

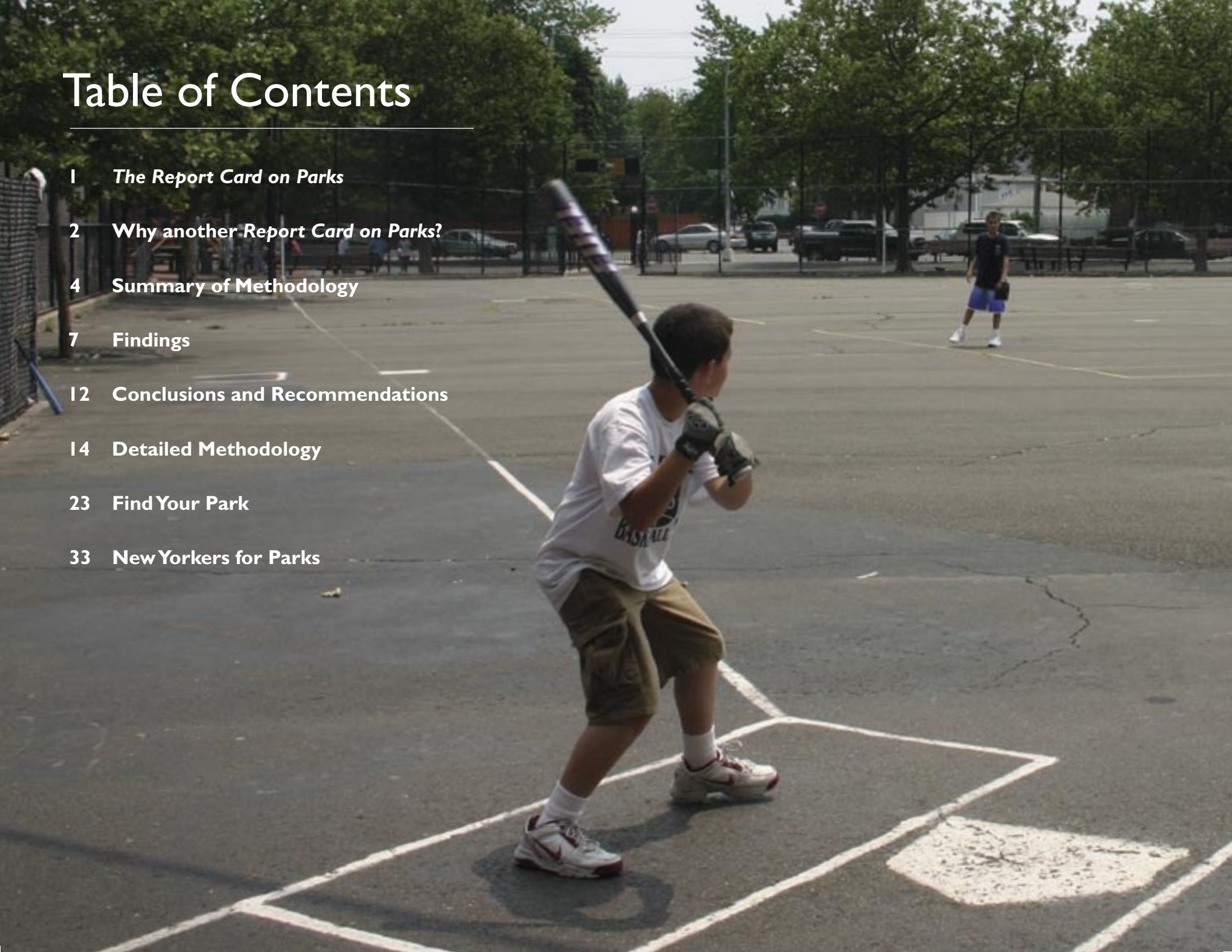
The background of the entire page is a photograph of two young Black girls. The girl on the left is wearing a red dress and has her arm around the girl on the right. The girl on the right is wearing a purple dress and is smiling broadly. Both girls have their hair styled in braids with colorful hair ties. The text 'The Report Card on Parks 2005' is overlaid in large white font across the middle of the image.

The Report Card on Parks 2005

An Independent Assessment of New York City's Neighborhood Parks

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The Report Card on Parks

New Yorkers for Parks' (NY4P) *Report Card on Parks* is an effort to demonstrate quantitatively the varying quality of neighborhood parks throughout the five boroughs. There are several hundred neighborhood parks in New York City. Unlike the larger, high-profile parks of the city, neighborhood parks are often solely dependent on insufficient public funding and, as a result, receive inadequate maintenance attention.

The Report Card has three goals:

1 To provide communities with an assessment of how their neighborhood park is performing in comparison to other parks in the city. This easily accessible online information helps communities advocate for improved services in their neighborhood parks.

2 To provide an independent assessment of neighborhood park performance from year to year against a defined minimum level of service. This creates accountability for providing both this defined level of service as well as improvements for every park throughout the five boroughs – and the results show.

3 To spark debate among communities, public agencies and advocates about how best to improve and maintain neighborhood parks in need. *The Report Card* provides a valuable service by identifying parks in the greatest need, but more importantly, *The Report Card* indicates how we might begin to address that need. By highlighting both high- and low-performing parks as well as systemic issues, best practices can be identified and implemented in select parks and incorporated citywide.

Further, this analysis encourages a more efficient distribution of limited resources toward our parks and playgrounds that are most “in need” and assists in developing strategies for additional funding sources.

The Report Card vs. the Parks Inspection Program

The Department of Parks & Recreation (DPR) evaluates its properties using a comprehensive program, the Parks Inspection Program (PIP), but ratings are aggregated and published only at the citywide level in the Mayor's Management Report. In contrast, NY4P's *Report Card* is designed to provide an analysis of conditions on a park-by-park basis. Too often, communities are left “in the dark” when it comes to their park's performance. In addition, the two inspection programs evaluate parks in a different way. For example, *The Report Card* rates and scores water features (bathrooms and drinking fountains), and although the Parks Department tracks these features through PIP, they do not influence a park's rating.

NY4P's community outreach efforts have shown time and again that maintenance needs are critical to constituents and often not attended to due to lack of resources. In addition to lack of maintenance care, constituents are frustrated by a lack of information on their neighborhood assets – their parks and playgrounds. The Parks Department has recently launched an online mapping program that provides some information at the park level, including inspection data. While this is a step in the right direction, this tool can be refined to ensure greater accessibility. Regardless, NY4P will continue to evaluate parks through *The Report Card* to provide New Yorkers with this independent assessment.

These neighborhood parks are the front and back yards of New Yorkers – and they deserve better.

Why another Report Card on Parks?

In 2003, NY4P released its first annual *Report Card on Parks*. The *Report Card* is designed to track trends in park conditions, note improvements, highlight successful strategies and identify consistent challenges. The results of our 2005 *Report Card* illustrate the need to continue this important project. We once again documented that too many of our neighborhood parks lack adequate maintenance care.

Although our neighborhood parks showed important improvements this year, these smaller, low-profile parks are in need of greater investment – too many park grades fluctuate with sporadic maintenance. In three years of data collection, there was little change among the lowest-performing parks, and certain service areas continue to perform poorly across the board.

NY4P's advocacy work provides us with countless examples of constituents' maintenance concerns from all five boroughs. Communities are becoming increasingly vocal about their park concerns. These quotes from the Fiscal Year 2005 Community District Needs statements,

produced by each Community Board in New York City, illustrate just how prevalent these concerns are:

"Comfort stations cannot be utilized without Parks personnel present. Therefore, many remain closed and not utilized. It is imperative that personnel be assigned to these locations. Parks should be cleaned on a day-to-day basis, especially those with children's playgrounds." – Community District 12, Brooklyn

"The re-seeding of grass, the pruning of trees and bushes as well as the repair of park benches, in all of our parks, remains a major concern. We continue to be distressed at progressive financial cuts suffered by this agency, limiting both its capital and expense efforts." – Community District 4, Bronx

"Constant use of our parks demands daily cleanup and maintenance of the parks sites... Overflowing trash baskets combined with piles of litter throughout the parks attract vermin and rats, which are detrimental to our residents and discourage use of our precious open spaces." – Community District 2, Queens

"Horticulturalists, stone masons, general maintenance workers, increased seasonal personnel and other skilled tradespeople are sorely needed in our parks. Maintenance is the key to keeping our parks in good condition and preventing deterioration." – Community District 12, Manhattan

"Every year the number of workers for the Parks Department is reduced – enough is enough – we need more workers not less. If our parks fall apart and deteriorate, we'll have no place to go. What good is all the money for Capital Projects if you can't use the parks because they are not maintained?"
– Community District 2, Staten Island

These maintenance and safety concerns fall right in line with the issues highlighted in this year's *Report Card*. The 2005 *Report Card* confirms trends that were first identified in 2003 – too many neighborhood parks are in disrepair, lacking functional drinking fountains, green athletic facilities and clean, safe places to sit and relax. While the first *Report Card* documented these conditions, our third annual *Report Card* illustrates that these needs are chronic and not just a one-time occurrence. Our neighborhood parks continue to suffer as do the communities that depend on them for open space and recreation.

With each summer of additional data collection, *The Report Card* becomes a more powerful tool – illustrating trends, tracking improvements and decay, and keeping the spotlight on particular areas of need in NYC's neighborhood parks.



Summary of Methodology

This report is intended as a follow up to the New Yorkers for Parks 2003 and 2004 *Report Card on Parks*. Below is a summary of the methodology constructed for this report; a full discussion of the methodology can be found in the “Detailed Methodology” section on page 14.

Survey Population

In constructing *The Report Card*, NY4P focused on DPR “park” properties between one and 20 acres as these represent New York City’s neighborhood parks. This defines a survey population of 220 small to mid-size parks. However, several of these parks could not be included in the study. For example, we did not survey those parks that were closed for capital improvement. Further, certain park properties, like skating rinks, amusement parks or forests with no user trails have none of *The Report Card’s* Major Service Areas and were dropped from consideration in this report. The final survey universe in 2005 consisted of 190 park properties.

