parks. However, we need more funding so more park workers can be hired, for increased park patrols, for maintenance with the required equipment to upkeep of our parks. We wish to continue to enjoy our parks after all of this hard work has been done.



We would like all of the Council Members present here today to consider in your upcoming budget the **additional allocation of funding to the Department of Parks and Recreation as a major priority.**

Be **Fair with Parks** because our parks and green spaces here in New York City are vital to the well-being of all of its citizens.

I thank you for your attention to my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Fay D. Hill

**Testimony of Eli Dvorkin**  
**Editorial & Policy Director, Center for an Urban Future**  
**Before the NYC Council Committee on Parks & Recreation**

**March 8, 2019**

My name is Eli Dvorkin and I'm the editorial and policy director of the Center for an Urban Future (CUF). As many of you may know, CUF is a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank and policy organization focused on expanding economic opportunity and strengthening communities across all five boroughs.

For more than 20 years, we've published in-depth research on an array of topics critical to the city's future, including major reports on everything from supporting entrepreneurship in low-income communities and boosting community college graduation rates to revitalizing aging infrastructure and unlocking new opportunities to create middle-class jobs.

Nearly two years ago, our team of researchers set out to understand the role that parks play as vital urban infrastructure—and the threats that the system faces in the years ahead.

What we found is alarming.

Our report, *A New Leaf*, reveals for the first time that the average New York City park is 73 years old. Across all five boroughs, most parks are at least half a century old, ranging from an average age of 51 years on Staten Island to 86 years in Manhattan. A quarter of New York's parks are at least 84 years old, and one park in 10 was built before 1898.

Moreover, we found that parks in every borough are struggling with aging assets that are at or near the end of their useful lives—including drainage systems, retaining walls, and bridges.

The age of our system comes at a cost. Over the past decade, state-of-good-repair needs—which includes major infrastructure and capital repairs—increased by 45 percent, from \$405.9 million in fiscal year 2007 to \$589.1 million in fiscal year 2017. Meanwhile, the department's recommended maintenance needs increased by 143 percent, from \$14 million to \$34 million. And that figure is likely just a fraction of the real need.

Yet, just 15 percent of the recommended state-of-good-repair needs, and 12 percent of the maintenance needs, were funded in the most recent year. That's at or near the lowest levels of any agency.

While the mounting infrastructure needs are largely due to the age of the system and record usage of parks in recent years, our research finds that the problems have been compounded by decades of under-investment in basic parks maintenance and inadequate spending on infrastructure upgrades. The result is that NYC has fewer skilled parks maintenance workers than other big-city systems—and that smaller issues end up growing into bigger problems.

In total, our report found just 39 plumbers for the entire parks system. Similarly, the city has about 150 gardeners citywide for nearly 20,000 acres of parkland—a ratio of one gardener to every 133 acres. By

comparison, the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department has over 200 gardeners for 4,113 acres of parkland, a ratio of one gardener to 20 acres.

The consequences are clear on the ground. Some districts—like Bronx’s Community Board 8—had zero dedicated gardeners, while others have just one, which makes effective horticultural maintenance impossible.

These problems extend far beyond horticulture. For the parks system’s miles of power lines and countless fixtures, there were just 27 electricians and one supervising electrician as of FY 2018. By comparison, Chicago, with less than a quarter the parks acreage of New York, had 32 electricians on staff. Likewise, our research found just nine cement masons and two helpers for all parks citywide.

This shortage is symptomatic of a larger trend: the city’s parks system has suffered disproportionately in the aftermath of previous recessions—and the next downturn is on the horizon.

Since the 1970s fiscal crisis, the full-time staffing headcount of the Parks Department has dropped from a high of 11,642 in 1976 to a little over 7,600—a 35 percent decline. This means not only fewer skilled workers to fix pipes, point masonry, clear catchbasins, and tend to horticulture, but also a lack of capacity to gather data, speed up capital projects, and maintain consistent relationships with community members.

Despite these concerns, our report finds that recent investments in chronically underfunded parks are having a meaningful impact, and we commend Mayor de Blasio, the City Council, and Commissioner Silver for launching the Community Parks and Anchor Parks Initiatives, and we urge their continuation. These initiatives are improving parks equity while tackling underlying infrastructure needs, but those needs remain urgent.

Our report concludes with more than 20 specific and achievable recommendations for revitalizing the city’s aging parks infrastructure. But here are three critical next steps:

- **Support the Play Fair for Parks campaign.** To ensure that capital dollars are spent wisely, the Parks Department needs new resources to help maintain its infrastructure. We recommend increasing the department’s maintenance and operations budget by \$100 million, which can allow the department to baseline desperately needed skilled staff positions, increase the number and range of assets that receive regular maintenance, improve data-gathering, and focus on mitigating problems before they grow.
- **Increase long-term funding for parks capital projects.** For far too many parks infrastructure projects, the need to cobble together capital funding from the mayor and individual councilmembers means that vital but overlooked projects like replacing drainage systems and reinforcing retaining walls end up delayed or unfunded. The department urgently needs more capital dollars that can be allocated at the discretion of the commissioner and his team. We recommend at least \$100 million annually in new discretionary capital funding and a 10-year capital plan that accurately reflects the needs of the system’s aging infrastructure.
- **Identify new opportunities to increase revenues.** Parks Department revenues from sources like concessions have been largely flat over the past decade. Our report includes several suggestions for ways to boost revenues while maintaining a quality experience for parkgoers, such as a small surcharge on sporting and concert event tickets and greens fees at golf courses; a modest increase in dockage fees at publicly owned marinas; new opportunities to develop concessions in areas with few such options; and more systematic inclusion of parks funding as part of rezoning agreements.



- **Reform the capital construction process.** With so many needs, capital dollars need to stretch further than they do today. Under Commissioner Silver, the department has implemented some important reforms to the design and construction phases. But major issues remain in both the planning and procurement phases, where projects end up mired in an approvals process that includes the Parks Department, elected officials, community groups, and oversight agencies such as OMB and the Comptroller. The city is in the process of launching the first major overhaul of the capital construction system, but these efforts will only be successful if every agency with a hand in the process commits to the shared goal of improving project delivery. We encourage the mayor and the City Council to hold every agency accountable to this urgent goal.



80 VAN CORTLANDT PK S.  
Suite E1  
BRONX, NY 10463  
Tel: 718-601-1460  
Fax: 718-601-1574

WEBSITE:  
[www.vancortlandt.org](http://www.vancortlandt.org)  
EMAIL:  
[info@vancortlandt.org](mailto:info@vancortlandt.org)

CHAIR  
CHRISTOPHER RIZZO

VICE CHAIR  
TERESA GRANT STOETH

TREASURER  
JESSICA LOESER

SECRETARY  
TOM CAREY

MARCIA ALLINA  
SUSAN BALDWIN  
ROBERT BARON  
HILARY BAUM  
PAULA LURIA CAPLAN  
PETER KOHLMANN  
KAREL LITTMAN  
FELICITY NITZ  
CAROL SAMOL  
WENDY SCHMIDT  
ERIC A. SEIFF  
DORIS SPENCER  
HOWIE WALDMAN  
STACEY WIEDER

ADVISORY  
FRANCES BEINECKE  
DENNIS BURNS  
ELIZABETH COOKE-LEVY  
JON DEVEAUX  
MARGOT GURALNICK  
HOLLY LEICHT  
SUSAN MORGENTHAU  
CAROL ROBLES-ROMAN  
JANE SOKOLOW  
DART WESTPHAL

EX-OFFICIO  
HON. ANDREW COHEN  
HON. RUBEN DIAZ, JR.  
HON. JEFFREY DINOWITZ  
HON. ELIOT ENGEL  
HON. JEFFREY KLEIN  
IRIS RODRIGUEZ-ROSA

Hon. Vanessa L. Gibson, Chair  
NYC Council Subcommittee on Capital Budget  
Councilmembers: Grodenchik, Matteo, Powers and Rosenthal

Hon. Barry S. Grodenchik, Chair  
NYC Council Committee on Parks & Recreation  
Councilmembers: Brannan, Borelli, Cohen, Constantinides, Gjonaj, King, Koo,  
Moya, Ulrich and Van Bramer

March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Dear Chairpersons and Council Members of the Subcommittee on Capital Budget  
and Committee on Parks and Recreation

**Re: Testimony for the NYC City Council Parks Committee Preliminary FY20  
Budget Hearing**

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony on behalf of the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park. First of all, I want to thank our Councilman Andrew Cohen for his vital support of parks. Also, I would like to thank Chair Grodenchik for his leadership efforts to improve our parks.

We all know that NYC Parks is underfunded. They have been for many many years and this needs to change. There is not enough personnel and working equipment to properly maintain our parks at a level that our park users deserve. For example, in the Bronx our vehicles such as garbage packers and lawn mowers spend about as much time in the repair shop as they do out in the parks. When our comfort stations breakdown we have to wait for one of 4 Bronx plumbers to have time to fix it. This has resulted in our main comfort station for Cross Country Races being closed during major events.

To address these issues and other in parks throughout NYC, the Friends would like the NYC City Council to work with the NYC Mayor to finally commit the \$10 million needed to baseline the 100 City Park Worker and 50 Gardener positions that we have to beg for each year and to increase the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation budget by \$100 million. This is only an additional 0.10% but it will have a significant impact.

Specifically, the Friends would like that the \$100 million go towards the following:

1.) Maintenance Funding! 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 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 budget should allocate more money to dedicated maintenance staff, gardeners, plumbers and other staff for the parks.



2.) Safety! There are not enough Parks Enforcement Patrol officers to keep our Parks safe. Currently, there are only 58 PEP officers to patrol over 6,000 acres of Parkland in the Bronx. These officers are split among multiple shifts and during evening patrols there is often only a handful on duty. The sad fact is that this is the largest number of PEP officers the Bronx has had in many years but it is not nearly enough.

3.) Funding for our Natural Areas! Van Cortlandt Park is the third largest park in New York City with 1,146 acres and over half of those acres are natural areas including old growth forests, freshwater wetlands, a brook and the largest freshwater lake in the Bronx. However, typically NYC Parks only has a crew of 3-5 that are dedicated to maintaining these natural areas. The Friends work with volunteers to maintain several of the natural areas in the Park but we are combating years of neglect. Our natural areas are at a tipping point. They are threatened by invasive plants, garbage dumping and lack of management. They need continual investment or they will decline in quality. New York City's natural areas are at risk of losing diversity that, once lost, can never be regained.

In addition to these expenses funding requests, we are concerned about the Capital Process- capital projects are extremely expensive and take far too long to be completed. In 2014, NYC Parks approved a comprehensive Master Plan for the first time in the park's history, however that Master Plan will never be accomplished in 20 years with the current rate in which projects are funded and implemented. It has been 5 years and not one project new project in that plan has been done or is even close to being completed. The Capital Process is broken and desperately needs to be fixed. The Friends would like to work with New Yorkers for Parks, other park groups and the City Council in the future to figure out the solution to fixing the Capital Process.

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 NYC that we fund our Parks.

Sincerely,

Christina A. Taylor  
Christina Taylor  
Executive Director



FOR THE RECORD

## Testimony of the American Heart Association

Before the New York City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation

March 8, 2019

Greg Mihailovich, Director, Grassroots Advocacy  
American Heart Association, New York City

Thank you, Chair Grodenchik and the members of the Council Committee on Parks and Recreation, for the opportunity to discuss a key budget priority the American Heart Association believes would benefit the City of New York.

The American Heart Association is the nation's oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, of which approximately 80% of diagnoses are preventable.<sup>i</sup> Accordingly, AHA prioritizes increasing physical activity and physical fitness across the population because engaging in daily physical activity reduces the risk of obesity, coronary heart disease, stroke, hypertension, diabetes, and some types of cancer.<sup>ii</sup>

The recent launch of the Play Fair Coalition has brought attention to the funding needs of NYC Parks. This is an important conversation to have because well-maintained parks contribute to a higher quality of life for all New Yorkers. As that conversation continues though, we need to identify and support projects that make it easier for all of us to be physically active. Promoting active transportation -- the opportunity to bike, walk, or roll to work, school, or around the community -- through policy, systems and environmental change is one of the leading evidence-based strategies to increase physical activity across the lifespan.<sup>iii</sup>

The American Heart Association recommends at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity at least five days a week for overall cardiovascular health, and an average of 40 minutes of moderate-to-vigorous-intensity three or four days a week to help lower blood pressure and cholesterol. New Yorkers get a significant amount of this recommended daily physical activity from participating in active transportation.<sup>iv</sup> Manhattan's Hudson River Greenway is the most heavily used bikeway in the United States—nearly 7,000 people ride a bike there every day.<sup>v</sup> The New Springville Greenway is a 3.2-mile multi-use path along the edge of Fresh Kills Park on Staten Island. The Greenway was finished in 2015 and is already seeing 6,000 users per month on average.<sup>vi</sup> That number will go up when the park is completed and open to the public. When we invest in this active living infrastructure, people use it.

The American Heart Association applauds the City's continued efforts to prioritize active living infrastructure. The recent dedication of funding by Mayor de Blasio to close two of the major gaps on the east side of the Manhattan Greenway will create a safe walking, running, and biking path for many residents of Manhattan and the South Bronx. Chair Grodenchik recently secured \$1.25 million in funding to rehabilitate the Long Island/Vanderbilt Motor Parkway, which is a key



part of the proposed Eastern Queens Greenway that would create a safe and continuous connection between many of Queens' wonderful parks. As we progress through this budget cycle, we ask that the NYC Council continue to identify and fund these NYC Parks infrastructure projects so that everyone has optimal access to active living opportunities.

By prioritizing investment in quality outdoor recreation and safe active transportation in the Fiscal Year 2020 budget, you can help millions of New Yorkers live longer and healthier lives.

---

<sup>i</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Preventable Deaths from heart Disease & Stroke, <http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/HeartDisease-Stroke/index.html>

<sup>ii</sup> Spengler JO. Promoting Physical Activity through Shared Use of School and Community Recreational Resources. Research Brief. Active Living Research, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, April 2012. Available at: [http://activelivingresearch.org/files/ALR\\_Brief\\_SharedUse\\_April2012.pdf](http://activelivingresearch.org/files/ALR_Brief_SharedUse_April2012.pdf)

<sup>iii</sup> Nazelle A, Nieuwenhuijsen JM, Anto, et al. Improving health through policies that promote active travel: A review of evidence to support integrated health impact assessment. Environ Int. 2011. May; 37(4): 766–777.

<sup>iv</sup> NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Health Benefits of Active Transportation in New York City. May 2011. [www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/survey/survey-2011active-transport.pdf](http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/survey/survey-2011active-transport.pdf)

<sup>v</sup> NYC Dept. of Transportation. "About Greenways," NYC.gov. <http://a841-tfpweb.nyc.gov/greenway/background/>

<sup>vi</sup> Freshkills Park Alliance. "Counting New Springville Greenway Visitors" <https://freshkillspark.org/blog/counting-new-springville-greenway-visitors>

FOR THE RECORD

Joanna Oltman Smith  
829 President Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11215  
646-279-9160  
[jo@nycsmith.com](mailto:jo@nycsmith.com)

Testimony in Favor of Increasing Parks Operating Budget, City Council Hearing 3/8/19

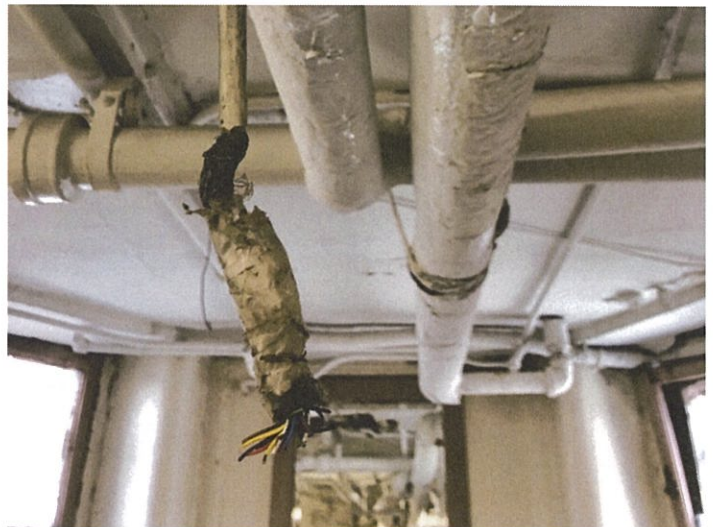


My name is Joanna Oltman Smith. I am a member of Community Board 6, Brooklyn where I sit on the Parks, Recreation, and Environmental Protection Committee, among others. In that capacity, I also serve on Prospect Park's Community Committee.

