Designing NYC Parks
NYC Parks by the Numbers

- 30,000 acres of land – 14% of New York City
- 5,000 individual properties
- 1,800 basketball courts
- 1,000 playgrounds
- 800 athletic fields
- 67 public pools
- 51 recreational facilities
- 15 nature centers
- 14 miles of beaches
Capital Projects

- More than 500 active contracts in design through construction
- Started work on more than $600 million worth of park improvements in 2015
Project Types
Project Types – Playgrounds

John Jay Park, Manhattan

Elmhurst Park, Queens
Tecumseh Playground, Manhattan

Project Types – Multi-Purpose Courts
Project Types – Sports Courts & Fields

Betsy Head Park, Brooklyn

Highbridge Park Ballfields, Manhattan
Project Types – Multi-Use Synthetic Turf Fields

Harlem River Park, Manhattan

Riverside Park, Manhattan
Project Types – Skate Parks

River Avenue Skate Park, Bronx

Faber Park Skate Park, Staten Island
Project Types – Adult Fitness

Asser Levy Playground, Manhattan

Lieutenant John H. Martinson Playground, Staten Island
Project Types – Seating Areas and Community Gathering Places

J.J. Byrne Playground, Bronx

Titanic Park, Manhattan
Project Types – Bikeways

Randall’s Island Connector, Bronx

Riverside Park Cantilever, Manhattan
Pelham Parkway Malls, Bronx

Project Types – Parkways & Malls
Project Types – Waterfront Parks & Boardwalks

Pier 42, Manhattan

Rockaway Boardwalk, Queens
Project Types – Shoreline & Natural Areas Restoration

Calvert Vaux Park, Brooklyn

Harlem River Park, Manhattan
Project Types – Adaptive Reuse of a Historic Property

Fort Totten Park Conceptual Master Plan, Queens

Photo Credit: Michael Moran
Bartow – Pell Mansion Museum
Formal Garden Rehabilitation
Existing Conditions, Site Analysis & Schematic Plan
March 14, 2013

Project Types – Landscape Rehabilitation & Restoration
Multi-use Parks

- Dogs
- Gather
- Relax
- Garden

John F. Murray Playground, Queens

Sports

Swing
Major Initiatives
Parks Without Borders is a design approach that focuses on improving the areas where parks and neighborhoods meet: entrances, edges, and park-adjacent spaces.
1. Accessible Parks
Make parks more welcoming and accessible to everyone

2. Improved Neighborhoods
Extend the beauty of parks out into communities

3. Vibrant Community Spaces
Transform underused spaces into centers of community

Major Initiatives – Parks Without Borders
Park Equity

- A fair distribution of resources
- An inclusive process
- New and diverse constituencies
- Emphasizing the importance of active lifestyles for people of all ages and abilities
- Improving access to and within parks
- Enhancing safety and security measures
- Enhancing park aesthetics and adding green spaces

Major Initiatives – Community Parks Initiative
Under-resourced Parks Meeting
CPI Demographic Criteria

134 parks received less than $250,000 in capital investment and are within ¼-mile of Census tracts with 2+ of CPI criteria.

Demographics and under-resourced parks helped identify communities in which to focus investment.

2015 - Design completed for 35 parks
2016 - Designing 12 parks

Major Initiatives – Community Parks Initiative
Asphalt Yard to Community Park

Stockton Playground, Brooklyn
Permeable pavers

Rain gardens

Street stormwater capture

Major Initiatives – Stormwater Management with Green Infrastructure
• **Waterfront Inspections & Monitoring** for bulkheads & soft shorelines.

• **Flood Zone Design Guidelines** for parks and open spaces in the flood zone.

• **Upgrade** at-risk operations and recreation facilities.

• **Improve resilience and protection** of coastal communities, parklands, and natural areas.

**Major Initiatives – Resiliency Planning and Design**
• **Bring Awareness** about unique issues faced by parks in the flood zone.

• **Identify Major Risks** associated with climate change.

• **Outline Process for Planning & Designing** parks and open spaces in the flood zone.

• **Recommend Best Practices & Resilient Materials** to be used within and near the flood zone.
Design Principles
Design Principles – Engaging the Community

West 20th Street Park Scope Meeting, Manhattan
Design Principles – Thoughtful Site Design with Standard Materials

Seabury Park, Bronx
Design Principles – Greening and Attention to Context

Cadman Plaza Park, Brooklyn

South Oxford Park, Brooklyn
Design Principles – Universal Design – Beyond ADA

Playground 123 in Morningside Park, Manhattan

Laurelton West Playground, Queens
Sunset Park Playground, Brooklyn

**Design Principles – Creating a Play Environment**
Design Principles – Promoting Play Value Through Variety

Climbing opportunities

Swings

Spray showers

Tactile engagement

Playhouses

Spinners
Design Principles – Creative Play

Washington Square Park, Manhattan

Betsy Head Park Pool, Brooklyn
Design Principles – Designing for Diverse Demographics

Fitness

Play yards

Multi-generational social seating

Skate parks

Multi-use

Welcoming entrances