

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & RECREATION



WHAT WE DO

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) plans, maintains and cares for a more than 30,000 acre municipal parks system that encompasses over 2,000 parks, 1,000 playgrounds, 36 recreation centers, over 650,000 street trees and two million more in parks. DPR's thousands of public programs include free Shape Up NYC fitness classes, Kids in Motion children's programming, swimming lessons and Urban Park Rangers' nature education. Through initiatives like Parks Without Borders, DPR is bringing innovative design to sites across the City. DPR's capital program strengthens the City's infrastructure by developing and improving parks, playgrounds, pools and recreational facilities.

FOCUS ON EQUITY

In the wake of the 2020 social justice movement sparked by George Floyd's death, DPR is working to further its commitment to equity and inclusion. To support the Department's more than 6,000 staff, DPR launched a series of "Reflections On" listening sessions and is planning programming to help address staff trauma and other effects of systemic racism. The Department is also devising a strategic plan that advances its commitment to ensure a diverse workforce and fairness around recruitment and promotional opportunities within.

Additionally, DPR launched an internal committee to review park names. To date, DPR has named or renamed 28 park spaces for the Black experience in New York City, memorializing that which is locally, nationally, historically relevant. The newly named spaces represent educators, Civil Rights leaders, pioneers in the LGBTQ+ community, novelists, playwrights, abolitionists and more.

After closing in March 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, many of DPR's recreation centers reopened in September 2021 with free one-year memberships available to all New Yorkers who sign up before January 1, 2022. Additionally, to ensure equitable access to recreation centers across the five boroughs, DPR expanded free membership eligibility to include everyone 24 years of age and younger. This builds on the agency's 2018 reduction of membership fees for veterans and individuals with disabilities to \$25 annually.

On a parallel path, DPR is ensuring that the benefits of accessible, high-quality open space reach every community in New York City. DPR works toward this goal through its Framework for an Equitable Future, a comprehensive series of immediate steps and long-term initiatives to support equitable park development and sustainable service improvements. In August 2016, DPR announced a \$150 million Mayoral investment at five large parks under the Anchor Parks initiative to upgrade infrastructure and improve heavily used amenities in these bigger parks, such as soccer fields, comfort stations, running tracks and hiking trails. Each park was selected based on three factors: historical underinvestment; a large surrounding population; and potential for park development.

The Framework also supports the ongoing Mayoral-funded Community Parks Initiative (CPI), which brings complete, community-informed reconstruction to historically underserved neighborhood parks. In October 2021, Mayor de Blasio announced a new investment of \$425.5 million in CPI funding over the next decade. This brings the total investment in the Community Parks Initiative to almost \$1 billion and will result in 10 new CPI sites a year for the next 10 years, for a total of 167 sites. As of October 2021, DPR revitalized 62 Community Parks Initiative sites, completed seven Parks Without Borders showcase projects, and fully completed three Anchor Parks projects with one more nearing completion. All of DPR's efforts build on the core principles of good park development: targeted capital investment; strong community and public-private partnerships; innovative programming; and efficient and effective maintenance. Interconnection among each of these areas is essential to the growth of a truly 21st century park system.

OUR SERVICES AND GOALS

SERVICE 1 Manage the City's parks and recreation facilities.

- Goal 1a Ensure that all parks and playgrounds are clean and in good condition.
 - Goal 1b Provide an overall quality park experience.
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SERVICE 2 Manage the City's street, park and forest trees.

- Goal 2a Maintain and preserve trees under DPR stewardship.
 - Goal 2b Resolve high-priority tree work promptly.
 - Goal 2c Increase the number of trees under DPR stewardship.
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SERVICE 3 Preserve and expand the infrastructure of New York's park system.

- Goal 3a Build and improve parks and playgrounds in a timely and efficient manner.
 - Goal 3b Ensure an adequate supply of parkland to meet future needs.
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SERVICE 4 Provide recreational and educational opportunities for New Yorkers of all ages.

- Goal 4a Increase public attendance at educational programs, recreation centers and other venues.
- Goal 4b Increase volunteer activity at City programs and events.

