Dear Friends,

Our administration is committed to the creation and maintenance of vibrant parks and public spaces in all five boroughs. NYC Parks: Framework for an Equitable Future lays out our plans to restore and create thriving public spaces for all New Yorkers that connect our neighborhoods and are at the center of healthy, active communities.

To create a brighter, greener future for New York City, we are renewing our commitment to a more inclusive and innovative park system. The Community Parks Initiative is our first major step in re-creating parks in communities with the greatest need for open-space improvements.

This dynamic framework for action will engage New Yorkers and address system-wide needs with solutions that build on the best practices of NYC Parks, our other City agencies and Parks’ partners. We will invest capital dollars, provide better maintenance, and add new programming to ensure that our parks remain an integral part of communities throughout the five boroughs.

Through planning and innovation we will expand access to public spaces, strengthen our parks system and build a healthier, more prosperous city. These spaces will also be resilient – built or adapted to the realities of a changing climate. We will apply new ideas and rely on data to determine where our parks needs are the greatest.

We are grateful for the input of all New Yorkers as, together, we begin this important journey.
NYC Parks: Framework for an Equitable Future

NYC Parks: Framework for an Equitable Future is the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation’s commitment to creating thriving public spaces for all New Yorkers. Creating a bright, green future for New York City’s parks requires a more inclusive and innovative park system.

The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks) will focus on a comprehensive series of immediate steps and long-term initiatives to support sustainable, equitable park development and make targeted level of service improvements across the park system.

These efforts will focus on protecting the extraordinary investment in parks and public spaces that we have already made, while taking steps toward increasing the accessibility and quality of those parks that serve all of New York City’s diverse neighborhoods throughout the five boroughs.

As stewards of one of the largest urban park systems in the country with over 29,000 acres of parkland—nearly 14 percent of New York City’s land—NYC Parks builds and maintains clean, safe, and accessible parks citywide and programs those spaces with recreational, cultural, and educational activities for people of all ages.

Through this work, NYC Parks improves quality of life in the city by providing outlets for creative expression, opportunities for healthy recreation, and exposure to the restorative beauty of the natural world.

To protect, maintain, and grow this resource, continued innovation and ongoing improvement are essential to the health of the open spaces used by New Yorkers every day. Not only are parks part of our critical urban infrastructure, they are also part of the fabric that connects our communities.

To respond to growing demand and to target more equitable distribution of resources for better public parks that meet the open space needs across New York City, we have put in place a framework for a dynamic new approach to strategically allocate resources, make our city cleaner, greener, and more resilient.

This program brief highlights the principles and goals of NYC Parks’ new Framework for an Equitable Future—a future in which parks and parklands better serve every New Yorker. It presents in detail the Community Parks Initiative—our leading park equity initiative that will invest $130 million capital dollars and bring enhanced programming, maintenance, and community partnership building to neighborhood parks in our city’s more densely populated, fast-growing, and higher-poverty communities.

A New Framework

NYC Parks has defined action-oriented objectives that will help us to deliver meaningful improvements to parks and public spaces in every corner of the city. NYC Parks aims to ensure every New Yorker can benefit from accessible, vibrant public places, and that our processes for creating and maintaining parks are also accessible and transparent.

This section defines NYC Parks’ approach to improving parks and park services, outlines our key objectives, and highlights nine immediate steps that will be near-term milestones on the road to a greener and greater, more inclusive, and more forward-looking park system.
With a capital investment of $2.26 million, NYC Parks built South Oxford Park in Brooklyn, enlivening the area.

These first steps will guide New York City’s ongoing work to improve the quality, accessibility, efficiency, and sustainability of the overall park system and of the parks that serve the diverse neighborhoods throughout the five boroughs. In the coming year, we will achieve the following near-term milestones:

1. **Community Parks Initiative**
   - Launch program to invest in under-resourced parks that serve New York City’s poorer, more densely populated, and fastest-growing communities through a $130 million capital program that promotes full re-creation of these parks. We will support and sustain this capital investment with targeted maintenance and programming, while building the next generation of parks stewards by connecting local stakeholders to their parks and to City resources.

