

NEW YORKERS  
FOR PARKS

# NEW YORKERS FOR PARKS

We are the only independent citywide organization that advocates for quality parks and open spaces for all New Yorkers.

Established over 100 years ago, we champion equitable development, distribution, and maintenance of open spaces across NYC.

## HOW WE WORK

Partnerships | Advocacy | Research



# THE PLAY FAIR COALITION

Play Fair comprises 400+ groups and organizations elevating NYC parks issues, identifying comprehensive citywide solutions, and advocating for increased funds for NYC Parks.

Our co-founders are New Yorkers for Parks, New York League of Conservation Voters, and DC 37 Parks Workers Union. We are currently supported by New York City Council Parks Committee Chair Shekar Krishnan.



10th & Stuyvesant Streets Block Association  
142nd St. Dog Run  
18th Street Brooklyn Block Association  
300 West Block Association  
52 People for Progress  
68C 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 (ASLA-NY)  
Astoria Park Alliance  
Baisley Pond Park Block Association  
Bedford Moshulu Community Association  
Bliss Gardens BX  
Boerum Hill School for International Studies  
Broadway Mall Association  
Bronx Coalition for Parks & Green Spaces  
Bronx Community Board 5  
Bronx Community Health Network  
Bronx Council for Environmental Quality  
Bronx Land Trust  
Bronx Park East Community Association  
Bronx River Alliance  
Bronx Roots in Motion  
Brookfield Civic Association  
Brooklyn Greenway Initiative  
Brooklyn Parks & Open Space Coalition  
Brooklyn Queens Land Trust  
Buenavista (Ritno) Club Inc.  
BUFNY II/ Harlem Tenants Association  
CABS Home Care  
Cadman Park Conservancy/Brooklyn War Memorial  
Carl Schurz Park Conservancy  
Carnegie Hill Neighbors  
Central Park Conservancy  
Chelsea Waterline Park Association  
Citizen Gardeners  
Citizens Climate Lobby  
City Island Rising  
City Parks Foundation  
Clean Bushwick Initiative  
Cleveland-Pittkin 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.  
Corbeyou Road Merchant Association (CORMA)  
Cosmopolitan Jr. Soccer League  
Court Square Civic Association