Grading the Parks

NY4P convened a focus group of park experts and community leaders to help define the eight Major Service Areas (MSA), along with a scale of weights to reflect the relative importance of different indicators. MSAs were weighted on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being the most important to a park user’s experience). These service areas were evaluated on maintenance, cleanliness, safety and structural integrity. Thus, for each of the 190 parks included in the survey, every applicable MSA was assigned a numerical score. A park’s overall numerical score was calculated as a weighted average of these service area scores. The numerical scores were then converted to a final letter grade.

Each park was assigned a numerical score from 0 to 100 in each applicable MSA, based on the proportion of features in those service areas found to be in acceptable condition. This was done using an independently developed survey mechanism that is based on the DPR’s Parks Inspection Program (PIP). Next, MSA scores were averaged by weight to give an overall numerical park score. (Those parks lacking one or more of the MSAs were not penalized.) Letter grades corresponding to these numerical scores comprise the final park ratings in accordance with the following conversion table:

Raw Numerical Grade	Letter Grade
97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
60-69	D
59 and below	F

Score / Grade associations developed by a focus group of park managers and open space experts.

The survey is designed to fairly rate all features that are or should be available to a park user. By way of example, if a park has a bathroom facility that is locked or closed without explanation, it receives a “0” for the bathroom rating. If the park does not have a bathroom, though, it does not receive a score for bathrooms.

[A park is never penalized for not having a particular Major Service Area.](#)

Survey Mechanism

NY4P uses a comprehensive survey mechanism developed specifically for *The Report Card on Parks* to determine a park’s rating. There are eight MSAs tracked through the survey mechanism that break down into 12 feature forms. Surveyors complete a survey feature form for each of the features found in a park. For example, if there are three drinking fountains in a park, a surveyor completes three ‘Drinking Fountain’ forms. Surveyors answer a series of questions on the maintenance, cleanliness, safety and structural integrity of a feature. The total park score is based on the percentage of features evaluated that are found in acceptable condition.

Survey Work

Finally, NY4P staff conducted the survey on weekdays between June and August 2004, a high-use season for public parks. Teams of trained surveyors used handheld computers and digital cameras to complete the evaluations. For each MSA evaluated, digital photographs were taken; both survey forms and photos are stored as documentation of survey efforts and results.

Major Service Area

Description

Weight

Active Recreation Space



This MSA evaluates all athletic facilities in a park, athletic fields and courts. Athletic fields include soccer and ballfields and courts include basketball, handball, bocce and volleyball facilities.

3

Passive Greenspace



This MSA evaluates all green and passive features in a park. Features included in this service area are lawns, landscaped areas, and gardens, park trees, waterbodies and natural areas. The trees included in the form are only those contained within tree pits in the park.

5

Playgrounds



This MSA evaluates all playground areas and playground equipment in a park.

5

Immediate Environment



This MSA measures how well a park is insulated from potential negative impacts of its surroundings. Intrusive odors, emissions, exhaust and excessive noise are monitored.

3

Major Service Area

Description

Weight

Bathrooms



This MSA evaluates each discrete bathroom or comfort station in a park.

4

Drinking Fountains



This MSA evaluates each discrete drinking fountain in a park.

3

Sitting Areas



This MSA evaluates each discrete sitting area in a park.

5

Sidewalks, Streets, Trails and Pathways



This MSA evaluates each type of walkway in a park, including asphalt, dirt, turf or concrete.

3



Findings

The 2005 *Report Card on Parks* illustrates that the varying quality of maintenance work in neighborhood parks is a chronic problem. This year, as in 2004, inconsistent maintenance impacted park performance.

Again this year, *The Report Card* illustrates just how greatly neighborhood parks are influenced by maintenance work. Often it is enough to change their grade from one year to the next. Adequate maintenance is absolutely critical to neighborhood parks. Not only will it impact a park's rating from year to year, it will result in changes in conditions from day to day – and every community deserves a park that's clean, green and safe every day.

The gap in performance in the highest and lowest scoring parks in New York City continues to grow. Neighborhood parks and their users are subject to vastly different levels of park services. Unfortunately, conditions at the lowest-scoring parks continue to worsen. In 2005, for the first time, *The Report Card* documented parks scoring in the single digits. A new low was set at University Woods, the worst park in the City for the third year in a row – it received a 6% on *The Report Card*. Another first was set for the highest-

performing parks. While Bryant Park scored 100% for the third year in a row, it was tied for first place by Madison Square Park, which received its first 100% in 2005. Both of these parks receive significant private funding.

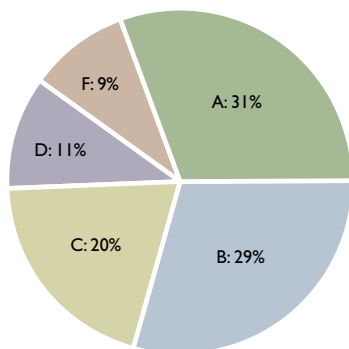
This growing change in neighborhood park performance is staggering. The difference between scores at one of the City's highest-performing parks – Corporal Thompson Park on Staten Island (98%) – and one of the lowest-performing parks – Martinez

Playground in Brooklyn (13%) – illustrates this growing disparity and the wide range of maintenance attention that neighborhood parks receive.

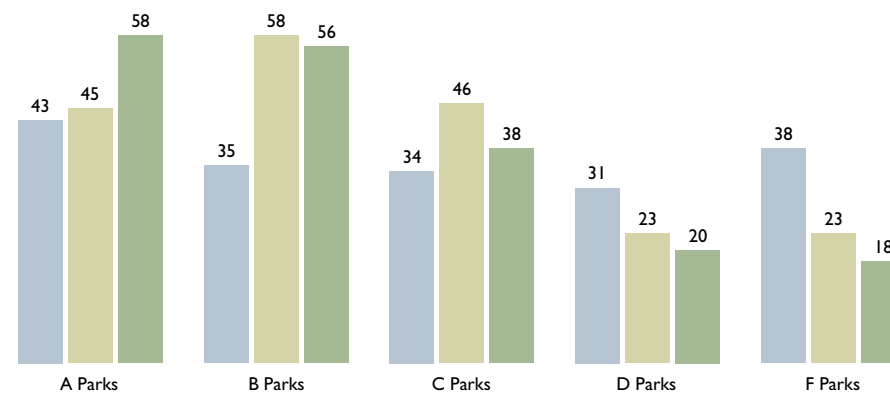
As in 2004, the 2005 Report Card documented neighborhood parks in better condition, though areas for improvement exist. This year, the number of high-performing parks ('A') increased the most substantially. The number of 'A's increased to 30% of parks surveyed from 23%. The number of mid-performing parks ('C's) decreased this year, but many of them received a higher grade. In contrast, the number of parks scoring 'B's and 'D's remained relatively stable, with 'B's moving from 30% to 29% and 'D's moving from 12% to 11% of the survey universe.*

This year 58 parks scored an 'A-' or better – this is up from 45 'A' parks in 2004 and 43 'A' parks in 2003. This year 38 parks scored a 'D' or an 'F', which is an overall improvement from last year, when 46 parks received a 'D' or lower and in 2003 when 69 parks received a 'D' or lower. The City has clearly responded to *The Report Card* through programming and maintenance, resulting in improved services at *Report Card* sites and a smaller number of "failing" parks. The percentage breakdown of the entire survey is at left.

Breakdown of Grades Citywide



Number of Parks by Grade 2003 2004 2005



*The total survey universe decreased by 5 parks this year, from 195 to 190 neighborhood parks.

Best and Worst Citywide

Of the survey's ten highest-performing parks, five are located in Manhattan, three in Staten Island, one in Brooklyn and one in Queens. None of the top ten are in the Bronx this year. Three of the top ten parks in 2005 were in the top ten in 2004 as well.

Of the survey's ten lowest-performing parks, four are located in Brooklyn, four in the Bronx and two in Manhattan. Three of the lowest-scoring parks in 2005 were in the bottom ten last year as well. Seven of the lowest performing parks, if they were surveyed, received a 'D' or an 'F' in 2004 and 2003 as well as in 2005.

Many service areas that performed well in 2004 also performed well in 2005, though some areas are slipping.

In 2005, as in 2004 and 2003, 'Sitting Areas,' 'Sidewalks, Streets and Pathways' and 'Playgrounds' all received an average of a 'B' in the survey. 'Passive Green Space' received a 'B' again this year, up from a 'C' in 2003.

- 'Sitting Areas' scored 81% (down from 82%)
- 'Sidewalks, Streets and Pathways' scored 82% (down from 86%)
- 'Playgrounds' scored 87% (up from 85%)
- 'Passive Greenspace' scored 83% (up from 80%)

Several features' scores were impacted by trash and glass this year. In particular, 'Pathways' and 'Sitting Areas' were covered in trash and glass more often this year, resulting in lower scores overall.

More significantly, 'Bathrooms' jumped from one of the lowest scoring features at 52% in 2004 to a 74% in 2005. While still a mediocre score, this is an important improvement. **It is largely due to the fact that the DPR was able to keep bathrooms open through its targeted "Operation Releaf/Relief" program, which provides additional maintenance for comfort stations and horticulture.** This shows that strategic programming for targeted service areas can improve overall park and service area ratings. Although almost 10%

still failed due to unexplained closure (down from 20% last year), when open, bathrooms averaged at 85%.

The most highly rated MSA in 2005 was once again 'Immediate Environment,' which received a 91% and was the only MSA to receive an 'A' rating. This is a slip in performance from 2004, when it received a 94%, but still higher than the 2003 rating of 89%. ('Immediate Environment' consists of a park's accessibility and how well it is insulated from potential negative impacts from its surroundings and its accessibility.) In general, a park with a high 'Immediate Environment' grade reflects that the average user's experience is not negatively impacted by the park's surroundings and that the user will not have difficulty accessing the park.

