



January 21, 2026

Honorable Zohran Mamdani
Mayor of the City of New York
New York City Hall
New York, New York 10007

Dear Mayor Mamdani,

Congratulations from parks advocates across the city on your historic victory.

We write on behalf of the Play Fair for Parks Coalition, founded and led by New Yorkers for Parks, New York League of Conservation Voters and District Council 37 and comprised of over 400+ organizations calling for transformative investment in New York City's parks system. Free to the public, our parks are central to an affordable and thriving New York City.

We appreciate your commitment to dedicate 1% of the city budget for NYC Parks maintenance and operations and applaud the recently announced investment in modular bathrooms in parks, one of the goals in our [Parks 2030](#) platform and [First 100 Days for Parks](#) agenda.

As we approach the start of the FY27 budget cycle, your administration has the opportunity to rebuild an agency crippled by decades of disinvestment and, more recently, four years of disproportionate budget/PEG cuts and a hiring freeze. It is time for New York City to lead the nation and the world in its vision for parks and open spaces.

A recent [New York Times poll](#) asked readers to vote on 17 ways your administration can improve New York City. Fully funding our city's parks won handily, with 35,551 New Yorkers identifying this investment as a key priority. Why? New Yorkers love and rely on these spaces, yet they have seen the steady depletion of NYC Parks and its workforce. They experience inequitable conditions based on their zip code. And they see how forward-thinking cities across the country have invested in their parks systems to improve quality of life, address climate change, strengthen public health and so much more.

Investing with vision in NYC Parks means investing in thousands of union workers who steward 30,000 acres of public parkland, or 14% of New York City. It means investing in working families in every borough who depend on our parks. Parks are the original universal free childcare in that they are the playgrounds that our entire city relies upon for physical and social resilience.

Your administration can change this negative trajectory now. The following are the critical staffing investments New Yorkers need for our parks system:

1. Baseline the 274 parks positions currently funded by one-year contracts (Parks Enforcement Patrol, Rangers, Forestry, etc.) to retain staff long-term.
2. End the hiring freeze and restore 600 eliminated full-time baselined union parks positions (City Parks Workers, Forestry, Capital Projects, frontline staff).
3. Add 460 Parks 2nd-shift cleaners to staff 400 high-use sites and keep parks and restrooms clean.

4. Add 227 forestry staff to address a backlog of 20,000+ uninspected tree conditions and 35,000+ open work orders.
5. Create borough-specific mowing crews by adding 80 dedicated lawn-care positions to address the agency's documented inability to care for park lawns and playing fields.
6. Restore 59 capital team positions and add 60 more so that the nearly 100 stalled capital projects can resume, unlocking ~\$450M in neighborhood green space and resiliency investments.
7. Increase trades staffing by 40% (130 tradespeople: plumbers, electricians, carpenters, masons, roofers, painters, etc.) for faster repairs and violation clearing.
8. Invest \$21.2M to expand hours/services at all 36 recreation centers so 22 centers can operate 7 days/week, providing more programming and access.
9. Add 250 PEP officers to increase the uniformed presence at 120 high-need parks.
10. Increase overtime funding to \$40M so Parks can respond to storms, emergencies, and routine repairs outside regular hours.

The impact of the lost staffing lines is clear. The remaining Parks workers are overburdened by the sheer volume of users—millions of residents who crave spaces to connect with our fellow New Yorkers. As a result, New Yorkers are visiting parks that are poorly maintained, with just 65% of parks across the city achieving the agency's own Vital Parks score goals.

As the city confronts rising costs, deepening inequality, and climate threats, your administration now has an opportunity to not only fully reverse the staffing cuts to NYC Parks, but to put our city's parks, and all New Yorkers, on the path to a prosperous, safe, clean, and green future.