2. **Programming for Neighborhoods in Need**
   - Launch interagency partnerships to efficiently deliver expanded recreational programming and services at targeted locations, such as through the Mayor’s Office of Criminal Justice NYCHA Initiative and partnering with the Mayor’s Fund to advance New York City’s Open Spaces/Play Spaces program, and on additional programs with the Administration for Children’s Services.

3. **Standardized Maintenance**
   - Deploy additional maintenance and horticulture staff to underperforming districts and expand pilot operations and maintenance efficiency programs citywide.

4. **Streamlined Capital Process:**
   - Work internally and externally to address inefficiencies in the capital process. Introduce added transparency by releasing a publicly accessible capital projects tracking tool as the first in a series of improvements.

5. **Parks Needs Assessment**
   - Develop and implement a citywide parks needs assessment strategy.

6. **Utilization Program**
   - Pilot NYC Parks’ first citywide, comprehensive study of park user rates, attitudes, and activities.

7. **Parkland Expansion**
   - Update our parkland development strategy to align with the demands of growing neighborhoods, making a concentrated effort to serve under-resourced neighborhoods and areas outside a 10-minute walk of a park.

8. **Recreation Center Renovations**
   - Advance into design a major physical improvement program at 17 NYC Parks recreation centers throughout the city to increase the quality and capacity of our existing facilities and better serve our neighborhoods with year-round programs and classes.

9. **Regional Parks Strategy**
   - Follow the Community Parks Initiative approach to analyze opportunities to finance, invest in, and sustain improvements to the larger parks that provide a wider array of recreational amenities that are accessible to multiple neighborhoods and serve diverse constituencies.

As we achieve each of these near-term milestones, NYC Parks will strive to meet existing needs and anticipate new ones as neighborhoods and demands on parks grow and change. We are committed to inclusive, community-oriented planning, and enhancing that process by gathering and understanding data about our parks and park users. We will use innovation, technology, and transparency to improve the park system’s operational efficiency.

For more information and to follow the progress of each of our Framework initiatives, visit www.nyc.gov/parks/framework.
Goals for a Bright, Green Future

NYC Parks will apply innovative practices and tactics to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of our parks by working to:

• Develop plans and programs to invest capital and other resources where the need is greatest
• Standardize, modernize, and implement leading asset management systems and maintenance practices across the agency to track and target resources where they are needed most
• Strengthen and elevate the planning function of the agency, enhancing policymaking, community engagement, and metric- and needs-based assessments
• Create structures to maximize partner contributions, engage New Yorkers in helping us provide more and better services to park users in all boroughs
• Collaborate closely with communities to establish and prioritize goals for parks and public space
• Pursue new opportunities for open space, such as expanding access to existing parkland, identifying new park acquisitions, developing undeveloped parkland, and targeting resources to underserved areas

• Develop a more proactive capital strategy and re-engineer the capital process to improve efficiency of delivery and add transparency to the process
• Improve technology implementation to gain data integrity for decision making

Our approach to equitable planning and development builds on past successes. In recent decades, New York City has made important investments in parks and public spaces through capital projects, policy initiatives, and regulations that have dramatically expanded and improved the quality of our open spaces. For example, multi-agency and public-private partnerships have generated creative strategies for reusing unconventional sites and added to the city’s open space resources in unexpected ways. Rilmhurst Park in Queens, Concrete Plant Park on the Bronx River waterfront, Transmitter Park in Brooklyn, and Staten Island’s Freshkills Park are examples of new approaches to adaptive reuse of open space and creating flagship public spaces that have transformed the way that people in New York City and around the world view urban parks. The city’s most recent comprehensive environmental policy, PlanNYC 2030, focused citywide attention and effort on implementing high-impact projects both large and small, from reinvesting in flagship parks, to transforming school playgrounds into shared public play spaces, to planting individual street trees. NYC Parks has continued this trend in active investment in our parkland. Currently, NYC Parks has over 400 active capital projects across all five boroughs, totaling more than $740 million in investment.

