

THE  
REPORT  
CARD  
ON  
LARGE  
PARKS  
2011





New Yorkers for Parks  
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New Yorkers for Parks is the citywide independent organization championing quality parks and open spaces for all New Yorkers in all neighborhoods.

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# The Report Card on Parks: Overview

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New Yorkers for Parks' award-winning *Report Card on Parks* is the only independent, annual survey of the maintenance conditions of park properties in all five boroughs. The project was designed in 2002 to be an easy-to-use tool for communities and public officials to assess their local parks in comparison to one another. Since 2002, New Yorkers for Parks has issued nine *Report Cards on Parks*, some of which evaluate the overall conditions of parks and beaches, and others that examine individual features such as playgrounds and athletic fields.

By highlighting both high- and low-performing parks, as well as systemic issues, best practices can be identified and incorporated citywide. Our hope is that this analysis will encourage a more efficient distribution of resources toward the parks that are most in need and assist in developing strategies for additional funding sources.

*The Report Card on Large Parks* has the following goals:

- To provide city residents and public officials with an assessment of how our parks are performing in comparison to one another
- To provide an independent assessment of park performance from year to year against defined benchmarks of service
- To highlight high- and low-performing parks, as well as systemic issues, and make informed recommendations for their improvement
- To encourage a more efficient and equitable distribution of limited resources toward the parks that are most in need

## Why Large Parks?

*The Report Card on Large Parks* is a comparative analysis of 45 of New York City's largest park properties. Large parks offer a wide variety of passive and active recreation opportunities and are often destinations that residents are willing to travel farther to for the wide range of amenities offered.

The scale of the large parks, coupled with the variety of unique amenities and topographical features within them, create maintenance challenges for the Parks Department. For the past six years, the department's internal Park Inspection Program (PIP) has consistently found the cleanliness of large parks to be more challenged than that of small parks and playgrounds.

An independent survey like the *Report Card* provides data on the conditions in these parks, resulting in informed, targeted maintenance strategies, new attention on these important properties, and increased resources to improve them. This first *Report Card on Large Parks* provides NY4P with a framework to consider future monitoring of these parks.

# Map of Survey Sites

## BRONX

1. Claremont Park
2. Crotona Park
3. Seton Falls Park
4. Soundview Park
5. St. Mary's Park

## BROOKLYN

6. Asser Levy Park
7. Coney Island Boat Basin
8. Fort Greene Park
9. Highland Park - Brooklyn
10. McCarren Park
11. Parade Ground
12. Red Hook Recreation Area
13. Shore Road Park
14. Sunset Park

## MANHATTAN

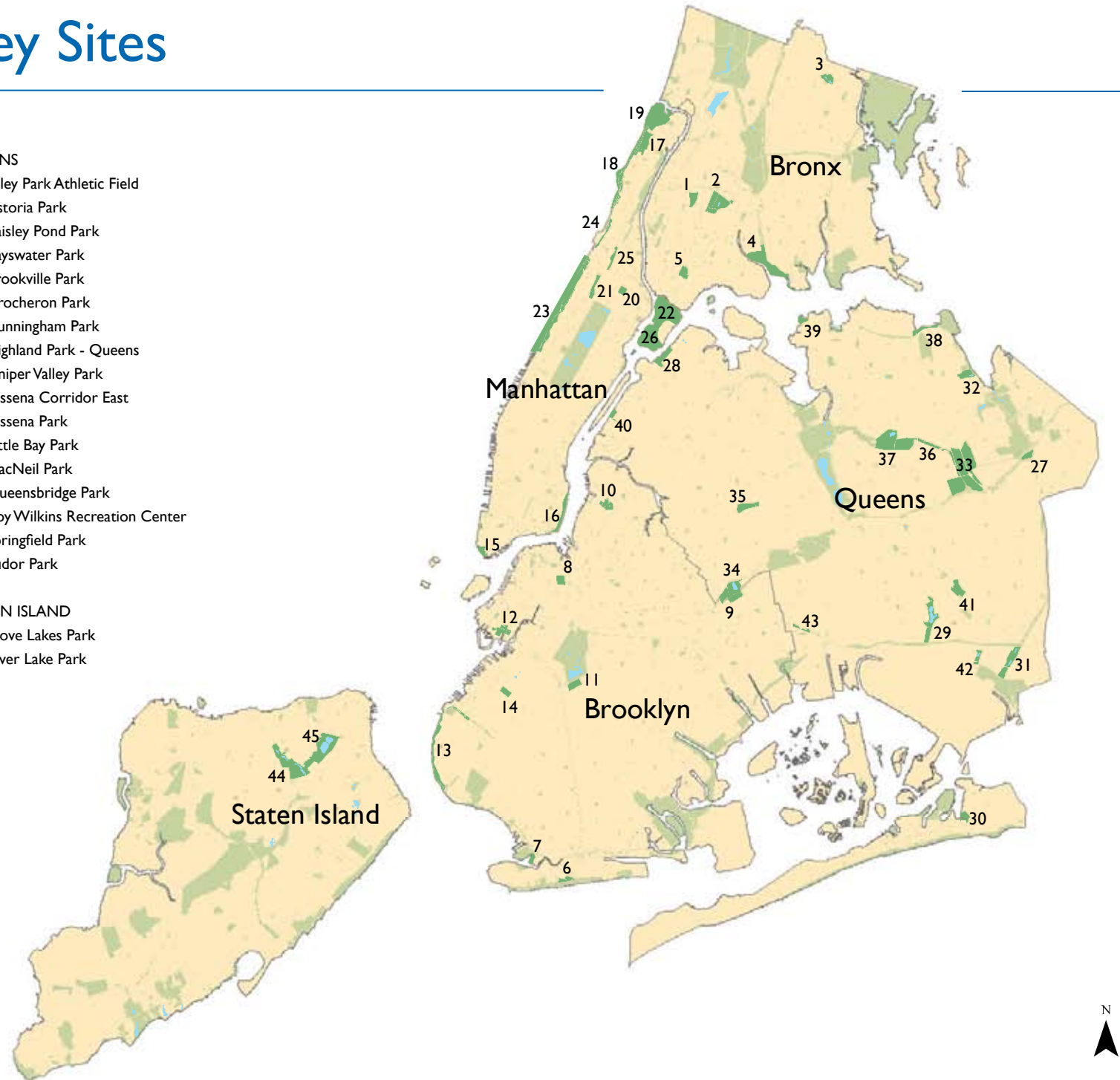
15. Battery Park
16. East River Park
17. Fort Tryon Park
18. Fort Washington Park
19. Inwood Hill Park
20. Marcus Garvey Park
21. Morningside Park
22. Randall's Island Park
23. Riverside Park
24. Riverside Park North
25. St. Nicholas Park
26. Wards Island Park

## QUEENS

27. Alley Park Athletic Field
28. Astoria Park
29. Baisley Pond Park
30. Bayswater Park
31. Brookville Park
32. Crocheron Park
33. Cunningham Park
34. Highland Park - Queens
35. Juniper Valley Park
36. Kissena Corridor East
37. Kissena Park
38. Little Bay Park
39. MacNeil Park
40. Queensbridge Park
41. Roy Wilkins Recreation Center
42. Springfield Park
43. Tudor Park

## STATEN ISLAND

44. Clove Lakes Park
45. Silver Lake Park





East River Park, Manhattan



# Summary of Methodology

This report builds on New Yorkers for Parks' *Report Card on Parks* survey methodology, first implemented in 2003. In 2005, the *Report Card on Parks* received a Community Indicators Award from the Community Indicators Consortium, a program of the Brookings Institution's Urban Markets Initiative. A full discussion of the methodology can be found in the Detailed Methodology section on page 71 of this report.

