Play Fair for Parks Talking Points: FY25 Preliminary Budget

- While we’re grateful to Mayor Adams for restoring the Parks Opportunity Program, the frontline parks cleaning workforce housed under the Human Resources Administration, the Parks Department itself still faces 5% cuts to its already strained maintenance and operations budget.
- These latest 5% cuts to NYC Parks include a hiring freeze which will result in the elimination of over 500 essential jobs.
- These cuts also include the delay or termination of critical programming, including Swim Safety Expansion, Anti-Gun Violence in Community Gardens, Trail Formalization, Tree Risk Management, and NYC SPARX, a Bronx-based technology and arts education program.
- Cuts to Swim Safety Expansion run counter to Mayor Adams’ and Governor Hochul’s efforts to improve pool access and swimming education. Drowning deaths in New York City are a public health crisis disproportionately affecting Black and brown children.
- NYC Parks now has fewer workers than it did before the pandemic despite increased demand and clear need for these spaces, and thousands fewer workers than it had decades ago.
- The NYC budget has grown by 127% since 1980, and every other frontline city agency’s budget has grown by between 127%-165%, while NYC Parks has only grown by 72%.
- We demand 1% of the city budget for NYC Parks. Mayor Adams repeatedly committed to this investment but hasn’t yet followed through.
- Parks are critical infrastructure for public health and safety and are drivers of social equity. They should be funded as such.
- NYC Parks is chronically underfunded and understaffed: there are not nearly enough maintenance workers and PEP officers to keep our parks clean and safe.
- All New Yorkers deserve safe, clean, and green parks, pools, beaches and recreation centers