Sincerely,



Adam Ganser
Executive Director, New Yorkers for Parks



Julie Tighe
President, New York League of Conservation Voters

The 400+ members of the Play Fair for Parks Coalition (Listed on Pages 3-7)

CC:

Dean Fuleihan, First Deputy Mayor
Elle Bisgaard-Church, Chief of Staff
Julia Kerson, Deputy Mayor for Operations
Sherif Soliman, Director of the Office of Management and Budget
Louise Yeung, Chief Climate Officer
Tricia Shimamura, New York City Parks Commissioner
Julie Menin, City Council Speaker
Linda Lee, City Council Finance Committee Chair
Ty Hankerson, City Council Parks Committee Chair
Jumaane Williams, New York City Public Advocate
Mark Levine, New York City Comptroller
Shekar Krishnan, City Councilmember

The Play Fair for Parks Coalition:

10th & Stuyvesant Streets Block Association
34th Avenue Open Streets Coalition
142nd St. Dog Run
300 West Block Association
52 People for Progress
6BC Botanical Garden
A Patch of Inspiration Garden
A. Philip Randolph Square Neighborhood Alliance
Abraham Lincoln Neighborhood Development Association
AIA New York
Alice Austen House Museum
Alley Pond Environmental Center
Alliance for Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Alliance for Kips Bay
American Society of Landscape Architects, New York Chapter
Astoria Park Alliance
Baisley Pond Park Block Association
Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum
Bedford Mosholu Community Association
Bergen-Kingston Block Association
Berlin Rosen
BetaNYC
Big Apple Badminton
Bike New York
Bissel Gardens BX
Boerum Hill School for International Studies
Boogie Down Bronx Runners
Brite Leadership Coalition/ENY
Broadway Mall Association
Bronx Coalition for Parks & Green Spaces
Bronx Community Board 8
Bronx Community Health Network
Bronx Council for Environmental Quality
Bronx Land Trust
Bronx Mama
Bronx Park East Community Association
Bronx River Alliance
Bronx River Community Garden
Bronx Roots in Motion
Brookfield Civic Association
Brooklyn Bird Club

Brooklyn Botanic Garden
Brooklyn Bridge Manhattan
Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy
Brooklyn Greenway Initiative
Brooklyn Parks & Open Space Coalition
Brooklyn Lakeside Curling Club
Brooklyn Queens Land Trust
Brown Bike Girl
Buenavista Futbol Club Inc
BX Arts Factory
CABS Home Care
Cadman Park Conservancy/Brooklyn War Memorial
Carl Schurz Park Conservancy
Carnegie Hill Neighbors
Central Park Conservancy
Center for an Urban Future
ChaShaMa
Chelsea Waterside Park Association
Citizen Gardeners
Citizens Budget Commission
Citizens' Climate Lobby
Citizens' Committee for Children
City Growers
City Island Rising
City Parks Foundation
Clean Bushwick Initiative
Cleveland-Pitkin Block Association
Clinton Garden
Coastal Preservation Network
Cobble Hill Association
Common Ground Compost
Concrete Plant Park Friends
Coney Island Beautification Project
Conference House Association
Conference House Park Conservancy Inc.
Cooper Park Dog Run
Cortelyou Road Merchant Association
Court Square Civic Association
Cosmopolitan Jr. Soccer League
Davey Resource Group, Inc.
DC37 Retirees Association
Design Trust for Public Space
Different Directions