The *Report Card on Large Parks* focuses on Parks Department properties between 20 and 500 acres in area. In selecting sites appropriate for surveying, the following categories of park properties were removed from the survey population: highway properties, undeveloped parkland, islands, gardens, golf courses, marshes, beaches, forests, properties without active recreation, properties undergoing significant capital projects, and parks in which all zones are larger than 50 acres. The final survey universe was 45 parks.

The Parks Department divides all large parks into maintenance zones called Park Inspection Program Zones, or PIP zones. The zone boundaries often follow pathways, streets, physical barriers, such as a tree-line or hill, or a cluster of active recreation features. Due to the large size of the parks, an evaluation of the total acreage of every property was not feasible. To

address this challenge, NY4P surveyed a randomly selected subset of all the PIP zones in the 45 parks.

The survey examines 12 features in each park: Athletic Fields, Bathrooms, Courts, Drinking Fountains, Immediate Environment, Lawns, Natural Areas, Pathways, Playgrounds, Sitting Areas, Trees, and Water Bodies. The features are evaluated for maintenance, cleanliness, safety, and structural integrity. Each park was assigned a numerical score from 0 to 100 for each feature. For park scores, the features are categorized into eight Major Service Areas (MSAs) and weighted based on their relative importance, based on feedback from focus groups comprising park users and administrators.

Survey work for the *Report Card of Large Parks* took place from June to August 2010 from the hours of 10am to dusk, Tuesday through Thursday.

Letter grades corresponding to numerical scores comprise the final ratings in accordance with the following conversion table:

Raw Numerical Grade	Letter Grade
97–100	A+
93–96	A
90–92	A-
87–89	B+
83–86	B
80–82	B-
77–79	C+
73–76	C
70–72	C-
60–69	D
59 and below	F



NY4P surveyor in the field.



# Description of Features

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## Athletic Fields



This feature includes natural grass, asphalt, and synthetic soccer, football, and baseball fields.

## Bathrooms



This feature evaluates each discrete bathroom or comfort station.

## Courts



This feature includes all basketball, handball, tennis, bocce, volleyball, and hockey facilities.

## Drinking Fountains



This feature includes each discrete drinking fountain.

## Immediate Environment



This feature evaluates how well a park is insulated from the potential negative impacts of its surroundings. Intrusive odors, emissions, exhaust, and excessive noise are monitored.

## Lawns



This feature includes lawns, landscaped areas, and gardens.

## Natural Areas



This feature evaluates spaces that retain some degree of wild nature, native ecosystems, and ecosystem processes, while providing habitat for native plants and animals. These are non-manicured spaces such as wetlands, forests, and meadows.

## Pathways



This feature includes each type of walkway in a park, including asphalt, dirt, turf, pavers, brick, or concrete.

## Playgrounds



This feature evaluates areas containing play equipment, including those for children and fitness equipment for adults.

## Sitting Areas



This feature evaluates areas that contain clusters of seating, including benches, picnic tables, and chess tables.

## Trees



This feature evaluates trees contained within tree pits in the park.

## Water Bodies



This feature includes inland waterbodies (lakes, creeks, etc.) as well as shoreline areas along the harbor and ocean.

# Summary of Findings

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The survey found a wide range of conditions in large parks across the five boroughs, but the vast majority (80%) scored an A or B, and only one park received a failing grade.

## Drinking Fountains & Lawns Pose the Greatest Challenges

As in previous *Report Cards*, Drinking Fountains received the lowest grade among all features surveyed. They are plagued by maintenance and structural challenges. In many cases, the fountains are unusable because of insufficient pressure, missing parts, or structural damage.

Lawns scored poorly due to a combination of conditions. Excessive litter was prevalent on many lawns, and grass was often unmowed, bare or discolored, and infested with weed growth. Many lawns contained trees with low, broken, or dying branches, and would benefit from more regular tree pruning.



A lawn at Claremont Park in the Bronx is covered in litter.

## The quality of large parks varies widely, even within neighborhoods

The survey found that the conditions of large parks vary widely within boroughs and even neighborhoods. For example, Morningside Park and Marcus Garvey Park, both in Harlem, scored an 89 and a 64, respectively. Both parks offer similar features, but their maintenance conditions vary widely.



A beautiful landscape in Shore Road Park, Brooklyn.



## By the Borough

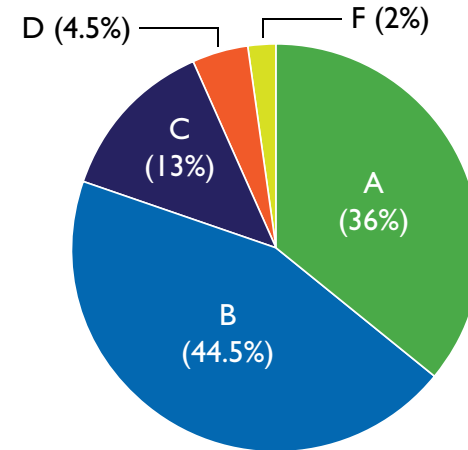
Of the 10 highest performing large parks in the city, one was in the Bronx, three were in Manhattan, four were in Queens, and two were in Staten Island.

Of the 10 lowest performers in this survey, two were in the Bronx, three were in Brooklyn, three were in Manhattan, and two were in Queens.

The survey identified very few borough-wide trends. With the exception of Staten Island, where both parks surveyed scored A's, each borough contained both high- and low-scoring parks. For example, the Bronx is home to Seton Falls Park, the highest-scoring park in the survey, and Claremont Park, which received a 62.

Borough	# Parks Surveyed	Average Score
BRONX	5	81
BROOKLYN	9	82
MANHATTAN	12	84
QUEENS	17	87
STATEN ISLAND	2	93
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>85</b>

**Breakdown of Park Grades Citywide**



Little Bay Park, Queens

# Feature Results

Note: Numbers next to feature names are average feature scores across all parks surveyed.

**Athletic Fields (84):** The survey inspects three types of Athletic Fields: asphalt, natural grass, and turf. The most common challenge to asphalt courts was extensive cracking and weed growth. For natural grass fields, tall grass, bare spots, and weeds were common. At turf fields, the issues most frequently observed were loose seams and worn areas. Damaged fencing and seating were common problems at all three types of fields. The highest-rated athletic fields were found at Wards Island Park, Highland Park (Brooklyn and Queens portions), Kissena Corridor East, Brookville Park, Riverside Park, and Juniper Valley Park. Claremont Park & Marcus Garvey Park had the lowest-rated fields.

**Bathrooms (86):** The problems most frequently encountered in bathrooms were stall doors that could not be locked and a lack of toilet paper and hand soap. Parks receiving a perfect score for Bathrooms were Red Hook Recreation Area, Cunningham Park, Crocheron Park, Juniper Valley Park, and Riverside Park North. Parade Ground received the lowest bathroom score (35).

**Courts (90):** Courts performed well on this year's survey. The only recurring problem encountered by surveyors was a lack of nets. 37% of parks surveyed scored an A for Courts; however, two parks received scores of 0: Claremont Park and St. Mary's Park.