Today, our task is to apply these lessons from across our park system to ensure the benefits of accessible, high-quality open space reach every community. The nine immediate goals outlined on the previous page establish NYC Parks’ framework for reaching our goals for a bright, green future. Our framework is intended to be dynamic and adaptable. We will continue to draw on established best practices from both within NYC Parks and from our agency and parks partners, and make further commitments to improving what needs to work better by adding to our goals as programs evolve and as new needs are identified.

New York City has renewed its dedication to building and fostering the growth of economic opportunity, social equity, and livable neighborhoods a priority and has committed New York City to:

• Building and preserving 200,000 affordable housing units over 10 years with an unprecedented investment of over $40 billion

NEW YORK CITY’S COMMITMENTS TO LIVEABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

Mayor Bill de Blasio has made building and fostering the growth of economic opportunity, social equity, and livable neighborhoods a priority and has committed New York City to:

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Building and preserving 200,000 affordable housing units over 10 years with an unprecedented investment of over $40 billion

UNIVERSAL PRE-K

Lifting up all children and aggressively tackling inequality through full-day, high-quality UPK, including increased support in high-need areas

MIDDLE SCHOOL AFTER SCHOOL

Investing over $130 million in targeted athletic, cultural, and academic programs for middle-school-age children at a critical time in their development

VISION ZERO ACTION PLAN

Creating the safest city streets and putting an end to traffic deaths and injuries

RESILIENCE

Rebuilding stronger, more resilient communities to protect against risks of a changing climate, and better engaging communities in the process. Becoming more resilient is a citywide effort with agencies like the Department of Environmental Protection making significant investments in green infrastructure and climate change management.

Building on these and other City efforts to grow and enhance neighborhoods and improve quality of life, NYC Parks commits to ensuring that the benefits of open space reach every community.
we will increase our maintenance and gardening programming, and as capital projects are completed, available in CPI communities to expand recreational capital process. NYC Parks will increase resources sustainable park designs through a more efficient Yorkers in rebuilding their local parks, and implement Through this initiative, NYC Parks is investing first in parks that area an important part of our daily lives. Community parks are those smaller open spaces located within neighborhoods throughout the city that New Yorkers use to relax and play every day. These are our playgrounds, our quiet benches, our basketball courts, our gathering places. Benefits of Great Community Parks It is important that we address the parks that directly serve communities every day because the impacts of a great 21st-century urban park system are felt beyond the parks themselves. Parks are at the center of healthy, active communities, and give children space to play, grow, and learn. Adults, too, can gather, exercise, or enjoy a community garden. Parks help our city to be more environmentally resilient, and a well-maintained park can beautify an entire neighborhood. We know that activity and exposure to green spaces are key components of good health, and that parks provide physical space for opportunities to address other community needs, such as youth development and education. As New York City’s neighborhood centers grow, maintaining parks as both green oases and vibrant civic spaces is critical—just as it was critical in 1853, when New York State authorized the City to seek out space for what would become Central Park to balance what was then an unprecedented degree of urban growth, and as critical as it was in the first decades of the 20th century, when reformist planners and advocates of the playground movement saw the creation of neighborhood parks and play spaces as a chance to revitalize inner city areas. In today’s densely built urban environment, we see that smaller spaces can also have a big impact. Living near green space, particularly in dense urban areas, has a sustained, positive effect on an individual’s health. OUR INITIATIVE The Community Parks Initiative will improve community parks in underserved neighborhoods and engage New Yorkers in re-envisioning their parks as an integral part of neighborhood building. To accomplish the goals of this initiative, New York City is making a $120 million capital investment, supported by an increase in staff and resources across critical categories account for capital dollars spent on parks by other New York City public agencies and authorities, private sector developers, or conservancies. Yet despite this high-value investment, the existing capital need across the system remains extensive. We can do more in every park and every community. Overall, NYC Parks Framework for an Equitable Future sets out strategies to measure, understand, and project the highest-priority needs and opportunities for New York City’s park system. Creating priorities based on need is the hallmark of equity-based planning. For CPI, NYC Parks has sought out parks where our resources can be maximized, both through our financial investment and through our mobilization of underrepresented constituencies. Through this initiative, NYC Parks is investing first in parks that are an important part of our daily lives. Community parks are those smaller open spaces located within neighborhoods throughout the city that New Yorkers use to relax and play every day. These are our playgrounds, our quiet benches, our basketball courts, our gathering places. 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including community outreach, capital and planning, recreational programming, and park maintenance. This $130 million represents an initial investment; New York City will continue to identify resources that can expand the reach and impact of this program in more and more communities.