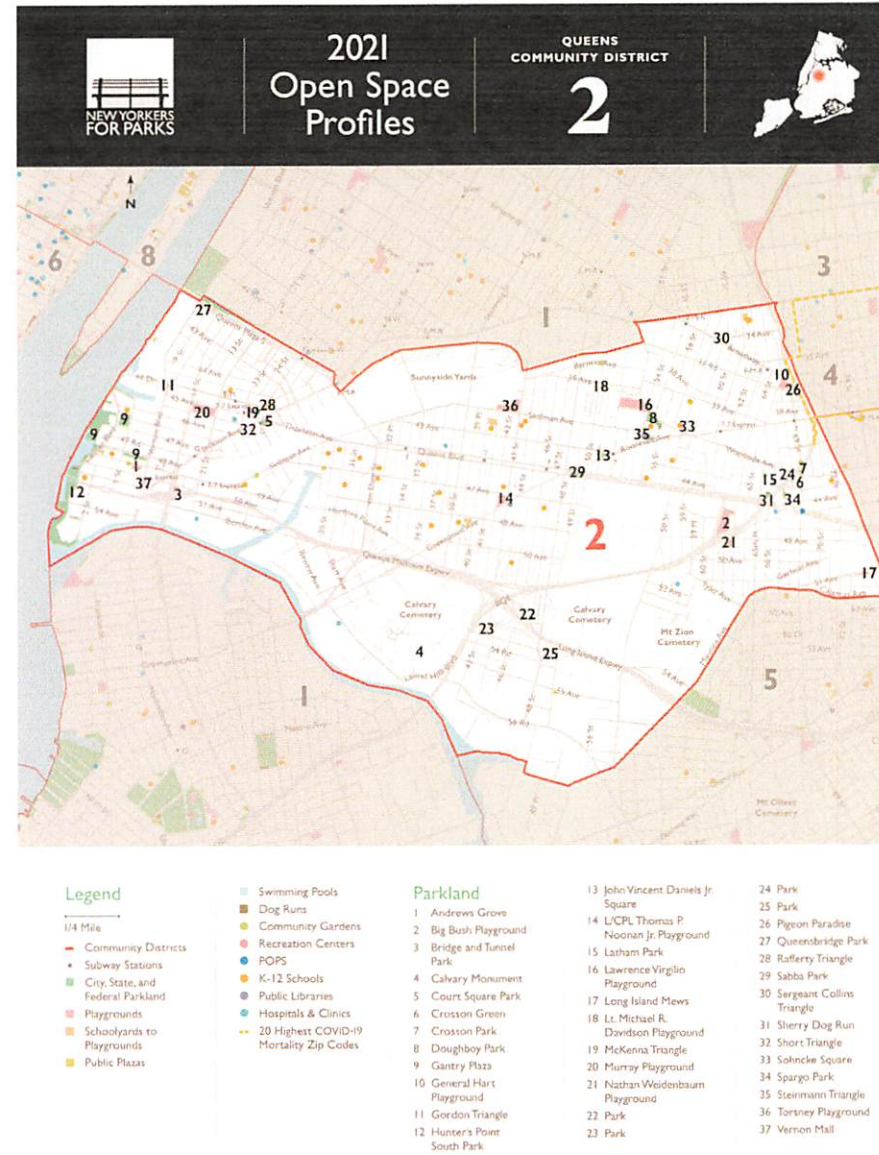
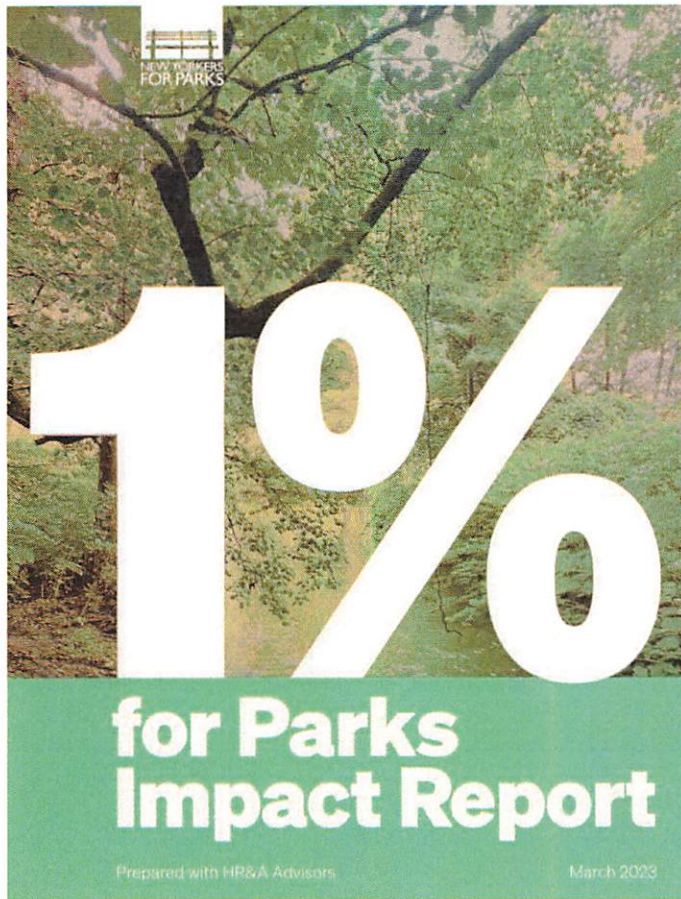
Devey Resource Group, Inc.  
DC37 Retirees Association  
Design Trust for Public Space  
Different Directions  
DLANDstudio  
Douglaston Local Development Corporation  
Downtown Alliance  
Downtown Brooklyn Partnership  
Downtown United Soccer Club  
Drew Gardens  
Drew Gardens Educational Recreation  
Dunbar Garden Council  
Earth Avengers  
Earth Matter NY Inc.  
Earth Ministry of the Church of the Mediator  
East NY 4 Gardens  
Edgemere Coalition Community Garden  
Edso Sports, Inc.  
E Garden Bushwick  
El Jardin del Paraiso  
El Puente  
Ellis Laemmers, Inc.  
Elmington on the Park  
Elmhurst Supporters of Parks  
Fieldston Rd. Association  
Flushing Meadows-Corona Park Conservancy  
Fort Four Playground  
Fort Greene Park Conservancy  
Fort Tryon Park Trust  
Forth on Fourth Avenue  
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 Park  
Friends of Bushwick Inlet Park  
Friends of Carroll Park  
Friends of Corlears Hook Park  
Friends of Cunningham Park  
Friends of Crocheron & John Golden Park  
Friends of Dag Hammarskjold Plaza  
Friends of Ewen Park  
Friends of Ferry Point Park & Waterways  
Friends of Forest Park  
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 Ramonda Park  
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 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 Whalen Park  
Friends of Williamsbridge Oval  
Forest Hills Green Team  
Fort Greene Tennis Association (FGTA)  
GallopNYC  
Garden Trail  
Genesis Community Garden  
Girl Scout Troop 3205  
Good and Green  
Gowanus Canal Conservancy  
Green Bronx Machine  
Green Guerrillas  
Green Map System  
Green Park Gardeners NYC  
Greenbelt Conservancy Inc.  
Greenpoint Citizens Club  
Guerrinos Against Graffiti  
Harlem Grow  
Havemeyer Garden  
Health Essential Association  
Heligata Hill-Highgate Community Association  
HerpDigest  
Highland Park Tennis  
Historic House Trust of New York City  
Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival in New York  
Hudson River Park Friends  
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  
Jardin La Roca  
Jenny's Garden  
Kelly St. Garden  
Kissena Corridor Park Conservancy, Inc.  
La Petit Versailles  
Lafalani S. Boykin Consulting  
Lanu Coop  
Lees AIDS Leasotho  
Lewis Latimer House  
Lily Auchincloss Foundation

