

# EXCERPTS FROM COMMUNITY BOARDS' "STATEMENTS ON THE PRELIMINARY BUDGET" FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

Reactions to Agency Responses listed in the FY '16 Register of Community Board Budget Requests are collectively listed under Agency Subheading

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## Parks

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### **BRONX 1**

The increase in CB1 population has seen diversity in recreational activity. Where in past years play was constant on our Dept. of Parks basketball courts, baseball fields, and hand courts, now there is a movement by youth towards the use of open park fields and grass areas to kick soccer balls. Due to the increase in our population that plays soccer, there is a need for additional field capacity for this sport. CB1 recognizes this growing trend. The community board's FY16 register Capital Budget second and new request is for funding for construction of a new soccer field in St. Mary's Park. Additionally, Capital Budget request tracking code (101200201C) Project ID P-101MICS the rehabilitation and expansion of basketball courts to full courts with bleachers, the renovation of hand ball court, and rehabilitation of water fountains in the Mill Brook Houses. A scoping session and project walk through was held in 2014 with the Department of Recreation (DPR), the BX.BP Office and CB1. This budget request continues to have support from City Council Speaker Melisa Mark-Viverito and Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., CB1 Capital Budget request tracking code (101200801C) seeks funding for the development of a waterfront public access park on section of the Harlem River. Accessibility to the district's waterfront for pedestrian recreational use and future water borne transportation services will provide constructive, positive, and functional development of this underutilized area of Port Morris.

### **BRONX 3**

Bronx Community Board Three supports the following FY 2016 city administration funding commitments to DPR:

Community Parks Initiative – Bronx Community District Three parks identified as part of this initiative include Melrose Commons Site 32, Little Claremont park, Seabury Park and Longfellow Garden. This initiative has seen the appropriation of approx. \$130 million for 35 parks citywide which have been subject to capital disinvestment over the last 20 years (receipt of less than \$200k). Bronx Community Board Three supports the expansion of this program in the Bronx.

Park Usership Study and Capital Assessment Study – Bronx Community Board Three supports the FY' 2016 funding commitment of \$175k for a park usership study citywide as well as a Parks capital needs assessment study (FY'2016 - \$200k).

Bronx Community Board Three recommends city administration funding commitments for the hiring of additional PEP officers to provide added security and safety to existing parks through NYC.

Bronx Community Board Three supports funding in the amount of \$600k for FY'2016 for dedicated maintenance staff for recreation centers (Crotona Pool and Recreation Center) to remain open 6 days a week.

## **PARKS CAPITAL UPDATE**

### Melrose Commons Site 32 ( E. 159 St. and Melrose Avenue)

Phase1 (\$7.188 million) design completion in March 2015 followed by 7-10 month procurement period; anticipated construction start in Spring 2016. The Mayor's Community Parks Initiative will provide an additional \$2 million for the construction of a comfort station.

### Ass. Estella Digs Park (Rock and Roots Park)

Phase II procurement process anticipated for completion in July 2015; \$1.93 million funding for site stabilization, landscape improvements, perimeter fence and pathways); summer 2016 construction start

### Crotona Park Ballfields 4 and 5

Project currently has \$ 1million in funding for drainage and field improvements (Sept. 2015 design completion); \$ 4 million in additional funding needs to be identified to complete scope of work

### Hoe Avenue North Tot Lots

NYC Parks is currently investigating issues regarding group licensing for greenthumb garden purposes.

### Crotona Park Playground #5 (Hill and Dale)

No funding has been appropriated; project not in commitment plan

Phase I improvements for this site included new play equipment, drinking fountain and landscaping (\$2.1 million); Phase II improvements included the handball and basketball courts (\$2 million)

### Crotona Park Playground #10

RFP has been let for identification of a design consultant for this project; \$840 has been appropriated for renovation of the comfort station

### Crotona Park –Ballfield #1

\$250k was appropriated in FY 2013 for conduit and foundation work; additional scope needs to be identified for sports/security lighting

### Dunbar Playground

Project procurement period ends in March 2015 for Requirements Contract work to basketball, handball courts and other related improvements - \$152k (+)

## **BRONX 5**

### Tracking Code

### **New York City Parks & Recreation Department**

105200205C

**Request:** Improve & Develop the Environment Walk at Aqueduct Land from Morton Place to Burnside Avenue. Build a Pedestrian Bridge, ADA Compliance Step Street or Ramp.

**Explanation:** Aqueduct Walk is adjacent to the newly constructed

Morton Playground & Morton Place Homeowners Association. Walkway is in dire need of improvement.

**Responsible Agency:** Department of Parks and Recreation

**Agency Response:** Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i. e. Borough President and/or City Council Member.

**Board Response: The Community Board #5 continues to support Aqueduct Land Walkway that links a continuous Walkway to Morton Playground. We will follow up with our Elected Officials for funding. But we are also requesting that NYC Mayoral funding be awarded to this project as well.**

## **BRONX 6**

Bronx Community Board #6 is gratified that the Department of Parks and Recreation recommends that our request for the purchase of sorely needed park equipment be funded in Fiscal Year 2016 (Tracking Code 106200903C).

On the other hand, we respectfully ask that the department reconsider its decision to not recommend funding for necessary improvements and renovations at several of our local parks. For example, the improvements requested for D'Auria-Murphy Triangle (Tracking Code 106201402C) could be accomplished relatively inexpensively.

Similarly, the department should rethink its decision to not recommend funding for improvements to the Quarry Road Soccer Field (Tracing Code # 106201101C). There is renewed and increased interest in this field emanating from residents of the neighboring housing developments, and the students and faculty of two nearby schools. With the city's current emphasis on combating obesity and other health problems through active recreation, it is important that the City invest in maintaining and improving the Quarry Road Soccer Field which serves so many youths and adults.

## **BRONX 7**

Under the Croton Filtration agreement, funds were made available to begin the design and construction of Regatta Park along the Harlem River, as identified in tracking code 107201201C. In previous fiscal years, the agency raided this fund for use on other projects, leaving the project in limbo. The Board continues to believe that this project is vital to our community and we request that the agency and administration work together to identify funding to replace the previously spent funds. The request has support from local elected officials, but the prohibitive costs of the project mean we cannot move forward without capital dollars from your administration.

The Board will continue discussions with DEP regarding access to the Jerome Park Reservoir jogging path as identified in tracking code 107201204C. The Board reiterates its belief that the jogging path and surrounding lands should be transferred from DEP to DPR to ensure public access for community residents.

The Board is not satisfied with the response to tracking code 107201213C. Over the last few years, there have been several major incidents in neighborhood parks and we believe that had these cameras been installed, they could have served as a deterrent or at the very least assisted law enforcement in subsequent investigations. To make matters worse, there have already been significant capital contributions from elected officials to fund the installation of these cameras, but the agency continues to stall the installation placing our residents at risk. We therefore request that the department immediately move forward with this project.

### **BRONX 8**

Several capital budget requests were made to the Department of Parks and Recreation in which we received a response that funding was insufficient and the request should be directed to our local elected officials. It is unclear whether DPR supports the proposals based upon their response. We kindly ask that agencies clearly state their support or rejection in future responses.

In addition, we also have concerns about the continued lack of funding of all capital projects for libraries and parks regardless of priority and without explanation for the continued dismissal of these quality of life concerns.

### **BRONX 10**

1. Request: Dredging and upgrade of Hammond Cove Marina, a NYC Department of Parks and Recreation property that is leased to a private entity.

Agency Response: Further study of this request is needed. Contact the Agency.

Board Response: This is the same response that we had received last year. A full year has gone by and there has been no study. Bronx Community Board #10 has one of the largest waterfronts in the Borough, yet so little of it is in public hands. As a City facility, the Hammond Cove Marina offers one of the few venues for enjoyment of the waterfront. Its effectiveness as a marina is limited because its entrance is subject to silting conditions making it difficult for pleasure craft to enter or leave the marina. Only a portion of the marina is truly serviceable. Our Board believes that with an infusion of funds, the inlet will be opened and the area will be improved. If the area were to be dredged, new boat owners would frequent the site and it could be further developed for other water sports, such as kayaking.

The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation is well aware of the conditions at the site. Whatever study was needed, should have been completed by now. Our Board expects the Agency to immediately undertake a study of the site and to present the Board with information on the development of a capital project. It should also be noted that this project is needed, to

accommodate the fire boats coming from Queens to the Bronx to extinguish any possible fires at the Marina.

2. Request: Create a performing arts center for the elliptical buildings at Orchard Beach

Agency Response: Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of the Board's elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

Board Response: These are landmarked structures from the days of the WPA. Orchard Beach currently serves as the venue for numerous concerts during the summer and is the site of the Borough's annual July 4th event. The creation of a performing arts center could easily accommodate the Beach's concerts and serve as an economic boom for the Pelham Bay and City Island areas. Our Board believes that the Agency should at least model this site and develop a Capital Project for it.

3. Request: Expedited construction of the rest room at Ferry Point Park West, install port-o-sans in the interim.

Agency Response: This project was funded on a prior fiscal year and the contract has been let.

Board Response: The Board has made this a priority for many years. For our 2015 Response in the Preliminary Budget Register the Agency had the very same response as above.

4. Request: Green streets and flower beds are needed on Lafayette Avenue between the Hutchinson River Parkway Service Road and Brush Avenue, along the sidewalk area of Randall Avenue at Senger Place and Jay Place, and at the triangle at Bruckner Boulevard and Brush Avenue.

Agency Response: The Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend that this project be brought to your elected officials i.e. Borough President and/or City Councilmember.