Through the Community Parks Initiative, NYC Parks will work with communities, sister agencies, local leaders, open space advocacy groups, and other partners to create dynamic public places to enjoy the outdoors, encourage physical activity and recreation, enhance sustainability and resiliency, and promote community economic development.

Our approach will be transformative. It will go beyond capital or physical improvements. Rather than just patching and repairing poor-quality open spaces, we will undertake redesign projects that will expand recreational opportunities, increase green space and park access, and promote a sense of place. We will bring stakeholders together to envision new, shared design principles and programs for community parks, and facilitate the ongoing participation of community members throughout the capital process and beyond.

We will leverage our capital investments by activating spaces with dynamic programming, supporting sites with additional maintenance resources, and stewarding sites into the future by building strong community partnerships and helping local friends-of groups to grow. With the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as a key program partner, we will dramatically increase the environmentally sustainable features of our project sites and make them greener. And we will work with the New York City Department of Education (DOE), the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), the Administration for Children’s Services (ACS) and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) to coordinate project implementation. Each program component and the resources dedicated to support it will be outlined in the following pages.

COMMUNITY PARKS INITIATIVE ZONES

Through CPI, NYC Parks will target investment to under-resourced, small parks in communities that are densely populated, growing, and home to a higher-than-average percentage of individuals and families with incomes below the poverty line. Communities where both demographic need and capital need align are the highest priorities for investment under this initiative. Each priority community, or Community Parks Initiative zone, will be the focus of the initiative’s full suite of components: capital investment, extended recreational programs, increased maintenance staffing, and physical park repairs. Clustered at multiple sites within CPI zones, improvements will create visible results for neighborhoods.
Prioritizing Parks and Communities

Our approach first defined and identified under-resourced parks. The process to screen for park sites included the following steps:

• NYC Parks analyzed 20 years of capital data to identify parks with less than $250,000 of capital investment, focusing on the years between 1992-2013.4

• We assessed each park’s suitability for this program, and specifically sought out existing parks that are accessible to nearby neighborhoods, provide diverse recreational opportunities, have features for multiple age groups, accommodate different kinds of amenities, and serve a primarily local population.5

• We performed detailed, on-the-ground surveys of more than a hundred parks within demographic catchment areas to identify parks with a strong need for physical improvement.

• We reviewed our inspection data, maintenance and operations reports, and consulted with NYC Parks field staff.

• We evaluated possible programming opportunities and the presence of local groups for partnership-building.

From this process, we identified many community parks that we will target for capital improvement through CPI. These parks are shown on the program map on the following page.

In parallel, we looked at the communities these potential project sites serve. Using demographic data, we screened for neighborhoods with high potential need. For this program, we defined high-need communities as geographic areas with above-average density, evidence of recent population growth, and an above-average percentage of residents living below the federal poverty line. Our method identified a total of 134 parks that had extreme capital needs and that served residents in densely populated, growing, and lower-income neighborhoods. We have prioritized a total of 35 of these parks that will receive over $10 million in mayoral funding and that will leverage almost $20 million from elected officials and grants for complete redesign projects.