HOW WE PERFORMED

- Parks continue to serve as vital public spaces as the City reopens and recovers from the effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Parks rated acceptable for overall condition and cleanliness increased by two and four percent, respectively, compared to last year. The percent of total parks rated acceptable for overall condition fell short of the 85 percent target by two percent due to declining greenstreet ratings. Operational adjustments that focused available resources on higher use small and large parks, resulting in increased overall condition and cleanliness acceptability ratings for these park types, contributed to declining greenstreet ratings. Parks rated acceptable for cleanliness met target at 90 percent.
- Play equipment rated acceptable met the aggressive 95 percent target as DPR continues to treat this important park feature with the highest standard of care. Safety surface rated acceptable decreased four percent, missing the 95 percent target. Several severe weather events, which have the potential to undermine rubber surfacing at some of our older sites, increased maintenance needs for this park feature.
- During the first quarter of Fiscal 2022, crimes against persons increased from 119 to 179 and crimes against properties increased from 47 to 175, after historic lows in the first quarter of Fiscal 2021. The New York City Police Department (NYPD) is principally responsible for ensuring public safety throughout the City, including parks. DPR is committed to assisting NYPD in this effort to provide a positive and safe experience for all park visitors.
- The number of summonses issued by Parks Enforcement Patrol fell 11 percent in part due to decreased parking summons issuance.
- DPR pruned 16,312 trees through its Block Pruning program, a 433 percent increase from last year during the same period. Many block pruning contracts suspended or significantly reduced due to COVID-19 related budget shortfalls resumed, resulting in the increase.
- DPR removed 2,409 fewer trees compared to the same Fiscal 2021 period when damage from Tropical Storm Isaias resulted in historic tree work and emergency removals.
- Tree inspections increased by 41 percent. Inspections related to block pruning drove the increase as many contracts for this work type, previously impacted by COVID-19 related budget shortfalls, resumed.
- DPR completed 33 capital projects, meeting targets with 85 percent of project construction completed on time or early and 85 percent within budget. Examples of completed projects include the Olde Towne of Flushing Burial Ground in Queens and the Highbridge Water Tower Reconstruction in Manhattan. At the Olde Towne of Flushing, the \$1.76 million plaza honors the site's past as a burial ground for 500 to 1,000 people, mostly African Americans and Native Americans, with a memorial wall. The center of the new plaza features a butterfly garden to offer a feeling of peace and tranquility. The project design was guided by input from local community members, historians, and the Olde Towne of Flushing Burial Ground Conservancy. At Highbridge Park, a \$5.04 million dollar project reconstructed the historic structure which was originally built to help meet the increasing demands on the City's water system. The recent project restored the roof, handrails, staircase, and masonry as well as installation of new window guards, new flooring on all the landings, and new interior lighting.
- After closing to the public in March 2020 due to COVID-19, recreation centers began reopening to the public on a limited basis starting in June 2021. Coinciding with the introduction of a new membership management system, on September 7, 2021 DPR began offering free year-long memberships to anyone, including existing members, registering before January 1, 2022. Attendance at recreation centers reached 84,683 during the full reporting period, while 26,575 members were registered in the new membership management system in less than two months.
- As COVID-19 restrictions eased, historic house museum attendance returned to pre-pandemic levels.
- Attendance at non-recreation center programming increased by almost 195,000 as safe family, fitness, and Urban Park Ranger programming resumed after disruptions and restrictions related to COVID-19.
- Community partner groups engaged by Partnerships for Parks decreased by 20 percent. During the prior reporting period, inactive community partner groups were documented as engaged unless officially dissolved due to the presence of COVID-19 restrictions. For this reporting period, groups that did not resume normal activities were not deemed engaged, resulting in the decrease.

- Total volunteer turnout more than doubled, from 6,118 to 13,139, as COVID-19 restrictions eased. Volunteers at Partnerships for Parks led events increased 137 percent, returning to pre-pandemic performance.

SERVICE 1 Manage the City's parks and recreation facilities.

Goal 1a Ensure that all parks and playgrounds are clean and in good condition.