Board Response: This is exactly the same response that we had received in the 2015 Preliminary Budget Register. Certainly, a year's time would have revealed that the City's fiscal picture has improved and funding should be allocated for this small project.

5. Request: A fence separating Ferry Point Park West from the roadway is needed to protect the park from vehicular traffic.

Agency Response: The Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend that this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council Member.

Board Response: This is exactly the same response that we had received in the 2015 Preliminary Budget Register. Certainly, a year's time would have revealed that the City's fiscal picture has improved and funding should be allocated for this enhanced safety project.

6. Request: Create a comfort station at Rodman's Neck.

Agency Response: The Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend that this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council Member.

Board Response: This is exactly the same response that we had received in the 2015 Preliminary Budget Register. A public health concern has arisen due to the lack of a comfort station. The Little League fields at Rodman's Neck are used regularly. If a comfort station cannot be constructed, the Board suggests the installation of port-o-sans.

#### EXPENSE:

1. Request: A recreational program with staff should be established at Pearly Gates Park.

Agency Response: In the Preliminary Budget, citywide personnel/program/equipment funds are maintained in FY 2016. Allocations are scheduled by the Agency only after budget adoption.

Board Response: In the 2015 Budget Register we received a similar response. Staff is needed at this site. It is frequented by many children and the Agency had made a substantial commitment in capital improvements to this park, so the funding of recreational staff should be awarded.

2. Request: There is a critical need to adequately fund and staff the forestry department to adequately prune the many trees in the Board's service area.

Agency Response: The Agency recommends funding this Expense Budget Request in 2016, but at this time the availability of funds is undetermined.

Board Response: This is exactly the same response we received in the 2015 Budget Register. The program has not been funded adequately and there is a critical need to do so.

3. Request: There is a need to adequately fund and expand the sidewalk and tree root repair program.

Agency Response: The Department of Parks and Recreation funds are inadequate. We suggest that this request be brought to the attention of the Board's elected officials, i.e., Borough President and/or City Councilmember.

Board Response: This is the same response we received in the 2015 Budget Register. This is a critical need within Board #10. Old growth tree root systems are pushing sidewalk flags up from the surface and creating trip hazards.

4. Request: Security issues in all of the Board's Parks, particularly Pelham Bay Park, is of particular importance to the Board.

Agency Response: The Agency recommends funding for this Expense Budget Request for 2016, but at this time the availability of funds is uncertain.

Board Response: This was the same response that the Board received in the 2015 Budget Register. Pelham Bay Park is a regional park frequented by residents of the entire borough. The limited PEP staff in the park is overburdened due to the demand for their services. They require additional services.

## **BROOKLYN 1**

Parks and open space are critical needs for our district and we support expense and capital funding that will increase our green spaces and maintain them. We urge that sufficient funding be provided for the Department of Parks & Recreation to meet these needs.

We are inspired by the hands on leadership displayed by Brooklyn Parks Commissioner Kevin Jeffrey and look forward to his engaged attention in the future. We applaud the efforts of the North Brooklyn Open Space Alliance for embracing our neighborhood parks and treating our parks spaces like its own children. OSA acts as a loving parent and gives encouraging hugs (and most importantly, a dollar allowance) to each.

### **INCREASE STAFFING**

The over 91 acres of parkland situated in Community Board No. 1 represent an extremely valuable resource, the potential of which, however, remains to be realized due to the continued erosion of Park Department staff. Clearly, 21 "real" (1 manager, 4 supervisors, 16 full time workers) maintenance workers cannot begin to supply even minimal coverage of our heavily utilized parks, and underscore the need to provide for the proper maintenance of these facilities. We currently have only 1 slot for workers (playground associates) who provide recreational services for youths and administer programs in the district. This playground associate is located in only one of our many playgrounds – totally insufficient to fully serve Community Board No. 1's district. According to the 2010 census, our District contains over 51,600 residents who are 19 years of age or less, and hosts a heavily used regional park (McCarren Park). We have found that the number of children in the district is steadily increasing as can be seen with the corresponding increases of public and private school enrolled pupils (kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> grade). A minimum of 5 more supervisory staff positions and 30 employee staff positions are badly needed. Specifically, additional maintenance staff must be assigned to the following facilities: McCarren Park, Cooper Park, Sternberg Park (Lindsay Park), Sgt. Dougherty), P.S. 84 Playground, Martinez Playground, La Guardia Playground, Bushwick Houses Pool. Beyond this, it is essential that adequate recreation staffing is assigned to Metropolitan Pool and such major facilities as McCarren, McGolrick and Sternberg Parks. Finally, firm commitments to secure adequate, year round, recreation, security and medical first aid staffing at McCarren Pool is essential and must be made a very high department priority.

We applaud the efforts of the North Brooklyn Open Space Alliance for embracing our neighborhood parks and look forward towards a continuing partnership in improving and expanding parkland in the Greater Greenpoint-Williamsburg area.

### **McCARREN PARK AND POOL**

Since its opening in 1938, McCarren Pool has been a valuable Summertime resource to the youth of our

community, and North Brooklyn, and was imperative that its reconstruction proceeded as promptly as possible. Community Board No. 1 was pleased that a community consensus was reached in February 2001 regarding the derelict facility. We supported the feasibility plan presented by the consultant firm, Vollmer Associates, to redevelop the site to include an Olympic size pool, a multi-purpose year round facility and an ice skating/inline skating rink. This concept gained support from the Community and the Board's McCarren Park Pool Task Force. In June 2007, the Mayor allocated \$50 million for construction of a new pool and recreation area with retention of the bathhouses and archway. The Board supported a feasibility design strategy that was presented by the Parks Department to recommend alternate venues to accommodate the many community events enjoyed at the pool site. The pool and recreation center are now open for all to use. We were pleased that the Parks Department issued an RFP for a seasonal ice skating rink concession. A rink was operated this past winter at the pool site and it proved to be a successful endeavor that was enjoyed by many. We look forward to it returning next winter. It is important that sufficient funding continues to flow steadily to sustain our new facility for generations to come.

Most of the acreage (especially the adjacent Abate Playground) has received benefits of renovation or upgrading. These efforts have restored the majority of this park's recreational uses. In fact, these areas are now more heavily used than ever. In fact, parents of children who use the facility ("Park Moms") take an active role in the playground and make recommendations to the Parks Department for improvements.

McCarren Park is basically divided into three large parcels with different park uses. Each parcel is separated by roadways from each other. We seek the Parks Department to address the need for additional comfort station facilities as the only one available is in the existing Park Field House located in the portion with the baseball field and is always in total disrepair. The walk is too far for the children at the playground and isolated from the handball courts, running track and soccer field.

The newly illuminated soccer field, and all other permitted fields, must allow preferences for its use by bona fide Greenpoint/Williamsburg youth groups.

The action to de-map a portion of Union Avenue that lies adjacent to McCarren Park will provide additional open space for the park. Community Board No. 1 provided support for the action with conditions that the applicants are: (1.) To address concerns about the loss of 34 parking spaces, DPR commits to providing the completed survey (to accommodate all of the parking that will be displaced by this action) prior to the end of CB#1's ULURP clock. (2.) The Parks Department is to commit in writing to involve Community Board No. 1 prior to and during the design for the long term use. (3.) OSA is to commit to in writing to involve Community Board No. 1 prior to and during the design for an interim use. (4.) The existing successful uses (including the dog run, Green Market and Green Dome Garden) are to be preserved. OSA is to provide our board with an update on the project.

### **METROPOLITAN POOL**

Met Pool now serves Community Board No. 1 in a more effective manner than ever before. The City should further support the valuable voluntary efforts of the Friends of Met Pool by assigning additional recreation staff to this facility and extending hours of operation to further meet the needs of the community. Lifeguards at the facility are needed that are reflective of the community's needs.

### **SAND PARK**

The Williamsburg Bridge reconstruction project has long been completed and we are outraged that the rehabilitation of Sand Park (the mapped park playground beneath it) has not happened. Community Board No. 1 demands the restoration of this mapped parkland to its "pre-destruction" use by the NYC Department of Transportation in reconstruction of the Williamsburg Bridge. Once this park is completed, it will serve the community with additional recreational space and begin a connection between the waterfront and the upland blocks. The Williamsburg Waterfront 197-a plan seeks the development of a waterfront promenade circumnavigating the DOT property under the Williamsburg Bridge and providing an additional "greenway" for the community. We call upon the Mayor to intervene on our behalf and restore this park in as much as the DOT and Parks have continued to fail to begin a meaningful dialogue to restore this park

## **OTHER PARK PROJECTS AND GENERAL OPEN SPACE COMMENTS**

The Board continues to seek the City's funding of renovations for the various playgrounds. In our view, the upgrading of these deteriorated recreation areas constitutes a major need.

We reinforce our past support for those additional park reconstruction projects: Greenpoint Playground, La Guardia Playground, Classon Playground, any additional projects in the inception stage. The Tennis Courts at McCarren Park are heavily utilized during the warmer season. As dusk approaches, play is made easier by the cool of the evening. Players have requested that lighting be placed in the park to allow practice and matches to continue into later hours. The courts were in need of immediate resurfacing and users of the park formed a volunteer group to pursue the effort. The courts were resurfaced using funds raised. The Parks Department should continue to explore and solicit the community's preference for the doming of the tennis courts to allow for winter time play. The Parks Department has issued an RFP for "doming" in the tennis courts. Community Board No. 1 supports the issuance of the RFP and urged that the RFP that contains year round lighting of the tennis courts be given special consideration. We are pleased to learn that this project is moving forward.

The Parks Department should also explore having a food vending concession in McCarren Park's field house with the caveat that the restroom/comfort facilities remain open and maintained by the concessionaire.