Much has already been said about the importance of our parks for all New Yorkers' mental and physical health as well as climate change-related resiliency, which are all reasons I find park advocacy essential to my role as a professional citizen.

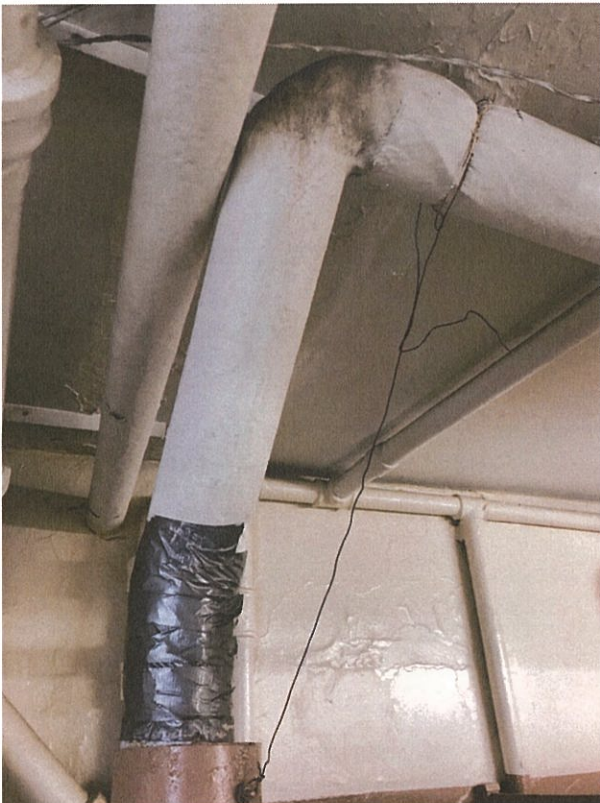
This afternoon, I want to take us all on a brief dive into *what* exactly deferred (otherwise known as non-existent) maintenance due to insufficient funding *looks* like — on the ground — for every day park users. I could regale you with tales of overflowing garbage bins, poor drainage, empty sandboxes, impassable paths, and large capacity dumpsters marring the beautiful landscape of our National Historic Landmark treasure. Instead, please listen as I describe one public "comfort station" that more closely resembles a gulag interrogation chamber.

This bathroom is tellingly located *directly* within New York City Parks Department headquarters at Litchfield Villa in Prospect Park where top officials work every day, so I am confident it is a bellwether of conditions around the city. It is heavily used by parks staff and visitors, including, importantly children and families who play at the nearby Third Street Playground.





It features: Exposed wires dangling from the ceiling, chipping lead paint at child level, sharp bolts and nails projecting from walls, leaking pipes held together with duct tape and coat hangers, and every other manner of degradation about which one could have bad dreams. It is a truly dangerous and disgusting environment due to years of basic neglect. In addition to being a lawsuit waiting to happen, it sends a very poor message indeed about our city's funding priorities to our youth who rely upon it. If their beloved park can sink to this level of hazardous shame, what else is our adult generation not attending to that will impact them in future years?



Let's do what we can NOW by

**increasing parks  
operating budget by \$100  
million dollars in FY2020**

to protect all our important open space capital investments as well as provide basic, human-level amenities in our cherished, shared front and backyards.



FOR THE RECORD

Hon. Vanessa L. Gibson, Chair  
NYC Council Subcommittee on Capital Budget  
Councilmembers: Grodenchik, Matteo, Powers and Rosenthal

Hon. Barry S. Grodenchik, Chair  
NYC Council Committee on Parks & Recreation  
Councilmembers: Brannan, Borelli, Cohen, Constantinides, Gjonaj, King, Koo, Moya, Ulrich and Van Bramer

February 8, 2019

Dear Chairperson and Council Member of the Subcommittee on Capital Budget and Committee on Parks and Recreation

**Re: Testimony for the NYC City Council Parks Committee Preliminary FY20 Budget Hearing**

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony on behalf of Gowanus Canal Conservancy (GCC). GCC is dedicated to facilitating the development of a resilient, vibrant, open space network centered on the Gowanus Canal through activating and empowering community stewardship of the Gowanus Watershed. Since 2006, we have served as the environmental steward for the neighborhood through leading grassroots volunteer projects; educating students on environmental issues; and working with agencies, elected officials, and the community to advocate for, build, and maintain innovative green infrastructure around the Gowanus Canal.

We strongly believe that NYC Parks is underfunded and requires funding to improve and maintain existing and new parks. GCC joins the Play Fair Coalition to urge Mayor de Blasio to increase the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation expense budget by \$100 million.

The following park spaces are currently in Gowanus, and we currently see and anticipate issues from the lack of sufficient maintenance funding:

1. **St. Mary's Playground** – St. Mary's Playground is one of the few public open spaces currently in Gowanus, serving the community in the mid-Canal area and Carroll Gardens. The first phase of this playspace was completed in April 2018 with new play equipment, benches, and pavements – the hundreds of youngsters that enjoy this new amenity deserve a commitment to maintenance and programming of their new playground.
2. **Ennis Playground** – With construction expected to be completed in July 2019, we want a commitment to the maintenance of this green space which sits between a scrap yard and sanitation depot in the heart of mixed-use Gowanus. The park will receive new play equipment, sidewalks, benches, picnic tables, water fountains, lighting, and basketball courts, in addition to a stormwater detention system to capture stormwater before it enters the combined sewer system and continues to contaminate the Gowanus Canal. We want a commitment to the maintenance of the new hardscape and plantings, so that the infrastructure performs to the best of its ability and serves the community into the future.
3. **Thomas Greene Playground** – This park had once been considered as the site of a future sewage tank, but was saved thanks to strong community advocacy. The park currently floods during rainstorms and sits on top of contaminated parcel of land, so a large portion of the park will need to be remediated. As the only public greenspace and pool near the north end of the Gowanus Canal, and over 4,000 public housing residents we want to see a commitment to maintaining this park now and following remediation.





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 critical funding allocated for Capital Projects which vastly improve our parks but we don't see an accompanying increase in maintenance funding to keep the new and existing

facilities in good shape. Instead, after a few years, parks fall into disrepair and need new capital funding to restore them. This cycle can be avoided with ongoing maintenance—and we hope to see an improved forecast for maintenance funding before new parks come online at Public Place in Gowanus and atop the Dept. of Environmental Protection sewage tank at the north end of the Gowanus Canal.

Gowanus Canal Conservancy fully supports the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation and its efforts to maintain and improve parks across the City. It is important to the future of Gowanus and NYC that we fund our Parks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Parker". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "A" and a cursive "Parker".

Andrea Parker  
Executive Director



FOR THE RECORD

*Sara Roosevelt Park Community Coalition*

<http://sdrpc.mkgarden.org/>

My name is K Webster and I am the President of a Park Coalition that was formed in the 1980's in response to the overwhelming neglect of our park in those hard years in New York City. We pushed back drug dealers and pimps to reclaim this park for the community: its children, families, elders and park visitors alike.

As wealth and income inequality grow in a greater and greater divide between the haves and the have-nots, NYC Parks are the last true democratic meeting spaces in the city. They are the air conditioning, vacation home, vacation spot, back-yard and get-away places from the increasingly harsh life here for many - especially those in financially poorer neighborhoods.

We believe public open spaces should stay public, not reliant on the whims of the very wealthy where some parks get lavish funding and others go wanting - especially in neighborhoods that arguably need it the most.

Parks are essential to a livable, green, and equitable New York City, and should be funded as such. Park workers should have job security that only comes when a steady source of income exists.

To that end we join New Yorkers for Parks in requesting:

- The Play Fair Coalition is asking the City to commit \$100M in additional funding for the NYC Parks Expense Budget.
- \$10 M means that once and for all, 100 City Park Workers and 50 Gardeners will have secure, stable green jobs.
- \$4 M provides an investment in natural forest care to help protect NYC from climate change.
- \$65 M would provide funding for more parks of all sizes to have full-time, dedicated staff to help keep things clean and green.
- About \$8 M would fund improvements for every GreenThumb community garden in the City.
- \$4 M would fund more seasonal after-school programs and other programming for children and families.
- \$9M means that natural areas and parks are better preserved, protected, and made safer



Ecosystems world-wide are in trouble, globally insects are in a state of collapse, and climate change is real and steadily marching towards an unlivable planet. Parks are not a luxury - they are essential for the health, livability and sustainability of life here. We are part of a complex network that needs care and nurturing.

With thanks for all the NYC Council's efforts on behalf of our parks.

Regards,

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

Written Testimony for New York City Council Budget and Oversight Hearings  
Submitted March 8, 2019

Dear Chairperson and Council Members,

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony on behalf of Willowtown Association. We are a volunteer-based organization with a long-term commitment to stewardship in the southwest corner of Brooklyn Heights whose mission is to address issues impacting the quality of life for the residents and to serve as their collective voice and advocate. We strive to share and protect our neighborhood's history and architectural heritage while communicating with like-minded organizations and individuals on key issues. Membership in the association is open to all residents of this area, long-standing and new. Begun in 1953 as an informal gathering of residents, the association was incorporated in 1997 as a not-for-profit organization with bylaws and an annual meeting held in November. In addition to supporting the Willowtown Community Garden, Adam Yauch Dog Run and Playground, A.T. White Community Center, and guided walking tours of the neighborhood's architectural and cultural history, our main annual events are a vibrant spring fair held in May and a festive fall potluck community meeting.

We would also like to thank our Council Member, Stephen T Levin, for his generous support of our parks in his district.

We at Willowtown Association strongly believe that NYC Parks, the formal stewards of our most beautiful, democratic spaces, is underfunded. They have been for many years and this needs to change. City parks and open spaces improve our physical and psychological health, strengthen our communities, reduce crime, and make our cities and neighborhoods more attractive places to live and work. Therefore, Willowtown Association would happily join the **PlayFair Coalition** to urge Mayor de Blasio to commit \$100M increased funding for NYC Parks' Expense Budget.

Currently, Willowtown dedicates a lot of time and resources towards caring for the NYC parks in our neighborhood. However, the beloved Adam Yauch Dog Run, used by Brooklyn Heights and Cobble Hill neighborhoods alike, has been completely neglected by the city and is suffering from the following issues due to a lack of funding and long term absence of park maintenance:

1. Inside the dog run, the once gravel surface has deteriorated into a non-described muddy mush pit that dominates the space entirely, breeds mosquitoes and algae toxic to dogs, and smells horrible daily. Over the years, it is increasingly unsanitary and after a rain, unusable.
2. All existing park benches are splintering, rusting, and sinking deeply and unevenly into the ground, creating unsafe and handicap inaccessible spaces for visitors.
3. There has been no water source connected to the fountain for years.
4. The site drainage is clogged completely, resulting in a permanent pool of stagnant, noxious water.
5. Due to the decrepit nature of the park, and lack of doggie bags or emptied park trashcans, people mistreat the space by leaving behind piles of dog feces throughout the space.
6. The dog run park signs were mistakenly installed by NYC Parks on the adjacent playground site, which is now where dogs are running around in the same space as children, leaving feces and urine behind.
7. A lack of lighting at night attracts drug users inside the park, immediately adjacent to the playground.



To address these issues, in addition to myriad issues in other parks throughout NYC, we would love the NYC City Council to work with the NYC mayor to increase the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation expense budget by \$100 million. Specifically this funding should be allocated for Maintenance Funding. We strongly believe that NYC Parks is not funded at a level required to properly maintain a level of respect and care for all its parks. As well-used, living landscapes, maintenance is essential to getting ahead of disrepair with ongoing, carefully catered maintenance regimes. To do otherwise is a form of neglect that only breeds undesirable conditions long term and far beyond the limits of each park.

Additionally, \$10M of the total \$100M means that once and for all, 100 City Park Workers and 50 Gardeners will have secure, stable green jobs; \$65M would provide funding for more parks of all sizes to have full-time, dedicated staff to help keep things clean and green; \$4M would provide an investment in natural forest care to help protect NYC from climate change; about \$8M would fund improvements for every GreenThumb community garden in the City; \$4M would fund more seasonal after-school programs and other programming for children and families; and \$9M means that natural areas and parks are better preserved, protected, and made safer. Yes!

Lastly, and specifically, for our beloved Adam Yauch Dog Run that is now a potential health hazard to visiting people and canines, we are asking NYC Parks for a complete restoration. By "restore", we mean return the dog run to the safe, clean, healthy and usable condition it once was for it's users. We aim to do this by working with NYC Parks to re-grade the subsoil, repair the drainage system, resurface the gravel that was once a clean, welcoming place to play, refurbish park benches, empty trash cans, install accurate park signage, remove broken utilities, install a working water spigot, and provide the appropriate tools and resources for our growing team of neighborhood stewards to organize regular volunteer cleanup days for sustainable maintenance and care for the dog run long term.

Therefore, the Willowtown Association fully supports the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and its efforts to maintain and enhance all parks in NYC. For the future of our borough, now is a crucial time to better fund and nurture our Parks.

Sincerely,  
Hillary Archer, Secretary  
[www.willowtown.org](http://www.willowtown.org)



**Statement of Julie Tighe, President  
New York League of Conservation Voters  
City Council Hearing of the Committee on Parks  
Preliminary Budget Hearing for Fiscal Year 2020  
March 8th, 2019**

Good afternoon. My name is Julie Tighe, and I'm President of the New York League of Conservation Voters (NYLCV). NYLCV represents over 31,000 members in New York City and we are committed to advancing a sustainability agenda that will make our people, our neighborhoods, and our economy healthier and more resilient. I would like to thank Chair Grodenchik for the opportunity to testify before the Committee on Parks and Recreation regarding the Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20).

NYLCV supports the passage of a city budget in FY20 that secures progress on many of the environmental, transportation, and public health priorities Mayor de Blasio has called for in OneNYC and beyond. Our city is staring down a crisis of existential importance, and it is incumbent upon our elected leaders to invest our tax dollars in climate action and solutions. New York City's Department of Parks and Recreation plays a critical role in that fight.

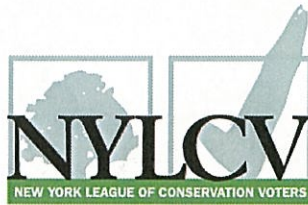
The Department of Parks and Recreation FY20 Preliminary Budget totals \$542.9 million, just over one half of one percent of the city's overall \$92.2 Billion Preliminary Budget. That's .59% for an agency that oversees 14% of NYC's land. This number represents a slight increase (1.5% or \$8.8 million) from the FY19 adopted budget. However, while the overall Parks budget has increased, the Parks FY20 Preliminary Budget includes cuts to critical program areas--most notably a \$5.4 million reduction for forestry and horticulture.

Parks and other green spaces are one of the city's most valuable environmental assets. Preserving these spaces is a top priority for NYLCV. Parks are a major source of the City's urban canopy. In fact, the Parks Department is responsible for over 2.6 million street and park trees. This canopy mitigates climate change, provides clean air and habitats for native wildlife, and contributes to the well-being of our residents and our economy.