**Drinking Fountains (64):** Drinking Fountains were the lowest-performing feature surveyed. Many fountains suffered from structural damage, insufficient pressure, or unsanitary conditions. Despite this, St. Mary's Park, Highland Park (Queens), Parade Ground, Kissena Corridor East, Fort Washington Park, Cunningham Park, MacNeil Park, Randall's Island Park, Battery Park, and Seton Falls Park scored perfect scores for Drinking Fountains. Asser Levy Park, Coney Island Boat Basin, and Wards Island Park received 0s.

**Immediate Environment (92):** Most parks scored very well on the Immediate Environment feature. All of the parks that performed poorly, including Kissena Corridor East, Shore Road Park, and Randall's Island Park, are located close to a large highway or other noisy or odorous piece of infrastructure.

**Lawns (69):** Lawns scored poorly due to the presence of excessive litter, bare or discolored grass, weed growth and/or low, broken, or dying tree branches. Claremont Park had the lowest score for Lawns (0). Alley Pond, Battery, Fort Tryon, Kissena, and Little Bay Parks received A scores for Lawns.

**Natural Areas (87):** Natural Areas can present a variety of challenges to the Parks Department. Their seclusion and unmanicured nature can make them popular spots for illegal dumping and illicit activity, and these same characteristics can make them hard to maintain. The following parks scored perfect scores for Natural Areas: Fort Washington Park, Brookville Park, Wards Island Park, Springfield Park, Bayswater Park, Seton Falls Park, Riverside Park North, Little Bay Park, and Alley Park Athletic Field. Parks with the lowest-performing Natural Areas were Claremont Park, and Baisley Pond Park.

**Pathways (92):** Pathways scored high marks across the city. Very few parks scored poorly on this feature, and the low scores most often reflected cracks or structural deterioration.

**Playgrounds (91):** Playgrounds received a high score overall. By and large, play structures were undamaged and safe; safety surfacing was intact; and the playgrounds were free of broken glass and litter. Playgrounds at the following parks received perfect scores of 100: Seton Falls Park, St. Nicholas Park, Clove Lakes Park, Crocheron Park, Bayswater Park, Fort Greene Park, St. Mary's Park, Fort Washington Park, Brookville Park, Wards Island Park, Springfield Park, Riverside Park North, Astoria Park, Tudor Park, Juniper Valley Park, Sunset Park, and Red Hook Recreation Area. The park with the lowest score for Playgrounds was Marcus Garvey Park.

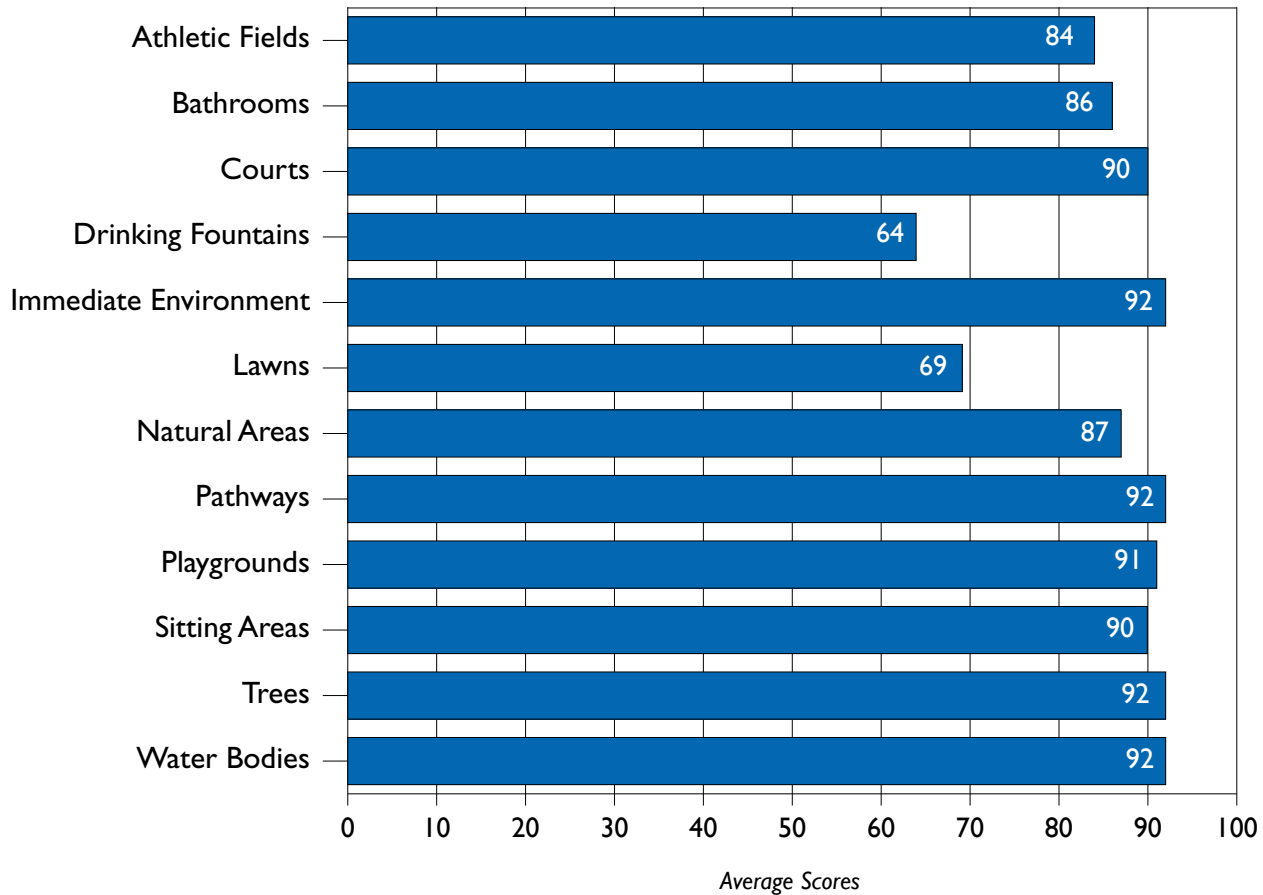
**Sitting Areas (90):** The most frequent challenges encountered at Sitting Areas were deteriorating seating, damaged tables, and grills filled with used charcoal or covered in grime from previous use. Crotona Park, Asser Levy Park, Kissena Corridor East, Seton Falls Park, Crocheron Park, Fort Greene Park, St. Mary's Park, Fort Washington Park, Brookville Park, Astoria Park, Tudor Park, and McCarren Park received the highest scores for Sitting Areas. Marcus Garvey Park received the lowest score.

**Trees (92):** Tree pits were in good overall condition throughout the parks surveyed. Among those receiving poor scores, the most common challenges were litter, weeds, and missing pavers. Crotona Park received the lowest score for trees. Parks scoring perfect scores for trees were Fort Tryon Park, Parade Ground, Riverside Park North, Morningside Park, Silver Lake Park, Soundview Park, Battery Park, Juniper Valley Park, Crocheron Park, Fort Greene Park, Fort Washington Park, Brookville Park, Astoria Park, Tudor Park, and Cunningham Park.

**Water Bodies (92):** Water Bodies, which can be particularly challenging to maintain, scored very well. Silver Lake Park, Brookville Park, and Clove Lakes Park scored a perfect 100 for Water Bodies, while Seton Falls Park received a 75, the lowest score for this feature.