Highest Performing Parks

Rank	Park Name	Borough	2005 Score	2004 Score	2003 Score
1	BRYANT PARK	Manhattan	100%	100%	100%
1	MADISON SQUARE PARK	Manhattan	100%	84%	96%
3	COLUMBUS PARK	Brooklyn	99%	99%	96%
4	THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK	Manhattan	99%	97%	94%
5	ALICE AUSTEN HOUSE & PARK	Staten Island	99%	94%	90%
6	DAMROSCH PARK	Manhattan	99%	97%	95%
7	CORPORAL THOMPSON PARK	Staten Island	98%	93%	90%
8	TENNEY PARK	Queens	98%	90%	80%
9	CITY HALL PARK	Manhattan	98%	95%	98%
10	FATHER MACRIS PARK	Staten Island	98%	93%	n/a

Lowest Performing Parks

Rank	Park Name	Borough	2005 Score	2004 Score	2003 Score
190	UNIVERSITY WOODS	Bronx	6%	12%	19%
189	SPERANDEO BROTHERS PLGD	Brooklyn	9%	62%	48%
188	MARTINEZ PLAYGROUND	Brooklyn	13%	21%	43%
187	HARLEM RIVER DRIVE PARK	Manhattan	28%	61%	50%
186	CONEY ISLAND CREEK PARK	Brooklyn	33%	71%	54%
185	QUARRY BALLFIELDS	Bronx	33%	53%	66%
184	CO-OP CITY FIELD	Bronx	35%	76%	n/a
183	IRVING SQUARE PARK	Brooklyn	39%	93%	n/a
182	CORLEARS HOOK PARK	Manhattan	45%	30%	53%
181	TREMONT PARK	Bronx	48%	55%	39%

Still, some problem areas persist. Several of the features that rated poorly in 2003 and 2004 continue to perform poorly this year.

Citywide, the average park drinking fountain score is 60% this year. Although it is a three-point improvement from last year, it is still abysmal. Many drinking fountains do not function at all – almost 40% failed due to non-functionality – the same frequency as 2004. Even when drinking fountains do provide water, users are met with a host of unsanitary conditions including trash, glass and mold. 41% of drinking fountains scored “unacceptable” for “maintenance work.”

Citywide, the average park ‘Active Recreation Space’ score is 74%, an improvement from last year’s rating of 72%. ‘Courts’ performance was mediocre, with a 79% average. ‘Athletic Fields’ continued to perform poorly, with an overall rating of 65%, a drop from last year.

29% of athletic fields scored “unacceptable” for “maintenance work”, while 33% of courts were similarly “unacceptable.” This deprives park users of clean, green athletic fields and for many New Yorkers, parks are the only available recreation space. This is especially true for NYC’s youth.

In addition, ‘Natural Areas’ and ‘Waterbodies’ scored a 62% and 64% respectively, though there are few of either feature in *The Report Card* survey.

Increased maintenance is needed citywide.

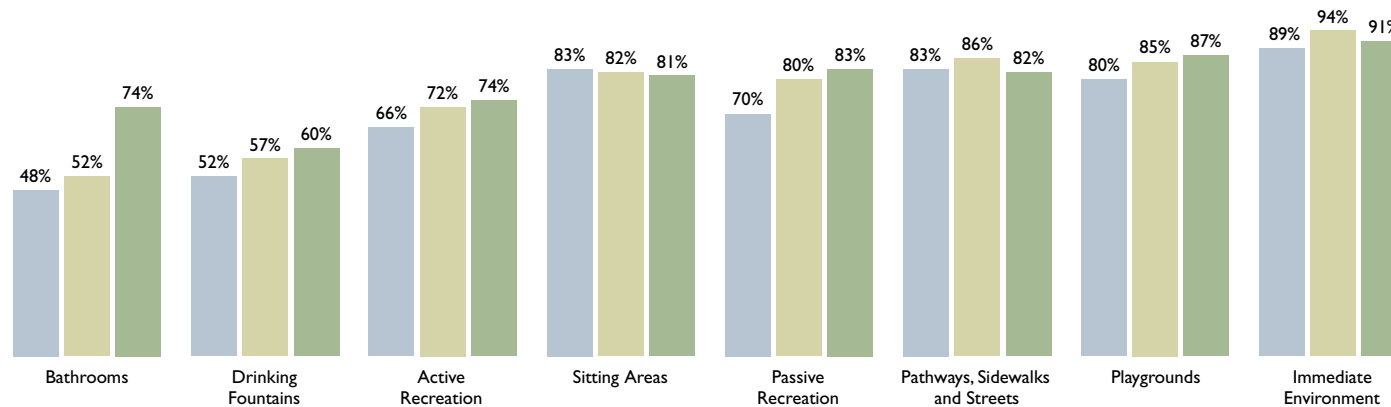
As in 2004, *The 2005 Report Card* analyzed the quality of maintenance work as a distinct finding.

For every feature tracked in *The Report Card*, surveyors are asked to answer the following question – “Has maintenance work been adequately performed?” Surveyors are provided with a series of thresholds to answer this question, including: “Are there sloppy painting jobs on 25% or more of equipment (paint

outside area to be painted; on the wall/ground near area to be painted), poorly constructed repairs on 10% or more of equipment (loose or moving parts, protruding parts), or other evidence of carelessness?”

Unfortunately, many of the features tracked by *The Report Card* did not meet acceptability standards for basic maintenance conditions. The chart on page 10 details what percentage of features scored “unacceptable” for “maintenance work.” For example, 42% of the ‘Sitting Areas’ surveyed as a part of *The Report Card*, received an ‘unacceptable’ rating for “maintenance work.”

Major Service Area Average Scores (averaged by park) ■ 2003 ■ 2004 ■ 2005



Did Neighborhood Parks Improve?

On the whole, neighborhood parks performed better in 2005 than in 2004. The following is a breakdown of park grades from last year to this year. [The universe of this entire section is 185 parks – those that have scores from both last year and this year.]

- For the parks improving from 2004 to 2005 (74 parks), the majority, 66% or 49 parks, improved by one letter grade.
 - 29% (21 parks) improved by 2 letter grades
 - 5% (4 parks) improved by 3 letter grades
- For the parks deteriorating from 2004 to 2005 (41 parks), the vast majority, 61% or 25 parks, decreased by one letter grade.
 - 29% (12 parks) decreased by 2 letter grades
 - 8% (3 parks) decreased by 3 letter grades
 - 2% (1 park) decreased by 4 letter grades

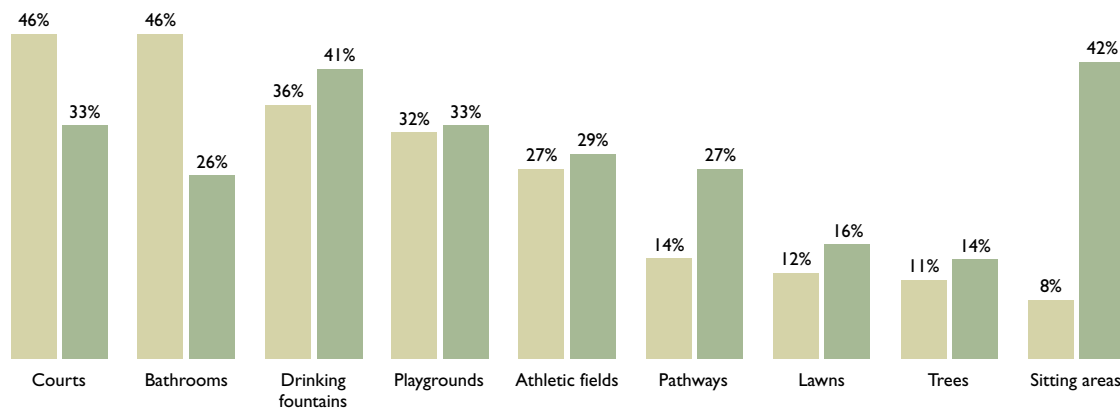
- The majority of parks either improved or maintained their letter grade, 40% and 38% respectively. These percentages are almost identical to last year's grade shifts.
- 22% of parks evaluated in 2005 deteriorated in quality, up from 19% last year.

	2004 to 2005	2003 to 2004
Parks Improving Letter Grade	74, or 40%	74, or 41%
Parks Maintaining Letter Grade	70, or 38%	71, or 40%
Parks Deteriorating Letter Grade	41, or 22%	34, or 19%

Note: The totals in each year vary. The 2005 field compares parks with scores in both 2005 and 2004 (185 parks), while the 2004 field compares parks with scores in both 2003 and 2004 (179 parks).

	2004 to 2005	2003 to 2004
Parks Improving 1 Letter Grade	49, or 26%	37, or 20%
Parks Improving 2 Letter Grades	21, or 11%	30, or 17%
Parks Improving 3 Letter Grades	4, or 2%	5, or 3%
Parks Improving 4 Letter Grades	0, or 0%	2, or 1%
Parks Deteriorating 1 Letter Grade	25, or 14%	22, or 12%
Parks Deteriorating 2 Letter Grades	12, or 6%	7, or 4%
Parks Deteriorating 3 Letter Grades	3, or 2%	4, or 2%
Parks Deteriorating 4 Letter Grades	1, or 1%	1, or 1%
Parks Maintaining Letter Grade	70, or 38%	71, or 40%

Percentage of "maintenance work" observations scored "unacceptable" ■ 2004 ■ 2005



Although a significant portion of *The Report Card* parks maintained their letter grade, a number of scores changed. As discussed earlier, the vast majority of these changes were due to the fluctuating quality of maintenance work in NYC's neighborhood parks – bathrooms that were closed one year were open the next, ballfields that were accessible were locked or pathways that were safe became cluttered with trash and litter. These

changing conditions caused the majority of grade fluctuations. In addition, a smaller percentage of parks whose scores improved received capital renovations or other improvements, which positively impacted their performance. While capital improvements are important, regular maintenance is the foundation of a successful neighborhood park.