These trees remove 1,300 tons of pollutants from the atmosphere and store one million tons of carbon per year. Trees are vital for mitigating urban heat island effect and can lower temperatures by up to nine degrees, cut air conditioning use by 30%, and reduce heating energy use by a further 20-50%. NYC's parks contribute to our resiliency by capturing almost 2 billion gallons of stormwater runoff. We should be investing more, not less, in protecting this green asset.

Further, with soaring population growth, and over 100 million visitors each year, park use in New York City is surging to record levels. It is imperative the Parks Department budget keep pace with





**Statement of Julie Tighe, President  
New York League of Conservation Voters  
City Council Hearing of the Committee on Parks  
Preliminary Budget Hearing for Fiscal Year 2020  
March 8th, 2019**

these trends. That's why NYLCV is proud to join with New Yorkers for Parks as a founding member of the Play Fair for Parks campaign.

We all agree that parks are critical city infrastructure. One does not have to look further than the environmental benefits I pointed to earlier as proof. But these green benefits could not be realized without the Parks employees, particularly gardeners, horticulturalists, and maintenance workers, who work tirelessly to ensure the health of these spaces.

For that reason, it is high time to make a long-overdue investment in the people that care for our parks. **The Play Fair Coalition is asking the City to commit \$100 million in additional funding for FY20 to support much needed maintenance and operations needs citywide.**

NYLCV and the entire Play Fair Coalition requests this funding be allocated in the following ways:

- \$10M to permanently baseline positions for 100 City Park Workers and 50 Gardeners so that once and for all, these workers will have secure, stable green jobs.
- \$4M for an investment in urban forests to help protect NYC from climate change.
  - We also request \$3.74M in capital funding to implement the first year of the 25-year *Forest Management Plan for New York City*.
- \$65M for more parks of all sizes to have full-time, dedicated staff to help keep things clean and green.
- Just over \$8M towards improvements for every GreenThumb community garden in the City. This amount would help provide new soil, raised beds, and other features to ensure urban gardeners in all 550 gardens have the resources they need for the gardens to thrive.
- \$4M to ensure more seasonal after-school programs and other programming for children and families from every neighborhood.
- \$9M for the preservation, safety, and protection of our natural areas and parks with 50 new Urban Park Rangers and 80 additional Parks Enforcement Patrol Officers citywide.

Now is the time to invest in the Parks Department. Now is the time to Play Fair for Parks! I'd like to thank Chair Grodenchik for his partnership and the Committee on Parks and Recreation for their attention to this issue. I look forward to working with you all closely to ensure NYC has healthy and thriving green spaces for generations to come.



**New York City Council Committee on Parks & Recreation  
Hearing: Preliminary Budget Hearing  
March 8, 2019  
Lynn Kelly, Executive Director**

Good afternoon. My name is Lynn Kelly, and I am the Executive Director for New Yorkers for Parks (NY4P). Our organization is a founding member of the Play Fair Coalition. Many of our Coalition partners are with us today to testify about the importance of adequately funding our parks, and we thank the City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation for inviting us to speak about the fiscal year 2020 Preliminary Budget.

City-owned parkland comprises 14% of all City land, but last fiscal year, NYC Parks received only 0.59% of the City expense budget. The last time NYC Parks received more than 1% of the City's expense budget was in the 1970s. This was a decade that is associated with the City's hardest economic times - when agencies were funded at an all-time low - and yet even then our Parks Department's expense budget was still funded at a higher rate than it is today. We believe this is unacceptable, especially in light of our growing population, and the tremendous number of visitors our City parks receive each year. Enough is enough - now is the time to Play Fair for parks, and commit to an increased budget for maintenance, operations, and programming.

We are asking the City to commit an additional \$100M to the preliminary budget for parks. While this might seem like a large ask, the reality is that this amount would increase the total proportion of the expense budget for Parks from 0.59% to 0.69%. While we would ideally like to see NYC Parks receive 1% of the total City budget again, we believe starting with \$100M would be a meaningful and transformative addition to the agency's budget. What would a \$100M addition to the expense budget for NYC Parks provide?

Since 2015, our organization has advocated for the baselining of 100 City Park Worker and 50 Gardener positions, which would cost the City a mere \$10M. These roles are essential to the maintenance, upkeep, and beautification of parks located within the City's Community Parks Initiative zones. These are parts of the City that have long been under-resourced, but have recently been the recipients of newly reconstructed parks and playground. We believe it is irresponsible of the City to fail to baseline these positions, which provide the critical maintenance needed to protect the transformative capital investments made by this Administration. Additionally, these are 150 hard-working New Yorkers who, year after year, are unable to know definitively if they will have a job come July 1<sup>st</sup>. These roles have the potential to be stable green jobs, and we believe it is an issue of equity and economic justice to finally protect these jobs for the 150 New Yorkers who are doing this work.

An expense investment of approximately \$4M, alongside a capital investment of \$3.74M, would allow the City's Natural Resources Group to begin the first year of a 25-year plan to proactively maintain and conserve



our precious natural forests. The City's own "Forest Management Framework" report lays out the funding needs to begin this important work, and we believe now is the time to commit to this funding plan and begin to invest in the work needed to keep our natural forests healthy, free of invasive species, and protected for generations to come. With our rapidly changing climate, this visionary work is more important than ever.

An addition of \$65M to the expense budget would allow for parks of all sizes, in all neighborhoods, to receive fixed-post, permanent staff. Park advocates and stewards know just how important it is to have a consistent presence in the park, and a reliable staff contact who understands the needs of each park. For too long, NYC Parks has had to rely on roving crews to do basic maintenance and operations in our parks. This investment would make a tremendous difference for communities. \$47M would allow the agency to roll-out an innovative Zone Management strategy for park maintenance in our 48 largest parks – this is the same model used by the Central Park Conservancy, arguably one of the most cherished and beautiful public open spaces in the world. It is pennywise and pound foolish to not take the opportunity to implement this kind of management of our parks when we have the opportunity to. It would create not only cleaner and more beautiful large parks, but it would create a new green workforce within the agency. Similarly, an investment of about \$18M would allow for smaller neighborhood parks to have a fixed-post, permanent staff person.

\$8M would allow the City to provide funding to every single GreenThumb community garden to receive physical improvement. Our City's community gardens provide untold benefits to our neighborhoods – they allow for New Yorkers who live in food deserts to cultivate and grow fresh, organic produce for their families, they provide children with spaces to foster a connection with nature, and they provide community cohesion. Our community gardens are often overlooked in the funding conversation, but this modest ask would make a tremendous difference in allowing our City's dedicated community gardeners to help implement transformative changes to their cherished community spaces.

A \$4M investment would allow the City to expand its Kids-in-Motion program to every single playground that could host one. As of now, only 100 playgrounds citywide have this programming. A small addition to the expense budget would expand this program to reach the 395 additional playgrounds that don't currently have this program. This would mean that tens of thousands additional New York City children and their families would have structured programs in the warmer months, offering opportunities for safe, educational, and proactive play.

And finally, a \$9M addition to the budget would allow NYC Parks to increase the ranks of both Urban Park Rangers and Parks Enforcement Patrol officers. \$3M would mean the City could hire an additional 50 Urban Park Rangers, expanding their ranks from the current 30 that work across the entire City. \$6M would mean an additional 80 PEP officers could be hired. Both of these positions provide a level of safety and protection for our parks. We know that when parks are perceived to be unsafe, they become a liability for a neighborhood, rather than the asset they should always be.

In a city that champions equity, we have to start treating our parks, gardens and open space as critical city infrastructure, which also means investing in the infrastructure of the thousands of people who care for them day-in and day-out. We are here today as a member of the Play Fair Coalition, which is nearly 100 organizations strong. Simply put, it is time for the City to Play Fair for our parks. We ask that the Council join us in advocating for this \$100M investment to the expense budget for NYC Parks. Thank you for inviting me to speak today. We look forward to working with the City to create the best budget achievable for parks to benefit all New Yorkers. I'm happy to answer any questions the Council might have.

New York City Council  
FY 2020 Preliminary Budget Hearing  
Parks & Recreation Committee  
Friday, March 8th, 2019

Submitted on behalf of:  
New York Junior Tennis & Learning (NYJTL)  
58-12 Queens Blvd  
Queens, NY 11377

George Guimaraes  
President and CEO

Presented by  
Scott Daly  
Director of Community Tennis



Thank you for the New York City Council's longstanding support of *New York Junior Tennis & Learning* (NYJTL), legally incorporated and funded as the **New York Junior Tennis League, Inc.** We are the largest and most successful scholastic tennis program in the country, serving as a model for other states. For over 47 years, NYJTL has been a driving force for New York City's youth and tennis communities, annually reaching over **85,000** youngsters throughout the five boroughs.

With the NYC Council as our partner, NYJTL is offering the youth of our city much more than the chance just to learn tennis. The overwhelming majority of the young people we serve are Black, Latino, Asian, and new immigrant populations. Virtually all come from low-income families and neighborhoods where young people lack access to the opportunities typically available only to youth in affluent neighborhoods, suburbs, and private schools.

Approximately one third of NYJTL's yearly programming occurs in New York City Parks. By the end of FY 2019, we expect to have offered programming at 65 locations throughout the city, including 21 parks in all five boroughs:

- **Bronx**
  - Crotona Park
  - St. James Park
  - Williamsbridge Oval
- **Brooklyn**
  - Jackie Robinson Park
  - Linden Park
  - McDonald Playground
  - Andries Playground
  - Sperandeo Brothers Playground
- **Manhattan**
  - Howard Bennett Park
  - Octagon Park
  - Randall's Island Park
  - Seward Park

- **Queens**
  - Bayswater Park
  - Charles Park
  - Cunningham Park
  - Det. Keith Williams Park
  - Forest Park
  - Juniper Valley Park
  - Louis Pasteur Playground
- **Staten Island**
  - Wolfe's Pond
  - Silver Lake Park

### Program Demographics

Age	%	Gender	%	Ethnicity	%	Zip Codes	Council Districts
10 & Under	71.4%	Male	51.8%	Asian	24.3%	174 zip codes out of 178 zip codes in NYC have CTP participants*	All 51 Council Districts are projected to be served in FY 19
11-13	20.1%	Female	48.2%	African-American	25.0%		
14 & Up	8.5%			Hispanic/Latino	26.5%		
				Caucasian	15.6%		
				Other	8.6%		

*\*Out of the 4 zip codes not serviced, 2 (Fort Totten & Fort Tilden) do not have resident housing, the other 2 zip codes are for Breezy Point and North Shore Towers & Country Club*

NYJTL addresses issues of economic and educational inequities by giving **ALL children**, including children with special needs, the opportunity to learn the sport of tennis—and just as importantly - the opportunity to become physically fit; the opportunity to reach new educational heights; and the opportunity to expand their horizons beyond their immediate world. NYJTL helps young people build self-esteem and learn the affirmative values of perseverance, cooperation, fairness and respect.

NYJTL brings tennis to thousands of children of all economic, social, and cultural backgrounds. **Funded under the Council's *Physical Education and Fitness Initiative*, NYJTL provides quality tennis, educational programming, and character development in EVERY Council District throughout the city:**



- **Community Tennis Programs (CTP)** – CTP reaches children throughout the five boroughs by supplying trained coaches, tennis instruction, match play, educational services, and special events to youth ages 5-18 during Spring, Summer and Fall. In our educational component, we provide a Reading Club, USTA ACEs curriculum for our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, and free SAT Prep classes for our 11<sup>th</sup> graders. CTP holds over 15 tennis tournaments for all ages throughout the year. We provide trips to Arthur Ashe Kids Day, US Open Qualifiers, multiple Mets/Yankees games and various pro tennis tournaments in the vicinity of NYC (New Haven to Long Island). **In addition, last year alone, CTP provided tennis to over 1,000 Special Population/ District 75 children.** Finally, CTP develops not only tennis skills but also the character of youth through positive life experiences.
- **Winter Weekend Indoor Program** – This program enables players to continue their progress during the 20-week indoor season and includes NYJTL sponsored events: Hartman Cup Championships, Holiday Tournament, and Presidents' Week Tournament. This program runs from mid-November to early April.
- **School-Time Tennis Program (STP)** – STP supplies free tennis equipment, teacher training, and ongoing support to approximately 250 schools annually throughout the city to include tennis as a regular part of their physical educational curriculum. NYJTL is a NYSED Approved Provider of Continuing Teacher & Leader Education (CTLE) credit. Any participant that attends one of NYJTL's STP trainings will receive 6.5 CTLE credit hours.
- **Intensive Training Program (ITP)** – ITP provides **FREE** tennis training for high-performing/high-potential players who currently participate in NYJTL's Community Tennis Program. With smaller coach-to-student ratios and increased access to tennis, ITP bridges the gap between recreational community-based programs and elite training.

Council funding also enables us to employ many of our NYJTL alumni, high school seniors and college students, as coaches and assistant coaches at various time throughout the four seasons (spring, summer, fall and winter). In effect, we run our own Student Youth Employment Program.

NYJTL's citywide funding of \$800,000 has stayed flat for the past 11 budgets and it is becoming increasingly challenging to continue to provide substantive programming in EVERY district at this funding level. To ensure that NYJTL programming is able to continue next year throughout the city, NYJTL is seeking \$1,200,000 in citywide funding from the Council. Funding at this level will enable us to:

- Keep up with rising costs, including the new minimum wage of \$15 per hour;
- Enable us to continue to serve EVERY Council Member;
- Allow us to bring additional hours of free tennis instruction to EVERY Council District;
- Increase enrollment in EVERY Council District as a result of additional program hours.

Continued funding of NYJTL in the FY 20 budget is crucial to our vision and that of NYJTL's founder, Arthur Ashe who believed tennis could transform the lives of poor children of color just as it had his own life. With your support, we can continue to change the lives of thousands of New York City youth and their families.

We could not do what we do without the strong funding support of the New York City Council. On behalf of the youngsters and parents annually served by NYJTL, I thank you for the New York City Council's commitment to the youth of our city and for your sustained support of NYJTL.



# NEW YORK CITY CENTER

FOR THE RECORD

## AT THE CENTER OF THE ARTS FOR 75 YEARS

I'm Laura Apruzzese, the Assistant Director of Education at New York City Center. Thank you to Councilmember Grodenchik for holding today's hearing.

New York City Center's historical legacy is as vibrant and intrepid as the city itself. In 1943, Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia transformed our now landmark building into Manhattan's first performing arts center. His vision was to create an affordable home for world-class performing arts in New York City that could connect audiences with the most important art and artists of their time – from George Balanchine to Leonard Bernstein, from New York City Opera to the stars of Broadway's Golden Age. Generations of New Yorkers were invited fall in love with dance, music, and theater here – regardless of their economic circumstances. City Center is honored to be a distinguished member of the Cultural Institutions Group, part of the very fabric of New York City.

City Center is in the midst of our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season and, in honor of this milestone, we are taking our commitment to accessibility into new territory with **City Center On the Move**, a two-week tour of the five boroughs that will bring the extraordinary artists from our stage directly to New Yorkers in their neighborhoods for free.

City Center is proud to be partnering with the NYC Parks Department and NYC Parks Arts, Culture & Fun on this new initiative, selecting five tour stops – one in each borough – from among their 36 recreation centers. These vital community gathering places touch the lives of thousands of New York families of diverse backgrounds. The tour will run from **April 3 – 14, 2019** and offer a family-friendly performance schedule. Tour stops will include:

- Brownsville Recreation Center in Brownsville, Brooklyn
- St. Mary's Recreation Center in the South Bronx
- Lost Battalion Hall Recreation Center in Rego Park, Queens
- Pelham Fritz Recreation Center in Harlem, Manhattan
- Faber Park Field House on Staten Island

Each of these community centers are in a neighborhood with a disproportionately low concentration of cultural resources, according to a recent study Social Impact of the Arts Project (SIAP) at the University of Pennsylvania.