### Average Scores of Park Features



Inwood Hill Park, Manhattan



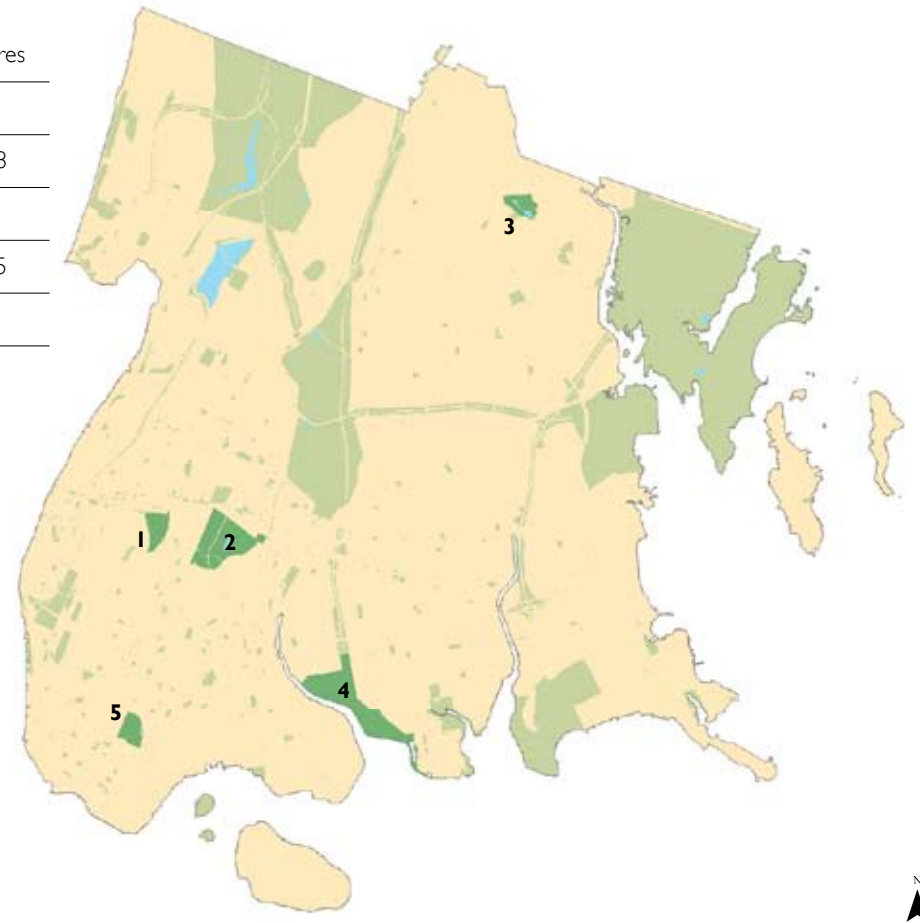
Brookville Park, Queens

# BRONX

Average Bronx Park Score: 81

Park Name	Score	Grade	Neighborhood	CD	CB	Acres
1 Claremont Park	62	D	Claremont & Mount Eden	14	4	39
2 Crotona Park	79	C+	Bathgate, Claremont Village & Tremont	15	3	128
3 Seton Falls Park	94	A	Edenwald & Eastchester	12	12	36
4 Soundview Park	81	B-	Soundview & Clason Point	18	9	205
5 St. Mary's Park	89	B+	Melrose & Mott Haven	17	1	35

\*CD = City Council District; CB = Community Board



Crotona Park, Bronx





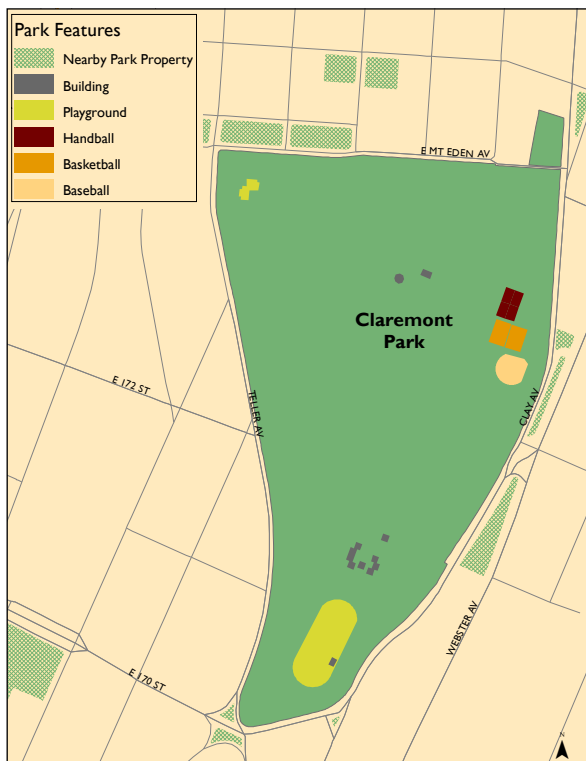


# Claremont Park

Claremont & Mount Eden, Bronx  
39 acres

CLAREMONT PARK'S large, rolling lawns and mature trees create a beautiful landscape suited for picnicking and long walks. The park also offers a small pool, playgrounds, and facilities for baseball, handball, and basketball.

With a score of 62 (D-), Claremont Park received one of the lowest grades of the parks surveyed. This low score is primarily a consequence of the large amount of litter surveyors encountered throughout the park.



A large amount of litter has accumulated alongside this handball court.



This lawn is impacted by litter, natural debris, and a tree stump.

CLAREMONT PARK	62
Feature	Score
Athletic Fields	0
Bathrooms	79
Courts	0
Drinking Fountains	82
Immediate Environment	82
Lawns	0
Natural Areas	0
Pathways	85
Playgrounds	86
Sitting Areas	72
Trees	75
Water Bodies	N/A

## Successes

The survey found the playgrounds in Claremont Park to be in acceptable condition; however, many sections of play equipment were in need of a fresh coat of paint and other small repairs. The cement pathways throughout the park were structurally sound and without significant holes or cracks, but many were strewn with litter.

## Challenges

Athletic Fields, Courts, Lawns and Natural Areas received scores of 0, due mainly to the extraordinary amount of litter impacting each of these features. In addition to litter, lawns suffered from broken glass, weed growth, hazardous tree stumps, and large barren areas without grass. Bathrooms scored poorly due to litter, non-functioning toilets, and a lack of hand soap.



# Crotona Park

Bathgate, Claremont Village & Tremont, Bronx  
127 acres

CROTONA PARK offers a wide variety of features, including a lake, an impressive Tennis Center, and the largest public pool in the Bronx. In addition to its 20 tennis courts, the park has basketball courts, baseball fields, and 11 playgrounds. The features in Crotona Park received scores ranging from a 34 for Lawns, to a 100 for Sitting Areas.

