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Strapped for Cash: New Report by New Yorkers for Parks Examines Revenues beyond the City Budget to Support Parks

June 15, 2010—New York, NY, The latest report from New Yorkers for Parks, “Supporting Our Parks: A Guide to Alternative Revenue Strategies,” provides a detailed look at the opportunities to generate funding outside of the city budget to support parks. In this time of fiscal restraint, the report offers a balanced, comprehensive look at potential revenue streams to ensure our parks remain clean, green and safe.

“This much-needed study provides an easy-to-use look at the many alternative sources of funding that can be tapped to maintain our parks,” stated Lee Stuart, Executive Director of New Yorkers for Parks. “The City uses capital dollars creatively and effectively to construct new parks and restore older ones, but new parks and renovations are not accompanied by a parallel increase in the maintenance budget for the Department of Parks & Recreation. The combined impact of new parks and shrinking budgets means that maintenance is even more stretched, particularly for neighborhood parks relying solely on public funds,” she added.

New Yorkers for Parks conducted this analysis through extensive research of funding strategies currently used in New York City, Chicago, San Francisco, and beyond. Funding opportunities in the report include establishing a parks tax district, dedicating a portion of the growth in real estate values to park maintenance, and redistributing revenue from concessions operated on parkland to support neighborhood parks. Other cities have successfully instituted these types of strategies.

Rather than recommending a specific strategy, New Yorkers for Parks offers the report as a tool for community groups, park advocates and city agencies looking for creative funding sources. “Supporting Our Parks” also highlights funding opportunities for six neighborhood parks to demonstrate the potential for these smaller, local parks to harness additional funds.

New Yorkers for Parks is the independent organization fighting for greener, cleaner and safer parks in all five boroughs. We provide the tools that help communities build better parks for better neighborhoods. Great parks make a great city.

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