Why Do “In Need” Parks Fail? Neighborhood Parks are Failing More Features, More Frequently

Although there are fewer parks that received a ‘D’ or an ‘F’ rating this year, for half of the eight MSAs, the percentage of parks failing increased. Of the 38 parks that received ‘D’ or ‘F’ ratings, the chart below details what percentage received a failing score for each MSA and compares those failure rates to 2004 and 2003.

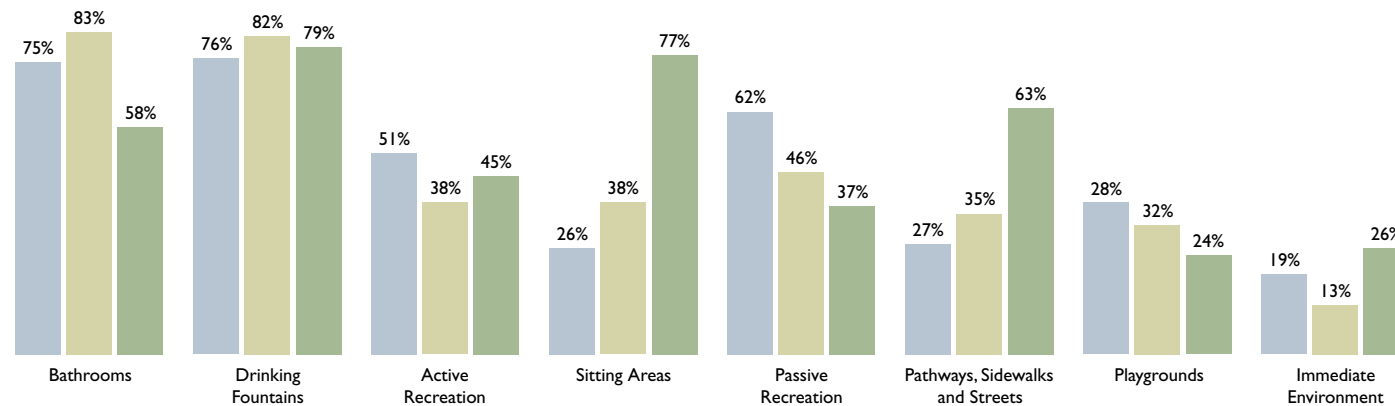
Some MSA failure rates increased considerably. For example, 77% of ‘D’ and ‘F’ parks received failing grades for ‘Sitting Areas’ in 2005, up from 38% in 2004. ‘Pathways’ jumped from 35% to 63%.

These increases are moderated somewhat by improvements in other MSAs, but overall “in need” neighborhood parks are failing more services with greater frequency.

Although conditions are improving, there is still need to do the following:

- 1) Address certain service areas that are failing citywide, such as athletic fields and drinking fountains.**
- 2) Devote significant resources to failing neighborhood parks that exhibit high need across the board.**

Percentage of ‘D’ and ‘F’ Parks (38 total) Failing (scoring under 60) for Each MSA 2003 2004 2005



Conclusions and Recommendations

The 2005 *Report Card on Parks* illustrates the impacts of smart programming and responsive management. Although it clearly documents areas for improved service in the neighborhood parks of New York City, progress is being made. Through efforts like the DPR's Operation Releaf/Relief, conditions at neighborhood parks are improving. As *The Report Card* influences DPR park maintenance, many parks are stabilizing at mid-performance levels, but problematic service areas persist and consistent maintenance continues to be a challenge.

Additionally, *The Report Card* illustrates the inadequacy of the current park maintenance system. New York City parks are often significantly impacted by inconsistent maintenance work; the parks that are able to access private funding fare far better than those reliant solely on public dollars. There are simply not enough public resources to maintain all neighborhood parks at the same basic service level. Nor is there enough private money to make up the difference. *The Report Card* illustrates this in the consistently varying quality of maintenance work. It is unac-

ceptable. The City must fund the Parks Department at a level that will result in every neighborhood park scoring an 'A+' on *The Report Card*.

The Report Card continues to document parks in need in every borough throughout the City and presents a concrete universe of parks and needed service improvements. In response to this need, NY4P has launched the Neighborhood Parks Initiative (NPI), a \$100 million public-private initiative, with the DPR, the City Parks Foundation and the Central Park Conservancy. This initia-

tive will combine dedicated maintenance with capital improvements in neighborhood parks throughout the city. NY4P believes that this targeted effort, based on the findings of *The Report Card* and the DPR's ratings, is the most effective way to improve neighborhood parks throughout the five boroughs. Through NPI, a uniform maintenance standard will be developed and implemented, resulting in improved neighborhood parks citywide – every neighborhood park will be clean, green and safe.



Detailed Methodology

This section describes in detail the methodology developed in 2002 and used by New Yorkers for Parks (NY4P) in creating the 2005 *Report Card on Parks*.

- Selection of the survey population
- Identification and weighting of Major Service Areas
- Feature forms: structure of the survey instrument
- Assignment of numerical scores
- Notes on ‘Athletic Fields’
- Conversion of numerical scores to letter grades
- Sample calculation: St. Catherine’s Park, Upper East Side, Manhattan
- Conduction of the survey
- Comparison of 2004 to 2005 *Report Cards on Parks*
- Modifications included in the 2005 *Report Card on Parks*
- Letter Grade Comparison, 2004-2005

Selection of the Survey Population

In constructing *The Report Card*, NY4P focused on DPR ‘park’ properties of between one and 20 acres, as these properties represent the neighborhood park that communities are tied to most closely. This defined a survey population of 220 small to mid-size parks. However, several of these parks could not be included in the study. For example, NY4P did not survey those parks that were closed for capital improvement. Further, certain park properties, like skating rinks, amusement parks or forests with no user trails, have none of the Major Service Areas (MSAs) and were not included in this report. Thus, the final survey population in 2005 consisted of 190 park properties.

Identification and Weighting of Major Service Areas

NY4P chose eight MSAs based on a user-focused approach, similar to the “zone management” system utilized by the Central Park Conservancy. NY4P convened a group of ten community leaders and elected officials to weight the relative importance of each of these MSAs. Participants were asked to rate the MSAs on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being the least important to their park experience, and 5 being the most important. Participants also provided feedback on the structure and composition of the MSAs. In addition, 30 park users at Brooklyn’s Prospect Park were asked to rate the relative importance of the eight MSAs to be used in the survey. The rankings provided by the 30 respondents were then averaged and rounded to the nearest whole number to provide a final MSA relative weight figure:

Figure 1: Major Service Areas and Relative Weights

Active Recreation Space <i>(courts, athletic fields)</i>	3
Passive Recreation Space <i>(lawns, landscaped areas, gardens, water bodies, natural areas and trees)</i>	5
Playground space	5
Sitting areas	5
Bathrooms	4
Drinking Fountains	3
Sidewalks, streets and pathways	3
Immediate Environment <i>(impact on the park by its surroundings)</i>	3

Participants in the first focus group included Council Member Joseph Addabbo, Jr., former Chair, Parks & Recreation Committee, New York City Council; Matt Arnn, United States Forest Service, Regional Landscape Architect, New York City; John Ameroso, Cornell Cooperative Extension, New York City; Skip Blumberg, Friends of City Hall Park; Frank Chaney, Community Board member; Jim Dowell, Riverside Park Fund, Manhattan Parks and Green Space Coalition; Susan Marraccini, Turnaround Friends, Inc.; Martin Olesh, Friends of Cunningham Park; Robert Pasqual, Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces; and Gene Russianoff, Senior Attorney, New York Public Interest Research Group.

**Feature Forms:
Structure of Survey Instrument**

NY4P staff, in cooperation with statistical consultants from the firm of Ernst & Young, then developed question forms with which to evaluate the MSAs found in each park. Individual questions were designed to measure the performance of the MSAs in each of the following categories:

- Maintenance;
- Cleanliness;
- Safety; and
- Structural Integrity.

Whenever possible, the form questions were adapted from DPR's own internal evaluation mechanism, the Parks Inspection Program (PIP). A second focus group was then convened to provide relative weights to individual feature forms on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being the least important to their park experience, and 5 being the most important. Next, the focus group was asked to designate each of the individual form questions as 'priority' or 'routine.' Priority ratings refer to those conditions of a park feature necessary for its safe use. Finally, the focus group rated questions tagged as routine on a scale

from 1 to 5. Participants in the second focus group included four park and advocacy experts: Mark Caserta, former Director, Waterfront Park Coalition, New York League of Conservation Voters; Susan Craine, former Consumer Advocate, New York Public Interest Research Group; Neysa Pranger, Director, Straphangers Campaign; and Paul Sawyer, Executive Director, Friends of Van Cortlandt Park. A flowchart of relative weights of all MSAs and feature forms can be found on page 5.

Assignment of Numerical Scores

Each completed form was assigned a numerical grade between 0 and 100. Any park feature receiving an 'unacceptable' rating on any priority question was assigned a form grade of 0. However, in the large majority of completed forms, park features received only 'acceptable' ratings to all priority questions. In these cases, the calculation appears as follows:

Let 'A' denote the sum of the relative weights of routine survey questions receiving 'acceptable' ratings. Let 'B' denote the sum of the relative weights of routine survey questions receiving either 'acceptable' or 'unacceptable' ratings. Each form's final numerical score is then 100 times the quotient or 'A' divided by 'B.' No form score was assigned a park that lacked any given feature; in this way no park was penalized for not having any of the survey's 12 feature types.

Once each form is scored, MSA ratings were calculated. First, scored forms were grouped by MSA. Those MSAs with exactly one corresponding completed form were allotted the numerical score of that single form. Those MSAs with more than one completed form were scored according to a weighted average of the corresponding form scores, as follows:

Suppose C_1, C_2, \dots, C_n are the n-many form scores corresponding to a given MSA. Let D_1, D_2, \dots, D_n be those forms' corresponding relative weights (see page 5). MSA numerical scores were then calculated as the following quotient:

$$(C_1 * D_1 + C_2 * D_2 + \dots + C_n * D_n) / (D_1 + D_2 + \dots + D_n)$$

No MSA rating was assigned to a park that lacked any given major service area; in this way no park was penalized for not having any of the survey's eight MSA types.