Little Green Garden  
Long Island City Partnership  
Loft Street Block Association  
Love Our Pool  
Loving the Bronx  
Lower East Side Ecology Center  
Madison Square Park Conservancy  
Marcus Garvey Park Alliance  
Maria Hernandez Park Dog Run Pack  
Marine Park Alliance  
Mary Mitchell Family and Youth Center  
Melrose New Generation  
Miracle Garden  
Morris-Jumel Mansion  
Morris Park BID  
Morton Street Block Association  
Municipal Art Society  
Myrtle Ave BID  
Nancyclz  
National Parks Conservation Association  
Natural Area Conservancy  
New York Botanical Garden  
New York Climate Save  
New York Junior Tennis & Learning  
New York League of Conservation Voters  
New York Restoration Project  
Newtown Creek Alliance  
North American Climate, Conservation  
and Environment (NACCE)  
North Brooklyn Parks Alliance  
North Brooklyn Neighbors  
NYC Audubon  
NYC Community Garden Coalition  
NYC H2O  
Pasadegat Bay Condo II  
Parent Child Relationship Association  
Park Clinton Gardening  
Prime Produce  
Project Harmony, Inc.  
Prospect Park Alliance  
Prospect Park Community Committee  
Prospect Pl/ New York Ave Block Association  
Q Gardens Community Farm  
Queensboro Dance Festival  
Randalis Island Park Alliance  
Red Hook Conservancy  
Red Hook West Resident Association, Inc.  
Red Shed Community Garden  
Richmond Hill Historical Society  
RING Garden  
River Garden  
Riverside Park Conservancy  
Rocksaway Initiative for Sustainability and Equity (RISE)  
Row New York  
Rude Grooms  
Rutgers Resident Association  
Safe Zone Cross Culture Youth  
Samaritan Daytop Village  
Sara D. Roosevelt Park Coalition  
Sedgwick Park Friends & Neighbors

Seton Falls Park Preservation Coalition  
Seward Park Conservancy  
Sidewalk Labs  
Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden  
Staten Island Economic Development Corporation  
Staten Island Partnership for Community Wellness  
Staten Island Women Who March  
Stewards of Brust Park  
Street Trees Super Steward  
Survivor I Am / Friends of Bufano Park  
Sunset Spark  
Sutton Place Parks Conservancy  
SWIM Coalition NYC  
Target Bronx Community Garden  
Team Spartan Spades  
The Bronx is Blooming  
The Brotherhood Sister Sol  
The Connected Chef  
The Freshkills Park Alliance  
The Kensington Stewards  
The Kingsbridge Heights Community Center  
The League: A Distinguished Gentlemen's Movement, Inc.  
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  
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  
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  
Wetherby-Pembroke School  
Wildlife Conservation Society  
Women of Woodlawn  
Woodlawn Taxpayer Association  
Yorkville Sports Association  
Young Buck Sports

