

People's Park

Bronx

East 141st Street between Brook Avenue and St. Ann's Avenue



Playground Snapshot

There are over 1,000 playgrounds in New York City, each with a unique pattern of use, from weekend pickup basketball games to afterschool activities. Each playground also has its own needs for capital investment, maintenance, and safety.

This snapshot provides an overview of how people use People's Park and offers the insights and opinions of surveyed park-goers.

At a Glance

People's Park

- 1.4 acres
- Facilities include: play areas for children, basketball courts, handball courts, and a baseball field
- Recent capital improvements: In 2002 People's Park received \$950,000 in playground upgrades, including new swings and play equipment, and in 2003 it received another \$450,000 to upgrade the sporting amenities and other facilities.

Playground Use

People's Park is located in the Mott Haven/Port Morris section of the Bronx. The photos below show the playground in 1934, and the same courts in use today for a pick-up basketball game.

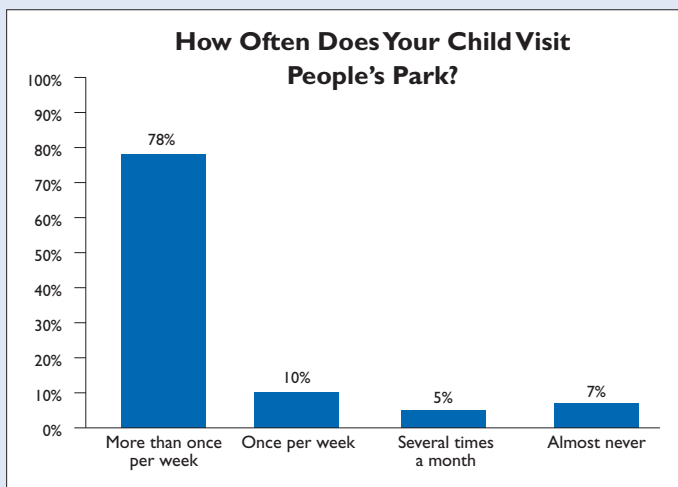


Bird's-Eye View of People's Park, the Bronx August 8, 1934, Max Ulrich/New York City Parks Photo Archive



People's Park basketball courts in use today.

We counted 2,178 visitors in People's Park over the course of eight survey days, including one weekend and one weekday during each season.*



*Surveyors experienced a safety concern on the weekend day in fall. As a result count, data for that day are unreliable.

We spoke with 206 adults about their use and perceptions of People's Park. 87% of adults were accompanied by a child, and their responses indicate that People's Park is an important place for neighborhood children to play outdoors:

- 89% of adults report that their children come from within the neighborhood.
- 78% of adults said that their children frequent the park more than once a week.

75% of respondents in People's Park said that the playground is the primary place where their children play outdoors—higher than any other of the 10 citywide playgrounds we surveyed.



Community Concerns

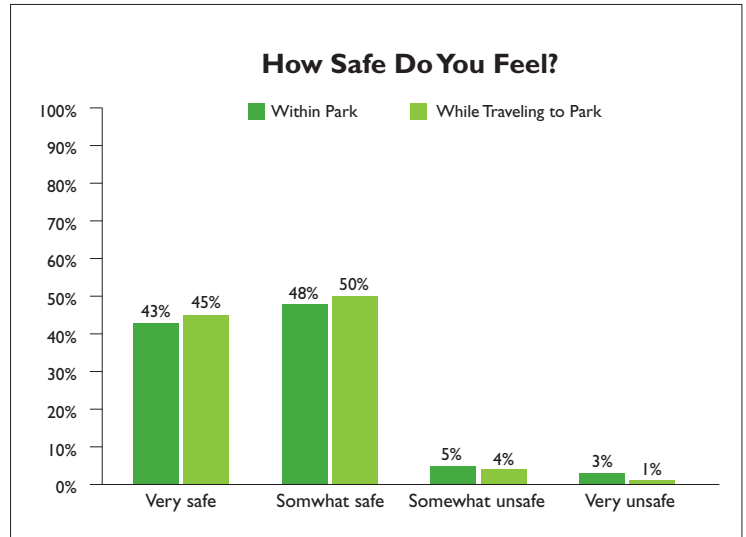
People's Park users are concerned about safety, mentioning as particular points of concern:

- Fights
- Surrounding neighborhood safety
- Smoking and drug use by other park patrons

Respondents requested increased security.

The majority of respondents rated the playground equipment maintenance as excellent or good. However, 29% said that the overall cleanliness of the playground was only "fair" or "poor." Parks Department Park Inspection Program Scores from the summer and fall of 2010 and the summer of 2011 indicate that there were unacceptable levels of litter in the playground. When asked what they would change about People's Park, respondents wanted a cleaner and safer playground with:

- More activities
- New swing equipment
- Games, workshops, art, and camp for children



Get Involved!

Park-goers, parents, neighborhood residents and other park constituents can work together to make People's Park a safe, clean and vibrant play space.

Know your local representatives:

Bronx Community Board 1: (718) 585-7117

Melissa Mark-Viverito, Council Member, City Council District 8: (212) 828-9800

Ruben Diaz Jr., Bronx Borough President: (718) 590-3500



The Study: This project is the result of a partnership between New Yorkers for Parks and researchers at New York University. This research is part of a larger effort to understand the diversity of New York City playground users and uses. Because the New York Department of Parks and Recreation currently has no systematic method to assess park usership, surveys such as this provide important information that can guide park planning, management, expansion, and budget allocation. In the current study, trained researchers visited 10 playgrounds over the course of four seasons during 2010-2011. Researchers counted playground users and interviewed a total of 1,600 adults on both weekend and weekdays in the following playgrounds: Matthews Muliner Playground (Bronx), People's Park (Bronx), Maria Hernandez Playground (Brooklyn), Rappaport Playground (Brooklyn), Carmansville Playground (Manhattan), Tompkins Square Park Playground (Manhattan), Captain Tilly Playground (Queens), Charybdis Playground (Queens), Jennifer's Playground (Staten Island), and Levy Playground (Staten Island). The comprehensive results of this study will be published in Winter 2014.

This study was made possible by generous contributions from the Booth Ferris Foundation, The J.M. Kaplan Fund and Merck Family Fund.



New Yorkers for Parks
The Arthur Ross Center for Parks and Open Spaces
55 Broad Street, 23rd Floor
New York, NY 10004
(212) 838-9410
www.ny4p.org

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