Each park's raw score was calculated in a similar fashion. Suppose E_1, E_2, \dots, E_m were a park's MSA scores with corresponding weights F_1, F_2, \dots, F_m . Final raw scores were then calculated as the following quotient:

$$(E_1 * F_1 + E_2 * F_2 + \dots + E_m * F_m) / (F_1 + F_2 + \dots + F_m)$$

Notes on Athletic Fields

NY4P hosted a third focus group on 'Active Recreation Space.' Participants in this focus group included Tom Brasuell, Vice President, Community Relations, Major League Baseball; Carlos Feliciano, President, Quebradilla Baseball Organization; Rich Berlin, Executive Director, Harlem RBI; and John Oswald, Director, Beacon Program Pathways for Youth. This group provided commentary on ideal conditions for active recreational activities and provided general feedback on active play areas, including courts, turf ballfields and asphalt ballfields, which was then integrated into the survey questions and grading system.

¹ One exception to this formula is explained in section E of this methodology, Notes on Asphalt Athletic Fields.

Additional research was performed on the incidence of injury incurred on various active play surfaces. Based on focus group results and relevant research from the field, the athletic field form scores corresponding to any asphalt ballfield surveyed were reduced by 25%.

Conversion of Numerical Scores to Letter Grades

A fourth focus group was convened to determine the assignment of letter grades to raw scores, consisting of park managers and open space experts. Participants were brought to three parks in Manhattan and asked to provide a letter grade for the park based on a brief description of the MSAs and a tour of the park. These letter grades were consistent with the raw number scores for the parks and resulted in the raw score/grade assignment chart.

Figure 4: Conversion from Raw Scores to Letter Grades

Raw Numerical Grade	Letter Grade
97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
60-69	D
59 and below	F

Fourth focus group participants included Jerome Barth, Director of Operations, Bryant Park Restoration Corporation; Charles McKinney, consultant, former administrator, Riverside Park; and Andy Stone, Director, NYC Programs, Trust for Public Land.

Sample Calculation – St. Catherine’s Park

Figure 5 shows actual surveyor responses for St. Catherine’s Park on First Avenue on Manhattan’s Upper East Side. Figures 5, 6 and 7 include a summary of form data and the subsequent form, MSA and park score.

Figure 5: Summary of St. Catherine’s Park Form Data

Form	Form Scores	Form Score Average
Playgrounds	100,100	100
Immediate Environment	86	86
Lawns and Landscaped Areas	100	100
Park Trees	100	100
Sitting Areas	100	100
Bathrooms	0	0
Drinking Fountains	0, 86	43
Pathways	100	100
Courts	73, 76, 88, 100, 100	87

Figure 6: Summary of St. Catherine’s Park MSA Data

MSA	Calculation	MSA Score
Playgrounds	Average from figure 5	100
Immediate Environment	Single form score	86
Passive Greenspace	(Lawns, Landscaped Areas*2 + Park Trees*1)/3	100
Sitting Areas	Single form score	100
Bathrooms	Single form score	0
Drinking Fountains	Average from figure 5	43
Sidewalks, Streets & Paths	Single form score	100
Active Recreation Space	Average courts score from figure 5 (no athletic fields on site)	87

St. Catherine’s Park raw score was calculated by the weighted average of the eight MSA scores listed in figure 6.

Figure 7: Calculation of Raw Score and Letter Grade – St. Catherine’s Park

MSA	MSA Score times Weight			
Playgrounds	100	X	5	= 500
Immediate Environment	86	X	3	= 259 (with rounding)
Passive Greenspace	100	X	5	= 500
Sitting Areas	100	X	5	= 500
Bathrooms	0	X	4	= 0
Drinking Fountains	43	X	3	= 129
Sidewalks, Streets & Paths	100	X	3	= 300
Active Recreation Space	87	X	3	= 262 (with rounding)
Total				2450

This total, 2450, was then divided by the sum of the weights of the 8 MSAs.

This sum is 31, so that the St. Catherine’s Park raw park score is then $2450/31 = 79.0$

Applying this numerical score to the letter grades listed in Figure 4, it can be seen that a score of 79 corresponds to a grade of ‘C+’

Conduction of the Survey

Survey work for *The Report Card* took place from June to August 2004 from the hours of 10 AM to dusk, Monday through Friday. NY4P trained seven surveyors (all NY4P staff members) to complete the survey work. NY4P senior staff held two full-day training sessions during spring 2004 to train surveyors in the following techniques: use of the handheld computers and digital cameras, delineation of park features, and use of survey forms and standards manual and procedures for documenting features with digital cameras. Each training session included the full review of a park, collection of data according to defined standards, proper photo documentation, safety procedures and methods for storing data in *The Report Card* database upon completion of survey.

In the field, surveyors completed a form for each feature that was delineated for a given park. For example, for every drinking fountain in a park, a ‘Drinking Fountain’ form was completed so that in a park with three drinking fountains, a surveyor completed three ‘Drinking Fountain’ feature forms. Additionally, surveyors completed a form for every playground space within natural

and/or constructed boundaries, for every pair of bathrooms, for every naturally bounded lawn or landscaped area, etc.

In addition to completing feature forms, surveyors took extensive digital photographs to support and complement the survey results. All survey findings and feature forms receive an identification number and are correlated to a series of photographs documenting conditions for each park in the survey. Survey results and photo documentation are stored in a central database. When photo documentation did not correlate with results or did not adequately illustrate park conditions, the park was revisited and reevaluated by surveyors.

Comparison of 2004 to 2005 Report Cards on Parks

NY4P designed *The Report Card on Parks* methodology in 2003 to serve two functions. First, the report provided an instantaneous snapshot of the conditions of New York parks. This allows for (real-time) comparison among parks to identify those that showcase best practices, as well as those in-need parks requiring attention. In addition, the methodology was designed to be replicated annually, so that trends at the individual park level, as well as borough- and citywide, could be documented and addressed.

In constructing the methodology of the 2005 *Report Card on Parks*, the goal of the design team was twofold: one, to finetune the survey mechanism; and two, to streamline and further define the measurements constructed in 2003, while simultaneously conserving the comparability between 2005 results and those of the previous years. The vast majority of questions designed for the 2005 survey were left unchanged from the previous years; one modification is noted below.

Modifications included in the 2005 Report Card on Parks

In order to ensure homogeneity among park properties rated in the surveys, parks with fewer than three MSAs were dropped from the 2005 survey universe. Five previously-rated park properties with exactly two MSAs fall into this category and were thus dropped from consideration in this report.

The five sites are:

- Hillside Park (Brooklyn)
- People’s Park Exchange (Bronx)
- Jerome Park (Bronx)
- Railroad Park (Queens)
- Clove’s Tail (Staten Island)

Figure 8 outlines the eight citywide average MSA scores for each of the survey years.

NY4P believes that these procedural modifications to the 2003 methodology are sufficiently small in scope to allow for direct comparison of park scores between the two survey periods. Effectively, the majority of changes make it less likely that a park failed any given MSA as more features were evaluated on additional forms, and then scored as an average.

Figure 8: Citywide Average MSA scores

Major Service Area Average Scores	2005	2004	2004
Bathrooms	74%	52%	48%
Drinking Fountains	60%	57%	52%
Active Recreation	74%	72%	66%
Sitting Areas	81%	82%	83%
Passive Recreation	83%	80%	70%
Pathways, Sidewalks and Streets	82%	86%	83%
Playgrounds	87%	85%	80%
Immediate Environment	91%	94%	89%

Letter Grade Comparison

Citywide, there was an overall improvement in park scores between 2004 and 2005; the average climbed from a score of 78% to 80%. These figures remain statistically unchanged if one considers the average score of only those 185 parks that were surveyed in both periods.

The largest subset of the 185 parks surveyed in the two periods (74 out of 185) improved in letter grade between 2004 and 2005. Seventy retained the same letter grade, while 41 deteriorated. Most notable among this list are those eight parks that exhibited a change of three or more letter grades between 2004 and 2005. These parks, accompanied by site-specific survey notes, are listed in Figure 9.

Figure 9: Parks Exhibiting a Change of Three or More Letter Grades, 2004-2005

Park Name	Score Change	Analysis
Captain Tilly Park (Queens)	F to B	In 2004, 'Passive Greenspace' received a score of 0, due to submerged items in the lake and bare lawns. Conditions improved by this year, though erosion and trash were still issues at the lake, leading to a 78% in 2005. One of the two bathrooms was closed in 2004, but both were open this year, dramatically increasing that feature's score (50% to 95%). Some other features saw slight improvements between 2004 and 2005: 'Playgrounds' (83% to 100%), 'Pathways' (90% to 100%), and 'Sitting Areas' (75% to 85%).
Hallets Cove Playground (Queens)	F to B	Bathrooms that were locked and inaccessible in 2004 were open and in fairly good condition in 2005, leading to a jump in score (0% to 89%). Drinking fountains were littered with broken glass in 2004, triggering an autofail for this feature, but in 2005 they were clean and in good condition and scored a 100%. Broken glass, litter and missing equipment plagued the park playground in 2004, but by 2005 these conditions had improved somewhat, increasing its score from 27% to 79%. Sitting areas improved over the year (from 63% to 81%), though trash and chipping paint are still problems.
Irving Square Park (Brooklyn)	A to F	'Drinking Fountains' and 'Pathways' scores plunged from 2004 to 2005 (from 100% to 0%). The park's fountain lacked sufficient pressure, there was litter around the base, and the spigot was damaged. The pathway at the park was covered with debris, making it unpleasant and dangerous. The playground, rated 73% in 2004, dropped to 15% in 2005 due to damaged safety surfacing, glass and trash.
Louis J. Valentino, Jr. Park & Pier (Brooklyn)	A to D	This park was only evaluated on three features – 'Immediate Environment,' 'Passive Greenspace' and 'Pathways' – so the drop of the 'Passive Greenspace' score (from 89% to 33%) had a severe impact on the overall grade. Many of the park's lawns were inadequately fenced off for construction in 2005, making them unsafe. Our surveyors found other lawns to be overgrown and weedy. The 'Pathways' score dropped from 100% in 2004 to 84% in 2005 mainly because of moderate trash and graffiti.

