



*Todt Hill, Emerson Hill, Heartland Village,  
Lighthouse Hill, Great Kills, Annadale, Huguenot,  
Prince's Bay, Eltingville, Rossville, Woodrow, Arden  
Heights, Charleston, Richmond Valley, Tottenville*



**Parks are an essential city service.** They are the barometers of our city. From Flatbush to Flushing and Morrisania to Midtown, parks are the front and backyards of all New Yorkers. Well-maintained and designed parks offer recreation and solace, improve property values, reduce crime, and contribute to healthy communities.



*Bloomingdale Park, Woodrow*

The Bloomberg Administration's PlaNYC is the first-ever effort to sustainably address the many infrastructure needs of New York City, including parks. With targets set for stormwater management, air quality and more, the City is working to update infrastructure for a growing population while addressing environmental concerns. Through ambitious goals to increase access to parks and open spaces, New York's fiscally prudent administration affirms that investing in parks is good business.

Park innovations have flourished in recent years. The creation of Hudson River Park and the revitalization of Bryant Park allow access to areas that were previously off-limits due to

physical barriers or crime. As a result, studies show significant increases in nearby real estate values. Greenways are expanding waterfront access while creating safer routes for cyclists and pedestrians, and the new initiative to reclaim streets for public use brings fresh vibrancy to the city.

New York City's population is projected to increase by one million new residents by 2030, and demand for our 29,000 acres of parkland will only grow. It is imperative that creative efforts to expand our open spaces continue—but perhaps more importantly, existing parks must be protected, maintained and adequately funded to best serve current and future New Yorkers.

#### SHOWCASE:

### *Wolfe's Pond Park*

*The Report Card on Beaches* is modeled after New Yorkers for Parks' award-winning *Report Card on Parks*. Through the results of independent inspections, it tells New Yorkers how well the City's seven beaches are maintained in four key service areas: shorelines, pathways, bathrooms, and drinking fountains. *The Report Card on Beaches* is an effort to highlight these important facilities and ensure that New York City's 14 miles of beaches are open, clean, and safe. Wolfe's Pond Park is one of the seven public beaches owned and operated by the City's Parks Department. In 2007, this beach was rated "unsatisfactory." Its shoreline and bathrooms performed poorly. Visit [www.ny4p.org](http://www.ny4p.org) for more information on the *Report Card on Beaches*.



# Citywide

## CITYWIDE Parks by the Numbers

**29,000**  
Acres of parkland

**1,700**  
Parks

**1,000**  
Playgrounds

**2,300**  
Greenstreets

**12,000**  
Acres of natural areas

**600,000**  
Park trees

**2 million**  
Street trees

**14**  
Miles of beaches

**800**  
Athletic fields

**50**  
Recreation centers

**66**  
Pools

**6**  
Ice rinks

**22**  
Historic house museums

**1,000**  
Monuments, sculptures and  
historical markers

## A New Master Plan for Parks

Significant steps have been made toward PlaNYC's parks and open space targets, which include ensuring that every New Yorker lives within a 10-minute walk of a park and planting 1 million trees. Important projects like the development of regional parks and the "schoolyards-to-playgrounds" initiative, which opens schoolyards after hours to the public, increase recreation space, thus resulting in an even greater need for maintenance funds.

PlaNYC shows the City's commitment to improving open space and recreation opportunities. Now, we must take the next step and create a master plan for New York City's parks, which does not exist today. A master plan would respond to particular neighborhood and regional needs and outline how best to expand the park system to serve current and future residents.

Any expansion to the parks system requires maintenance funding. Most city parks rely on public funding, but this is not a predictable source as evidenced by the current economic recession. While spending on park maintenance increased by 50 percent under Mayor Bloomberg between 2003 and 2008, a gloomy economic forecast can be expected to result in cuts to the Parks budget in 2009 and beyond. Public-private partnerships will be affected by the recession as well. Innovative funding streams—as well as improved management strategies—can help ensure that the parks system will weather these storms.