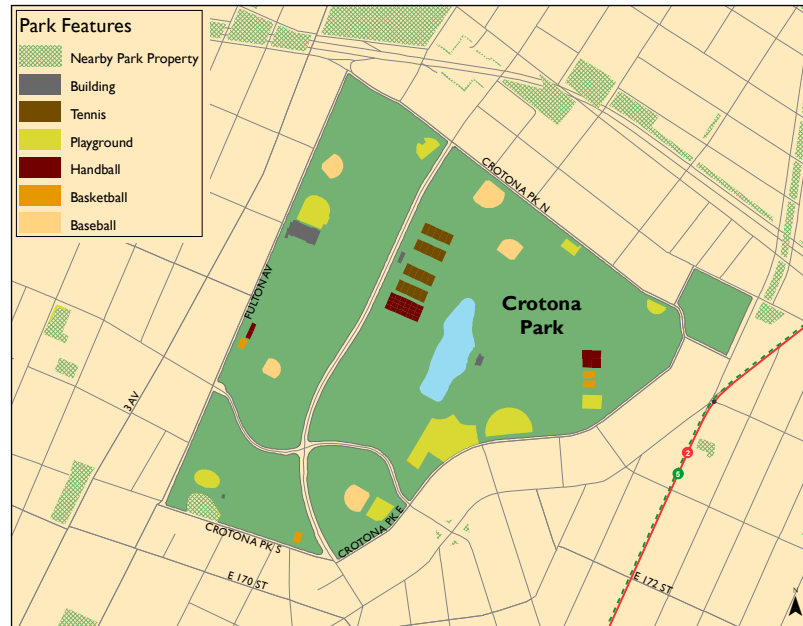
The park's overall score of 79 (C+) reflects excessive litter throughout the park and general deterioration of infrastructure, such as basketball courts and playgrounds.



Large cracks run across the surface of this asphalt baseball field.



Crotona Park's courts are in excellent condition, and the Tennis Center offers clean bathrooms and respite from the heat.



<b>CROTONA PARK</b>		<b>79</b>
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	51	
Bathrooms	98	
Courts	81	
Drinking Fountains	57	
Immediate Environment	97	
Lawns	34	
Natural Areas	43	
Pathways	87	
Playgrounds	81	
Sitting Areas	100	
Trees	63	
Water Bodies	N/A	

## Successes

Bathrooms and Sitting Areas in Crotona Park scored very highly. Additionally, the park's Immediate Environment score, a 97, reflects the quiet, protected setting that the space provides.

## Challenges

Lawns, Natural Areas, Athletic Fields, and Drinking Fountains received failing scores. Surveyors found excessive weeds, trash, glass, and hazardous tree stumps on many of the lawns, and the natural areas were impacted by excessive broken glass and litter. The low score for fields reflects large amounts of litter, and one asphalt baseball field (pictured at left) was severely impacted by cracks. A number of drinking fountains were unusable due to missing parts or a lack of sufficient water pressure. In addition to these failing scores, the score for Trees in Crotona Park was the lowest of all the parks surveyed due to tree pits that had excessive weeds, broken glass, debris, stumps, or missing trees.

“The Parks maintenance staff have worked hard to improve the park, but as the City continues to cut Parks’ budget, it impacts the cleanliness of the park. Crotona Park is a beautiful oasis, and it is us up to us community members to step in.”  
Rosemary Ordonez-Jenkins, Friends of Crotona Park

# Seton Falls Park

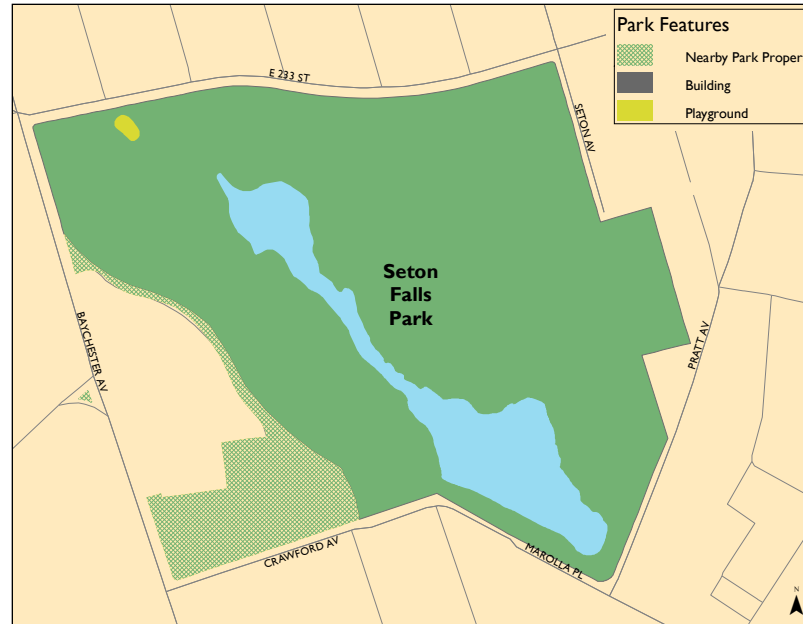
Edenwald & Eastchester, Bronx  
36 acres

SETON FALLS PARK is composed primarily of natural areas, including a large mature forest and wetlands. Beautiful trails run throughout the forest and alongside streams.

Seton Falls received the highest overall park score (94) among all of the parks surveyed for this report.



A walk through the forest at Seton Falls Park finds clear streams and waterfalls.



SETON FALLS PARK	94
<i>Feature</i>	<i>Score</i>
Athletic Fields	N/A
Bathrooms	N/A
Courts	N/A
Drinking Fountains	100
Immediate Environment	100
Lawns	72
Natural Areas	100
Pathways	83
Playgrounds	100
Sitting Areas	100
Trees	N/A
Water Bodies	75



A walking trail is obstructed by a fallen tree.

## Successes

Drinking Fountains, Immediate Environment, Natural Areas, Playgrounds, and Sitting Areas scored perfect scores of 100.

## Challenges

The score for Waterbodies was impacted by the presence of litter in some of the streams. Lawns scored poorly due to the presence of deep holes that could present trip hazards and a locked gate that prevented access to one lawn.



# Soundview Park

Soundview & Clason Point, Bronx  
205 acres

SOUNDVIEW PARK is a waterfront park located at the confluence of the Bronx and East Rivers. It offers a variety of recreational opportunities, including baseball, soccer, and football fields; basketball and handball courts; a cricket pitch; a running track; playgrounds; and walking and biking paths. The park is one of the eight parks identified in PlaNYC as a regional park that could, with specific enhancements, become a regional destination. Planned improvements include new playgrounds, a new comfort station, a running track with synthetic turf field, and an amphitheater.



A number of drinking fountains lacked sufficient water pressure.



Playground equipment was often damaged or missing critical parts.



<b>SOUNDVIEW PARK</b>		<b>81</b>
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	83	
Bathrooms	91	
Courts	75	
Drinking Fountains	50	
Immediate Environment	100	
Lawns	68	
Natural Areas	N/A	
Pathways	95	
Playgrounds	63	
Sitting Areas	93	
Trees	100	
Water Bodies	N/A	

## Successes

Surveyors found the bathrooms at Soundview Park to be in good condition overall; however, some bathrooms were without hand soap, and one stall was missing a door. Trees appeared healthy, and tree pits were found to be free of litter, broken glass, and graffiti. Sitting Areas scored highly, although surveyors noted that many benches needed a new coat of paint.

## Challenges

Four features in Soundview Park scored a C, D, or F grade. 50% of the drinking fountains in the park were unusable due to a lack of sufficient water pressure. Playgrounds scored poorly because of missing or damaged equipment. Lawns were impacted by the presence of hazardous tree stumps and low-hanging or downed tree limbs. Wide cracks, which pose trip hazards, were present on a number of handball and basketball courts.

“10 years ago, I moved to this section of the Bronx. The first thing that caught my attention was the park. It was neglected, and no one used it. I started calling Parks to ask about it. I continued calling, and then a few years ago, things started happening. Last year (2010) we formed Friends of Soundview Park. We hosted Summer Stage, a health fair, arts and crafts activities, Green Carts, and yoga. This summer (2011) we had an art and music festival with visual artists, workshops, and a poetry workshop.”