Park Name	Score Change	Analysis
Maurice Park (Queens)	A to D	All features at this park declined in quality between 2004 and 2005. Particularly striking was the drop in the score for 'Drinking Fountains' (from 88% to 33%). The majority of fountains were clogged, not functioning, or sprayed water in all directions, while in 2004, they were clean and in working order. The playground, which was in good condition in 2004, was covered with graffiti in 2005, dropping its score significantly (94% to 76%). Bathroom scores also saw a sharp decline (from 95% to 59%) because in 2005 they were used for storage and were generally dirty and damaged.
Rainey Park (Bronx)	F to B	'Passive Greenspace' actually declined between 2004 and 2005 (83% to 71%), but enough features improved to make up for this. Because of a locked ballfield in 2004 that was open in 2005, the 'Active Recreation' feature jumped from a 0% to a 100%, heavily impacting the overall grade. Drinking fountains did not have sufficient pressure to be usable in 2004, and broken glass and debris were problems. By 2005, these issues had largely been remedied, raising this MSA's score from 0 to 80%. Other features that saw improvements include 'Bathrooms' due to a locked facility that was open in 2005 (50% to 89%) and 'Pathways' (95% to 100%).
Roberto Clemente Ballfield (Brooklyn)	F to B	Though 'Active Recreation' failed in 2004 and 2005, it saw a significant increase in percentage points (0% to 39%), due to one ballfield that was locked in 2004, but open in 2005. 'Drinking Fountains' performed similarly. Scoring a 0 in 2004 due to insufficient pressure, only one fountain was not in working order by 2005, leading to a score of 67% for this feature. 'Passive Greenspace' saw a small increase (91% to 100%). 'Sitting Areas' and 'Pathways' each scored 100%, in 2005 greatly improving the park's grade.
Saratoga Square Park (Brooklyn)	B to F	Largely to blame for the drop in this park's score in 2005 was the excessive presence of broken glass. The 'Passive Greenspace' MSA experienced a severe drop (94% to 28%) between 2004 and 2005 because of pervasive broken glass and litter on the lawns. The 'Pathways' score dropped substantially (87% to 52%) due to the overwhelming presence of litter, damaged benches and vandalism. 'Drinking Fountains' remained largely unusable (33% to 30%). 'Sitting Areas' fell from 87% to 40% over the year – sloppy maintenance had been a problem in 2004, but in 2005, trash, glass and graffiti also plagued the areas. Other features that saw declining scores were 'Playgrounds' (100% to 73%) and 'Bathrooms' (95% to 86%).



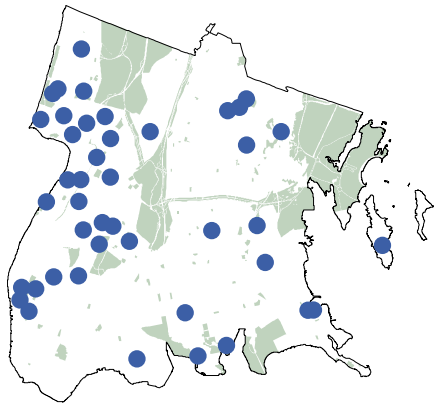


Find Your Park

Would you like to see how your neighborhood park fared? This section of the report is designed to help you find out how your local park performed in comparison to others in the city. Organized first by borough and then alphabetically, the following charts list each park in the survey along with its corresponding grades from 2003-2005, its neighborhood, Community Board, City Council District and acreage. The final scores and grades are based on the park's performance on *The Report Card* for all the MSAs evaluated at that site.

The park scores are designed to provide constituents with a park-by-park evaluation so that they have access to tools that help them advocate for their neighborhood park. Use the information in this section to talk about both what works and what doesn't in your local park. For a more detailed analysis of park scores, visit the NY4P website (www.ny4p.org) and view the *Park Profiles*, which provide additional information on park scores along with other neighborhood statistics.

Bronx



Park Name	2005		2004		2003		CD*	Neighborhood	CB*
	Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Score	Grade			
AMBROSINI FIELD	77	C+	97	A+	95	A	13	City Island	10
AQUEDUCT WALK	51	F	66	D	63	D	14	University Heights	5
BICENTENNIAL VET/PK AT WEIR CK	75	C	92	A-	72	C-	13	Edgewater Park	10
BRUST PARK	94	A	71	C-	69	D	11	Riverdale	8
BUFANO PLAYGROUND	82	B-	84	B	82	B-	13	Middletown	10
CASTLE HILL PARK	78	C+	75	C	64	D	18	Castle Hill	9
COLUCCI PLAYGROUND	65	D	64	D	68	D	13	Pelham Bay	10
COONEY GRAUER FIELD	57	F	74	C	n/a	n/a	14	Kingsbridge	8
CO-OP CITY FIELD	35	F	76	C	n/a	n/a	12	Co-Op City	10
DEVOE PARK	89	B+	73	C	48	F	14	University Heights	7
EDENWALD PLAYGROUND	88	B+	72	C-	42	F	12	Edenwald	12
EWEN PARK	78	C+	68	D	69	D	11	Kingsbridge	8
FORDHAM LANDING PLAYGROUND	74	C	66	D	47	F	14	University Heights	7
FORT INDEPENDENCE PLAYGROUND	88	B+	76	C	83	B	11	Van Cortlandt Village	8
FRANZ SIGEL PARK	61	D	77	C+	68	D	17	Concourse Village	4
GRANT PARK	89	B+	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	Concourse	4
HACKETT PARK	95	A	84	B	62	D	11	Fieldston	8
HAFFEN PARK	76	C	72	C-	74	C	12	Baychester	12
HARDING PARK	69	D	81	B-	62	D	18	Clason Point	9
HARRIS FIELD	87	B+	77	C+	79	C+	11	Norwood	7
HENRY HUDSON PARK	87	B+	71	C-	85	B	11	Spuyten Duyvil	8

Park Name	2005		2004		2003		CD	Neighborhood	CB
	Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Score	Grade			
JOSEPH RODMAN DRAKE PARK	87	B+	95	A	52	F	17	Hunts Point	2
JOYCE KILMER PARK	97	A+	94	A	73	C	17	Concourse Village	4
LORETO PLAYGROUND	82	B-	83	B	57	F	13	Morris Park	11
MACOMBS DAM PARK	76	C	57	F	n/a	n/a	17	Concourse	4
MARBLE HILL PLAYGROUND	76	C	68	D	84	B	16	Kingsbridge	8
MULLALY PARK	86	B	73	C	65	D	14	Concourse	4
OLD FORT #4 PARK	93	A	98	A+	64	D	8	Kingsbridge Heights	8
POE PARK	82	B-	88	B+	66	D	15	Fordham	7
QUARRY BALLFIELDS	33	F	53	F	66	D	14	East Tremont	6
RAINEY PARK	88	B+	57	F	n/a	n/a	11	Longwood	2
RICHMAN (ECHO) PARK	49	F	51	F	58	F	11	Mount Hope	5
RIVERDALE PLAYGROUND	63	D	71	C-	73	C	11	South Riverdale	8
SETON PARK	86	B	80	B-	76	C	15	South Riverdale	8
SPUYTEN DUYVIL PLAYGROUND	97	A+	97	A+	91	A-	12	South Riverdale	8
ST. JAMES PARK	67	D	71	C-	65	D	15	Fordham	7
STARS & STRIPES PLAYGROUND	88	B+	86	B	73	C	14	Edenwald	12
TREMONT PARK	48	F	55	F	39	F	15	East Tremont	6
UNIVERSITY WOODS	6	F	12	F	19	F	11	University Heights	5
VIDALIA PARK	91	A-	92	A-	92	A-	15	Bronx Park South	6
WILLIAMSBRIDGE OVAL	91	A-	78	C+	66	D	11	Norwood	7