Top: Breininger Playground, Queens  
Above: Central Park, Manhattan

### Historical City Funding for the Parks Department (Adjusted)

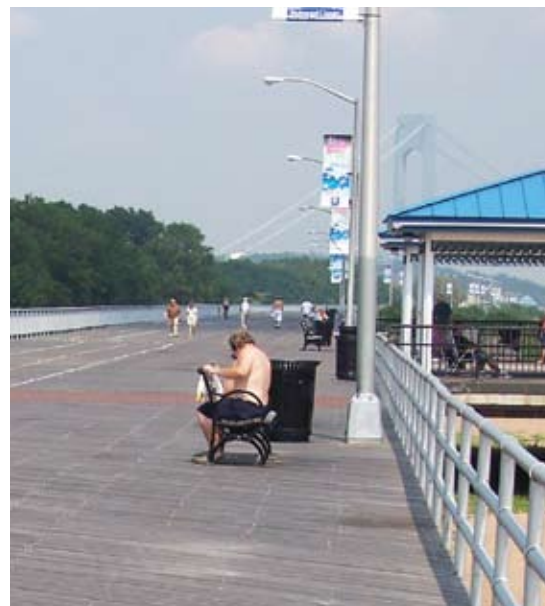
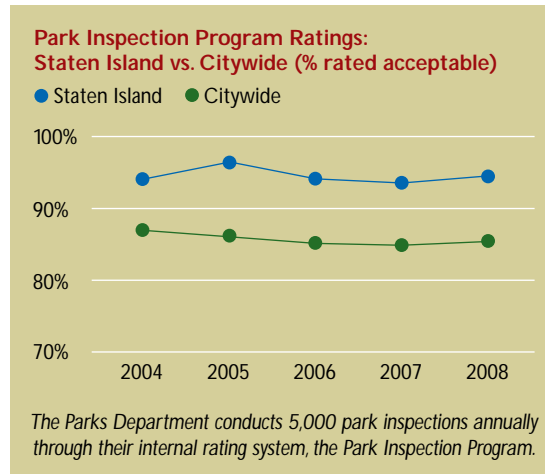


# By the Borough: Staten Island

## Fresh Kills Park

Staten Island's moniker is "the borough of parks" due to its tremendous natural areas and large open spaces comprising 7,500 acres. Once constructed, the crown jewel of its park system will certainly be Fresh Kills Park, which will become the City's second largest park, behind Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx. At its completion Fresh Kills Park will span 2,200 acres and promises water access, including kayak launches, sports fields, and play spaces for children.

Five non-profit partner groups fundraise for Staten Island parks, in addition to 10 groups that raise money to support parks citywide.



At left: Clove Lakes Park, West Brighton  
Above: South Beach, South Beach

## STATEN ISLAND Parks by the Numbers

4,742

Acres of natural areas

56

Playgrounds

40

Comfort stations

174

Drinking fountains

37

Athletic fields

48

Basketball courts

300

Greenstreets

8

Pools

## Staten Island Park Staffing

17

Gardeners & Assistant Gardeners

102

City Parks Workers & Associate Park Service Workers

19

Park Supervisors

15

Recreation Directors & Specialists

7

Playground Associates

17

Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) Officers & Urban Park Rangers

### Staten Island has the 2nd highest percentage of land devoted to parks of the five boroughs.

	Staten Island	Citywide
Park acreage	7,474	29,000
Percent of borough devoted to parks	20%	14%