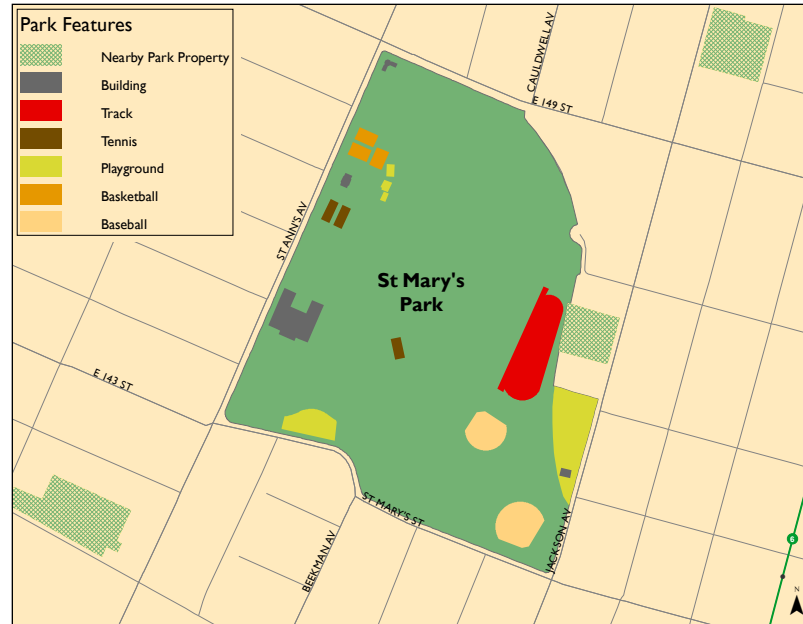
*Lucy Aponte, Friends of Soundview Park*

# St. Mary's Park

Melrose & Mott Haven, Bronx  
35 acres

The largest park in the South Bronx, ST. MARY'S PARK contains expansive lawns, a track, handball and basketball courts, baseball fields, and playgrounds. The community center within the park offers recreational programs and has an indoor pool.

All features inspected in St. Mary's Park, except lawns, scored very well. This is particularly good news, as it is the major park destination for residents of the South Bronx.



<b>ST. MARY'S PARK</b>		<b>89</b>
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	90	
Bathrooms	N/A	
Courts	0	
Drinking Fountains	100	
Immediate Environment	93	
Lawns	65	
Natural Areas	88	
Pathways	100	
Playgrounds	100	
Sitting Areas	100	
Trees	83	
Water Bodies	N/A	



Teenagers enjoy a shade tree in St. Mary's Park.



Severe cracks and a missing net impede play at this tennis court.

## Successes

Four features at St. Mary's Park scored a perfect 100: Drinking Fountains, Pathways, Playgrounds, and Sitting Areas. Athletic Fields scored highly, although bleacher seating alongside the fields was missing critical parts and was largely unusable. Natural Areas also scored well, but some were impacted by broken glass and litter.

## Challenges

Courts received a failing grade due to extensive surface cracks and missing equipment. A variety of conditions caused Lawns to score poorly, including unmowed, tall grass, extensive weed growth, hazardous stumps, litter, and bare patches.





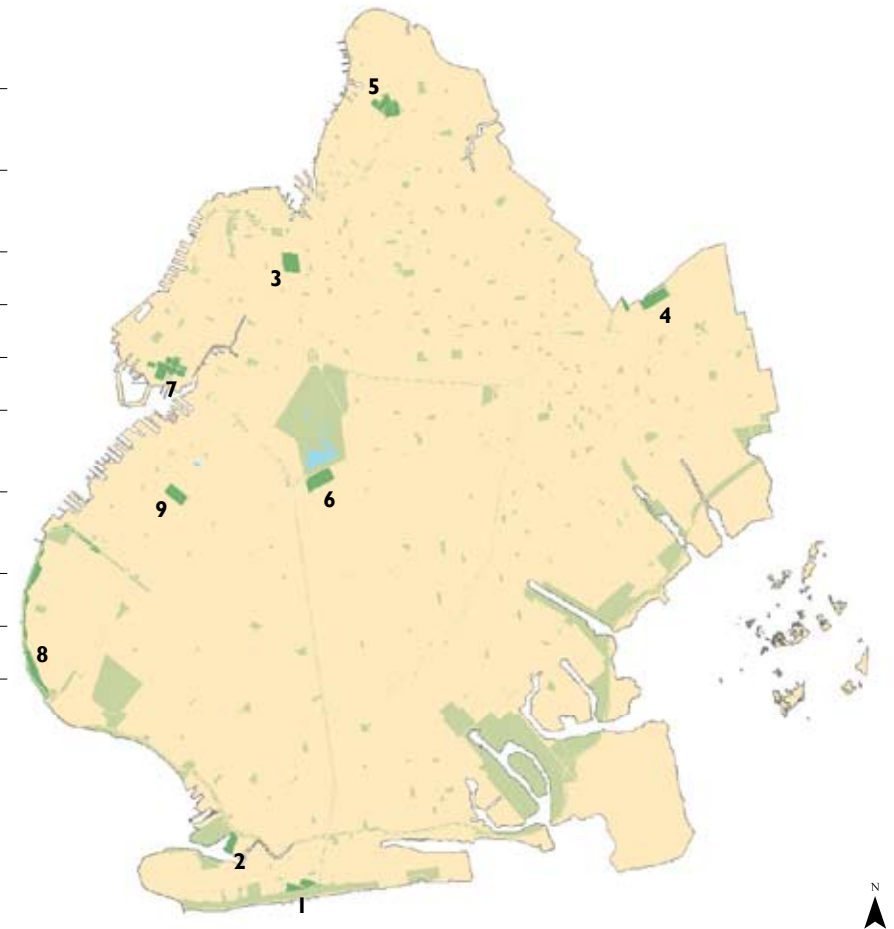


# BROOKLYN

Average Brooklyn Park Score: 82

Park Name	Score	Grade	Neighborhood	CD	CB	Acres
1 Asser Levy Park & Aquarium	76	C	Coney Island & West Brighton	47	13	22
2 Coney Island Boat Basin	56	F	Coney Island & Gravesend	47	13	37
3 Fort Greene Park	90	A-	Fort Greene	35	2	30
4 Highland Park	88	B+	Highland Park & Cypress Hills	37	5	44
5 McCarren Park	82	B-	Williamsburg & Greenpoint	33	1	36
6 Parade Ground	83	B	Prospect Park South & Windsor Terrace	40	14	40
7 Red Hook Recreation Center	90	A-	Red Hook	38	6	59
8 Shore Road Park	80	B-	Bay Ridge	43	10	58
9 Sunset Park	90	A-	Sunset Park	38	7	24

\*CD = City Council District; CB = Community Board



Fort Greene Park, Brooklyn





# Asser Levy Park

Coney Island & West Brighton, Brooklyn  
21 acres

Situated just inland from Coney Island Beach and the New York Aquarium, ASSER LEVY PARK contains lawns, handball courts, chess tables, and a playground. The park benefits from the stewardship efforts of Friends of Seaside Park.

