



Public Realm Bill of Rights

FOR

New York City

W **E THE PEOPLE** of New York City, in order to form a more perfect metropolis; establish parks and open spaces as critical urban infrastructure; ensure parks as a key component of public health and tranquility; provide for the maintenance of these spaces; promote equitable access in all five boroughs; secure and make safe the public realm for ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Public Realm Bill of Rights for New York City.

ARTICLE I

Access

All New Yorkers have a right to open space in their communities, and every New Yorker should live within a 5-minute walk to a park, garden, or green space. Every user should feel safe traveling to and within these spaces.

ARTICLE II

Infrastructure

Parks and open spaces are essential parts of New York City's infrastructure. The process of park improvements should be equitable and inclusive of communities surrounding parks. As residential density increases, community planning processes should ensure adequate provision of parks and open spaces, improvements to these spaces, and maintenance of these spaces.

ARTICLE III

Health

Access to nearby parks and open spaces benefits New Yorkers' public, social, psychological, and physical health. These spaces should provide programs and amenities that reflect the needs and character of the neighborhoods they serve. Parks and open spaces should also support civic action, assembly, and speech.

ARTICLE IV

Environment

New York City parks and green spaces provide ecological benefits for city residents and urban wildlife. Green spaces should support multiple ecosystem services to make the city more resilient in the face of a changing climate and extreme weather.

ARTICLE V

Funding

Parks should be funded primarily by public dollars, and every park should be kept to a high standard of care. Our parks and gardens are essential city infrastructure, and should be funded and maintained as such.