



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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***“Lowering the Temperature with Nature with Parks – the low-cost alternative to extreme weather events in NYC”***

(April 29, 2026 - Bronx, NY) The Bronx Council for Environmental Quality (BCEQ) will hold its 27th Annual Water Conference & 55th Annual Membership Meeting on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, from 3:30 to 7:30 pm at Manhattan University, Kelly Student Center, room 5.03. BCEQ Members, Manhattan College Students, and the general public were invited to attend this free event. Refreshments will be served.

At **3:30 pm** The program begins with Networking and Tabling, Highlighting two park projects: Pelham Bay Park Access at **4 pm** and Tibbetts Brook Daylighting at **4:45 pm**.

At **5:15 pm**, BCEQ President Robert Fanuzzi will open the meeting and welcomed all: “BCEQ's Annual Meeting and Water Conference continues to be the place where community advocates, agency leaders, policy and scientific experts, meet to chart our environmental future.” *An Italian Buffet will be served during this time.*

From **6 pm to 7:30 pm**, an expert panel on extreme heat will discuss what others have done, and what we can do to lower the temperature. The Panel includes:

- Philadelphia - Decentralizing resilience.... Working at the block scale to reduce heat and flood risks. *Dr. Franco Montalto*, Professor, Drexel University
- Paris (France) – Given climate change projections how did they make a more live-able city. *Dr. Emma Thebault*, Technical Director of Resilience at STV and *Lea Pelleteret*, Resilience Planner at STV.
- Using Micro Forests to help Dense Urban Environments. *Lee Altman*, Principal at Scape
- How Stormwater and Green Infrastructure, like Daylighting Tibbetts Brook, Help Cool Temperatures and Provide Other Benefits. *Angela Licata*, Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability at NYC DEP.
- The Impact of Water on Carbon and our Climate. *Dr. Paul Mankiewicz*, Associate Professor, Pratt Institute, Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment, School of Architecture

Immediately following this presentation, there will be a lively exchange between the panelists and the audience around **7 pm**.

These events are made possible with the support of our Sponsors: Con Edison, Manhattan University and its Center for Urban Resilience and Environmental Sustainability (CURES).