# OUR RESEARCH



**PLAY  
FAIR**

**1%** OF THE CITY BUDGET  
**FOR PARKS**

# 50 YEARS OF AUSTERITY PARKS BUDGET HISTORY

## 1970s

Parks receives **1.4%** of the City's operating budget annually

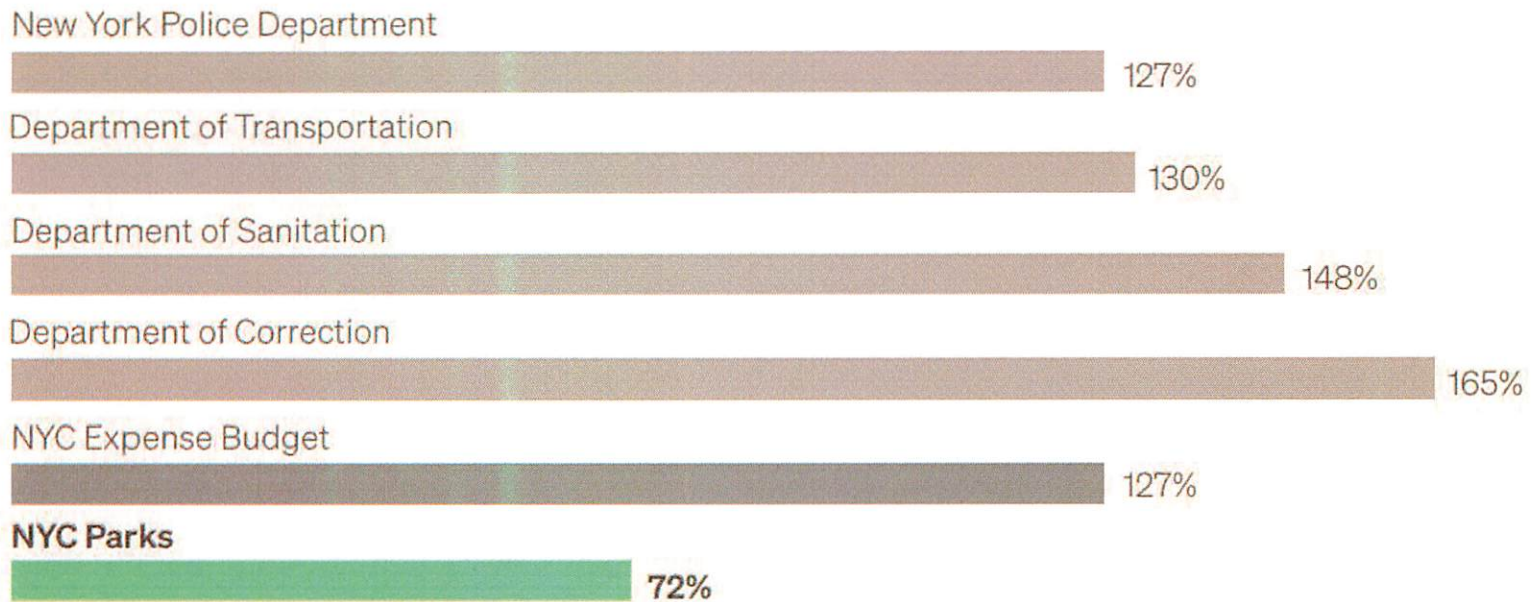
## 1978

Fiscal Crisis cuts Parks funding to **0.5%** of the City's budget

## TODAY

Parks budget remains at just **0.6%** of the city budget

# GROWTH IN NYC AGENCY BUDGETS SINCE 1980





# NYC SPENDS LESS ON PARKS THAN OTHER MAJOR CITIES

City	Parks Operating Budget as a Share of the City Operating budget	Park Area (Acres)	Parks Operating Budget per Capita
Minneapolis, MN	5.3%	5,000	\$231
Chicago, IL	4.3%	9,000	\$155
Los Angeles, CA	2.9%	16,000	\$78
San Francisco, CA	1.6%	4,000	\$245
Washington, DC	1.1%	1,000	\$151
<b>New York, NY (TODAY)</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>\$72</b>
<b>New York, NY (at 1%)</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>\$119</b>

