

Center for an Urban Future (CUF)

go to: <https://nycfuture.org/>

JUNE 2018

A NEW LEAF: REVITALIZING NEW YORK CITY'S AGING PARKS INFRASTRUCTURE

The combination of advanced age and decades of insufficient maintenance means that parks across all five boroughs are facing serious infrastructure challenges. This report identifies key elements of parks infrastructure most in need of revitalization and provides a blueprint for bringing New York's parks system into the 21st century.

JUNE 2018

NEW YORK CITY'S LIBRARIES STILL FACE DAUNTING CAPITAL NEEDS

New York City is making progress in strengthening the condition of its branch libraries, but the latest capital needs figures reveal that there is still much more work to be done. The mayor and the City Council should continue what they've started and fully fund the city's three library systems to bring their aging infrastructure to a state of good repair.

APRIL 2017

SLOW BUILD <https://nycfuture.org/research/slow-build>

This report finds significant problems with NYC's process for managing capital construction projects for libraries and cultural institutions, with the median capital project taking more than four years and costing roughly twice as much as a new office building. The study, a collaboration between CUF and the Citizens Budget Commission, puts forth recommendations for creating a more cost-efficient capital construction process for libraries, cultural groups and other nonprofit organizations.

New Yorkers For Parks (NY4P)

www.ny4p.org

A Survey of Capital Projects Management Among New York City Government Agencies

Prepared for New Yorkers for Parks by Public Works Partners, June 4, 2014

commissioned at the request of several City Council members. It provides 15 clear, actionable steps to improve the on-time and on-budget performance of capital projects.

The report urged the City to: 'give NYC Parks an annual well-funded, flexible capital budget to fund a long-term pipeline that prioritizes and targets parks most in need, allows it the ability to plan ahead, and provide the ability to add "last-in" money to keep capital projects on target. This substantial funding commitment will bring transformative change to the capital process, as it allows NYC Parks influence over capital process factors that are not under agency control. A healthy discretionary capital budget for NYC Parks allows the City to fund needed infrastructure projects that are not attractive to elected officials for their limited discretionary dollars. It gives NYC Parks flexible last-in money for projects with unforeseen scope changes. Importantly, it eases the financial burden on NYC Parks to complete projects in a citywide construction climate marked by exceedingly high costs.

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

Int 1751-2017 Finance Committee, Name: Establishing a Capital Projects Task Force

Brad Lander and Julissa Ferreras-Copeland, Chair of the Finance Committee proposed city legislation

Go to: <http://legistar.council.nyc.gov/LegislationDetail>

Home Rule Message (Res 0038-2018) introduced by Council Member Andrew Cohen in October 2017 in the City Council to create a Parks Construction Authority. Assembly Member Jeffrey Dinowitz (A7286) sponsored state legislation to amend the city charter in order to create a Parks Construction Authority. * Many local park advocates strongly oppose this proposal to create another layer of bureaucracy and remove park construction management from existing NYC planning, oversight and auditing procedures.