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY21	FY22
★ Parks rated acceptable for overall condition (%)	90%	91%	86%	85%	85%	81%	83%
– Overall condition of small parks and playgrounds (%)	88%	90%	86%	*	*	80%	83%
– Overall condition of large parks (%)	87%	87%	81%	*	*	76%	78%
– Overall condition of greenstreets (%)	97%	97%	94%	*	*	91%	89%
★ Parks rated acceptable for cleanliness (%)	95%	94%	91%	90%	90%	86%	90%
– Cleanliness of small parks and playgrounds (%)	94%	94%	90%	*	*	85%	90%
– Cleanliness of large parks (%)	92%	92%	87%	*	*	81%	85%
– Cleanliness of greenstreets (%)	100%	99%	97%	*	*	97%	96%
★ Play equipment rated acceptable (%)	96%	97%	96%	95%	95%	97%	95%
★ Safety surfaces rated acceptable (%)	94%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	91%
★ Comfort stations in service (in season only) (%)	94%	94%	91%	95%	95%	91%	95%
★ Spray showers in service (in season only) (%)	97%	98%	98%	95%	95%	97%	99%
★ Drinking fountains in service (in season only) (%)	96%	96%	95%	95%	95%	95%	96%
★ Recreation centers rated acceptable for cleanliness (%)	100%	100%	NA	95%	95%	NA	NA
★ Recreation centers rated acceptable for overall condition (%)	84%	90%	NA	85%	85%	NA	NA
Monuments receiving annual maintenance (%)	56%	80%	74%	*	*	36%	32%
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⬆️⬇️ Directional Target * None							

Goal 1b Provide an overall quality park experience.

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY21	FY22
★ Major felonies reported on Parks' properties (excludes Central Park) - Crimes against persons	641	611	437	⬇️	⬇️	119	179
★ – Crimes against properties	567	472	230	⬇️	⬇️	47	175
Summons issued	22,875	16,929	20,917	*	*	8,503	7,594
Violations admitted to or upheld at the Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings (%)	81.7%	81.1%	91.7%	*	*	91.9%	93.6%
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⬆️⬇️ Directional Target * None							

SERVICE 2 Manage the City's street, park and forest trees.

Goal 2a Maintain and preserve trees under DPR stewardship.

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY21	FY22
★ Street trees pruned - Block program	70,997	59,771	18,900	65,000	65,000	3,060	16,312
– Annual pruning goal completed (%)	109%	92%	NA	*	*	NA	25%
– Street trees pruned as a percent of pruning eligible trees	14%	11%	3%	*	*	NA	NA
Trees removed	13,252	11,321	11,818	*	*	5,782	3,373
Tree inspections	82,376	138,671	88,043	*	*	43,178	60,716
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⬆️⬇️ Directional Target * None							

Goal 2b Resolve high-priority tree work promptly.

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY21	FY22
★ Immediate priority tree work resolved within 7 days (%)	93%	97%	92%	*	*	90%	93%
★ High-priority tree work resolved within 28 days (%)	96%	91%	95%	*	*	98%	98%
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ↑↓ Directional Target * None							

Goal 2c Increase the number of trees under DPR stewardship.

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY21	FY22
★ Trees planted	30,410	21,799	22,144	↑	↑	4,376	5,075
– Trees planted along city streets	7,650	9,241	9,305	*	*	1,118	1,060
– Trees planted on landscaped areas of parks	1,621	4,337	2,339	*	*	719	424
– Trees planted in natural areas of parks	21,139	8,221	10,500	*	*	2,539	3,591
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ↑↓ Directional Target * None							

SERVICE 3 Preserve and expand the infrastructure of New York’s park system.

Goal 3a Build and improve parks and playgrounds in a timely and efficient manner.

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY21	FY22
Capital projects completed	163	121	143	115	*	65	33
★ Capital projects completed on time or early (%)	86%	78%	85%	80%	80%	88%	85%
Capital projects completed within budget (%)	90%	92%	93%	85%	85%	91%	85%
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ↑↓ Directional Target * None							

Goal 3b Ensure an adequate supply of parkland to meet future needs.

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY21	FY22
★ ● New Yorkers living within walking distance of a park (%)	81.7%	81.7%	81.7%	↑	↑	NA	NA
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ↑↓ Directional Target * None							

SERVICE 4 Provide recreational and educational opportunities for New Yorkers of all ages.

Goal 4a Increase public attendance at educational programs, recreation centers and other venues.