The tour will engage these communities through a series of free interactive performances featuring a dynamic dance and music ensemble led by Ayodele Casel and special guest artist, Arturo O'Farrill. Ayodele Casel is a Bronx-born tap artist, choreographer, and teacher. She is a frequent City Center collaborator and 2017 recipient of the "Hooper Award." She has performed with Gregory Hines and Savion Glover, among many others, and has been commissioned by Lincoln Center, Harlem Stage, and City Center's own Fall for Dance Festival. Arturo O'Farrill is a multi-Grammy award winning pianist, composer and educator who joins the On the Move tour as pianist. O'Farrill was born in Mexico and grew up in New York City, and is a leading force behind Afro Latin Jazz music. Mr. O'Farrill appeared on the City Center stage last year in a celebrated concert



as part of our ¡Adelante, Cuba! Festival. Bringing artists of this caliber into communities all over NYC is an exciting venture that will enrich the lives of New Yorkers.

City Center's central mission is to make the arts accessible to the broadest possible audience, and City Center On the Move is a significant step forward as we carry this mission into the next 75 years. From the beginning City Center's very existence has been shaped by the vision of the City itself, and On the Move aligns closely with the priorities of the CreateNYC plan released in 2017. We are requesting that in FY20 the Cultural Budget be reinstated at \$20 million, and consideration be given to additional funding for both the CIG and our program group partners. Your support will encourage special partnerships like the one between NYC Parks and City Center that benefits New Yorkers.

New York City Center is honored to have the opportunity to work with the City in bringing the arts to New York communities. Thank you to the Members of the Committee for your support of NYC Parks and the Cultural Community.



# NEW YORK CITY CENTER

— AT THE CENTER OF THE ARTS FOR 75 YEARS —

## CITY CENTER ON THE MOVE

### FREE PERFORMANCES COMING TO YOUR BOROUGH!

This April, don't miss your chance to enjoy free performances featuring world-class, Bronx-born, tap artist **Ayodele Casel** in **Rooted!** Audiences will be invited to participate in a short tap lesson after the show, so get ready to move.

City Center On the Move performances are free and open to the public.

**RESERVE YOUR SEAT:**  
[NYCityCenter.org/OntheMove](http://NYCityCenter.org/OntheMove)

**BROOKLYN: WED APR 3**  
BROWNSVILLE RECREATION CENTER, 11:30AM

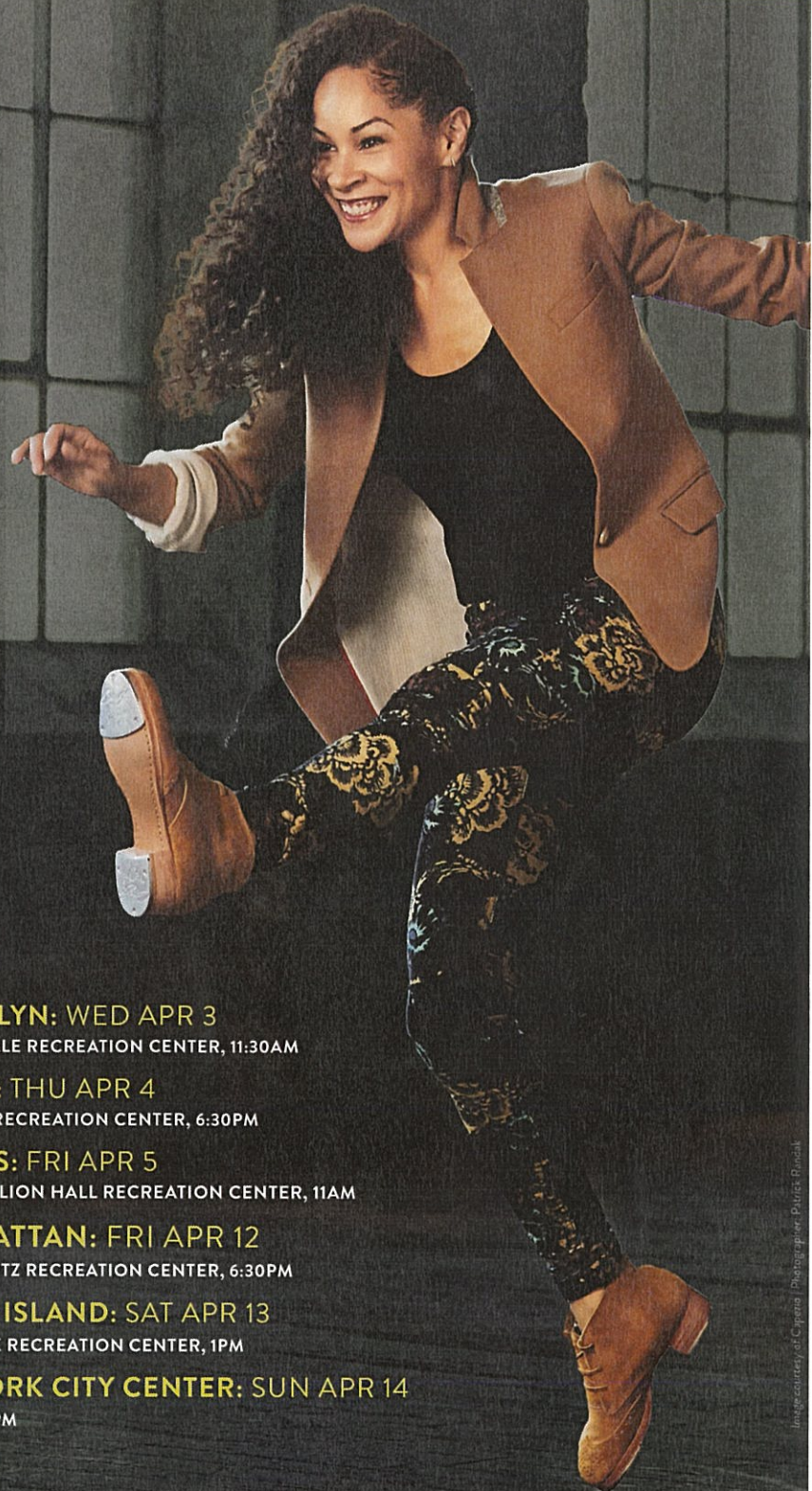
**BRONX: THU APR 4**  
ST. MARY'S RECREATION CENTER, 6:30PM

**QUEENS: FRI APR 5**  
LOST BATTALION HALL RECREATION CENTER, 11AM

**MANHATTAN: FRI APR 12**  
PELHAM FRITZ RECREATION CENTER, 6:30PM

**STATEN ISLAND: SAT APR 13**  
FABER PARK RECREATION CENTER, 1PM

**NEW YORK CITY CENTER: SUN APR 14**  
STUDIO 5, 1PM



75TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON SPONSORS  
Stacey and Eric Mindich  
Howard Gilman Foundation

MAJOR SUPPORT IS PROVIDED BY  
Mertz Gilmore Foundation

ARTS ACCESS FUND  
The Jerome L. Greene Foundation  
Blanchette Hooker  
Rockefeller Fund

NYC PARKS ARTS,  
CULTURE & FUN



NYC Parks

75 YEARS



# Broadway Community Alliance

---

Hon. Barry S. Grodenchik, Chair

NYC Council Committee on Parks and Recreation

Councilmembers: Brannon, Borelli, Cohen, Constantinides, Gjonaj, King, Koo, Moya, Ulrich and Van Bramer

March 8, 2019

Dear Chair Grodenchik and Councilmembers of the Parks and Recreation Committee,

Re: Testimony for the NYC City Council Parks Committee Preliminary FY

## 20 Budget Hearing

My name is Laura Spalter. Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony on behalf of the Broadway Community Alliance, a north Riverdale civic group dedicated to the improvement of the Broadway corridor and its environs. We are blessed to have a unique jewel, Van Cortlandt Park, as our back yard. We flock to the Putnam Trail to enjoy peaceful time with nature, jog on rustic trails, play softball, soccer, cricket, and so much more.

My brief comments today address inadequacies in the preliminary budget that affect park Maintenance and Operations and Enforcement. Maintaining a safe, viable park is critical to our quality of life. But how can the Parks Department function when their current enforcement level is a mere 32 Park Enforcement Officers for the entire borough of the Bronx? We desperately need to increase the expense budget to hire enough PEP Officers to cover multiple shifts, special events, and conduct regular patrols, especially on weekends. While we are freezing today, we must plan ahead for illegal barbeques and other perennial summertime issues.

In case anyone is wondering why the grass is growing up to your knees here's the answer. The department's fleet and maintenance equipment is old and must be replaced. For years, Bronx Community Board 8 has requested new equipment such as small tractor and trailer, lawnmowers, and wood chipper, as a budget priority. According to Parks Department data, the department has to rely on vehicles that are over five years old and are constantly out of service. In 2018, the department's out of service rate was about 25-30 percent. The stock answer to Community Board 8's request from the Parks Department for essential equipment is "The agency will try to accommodate this issue within existing resources." The perennial problem is that existing resources for Parks equipment and adequate personnel to operate it and maintain our parks are not enough, and never will be unless park advocates in the City Council fight for Parks fair share.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Laura Spalter, chair

Broadway Community Alliance



Coney Island Beautification Project, Inc.  
3207 Mermaid Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11224  
718-265-0814  
[cibproject@aol.com](mailto:cibproject@aol.com)

March 7, 2019  
New York City Council:

Thank you for listening,

I'm Pamela Pettyjohn, President of Coney Island Beautification Project. We've worked as post super Storm Sandy civic; volunteer group with the Parks Department by organizing the CI community around planting in the neighborhood street tree beds. Blooming from several successful years of Commemorative Day of Service, we migrated into Kaiser Park and Coney Island Creek. We've always worked with dedicated Park Workers.

Kaiser Park is a destination for seniors playing tennis and practicing tia chi; students eating breakfast and lunch; engaged residents holding community meetings; families enjoying the playgrounds; youth shouting hoops; sports teams on baseball diamonds; runners along track; picnics; fishing or just enjoying the sunset and so on.

Where would we be without parks? CIBP volunteers in the park because we appreciate the value of the park. But volunteers cannot replace the skilled parks workers. To maintain the upkeep of parks enough workers must be appropriately assigned to each park.

In previous budget years the Council has cut Parks budget line, this must just not happen again. At this stage these monies should be restored as well an increased above that for wages lost due to last year's reduction. Thank you Councilmembers who have supported Parks in past years and those who now recognizes the value of Parks. Vote with courage, vote for Parks!





254 WEST 31ST STREET | 10TH FLOOR | NEW YORK NY 10001 | 212.333.2552 [nyrp.org](http://nyrp.org)

## New York Restoration Project

Testimony before New York City Council, Committee on Parks and Recreation. Public Budget Hearing  
3/8/2019

Good Afternoon, and thank you to the Members of the Council for convening this hearing, and to Chair Barry Grodenchik for your leadership and support.

My name is Tara Gitter and I am here today on behalf of New York Restoration Project (NYRP). New York Restoration Project is a non-profit organization dedicated to transforming open space in under-resourced communities to create a greener, more sustainable New York City. As the only land conservancy operating in all five boroughs, we strongly urge New York City to commit an additional \$100,000,000 to baseline funding for New York City Parks. Since our founding in 1995 by Bette Midler, NYRP has planted trees, renovated gardens, restored parks, and transformed open space for communities throughout New York City's five boroughs. We bring private resources to spaces that lack municipal support, fortifying the City's aging infrastructure and creating a healthier environment for those who live in the most densely populated and least green neighborhoods.

Currently NYRP supports New York City Parks by actively maintaining the northern half of Highbridge Park, and Sherman Creek Park in upper Manhattan. These beautifully reclaimed spaces along the Harlem River demonstrate the sustainable management of public lands in an under-served community, and recognize the remarkable value of natural resources found in Northern Manhattan. A dedicated crew of NYRP operations and horticulture staff work full-time to manage and restore the parks, and NYRP educators provide environmental education programming to thousands of New York City children each year.

As a city we rely on public-private partnerships to help fund our parks. I'm here today to tell you, as a representative of the only land conservancy operating in all five boroughs in New York City, specifically in under-resourced communities, that this system does not work in the communities we serve. The care of our parks is a fundamental duty that our city owes to all citizens. Social justice includes access to safe, clean, open space, so we must make it a priority to adequately fund New York City Parks operations. We must stabilize City Parks workers' and gardeners' jobs, and invest adequately in their ability to care for land and make necessary improvements. Our parks and gardens are not a luxury. Even with shrunken budgets, parks and gardens yield outsized financial returns in terms of reduced crime, improved public health, storm water management, and improved air quality.

NYRP stands here today with New Yorkers for Parks and the Play Fair Coalition to strongly urge New York City to commit an additional \$100,000,000 to baseline funding for the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to be able to deliver critical maintenance, and stabilize Parks workers' and gardeners' positions. It is incumbent upon us as New Yorkers to recognize the value of investment in our city's resilience. The spirit of New York City is tough, and to keep it that way we need the New York City Council to demonstrate its commitment to its parks and gardens.



# NEW YORK CITY AUDUBON

71 West 23rd St  
Suite 1523  
New York, NY 10010  
[www.NYCAudubon.org](http://www.NYCAudubon.org)  
212.691.7483

## OFFICERS

Jeffrey Kimball  
*President*  
Robert Bate  
*Executive Vice President*  
Richard H. Fried, VMD  
Catherine Schragis Heller  
Sarah Jeffords  
Lawrence Levine  
*Vice Presidents*  
Drianne Benner  
*Treasurer*  
Alexander Ewing  
*Secretary*  
Harrison D. Maas\*  
*Immediate Past President*

## DIRECTORS

Seth Ausubel  
Karen Benfield  
César A. Castillo  
Christian Cooper  
Tatiana Kaletsch  
Deborah Laurel  
Jenny Maritz  
Rachel Quiñones  
John Shemilt  
Alan Steel  
Michael Tannen  
Richard Veit, PhD

## ADVISORY COUNCIL

Marcia T. Fowle\*  
James R. Sheffield  
*Co-Chairs*  
  
Oakes Ames\*  
Richard T. Andrias  
Sarah Grimké Aucoin  
Claude Bloch, MD  
Marsilia A. Boyle  
David Burg\*  
Albert K. Butzel  
Cliff Case  
Rebekah Creshkoff  
Andrew Darrell  
Joseph H. Ellis  
Andrew Farnsworth, PhD  
Lynne Hertzog  
Mary Jane Kaplan  
Robert J. Kimtis  
Lauren Klingsberg  
Kimberly Kriger  
Janice Laneve  
Pamela Manice  
Peter Rhoades Mott\*  
Dorothy Peteet, PhD  
Don Riepe  
Lewis Rosenberg  
David Speiser  
Tom Stephenson

\*Past President

Kathryn Heintz  
*Executive Director*

Susan Elbin, PhD  
*Director of  
Conservation & Science*

Comments to

NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PARKS AND RECREATION

Regarding

Funding to Adequately Maintain and Nurture New York City's Public Parks

**Molly Adams**

**Advocacy and Outreach Manager, New York City Audubon**

**March 8, 2019**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at this important Preliminary Budget Hearing for Parks and Recreation.

My name is Molly Adams, and I am the Advocacy and Outreach Manager for New York City Audubon. We are a science-based conservation organization whose mission is to protect the 350-plus bird species—almost a third of all the species in North America—amounting to millions of individual birds that live in or pass through New York City each year. Some forty percent of the Atlantic Flyway's bird species are species of conservation need. Protecting these birds and their habitats also improves the quality of life for all New Yorkers.

New York City Audubon is just one of the over 90 organizations that are part of New Yorker's for Park's "Play Fair" Coalition. The millions of birds that pass through or live in New York City depend on the habitat available in our urban parks. Many of these birds fly for thousands of miles each Spring and Fall before resting temporarily, feeding on local plants and insects in our city parks. All year round, but especially during these times, New York residents and visitors flock to our parks to observe this phenomenon. Many of these migratory bird species are endangered or threatened.