Community Board No. 1 continues to support the valuable work that volunteers do to help our neighborhood parks and we hope that the Parks Department will increase their efforts in this area. Efforts to instill pride about our parks are applauded. We look forward to the Parks Department efforts to display historical markers and educational plaques in the District's inventory.

In order to better address public safety, lighting in each of the Board's parks needs to be evaluated and enhanced. Increased lighting will allow better visibility at their perimeters and interiors.

Convenient location of comfort stations is a constant request made by park users. We urge upgrading of facilities that now exist and the introduction of new ones in those parks that greatly need them. We were pleased that the Department of Environmental Protection funded a station in Greenpoint Playground. It was constructed and is now open for use. We urge the Parks Department to monitor the district's comfort facilities and keep them well maintained. In addition, we seek the completion of Bushwick Inlet Park, including the condemnations, remediation and build out of the promised 28 acre park. In regards to the 65 Commercial Street site, this is another parcel promised as park space in the 2005 Waterfront Rezoning Points of Agreement. The MTA has agreed to relocate from this site. Funds and planning must be applied to turn this site into park space.

## **MCGOLRICK PARK**

This notable park hosts a landmark structure, its central Pavilion Shelter (comfort station) and two important historic sculptures. The World War I memorial (1923) to the south of the shelter pavilion was designed by Carl Augustus Heber. It honors 150 Greenpoint soldiers who fought in World War I. The Monitor and the Merrimac (1939) by sculptor Antonio de Filippo, celebrates the battle of the ironclad USS Monitor and Confederate Merrimac on March 9, 1862 off the coast of Hampton Roads, Virginia. Designed by Swedish engineer John Ericsson, the Monitor was built at the Continental Iron Works in Greenpoint and outfitted at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. These iconic features of the park require varying degrees of maintenance and should be made a number one priority by the Parks Department for funding. In addition, this park is enjoyed by many local families whose children recreate in its playground or use its passive greened spaces. People take pleasure walking the quiet pathways and can often be seen seated on benches surrounded by the park's many century old trees. Attention and funding is needed to preserve its fine and unique character as well as upgrade its aged infrastructure.

## **EAST RIVER PARK**

A State park was designated for a portion of the former BEDT site (Kent Avenue/North 7<sup>th</sup> Street) and funded by New York State. After much delay, the park is has opened and is to be further developed. The park should remain open with regular hours for the area's residents throughout the year. We look forward to the park

being further developed. Solar lighting for the park must have the necessary funds to maintain them. We are concerned about the park having any exclusive use by private entities for profit.

### **WILLIAMSBURG PARK**

We ask that with the holding of any special events and use of this new park (at the former Department of Sanitation Garage/50 Kent Avenue) as a performance venue that the sound levels be restricted so not to negatively affect the surrounding community. Police must be involved in crowd control.

### **GREENPOINT MONITOR MUSEUM**

Community Board No. 1 is pleased to learn that the NYS chartered Greenpoint Monitor Museum received donated land at the Bushwick Inlet (where the historical iron clad ship was birthed) for the construction of a museum in honor of the USS Monitor. The ship's construction here was a major event in the community's history – we support the museum's efforts to keep alive the memory of the USS Monitor. The museum seeks to retain its donated property as it will act as a catalyst for additional donations as it moves forward with founding a home at the site. The City is moving forward to develop this area around the Bushwick Inlet, from North 9<sup>th</sup> Street to Quay Street as parkland and must respect the issues raised by the Greenpoint Monitor Museum and partner to make their dream a reality.

### **RETENTION AND EXPANSION OF PARKLAND**

As the pertinent City Planning Department studies indicate, Community District No. 1 is one of the most under-served area with regard to park and recreation services. Thus, we would strongly oppose the elimination of any currently mapped parkland in our district or usage/renting of same for other than parkland/recreation unless as per current City policy, equivalent space is developed as parkland in the immediate vicinity. We also strongly support the establishment of additional parks and playgrounds within our borders.

Community Board No. 1 continues its support for the development of appropriate small parks on triangles. The Southside and South Williamsburg have few local parks, and the triangles, such as where Heyward, Wallabout and Wythe Avenue come together, should be implemented. The concrete triangle at Meeker Avenue, Morgan Avenue and Driggs Avenue should be greened. The community's request to redo this triangle continues to fall on deaf ears.

We are delighted to see that the Administration proposes the expansion of the Waterfront Park to the Bushwick Inlet and its initial phase has moved forward. This expansion proposal provides much needed recreational space for our residents and insures some greening of the waterfront (the former Sanitation Garage at 50 Kent Avenue was demolished and annexed as parkland/open space). The proposal also suggests the inclusion of a Waterfront Access Plan (WAP). While we support this concept, we most certainly want to be directly involved in the design process. The Administration should commence the condemnation procedures to demonstrate a good faith gesture to our community while carefully retaining jobs and relocating existing businesses.

### **BROOKLYN 2**

Approximately one-third of the capital budget priorities included in the community board's FY16 budget register are for park projects. None of them, however, are funded. Several council members have stated their reticence to allocate capital funds for parks because of how long it often takes for the projects to be completed. For example, reconstruction of the Willoughby Avenue entrance to Fort Greene Park began last fall, six years–six!–after the project was scoped.

Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver has scheduled a meeting later this month with the Brooklyn community boards. Community Board 2 looks forward to learning what steps the commissioner

has taken to ensure capital projects are completed in a timelier manner, as well as other initiatives of the administration.

Several of the priority parks projects on the community board's register have price tags too expensive to be paid by one council member, even in partnership with the borough president, and the community board encourages the administration and City Council to play a role in their rehabilitation. It was estimated that the full renovation of Commodore Barry Park (202200006C), the only parks department athletic fields in Community District 2, will cost \$20,000,000. Reconstruction of the Willoughby Avenue entrance to Fort Greene Park is just one component of what was estimated years ago to be an \$80 million renovation.

CB2 is pleased that the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) was able to hire a new Fort Greene Park manager, the community board's third highest Expense Budget priority (202201601E).

The community board is also pleased to learn DPR will try to devote existing resources to hire Playground Associates for Fort Greene Park, McLaughlin Park, Pierrepont Playground, Sixteen Sycamores Playground, Commodore Barry Park, Crispus Attucks Playground, Underwood Playground, Washington Hall Park, Parham Playground and JHS 113 playground (202200602E).

Although not currently under DPR's jurisdiction, the pending design for the renovation of "BAM Park" will be done to the agency's standards, facilitating the transfer of the property from the Department of Housing Preservation and Development. A "kick-off" meeting on the construction of this new public open space (202201401C) was held on March 3, 2015. CB2 encourages the administration to support this initiative of the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership.

## **BROOKLYN 8**

The negative responses to all but one of our Parks related Capital requests are unacceptable. Our parks and recreation centers are integral to maintaining a minimum quality of life for our community's children and fostering greater bonds both between parents and their children and children and their friends. Outdated play equipment can lead to injuries and lawsuits brought against the city because of known dangerous conditions. To limit the Parks Department's funds to disallow them from making necessary upgrades is callous at best and unlawful at worst. Further consideration needs to be given to the Parks Department's budget so that maintenance work can be done and upgrades made timely.

Additionally, the number of Parks Enforcement Personnel numbers remains insufficient for such a large borough. The Parks Department is in need of additional PEP officers to monitor and patrol our parks and playgrounds to ensure the safety of visitors. Merely shuffling agents from one location to another is not going to solve arising problems. Additional officers are required to address the need.

## **BROOKLYN 9**

The creation and expansion of parks, playgrounds and open space is a top priority of Community Board 9. In the Borough of Brooklyn, Community District 9 has the least amount of open space and one of the largest, if not the largest, youth population in the city. The district

continues to grow as it attracts new families, with its close proximity to cultural institutions and transportation access. This growth increases the district's needs for adequate open space. The Board feels very strongly that this need should be addressed for the overall well-being and development of our community's youth population.

We are pleased to note that open space has been given a high priority in PlaNYC 2030. Many of the ideas contained in the plan have been priorities that Community Board 9 has consistently advocated for over the past twenty-five years. Community Board 9 long ago recognized that this shortage of open space in the district "... threatens our environment, our health, and our quality of life." It is refreshing to see in PlaNYC that the importance of parks and open space to the population is finally being recognized and given the prominence it deserves.

### **Capital Reconstruction Projects**

#### **Hamilton Metz Park**

Hamilton Metz Park is another of the heavily utilized parks in the district. This park has been partially renovated; however, an additional commitment of funds is urgently needed to complete the renovation of the entire park. The agency recommends that "...this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member. We therefore call on our elected officials to provide the necessary funding to complete this park, making it safe for the children in our community.

#### **Mount Prospect Park**

While we continue to advocate for additional open space in the district, there is currently park space going to waste in our district because it is not fully developed. Community Board 9 took the initiative to look at possibilities for the design/development of Mount Prospect Park, working with students from the University of Virginia. We have had quite a few meetings and visits to the site, with park and elected officials, who have all agreed that the park needs to be redesigned and reconstructed. We have been requesting a preliminary design investigation since 1997 yet to date, not a single dime has been forthcoming. This district is in desperate need for additional open space to serve its overwhelmingly large youth population. We need our elected officials to step up to the plate and fund this project for the benefit of the community.

Mount Prospect Park is existing park space, perched strategically between the Brooklyn Museum and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The opportunity exists for the development of creative uses for this space and the amenities to go along with that. This project has been brought to the attention of our City Council member and the Borough President to provide the necessary funding. We continue to encourage these elected officials to fund a preliminary design investigation that will focus on developing this wide expanse of open space with improved access and amenities that would be enjoyed by the community; and to provide the for the necessary funding for the long awaited reconstruction of the park.

