



# Vital Parks for All: Investing in NYC's Living Infrastructure

NYC Parks' vision to equitably strengthen our city's health, environment and communities through our parks system.

## Parks Are Essential

*Parks touch every facet of our daily lives. Unlike other forms of infrastructure, parks evolve and grow over time, strengthening our city and its residents.*

NYC's 30,000 acres of parks, thousands of amenities and 5.7 million street and park trees under our care:

- combat extreme heat, filter storm water and clean our air.
- connect diverse New Yorkers, unifying communities.
- foster safety through upgraded facilities, programming and stewardship.
- are an oasis in a dense and frenetic city, providing needed space for play, reflection and exercise.

## Why Now?

*Just as we invest in better roads and sewers, we need to invest in our parks now to help safeguard our city's present and future.*

- More people are using our parks since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The effects of climate change are intensifying.
- People are more lonely, anxious and in need of social connection.
- Park infrastructure is aging.

## Our Plan

*Parks need to be clean and safe, green and resilient and supported by engaged and empowered New Yorkers. We must:*

- set high standards to serve all neighborhoods equitably.
- engage communities in the planning of and caring for their parks system.
- prioritize investments where they are needed most.

## Select Strategic Initiatives

### Stronger Parks, Safer Communities

A \$256 million investment in park facilities in priority precincts identified by the Mayoral Gun Violence Prevention Task Force, complemented by over 1,000 free outdoor programs to activate parks and foster community, improving safety.



### Growing Wetlands, Gaining Resilience

A \$100 million investment in resiliency to advance 19 priority wetland projects in NYC's Environmental Justice Areas.



### Let's Green NYC

A program to empower 500,000-plus New Yorkers with opportunities to steward and improve their parks, connecting them to nature and one another and improving health.



# What makes a parks system Vital?

A parks system is Vital when New Yorkers have access to green spaces that are clean and safe, alive with nature, people, and community, and resilient to climate change. Below we've identified many of the elements that contribute to a Vital Parks System, which should be accessible to New Yorkers within a short walk or a quick transit ride.

**For the full list of Vital Parks System elements and to review your community's assets, visit [nyc.gov/vitalparks](https://nyc.gov/vitalparks).**



## Clean and Safe Elements

- Drinking fountains or spray features
- Parks Enforcement Patrol Officers
- Pools or beaches
- Public restrooms
- Playgrounds
- Recreation centers



## Green and Resilient Elements

- Street trees
- Greenways
- Forever Wild natural areas
- Community gardens
- Waterfronts



## Engaged and Empowered Elements

- Park partner groups
- Public programs or special events
- Volunteer and stewardship events

