



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

2014 AGENDA



We'll Ensure that the de Blasio Administration Prioritizes Parks

We'll work closely with City Hall and the Parks Department to advocate for policy reforms outlined in our Parks Platform 2013, which we developed after hearing from hundreds of New Yorkers at a Town Hall meeting.



We'll Set the Record Straight on Park Conservancies

Building on our significant research on public-private partnerships, we'll highlight the critical role conservancies play in helping to manage and improve our city's parks, while advocating for improving the model through greater transparency, consistency and accountability.



We'll Advocate for Better, Safer Open Spaces in Mott Haven

NY4P is currently conducting a three-part survey of Mott Haven's open spaces – from parks and playgrounds to New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) open spaces and community gardens – to learn more about current and desired uses, and suggestions for improvements. The assessment was conducted at the request of NYCHA Chairman John Rhea as part of a comprehensive planning process funded by a Choice Neighborhoods planning grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.



We'll Urge the Parks Department to Adopt Capital Project Best Practices

We're undertaking an in-depth analysis and comparison of how various NYC government agencies undertake capital projects, from design through construction, with the goal of identifying best practices and compiling recommendations for making the Parks Department's process more efficient, timely and cost-effective.



We'll Provide Up-to-Date Open Space Profiles on All 51 Council Districts

Our City Council District Profiles – a go-to resource for open space advocates, City officials, and the press – provide comprehensive data about open space resources in all 51 Council Districts. In 2014, NY4P will conduct the first update of the Profiles since 2009.



We'll Complete Our Study of Links Between Open Space and Childhood Health

Last fall, we released an Open Space Index report assessing East Harlem's open space resources. Now, the second phase of our two-part collaboration with the Mount Sinai School of Medicine (MSSM) is underway to assess whether features of neighborhood open spaces influence children's health outcomes. For a decade, MSSM has studied a cohort of 225 low-income, minority children living in East Harlem, and this study will overlay their health data onto our detailed open space information. In 2014, we'll write and release a second report about any correlations found through this exhaustive study.



We'll Help Protect and Enlarge the City's Natural Areas

Natural areas are critical to New York City's drainage, flood mitigation and long-term sustainability. As part of the Advisory Group to the Natural Areas Conservancy, a public-private partnership overseeing the City's 10,000 acres of wetlands and woodlands, we'll help promote the nascent organization, advocate for the acquisition and protection of more natural areas, and better connect surrounding communities to these valuable resources.