

BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 9

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BROOKLYN COMMUNITY BOARD 9 RESOLUTION MOUNT PROSPECT PARK

Summary: Brooklyn Community Board 9 **supports** an investigation into the Mount Prospect Park Skate Facility Project to assess the feasibility, design, community impact, and funding opportunities for developing a dedicated skate facility within Mount Prospect Park, ensuring it meets the recreational needs of local youth and residents while aligning with park preservation standards.

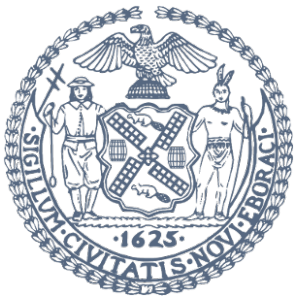
WHEREAS

1. Brooklyn Community Board 9 (CB9) previously passed a comprehensive 25-point resolution on, June 24, 2024, opposing the construction of a concrete skate facility on the historic green parkland of Mount Prospect Park, designating such a project as "bad public policy," while welcoming the facility on nearby already-paved space "with open arms."
2. Friends of Mount Prospect Park submitted a formal request to NYC Comptroller Mark D. Levine on January 20, 2026, urging immediate investigation of the \$11M+ publicly-funded construction project announced by former Mayor Eric Adams on January 24, 2024, which would construct a regional-scale, poured-concrete skateboard facility on beloved, historic neighborhood greenspace in Mount Prospect Park.
3. Friends of Mount Prospect Park simultaneously appealed to Commissioner Tascha Van Auken of the Mayor's Office of Mass Engagement, seeking the new Mamdani Administration's intervention to correct course and implement a sound urban planning solution that shifts any such construction to already-paved space.
4. Mount Prospect Park is a WPA-era neighborhood haven officially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, featuring virtually intact landscape architecture specifically designed for quiet recreation.
5. The investigation request identifies multiple potential violations of the NYC Administrative Code § 18-133 governing Adopt-a-Park agreements, including:
 - a. Violation of the legal requirement to preserve the "integrity" of Mount Prospect Park due to paving on its historic central oval greenspace.
 - b. Questions regarding whether purported "in-kind" contributions (donated facility designs rather than actual financial payment) satisfy the law's intent and requirements to generate revenue for park maintenance.



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- c. Concerns about indemnification provisions and liability coverage given site-specific safety hazards extensively documented by skateboarding experts.
6. Expert materials and experienced skateboarders have identified serious safety hazards specific to Mount Prospect Park as a skate facility site, including but not limited to:
 - a. The ramp down from the elevated park inviting dangerous "hill-bombing" on the ramp itself, other sloping path in the park, and onto crowded sidewalks and multi-lane Eastern Parkway traffic.
 - b. Tempting flights of granite stairs and rails that could result in serious injuries.
 - c. Thousands of acorns from historic oak trees creating constant skating hazards ("*stop rocks*" and "*danger pebbles*").
 - d. Lack of clear sightlines from the street, which professional design guidelines identify as "*CRITICAL*" for preventing policing issues and delinquency.
 - e. Predictable conflicts between skateboarding activity and dogs during the park's popular off-leash hours and common incidents of canine stress and aggression whether on/off leash due to instinctive reactions to skateboarding movements, sounds and vibrations.
7. The project exhibits significant failures in democratic community engagement processes, including:
 - a. No Feasibility Study was conducted for site selection, despite false assertions by government leadership that such a study demonstrated Mount Prospect Park to be the best location.
 - b. Divergence from NYC Parks' published community engagement process, with the, May 1, 2024, session framed as pursuing design details for a pre-ordained facility rather than genuine stakeholder feedback.
 - c. Proponents circulated manipulated imagery portraying Mount Prospect Park as a vacant dirt lot rather than the well-used, green neighborhood park it is.
 - d. Public comments submitted regarding Mount Prospect Park remain unacknowledged and unreleased despite Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests filed over 18 months ago.
 - e. NYC Parks deleted Community Board 9 from its official Mount Prospect Park webpage after CB9 passed its resolution opposing the project.
8. The project also raises significant environmental justice and racial equity concerns, as the \$300,000 "*down payment*" from Participatory Budgeting was diverted from District 39 (6% Black) to District 35 (35% Black)



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without discussion by the people of District 35, whose historic green parkland is now slated to be paved, perpetuating well-documented patterns of harmful environmental inequity.