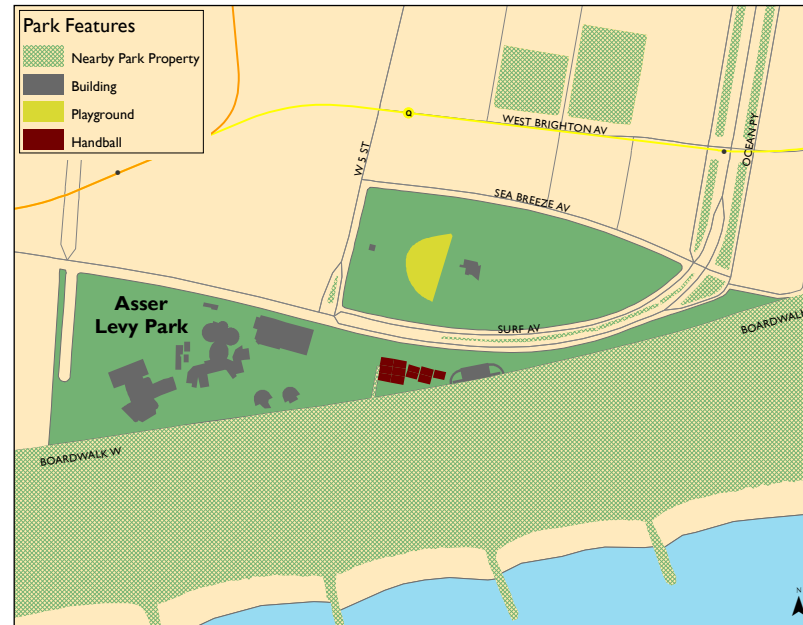
The park's mediocre score of 76 reflects poor bathroom and lawn maintenance, particularly in the areas south of Surf Avenue.



Excessive litter and weed growth impacted the lawns at Asser Levy Park.



This water fountain is structurally damaged.



ASSER LEVY PARK	76
Feature	Score
Athletic Fields	N/A
Bathrooms	42
Courts	100
Drinking Fountains	0
Immediate Environment	100
Lawns	71
Natural Areas	63
Pathways	91
Playgrounds	89
Sitting Areas	100
Trees	86
Water Bodies	N/A

## Successes

Asser Levy's popular handball courts were in excellent condition, as were the park's Sitting Areas and Pathways. Equipment in the large playground was worn but structurally sound. Missing sections of required safety surfacing appeared to have been patched in numerous places.

## Challenges

Both the Bathrooms and Drinking Fountains at Asser Levy Park received failing grades. Bathrooms scored poorly because stall doors could not be locked and the facilities were without toilet paper. Drinking Fountains were challenged with excessive algae growth, leaks, and a lack of parts critical for use. Litter, weeds, hazardous tree stumps, and large areas of bare or discolored grass caused Lawns to score poorly.

The lawns and natural areas that abut the Coney Island Boardwalk were the primary areas exhibiting poor upkeep. They were impacted by litter, debris, and overgrown shrubs and weeds. Within the northern section of the park, the lawns and landscaping were better maintained.

"The Parks Department budget has been cut to the bone, which puts the burden on the backs of volunteers. But the local park supervisor is very responsible and responsive. He gives 100% all the time. But there is a limit to what Parks can do with their budget constraints."  
*Ida Sanoff, President, Friends of Seaside Park*



# Coney Island Boat Basin

Coney Island & Gravesend, Brooklyn  
36 acres

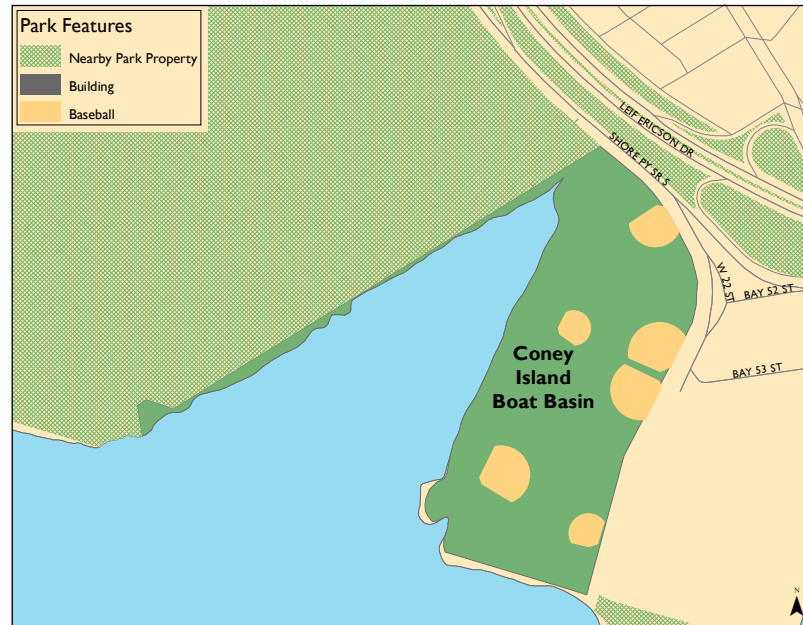
CONEY ISLAND BOAT BASIN is the lowest-scoring park in our survey. The park, which is situated in a relatively isolated location, is primarily composed of grass athletic fields. With some investment, the site could become a more attractive recreational destination, particularly given the high demand for baseball fields citywide.



This natural grass soccer field is bare and discolored.



Multiple fountains at Coney Island Boat Basin were disconnected and unusable.



<b>CONEY ISLAND BOAT BASIN</b>		<b>56</b>
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	83	
Bathrooms	N/A	
Courts	N/A	
Drinking Fountains	0	
Immediate Environment	86	
Lawns	N/A	
Natural Areas	N/A	
Pathways	N/A	
Playgrounds	N/A	
Sitting Areas	N/A	
Trees	N/A	
Water Bodies	N/A	

## Challenges

The biggest challenge to Coney Island Boat Basin was drinking fountains. All fountains in the park were unusable. Each fountain was either dismantled or lacking necessary parts for use. Thus, visitors to the park, which is focused exclusively on active recreation sports, must bring their own source of water to the park. Investment in drinking fountains at this and other sites with unusable fountains would contribute to the city-wide goal of reducing waste and promoting city tap water as a safe (and tasty) source of drinking water.

The grass on the baseball and soccer fields was largely discolored and worn completely away in some places.

While Coney Island Boat Basin was the lowest-scoring park in the survey, the individual feature scores show that a few steps—landscape upkeep and drinking fountain maintenance—could make this a safe and agreeable space for sports and recreation.

# Fort Greene Park

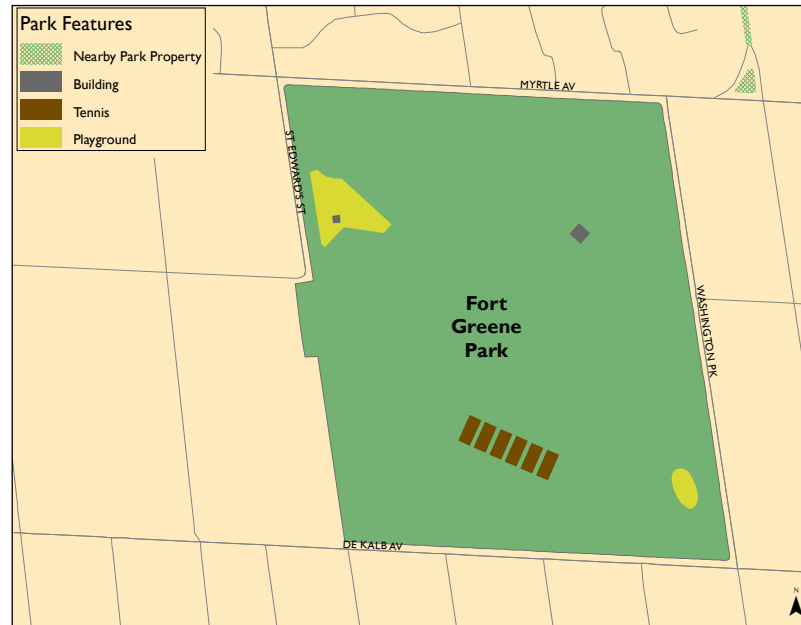
Fort Greene, Brooklyn  
30 acres

FORT GREENE PARK is a popular destination in northern Brooklyn. It offers rolling hills, basketball and tennis courts, and playgrounds. The park benefits from an active community of park volunteers and programming arranged by the Fort Greene Conservancy.

