



New Yorkers for Parks is the citywide independent organization championing quality parks and open spaces for all New Yorkers in all neighborhoods.

2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



We Helped Deliver the Largest Budget Increase for Parks in Recent History

Our advocacy helped secure a \$38 million increase in the Parks Department's 2013 budget. Culminating in a rally with City Council Members and parks advocates at City Hall, we conducted a month-long media blitz that included news articles, a letter in *The New York Times*, a *New York Daily News* guest column, and appearances on NY1's "Inside City Hall." A series we pitched to *The Times* about the dangers of insufficient tree care proved instrumental in securing the first increase in funding for tree pruning since 2008.



We Assessed Damage and Organized Clean-ups After Hurricane Sandy

We helped the Parks Department organize volunteer clean-ups, recruiting qualified individuals to lead teams in cleaning parks citywide in the aftermath of Sandy. We also assisted the Coney Island Development Corporation by walking every block of the neighborhood to create a prioritized list of public spaces in need of cleanup. This list was used to assign tasks to hundreds of volunteers in the weeks following the storm.



We Grew the Daffodil Project, Encouraging More Volunteerism and Building New Partnerships

Founded to memorialize September 11, the Daffodil Project has grown into one of the largest volunteer efforts in the city's history. In 2012, we developed and conducted a Civic Engagement Survey of more than 700 project participants to better understand why they volunteer in their parks and communities and how we can engage them in the broader advocacy efforts of NY4P. We received more bulb requests than ever before, distributed nearly 260,000 free bulbs at distributions in every borough, and established new planting partnerships with the New York City Housing Authority, the Horticultural Society of New York, Common Cents, and more NYC public schools.



We Reported on East Harlem's Open Space Resources

In October we released the first report in a two-part collaboration with the Mount Sinai Children's Environmental Health Center to study connections between access to open spaces and childhood health. Our Open Space Index compared the quantity and variety of every open space in East Harlem against a set of NYC-specific benchmarks for neighborhood open space and environmental sustainability, and provides recommendations for maximizing use of existing open spaces and better connecting residents to area parks.



We Improved NYU's Expansion Plan by Safeguarding Open Spaces

Working closely with New York University, the Bloomberg Administration, City Council, and community members, we ensured that NYU's proposed open spaces will be more accessible, serve more New Yorkers, and be better maintained than the current public spaces south of Washington Square Park. We convinced NYU to preserve the Mercer Playground site as open space, and we helped develop a long-term maintenance and operations agreement that establishes a community oversight body and an NYU-funded maintenance endowment. The plan also includes protections for LaGuardia Community Garden.



We Made Data on Crime in Parks Publicly Available

Our advocacy resulted in a 2005 law mandating that major felonies occurring in city parks be tracked to the park rather than the nearest street address, as had been the practice. NY4P's website is the only official source for this crime data, which we update quarterly in coordination with NYPD.