Why These Criteria?

Poverty

Of the parks in our 20-year investment analysis that had received $250,000 or less in capital investment over the past two decades, 54% were parks that directly served Census tracts with above-average levels of poverty (20% poverty and higher). In other words, just over half of these under-resourced parks have locations that serve poorer neighborhoods. However, as shown in the map at left, those poorer neighborhoods are geographically concentrated. The under-investment in parks in these areas creates a similar concentrated, or disproportionate effect on access to community parks. We found that nearly one quarter of the parks in our analysis were located in the 14 Community Districts with the highest concentration of people living below the federal poverty level.6

Population Density and Growth

Parks play a critical role in enhancing quality of life in all neighborhoods, but are in especially high demand in those neighborhoods where populations cluster and grow. We analyzed Census data to determine which of New York City’s neighborhoods were most densely populated and growing in order to gauge where the parks system likely has unmet local demand on facilities, programs, and upkeep. When more people use a park, it places a strain on that park’s facilities and may result in wear and tear and reduced quality as reflected in user experience and lower inspection ratings. Our program focuses on areas of above average population density (110 people per acre or more citywide), and identifies areas where spikes in population growth (25% or more) often tracked with both population influx and new development.
NYC PARKS PROJECTS IN COMMUNITY PARKS INITIATIVE ZONES

CPI consists of 35 capital projects that will be the center of our community outreach and act as hubs within the CPI zones for the initiative’s full set of program components. Capital investment in these communities is just the start. In each Community Parks Initiative zone, we will focus expanded resources and strategies, creating a catalytic program that builds not just one park, but expands parks’ positive impacts across a community.

NYC Parks will continue to work with communities and public agency partners to identify and prioritize more opportunities for capital investment, programs, and other improvements to the community park networks in CPI zones.

Activating Community Parks
Playground associates are seasonal staff that will provide a presence at the parks indicated here to offer programs and maintenance within CPI zones. Locations shown on the map at right are subject to change as CPI capital work on some of those sites advances.

Parks at Work in a Neighborhood Near You
NYC Parks is already implementing projects in parks in CPI zones and this work will complement the CPI capital program by improving park resources in the same communities. The active capital projects on this map represent only a portion of the more than 400 projects currently underway throughout the city. 44 of these active capital projects are already underway within CPI zones, representing a total budget of over $60 million. These active capital projects are shown on the map at right.

The Future of CPI
Through our analysis and fieldwork, we identified more community parks than we could fully address with our capital budget. An expanded CPI program would require additional investment and further analysis, and respond to community priorities.

About CPI Zone Boundaries
Neighborhoods and communities can be hard to define on a map. Our CPI zones are based on the New York City Department of City Planning’s Neighborhood Tabulation Area (NTA) boundaries. NTAs are statistical geographies that generally align with New York City neighborhood boundaries.
Additionally, NYC Parks is partnering with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to identify opportunities to incorporate more permeable surfaces, green infrastructure, and water detention features in capital projects through CPI. DEP will provide important financial and technical support to significantly increase the sustainability components of Parks’ designs. NYC Parks will also be collaborating closely with the Department of Education (DOE) and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) to implement CPI projects on playground sites where NYC Parks shares jurisdiction.

Targeted Improvements: NYC Parks will carry out smaller-scale park improvement projects that can be completed on a faster schedule to bring immediate impacts to priority communities. Targeted improvement projects at parks within every CPI zone will complement capital projects and extend the usable lifecycle of under-resourced parks. Small changes can make a big difference in the quality of a space. This work is expected to include a combination of efforts (not all efforts on every site) such as: landscape and horticultural improvements and greening; sports coating and surface sealing; repair, replacement, or repainting of benches, game tables, and fences; pathway repair; repair, replacement, or repainting of play equipment and safety surface; and athletic field repair.