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY21	FY22
★ Total recreation center memberships	144,304	142,915	142,915	↑	↑	142,915	26,575
★ Total recreation center attendance	3,003,599	1,947,377	4,227	↑	↑	0	84,683
★ Attendance at outdoor Olympic and intermediate pools (pool season)	1,621,048	204,899	892,306	*	*	NA	NA
Attendance at historic house museums	665,120	510,492	486,836	*	*	272,570	420,941
Attendance at skating rinks	582,978	481,433	308,044	*	*	NA	NA
Total attendance at non-recreation center programs	794,276	695,594	118,350	*	*	18,801	213,697
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ↑↓ Directional Target * None							

Goal 4b Increase volunteer activity at City programs and events.

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY21	FY22
Community partner groups engaged by Partnerships for Parks	575	589	506	*	*	598	476
Volunteer turnout	48,035	28,194	19,093	*	*	6,118	13,139
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⇅ Directional Target * None							

AGENCY-WIDE MANAGEMENT

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY21	FY22
Cases commenced against the City in state and federal court	350	261	259	*	*	63	76
Payout (\$000)	\$18,360	\$25,424	\$18,775	*	*	\$4,610	\$5,759
Workplace injuries reported	463	444	436	*	*	184	161
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⇅ Directional Target * None							

AGENCY CUSTOMER SERVICE

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY21	FY22
Customer Experience							
E-mails routed and responded to in 14 days (%)	72%	68%	68%	60%	60%	69%	70%
Letters routed and responded to in 14 days (%)	81%	83%	81%	60%	60%	79%	84%
Completed customer requests for interpretation	432	263	216	*	*	NA	NA
CORE customer experience rating (0-100)	NA	98	100	85	85	NA	NA
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⇅ Directional Target * None							

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY21	FY22
Response to 311 Service Requests (SRs)							
★ Total public service requests received - Forestry	99,969	85,699	146,105	*	*	96,289	43,033
– Downed Trees, downed limbs, and hanging limbs	29,108	23,578	72,233	*	*	60,476	12,642
Damaged Tree - Branch or Limb Has Fallen Down - % of SRs Meeting Time to First Action (8 days)	97%	94%	78%	95%	95%	80%	76%
Percent meeting time to first action - Dead Tree - Dead/Dying Tree (30 days for trees planted within a 2 year period, 7 days for all other trees)	NA	52%	53%	90%	90%	52%	53%
Percent meeting time to first action - New Tree Request - For One Address (180 days)	91%	100%	84%	90%	90%	99%	34%
Percent meeting time to first action - Overgrown Tree/Branches - Hitting Building (30 days)	45%	74%	84%	95%	95%	85%	72%
Percent meeting time to first action - Root/Sewer/Sidewalk Condition - Trees and Sidewalks Program (30 days)	87%	36%	21%	85%	85%	21%	14%
★ Critical Indicator ● Equity Indicator "NA" Not Available ⇅ Directional Target * None							

AGENCY RESOURCES

Resource Indicators	Actual			Sept. 2021 MMR Plan	Updated Plan	Plan	4-Month Actual	
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY22 ¹	FY23 ¹	FY21	FY22
Expenditures (\$000,000) ²	\$563.6	\$567.2	\$526.6	\$619.9	\$638.4	\$557.1	\$196.6	\$211.5
Revenues (\$000,000)	\$82.0	\$61.8	\$23.4	\$40.1	\$40.5	\$65.2	\$6.8	\$18.0
Personnel (Total FT and FTE)	6,905	6,936	6,026	7,213	8,731	7,309	6,307	6,411
Full-time equivalent (FTE) personnel	2,841	2,700	2,021	4,460	4,504	3,215	2,135	2,507
- Parks Opportunity Program (POP) participants ³	1,392	1,420	779	1,603	1,029	1,603	720	730
Overtime paid (\$000,000)	\$26.5	\$24.3	\$24.8	\$16.4	\$16.5	\$15.1	\$10.0	\$10.5
Capital commitments (\$000,000)	\$537.1	\$332.9	\$483.5	\$1,205.5	\$888.7	\$577.5	\$22.4	\$77.1

¹February 2022 Financial Plan. ²Expenditures include all funds "NA" - Not Available ³The Parks Opportunity Program participants, reflected as full-time equivalents, are a subtotal of the Department's total Personnel count reported above.