9. The project is opposed by thousands of park-lovers who have petitioned, protested, sought opportunities to testify, and lodged public comments, as well as by environmental, community, historical, and climate-conscious skateboarding organizations including:
 - a. 350 Brooklyn; 2030 or Bust/World On Wheels; Citizens' Climate Lobby Brooklyn; Cultural Row Block Association; Friends of Fort Greene Park; Friends of Mount Prospect Park; G-REBELS; Historic Districts Council; NYC Bird Alliance; Planet Over Profit; Preserve Our Brooklyn Neighborhoods; Sunrise NYC; and Third Act NYC.
10. The Adopt-a-Park agreement dated January 24, 2024, explicitly specifies a regional-scale *"40,000 square foot custom poured-in-place concrete skatepark"* to be constructed in the central *"oval lawn in Mount Prospect Park,"* yet officials have circulated imagery showing a relatively small skate space in a back corner, further undermining community confidence in governmental good faith.
11. The three other skate facilities included in the same Adopt-a-Park agreement would renovate already-paved areas (two existing skate facilities and a roller rink), making the choice to pave Mount Prospect Park's historic greenspace particularly unjustifiable when suitable paved alternatives exist.
12. Community members have consistently proposed a sound urban planning solution: shifting any such concrete construction to already-paved space, such as NYC Parks skate spaces that have been neglected for years and draw complaints from skaters for poor features and broken promises of investment and improvement.
13. The Mamdani Administration has expressed commitment to genuine community engagement and delivering excellence (including urban planning) for New Yorkers, presenting an opportunity to correct the course of this deeply flawed project before irreparable harm is done to historic Mount Prospect Park.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Brooklyn Community Board 9 **supports** the investigation request submitted by Friends of Mount Prospect Park to NYC Comptroller Mark D. Levine on January 20, 2026, and urges the Comptroller to conduct a thorough and expeditious investigation into:

- a. Whether the project complies with Administrative Code § 18-133's requirement to preserve the *"integrity"* of Mount Prospect Park.



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- b. Whether purported "*in-kind*" contributions satisfy the law's financial requirements.
- c. Whether The Skatepark Project has adequate insurance coverage and assets to compensate for injuries or deaths given the site-specific hazards.
- d. Whether the indemnification provisions adequately protect New York City, taxpayers, skaters, and park-goers from liability, particularly given documented safety concerns and potential carve-outs for City negligence.

Brooklyn Community Board 9 **calls upon** the Mamdani Administration, including through Commissioner Tascha Van Auken of the Mayor's Office of Mass Engagement and all relevant city agencies, to:

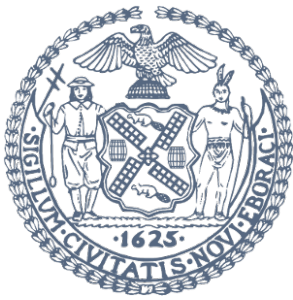
- a. Immediately halt all planning and construction activities related to the Mount Prospect Park skate facility pending completion of the Comptroller's investigation.
- b. Conduct a comprehensive and transparent Feasibility Study for siting this type of facility, examining already-paved alternatives throughout Brooklyn.
- c. Engage in genuine community consultation following NYC Parks' published community engagement process, allowing stakeholders meaningful input before decisions are finalized.
- d. Implement the sound urban planning solution urged by CB9, thousands of community members, and numerous organizations: relocate any concrete skate facility construction to already-paved space.

Brooklyn Community Board 9 **demands** that NYC Parks:

- a. Restore Community Board 9 to the official Mount Prospect Park webpage.
- b. Release all public comments submitted regarding the Mount Prospect Park project in response to outstanding FOIL requests.
- c. Provide accurate information to the public regarding the size, location, and scope of any proposed construction, consistent with the signed Adopt-a-Park agreement.
- d. Requests that the investigation and any subsequent city actions examine and address the environmental justice and racial equity implications of diverting Participatory Budgeting funds from District 39 to pave green parkland in District 35.

Brooklyn Community Board 9 **affirms** its position, as stated in its previous 25-point resolution, that:

- a. Construction of a concrete skate facility on Mount Prospect Park's historic green parkland constitutes bad public policy.



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- b. CB9 welcomes such a facility on nearby already-paved space "*with open arms.*"

Brooklyn Community Board 9 **directs** the District Manager to transmit this resolution to:

- a. NYC Comptroller Mark D. Levine
- b. Mayor Zohran Mamdani
- c. Commissioner Tascha Van Auken, Mayor's Office of Mass Engagement
- d. NYC Parks Commissioner Tricia Shimamura
- e. NYC Corporation Counsel Steven Banks
- f. Brooklyn Borough President Antonio Reynoso
- g. City Council Members representing Districts 35, 36, and 39
- h. Friends of Mount Prospect Park
- i. All supporting organizations and stakeholders

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Brooklyn Community Board 9 is committed to working collaboratively with the Mamdani Administration, Friends of Mount Prospect Park, and all stakeholders to achieve a solution that accomplishes the following: preserves Mount Prospect Park's historic integrity and green parkland; provides quality skateboarding facilities on suitable already-paved locations; advances environmental justice and racial equity; ensures public safety for all park users and skaters; and respects democratic community engagement processes and the voices of local residents.

ADOPTED: February 24, 2026