Joyce Kilmer Park
Raw Score: 97%, Grade: A+

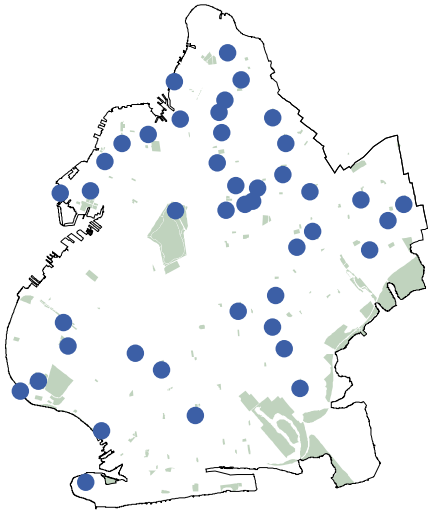


Spuyten Duyvil Playground
Raw Score: 97%, Grade: A+



University Woods
Raw Score: 6%, Grade: F

Brooklyn



Park Name	2005		2004		2003		CD*	Neighborhood	CB*
	Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Score	Grade			
BENSONHURST PARK	70	C-	73	C	58	F	47	Bath Beach	11
BETSY HEAD MEMORIAL PLAYGROUND	83	B-	87	B+	68	D	42	Brownsville	16
BROWER PARK	97	A+	95	A	91	A-	36	Crown Heights	8
CHARLIE'S PLACE	55	F	33	F	47	F	34	Bedford Stuyvesant	3
COFFEY PARK	63	D	82	B-	61	D	38	Red Hook	6
COLUMBUS PARK	99	A+	99	A+	96	A	33	Downtown Brooklyn	2
COMMODORE BARRY PARK	75	C	66	D	80	B-	35	Downtown Brooklyn	2
CONEY ISLAND CREEK PARK	33	F	71	C-	54	F	47	Sea Gate	13
COOPER PARK	72	C-	44	F	71	C-	34	East Williamsburg	1
CYPRESS HILLS PLAYGROUND	83	B	80	B-	65	D	42	City Line	5
FOX PLAYGROUND	87	B+	79	C+	74	C	45	East Flatbush	18
FRIENDS FIELD	74	C	49	F	50	F	44	Ocean Parkway	12
FULTON PARK	77	C+	92	A-	94	A	36	Stuyvesant Heights	3
GRAND FERRY PARK	72	C-	49	F	91	A-	33	Williamsburg/Southside	1
GRAVESEND PARK	92	A-	74	C	90	A-	44	Borough Park	12
HARMONY PARK	95	A	88	B+	90	A-	41	Weeksville	3
HARRY MAZE PLAYGROUND	75	C	78	C+	57	F	45	Remsen Village	17
HERBERT VON KING PARK	84	B	88	B+	81	B-	36	Bedford Stuyvesant	4
IRVING SQUARE PARK	39	F	93	A	n/a	n/a	37	Bushwick	4
JACOB JOFFE FIELDS	79	C+	71	C-	58	F	46	East Flatbush	18
JOHN J. CARTY PARK	58	F	67	D	93	A	43	Bay Ridge	10
JOHN PAUL JONES PARK	89	B+	95	A	88	B+	43	Bay Ridge	10

Park Name	2005		2004		2003		CD	Neighborhood	CB
	Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Score	Grade			
LEIF ERICSON PARK & SQUARE	72	C-	75	C	69	D	43	Bay Ridge	10
LINDEN PLAYGROUND	86	B	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	42	New Lots	5
LINDOWER PARK	72	C-	84	B	70	C-	46	Mill Basin	18
LOUIS J. VALENTINO, JR. PARK & PLGD	65	D	97	A+	85	B+	38	Red Hook	6
MARIA HERNANDEZ PARK	79	C+	68	D	n/a	n/a	34	Bushwick	4
MARION-HOPKINSON PLAYGROUND (form. JACKIE ROBINSON)	79	C+	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	41	Ocean Hill	16
MARTINEZ PLAYGROUND	13	F	21	F	43	F	34	East Williamsburg	1
MCKINLEY PARK	81	B-	87	B+	87	B+	43	Bay Ridge	10
MONSIGNOR MCGOLRICK PARK	88	B+	84	B	n/a	n/a	33	Greenpoint	1
MT. PROSPECT PARK PLAYGROUND	77	C+	85	B	94	A	35	Prospect Heights	9
NEHEMIAH PARK	69	D	76	C	56	F	42	Brownsville	16
PAERDEGAT PARK	94	A	99	A+	79	C+	45	East Flatbush	17
ROBERT VENABLE PARK	53	F	20	F	49	F	37	City Line	5
ROBERTO CLEMENTE BALLFIELD	87	B+	54	F	n/a	n/a	33	Williamsburg	1
SARATOGA SQUARE PARK	57	F	87	B+	76	C	41	Ocean Hill	3
SPERANDEO BROTHERS PLAYGROUND	9	F	62	D	48	F	37	Highland Park	5
ST. JOHNS RECREATION CENTER	94	A	84	B	82	B-	36	Weeksville	8
STERNBERG PARK	71	C-	37	F	35	F	34	East Williamsburg	1
THOMAS BOYLAND PARK	72	C-	90	A-	87	B+	36	Ocean Hill	4
VAN VOORHEES PARK	82	B-	87	B+	69	D	38	Cobble Hill	6
WM. E. KELLY MEMORIAL PARK	76	C	68	D	79	C+	48	Ocean Parkway	15

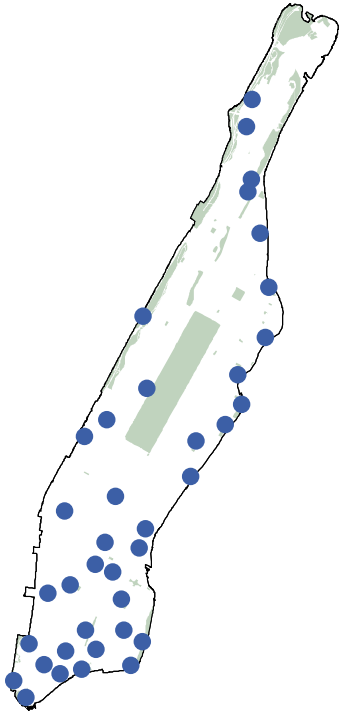


Columbus Park
Raw Score: 99%, Grade: A+



Sperandeo Brothers Playground
Raw Score: 9%, Grade: F

Manhattan



Park Name	2005		2004		2003		CD*	Neighborhood	CB*
	Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Score	Grade			
ALFRED E. SMITH PARK	91	A-	70	C-	n/a	n/a	1	Lower East Side	3
BARUCH PLAYGROUND	66	D	61	D	70	C-	2	Lower East Side	3
BELLEVUE SOUTH PARK	87	B+	72	C-	92	A-	2	Kips Bay	6
BENNETT PARK	84	B	78	C+	77	C+	7	Washington Heights	12
BRYANT PARK	100	A+	100	A+	100	A+	3	Times Square	5
CARL SCHURZ PARK	93	A	81	B-	91	A-	5	Yorkville	8
CHELSEA PARK	93	A	86	B	77	C+	3	Chelsea/Midtown South	4
CITY HALL PARK	98	A+	95	A	98	A+	1	City Hall	1
COL. CHARLES YOUNG PLAYGROUND	85	B	68	D	55	F	9	Harlem	10
COLEMAN PLAYGROUND	65	D	51	F	37	F	1	Chinatown/LES	3
COLUMBUS PARK	83	B	75	C	71	C-	1	Chinatown	3
CORLEARS HOOK PARK	45	F	30	F	53	F	2	Lower East Side	3
DAMROSCH PARK	99	A+	97	A+	95	A	6	Lincoln Square	7
DEWITT CLINTON PARK	77	C+	82	B-	74	C	3	Clinton	4
FREDERICK JOHNSON PARK	87	B+	73	C	76	C	9	Sugar hill	10
HAMILTON FISH PARK	95	A	99	A+	94	A	2	Lower East Side	3
HARLEM RIVER DRIVE PARK	28	F	61	D	50	F	8	East Harlem/Yorkville	11
J. HOOD WRIGHT PARK	79	C+	72	C-	80	B-	10	Washington Heights	12
JACKIE ROBINSON PARK	68	D	53	F	70	C-	7	Hamilton Heights	10

Park Name	2005		2004		2003		CD	Neighborhood	CB
	Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Score	Grade			
JAMES J. WALKER PARK	91	A-	92	A-	98	A+	3	West Village	2
JOHN JAY PARK	91	A-	75	C	79	C+	5	Upper East Side	8
MADISON SQUARE PARK	100	A+	84	B	96	A	3	Flatiron	5
PUBLIC PLACE (BATTERY PARK CITY)	98	A+	99	A+	97	A+	1	Battery Park City	1
QUEENSBORO OVAL	86	B	68	D	58	F	5	Turtle Bay	8
SAKURA PARK	93	A	94	A	87	B+	7	Morningside Heights	9
SARA D. ROOSEVELT PARK	70	C-	54	F	55	F	1	Lower East Side	3
SEWARD PARK	79	C+	73	C	94	A	2	Lower East Side	3
ST. CATHERINE'S PARK	79	C+	82	B-	96	A	5	Upper East Side	8
ST. VARTAN PARK	85	B	96	A	91	A-	4	Murray Hill/Kips Bay	6
STANLEY ISAACS COURT	54	F	70	C-	71	C-	4	East Harlem/Yorkville	8
STUYVESANT SQUARE	94	A	92	A-	97	A+	2	Gramercy Park	6
THEODORE ROOSEVELT PARK	99	A+	97	A+	94	A	6	Upper West Side	7
THOMAS JEFFERSON PARK	70	C-	82	B-	54	F	8	East Harlem	11
TOMPKINS SQUARE PARK	85	B	69	D	67	D	2	East Village	3
UNION SQUARE PARK	96	A	90	A-	98	A+	2	Gramercy Park	5
WASHINGTON MARKET PARK	94	A	88	B+	91	A-	1	Tribeca	1
WASHINGTON SQUARE PARK	90	A-	86	B	85	B	1	Greenwich Village	2