SPENDING AND BUDGET INFORMATION

Where possible, the relationship between an agency's goals and its expenditures and planned resources, by budgetary unit of appropriation (UA), is shown in the 'Applicable MMR Goals' column. Each relationship is not necessarily exhaustive or exclusive. Any one goal may be connected to multiple UAs, and any UA may be connected to multiple goals.

Unit of Appropriation	Expenditures FY21 ¹ (\$000,000)	February 2022 Financial Plan FY22 ² (\$000,000)	Applicable MMR Goals ³
Personal Services - Total	\$408.2	\$469.5	
001 - Executive Management and Administrative Services	\$8.5	\$9.1	All
002 - Maintenance and Operations	\$329.0	\$381.2	1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 2c, 3a, 4a, 4b
003 - Design and Engineering	\$49.3	\$52.5	2c, 3a, 3b
004 - Recreation Services	\$21.3	\$26.7	4a, 4b
Other Than Personal Services - Total	\$118.5	\$168.9	
006 - Maintenance and Operations	\$93.2	\$138.1	1a, 1b, 2a, 2b, 2c, 3a, 4a, 4b
007 - Executive Management and Administrative Services	\$22.1	\$26.1	All
009 - Recreation Services	\$1.1	\$2.3	4a, 4b
010 - Design and Engineering	\$2.1	\$2.5	2c, 3a, 3b
Agency Total	\$526.6	\$638.4	

¹Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2021. Includes all funds. ² Includes all funds. ³ Refer to agency goals listed at front of chapter. "NA" Not Available * None

NOTEWORTHY CHANGES, ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

- 'Summonses issued' during the Fiscal 2021 PMMR period was decreased to 8,503 from 8,526 after annual data reconciliation and validation efforts.
- The Fiscal 2022 target for 'Street trees pruned—Block program' returned to 65,000 after suspension during Fiscal 2021 due to COVID-19.
- 'Trees removed' during the Fiscal 2021 PMMR period was decreased to 5,782 from 5,893 after annual data reconciliation and validation efforts.
- 'Tree inspections' during the Fiscal 2021 PMMR period was increased to 43,178 from 43,132 after annual data reconciliation and validation efforts.
- 'Trees planted' during the Fiscal 2021 PMMR period was increased to 4,376 from 4,296 (trees planted on landscaped areas of parks increased to 719 from 639) after annual data reconciliation and validation efforts.

- Previously published Fiscal 2021 four-month data for capital projects indicators were updated after data reconciliation and validation efforts. 'Capital projects completed' during the Fiscal 2021 PMMR period increased from 62 to 65. The inclusion of three additional projects resulted in 'Capital projects completed on time or early' increasing from 85% to 88% and 'Capital projects completed within budget' decreasing from 92% to 91%, still exceeding targets.
- Recreation centers closed to the public in March 2020 due to COVID-19 and began reopening to the public in a limited capacity at the end of June 2021 for existing members. During this period of closure DPR paused membership expiration as a courtesy to patrons, and reported membership accordingly (142,915 total active members). In tandem with the introduction of a new membership management system, on September 7, 2021 DPR began offering free year-long memberships to everyone (including existing members) registering before January 1, 2022. Reported 'Total recreation center memberships' reflect only memberships registered in the new system starting September 7, 2021 through the end of the reporting period, October 31, 2021.
- At the end of the reporting period, 27 of 36 recreation centers had re-opened to the public. Two centers continue to be closed to the public so they may be utilized as part of the City's COVID-19 relief effort, serving as testing and vaccination sites. Seven centers remained closed for capital improvements or repairs. Indicator performance for 'Total recreation center membership' and 'Total recreation center attendance' was impacted by these closures.
- 'Total public service requests received—Forestry' during the Fiscal 2021 PMMR period was increased to 96,289 from 95,952 after annual data reconciliation and validation efforts.
- The 'Collisions involving City vehicles' indicator has been moved to the Vehicle Fleets and Maintenance Additional Tables.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For additional information go to:

- New York City parks inspection program results:
<http://www.nycgovparks.org/park-features/parks-inspection-program>
- Community Parks Initiative:
<http://www.nycgovparks.org/about/framework-for-an-equitable-future/community-parks-initiative>
- The Social Indicators and Equity Report, EquityNYC
<http://equity.nyc.gov/>

For more information on the agency, please visit: www.nycgovparks.org.