### Staten Island has the lowest number of residents per acre of parkland of the five boroughs.

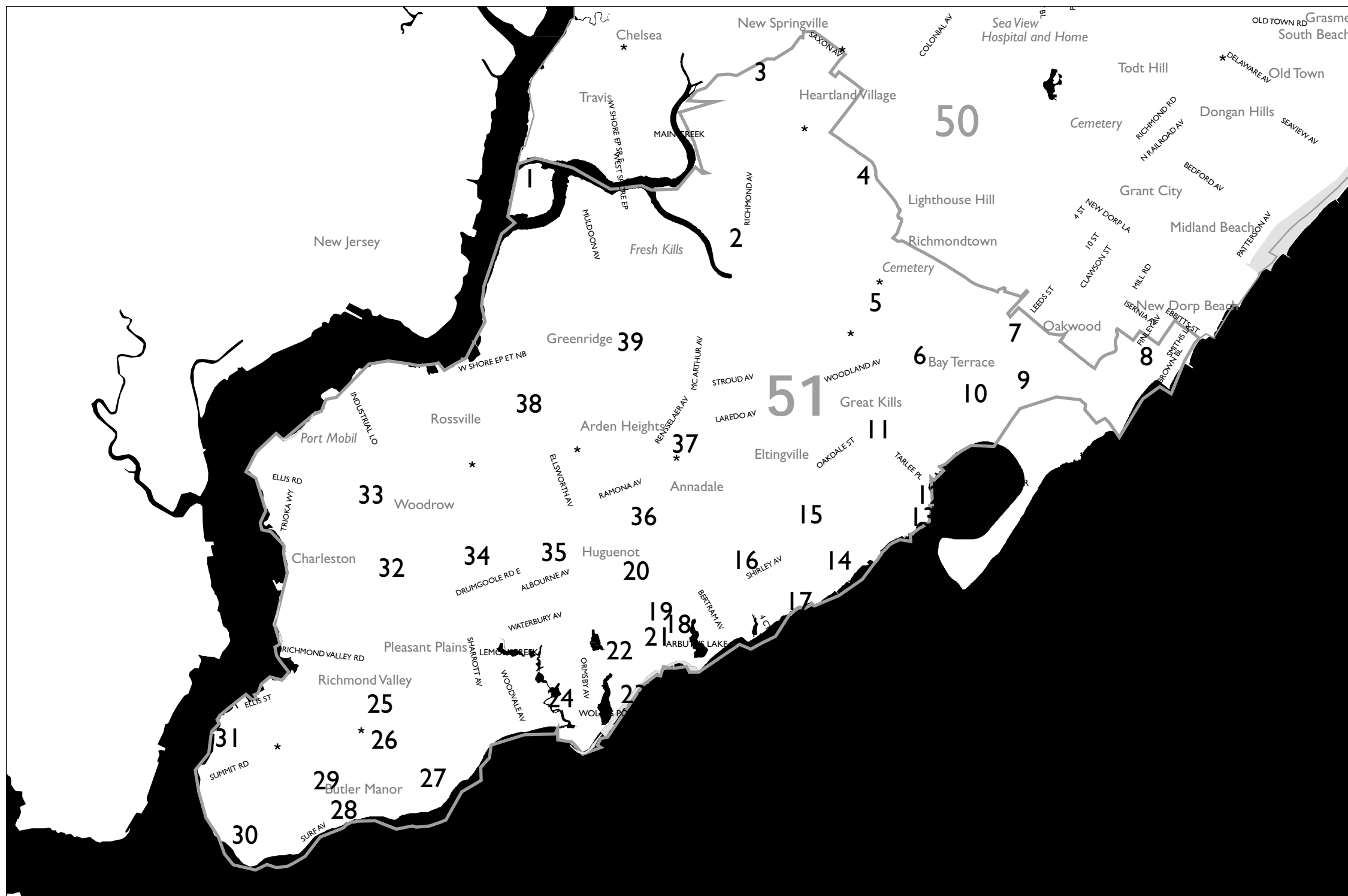
	Staten Island	Citywide
Total population	444,000	8 million
Residents per acre of parkland	59	276

### Staten Island has the greatest tree canopy coverage of the five boroughs.

	Staten Island	Citywide
Tree canopy (trees on public and private land)	34%	24%
Number of street trees per mile of sidewalk	49	41



# STATEN ISLAND CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 51



From Staten Island Community Board 3:

“

There is a serious lack of bathroom facilities in our parks. This creates an unacceptable and unhealthy condition in our parks and playgrounds. Funds must be allocated and construction expedited to provide comfort stations in Wolfe's Pond Park, Lemon Creek, the fishing pier at Sharrots Avenue, Conference House Park and other park locations where people congregate.

”

Statement of Needs for Fiscal Year 2008

## Parks, playgrounds and beaches

- |                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Isle of Meadows                   | 20 Huguenot Ponds Park             |
| 2 William T Davis Wildlife Preserve | 21 Prescott Playground             |
| 3 Fresh Kills Park                  | 22 Wolfe's Pond Park               |
| 4 La Tourette Park and Golf Course  | 23 Wolfe's Pond Beach              |
| 5 Kingfisher Park                   | 24 Lemon Creek Park                |
| 6 Christopher J. Sledenburg Park    | 25 Long Pond Park                  |
| 7 Willowbrook Parkway               | 26 Aesop Playground                |
| 8 Cedar Grove                       | 27 Mount Loretto State Unique Area |
| 9 Great Kills Park                  | 28 Hybrid Oaks Woods Parks         |
| 10 Greencroft Playground            | 29 Joline Pool Playground          |
| 11 Great Kills Veterans Playground  | 30 Conference House Park           |
| 12 Seaside Wildlife Nature Park     | 31 Tottenville Shore Park          |
| 13 Crescent Beach                   | 32 Fairview Park                   |
| 14 Olmsted-Beil House               | 33 Clay Pit Ponds                  |
| 15 PS 55                            | 34 Bloomingdale Park               |
| 16 Blue Heron Park                  | 35 Carlton Park                    |
| 17 Bayview Terrace Park             | 36 Ida Court Park                  |
| 18 Bunker Ponds Park                | 37 Korean War Veterans Parkway     |
| 19 Kingdom Pond Park                | 38 South Shore Golf Course         |
|                                     | 39 Arden Heights Woods             |