Partnerships
Engaging Stakeholders, Building Stewards: Successful, sustainable parks are often the result of transformative and creative partnerships between communities, the City, and other stakeholders. The Community Parks Initiative will grow the capacity of local stewards and institutions to program, care for, and advocate for their parks beyond the capital project phase. NYC Parks will provide staff support, trainings, grants, visioning tools, and other resources to our community partners. We will work with Partnerships for Parks, a joint program of the City Parks Foundation, to implement the established Catalyst Program approach to building community engagement, connecting partners to the public process, and investing in local leadership to sustain strong local advocates. Mayoral funding of $780,000 will support the hiring of new community planners, organizers and outreach coordinators to facilitate these activities.

Additionally, NYC Parks will work with non-profit and other park partners, such as the Mayor’s Fund to Advance New York City, to enhance the programmatic elements and reach of CPI.

Programming and Maintenance
Youth and Adult Sports and Fitness: Increased recreational programming will encourage physical activity and promote healthy living in CPI communities. Programming will activate parks both before and after capital investment. Our core program deploys a total of 58 seasonal playground associates to bring children’s programming to sites throughout CPI zones—with even more sites covered by mobile fitness programs like Kids in Motion, Shape Up NYC, and the Summer Sports Experience.

Local community partners are also a great resource for developing new and innovative programs that help Parks meet local needs, activate public spaces, and
bring people together. CPI will promote collaboration on programming through its community partnership development component.

**Community Parks Programming and Maintenance Expansion**: Through CPI, we will increase the presence of staff at sites throughout the priority communities. NYC Parks will achieve this through new Mayoral commitments, allowing NYC Parks to fund and recruit more than 70 seasonal and full-time maintenance and programming staff. There is also an opportunity for expanded partnership with the New York City Council, which has demonstrated leadership in prioritizing funding for parks stewardship. In addition to activating parks, new staff will enable an expanded maintenance program to allow improvements to parks in need across the city, providing NYC Parks with the flexibility to both track impacts of increased staffing at fixed locations, and to move crews on an on-demand basis to address target areas.

**Benefits, Impacts, and Measuring Success**

It can be challenging to measure success of any individual urban initiative given the complexity of factors that influence neighborhood development. However, to track the performance of the Community Parks Initiative, NYC Parks will deploy a set of quantitative and qualitative “before” and “after” metrics. A key component to this is understanding the baseline conditions at a sample of our project sites by conducting a utilization survey at representative parks in CPI zones.

The survey includes both user counts and questions about how people use and view their parks, and will generate a representative baseline against which to measure the impact of the program and to track its performance. We can use this data to make general assumptions about our CPI areas, such as whether overall park quality is improving.

Other measures of short-term success will include close tracking of community participation in scoping meetings and other related events, number of participants in our recreational programs, monitoring of website traffic, and social media impacts. Over the long term, we will also be able to quantify success in our community partnership building efforts, such as through tracking the formation of new park user and stewardship groups in CPI communities.

**Advancing the Community Parks Initiative**

The Community Parks Initiative represents the combined efforts of NYC Parks working together with multiple constituencies including community, public agency, and other parks partners toward a common goal of improving quality of life in our neighborhoods by providing better public parks for all New Yorkers.

NYC Parks will begin rolling out the Community Parks Initiative in 2014. This includes:

- Initiating partnership building and engagement of community members and stakeholder groups
- Placing new, seasonal Playground Associates and City Parks Workers at parks throughout CPI zones to increase access to programs for children and to improve cleanliness in our parks
- Conducting a baseline user survey and opinion survey of representative parks in CPI zones scheduled for capital and other improvements through the program
- Commencing community outreach and organization, holding initial community visioning sessions around capital project sites
- Kicking off the capital process, scheduling and staffing capital projects in all five boroughs, to be completed by a dedicated CPI capital design and project management team
- Generating immediate, visible impacts with quick-win, targeted park improvement projects

**Conclusion**

With these initial milestones, the Community Parks Initiative will bring NYC Parks’ agency resources together in a coordinated way to better leverage investments, efficiently targeting Parks’ resources to address open space needs in underserved communities through a multi-faceted approach.

