

Parks & Open Space

Parks and open space are a critical resource and “lung” for residents and workers in Gowanus and throughout the city. Parks also serve as a major asset in the public realm that provides both active and passive spaces and promotes health, well-being and “fun.”

The **Department of Parks and Recreation’s (DPR)** mission is to plan resilient and sustainable parks, public spaces, and recreational amenities, build a park system for present and future generations, and care for parks and public spaces. In Gowanus, there are opportunities to identify needs of existing parks and create new open areas, such as along the canal.

What would YOU like to see? Give us your thoughts and suggestions!



Thomas Greene Playground



Whole Foods Waterfront Public Access Area

Key Priorities and Initiatives

- Maintain and improve parks properties in and around Gowanus, including Thomas Greene Playground, St. Mary’s Playground, Washington Park, Ennis Park, and Nicholas Naquan Heyward Jr. Park.
- Seek public and private opportunities to expand the availability of parks and open space, such as through Waterfront Public Access Areas (WPAA)
- Manage care and maintenance of existing street trees and identify opportunities to plant new trees
- Partner with organizations and stakeholders to develop an open space vision along the canal and across Gowanus

Projects and Initiatives:

- Ennis Park and St. Mary’s Playground Rehabilitation
- Recent projects and investments, such as Gil Hodges Community Garden