DLANDstudio
Dogs of Mott Haven
Douglaston Local Development Corporation
Downtown Alliance
Downtown Brooklyn Partnership
Downtown United Soccer Club
Drew Gardens
Drew Gardens Educational Recreation
Earth Avengers
Earth Matter NY Inc.
Earth Ministry of the Church of the Mediator
East 43rd Street Community Garden
East NY 4 Gardens
Edgemere Coalition Community Garden
Edso Sports, Inc.
El Garden Bushwick
El Jardín del Paraíso
El Puente
Elite Learners, Inc.
Ellington on the Park
Elmhurst Supporters of Parks
Fieldston Rd. Association
Flushing Meadows-Corona Park
Conservancy
Forest Hills Green Team
Fort Four Playground
Fort Greene Park Conservancy
Fort Greene Tennis Association
Fort Tryon Park Trust
Forth on Fourth Avenue
Franklin Plaza Activities Committee
Fresh Creek Nature Association
Friends of 29th St Park
Friends of 4 Parks Alliance
Friends of Abe Lebewohl Park
Friends of Alley Pond Park
Friends of Amersfort Park
Friends of Anibal Aviles Playground
Friends of Aqueduct Walk
Friends of Art Park Alliance
Friends of Astoria Heights Park
Friends of Bellevue South Park
Friends of Bennett Park
Friends of Brookville Park
Friends of Brower Park, Inc.
Friends of Brownsville Parks

Friends of Bufano Park
Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park
Friends of Carroll Park
Friends of City Hall Park
Friends of Corlears Hook Park
Friends of Cunningham Park
Friends of Crocheron & John Golden Park
Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza
Friends of East River Esplanade
Friends of Ewen Park
Friends of Ferry Point Park & Waterways
Friends of Finn Square
Friends of Forest Park
Friends of Fort Defiance
Friends of Francis Lewis Park
Friends of Governors Island
Friends of Inwood Hill Park
Friends of John Hancock Park
Friends of MacDonald Park
Friends of Morningside Park
Friends of Mosholu Parkland
Friends of Pelham Bay Park
Friends of Pelham Parkway
Friends of Raimonda Park
Friends of Raymond Bush Playground
Friends of Red Hook Pool
Friends of Seton Falls Park
Friends of Sherman Creek Conservancy
Friends of Soundview Park
Friends of St. Andrew's Playground
Friends of St. Nicholas Park
Friends of St. Mary's Park
Friends of Straus Park
Friends of Sunset Park
Friends of the High Line
Friends of Tompkins Square Dog Run
Friends of Transmitter Park
Friends of Tremont Park
Friends of Wakefield Playground
Friends of Whalen Park
Friends of Williamsbridge Oval
Forest Hills Green Team
Fort Greene Tennis Association
GallopNYC
Garden Train
Genesis Community Garden

Girl Scout Troop 3205
Girl Scouts of Greater New York
Good and Green
Good Neighbors of Park Slope
Gowanus Canal Conservancy
Green Bronx Machine
Green Guerillas
Green Map System
Green Park Gardeners NYC
Greenbelt Conservancy Inc.
Greenpoint Citizens Club
Guerinos Against Graffiti
Harlem Grown
Harlem Health Advocacy Partners
Havemeyer Garden
Health Essential Association
Hellgate Hill-Highgate Community Association
Highland Park Tennis
Historic House Trust of New York City
Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival in New York
Hudson River Park Friends
Hudson River Park Trust
Hunters Point Civic Association
Hunters Point Parks Conservancy
Hutchinson River Restoration Project
Inwood Hill Park Conservancy
Inwood Rotary Club
Jackson Heights Beautification Group
Jacob H. Schiff Playground Neighborhood Association
Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy
Jardín La Roca
Jenny's Garden
J.M. Kaplan Fund
Kelly St. Garden
Kissena Corridor Park Conservancy, Inc.
Kissena Synergy
Laborers' Local 1010 (LIUNA)
La Petit Versailles
Le'alani S. Boykin Consulting
Lenru Coop
Less AIDS Lesotho
Lewis Latimer House Museum
Lily Auchincloss Foundation