# PARKS STAFFING AND NYC POPULATION

YEAR	POPULATION	# PARKS WORKERS
1976	7.4 M	9,050
2024	8.7 M	8,043

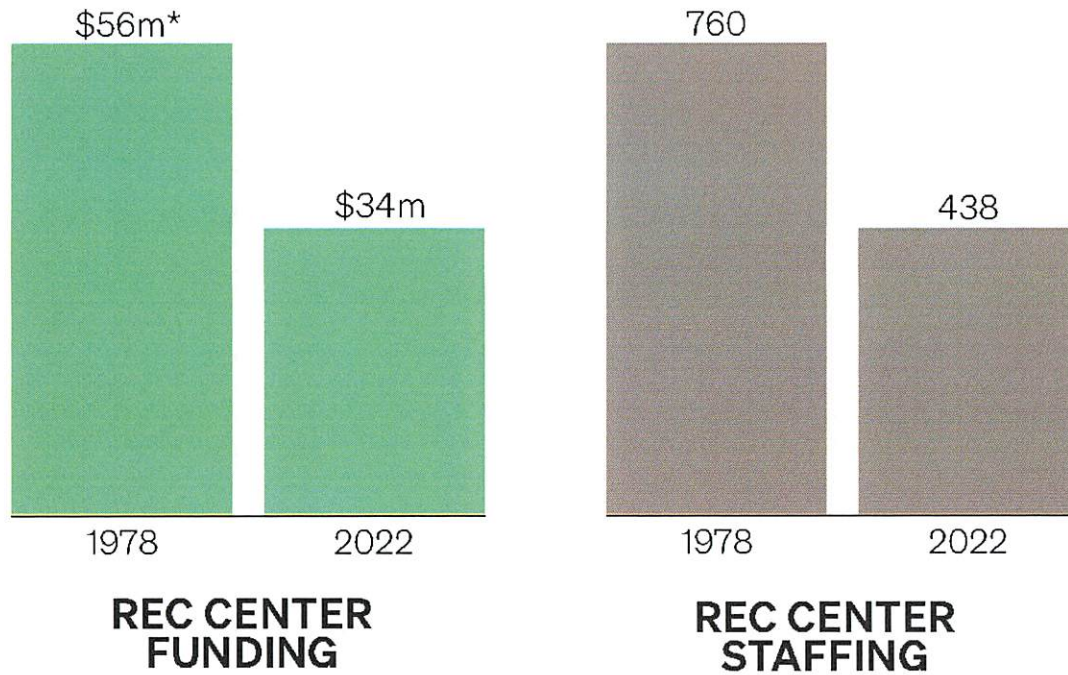


**NYC PARKS HAVE 1 GARDENER FOR  
EVERY 114 ACRES**

**SAN FRANCISCO AND CHICAGO HAVE 1  
GARDENER FOR EVERY 18 ACRES**



# REC CENTER FUNDING AND STAFFING



\*Adjusted for inflation



# **NYPD OVERTIME SPENDING VS. NYC PARKS OPERATING BUDGET (FY22)**

**NYPD OVERTIME  
\$670mil**

**NYC PARKS  
\$618mil**

# **CURRENT STATE OF PARKS**

**85% of Parks Stewards recorded an increase in usership in the last 3 years**

**70% of Parks Stewards recorded an increase in usership outside of the traditional busy season (May – August)**

**53% of Parks Stewards said visitors express safety concerns about their park**

**29% increase in crimes against persons in the first 4 months of FY 23\***

**27% increase in crimes against property in first 4 months of FY 23\***



\*Source: January 2023 Preliminary Mayor's Management Report

# **WHAT 1% WOULD MEAN FOR NYC**

**A 21st Century parks system that meets New Yorkers' needs.**

**Clean and well-maintained parks throughout the year.**

**Safe parks with staff building relationships with community members.**

**Quick repairs, avoiding longer closures and ensuring accessibility.**

**Comprehensive access to 10,000 acres of natural areas and trails.**



# **WHAT 1% WOULD MEAN FOR NYC**

**Protected vulnerable wetlands amid a changing climate.**

**Cleaner air and heat relief provided by a protected urban forest.**

**Faster responses to 311 service requests for trees.**

**Free cultural and recreational programs for New Yorkers of all ages.**

**Improved safety and conditions for workers.**



# MEASURABLE BENEFITS OF PARKS

## Public Health

- \$1.14 billion annual reduction in healthcare costs

## Environmental

- \$681M storm water diversion and carbon capture

## Economic

- \$17 billion in tourism spending annually + \$600 million in recreation spending annually in parks



# MAYOR ADAMS SUPPORTS 1% FOR PARKS

**“It is imperative that we implement a percent for parks funding model, which will commit 1% of the city budget to NYC Parks”**