We stand with New Yorkers for Parks and are asking the City to commit \$100M, just 0.1% more of the overall budget, in additional funding for the NYC Parks Expense Budget. This will provide funding for more parks to have full-time, dedicated staff working in sustainable jobs that help maintain safe, healthy habitats for people and birds.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to present our opinion.



CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARING FOR PARKS, 8 March 2019.

Testimony of Lesley Nan Haberman, Headmistress of The Family Schools and Vice President of Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony. I am founder and Headmistress of the nondenominational Family School located at 323 East 47 Street. Our school faces the park block.

We have supported Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza from the beginning. I am a charter member of Friends, and have served as Vice President for many years.

The parents and children of The Family School love this park! It is our outdoor classroom and recreation area. The Katharine Hepburn Garden is a botanical treasure which parallels our Botany curriculum. The diversity of the plaza offers children living lessons about world culture. It reflects the diversity of our community. The protests and marches teach children the importance of First Amendment Rights and our government's democratic values.

But as a volunteer organization, we find ourselves wrestling with problems that can only be solved when City government provides the essential maintenance that every park requires. Safety, cleanliness and public hygiene are our greatest concerns. We need PEP officers and a park custodian to keep the peace and provide the authority of a uniform. We see no enforcement of park rules and regulations. Sometimes homeless people take over entire benches, strewing their belongings everywhere. Others exhibit deplorable behaviors. We are witness to these behaviors on a daily basis. We understand they are not receiving the care they need and deserve, but the well-being of our neighborhood's children must come first.

For years, we have asked Parks and NYPD for security cameras in the woodland garden to no avail. The nature trail is a wonderful feature of the garden, but it should be patrolled.

I urge City Council to provide in the city's annual budget, adequate funding for maintenance and operations in all of its parks and playgrounds. The Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza have served as park stewards for 20 years, doing more than our share to keep the park clean, green and thriving. It is time the City takes responsibility for its park system.

We all know, healthy parks make healthy neighborhoods! Thank you.

## CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARING FOR PARKS, MARCH 8, 2019

### Testimony of Anne Saxon-Hersh, Director of Development, Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, a nonprofit 501c3 community organization.

My name is Anne Saxon-Hersh and I serve as Director of Development for Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza. The deplorable condition of this park once blighted the UN/Turtle Bay neighborhood. Today it is a shining example of the public/private partnership. I fought for the park's reconstruction with the Turtle Bay Association. Then we formed Friends, and I took on the role of president to make sure the newly designed park with its elegant architecture, six fountains and a large public garden would stay clean, green and vibrant. Today the park is thriving, but we face challenges beyond the scope of our nonprofit 501c3 community organization.

Let's start with CLEAN: For 20 years, we have contracted the Doe Fund to sweep the block-long park and bag the garbage twice daily for an annual fee of about \$5,000. Now we're told they can no longer service the park at a 70% discount and must charge \$40,000 to perform the same work. Other service providers quoted annual fees from \$80K to \$130K, way beyond our budget. Our Street Fair income and city council grants once covered the cost of sanitation AND weekly fountain cleaning, but with the consolidation of street fairs, our share of proceeds continues to shrink. Then the 30% restriction on subcontracted labor for city grants added another obstacle. Now, we're priced out of the market by the Clean Streets program that has the social service organizations competing for big bucks. **We don't have the staff and neither does the parks department, so who will provide this essential maintenance?** Parks mobile crew, the welfare-to-work program, picks up litter several times a week, but there's no set schedule and on a summer day one busy lunch hour will fill the trash bins to overflowing. Leftover food littering the seating wall and flower beds attract vermin.

Now let's talk about GREEN. Private funding has enabled us to completely rejuvenate the park's Katharine Hepburn Garden, and it is a jewel, featured in hotel guides and tour books. Grants and donations support the garden but donors expect the City to provide litter control and sanitation.

There are 9 trees missing from tree beds. One pit near the entrance dome has been a safety hazard since 2015. The Million Trees program sounds lovely, but what about a realistic baseline budget for tree pruning?

The fountains require cleaning or the pump systems will fail. We provide that service through contractors and those costs have escalated. We pay for replacement pumps.



This budget hearing comes at a fortuitous time. In 2020, Dag Hammarskjold will be completely renovated with capital funding. Every year, I read about the city's acquisition of more parkland and new construction, but every park needs boots on the ground.

The concentration of homeless shelters in midtown make Dag Hammarskjold Plaza an open space to congregate. We need security cameras in the garden and PEP officers to enforce rules and regulations. Most of all, we need a full-time park custodian in the warm season. Then Friends could focus on providing public programs and the volunteer work that we are best equipped to do.

Finally, we love our park's cafe, but concessions should help support the parks where they are located.

\$100 million additional funding over one-half of one percent actually seems like a very conservative number to hire additional gardeners, plumbers, engineers, electricians, playground attendants, PEP officers, and administrative staff essential to operations. Be bold and think big. Stop starving the park system. Give dedicated park workers the job security they deserve and do it now!

New York City parks offer extraordinary environmental assets, from wetlands and beaches to waterfront esplanades and charming community gardens. Public space is the great leveler, bringing communities together. Vote to fund Maintenance and Operations so all city parks can thrive.

END: Submitted by Anne Saxon-Hersh, Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza,  
[annehersh57@gmail.com](mailto:annehersh57@gmail.com) / [fdhp@hammarskjoldplaza.org](mailto:fdhp@hammarskjoldplaza.org), 917-374-1440.

BUDGET HEARING FOR NYC PARKS, CITY HALL, March 8, 2018

**Sherrill Kazan, President, World Council of Peoples for the United Nations and President of Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza, a nonprofit 501c3 community organization.**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I spend most of my time in the United Nations but every day I cross Dag Hammarskjold Plaza. My apartment building, the Embassy House, was one of the first new buildings on the block when the city property was posthumously named Dag Hammarskjold Plaza to honor the UN Secretary General and Nobel Peace Laureate.

I have always seen this park from a global perspective. **This gateway to the UN is arguably the most internationally visible park in New York City.** Because its footprint is only 1.5 acres, this Plaza can easily be overlooked in the city's vast park system but its importance cannot be denied.

We get a lot of attention when the UN General Assembly meets and heads of state visit, but the fact is, protests and rallies occur year around. It is the City's townsquare, accommodating 8,000 people. The Plaza was the staging area for the first Women March, the largest in NYC history. **All of this accounts for a lot of wear and tear on infrastructure and demands on service, cleaning and security.**

Since the park's reconstruction 20 years ago, our organization has contracted the Doe Fund to provide daily cleaning and trash removal, as well as weekly cleaning of the park's six fountains. **But cleaning costs have skyrocketed and we can no longer shoulder this burden alone.**

**TO PLAY FAIR, THE CITY MUST DO ITS SHARE, AND FUND THE PARKS DEPARTMENT WITH A BUDGET THAT MATCHES THE SIZE OF ITS PARK SYSTEM. AN ADDITIONAL \$100 MILLION FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS IS A GOOD STARTING POINT.**

Next year, close to \$1million dollars of capital funding will provide for a complete renovation of Hammarskjold Plaza, and TODAY, you the City Council, will determine how this park and others will be maintained.

As a volunteer nonprofit organization, we believe in the public/private partnership but the Parks Department can only do its job with ample funding. Thanks to private



contributions, we have completely restored the park's Katharine Hepburn Garden. We have worked with the Parks Department to bring world class sculpture exhibitions to the plaza, but ALL THE BEAUTIFUL PLANTS, THE SCULPTURE, THE FOUNTAINS, ARE BLIGHTED WHEN THE PARK BECOMES LITTERED WITH TRASH. AND IT ONLY TAKES ONE WARM DAY WITH A LUNCH CROWD, A RALLY, THE GREENMARKET, THE HOMELESS FOR THE PARK TO LOOK "TRASHED OUT".

AFTER 20 YEARS, WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THIS PLAZA REQUIRES A FULL-TIME PARK CUSTODIAN, ESPECIALLY IN THE WARM SEASON WHEN IT IS HEAVILY USED.

My colleagues at the UN repeatedly ask why a city that calls itself the financial capital, and encourages world tourism and investment would allow a park of this prominence to fall into disarray. Nearby building managers are willing to participate in beautification and public programs, but they balk at the notion that taxpayers should pay extra for such basic city services as SANITATION and PUBLIC HEALTH.

Now let's talk about SECURITY. Needless to say, our UN location makes the park a soft-target. The NYPD are outstanding, but we must have PEP officers PRESENT to enforce park rules and regulations. Otherwise, there is no rule and the public is at risk.

The time has come TO THINK BIG. We are dedicated partners but we need the City to play fair and allocate an adequate budget to the Parks Department for MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS. Thank you for this opportunity to champion our parks. Healthy parks make healthy neighborhoods and great cities = great parks.

END Page: Testimony of Sherrill Kazan, WCPUN and Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza

**Testimony of Daniel Clay, President of Local 1507,  
District Council 37  
Before the City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation  
FY 2020 Preliminary Budget  
March 8, 2019**

Good afternoon Chair Grodenchik and fellow Parks Committee members. My name is Daniel Clay and I am the new President of Local 1507 representing the NYC Department of Parks Gardeners.

Local 1507 appreciates the Council's efforts in restoring the funding last year for the 50 Gardeners and 100 City Park workers (CPWs).

I am here today to urge the City Council to restore, and to compel the administration to baseline, the \$10 million for the 50 gardeners and 100 CPWs. It is wrong and unfair that these workers and their families have to worry about whether or not the funding will be available in the budget in order for them to continue their employment.

This year, we have joined the Play Fair Coalition to call upon the administration to add an additional \$100 million into the Parks Department budget. With over 90 different groups as part of the coalition, it demonstrates how Parks has been woefully underfunded and desperately needs the additional funding.

Parks has over 39,000 acres of land, meaning that (1) one Gardener is responsible for maintaining an average of 254 acres of parkland. The additional money will make our communities and those underserved parks in our communities beautiful.

On behalf of my members in Local 1507, we are urging the Council to push the administration to baseline the \$10 million for the 50 Gardeners and 100 CPWs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I will take any questions you may have.

**Testimony of Dilcy Benn, President of Local 1505**  
**District Council 37**  
**Before the City Council Committee on Parks and Recreation**  
**FY 2020 Preliminary Budget**

Good afternoon Chairman Grodenchik and fellow Parks committee members. My name is Dilcy Benn and I am the President of Local 1505 representing City Park Workers (CPWs) in the NYC Parks and Recreation Department. My members work in all five boroughs conducting maintenance in all City Parks.

I want to first start out by thanking the Council for the funding restoration in FY 2019 for the Parks Department. This funding was used to maintain the city funded lines for 100 City Park Workers, as well as 50 Gardeners. I am here today to say although my local appreciates the restoration, it is not enough. The administration must baseline the \$10 million for these positions.

If this funding is not restored and baselined, there will not be enough workers in the CPW titles. Furthermore, the maintenance and upkeep of the parks will suffer, leading to blight and neighborhood decay.

We are here today in solidarity with the Play Fair Coalition, which consists of over 90 different groups, to urge the administration to add an additional \$100 million to the Parks Department's budget. The successful turnout at the press conference last week demonstrates how integral parks are in the lives of New Yorkers and how important it is to increase funding for the Parks Department budget.

As we approach the start of the spring season in the next several weeks, there is a lot of work to be done to prepare the parks for the millions of New Yorkers who will be taking strolls and enjoying the warmer weather in the parks. The beautification of parks is important to all New Yorkers, as well as to the thousands of tourists, who visit these areas.

Once again, I am urging the Council to restore and urge the administration to baseline the \$10 million for the CPW and Gardener lines.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today and I will be happy to take any questions you may have.





Hon. Vanessa L. Gibson  
NYC Council Subcommittee on Capital Budget  
Councilmembers: Grodenchik, Matteo, Powers, and Rosenthal

Hon. Barry S. Grodenchik  
NYC Council Committee on Parks & Recreation  
Councilmembers: Brannan, Borelli, Cohen, Constantinides, Gjonaj, King, Koo, Moya, Ulrich and Van Bramer

Hon. Stephen T. Levin  
Councilmember District 33

March 8, 2019

Madam Chairwoman and Councilmember Grodenchik, and members of the NYC Council subcommittee on Capital Budget:

Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony on behalf of the Cadman Park Conservancy and the Brooklyn War Memorial. My name is Toba; I am the President of those organizations. We work with the NYC Parks Department on the care and maintenance of Cadman Plaza Park, Brooklyn War Memorial, Korean War Veterans Plaza and Walt Whitman Park. We are a community based non-profit 501 c3. We incorporated in 2010.

I am joined today by Jack Vanasco. Jack and his brother Roy are Brooklyn WWII veterans who bravely served our country. I will get to why Jack is here in a moment.

I serve two purposes today. First and foremost, my organization is extremely supportive of The Play Fair Coalition's initiative requesting that the City Council add \$100 million to the NYC Parks Departments annual budget.

Our organization was founded in 2010 by the residents of Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO with the help of Councilmember Stephen Levin and Assembly-member Jo Anne Simon. Throughout the year we hold a series of park clean-ups which include raking and bagging leaves, weeding the gardens, painting, planting flowers and seeding the grass areas. To date we have removed over 2000 bags of leaves and debris, we have planted over 800 tulips and more than 10,000 daffodils thanks to NY4 Parks and the Daffodil Project.

In addition to local residents, we work with student groups from PS 8, MS 8, Friends Academy, St. Francis College, St. Josephs College, NYU/Poly, New York City Tech, the Girls Scouts and Boy Scouts of America, and other civic minded organizations like the Chinese American Planning Council.

Our group is self-funded from local donations and fund-raisers. We have over 30 rakes for adults and 30 rakes for toddlers as well. In 2016 we purchased a John Deere Tractor and Lawn Vacuum.

In addition to the clean-ups we host special events like our annual Shakespeare in the Park weekend and occasional park funded movie nights.

That's the good news:

10 years prior to our founding, the NYC Council, under Councilmembers Ken Fisher and then David Yassky, secured and invested millions of dollars for the renovation of the south side of Cadman Plaza Park -- but within 5 years of that renovation, the park was beginning to show signs of rapid decline. The reason? Not enough funds to maintain the park after the renovation. So fiscally speaking, it makes sense to increase the annual budget, as a measure to protect the capital repair dollars that are already being invested in our parks.

As of last summer, Cadman Plaza Park, Walt Whitman, and Korean War Veterans Park have no working water fountains or a handicap accessible public bathroom. In a recent TV documentary Cadman Plaza Park was listed as one of the most rat-infested parks in New York City. We have worked with Parks and the Department on Health on significantly reducing the rat population, but without repeat treatments, year after year, the rat population will grow once again.

In 2018 more than 12 large branches randomly fell from the trees, in two cases that I'm aware of the branches almost hit and injured park goers. Sadly, we're not scheduled for pruning until the fall of this year. This is all due to insufficient funds.

The Park Department employees are dedicated and extremely helpful. We enjoy a great working relationship but they are sadly understaffed. Just one example; Cadman Plaza, Walt Whitman, Korean War Veterans and the War Memorial share one park manager with McLaughlin Park, Harry Chapin Park, Squib Park, the Pierrepont Playground and the rest of the district. Please remember this when you consider our request.

## **Jack and Roy Vanasco and the Brooklyn War Memorial**

This is the second purpose for me being here today:

The very first time we painted all the chain link fences around the gardens, someone had come in to the park afterward and using electrical tape, taped up 30 to 40 small American flags on every newly painted post.

After our initial shock, we soon found out it was the work of Jack and his brother Roy Vanasco, two Brooklyn WWII Veterans. When we met with Jack and Roy, they explained to us that this was a Memorial Park and that the large building in the middle was the only real WWII memorial in New York City and it has been closed to the public including veteran's organizations for 30 years.