#### **Reconstruction/Expansion of Wingate Park**

We are so pleased that full funding has been allocated for this project and that the final design contract has been let. Wingate Park is a largely athletically-oriented park. On any given day the Park attracts scores of residents, from all parts of the borough. The demand for this park has outgrown its size and overuse has led to the deterioration of the park's facilities. In addition, Community Board 9 feels that the athletic focus of this park should be complimented with additional recreational opportunities. The acquisition of the property adjacent to the park would provide much needed parkland and the opportunity to provide the type of recreational equipment that is lacking at this park.

We would be very pleased to work with the agency as they "further study this request" and will be getting in touch with the agency as suggested in the response.

### **Prospect Park**

#### **Lakeside Project**

As we all know Prospect Park is Brooklyn's urban oasis. The Lakeside Project is a project that will transform 26 acres of parkland to address the needs of Brooklyn residents as well as visitors to the borough, while at the same time restoring the "...lake-shore to its original elegance ...". Additional funding is still needed to complete this worthwhile project. We are therefore, reaching out to our elected officials to fund this project to completion.

#### **Oriental Pavilion**

The Oriental Pavilion has been the site of many, many community sponsored activities. This ideal location in Prospect Park has served all of the Brooklyn community well and is in need of rehabilitation. That the agency will "... try to accommodate this issue within existing resources" is helpful; we will reach out to the agency to address this matter.

### **Acquisition of Property for Creation of Open Space**

#### **Property at Flatbush Avenue/Ocean Avenue/Empire Blvd**

The site at this intersection, just across from Prospect Park and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, is city-owned property that is currently being used by employees of the NYC Transit Authority to park their private cars. This site does not belong to the Transit Authority, it was supposed to be a temporary location for use during the reconstruction/repairs to the subway station, yet the agency continues to hold onto this lot for the private use of Transit employees. This is an outrage! The City of New York does not provide free parking for city employees' private vehicles, yet, here we are, the total disregard for the taxpayers money. Not only do they utilize the lot for parking private vehicles; the NYCTA employees randomly parked their cars on the sidewalk, do NOT clean the sidewalk; do NOT shovel the snow in the winter – a major disaster that is being allowed to continue with no-one taking action to return this lot back to the community.

Community Board 9 feels strongly that it is not the taxpayers' responsibility to provide free parking for employees of the city. The Board has identified this site as the site for a passive park for the community. Not only will it rid the community of the current eyesore, but it will help in the board's mission for the creation of additional open space for the residents of this district.

With the help of a local artist, and "crowd funding" the Board has begun the process of reclaiming this corner for our community, with the restoration of the "Flatbush Trees" the dilapidated green sheet metal trees at this intersection. The project will involve middle-schoolers working with an artist to transform these eyesore "trees" into a work of art.

The agency has indicated that "... further study by the agency of this request is needed, contact the agency. We look forward to having this discussion and to work diligently to bring this vision to fruition.

### **Vacant Property on the Grounds of Kingsborough Psychiatric Center**

This city-owned property on the grounds of Kingsborough Psychiatric Center is currently lying vacant and unused while the district yearns for additional open space. Acquisition of this and the other property that we have identified will provide that additional open space that we so desperately need.

We implore the agency, our city and state elected officials to work with us to develop additional open space, so that we too can say, no matter where we live in this community, "we live no more than 10 minutes from the nearest park." This is our vision, this is the vision touted in PlaNYC, we need to make this plan, this dream, a reality for this corner of Brooklyn. The Board will redouble its efforts to share this vision with our elected officials and to work on the acquisition of funding for this project.

### **Tree Pruning/Stump Removal**

Our community has been severely impacted by the lack of forestry service. Consequently, overgrown trees have not been pruned resulting in darkened streets and property damage and an indirect cost to the city. Restoration of at least 10% of the budget for forestry will impact in a small way on the current backlog of tree pruning/stump removal complaints.

### **Park Maintenance**

Community Board 9 cannot overemphasize the importance of maintenance of our parks. We urge the Mayor and City Council to provide appropriate funding to maintain adequate staffing levels for park maintenance.

### **Park Enforcement**

The Board will continue to advocate for personnel for park enforcement. The provision

of a safe environment within our parks cannot be overemphasized. An infusion of funds by the Mayor and the City Council will help to restore adequate park enforcement and park rangers.

## **BROOKLYN 10**

### **Capital Priority #1 – Initiate Immediate Study of Shore Road Promenade Bicycle Path**

There are close to thirty recurring cave-ins threatening public safety. This study must include complete investigation of the infrastructure of the adjacent Combined Sewer Outfalls to determine source of water breaches. The cave-ins pose an immediate safety risk to cyclists and pedestrians and immediate study to determine cause and repairs are needed to make area safe.

### **Capital Priority #2 – Rehabilitate Owls Head Park – Lower Path Erosion/Drainage System**

The erosion along 68<sup>th</sup> Street from Shore Road to Colonial Road is spreading to several areas of the park, hillside and pathways. Many tree roots are uncovered threatening their stability. This year's heavy rainfall has exacerbated the problem – causing mountains of mud along the sidewalk. In addition, mud is filling up the catch basins, creating flooding conditions during heavy rainstorms. The area can no longer be maintained by local parks cleanup crews. Unfortunately, since capital funds are not available we face rising damage to our beautiful park. Funds were recently allocated to refurbish the Overlook at Owls Head Park. If the erosion issues are not corrected, park goers will have to trek through mud to get to the overlook. This capital request must be funded.

### **Capital Priority #4 – Refurbish Tennis Courts at Bay 8<sup>th</sup> Street, JJ Carty Park, Leif Ericson Park, Russell Pederson Playground and Shore Road Park**

Many of our intermediate schools and high schools utilize these tennis courts as part of their physical education curriculum. They are in poor condition and need to be refurbished.

### **Capital Priority # 5 Renovation of Shore Road Park- Restoration of Shore Road Perimeter and drainage by sections of blocks to include DEP and DOT.**

The sidewalk along Shore Road park from 72<sup>nd</sup> Street to 84<sup>th</sup> Street and from 86<sup>th</sup> to 97<sup>th</sup> Street is missing hexagon pavement blocks creating hazardous pedestrian conditions. Untended brush and foliage has proliferated to such an extent that only restoration of the landscaping can restore the area.

### **Capital Priority #6 Renovation of Fort Hamilton Athletic Field – Refurbish Track and Fence Enhancements**

Estimated at nearly \$10 million dollars the response provided by the Agency is not feasible. The Fort Hamilton Athletic Field was refurbished in 2001. It is in immediate need of refurbishment as the track can no longer be maintained by NYC Parks Department. It is the only running track within Community District 10.

**Capital Priority #9 McKinley Park -Repairs to the Comfort Station – Provide Handicap Accessible Play Equipment/ Refurbish steps and landscaping 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue side.**

The comfort station is in need of upgrades. Rehabilitation of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue steps that are so hazardous they have been cordoned off by the NYC Parks Department; we have received calls asking for the addition of handicap accessible play equipment currently not available at this park.

**Capital Priority #10 – JJ Carty Park – Complete Refurbishment**

This park is in need of refurbishment to include updated playground equipment including basketball courts.

**Capital Priority #15 John Paul Jones Park – 101<sup>st</sup> Street at 4 Avenue - Reconstruction of paths and benches**

This park is enjoyed by young and old. The paths and benches in this park have deteriorated and are in need of replacement. Water service needs to be repaired as there are no working water fountains.

**Capital Priority #17 – Complete rehabilitation of Shore Road Park ball field at 74<sup>th</sup> Street.**

This heavily utilized field needs a drainage system and new dugouts that are able to be secured from vandalism during the pm hours.

**Capital Priority #18 – Reconstruction of Vinland Playground – located at Shore Road and 95<sup>th</sup> Street**

This playground is in poor condition and needs to be refurbished.

**Capital Priority #19- Complete renovation of Shore Road Park at 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue**

There is a small gated unused area of parkland that needs to be developed for community use.

**Capital Priority #20 – Dyker Beach Park Asphalt Field**

This asphalt field is underutilized – a request was made by the community for a multi-use recreational field.

**Capital Priority #23 – Leif Ericson Park ball fields at 67<sup>th</sup> Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue.**

The ball fields are in poor condition and heavily utilized by local leagues and in dire need of refurbishment with synthetic turf to ADA specifications.

**Capital Priority #24 – Fort Hamilton Senior Center Parking lot repaving**

The Friends of Fort Hamilton Senior Center requested to repave the parking lot which is on NYC Parks Department property. The parking lot is filled with large potholes and depressions.

## **PARKS EXPENSE PRIORITIES**

Basic maintenance of our parkland needs to be funded. Failure to provide maintenance has led to the need for complete park renovation projects. In addition, our Parks forestry services need to be focused upon. The effects of funding cuts to tree pruning and lagging time table for stump removal are evident. Community Board Ten records demonstrate a sharp increase in the number of calls regarding fallen tree limbs following major wind/rain/snow storms. The regular maintenance of our city street trees remains a top priority.

### **BROOKLYN 11**

Priority 01, Tracking Code 211201604C

*Request: Initiate study and planning for improved coastal protections due to tidal surge and wave action on the Shore Parkway Promenade from Bay 8th Street across Bay Parkway.*

*Explanation: This area from Bay Parkway to Bay 8th Street floods during high tides and storms. Infrastructure needs to be protected as well as evacuation routes.*

*Response: Parks undertook post-Sandy repairs of the area damaged along the Belt Parkway/Shore Parkway bike path as well as non-Sandy related repaving along the southern portion of Bay Parkway.*

--It should be noted that repairs were made to restore the area to its original condition. No actions were undertaken to improve coastal protections and resiliency.