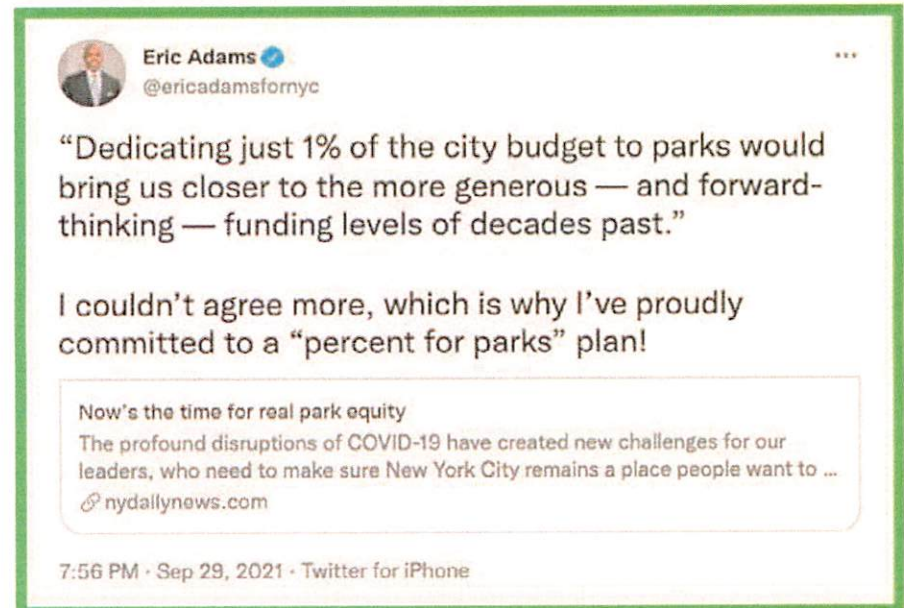
Pulse of Our Parks, April 2018

**“We need to support our city parks that provide so many vital services to this city. We need to do everything we can to preserve the future generations of New Yorkers the right to these essential parks”**

NY4P interview, 2021

**“Parks are not a luxury, it’s a necessity... our goal is to have that 1%”**

City Hall, February 2022



## 44 COUNCIL MEMBERS IN SUPPORT OF 1%

District 1 CM Chris Marte  
District 2 CM Carlina Rivera  
District 3 CM Erik Bottcher  
District 4 CM Keith Powers  
District 5 CM Julie Menin  
District 6 CM Gale Brewer  
District 7 CM Shaun Abreu  
District 8 CM Diana Ayala  
District 10 CM Carmen De La Rosa  
District 11 CM Eric Dinowitz  
District 12 CM Kevin Riley  
District 13 CM Marjorie Velazquez  
District 14 CM Pierina Sanchez  
District 15 CM Oswald Feliz  
District 16 CM Althea Stevens

District 17 CM Rafael Salamanca  
District 18 CM Amanda Farias  
District 19 CM Vickie Paladino  
District 20 CM Sandra Ung  
District 21 CM Francisco Moya  
District 22 CM Tiffany Cabán  
District 23 CM Linda Lee  
District 24 CM James Gennaro  
District 25 CM Shekar Krishnan  
District 27 CM Nantasha Williams  
District 28 Council Speaker Adrienne Adams  
District 29 CM Lynn Schulman  
District 30 CM Robert Holden  
District 31 CM Selvena Brooks-Powers  
District 33 CM Lincoln Restler

District 34 CM Jennifer Gutiérrez  
District 35 CM Crystal Hudson  
District 36 CM Chi Ossé  
District 37 CM Sandy Nurse  
District 38 CM Alexa Avilés  
District 39 CM Shahana Hanif  
District 40 CM Rita Joseph  
District 42 CM Justin Brannan  
District 45 CM Farah Louis  
District 46 CM Mercedes Narcisse  
District 47 CM Ari Kagan  
District 48 CM Inna Vernikov  
District 49 CM Kamillah Hanks  
District 51 CM Joseph Borelli

## NO COUNCIL MEMBERS ARE OPPOSED



**14,000 PETITION  
SIGNATURES**

# **HOW YOUR COMMUNITY BOARD CAN SUPPORT**

**LETTER OF SUPPORT**

**SIGN AND SHARE THE PETITION**

**ATTEND RALLIES**

**PLAY  
FAIR**

**1%** OF THE CITY BUDGET  
**FOR PARKS**