As implementation of CPI continues during the community input, design, and construction phases of the individual capital projects, we will simultaneously grow our community outreach and partnership development efforts.

CPI is a scalable program, we can continue our needs-based approach to identifying parks and communities for investment, and bring each program component to new projects in CPI zones. There are many opportunities to

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**Seeding Parks, Growing Neighborhoods**

Working with communities to evaluate, plan, and program their parks is a core element of the Community Parks Initiative. Essential to this initiative’s approach is the establishment of long-term community partnerships that generate stewards to sustain our ongoing investment in the City’s parkland. Community outreach, visioning, and incorporation of park users and potential stewards in the planning process can also help us to deliver dynamic, diverse open spaces. Reprogramming parks to meet changing needs of new and growing populations, uses, and interests is important to ensure the success of our investments.

To accomplish this, we will look to the success of the Partnerships for Parks Catalyst program. Partnerships for Parks is a jointly operated program between NYC Parks and City Parks Foundation. Connections between people, parks, and agency resources are facilitated to increase the community’s capacity to sustain parks as a key component of strong, healthy neighborhoods.

Outreach coordinators, who are on the ground in communities across the city every day, organize community groups to build local investment in parks. They connect the park stewards to NYC Parks and City Parks Foundation resources, including grants and trainings, to address community priorities and to create leadership capacity at the local level.

**The Community Parks Initiative follows Partnerships for Parks’ Catalyst Program:**

Build: Engage in extensive community outreach to identify local partners.

Connect: Facilitate visioning and collaboration among local stakeholders, including elected officials.

Sustain: Invest in local leadership through trainings, fiscal sponsorship, and other resources to sustain strong, local advocates.
mayors in our target communities

active lifestyles at

nearly 100

generated by community stewards, fitness classes, and programs

for kids and mobile

programs

positions created

and other supporting staff

design and

14

outreach, planning,
as approximately

15

permanent

recreational programming, as well

35

across NYC Parks, and with our sister agencies, not-for-profit

quality of our parks, but of our own way of working collaboratively

more enriched quality of neighborhood life, and for an ongoing

partnership between NYC Parks and communities. It is also a

multi-faceted program that we believe will transform not just the

quality of our parks, but of our own way of working collaboratively

across NYC Parks, and with our sister agencies, not-for-profit

partners, and communities to expand place-based programming

offerings at reconstructed parks, identify and support new

community partners and friends-of groups, and generate new parks

priorities within Community Parks Initiative zones.

The Community Parks Initiative and our forthcoming suite of nine

park equity initiatives will continue to inform and expand the scope

of our efforts, shaping our longer-term strategies. We will undertake

ongoing analysis and engagement with stakeholders, expanding and

updating our plan. Through each of these initiatives and projects,

we look forward to working with you to plan and lay the foundations

of sustainable park development as we plan and build a brighter,

greener, more equitable future for every New Yorker.

Mayor Bill de Blasio, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, and NY Knicks and

Net players were joined by local officials and community schoolchildren

at the ribbon-cutting of Midland Beach Playground and Basketball Court

in Staten Island, which were damaged in Hurricane Sandy.

consider future work following the same model. Today, CPI

represents an initial investment in neighborhood parks with the

greatest need, and this is a need that goes beyond the 35
capital projects that NYC Parks has prioritized with this first infusion

of capital. We will continue to measure, understand, and project parks

needs and opportunities—with your input.

The Community Parks Initiative is an intensive approach to

improving small parks, but it is also just one component of our

overall approach for increasing equity in the park system. The

improvement of these small parks provides the backdrop for

an enriched quality of neighborhood life, and for an ongoing

partnership between NYC Parks and communities. It is also a

multi-faceted program that we believe will transform not just the

quality of our parks, but of our own way of working collaboratively

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