Over 327,000 Brooklyn residents served in WWII. A little over 11,500 never came home.

The Brooklyn War Memorial was built in 1950. For decades it was a place for veteran's organizations and community groups to host culture events, like art shows and musical performances, all kinds of parties and school graduations. The interior has a 5000 sq. ft auditorium with 25' ceiling and 8 metal and glass chandeliers. Also, inside is the Wall of Honor, that lists all the names of those who did not come home. Some of these are Jack and Roy's friends.

Later this year, work will begin on an exterior ramp, that will make the memorial handicap accessible, but more is needed. The memorial needs a new roof, new ventilation, air conditioning and a new heating system, new glass windows, interior and exterior concrete work and a commercial kitchen so that it can host public and private events so that it can be self-sufficient which is the goal. The estimated cost of the complete renovation is \$18 million.

The goal of the memorial is to become a place for Veteran's events, community events, art shows school graduations, concerts and more. It should be self-sufficient.

Because of Jack and Roy's passion for the memorial and for our veteran community, our organization has hosted veteran events outside the memorial. To date we have honored 64 Brooklyn WWII Veterans and more recently 22 Brooklyn Korean War Veterans. Because of the we inspired the very first Big Apple Honor flight.

It is Jack and Roy's dream to see the memorial functioning again in their lifetime. Please consider that this is a small price to pay consider the sacrifice of those who have served the cause of freedom on our behalf. Thank you.





**PLAY  
FAIR!**

## **MARTHA LOPEZ-GILPIN ASTORIA PARK ALLIANCE**

**GETINVOLVED@ASTORIAPARKALLIANCE.ORG**

### **CONTACT**

35-40 82<sup>nd</sup> St, #1J  
Jackson Heights, NY  
rotcamm@earthlink.net  
646-339-8142

**“The Play Fair Coalition is asking City Hall to increase the Park’s Department expense budget by \$100 million in FY 20 and direct that funding to support much needed maintenance and operations needs citywide.”**

**PRESIDENT • BOARD OF TRUSTEES •**

**35-40 82<sup>ND</sup> ST, #1J • JACKSON HEIGHTS, NY 11372  
MARCH 8, 2019**

Dear NYC Counsel Members,

It has been a thrill to witness Participatory Budgeting and Parks Equity Initiatives bring resources to Astoria Park. It is a humbling and miraculous thing, and frankly, I cried, when we were informed that Astoria Park would be the first Queens park to benefit from the Anchor Parks program. My next thought was more realistic: “How the hell are we going to take care of all that?”

New Yorkers are practical people. It is simply impractical and unsustainable to bring these essential upgrades to our parks and not put a plan of action in place to take care of this huge investment. Astoria Park Alliance has been working in Astoria Park for 10 years, but we cannot take the place of a dedicated staff, gardeners and horticulturists, PEP officers, and full time employees.

I am here to entreat you to invest in the Play Fair for Parks Coalition. Every cent of this money will go to services that have already fallen behind in funding. Please show your faith in volunteers, park users, and community members who love NYC parks. Invest in us, the practical, hard-working, scrappy New Yorker, and we will do the rest.

Sincerely,  
MARTHA LOPEZ-GILPIN



**Testimony to the Parks Committee of the NYC Council in favor of committing \$100M in additional funding for NYC Parks in the Expense Budget**

March 8, 2019

Dear Chair Grodenchick and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for holding this important hearing on the need for additional expense funding for parks.

My name is Brad Taylor. I am the President of the Friends of Morningside Park.

Morningside is the only designated Scenic Landmark park in Harlem and is the largest park to be fully contained in Council Member Mark Levine's Council District 7.

Established in 1981, our organization has been and continues to be the primary community partner with the Parks Dept. in the remarkable revitalization of the park. We are proud members of the New Yorkers for Parks PlayFair Coalition calling for an additional \$100M in expense funding for parks in the city budget.

In my 19 years with our organization I have seen first hand how inadequate expense funding has had a negative impact on our park even while the NYC Parks staff responsible for the park does a tremendous job with very limited resources.

In these years, an after-school and summer camp program in the park have been terminated, the park no longer has any PEP officers dedicated to patrol its 30 acres and it seems that NYC Parks has to rely increasing on a seasonal workforce with a high turnover that provides few prospects for securing stable green jobs.

Morningside is a park with steep winding paths and challenging rough topography. Maintenance of these areas is extremely labor intensive and if neglected these paths are quick to become overgrown with poor sight lines and a decreased sense of safety for park users. Every Spring and Summer the existing park staff has the nearly impossible task of keeping up with the horticultural needs of the park. Our park like so many others is in dire need of the additional staff this \$100M would provide.

We are proud of our Council Member's past leadership of this committee and the current leadership of Chair Grodenchick. We are heartened by the support of so many Council Members like Mark and Barry for the PlayFair initiative and strongly urge all Council Members and Mayor DeBlasio to support this vital funding.

Sincerely,

Brad W. Taylor

Greetings Chair Grodenchik and other members of the Committee on Parks and Recreation,

My name is Cory Provost and I serve as the Director of Government and Community Affairs for the Prospect Park Alliance. It is my pleasure to submit this testimony today on behalf of Susan Donoghue, who serves as both the Administrator of Prospect Park and the President of the Prospect Park Alliance.

As you may know, the Prospect Park Alliance is a not-for-profit that partners with the NYC Parks Department and the community to foster stewardship of Prospect Park. Established in 1987, the Alliance helps to care for the natural environment, preserve the Park's historic design, provide facilities, oversee more than 25,000 permitted events (mainly consisting of small birthday parties and family picnics), and host programs and activities throughout the year for all New Yorkers.

Over the past 31 years, the Prospect Park Alliance has played a pivotal role in restoring the Park to its original glory. During this time, we have worked closely with Mayor de Blasio, Speaker Corey Johnson, Borough President Adams, Majority Leader Cumbo Councilmember Brad Lander, Councilmember Eugene, and the entire Brooklyn Delegation, the Parks Department, and the surrounding communities, to identify, prioritize, design, and complete approximately 50 restoration projects over close to 120 acres of the Park and 5,100 linear feet of our watercourse totaling over \$200 million dollars of capital investment. We now estimate that the Park receives some ten million visits each year, and thousands of people every year are engaged in the free educational and volunteer programs offered by the Alliance.

Prospect Park Alliance is thrilled to join the almost 100 Coalition Members from all around this City as we encourage this body to "Play Fair". For well over a decade there has been a funding disparity in the City Budget for NYC Parks / Parks Department. In looking at last year's budget the agency received just 0.59% of the City's total budget –despite City parks accounting for 14% of all of NYC's land.

Keeping up with maintenance and programming is paramount for Prospect Park Alliance and we know that feeling is the same at any other Park in this City. This is why we are lending our voice in calling for an increase of \$100M to the expense budget for the Parks Department. This crucial funding could:

- Secure stable green jobs
- Provide funding for NYC's forests that protect us from climate change
- Ensure that parks across the city have full-time dedicated staff
- Fund improvements for all 550 Green Thumb gardens citywide
- Create more seasonal after school programs for our children
- Hire more Urban Park Rangers and Parks Enforcement Patrol officers to help connect New Yorkers with nature and ensure that our parks are further preserved and protected.

Prospect Park Alliance and the City of New York have enjoyed an extraordinarily fruitful partnership over three decades and we look forward to continuing this relationship for decades to come. However, we encourage you to take the testimonies that you hear today under serious consideration and make this long-overdue investment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and thank you for the City Council's continued support.

Sincerely,

Susan Donoghue  
Park Administrator and President, Prospect Park Alliance





FOR THE RECORD

Good afternoon and thank you for the opportunity to express my concerns. I'm Adolfo Al Morales and for more than 40 years, my company, Yorkville Sports Association and I have advocated for parks in the city.

Yorkville organizes softball and kickball leagues and we play on fields in Manhattan including Dewitt Clinton, Central Park, Morningside, Thomas Jefferson, East River, and Peters Fields.

Understaffing for routine daily maintenance due to budgetary problems has taken its toll on these and most parks in our city. The softball fields use dirt cutouts, flooding the turf with mud after rainstorms. Dragging soccer goals across fields tears the turf. Low staffing levels make it impossible for staff to perform even simple required daily maintenance like moving water off the fields and repositioning equipment depending on the sport using the fields. We often find fields underwater at game times — last year we had to literally pump water off East River #2.

We have documented the problems in videos, which are posted on You Tube (link below).

While we are happy to do our part in helping to prep the fields before our games, the city has a responsibility to keep the fields maintained. Proper maintenance will save the city money, extending the life of the fields to the estimated 10 years, rather than the current 5 years between replacements. Along with other league organizers, I would be more than willing to continue offering advice and assisting the parks department if we can also improve lines of communications. We have several ideas to improve conditions efficiently and economically if we know who the proper individual and department is that will take action.

I am appealing to you to take heed of the recommendations of Play Fair and the New Yorkers for Parks and invest in our parks. With teamwork and cooperation, we can get this done.

Scan here to view YSA's Field Conditions videos on You Tube:



CITY COUNCIL BUDGET HEARING FOR PARKS, 8 March 2019.

Testimony of Lesley Nan Haberman, Headmistress of The Family Schools and Vice President of Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this written testimony. I am founder and Headmistress of the nondenominational Family School located at 323 East 47 Street. Our school faces the park block.

We have supported Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza from the beginning. I am a charter member of Friends, and have served as Vice President for many years.

The parents and children of The Family School love this park! It is our outdoor classroom and recreation area. The Katharine Hepburn Garden is a botanical treasure which parallels our Botany curriculum. The diversity of the plaza offers children living lessons about world culture. It reflects the diversity of our community. The protests and marches teach children the importance of First Amendment Rights and our government's democratic values.

But as a volunteer organization, we find ourselves wrestling with problems that can only be solved when City government provides the essential maintenance that every park requires. Safety, cleanliness and public hygiene are our greatest concerns. We need PEP officers and a park custodian to keep the peace and provide the authority of a uniform. We see no enforcement of park rules and regulations. Sometimes homeless people take over entire benches, strewing their belongings everywhere. Others exhibit deplorable behaviors. We are witness to these behaviors on a daily basis. We understand they are not receiving the care they need and deserve, but the well-being of our neighborhood's children must come first.

For years, we have asked Parks and NYPD for security cameras in the woodland garden to no avail. The nature trail is a wonderful feature of the garden, but it should be patrolled.

I urge City Council to provide in the city's annual budget, adequate funding for maintenance and operations in all of its parks and playgrounds. The Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza have served as park stewards for 20 years, doing more than our share to keep the park clean, green and thriving. It is time the City takes responsibility for its park system.

We all know, healthy parks make healthy neighborhoods! Thank you.



FOR THE RECORD

*213 Carroll Street, Brooklyn, New York 11231  
carrollparkbrooklyn@gmail.com*

March 8, 2018

New York City Council  
Committee on Parks and Recreation  
City Hall  
New York, NY 10007

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of Friends of Carroll Park in support of the Play Fair initiative of New Yorkers for Parks.

Since our group was formed in 1978, we have acted as the stewards of Carroll Park. We have over the years watched as dedicated Parks workers have tried, in the face of shrinking budgets, to continue to do their jobs and keep our park clean and maintained. These are dedicated professionals, as I have seen many times first hand. They deserve better.

We are the greatest city in the world. Our public spaces should reflect that

Sincerely yours,

Gary C. Dolan  
President



[friendsofcarrollpark.com](http://friendsofcarrollpark.com)



[twitter.com/carrollpark](https://twitter.com/carrollpark)



[facebook.com/CarrollParkBrooklyn](https://facebook.com/CarrollParkBrooklyn)



Our New York City Parks are the life blood for this wonderful city. We literally can't live without them. Climate change has continued to destroy or damage hundreds of thousands of our trees and plants are we witnessed this past November when an early snow storm devastated our street trees and parklands all across the five boros.

FOR THE RECORD

We need to breathe the clean air provided by our trees and parks. We are suffering from unprecedented levels of cancer and respiratory disease because of so much pollution from traffic and carbon waste/pollution. You can make a difference. You really must make a difference to save our city and the people.

We need \$ 100 million to preserve, restore and expand our parkland, trees, and urban gardens. And we really need even more to make this city livable. It's time to Stand Up and Deliver for all the people.

Do the Right thing and Approve \$100 million for the life of our city now.

Thank you .

Valerie Van Isler

Jerilyn Sackler

First, of all, I'd like to thank our officials who care about quality of life issues for all New Yorkers. My name is Jerilyn Sackler. I'm a member of Prospect Park Alliance and a Park Volunteer. Throughout my childhood, my Dad took my brother and me to explore and play in Prospect Park. These are some of the most beautiful memories of my life. Our parks are a vital resource for all city children. Our parks enrich the lives of New York families of all backgrounds and income levels. For people of all ages, our parks provide a free place for healthy exercise and a connection with nature. Our parks are essential to the biodiversity of our urban environment. Visitors to our city are delighted by the exquisite and unique parks designed by those geniuses, Olmstead and Vaux. Our parks are the green, beating heart of New York City. They are our treasure, but we must maintain them and pass them on to future New Yorkers. The maintenance workers, park workers, and gardeners who do this important work deserve good salaries and job security. The park budget should allow for hiring and maintaining adequate staff to maintain the parks well. Job security and new job creation bring important benefits to the workers and to the city. In closing, I urge you to show generosity to our parks and those who care for them.

March 8, 2019

City Council Parks Committee Public Budget Hearing

Written testimony

FOR THE RECORD

Good afternoon.

My name is Stephen Melnick. I am a resident of Forest Hills, Queens. For the past 7 years, I have been a park steward at MacDonald Park located in the heart of Forest Hills. I lead a volunteer group, Friends of MacDonald Park, that assists with regular maintenance and greening of the park.

We have been very concerned with the lack of regular cleaning and gardening of our park for the past few years. Dedicated staffing hardly exists and many times, staff and equipment must be obtained from other Districts in Queens. In addition, our district (Q6) does not have its own truck to transport maintenance equipment and staff, so there are times when our park gets “skipped over” due to the lack of a vehicle or machinery that is broken. It’s been this way for a number of years.

Last summer our lawns went nearly 5 weeks without being cut due to broken lawn mowers and the lack of staffing. The maintenance of our gardens also leaves much to be desired due largely to the fact that our district has only 1 dedicated gardener to cover all of its parks. When that gardener is away or is pulled to another district, things fall apart. Our volunteers have been able to fill in many of the gaps, but we feel it is high time that the city Play Fair with us and commit to adding more regular staff and gardeners and reliable equipment to the Parks system.

Our highly visible park is an oasis for thousands of local residents and visitors to our community. We can’t have a green city if our City Council doesn’t Play Fair.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Stephen Melnick

Friends of MacDonald Park, Forest Hills, Queens



Working  
side by  
Riverside

Testimony of Riverside Park Conservancy  
Before the New York City Council Committee on Parks  
City Hall  
March 8, 2019

FOR THE RECORD

Riverside Park  
Conservancy

Riverside Park Conservancy was founded in 1986 by New Yorkers who were concerned that the New York City Parks Department was not doing enough to support their local park. These volunteers began what has been a decades- long collective grassroots effort to maintain and restore Riverside Park. Today, 33 years later, the Conservancy has grown to be able to support full time gardeners and to support a robust volunteer program all year round. We now support the care of not only Riverside Park, but also Riverside Park South, Sakura Park, West Harlem Piers Park, and Fort Washington Park.

Unfortunately, the Parks Department's resources and staff are stretched thin over five boroughs. For 14 percent of the land mass in the City, the Parks Department sees only a half of a percentage of the City's budget, and that is simply not enough. Parks have suffered decades of degradation due to this chronic lack of fair funding. Unfortunately, the impact of this neglect is often felt even harder in communities of color and low income areas, and aggravates existing issues of park equity. Parks are not a luxury item, and should be treated and funded as essential public infrastructure. All New Yorkers – both the human and non-human species – count on these spaces for our health and survival. Indeed, the condition of these green spaces determines the City's resilience in the face of climate change and the region's overall ecological health.

