

Captain Tilly Playground

Queens

Highland Avenue, 85th Avenue between 165th Street and Chapin Parkway



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 Captain Tilly Playground and offers the insights and opinions of surveyed park-goers.

At a Glance

Captain Tilly Playground

- 0.1 acres
- Facilities include: play areas for children
- The last capital improvements to Captain Tilly Playground took place in 1999

Playground Use

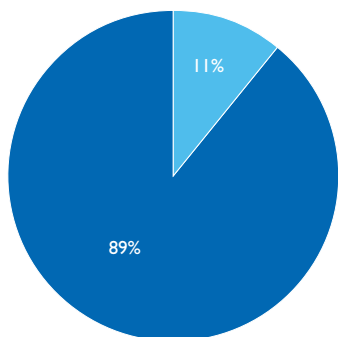
Captain Tilly Playground, located in the Jamaica Hills section of Queens, is a small playground inside Captain Tilly Park. The surrounding park contains old growth trees on sloping hills and encloses the playground in a protected green space. We observed 985 visitors in Captain Tilly Playground over the course of eight survey days, including one weekend and one weekday during each season of the year.



A sunny day in Captain Tilly Playground.

Where Does Your Child Live?

- Inside the neighborhood
- Outside the neighborhood



We spoke with 107 adults in Captain Tilly Playground. 92% were accompanied by children. Captain Tilly playground is a true neighborhood resource:

- 89% said their children lived in the surrounding neighborhood.
- 80% of adults reported their children use the park at least once a week.
- 93% said their children walk to the playground.

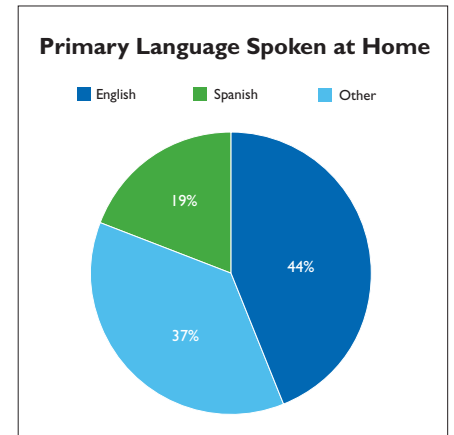


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Playground Users

Captain Tilly Playground serves children from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds: 43% of caretakers said that their child speaks a language other than Spanish or English in the home, and 11% said their child was born outside of the United States. This reflects the diversity of the surrounding community of Jamaica Hills, where 43% of households speak languages other than English or Spanish, including Tagalog, Russian, and other South Asian and Asian Pacific languages.

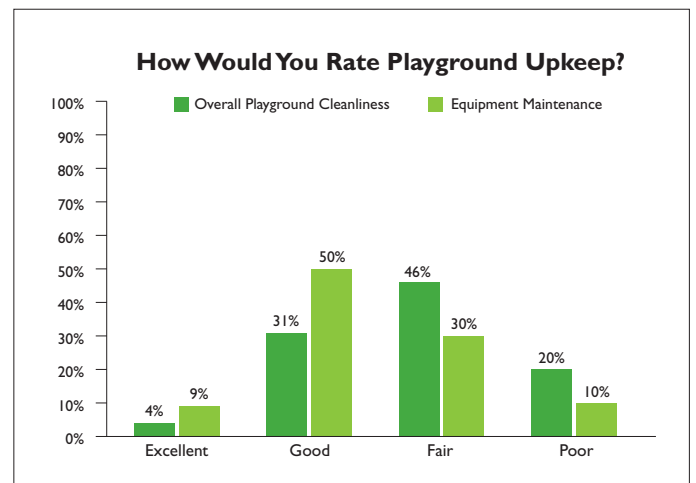


Community Concerns

Respondents were concerned about the cleanliness and maintenance of Captain Tilly Playground.

- 20% rated the overall playground cleanliness as poor
- 9% thought the playground had excellent equipment maintenance

In interviews, park users requested improvements in overall cleaning and maintenance, the removal of the concrete dolphin and a focus on cleaning the pond in Captain Tilly Park. The playground has many young users, and some respondents were concerned with the playground's proximity to a nearby high school and the presence of strangers and unknown adults. Visitors requested improvements to courts, swings, sitting areas, and other equipment. They also suggested more programmed activities.



Get Involved!

Park-goers, parents, neighborhood residents and other park constituents can work together to make Captain Tilly Playground a safe, clean and vibrant play space.

Know your local representatives:

Queens Community Board 8: (718) 264-7895

Rory Lancman, Council Member, City Council District 24: (718) 217-4969

Melinda R. Katz, Queens Borough President: (718) 286-3000



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.

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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.