Priority 02, Tracking Code 211201605C

*Request: Initiate study and planning of the open space along the Belt Parkway to mitigate storm surge and be more resilient in order to protect infrastructure and property.*

*Explanation: Open space along the Belt Parkway should be utilized to absorb seawater to protect infrastructure and property. Currently the open space consists of dead grass and dirt. Native plantings and progressive planning will increase absorption and improve resiliency.*

--This request has not been funded within Community Board 11.

## **BROOKLYN 12**

### **TRACKING CODE 212201302E**

#### **FUND OR ASSIST PARK PERSONNEL TO LOCK ALL PARKS AT NIGHT IN COMMUNITY BOARD 12 DISTRICT**

There are constant complaints about basketball playing in some parks at one or two in the morning. Many of the Parks have kids hanging out using drugs as well as dealing drugs in the park all hours of the night as well. These are quality of life issues that must be addressed. Locking the parks at night would greatly alleviate these problems.

### **TRACKING CODE 212200601C**

#### **CONSTRUCT PUBLIC RESTROOM IN PLAYGROUND AREA OF COL. MARCUS PARK – EAST 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

Numerous children and adults must cross East 5<sup>th</sup> Street to go to the other side of the Park in order to use the restroom. This is a highly trafficked street and with a high volume of pedestrian traffic going back and forth to use the restrooms on the other side, a hazardous condition has been created. A restroom, especially for the children using this playground, is essential to the Park and the safety of the children using this playground.

## **BROOKLYN 13**

Capital Priority 13 (213200008C) demands attention. We are more cognizant, thank goodness, of the needs of the informed and the aged of the communities of our city. Monies had been allocated for concrete strips that would enable people in wheelchairs, etc. to reach the shore. Placement of carpet or other materials as walkways does not help those in wheelchairs or with walking problems.

The parks of C.B. 13 are many, considering the fact that the Department must maintain the beach, the Boardwalk, and such large expanses as Kaiser Park, Calvert Vaux Park, Asser Levy Park, et al. Additional workers and funds should be in place, as they should be for the need of lifeguard protection at the shore.

## **BROOKLYN 14**

The percentage of Community Board 14 residents living within a ¼ mile of a park is well below the borough average. We are disappointed that the agency's funds are not adequate to fund the rehabilitation and development of playgrounds, parks and tot lots and adult playgrounds within CD 14. We are pleased that local elected officials have dedicated funding to some aspects of this request. The Lt. Federico Narvaez Tot Lot on Cortelyou Road has drainage issues so extreme that the playground must be closed following heavy rains. We will continue to work to bring these additional needs to the attention of elected officials as the agency recommends.

The board continues to support funding tree pruning and maintenance and have empirical evidence, which demonstrates that current resources are inadequate to meet this need in our District.

The board continues to reiterate its support for adequate funding for street tree maintenance as well as necessary replacement and stump removal. We are also distressed over the lack of maintenance of malls and Green Streets including signage. We are not confident that existing resources are adequate to accommodate the need.

Additional vehicles including dump trucks and vans for parks maintenance are a new priority for this District. We hope that DPR can indeed meet this need within existing resources.

Additional parks enforcement personnel continue to be a priority request for CD 14 parks and playgrounds.

### **BROOKLYN 15**

In the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, the Community Board realized the importance of infrastructure updates in the district. We were made aware of the need for dredging in both Sheepshead Bay and Gerritsen Beach. The Board knew that these Capital Projects were imperative for the survival of the residents of this district.

It is our belief that, the Department of Parks and Recreation must be given a budget of their own to maintain our parks. It is unheard of that the Parks Department must wait for funding from other sources to do the work needed in our parks today.

Therefore, Community Board 15 must reject the Agency Responses in our Capital and Expenses Budget Priorities for 2016.

### **BROOKLYN 17**

The rehabilitation of Paerdegat Park was a welcome project by the residents of Community District 17. However, the Comfort Station at this location was not included in the rehabilitation project. The Board was informed that the total funding for the rehabilitation of Paerdegat Park Comfort Station is approximately \$1M to \$3M. As noted under Tracking Code 217201512C, the Board believes the total rehabilitation of the Paerdegat Park comfort station will provide useful service not only to the employees but also to the public who utilizes the use of the park.

### **MANHATTAN 3**

Capital Request # 03 (303201202C): Request: Sara Delano Roosevelt Park: Funding to reconstruct first floor of Stanton Street park building (storehouse) to create community space and make bathroom accessible to the public.

- This request is partially funded. Contact the Department of Parks and Recreation for specifics.

*Community Board 3 and neighborhood stakeholders have been advocating for this community space for over 20 years. Even as the community has gentrified, there are over 500 children living below the poverty level in the three census tracts around the park. Districtwide, the 2010-2012 American Community Survey found that approximately 35% of the population under 18 years had income below the poverty level and roughly 30% of family households with related children under 18 years of age were below the poverty level. Our youth need safe, recreational opportunities to combat the challenges of poverty. The district is fortunate to have many community-based organizations who serve these populations and have offered to manage and program the space. Three out of four Parks buildings in Sara D. Roosevelt Park are used for Citywide Parks storehouse and supply centers and a central communication center. The logistics of finding a suitable facility space for Parks operations and materials must be overcome in order to better serve the youth of the district.*

Capital Request # 15 (303201404C): Request: Sara Delano Roosevelt Park: Reconstruction of Hester Street Park House to make second floor available for community use and to make ADA accessible.

- Further study by the agency of this request is needed. Contact the agency.

*Community Board 3 reiterates the importance of having safe indoor, recreational and community space options in the district. As illustrated by the feasibility study undertaken by Asian Americans for Equality (AAFE) and the Hester Street Collaborative, the Parks Department has a clear, unmet need in the district. Renovations to the second floor of the Park House would alleviate some of the demand and provide Parks with a model of adaptive reuse for other facilities.*

Capital Request # 16 (303201401C): Request: Soccer Field at Sara Delano Roosevelt Park (known as Nike Field): Funding for replacement of the AstroTurf for the multi-purpose field

- Parks is discussing the replacement of the artificial turf with a potential donor.

*The status of the replacement of Nike soccer field's turf have been 'in discussion' since Spring 2014. Athletes and parks users have expressed concerns for the state of the field at the start of each soccer season, as it has deteriorated very quickly after fewer than nine years. This budget request should no longer be in limbo, and needs concretely confirmed or deferred funding. CB 3 lacks fields to serve the needs of this community, as Parks is aware. Proper maintenance and replacement of existing fields is imperative for our community youth and adult recreational needs.*

## **MANHATTAN 4**

**Asks:**

- **Funding to upgrade the Chelsea Recreation Center**
- **Funding to complete Hudson Boulevard Park**
- **Funding for the staircases at DeWitt Clinton Park**
- **Funding for Hudson River Park**

Chelsea Recreation Center continues to be the most utilized public recreation center in New York City. Given its high level of use, systematic maintenance of this center is a crucial issue in avoiding costly repairs and in keeping future costs low. In particular the exercise equipment is showing age and needs to be upgraded.

Hudson Boulevard Park – As part of the agreement of the Western Railyards rezoning our district was promised a six block long park. Funding has been secured for the first three blocks and construction has commenced. MCB4 would like to see additional funds allocated from the FY 2016 budget towards the completion of the fully envisioned park.

DeWitt Clinton Park- Funding to replace the staircases leading to the Park from Twelfth Avenue would allow for better access to this wonderful 5.83 acre green space within our district.

Hudson River Park - The City, in concert with the State, needs to fund the following portions of Hudson River Park:

- Removal of the commercial activities of heliport at West 36<sup>th</sup> Street
- Completion of the long planned amenities in the eastern portion of Chelsea Waterside including a Comfort Station
- Completion of the esplanade and park from about W. 28<sup>th</sup> Street north to Pier 76. As we have noted many times, the Hudson River Park Act calls for the City to use its best efforts to find a new location for the existing tow pound so that Pier 76 can be developed as 50% parkland and 50% compatible commercial use. We urge the City to consider alternatives as soon as possible so that Pier 76 can take its rightful place as part of Hudson River Park.

MCB4 also has concerns around the possible sale of air rights by HRPT because many of the identified potential landing sites fall within our district. It is imperative that the City and State work with HRPT to ensure pricing of any sale of air rights falls within the range of market rates and that any subsequent development will include affordable housing and be in scale with the existing neighborhood.

## **MANHATTAN 5**

305200906E—We are thankful that the Department of Parks and Recreation has recommended funding for hiring a second full-time exterminator.

## **MANHATTAN 6**

This Department continues to occupy a less than ideal place in the City's list of priorities. While funding surpasses the severe cutbacks of prior years, the projections in the Financial Plan of flat or lowered expenditures are worrisome. Improvements are necessary. Instead of relying on Council members to fix our park infrastructure, it should be a City budget principle to expand and maintain our open spaces. As the Manhattan Borough President suggested in last year's budget priorities report, "We must establish a baseline of care across the system which is maintained by an adequately funded Parks Department." This issue is particularly acute in our District, the least "green" of any other.

Despite a prior commitment to funding increased Parks Enforcement Patrols (PEPs), they have yet to be deployed. There has been an uptick in complaints to Manhattan Community Board Six about illegal activity in some of our open spaces in the last year, so the agency response that funding is now in doubt is worrisome and should be reviewed.

Parks maintenance and operations funding for personnel was also increased last year, and we will follow up on its efficacy. Any additional staff should still include a dedicated gardener for our District parks which we have repeatedly requested. Rat abatement in parks should also be stepped up when it comes to maintenance.