Bryant Park
Raw Score: 100%, Grade: A+

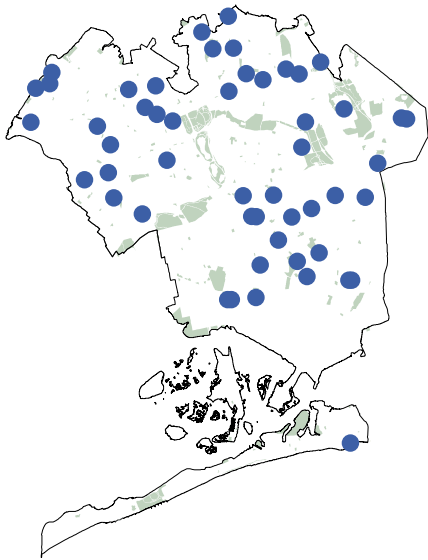


Madison Square Park
Raw Score: 100%, Grade: A+



Harlem River Drive Park
Raw Score: 28%, Grade: F

Queens



Park Name	2005		2004		2003		CD*	Neighborhood	CB*
	Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Score	Grade			
BAYSIDE FIELDS	61	D	79	C+	64	D	19	Auburndale	11
BIG BUSH PARK	72	C-	88	B+	69	D	26	Woodside	2
BOWNE PARK	94	A	84	B	80	B-	19	Auburndale / Whitestone 7	
BREININGER PARK	91	A-	75	C	84	B	23	Bellerose	13
BULOVA PARK	75	C	82	B-	75	C	21	Astoria	3
CAPTAIN TILLY PARK	82	B-	56	F	70	C-	24	Jamaica Hills	8
DETECTIVE KEITH L. WILLIAMS PARK	88	B+	77	C+	84	B	27	Hollis / Jamaica	12
DOUGHBOY PLAZA	97	A+	95	A	94	A	26	Woodside	2
DR. CHARLES R. DREW MEMORIAL PARK	93	A	89	B+	67	D	28	South Jamaica	12
EAST ELMHURST PLAYGROUND	65	D	78	C+	67	D	21	East Elmhurst	3
FARM PLAYGROUND/P.S. 26	88	B+	85	B	67	D	23	Fresh Meadows	8
FLUSHING FIELDS	85	B	95	A	91	A-	20	Linden Hill/Whitestone	7
FRANCIS LEWIS PARK	75	C	80	B-	67	D	19	Whitestone	7
FRANK GOLDEN PARK	87	B+	77	C+	n/a	n/a	19	College Point	7
GROVER CLEVELAND PARK	90	A-	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	30	Ridgewood	5
HAGGERTY PARK	88	B+	89	B+	84	B	27	Bellaire	12
HALLETS COVE PLAYGROUND	87	B+	55	F	80	B-	26	Astoria	1
HARVEY PARK	87	B+	74	C	73	C	19	Whitestone	7
JOHN GOLDEN PARK	81	B-	83	B	42	F	19	Bayside	11
LINDEN PARK	86	B	75	C	56	F	21	Corona	4
LINNAEUS PLAYGROUND	92	A-	94	A	79	C+	23	Oakland Gardens	11
LOST BATTALION HALL	74	C	99	A+	90	A-	25	Rego Park	6
MAFERA PARK	95	A	74	C			30	Glendale	5

Park Name	2005		2004		2003		CD	Neighborhood	CB
	Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Score	Grade			
MANTON PLAYGROUND	83	B	64	D	90	A-	24	Briarwood	8
MARCONI PARK	68	D	76	C	44	F	28	Jamaica	12
MARGARET I. CARMAN GREEN	79	C+	84	B	83	B	19	Murray Hill/Kips Bay	7
MAURICE PARK	68	D	91	A-	57	F	26	West Maspeth	5
MONTBELLIER PARK	83	B	78	C+	63	D	31	Laurelton	12
MURRAY PLAYGROUND	88	B+	80	B-	71	C-	26	Long Island City	2
NAUTILUS PLAYGROUND	88	B+	65	D	76	C	27	South Jamaica	12
NORTHERN PLAYGROUND	81	B-	82	B-	81	B-	21	Jackson Heights	3
O'DONOHUE PARK	72	C-	66	D	70	C-	31	Far Rockaway	14
PETERS FIELD	85	B	82	B-	89	B+	27	Hollis	12
PLAYGROUND NINETY XC	86	B	86	B	81	B-	25	Jackson Heights	3
POLICE OFFICER EDWARD BYRNE PK	82	B-	85	B	82	B-	31	South Ozone	10
POWELL'S COVE PARK	91	A-	82	B-	85	B	19	College Point	7
RAINEY PARK	67	D	66	D	32	F	26	Astoria/Ravenswood	1
RAYMOND O'CONNOR PARK	88	B+	71	C-	61	D	19	Bayside	11
REIFF PLAYGROUND	95	A	88	B+	69	D	29	Maspeth	5
ROCHDALE PARK	77	C+	83	B	67	D	28	Springfield Gardens	12
RUFUS KING PARK	87	B+	72	C-			28	Jamaica	12
SAUL WEPRIN PLAYGROUND	95	A	94	A	83	B	19	Fresh Meadows	11
SOCRATES SCULPTURE PARK	98	A+	80	B-	92	A-	26	Astoria/Ravenswood	1
SOUTHERN FIELDS	68	D	64	D	22	F	32	South Ozone	10
ST. ALBANS PARK	90	A-	88	B+	86	B	27	Saint Albans	12
TENNEY PARK	98	A+	90	A-	80	B-	23	Glen Oaks	13
WAYANDA PARK	93	A	77	C+	51	F	27	Bellaire	13

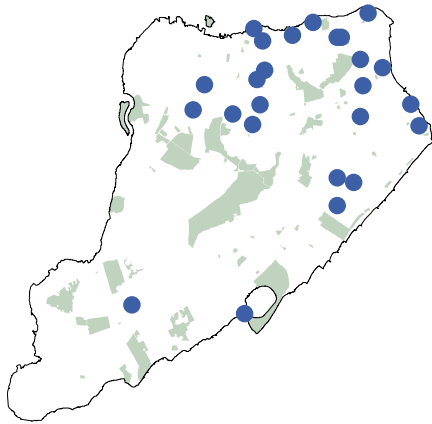


Tenney Park
Raw Score: 98%, Grade: A+



Bayside Fields
Raw Score: 61%, Grade: D

Staten Island



Alice Austen House & Park
Raw Score: 99%, Grade: A



Ingram Wood
Raw Score: 67%, Grade: D

Park Name	2005		2004		2003		CD*	Neighborhood	CB*
	Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Score	Grade			
ALICE AUSTEN HOUSE & PARK	99	A+	94	A	90	A-	49	Rosebank	11
ALLISON PARK	89	B+	88	B+	84	B	49	Randall Manor	11
ARTHUR VON BRIESEN PARK	95	A	98	A+	98	A+	51	Shore Acres	11
CPL. THOMPSON PARK	98	A+	93	A	90	A-	49	Livingston	11
FABER PARK	94	A	95	A	84	B	49	Port Richmond	11
FATHER MACRIS PARK	98	A+	93	A	n/a	n/a	49	Graniteville	12
HERO PARK	92	A-	97	A+	96	A	49	Ward Hill	11
IDA COURT	95	A	86	B	73	C	51	Annadale	13
INGRAM WOOD	67	D	46	F	38	F	50	Westerleigh	11
JENNIFER PARK (form. GRANITEVILLE)	97	A+	93	A	85	B	49	Graniteville	11
LUIS R. LOPEZ PARK	94	A	85	B	90	A-	49	Park Hill	11
MACARTHUR PARK	93	A	86	B	71	C-	50	Dongan Hills	12
MIDLAND FIELD	89	B+	78	C+	52	F	50	Midland Beach	12
NORTH SHORE ESPLANADE	96	A	82	B-	88	B+	49	Saint George	11
NORTHERLEIGH PARK	69	D	84	B	80	B-	49	Elm Park	11
SEASIDE WILDLIFE NATURE PARK	97	A+	98	A+	96	A	51	Great Kills Harbor	13
STAPLETON PLAYGROUND	86	B	64	D	n/a	n/a	49	Stapleton	11
TAPPEN PARK	76	C	52	F	58	F	49	Stapleton	11
VETERANS PARK	88	B+	82	B-	85	B	49	Port Richmond	11
WALKER PARK	96	A	96	A	95	A	49	Livingston	11
WESTERLEIGH PARK	94	A	84	B	98	A+	49	Westerleigh	11
WESTWOOD	69	D	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	49	Westerleigh	12

*CD = City Council District; CB = Community Board

New Yorkers for Parks

New Yorkers for Parks (NY4P) is the only independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and protecting the city's 28,800 acres of parkland. NY4P serves as a watchdog for the people of New York and their parks – committed to attaining a higher level of park services in every community.

NY4P works to:

- Raise awareness about the importance of parks as a vital public service – the foundation of a healthy, safe and thriving community.
- Serve as an independent watchdog that works to ensure a more equitable and efficient park and recreational system for all New Yorkers.
- Create public discussion regarding best practices for funding, managing and designing parks and recreational programs.

In addition to *The Report Card on Parks*, NY4P also produces numerous research projects and community outreach events. All of these efforts are designed to keep parks and open spaces on the public agenda and to provide park users with tools that help them to advocate for improved park services.

Neighborhood Parks Initiative

A historic, \$100 million public-private partnership between the City of New York, the Central Park Conservancy, the City Parks Foundation and NY4P that will bring capital renovations, improved maintenance, regular programming and a full-time staff presence to 100 of the city's most neglected parks over the next six years.

Parks Advocacy Day

Each spring NY4P brings more than 500 New Yorkers together with their elected officials to discuss citywide park issues as well as constituents' local concerns. This daylong event at City Hall is essential to bringing citywide and local park issues to the City Council's attention and it allows New Yorkers from all of the five boroughs to take an active role in our city's policy and budget debate.

The Parks I Campaign

In November, New Yorkers will be asked to cast their votes for Mayor, Comptroller, Borough President and City Council. Given this historic opportunity, NY4P launched the Parks I Campaign to make parks a priority. Together with hundreds of community partners, we will ask our elected officials and candidates to pledge to make New York City's parks the best in the nation and to commit 1% of the city's overall budget to parks maintenance. Visit www.parks1.org.

Community Design Program

The Community Design Program provides pro bono professional planning, design and research assistance to NYC based organizations interested in creating or improving open space in their communities.

Daffodil Project

The Project was co-founded in 2001 by NY4P and the New York City DPR as a living memorial to the events of September 11th. Since then, it has brightened parks and public space across the five boroughs, allowing over 20,000 volunteers to take ownership of their urban spaces in a personal and concrete way and spreading almost two and a half million daffodils across the five boroughs.

City Council District Profiles

These bi-annual *Profiles* offer residents in each City Council District a comprehensive source of information on park services available in their neighborhoods. They document parks and open space in each district and include information on neighborhood demographics, health, crime and education.

Community Report Card on Parks

In early 2005, NY4P implemented the *Community Report Card*. Community participants will grade the performance of their parks against a uniform citywide grading standard. By providing residents and civic groups with the means to evaluate the state of their parks, the project will help them to work for increased funding and improved maintenance for their parks, while increasing the efficiency and accountability of municipal government.



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