



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 Moshulu 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'alan 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 PI/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-Pembroke School  
Wildlife Conservation Society  
Women of Woodlawn  
Woodlawn Taxpayer Association  
Wyckoff House Museum  
Yorkville Sports Association  
Young Buck Sports  
Youth Ministries for Peace & Justice