Many of our open spaces continue to suffer from insufficient funding for maintenance and improvements, as evidenced in our multiple capital requests. Requests for rehabilitating critical structures and facilities are repeatedly ignored or referred to our Council members or the Borough President for funding. We point out that City funds spent today on preventative infrastructure maintenance will be fewer dollars spent in the future.

The Peter Detmold Park situation is troublesome. The stairs leading to the pedestrian overpass are dangerously deteriorated and can result in accidents that open the City to potential liability. Should they deteriorate further, this park might be closed. We cannot afford less green space in our District. We trust the City will correct the situation and make it a safe place to enjoy.

We need your office and the Department to support the overpass between Murphy Brothers Park and Stuyvesant Cove Park, a request that we have been told needs "further study" since 2008. We were also told that funds are insufficient for reconstructing Ralph J. Bunche Park, a space frequented by residents and tourists due to its proximity to the United Nations. This park includes the Isaiah Wall, an inspirational monument that also needs attention. Bunche Park should be a City priority.

The remaining capital and expense requests directed to the Department of Parks and Recreation continue to be priorities of Manhattan Community Board Six. We look forward to maintaining a constant dialogue with the agency in determining priorities for our District as we continue to highlight issues that maintain our finite parks and recreation areas and prevent even greater emergency expenditures down the line. The Asser Levy Playground expansion is an excellent example of what can be achieved with greater cooperation.

- C-03: 306201402C – Replace Windows at Asser Levy Recreation Center
- C-11: 306201602C – Upgrade playground equipment at MacArthur Park
- C-12: 306200905C – Repair stairs to pedestrian overpass at Peter Detmold Park (see also DOT)
- C-14: 306200603C – Reconstruct Ralph Bunche Park
- C-15: 306201206C – Purchase a Toolcat vehicle
- C-17: 306200802C – Overpass between Murphy and Stuy Cove Parks (see also DOT)
- C-18: 306201603C – Repair fountain at Dag Hammarskjold Park
- C-19: 306200806C – Restore fountains in East River Esplanade Park (Glick Park)
- C-20: 306200908C – ADA compliance for Stuyvesant Park comfort stations
- C-21: 306201604C – Restore lighting in East River Esplanade Park (Glick Park)
- C-27: 306201606C – Enhancements to St. Vartan Park
- CS: 306198801C – Restore Stuyvesant Square Park Fence and Bluestone
- CS: 306200604C – Trygve Lie Plaza
- CS: 306200903C – Roof at 54<sup>th</sup> Street
- CS: 306201204C – Boiler for Asser Levy Recreation Center
- CS: 306201401C – Raise roadbed of de-mapped street at Asser Levy Place
- E-02: 306198701E – Additional parks personnel and gardener
- E-06: 306201002E – Parks Enforcement Patrol
- E-13: 306201602E – Camera at Bellevue South Park
- E-24: 306201605E – Cameras at Dag Hammarskjold
- E-25: 306201401E – Install Benches in St. Vartan Park

## **MANHATTAN 7**

**Tracking Code:** 307201601C

**Request:** 2016- 2. Rebuild Cherry Walk, Riverside Park, 100th to 129th Streets, at the Hudson River. --- \$5M

**Agency Response:** Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

**Reply:** CB7 works in close collaboration with our elected officials on a host of budget issues and funding needs, and looks forward to the opportunity to do so on these needs.

The use of Borough President and Council grants, however, is not a substitute for a reliable capital budget for DPR every year that would facilitate long-term planning and better resources allocation than the annual ad hoc approach admits.

The important role of our active and passive recreation spaces in our increasingly densely populated built environment makes such a sustainable capital budget model a necessity.

**Tracking Code:** 307201201C

**Request:** Fund Equipment for District 7 (Riverside Park) -- \$150K

**Agency Response:** Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

**Reply:** CB7 works in close collaboration with our elected officials on a host of budget issues and funding needs, and looks forward to the opportunity to do so on these needs.

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**Tracking Code:** 307201602C

**Request:** Rebuild Bloomingdale Playground (Amsterdam Avenue, 104th-105th Street). -- \$900K

**Agency Response:** Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

**Reply:** CB7 works in close collaboration with our elected officials on a host of budget issues and funding needs, and looks forward to the opportunity to do so on these needs.

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**Tracking Code:** 307201502C

**Request:** Reconstruct the Basketball Courts and Soccer Field in Riverside Park (West 101st-102nd Streets) -- \$500K

**Agency Response:** Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

**Reply:** CB7 works in close collaboration with our elected officials on a host of budget issues and funding needs, and looks forward to the opportunity to do so on these needs.

The use of Borough President and Council grants, however, is not a substitute for a reliable capital budget for DPR every year that would facilitate long-term planning and better resources allocation than the annual ad hoc approach admits.

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**Tracking Code:** 307200804C

**Request:** Stabilize the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, West 89th Street on Riverside Drive -- \$1.5M.

**Agency Response:** Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

**Reply:** CB7 works in close collaboration with our elected officials on a host of budget issues and funding needs, and looks forward to the opportunity to do so on these needs.

The use of Borough President and Council grants, however, is not a substitute for a reliable capital budget for DPR every year that would facilitate long-term planning and better resources allocation than the annual ad hoc approach admits.

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**Tracking Code:** 307201102C

**Request:** Restore the Landscape at the Hippo Playground Area in Riverside Park (91-95 Street) -- \$750K

**Agency Response:** Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

**Reply:** CB7 works in close collaboration with our elected officials on a host of budget issues and funding needs, and looks forward to the opportunity to do so on these needs.

The use of Borough President and Council grants, however, is not a substitute for a reliable capital budget for DPR every year that would facilitate long-term planning and better resources allocation than the annual ad hoc approach admits.

The important role of our active and passive recreation spaces in our increasingly densely populated built environment makes such a sustainable capital budget model a necessity.

**Tracking Code:** 301201403C

**Request:** Fund an Upper West Side Pilot Project for Variable Traffic Signal Timing.

**Agency Response:** DOT has begun process for implementation of program.

**Reply:** CB7 thanks the DoT for their commitment to incorporating this community priority within existing resources.

**Tracking Code:** 307201503C

**Request:** Fund "Green Outlook" in Riverside Park -- \$2.8MM

**Agency Response:** Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

**Reply:** This project represents the first opportunity to add new comfort stations to Riverside Park in a section of the Park that is particularly poorly-served in that regard.

The proposal also promises to serve as a model for responsible development of structures in the Park, and is worthy of funding on that basis alone.

CB7 works in close collaboration with our elected officials on a host of budget issues and funding needs, and looks forward to the opportunity to do so on these needs.

The use of Borough President and Council grants, however, is not a substitute for a reliable capital budget for DPR every year that would facilitate long-term planning and better resources allocation than the annual ad hoc approach admits.

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**Tracking Code:** 307201409C

**Request:** Renovate the Sol Bloom Playground (West 91-92 Streets, Central Park West to Columbus Avenue) -- \$1.5MM

**Agency Response:** Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

**Reply:** CB7 works in close collaboration with our elected officials on a host of budget issues and funding needs, and looks forward to the opportunity to do so on these needs.

The use of Borough President and Council grants, however, is not a substitute for a reliable capital budget for DPR every year that would facilitate long-term planning and better resources allocation than the annual ad hoc approach admits.

The important role of our active and passive recreation spaces in our increasingly densely populated built environment makes such a sustainable capital budget model a necessity.

**Tracking Code:** 307201302C

**Request:** Renovate the Anibal Aviles Playground, West 108 Street between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues -- \$1.5MM

**Agency Response:** Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

**Reply:** CB7 works in close collaboration with our elected officials on a host of budget issues and funding needs, and looks forward to the opportunity to do so on these needs.

The use of Borough President and Council grants, however, is not a substitute for a reliable capital budget for DPR every year that would facilitate long-term planning and better resources allocation than the annual ad hoc approach admits.

The important role of our active and passive recreation spaces in our increasingly densely populated built environment makes such a sustainable capital budget model a necessity.

**Tracking Code:** 307200909C

**Request:** Reconstruct the Dinosaur Playground (West 97 Street at Riverside Park) -- \$3.5MM

**Agency Response:** Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

**Reply:** CB7 works in close collaboration with our elected officials on a host of budget issues and funding needs, and looks forward to the opportunity to do so on these needs.

The use of Borough President and Council grants, however, is not a substitute for a reliable capital budget for DPR every year that would facilitate long-term planning and better resources allocation than the annual ad hoc approach admits.

The important role of our active and passive recreation spaces in our increasingly densely populated built environment makes such a sustainable capital budget model a necessity.

**Tracking Code:** 307201604C

**Request:** Upgrade the Gertrude Ederle Recreation Center, West 60th Street.

**Agency Response:** Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

**Reply:** CB7 works in close collaboration with our elected officials on a host of budget issues and funding needs, and looks forward to the opportunity to do so on these needs.

The use of Borough President and Council grants, however, is not a substitute for a reliable capital budget for DPR every year that would facilitate long-term planning and better resources allocation than the annual ad hoc approach admits.

The important role of our active and passive recreation spaces in our increasingly densely populated built environment makes such a sustainable capital budget model a necessity.

**Tracking Code:** 307201605C

**Request:** Rebuild the Bennerson Playground, West 64th Street, Amsterdam Houses -- \$1.5MM

**Agency Response:** Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

**Reply:** CB7 works in close collaboration with our elected officials on a host of budget issues and funding needs, and looks forward to the opportunity to do so on these needs.