Riverside Park Conservancy is sustained entirely by private donations – in fact, nearly half of Riverside Park's annual operating budget is privately funded. This is a testament to how well-loved the Park is by its neighbors, and how much New Yorkers care. But it is also indicative of some major imbalances and inequalities present in our City, as not every community has the resources to volunteer time or donate money to sustain a conservancy for their own beloved park.

And even with a dedicated conservancy, Riverside Park has maintenance gaps, crumbling infrastructure, and only two staff members from the City of New York who are dedicated to providing horticultural care. Like many parks in this City, we need more support. We are proud to be part of the Play Fair coalition, and ask City Hall to do more this year. It is time to prioritize our public parks and to ensure every New Yorker has access to a safe, well cared-for park in their community.

FOR THE RECORD

I moved to this neighborhood in 1973, when NYC was going through a huge depression and "Alphabet City" was a jumble of burnt-out buildings deserted by their deadbeat landlords, where "cops and drug dealers" was played out in deadly earnest. But, there was also a small group of people who saw the potential of the neighborhood, and started turning the burn-out lots into green spaces, and restoring some buildings into "squats" that became artists' communes, and family homes for people who could not afford any other. The gardens became a vital part of the neighborhood, as places where families could watch their children play, or grow veggies that they could otherwise not afford. As this "sweat equity" movement grew along with the financial recovery of the rest of the city, developers sought to take back the land they had previously deserted. The neighborhood rallied, organized, protested, and finally won. We thought. But developers always have deep pockets and paid politicians, so many of the original community were still priced out and left. But the gardens remain. But so do the politicians and developers. The parks and gardens are still under threat, as a matter of fact, moreso than they have been in years. So, we have to keep fighting. Especially now, as green spaces become more and more important to fight climate change.

Sincerely,

Soretta Rodack  
320 East 6 St. #15  
New York, NY 10003

## FOR THE RECORD

Good Parks make communities the right places to live.

It is vitally important to increase the amount of green space in our city, as well as to preserve and upkeep/update what we already have.

In the coming decade, millions people will be moving to New York city, which will become more and more densely populated and physically built-up. The city as a civic organism, and the people that live in them, will need public spaces to go and enjoy, decompress, green spaces to breathe air, and places for their children to play. Parks act as sponges for tension, adding to the health and wellness of individuals, and improving the ecosystems on which the urban fabric is woven. Parks can help mitigate strain on overburdened infrastructure, when done right.

New York City, in order to offer the standard of living that is required in a world-class city with expensive rent, must commit to excellent parks and well-connected, well-maintained open space system to provide it's inhabitants with the modality, recreation, and amenity choices that define this lifestyle today.

These are all things that were identified in NYS and NYC goals, such as PLANYC. Goals need funding to become projects. Please commit the necessary dollars at this important moment for New York City to realize it's goals, and protect the health and welfare of it's constituents.

Thank-you,  
Patricia

**Patricia McKee**  
Senior Landscape Architect

**GRIMSHAW**



Hearing before the New York City Council  
Committee on Parks & Recreation  
Preliminary FY 20 Budget Hearing  
March 8, 2019

FOR THE RECORD

Testimony By: Dart Westphal

Good afternoon, Chair Grodenchik and members of the City Council's Parks and Recreation Committee. My name is Dart Westphal and I have been working on open space development issues for the past 40 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 in 2013. Former Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe suggested that the full time year round parks staff should be increased from about 3700 to 4500 or 5000. Clearly that never happened.

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.

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 fiscal year 2015 budget should be bigger than the fiscal year 2014 budget.

At the same time, secondly, funding from other sources has be 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 barely 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. 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 do its job and the support of every facet of the Civic community.

## FOR THE RECORD

Dear Respected City Council Members,

I'm a low income New Yorker, a working parent and a current CUNY graduate student. It is a privilege to talk to you about the city's most important resource, its parks and playgrounds. My family relies every single day on a park and playground! Yes seven days a week, in nearly all weather, we are in one of the city's parks or playgrounds, typically in two out of our five boroughs. As a working family these locations are as vital to our survival as water and air is. If we didn't have access to these public, open spaces our lived experience would be in decline. Our physical health and mental health would be in decline. I've used our parks for a quiet spot to breast feed, to have a birthday party at, and to help my children FEEL and understand nature. My personal favorite characteristic of a park is that I can stroll and exercise with relative safety.

NYC Parks have more user groups than we have categories for, and this is because more than any other city agency, humans of every make and model use these open spaces. The city street trees and trees in our parks, the greenery that I am able see, smell and touch and the equipment that is there to exercise on, to sit and have a meal on, a bench for a quiet moment --- all of this requires care and maintenance. As an avid park user, it's clear the park labor force is not correctly sized to keep up with demands. Thinking one step further, a work force that is too small has negative implications for adding/creating new parks. There is a financial struggle to maintain what we have and these disincentives efforts to create new parks.

Today, there is little left in New York City for working families and with climate change upon us I ask you today, in this budget, to fully fund the Play Fair initiative and approve the much needed \$100 million increase. All of your constituents use a park or playground, so this is one way you can do the right thing for your district and your community and for future generations of New Yorkers.

With Respect And A Love Of NYC Parks & Open Space,  
-Colleen

Colleen O'Connor-Grant  
Candidate Master of Science in Urban Policy & Leadership

Hunter CUNY | Urban Policy and Planning



Good Evening;

We live across the street from Cardozo Park in Rockaway Beach, Queens , Between Beach Channel Dr. and Arverne Blvd. This newly renovated park is attached to Goldie Maple Academy. The Park, when after renovation, it had 2 former tennis courts, and one volley ball court( which still remain). This park also has a track around the Volley ball and former tennis courts that were taken down. There were also nets that enclosed the volley ball, and former tennis court, so that when the community uses the volley ball court, and former tennis courts that were there at that time would not hit the people walking around the track. With now the net being gone, the people playing, volley ball can be hit by the people playing basketball, because there is no net. The people walking the track can be hit by basket ball/ volley ball gone out of bounds. So we need the nets of protection put back. What else is a issue is the poles for tennis nets were taken out have left holes in the ground of the park. Some of the holes was covered but some haven't been, and because of the lengthy period of time, being about 1 year, the holes are gotten bigger. The other thing we notice there are cracks in asphalt floor of the park that needs to be repaired. We also noticed on some of the benches the screws are not tight in the bolt . There is also standing water in this park. When it rains afterward there is standing water and it stand sometimes for a couple of days. This has been a problem since the parks inception. We had a meeting with the parks department, Friday March 1, 2019. In talking with the intirium Director, I informed him of these issue in which, he told me he would like to come and look at the park Friday,8, 2019, then he told us that the parks department does regular inspections in to the parks in the Rockaways, which at that point, disturb me because I didn't understand how the Parks is doing, inspections but you don't have a clue of the condition of this newly renovated 1-3 million dollar park, is being allow to go to ruins, in which we the community don't understand why? We have also met with the former director, Miss Portia Dynesforth, last year, who has since left, resigned, not sure, but were told she is no longer there. We need these issues resolved for our children, adults, residents in our community who visit this park, (and use this park for the purpose in which it was intended by the community who had a say in it's design)and who may be in danger of a accidents, reasons mentioned above. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us, please keep us posted. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Doris McLaughlin, President  
Oceanside Apartments, Resident Council.

I am writing to you in regards to the up-coming budget hearing at City Hall this Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend because of work, but I wanted to send you a note to express my support of the Parks Department and my concern of the possible budget cuts, specifically how they would affect 6BC Botanical Garden in my neighborhood.

I moved to NYC three years ago after graduating from UNC Chapel Hill from a small town in North Carolina to start my career in Finance. I moved to Alphabet City blindly—never seeing my apartment, street, or neighborhood until the day I moved in. As you can imagine, I was a bit overwhelmed by the chaos of the city, and Alphabet City is not what you would describe as a “quiet” neighborhood. Nevertheless, I still live in the same apartment on Avenue C and love my neighborhood.

On my very first day living in the city, I stumbled into 6BC Botanical Garden on 6<sup>th</sup> street between Avenue B and C. I immediately knew this would be my safe haven—my escape to a place where I can reflect, appreciate silence, and enjoy the beautiful landscape that I do not often see living here. Since then, I have become a member of 6BC, and my grandfather’s handmade birdhouse even hangs in the garden.

What makes the 6BC Botanical Garden, and all parks in New York City, so special are not even the landscapes themselves, but the variety of people who are welcomed to visit and take in the beauty of the trees and flowers planted for their enjoyment. It is truly beautiful to be a part of something that allows *any* type of person to enjoy the goodness it offers while expecting nothing in return.

There are few places like this left in New York City, and it would be doing wrong by the people of New York to take away funding that contributes to places that have the power to bring them together. I hope this decision is not taken lightly and my notion is considered when deciding on whether to cut the Parks Department’s funding.

Thank you,  
Mary Cox

Good afternoon. My name is Karen Argenti, I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality. For the past 48-years, we are environmental advocate volunteers from the only county that has its own not for profit environmental organization, the Bronx.

You are trying to balance your checking account, but the roof is falling down.

Management by budget is the most effective and transparent method to running government. The Mayor makes the budget, you should judge did he do the right thing. See the report card on the back

First, if you know that facilities need capital investment every 10 years, then your question is **“Does this budget protect all park facilities in a state of good repair to meet the 4-year Capital Commitment Plan & 10-Year Capital Strategy.”** This is followed by **“Does the budget protect vehicles and equipment according to the manufacturer’s recommended schedule?”** Transparency is whether or not the public is involved. This hearing is an example of how, even with planning, the public input is minimal. The next question is **“Does the budget integrated the priorities of the Borough President, Council Member and Community Board?”**

Second, the staffing and operation to protect the capital investments work the same way. **“Does this budget provide adequate staff for Maintenance & Operation (M&O) in order to protect your infrastructure and equipment?”** If there are not enough staffing at all appropriate levels of programming missions, you should ask **“What will this do to our capital investments, and how much more will it cost to replace?”** Review job descriptions as well as the ratio of management and administration to field workers for adequacy.

Third, monitor the fiscal administration – not starting a new one, but staying on top to make sure the Mayor’s priorities remain stable. You are the monitors for the people. You can ask: **Are contracting decisions rational, in the best interest of the constituent, and save time and money? Are programs like Daylighting Tibbetts Brook inside the CSX right-of-way to the Harlem River on schedule or swept under the rug?**

Fourth, there are things the Parks Department can do, like **“Can the Commissioner approve “state-of-good-repair” projects?”** or **“Does the Agency have borough in-house professional construction team to handle every day repairs in the facilities?”** It may be more cost effective and efficient to adopt other management reforms. **Can they replicate NYS’s Design Build Program? Has the DEP funded Parks Green Infrastructure Program to enable Design-Build-Maintain?**

Finally, remove non-parks things: pre-project soil borings and testing; require all capital project contractors obtain a completion bond; remove restrictive procurement and ineffective contracting rules to decrease the time and cost of a capital projects; adding water mains and storm drains on parks property (DEP); pathway lighting (DOT); etc.

Karen Argenti, [kabx101@gmail.com](mailto:kabx101@gmail.com), [www.bceq.org](http://www.bceq.org)





New York Road Runners  
156 West 56<sup>th</sup> Street, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10019

Tel (646) 758-9732  
Web www.nyrr.org

**TESTIMONY BEFORE  
NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE ON PARKS & RECREATION**

**FISCAL YEAR 2020 PRELIMINARY BUDGET  
FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2019**

PREPARED BY  
MICHAEL SCHNALL  
VICE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & COMMUNITY INVESTMENT  
NEW YORK ROAD RUNNERS

*Good afternoon Chair Grodenchik. My name is Michael Schnall and I serve as Vice President of Government Relations & Community Investment at New York Road Runners. Thank you for this opportunity to testify before the Committee on Parks & Recreation on the FY 2020 Preliminary Budget.*

**INTRODUCTION**

New York Road Runners' (NYRR) mission is to help and inspire people through running. We achieve our mission by creating running and fitness opportunities and programming for people of all ages and abilities.

NYRR demonstrates its commitment to keeping New York City's five boroughs healthy through races, community events, youth initiatives, school programs, senior programs, and training resources that provide hundreds of thousands of people each year with the motivation, know-how, and opportunity to run and be active for life.

NYRR's premier event, the TCS New York City Marathon, is not only a celebration of New York City but is a powerful contributor to its betterment. The Marathon generates over \$415 million in economic impact for New York City annually, and in 2018, a record 10,000 charity runners raised \$40 million on behalf of hundreds of not-for-profit organizations.

NYRR is woven into the fabric of our city, with programming across all age groups and an activated constituency. We engage over 25,000 volunteers annually, providing free time, talent, and energy to keep our events safe, and parks and communities clean and beautiful. Our free community running and walking initiative, NYRR Open Run, is getting thousands of New Yorkers out running and walking weekly in 16 local New York City Parks in all five boroughs, with two more sites set to open in New York City parks this year. NYRR is also working with local stakeholders to identify areas with high health disparities, participating in local health fairs, walking with over 2,500 seniors as part of our NYRR Striders walking program, and serving as a resource and partner to public officials, community boards, business improvement districts, hospitals, community health organizations, and grassroots community groups.

While NYRR is best known for producing the TCS New York City Marathon and our free school-based programs, our organization is also **a dedicated provider of free community programming for parks in all five boroughs of New York City.**

## **OUR HISTORY WITH THE NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION**

NYRR has enjoyed a long and deep relationship with New York City, specifically the Department of Parks & Recreation, spanning back to its founding in 1958 in Macombs Dam Park in The Bronx. The first ever New York City Marathon debuted in Central Park in 1970, and since then has branched out into the five boroughs, but continues to culminate at its storied finish line in Central Park. And for more than 60 years, NYRR members and runners have run in parks across the City, enjoying these well-maintained green spaces and even pitching in to keep them green and clean.

### The New York City Marathon

With its beginnings in Central Park, NYC Parks was involved in the genesis of this race and, with other City Agencies, continues to be a key partner in its expansion. Now the single largest marathon in the world, the TCS New York City Marathon sees over 52,000 finishers on the first Sunday of each November. Working with NYC Parks, NYRR has ensured that Parks along the course are celebrated, and its historic finish line stands ready to welcome each runner to the most famous park in the world. And, I'm sure you heard that NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver completed the 2018 TCS New York City Marathon and will be running again this coming November. We hope the New York City Council and the Committee on Parks will join us in this annual celebration of our great City, our parks, and the five boroughs by cheering on the Commissioner on November 3, 2019.

### NYRR Open Run

NYRR Open Run is a community-based, volunteer-led running initiative that brings free runs and walks to local neighborhood parks across all five boroughs of New York City. The program currently operates in 16 parks, with all runs being directed by volunteers and free to all participants. NYRR expanded Open Run into three new parks last spring: Morningside Park in Manhattan, Shore Park in Brooklyn, and Pelham Bay Park in The Bronx. This spring, we're targeting two additional parks in Queens. In fact, Chair Grodenchik's district has Cunningham Park, which continues to be one of our most successful Open Runs to date. Community members even started a second weekly day of running in the park on their own, and formed the Cunningham Park Running Club. Open Run has served tens of thousands of New Yorkers over the last three and a half years, to get them out into their community parks to walk and run with their neighbors, build bonds of friendship, and most importantly get healthier and more active.

### NYRR Mile Markers

Working with NYC Parks, NYRR launched this ground breaking program with the installation of Mile Markers in Astoria and Cunningham Parks in 2018, and six additional parks over 2019. Our Mile Markers serve as both wayfinding along a variety of running and walking trails in these parks, as well as distance markers that allow park visitors to track their progress.

