

Platform of the Bronx Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces

We value parks and green spaces as vital and essential in making our communities more livable, improve public health and well-being, and provide opportunities for recreation and nature appreciation. Our mission is to promote, educate, advocate and develop resources for Bronx Green Spaces - it's about Community in Parks!

To achieve this goal we plan to educate, advocate and participate in Bronx Parks to improve public health and wellbeing through green spaces; increase and balance the opportunities for passive and active recreation; develop a respect and appreciation for nature; ensure all parks are safe and well maintained; ensure that parks are well designed and aesthetically pleasing; create mechanisms for community involvement in how parks are developed and used; and increase the budget for Bronx parks, gardens and waterfronts.

Specific platform during the Pandemic of 2020-2021

Parks are a precious resource, especially in our dense urban setting. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, Parks have become our mental health essential service by protecting our emotional wellbeing. It is the only place that children could play. It is a safe place where anyone can talk to another person at a safe distance. Not only that, Parks Employees were asked to work, and work outside not in the office. These employees allow (ed) our parks to be a safe haven for us all. Volunteers continue to work to pick up litter, but they are organized with the help of park employees. In addition, there were many budget cuts due to the loss of revenue and increased cost of COVID-19.

NYC Parks and Recreation Expense Budget

- 1% for Parks. Begin to raise the Parks Budget by 10% each year until we get to 1%. Restore last year's PEG cut 7%.
- Double 2018 Seasonal Hiring to keep our parks clean.
- Raise staffing levels to 5000. Not replacing needed personnel who retire or leave means less programs for the Bronx. We need more not less employment opportunities.

Policy Changes

- Diversity Equity Inclusion (DEI) programming to support to vulnerable communities.
- No Alienation of Parkland for non park purposes.
- Rename Parks that memorialize racist historical events.
- Indemnify local parks partnership groups that provide park services.

Area Specific concerns

- Harlem River in the Bronx on and near water access including greenways, recreational water-based activities at the edge, upland access from city streets, and the assignment of a Parks Catalyst Person to help stakeholders.
- Rikers Island in the Bronx. Create a water-based recreational facility on Rikers Island for the Bronx, with waterfront access and a greenways perimeter.
- More than 40 projects or actions Speak Up Attendees ID'd