Little Island Park
Little Green Garden
Long Island City Partnership
Lott Street Block Association
Love Our Pool
Loving the Bronx
Lower East Side Ecology Center
Madison Square Park Conservancy
Maggie's Magic Garden
Make McGuinness Safe
Marcus Garvey Park Alliance
Maria Hernandez Park Dog Run Pack
Marine Park Alliance
Marvel
Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center
McCarren Park Dog Run
McCarren Park Handball
Melrose New Generation
Miracle Garden
Morris-Jumel Mansion
Morris Park BID
Morton Street Block Association
Municipal Art Society
Myrtle Ave BID
Nancercize
National Parks Conservation Association
Natural Areas Conservancy
New York Botanical Garden
New York Junior Tennis & Learning
New York League of Conservation Voters
New York Restoration Project
New York Road Runners
New York Skate Association
New York State Parks
Newtown Creek Alliance
North American Climate, Conservation and Environment
North Brooklyn Dogs
North Brooklyn Open Streets
North Brooklyn Parks Alliance
North Brooklyn Neighbors
NYC Audubon
NYC Community Garden Coalition
NYC Family Policy Project
NYC Greenways Coalition
NYC H2O

Open Plans
Out of Bounds New York City
Paedergat Bay Condo II
Parent Child Relationship Association
Patagonia UWS
Park Clinton Gardening
Park Slope United
Parks4Us
Play NYCe
Prime Produce
Project Harmony, Inc.
Prospect Park Alliance
Prospect Park Community Committee
Prospect Pl/New York Ave Block Association
PS166
Q Gardens Community Farm
Queens County Farm Museum
Queensboro Dance Festival
Randall's Island Park Alliance
Rebuild by Design
Red Hook Conservancy
Red Hook West Resident Association, Inc.
Red Shed Community Garden
Richmond Hill Historical Society
RING Garden
Riverdale Main Streets Alliance
Riverside Park Conservancy
Rockaway Initiative for Sustainability and Equity
Row New York
Rude Grooms
Rutgers Resident Association
Safe Zone Cross Culture Youth
SAGE USA
Samaritan Daytop Village
Sara D. Roosevelt Park Coalition
Sedgwick Park Friends & Neighbors
SEEK Program at Medgar Evers College
Seton Falls Park Preservation Coalition
Seward Park Conservancy
The Sierra Club of New York City
Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden
Socrates Sculpture Park
Staten Island Economic Development Corporation

Staten Island Partnership for Community Wellness
Staten Island Women Who March
Stewards of Brust Park
Stewards of Ewen Park
Street Trees Super Steward
Survivor I Am
Sunset Spark
Sutton Place Parks Conservancy
SWIM
Target Bronx Community Garden
Team Spartan Spades
The Bronx is Blooming
The Brotherhood Sister Sol
The Connected Chef
The Forest Park Trust
The Freshkills Park Alliance
The Kensington Stewards
The Kingsbridge Heights Community Center
The League: A Distinguished Gentlemen's Movement
The Movement Creative
The Musical Seeds Project
The Nature Conservancy in New York
The New York Landmarks Conservancy
The Old Stone House and Gardens
The Trust for Public Land
Times Square Alliance
Tinker Tree Play/Care
Total Equity Now Harlem
Tottenville Garden Club
Tour Prospect Park
Transportation Alternatives
Trust for Governors Island
UFT/UCS
Union Square Partnership
United Athletic Association
United Nations International School
United We Stand Garden
UP-STAND
Upper Green Side
Uptown & Boogie Bicycle Advocacy
Urban Justice Center
Van Cortlandt Park Alliance
Verna L. Judge Garden
Volunteers for Isham Park

Volunteers for Springfield Park, Inc.
W 181st St Beautification Project
Warren Community Garden
Washington Square Park Conservancy
Washington Square Park Eco Projects
Waterfront Alliance
WE ACT for Environmental Justice
We Run Brownsville
West 400 Block Association 21st, 22nd &
23rd Streets
West 80s Neighborhood Association
West Harlem Art Fund
Wetherby-Pembridge School
Wildlife Conservation Society
Women of Woodlawn
Woodlawn Taxpayer Association
Wyckoff House Museum
Yorkville Sports Association
Young Buck Sports
Youth Ministries for Peace & Justice