The use of Borough President and Council grants, however, is not a substitute for a reliable capital budget for DPR every year that would facilitate long-term planning and better resources allocation than the annual ad hoc approach admits.

The important role of our active and passive recreation spaces in our increasingly densely populated built environment makes such a sustainable capital budget model a necessity.

**Tracking Code:** 307201606C

**Request:** Upgrade the Frederick Douglass Playground, West 102nd Street and Amsterdam Avenue.

**Agency Response:** Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

**Reply:** CB7 works in close collaboration with our elected officials on a host of budget issues and funding needs, and looks forward to the opportunity to do so on these needs.

The use of Borough President and Council grants, however, is not a substitute for a reliable capital budget for DPR every year that would facilitate long-term planning and better resources allocation than the annual ad hoc approach admits.

The important role of our active and passive recreation spaces in our increasingly densely populated built environment makes such a sustainable capital budget model a necessity.

**Tracking Code:** 307201607C

**Request:** Upgrade the Happy Warrior Playground, West 99th Street and Amsterdam Avenue / PS 163.

**Agency Response:** Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

**Reply:** CB7 works in close collaboration with our elected officials on a host of budget issues and funding needs, and looks forward to the opportunity to do so on these needs.

The use of Borough President and Council grants, however, is not a substitute for a reliable capital budget for DPR every year that would facilitate long-term planning and better resources allocation than the annual ad hoc approach admits.

The important role of our active and passive recreation spaces in our increasingly densely populated built environment makes such a sustainable capital budget model a necessity.

**Tracking Code:** 307201608C

**Request:** Upgrade the Matthew Sapolin Playground, West 70th Street / PS 199.

**Agency Response:** Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

**Reply:** CB7 works in close collaboration with our elected officials on a host of budget issues and funding needs, and looks forward to the opportunity to do so on these needs.

The use of Borough President and Council grants, however, is not a substitute for a reliable capital budget for DPR every year that would facilitate long-term planning and better resources allocation than the annual ad hoc approach admits.

The important role of our active and passive recreation spaces in our increasingly densely populated built environment makes such a sustainable capital budget model a necessity.

**Tracking Code:** 307200704C

**Request:** Restore the Perimeter Sidewalk Along Central Park West Between 59th Street and 110th Street --- \$250K/block

**Agency Response:** Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

**Reply:** CB7 works in close collaboration with our elected officials on a host of budget issues and funding needs, and looks forward to the opportunity to do so on these needs.

The use of Borough President and Council grants, however, is not a substitute for a reliable capital budget for DPR every year that would facilitate long-term planning and better resources allocation than the annual ad hoc approach admits.

The important role of our active and passive recreation spaces in our increasingly densely populated built environment makes such a sustainable capital budget model a necessity.

**Tracking Code:** 307200807C

**Request:** Reconstruct the Naumburg Bandshell.

**Agency Response:** Department of Parks and Recreation funds are insufficient for this project. We recommend this project be brought to the attention of your elected officials, i.e. Borough President and/or City Council member.

**Reply:** CB7 works in close collaboration with our elected officials on a host of budget issues and funding needs, and looks forward to the opportunity to do so on these needs.

The use of Borough President and Council grants, however, is not a substitute for a reliable capital budget for DPR every year that would facilitate long-term planning and better resources allocation than the annual ad hoc approach admits.

The important role of our active and passive recreation spaces in our increasingly densely populated built environment makes such a sustainable capital budget model a necessity.

**Tracking Code:** 307201403E

**Request:** Pest control personnel - \$50K

**Agency Response:** The agency recommends funding this expense budget request in FY 2016, but at this time the availability of funds is uncertain.

**Reply:** CB7 appreciates DPR's shared concern for this issue. Addressing infestations of rodents and other vermin have a significant impact on the quality of life of both park users and those living nearby.

CB7 encourages DPR to find funding for this important resource, and stands ready to assist in advocacy efforts in that regard.

**Tracking Code:** 307200003E

**Request:** Park Enforcement Personnel for Riverside Park and District 7.

**Agency Response:** The agency recommends funding this expense budget request in FY 2016, but at this time the availability of funds is uncertain.

**Reply:** CB7 appreciates the support of the Department of Parks & Recreation relating to this key quality of life issue both for parks users as well as for neighbors who live nearby our parks.

CB7 looks forward to a productive dialogue on how current resources or supplement expense allocations could close the gap so that enforcement within our Parks is adequate to the growing needs and use of these essential spaces.

**Tracking Code:** 307201604E

**Request:** Increase staff for the Gertrude Ederle Recreation Center (West 60th Street).

**Agency Response:** The agency recommends funding this expense budget request in FY 2016, but at this time the availability of funds is uncertain.

**Reply:** CB7 appreciates DPR's shared concern for this issue.

CB7 encourages DPR to find funding for this important resource, as the capital investment made in rescuing and revitalizing this important resource will only be as successful as the programs and outreach

that can be sustained at the facility.

This resource responds directly to unmet needs for active recreation among those in the immediate and larger community who do not enjoy the affluence found in other parts of our District. The Rec Center stands as our commitment to all of our neighbors, and deserves our attention and our funding.

**Tracking Code:** 307201205E

**Request:** Playground Associates.

**Agency Response:** The agency recommends funding this expense budget request in FY 2016, but at this time the availability of funds is uncertain.

**Reply:** CB7 appreciates that DPR shares our vision for these uses of our parks and playgrounds, and stands ready to partner with DPR on advocacy initiatives to identify and secure necessary funding.

**Tracking Code:** 307201202E

**Request:** Provide permanent staffing for Parks Districts 7 and 14 (Riverside Park).

**Agency Response:** The agency recommends funding this expense budget request in FY 2016, but at this time the availability of funds is uncertain.

**Reply:** CB7 appreciates that DPR shares this concern, and stands ready to partner in any advocacy or related initiatives that would seek to address opportunities to meet these needs.

**Tracking Code:** 307201608E

**Request:** Fund synthetic turf field repair program.

**Agency Response:** The agency recommends funding this expense budget request in FY 2016, but at this time the availability of funds is uncertain.

**Reply:** CB7 appreciates that DPR shares this concern, and stands ready to partner in any advocacy or related initiatives that would seek to address opportunities to meet these needs.

**Tracking Code:** 307201301E

**Request:** Fund Tree Pruning and Stump Removal -- \$2MM Citywide.

**Agency Response:** The agency recommends funding this expense budget request in FY 2015, but at this time the availability of funds is uncertain.

**Reply:** CB7 appreciates the support of the Department of Parks & Recreation relating to this key quality of life issue both for parks users as well as for neighbors who leave nearby our parks.

CB7 looks forward to a productive dialogue on how current resources or supplemental expense allocations could close the gap so that tree pruning, clearly a core Parks function and one that becomes more and more a matter of widespread public concern in the wake of the increased frequency of devastating storms striking our parklands.

## **MANHATTAN 9**

Though invariably less dire than affordable housing and education, CB9 is dissatisfied with the City's Agency Responses to the majority of CB9's other Capital Budget Requests (specifically, Capital Request Nos. 6, 7, 11, 12, 16, and 17, *inter alia*), primarily directed to the Department of Parks and Recreation ("DPR"). As previously emphasized, parks and open spaces comprise approximately thirty percent (30%) of Community District 9's total acreage. Consequently, in the case of Parks and Recreation requests, DPR's resounding responses to the effect that "[F]unds are insufficient for this project", or even worse that said requests should be "[B]rought to the attention of [the District's] elected officials" is unpardonable (*see* DPR's responses to Capital Request Nos. 6, 7, 11, and 16, among others) .

Your Honor is surely agreeable that maintenance and upgrading of existing Park amenities within the District, particularly the installation and upgrading of lighting in Riverside Park (Capital Request No. 7), the construction and renovation of sidewalks along the southbound side of Riverside Drive between the General Grant National Memorial and the 125<sup>th</sup> Street viaduct (Capital Request No. 11), the complete rebuilding of stairs at 133<sup>rd</sup> Street in St. Nicholas Park, the repair and rebuilding of stairs at 129<sup>th</sup> and 140<sup>th</sup> Streets in St. Nicholas Park, and the repair and rebuilding of stairs at 114<sup>th</sup> Street and 122<sup>nd</sup> Street in Morningside Park (Capital Request No. 12), not only ensures safety but encourages District 9's youth to participate in sporting and other recreational activities as opposed to unlawful ones.

Aside from the additional benefit of reducing the adolescent crime rate in District 9, promoting sports and other recreational activities provides long-term health benefits. Promoting sports and recreation is the most cost-effective way for the City to reduce the rate of childhood obesity through encouraging otherwise idle youth to regularly utilize parks and open spaces. Failure to consider the direct benefits derived from ensuring that parks and open spaces are both safe and appealing imposes costs, such as those commonly associated with crime prevention and enforcement and urban flight which cannot otherwise be effectively addressed by the City.

As previously stated, operably controlling rats, mosquitos, raccoons, bed bugs and other vermin was the impetus for CB9's Expense Request No. 2 to the DOHMH (i.e., an increase in funding for District 9's pest control efforts). Likewise, the Department of Parks and Recreation's ("DPR") responsibilities converge with that of the DOHMH in this regard, and accordingly DPR should be expected to maintain sanitary conditions in District 9, a District in which nearly thirty percent (30%) of its total acreage is parkland.

