

FY 2026 Borough Budget Consultations

Manhattan – Department of Parks and Recreation

Meeting Date:

The purpose of holding the Borough Budget Consultations is to have a straightforward and frank conversation about each agency's budget needs and requests. Unlike other venues, such as City Council Hearings, these consultations are not open to the public nor are they recorded. The information provided assists Community Boards in drafting our own Statement of District Needs and Budget Priorities and it facilitates the opportunity to do so in a way that supports the Agency's goals. Community Board Members often lack expertise about funding sources and the processes within Agencies regarding funding of various programs and initiatives. However, they are very knowledgeable about what local services are needed in their neighborhoods and the effectiveness of Agency programs.

This year's Manhattan agendas have three sections:

I. General overview of current and outyear agency budgets

1. What is the overall budget increase or decrease for the Agency in the FY 25 adopted budget? How does that compare to the FY24 budget? Does the Agency anticipate a budget shortfall for FY 25, FY 26 or further out years?
2. What are your priorities, operational goals, and capital goals for FY25 and projected priorities, operational goals, and capital goals for FY26?
3. What, if any, programs are affected by the end of COVID relief funds?

II. Specific Program Funding.

1. What programs within the Agency will see a significant increase or decrease in funding overall in FY 25 and anticipated FY 26? To what extent, if any, is the increase or decrease in funding related to non-recurring federal funding allocations?

2. Which programs will be new? eliminated entirely?

3. What are your benchmarks for new and existing programs and what are your benchmarks/key performance indicators for measuring success?

III. District-specific budget questions.

We request that the Agency respond in writing, but have any further discussions on these items with the Community Boards outside of the consultation.

AGENDA ITEM [1]: [Percentage of Budget]

Mayor Adams proposed allocating 1% of the city's budget to NYC Parks.

1. According to your response last year, Parks received .55% What percentage of the city's budget is allocated to NYC Parks in FY25 and 26?
2. What is the additional amount Parks would need to receive to get up to 1% of the city budget?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [2]: [Community Parks Initiative]

- [1. What is the FY24 budget for CPI?
What is the source of CPI funding?

2. Projected for FY 26?
3. Which sites are underway in Manhattan and which are new since last year?
4. Which sites are planned for future years?
5. Please detail all of above by Community District.
6. How much of CPI is directed to capital and how much is set aside for staffing and programs?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [3]: [Climate Change]

- 1 What budget allocations has Parks made in Manhattan to address climate change? In FY25? Projected for FY26?
2. What is the funding needed to increase the use of permeable surfaces and improving drainage systems? Waterfront park system? ESCR? Other?
3. Which programs are being cut and which programs are being delayed?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [4]: [Bathrooms]

[Are there any new bathrooms planned to be built or opened in FY25 and 26. If so where if not why not.

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [5]: [Maintenance Staff]

1. What are the full-time, part-time and seasonal general workers, apprentices, plumbers, gardeners, skilled trades, forestry, and staffing numbers for FY24 and FY25 budget for Manhattan, by district? Projected for FY26?
What is the current Parks staff vacancy rate?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [6]: [Playground funding]

1. What is the FY25 budget for playground associates and camp staff? Projected for FY26?
2. What is the source of this funding?
3. How many associates and camp staff will this fund and at which Manhattan locations?
4. How is funding allocated to rec center staff?
5. How many Manhattan playgrounds could still benefit from having an associate?
6. Last year you expressed difficulty finding qualified associates -- do you have an update on practices and success of identifying qualified candidates?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [7]: [Lifeguards]

1. Last year you reported a peak total of 62 lifeguards in Manhattan. What are the lifeguard staffing numbers now, what is the vacancy rate and how many can be hired to fully utilize the FY25 budget (goal number)
2. Projected for FY26?
3. What is the hourly salary for lifeguards?
4. Are there any plans to extend pool hours in FY25 or FY 26

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [8]: [Forestry]

What is the budget and staffing level for climbers, pruners and forestry inspectors? How many vacancies do you have?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [9]: [PEP]

What is the budget and staffing level for PEP officers in FY 24, 25 and projected for 26?

What is the current vacancy rate?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS:

AGENDA ITEM [10]: [Recommended Priorities for Community Board Advocacy]

What programs, initiatives or budget line items would Parks recommend that Community Boards include in their Statements of District Needs and Budget Priorities for FY 2026?

AGENCY RESPONSE:

MEETING NOTES:

NEW INFORMATION:

FOLLOW-UP COMMITMENTS: