



If you care about
parks ... will you do
this ...

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the Council Member
where you live ...

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Council Member: _____

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Balancing the budget and the needs of our communities
in a responsible and sustainable way.

Talking Points with Your Council Member



THE FACTS: The Mayors Preliminary Budget provides \$654 million for Parks, that is down \$33 million from FY2026 and

- Eliminates **276 one-shot positions** (one-year contracts, not baselined)
- Eliminates **700 lines** that have already been lost in recent years
 - 600 lines that were lost during Adams' administration, through cuts and a Hiring Freeze
 - 100 lines that were eliminated as a condition of ending the hiring freeze
- Provides no new need for funding for **Maintenance and Operations**

THE ASK: This is the 25th year that we have been asking for 1% of the expense budget for Parks. If we are ever to get to 1% for Parks, we must start with at least the following:

1. **\$100 million in new funding to Parks in FY 2027,**
2. A **commitment plan** with yearly increases resulting in 1% or more by the next three years, and
3. A **comprehensive plan** from Parks on how investment will help the people and the environment of NYC.

FIND FUNDS: 3 ways to fund Parks are:

1. Move Climate Change funds that are not working to Parks to maintain the forests and landscapes, thereby increasing carbon sequestration and **Lowering the Temperature.**
2. NYC might expand **parking meters and park concessions.** Center for Urban Future's (CUF) idea to meter 25% of free spaces could raise \$1.21B annually. *City Council cited CUF in the budget response for park concession expansion.*
3. NYC Parks must also **commit at least 20% of its budget to recreation,** which would move NYC closer to cities like Chicago and Philadelphia, who spend 25% and 37% of their parks budget on recreation.