Accordingly, CB9 dutifully requested from DPR compacting "big belly" waste receptacles for areas seasonally infested with rodents in Morningside Park, St. Nicholas Park, and Upper Riverside Park, among other areas (Expense Request No. 3), funding for six (6) full-time park workers ("CPWs") for Riverside Park, Morningside Park, St. Nicholas Park, and Montefiore Park, between Broadway & Hamilton Place at 138<sup>th</sup> St. (Expense Request No. 9), additional garbage cans on Riverside Drive adjacent to Upper Riverside Park (Expense Request No. 12), and additional coal cans in barbeque areas within St. Nicholas Park and Morningside Park, among other areas (Expense Request No. 12). Yet in the case of Expense Request No. 3 for more "big belly" waste receptacles, DPR stated "[F]urther study by the agency of this request is

needed”, as if said Request was unclear, despite the fact that “big belly” waste receptacles, albeit few in number, were already installed by DPR in the subject parks (*see* Expense Request No 3).

Since District 9 residents testified at length at CB9’s Public Hearing on Your Honor’s FY2016 Preliminary Budget about the extent of the invasive rodent and mosquitos infestation problem, and provided specific observations as to the lack of an adequate number of waste receptacles and interminably overflowing garbage cans, it is within reason for DPR to proportionately make funding available to District 9 considering its unique park and recreational geography and the degree and extent of its ceaseless pest control problems (*see* Expense Request Nos. 2, 3, 9, 11 and 12, *inter alia*).

## **QUEENS 5**

### **Expense Budget Requests:**

The maintenance of the 229 acres of parkland in District 5, Queens, under the jurisdiction of the NYC Parks Department, has improved in recent years, but we are overly dependent upon WEP workers for basic cleaning and maintenance. **There are only 10 full-time parks maintenance workers assigned to Q5, and considering the residents littering our parks with graffiti, paper, glass, bottles, cans and dog droppings, we need at least 20 full-time year-round parks maintenance workers assigned to Q5.** City parks should be a civilized draw to keep families living in the City.

Vandalism has consistently been a problem in many local parks, so skilled repair workers and PEP officers in adequate numbers are of importance.

**Increased Forestry Services** such as dead-tree removals and pruning of dangerous trees has been a plus and must continue so that hazardous conditions are minimized. Contract pruning has finally been stepped-up, but it is critical that serious consideration be given to attending to the most dangerous conditions first, instead of conveniently concentrating on geographic areas of square blocks. **At least \$5 Million in annual funding is needed for contract pruning and dead tree removals in Queens. In addition, at least \$3.5 Million in annual funding is needed for long overdue stump removals in Queens, which now number an astounding 20,000 plus.**

The capital budget needs of our parks are so numerous that these are enumerated in a separate Parks Capital Budget section of this FY 2016 Preliminary Budget Response.

### **Capital Budget Requests:**

#### **Rehabilitate the Ridgewood Reservoir Area of Highland Park**

The Ridgewood Reservoir is a beautiful oasis, bordering Queens and Brooklyn. With more than 100 species of birds nesting within the 3 basins and natural plant growth abounding, the reservoir is the closest spot we have to a nature preserve.

A Phase I Project has been completed, including the installation of security lighting, steel fencing and resurfacing of the pathway around the reservoir perimeter. The stairway from Vermont Place has been restored and a large handicapped access ramp has been built.

Additional capital funding is requested for construction of an Environmental Center, with bathrooms at the reservoir site. There are numerous schools in reasonably close proximity, and the reservoir would be an outstanding opportunity for children to learn about nature and gain an appreciation and respect for nature, (i.e. Sciences Classes).

Capital budget funding needs to be allocated for extensive rehabilitation of existing soft surface ball fields within Highland Park.

### **Provide Replacement of the Synthetic Turf Soccer/Football Field, and the Running Track, at the West End of Juniper Valley Park in Middle Village**

Both the turf soccer/football field and the running track at the west end of Juniper Valley Park are past their 10 year useful life, and need to be replaced. The turf field has deteriorated significantly more than the running track and both the field and the running track get extensive use by residents from numerous communities. To our knowledge, Council Member Elizabeth Crowley has secured more than \$3 Million for these needed upgrades. We look forward to a scope meeting and design, so that this important project can proceed to fruition.

### **Reconstruct Soft Surface Ball Fields, Jogging Path and Add Security Lighting at Francis J. Principe Park, in Maspeth**

Formerly Maurice Park, renamed for Francis J. (Frank) Principe, this is by far the largest park in Maspeth. We are thankful that Councilmember Crowley and Queens Borough President Melinda Katz have secured at least \$ 3½ Million for capital improvements at Principe Park, and we look forward to a project scope meeting and design, so that this vital project can proceed to construction.

### **Reconstruct Dry Harbor Playground, Glendale – Phase II**

Dry Harbor Playground, located on Myrtle Avenue at 80<sup>th</sup> Street, is the only park for eastern Glendale. This Phase II project request is for the rehabilitation of the softball field, the park house which contained a pre-school program, and park house bathrooms. The children's playground (Phase I) project was completed several years ago.

### **Provide Funds for Planting New Street Trees**

We are very thankful for the allocation of extensive funding for the planting of trees, as a major component in PlaNYC 2030. Ongoing funding for tree plantings, at the highest levels possible, is critical toward air pollution reduction. Trees also beautify residential streets in our congested City environment.

**Tree plantings are an ongoing need in District 5, Queens and throughout the City. This is so important that such critically needed plantings and tree care should not be dependent on what funds can be secured by elected officials, responsible for trying to obtain funding for important park reconstruction projects.**

### **Provide Funding for Tree Stump Removals and for Planting New Street Trees in Their Place**

In the CB5,Queens area, communities lost well over 100 trees due to the

devastating Microburst/Tornado in 2010 and Hurricane Irene in 2011. Many more trees throughout Queens were lost due to Hurricane Sandy in October of 2012. The great majority of trees have been removed. **Unfortunately, tree stumps have not been removed in many locations and replacement trees need to be planted after the stumps are removed. There is also a critical need generally for the removal of street tree stumps, numbering 26,000 in the county of Queens alone. Many blocks have more vacant pits, and tree pits with only a stump, than there are actual living trees.**

## **QUEENS 7**

A majority of our budget submissions are for capital reconstruction as well as expense items for the agency. Little Bay park has been in our budget since 1982, and we are happy to see the ongoing construction of the parkhouse and expanded parking lot; Kissena corridor ball-fields since 1981; Flushing Memorial field since 1984; Frank Golden Park since 1989, Kissena park since 1993 and McNeil Park since 1993. With regard to McNeil, this year the board has seen development plans for the deteriorated seawall, and many of the paths have been redone. On some of our projects we are not happy with the response "suggest that you contact your elected officials to consider funding for the project." Every year when we do our budget submissions in October, each one of our council representatives gets a copy of our submissions, and while they are sometimes able to fund a portion of our capital items, the city needs to step up to the plate and assist. Why must communities have to wait well over twenty years, and in some cases, close to 30 years, to see any movement within their neighborhood. The residents of board #7 deserve better. We are not happy that sufficient money has not been allocated to support a line specifically earmarked to handle tree removals, pruning and stump removals. This work cannot be handled with in-house crews. Due to the seriousness of this issue, our board will continue to support this request. Residents do not want to hear that they have to get on a long waiting list before their tree problems are addressed. Many times, while waiting, the tree comes down in a storm damaging personal property. While we are in favor of the previous mayors plan for planting one million trees, we must seriously look at taking care of the existing trees that are in desperate need of maintenance on a more regular basis.

## **QUEENS 8**

Community Board 8 Capital Budget Priority #1 is the rehabilitation of Cunningham Park's playground located at 193<sup>rd</sup> Street. In addition, we requested that funding be made available to purchase the following equipment: a tractor, a crew cab (including dump and plow) and a Polar Trac™ System. I understand that this has been funded in part. Which part has been funded?

Priority #17 requested a Green Street or its equivalent on Goethals Avenue and 168<sup>th</sup> Street. Please provide an explanation for not recommending this funding request.

The pertinent agencies informed us that their funds were insufficient for the following projects; therefore, by copy of this letter, the Board requests the support of all the elected officials within Community District 8

in Queens:

- Priority #22 – Provide additional bathrooms near ball fields in the southern section of Flushing Meadow Corona Park.
- Priority #29 – Rehabilitate Flushing Meadow Corona park and rebuild bridge over Flushing Creek at the south end of Willow Lake
- Priority #34 – Renovation of Cedar Grove Playground, Freedom Park, Farm Playground and Albert Mauro Playground
- Priority #37 – Upgrade Playground 75 [75<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 160<sup>th</sup> and 162<sup>nd</sup> Streets]
- Priority #39 – Renovate Vleigh Playground
- Priority #40 – Renovate Abe Wolfson Triangle

### **QUEENS 11**

Board 11 contains over 850 acres of parkland with numerous Greenstreets and street trees that line virtually every block of our district. Our top priorities for funding in the expense budget is for increases in funding for pruning, large stump removal, park tree pruning and removal and additional funds for the Tree and Sidewalk program. We are pleased that over the past year, additional funds were added for these services. The pruning of trees and the removal of dead trees is a safety concern in the district due to personal injuries and property damage.

More personnel are needed to maintain the large parks in the district; Alley Pond Park, John Golden Park and Crocheron Park. The department has dedicated funds for the flooding relief in the ball fields in John Golden Park but more funds will be necessary to rehabilitate the fields properly.

Members of Community Board 11 are very concerned about the environment and preserving the wetlands and natural beauty around Little Neck Bay. For that reason, the Board has always included, in the Community Board Register, requests for the purchase of lots in the Udalls Cove ravine in order to prevent development. We appreciate the Parks Department's continued efforts to acquire these lots and urge the Administration to fund the acquisition of the ten remaining lots.

### **STATEN ISLAND 3**

*For a second time, we make an appeal to introduce a baseline capital budget for the Department of Parks & Recreation.*