### Volunteers

NYRR has a robust 25,000-person volunteer program that helps to create incredible race experiences, as well as work to green and clean local parks year-round. Our volunteers have helped to chip running trails, paint benches and fences, remove invasive species, and plant flowers, trees and plants to help beautify New York City's treasured green spaces.

### Parks Conservancy Partnerships

NYRR is committed to NYC Parks, their affiliated organizations, and to any place where a walker or runner will travel; our work with parks-based organizations has been part and parcel of our

commitment to local green spaces. We work year-round with organizations like the Central Park Conservancy, City Parks Foundation, Van Cortland Park Conservancy, Prospect Park Alliance, Greenbelt Conservancy, Freshkills Park Alliance, and the Astoria Park Alliance, to provide volunteers, cross-promote their activities and events to our members, and support their work in all corners of our City. Additionally, last fall we launched our first ever NYRR Daffodil Planting Marathon with New Yorkers for Parks, and we're looking forward to working with them annually to beautify parks across the five boroughs. We look forward to increasing our commitment each year and finding new places for our members to run and walk.

## **BUDGET REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020**

**NYRR has respectfully submitted discretionary applications to the Council Members with Open Run parks in their districts, totaling \$85,000 for Open Run citywide.**

- **\$10,000 Manhattan parks**
- **\$20,000 Bronx parks**
- **\$25,000 Brooklyn parks**
- **\$20,000 Queens parks**
- **\$10,000 Staten Island parks**

**We hope the Committee on Parks and Recreation will encourage the funding of this free community wellness program in the FY2020 budget, that presently serves 16 parks in all five boroughs—with two more park locations being added in 2019.**

NYRR is asking the New York City Council to support our free community health program for parks, Open Run. With this 2020 request, we are hoping to continue to provide, at no cost, the organized and supportive environment that helps our weekly Open Run participants across New York City take the steps necessary to make fitness and wellness part of daily life right in their own neighborhood parks.

Since the program's launch on June 1, 2015 at The Bronx's St. Mary's Park, NYRR Open Run has seen over 53,000 finishers and 7,000 community volunteers. Participants come from New York's five boroughs and the greater New York City area, and range in age from five to 85. Parks selected as NYRR Open Run sites are led by community volunteers and are chosen based on several criteria, most importantly the demand for programming by local community members. Park-goers interested in bringing the community-based free running program to their local parks are able to petition NYRR and NYC Parks to prove communal interest in the program, a process that helped bring NYRR Open Run to Manhattan's Inwood Hill Park and Queens' Flushing Meadows Corona Park. Other criteria brought into site considerations are park size and infrastructure, and perceived need as measured in conjunction with standards defined by the NYC Parks Community Parks Initiative.

NYRR is thrilled to be able to offer this initiative to two new deserving communities in 2019, bringing the health and mental benefits of running to thousands more New Yorkers.

## **CONCLUSION**

As the premier non-profit community running organization of our great city, NYRR recognizes that health disparities and inequities stifle growth opportunities within communities. Running and walking is something that almost everyone can do and is an activity that empowers you in your



day-to-day life. NYRR is committed to working with and in every community to bring opportunities for physical activity and fitness to every person, no matter age or ability, who wants and needs it.

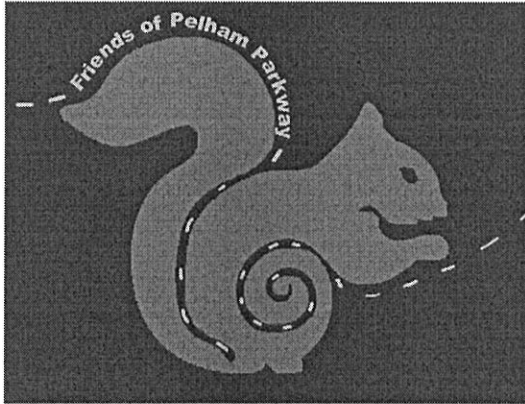
NYRR Open Run is for all New Yorkers, especially those who are underserved, and is a NYRR flagship community program. Since its inception nearly three years ago, we have seen community members at all ability levels come together for the common goals of leading active lives, becoming invested in their local parks, and developing new social networks in their neighborhoods. Initiative funding will help NYRR reach more New Yorkers who need free opportunities to get healthy and active while enjoying their greenspaces and parks right where they live.

*NYRR looks forward to continuing our commitment to New York City's neighborhoods, youth, seniors, and parks, and growing our relationship with the New York City Council. Thank you for allowing me to testify today. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have about the work of New York Road Runners and I urge you to prioritize the funding of free health and fitness programs for our City's parks.*

### NYRR Open Run Locations

NYC Park	Borough	NYC Council District(s)	Total Participants*	Total Volunteers*	Date Opened	Times Run
Canarsie Park	BK	46	2,597	448	7/23/16	Saturdays; 9 am
Highland Park	BK	37	932	123	5/1/17	Saturdays; 9 am
Marine Park	BK	46	7,041	776	8/16/15	Sundays; 9 am
Shore Road Park	BK	43	1,718	179	5/12/18	Saturdays; 9 am
Crotona Park	BX	17	1,363	279	6/18/16	Sundays; 9 am
Pelham Bay Park	BX	13	659	47	6/21/18	Thursdays; 7pm
Soundview Park	BX	18	1,593	129	6/1/17	Saturdays; 9 am
Inwood Hill Park	M	10	4,278	525	4/2/16	Saturdays; 9 am
Morningside Park	M	7 and 9	1,191	173	4/14/18	Saturdays; 9 am
Brooklyn Bridge Park	M/BK	1 and 33	7,615	1,045	10/13/15	Tuesdays; 7 pm
St. Mary's Park	M/BX	8	4,196	546	6/27/15	Saturdays; 9 am
Astoria Park	Q	22	3,803	752	7/25/15	Saturdays; 9 am
Baisley Pond Park	Q	28	0	0	*Launching June*	TBD
Crocheron Park	Q	19	0	0	*Launching May*	TBD
Cunningham Park	Q	23	4,733	955	5/1/16	Sundays; 9 am
Flushing Meadows Corona Park	Q	21	3,420	567	4/1/17	Thursdays; 7pm
Conference House Park	SI	51	2,071	142	7/25/15	Sundays; 9 am
Silver Lake Park	SI	49	3,027	246	8/11/15	Sundays; 9 am

*\*Since site opening*



I am speaking on Behalf of Friends of Pelham Parkway, a friends of park group that organizes "it's My Park" event on a monthly basis since July 2017. Our events include basic cleanups as well as mulching trees, planting roses, and feeding squirrels. We do tabling at all our events informing people on Park Rules, healthy eating and respecting our Earth. As well as handing out, free dog poop bags and reusable bags.

This group was formed after I witnessed a squirrel on a pile of garbage. So, this group's mission goes beyond keeping our Pelham Parkway clean and safe but also spreading love for our Earth. This is why I am here to express the dire need for more money for our Parks operation and maintenance.

We have lost lots of trees in Pelham Parkway and our grass is not healthy green nor grown throughout the parkway. It is great when a Park has a Friend of Park group. But a Park needs dedicated full-time staff that cares for the trees and the grass as well as the gardens. The trees we have lost are irreplaceable. It will take decades or more before we see our parkway full of large trees and healthy green grass as it should be.

We are in dire need of more enforcement. Last summer we had issue of homeless people squatting in the parkway. We also have people at night either barbequing near our trees and/or drinking alcohol and urinating in our parkway. Not to mention all the illegal dumping of Trash in our Parkway. Several times that I call the Park Enforcement, it took them hours to arrive or they were off duty after 11pm. Often Parks advocates compete with each other for Parks limited staff and enforcement. I don't think it is fair for neighbors to fight with each other for resources that we are all entitled.

So again, Pelham Parkway needs dedicated staff to care for the trees and grounds as well as enforcement to educate and enforce Park Rules. Don't let our Parks deteriorated to the point of no return. Increasing the Parks Department's budget just an additional .1% of the Proposed city Budget will make a significant impact on our Parks as well as help our Earth

Thank you

**Friends of Pelham Parkway, Bronx 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: Heather Gallagher

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: New York City Center

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: Robert Farnell

Address: 5700 N. HUNTINGTON AVE

I represent: Brix Council Environmental

Address: Quality

**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: RAYMOND FIGUEROA, JR.

Address: PRESIDENT

I represent: NEW YORK CITY COMMUNITY GARDEN

Address: 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: 3-8-2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Fay D. Hill

Address: 182 05 145th Ave

I represent: CB 13- Volunteers for

Address: Box 301295 Springfield  
Demara NY 11430

**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: March 8, 2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Meryl Brodsky

Address: 150 East 61st St., NYC 10065

I represent: Friends of Dag Hammarskjold

Address: East 47th Street, betw. 1st + 2nd Aves

**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: Sherrill Kazan

Address: 301 Dag Hammarskjold Plaza 11A-NY-10017

I represent: FRIENDS OF DAG HAMMARSKJOLD PLAZA

Address: 224 - East 47th St. betw. 1st + 2nd Ave NYC-10017



**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: March 8

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Anne Hersh

Address: 442 W 57th St.

I represent: Friends of Dag Hammarskjöld Plz

Address: East 47th St between 1st + 2nd  
Aves - Manhattan

**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: 3-8-2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Karen Argenti

Address: 3400 Paul Ave, Bx

I represent: Self

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: 3-8-19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Laura Spalter

Address: 5480 Moshulu Ave, Bx 10471

I represent: Broadway Community 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: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARLENE PANTIN

Address: 637 Henry Street 4R Bklyn 11231

I represent: Red Hook Conservancy

Address: Red Hook Bklyn

**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: 3/8/2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: K Webster

Address: ~~30 Delancey~~ 246 Bover

I represent: Sara Roosevelt Park

Address: 30 Delancey

**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: 3-8-2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Carter Strickland

Address: The Trust for Public Land

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

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: 3/8/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Cory Provost

Address: 95 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn, NY

I represent: PROSPECT PARK ALLIANCE

Address: 95 Prospect Park West Brooklyn, 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: Mitchel Cohen

Address: 2652 CROSBY AVE B'KLYN, 11214

I represent: NO SPAY Coalition against Bestioids

Address: See - www.NoSpay.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: 3/8/2019

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Raphael Schweizer

Address: 3059 Williamsbridge Road Bronx, NY 10467

I represent: Bronx Park East Community Association

Address: 347-654-7044 bxparkeast@gmail.com

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. Parks Funding Res. No. Increase

☒ in favor ☐ in opposition

Date: 3/8/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: JOANNA OLTMAN SMITH

Address: 829 President St.

I represent: self

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: Joel Kupferman, Esq

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: New York Environmental Law Justice R.

Address: 225 Broadway #2625

**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: 3/8/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Aleg Mihailovich

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: American Heart Association

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: Lo Vander Valk

Address: 1326 Madison

I represent: Carnegie Hill Neighbors

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: MICHAEL SCHNALL

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: NEW YORK ROAD RUNNERS

Address: 156 W 56th St NY NY 10019

**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: JUAN GONZALEZ

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: NEW YORK ROAD RUNNERS

Address: 156 W 56th St NY NY 10019

◆ 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: Kamsha Marshall

Address: 2021 Davidson Bronx, NY

I represent: Com Silver

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: LUKE O'BRIEN

Address: 83-33 AUSTIN ST. Apt 2s, NEW Gardens, N.Y., 11415

I represent: PH

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: MARCH 8, 2019

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Johanna Clearfield

Address: 699 Ocean Ave N.Y. 11215

I represent: Urban Wildlife Coalition.org

Address: Brooklyn ny

**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: LYN DEN B. MILLER

Address: 1170 FIFTH AVE

I represent: NY for Park

Address: 55 BROAD ST

**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: TOBA POTOSICY

Address: 101 CLARK ST.

I represent: CADMAN PARK CONSERVANCY

Address: BROOKLYN WAR MEMORIAL

**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: LUCIA MARIN

Address: 102 W 142nd ST

I represent: PARISS GARDENER

Address: NYC D.P.R.

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: Heather Lubov, City Parks Foundation

Address: 8 Jory Dty

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: 3.8.19

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: ELI DVORKIN

Address: 120 WALL ST.

I represent: CENTER FOR AN URBAN FUTURE

Address: 120 WALL ST., FL 20

**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: 3.8.19

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: Lynn Kelly

Address: 55 Broad St.

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: Mitchell Silver

Address: The Arsenal

I represent: NYC 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: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Liam Kavanagh

Address: The Arsenal

I represent: NYC 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: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Matthew Drury

Address: The Arsenal

I represent: NYC 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: Therese Braddick

Address: The Arsenal

I represent: NYC 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: \_\_\_\_\_

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: MARTHA LOPEZ GILPIN

Address: 35-46 82nd St, #1J, JACKSON H.S.

I represent: ASTORIA PARK ALLIANCE

Address: SAME AS ABOVE

**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: TARA GITTER

Address: 254 W 34th St. Apt 4C NYC NY

I represent: New York Restoration Project

Address: 254 W 34th St. Apt 4C



**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: Charles Kreezell

Address: 336 E 4<sup>th</sup> St NYC 10009

I represent: LUNGS

Address: 336 E 4<sup>th</sup> St

**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: Christina Taylor

Address: 50 VCS Bx NY

I represent: Friends of Van Cortlandt Park

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: Charles Brown

Address: Queen College Graduate Sch.

I represent: Observing proceedings for

Address: Research

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: 3/8/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Molly Adams

Address: 454 8th St #2 Brooklyn NY 11215

I represent: NYC Audubon

Address: 71 W 23rd St NNY 10010

**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: Tessa Huxley

Address: 152 Forsyth St

I represent: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: NY NY 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: Mar 8th, '19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Jerilyn Sackler

Address: 40 Harrison St Apt 39A

I represent: Prospect Park Volunteer

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: Roxanne Delgado

Address: Bx NY 10467

I represent: Friends of Pelham Parkway

Address: Bronx NY 10467

**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: Katherine Conkling Thompson

Address: 131 CALVERT ST BROOKLYN 11222

I represent: Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park

Address: 86 Kent Ave Brooklyn, NY 11222

**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: 3/8/19

(PLEASE PRINT)  
Name: Marlene Giga

Address: 125 Barclay Street, NY, NY 10007

I represent: Treasurer Local 983, DC37

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: 3/8/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Joe Pyleo

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: President, Local 983, DC37

Address: (PEP officers, Urban Park Rangers)

**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: 3/8/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Don Clay

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: President, Local 1507, DC37

Address: NYC Dept. of Parks Gardeners

**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: 3/8/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Adolfo Al Morales / Yorkville Sports

Address: 1500 Hunt Street

I represent: Yorkville Sports Assoc.

Address: United Athletic Assoc.

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: 3/8/19

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: Diley Benn

Address: 125 Barclay Street NY NY 10007

I represent: President, Local 1505, DC 37

Address: (City Park Workers)

**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: SCOTT DALY

Address: WOODSIDE, NY

I represent: NYJTL - New York Junior Tennis &

Address: 58-12 Queens Blvd LEARNING-

**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: JAMELA Pettyjohn

Address: 3207 mermaid AVE Bldgm 11224

I represent: Coney Island Beautification Project

Address: S/A

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: Daniel Clay

Address: 44 East St

I represent: Gardeners of Parks & Rec

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: Heather Ljbal

Address: 830 Fifth Ave, NYC

I represent: City Parks Foundation

Address: same

**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: David Harrison

Address: NY

I represent: Star Track Cycling / KISSA Velo ASS

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: Laura Apruzzese

Address: 130 W 56<sup>th</sup> St

I represent: New York City Center

Address: 130 W. 56<sup>th</sup> St

**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: Hunter Armstrong, Natural Areas

Address: 12 Conservancy

I represent: Natural Areas Conservancy

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: Brad Taylor

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I represent: Friends of Morningside Park

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: 3/8/19

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

Name: Celinda Casanova

Address: 156 W. 56th St, NY, NY

I represent: NYRR

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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