**LEGEND**

- 1/2 Mile
- Council District Border
- New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) parks, playgrounds and greenstreets
- DPR natural areas
- DPR community gardens
- Other community gardens
- DPR beaches
- State and federal parkland
- City-owned vacant land
- \* DPR schoolyards-to-playgrounds sites

*(Schoolyards-to-playgrounds is a citywide PlaNYC initiative to open schoolyards to the public during afterschool hours.)*



## Tools for Action

Let your elected officials know how important parks are to you.

City Council Member: Vincent Ignizio	ignizio@council.nyc.ny.us
Staten Island Community Board 2	(718) 317-3235
Staten Island Community Board 3	(718) 356-7900
City of New York	311 or www.nyc.gov
State and Federal Representatives	www.elections.state.ny.us
New Yorkers for Parks	www.ny4p.org

### DATA SOURCES

All data is from 2008 unless noted. "Citywide": Parks by the Numbers - NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR); Budget chart - Adopted Budgets, NYC Office of Management and Budget (OMB), FY 1989-2009, Preliminary Budget, OMB, FY 2010. "By the borough": PIP Ratings, By the numbers & Staffing - DPR; Trees - "Trees Count" Street Tree Census report, 2005-2006, DPR. This page: Population - Census2000; Language access - Infoshare.org; Civic engagement - NYC Board of Elections and NYC Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DOITT), FY 2008; Park resources and PIP ratings - DPR; Community Gardens - Council on the Environment of NYC; Vacant land - MapPLUTO copyrighted by the New York City Department of Planning, BYTES of the Big Apple; Health - NYS Department of Health, 2006 via Infoshare.org; Education - NYC and NYS Departments of Education, 2007-2008, analysis by the Annenberg Foundation.

### MAP DATA

NYC Parks properties - DPR; State parks - NYS Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; National parks - National Park Service, 2006; Council District boundaries - BYTES of the Big Apple, DCP, 2005; Schoolyards-to-Playgrounds - DPR.



# The Future of New York City Parks

With the promise of Fresh Kills Park in Staten Island and the completion of regional parks citywide, New York City's park system will expand over the coming decades in a manner not seen since the 1930s. With sound planning and sufficient funding, our park system will flourish.

Although the City has an obligation to fund parks, we have seen that in times of fiscal crisis, parks suffer. We must ensure that all parks—particularly those that cannot rely on private funding—receive adequate public support.

While “friends of” groups and the robust volunteer program administered through Partnerships for Parks have a positive impact on park maintenance, more dollars are needed. Park advocates have long debated how to ensure funding streams outside of the city budget to maintain our parks in all fiscal climates. The funding mechanisms below have been successful in New York City and elsewhere. Now is the time to carefully examine these strategies to plan for the future.

**Concessions:** More than \$50 million is earned annually from concessions such as food stands and ice skating rinks operated on City parkland. Some public-private partnerships are allowed to keep a portion of concession revenues earned in particular parks through unique agreements with the City. But in the vast majority of

parks, the money is directed to the City's General Fund. New Yorkers for Parks has long advocated for City Hall to allow the Parks Department to retain a portion of this revenue to offset maintenance costs throughout the system, as is done in other cities such as Chicago.

**Property Taxes:** Business Improvement Districts have a long history of funding park maintenance through tax revenues, with Bryant Park as the lead example. Friends of Hudson River Park is pursuing this structure. Such arrangements place some of the costs of park maintenance on businesses or residents whose property values benefit from a well-maintained park.

**Public-Private Partnerships:** More than 30 park-specific non-profits around the city fundraise for specific parks—such as the Battery Conservancy and the Riverside Park Fund. Groups typically raise money for capital projects or ongoing park maintenance; however, this strategy has worked only in high-income areas.

**Zoning Bonuses:** Developer incentives to improve open space can produce successful results. In West Chelsea, the City passed a special zoning amendment that allowed developers to build higher in exchange for contributing to an ongoing maintenance fund to benefit the new public High Line Park. This structure should be explored citywide.



Top: Madison Square Park, Manhattan  
Middle: Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, Queens  
Above: Vidalia Park, Bronx



Ensuring greener, safer,  
cleaner parks, together.

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