With an overall score of 90, Fort Greene Park was one of the highest scoring parks in Brooklyn.



This landscaped area is well maintained, and the trees appear strong and healthy.



<b>FORT GREENE PARK</b>	<b>90</b>
<i>Feature</i>	<i>Score</i>
Athletic Fields	N/A
Bathrooms	96
Courts	98
Drinking Fountains	77
Immediate Environment	100
Lawns	38
Natural Areas	N/A
Pathways	97
Playgrounds	100
Sitting Areas	100
Trees	100
Water Bodies	N/A

## Successes

Immediate Environment, Playgrounds, Sitting Areas, and Trees received a perfect score of 100. Pathways, Bathrooms, and Courts also scored very high marks.



This uprooted stump is an eyesore and poses a hazard to park users.

## Challenges

Lawns scored poorly, largely due to excessive weed growth and the presence of hazardous stumps. A lack of sufficient water pressure at some fountains impacted the Drinking Fountains score.



# Highland Park (Brooklyn)

Highland Park & Cypress Hills, Brooklyn  
45 acres

HIGHLAND PARK straddles the border of Brooklyn and Queens. Its elevated location provides views of surrounding neighborhoods and distant glimpses of the Atlantic Ocean off of the Rockaways. The Brooklyn portion of the park offers extensive recreation facilities, including tennis, handball and basketball courts, baseball fields, and playgrounds.



This multi-use synthetic turf field is equipped to function as either a soccer or football field.



The well-maintained tennis courts at Highland Park get lots of use.



<b>HIGHLAND PARK (BK)</b>		<b>88</b>
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	100	
Bathrooms	81	
Courts	92	
Drinking Fountains	95	
Immediate Environment	100	
Lawns	36	
Natural Areas	83	
Pathways	97	
Playgrounds	97	
Sitting Areas	83	
Trees	88	
Water Bodies	N/A	

## Successes

Athletic Fields, Immediate Environment, Pathways, and Playgrounds received A+ scores. Courts and Drinking Fountains also scored high marks. Good conditions among the active recreation features are particularly critical at Highland Park, since it serves as a much-needed recreational destination for the local community.

## Challenges

The most significant challenge at Highland Park is lawn maintenance. Lawns received a failing grade due to the presence of excessive weeds, litter, natural debris, and large areas that were bare or discolored.

Survey results for the Queens portion of the park can be found on page 53.

# McCarren Park

Williamsburg & Greenpoint, Brooklyn  
36 acres

MCCARREN PARK offers a wide variety of recreational facilities and is a popular destination for residents of the surrounding north Brooklyn neighborhoods. It offers soccer and baseball fields; bocce, basketball, handball, and tennis courts; and a playground. Portions of the park, including the large outdoor pool, are currently under construction.

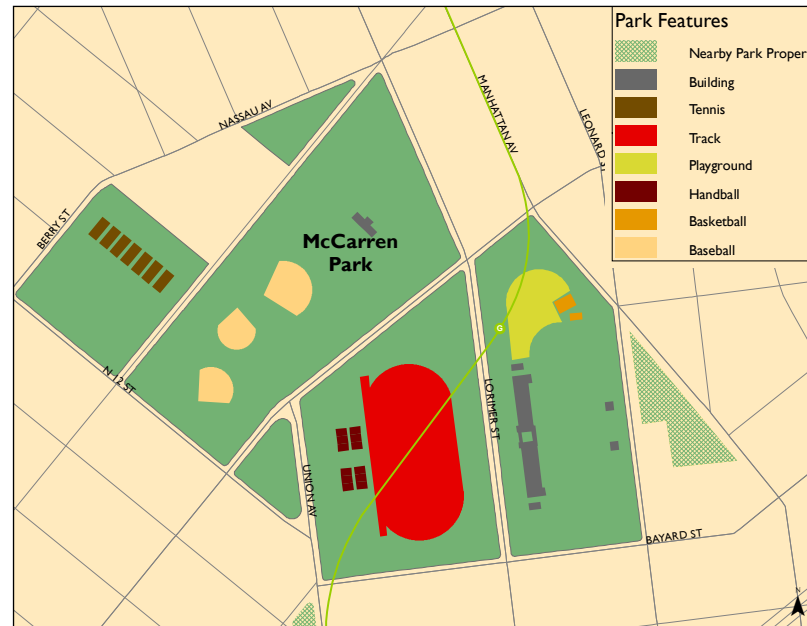
McCarren Park benefits from fundraising, volunteer coordination, and programming undertaken by the Open Space Alliance of North Brooklyn, a partner of the Parks Department.



Leaks were a common problem among drinking fountains in McCarren Park.



Litter impacted a number of lawns throughout the park.



MCCARREN PARK	82
Feature	Score
Athletic Fields	83
Bathrooms	92
Courts	95
Drinking Fountains	33
Immediate Environment	100
Lawns	44
Natural Areas	N/A
Pathways	100
Playgrounds	N/A
Sitting Areas	100
Trees	89
Water Bodies	N/A

## Successes

The highest scoring features at McCarren Park were Pathways, Playgrounds, Sitting Areas, and Immediate Environment. Courts and Bathrooms also scored well.

## Challenges

Drinking Fountains and Lawns posed the biggest challenges at McCarren Park. Both features received failing scores. The most common problems among Drinking Fountains were leaks and clogged basins with standing water. Lawns were impacted by excessive litter and weed growth.



# Parade Ground

Prospect Park South & Windsor Terrace, Brooklyn  
40 acres

The PARADE GROUND is located at the southern edge of Prospect Park. It offers baseball, football, and soccer fields, basketball and volleyball courts, and playgrounds.

The park is managed by the Prospect Park Alliance, a nonprofit partner of the Parks Department, which raises private dollars to supplement public funding for the park.



<b>PARADE GROUND</b>	<b>83</b>
Feature	Score
Athletic Fields	98
Bathrooms	35
Courts	89
Drinking Fountains	100
Immediate Environment	100
Lawns	58
Natural Areas	N/A
Pathways	91
Playgrounds	98
Sitting Areas	86
Trees	100
Water Bodies	N/A



Drinking fountains were in excellent condition.



Lawns were impacted by weeds, bare patches, and hazardous stumps.

## Successes

Drinking Fountains at Parade Ground scored a rare 100. All fountains were free of leaks, graffiti, and structural damage. Playgrounds and Athletic Fields also received very high marks.

## Challenges

Bathrooms and Lawns both received failing grades, and with a score of 35, the Bathrooms at Parade Ground were the lowest scoring among all parks surveyed. In the bathrooms, surveyors encountered stall doors that would not lock, a lack of hand soap, and damage to sinks, toilets, and the building structure. Lawns were impacted by the presence of weeds, bare patches, and hazardous tree stumps.

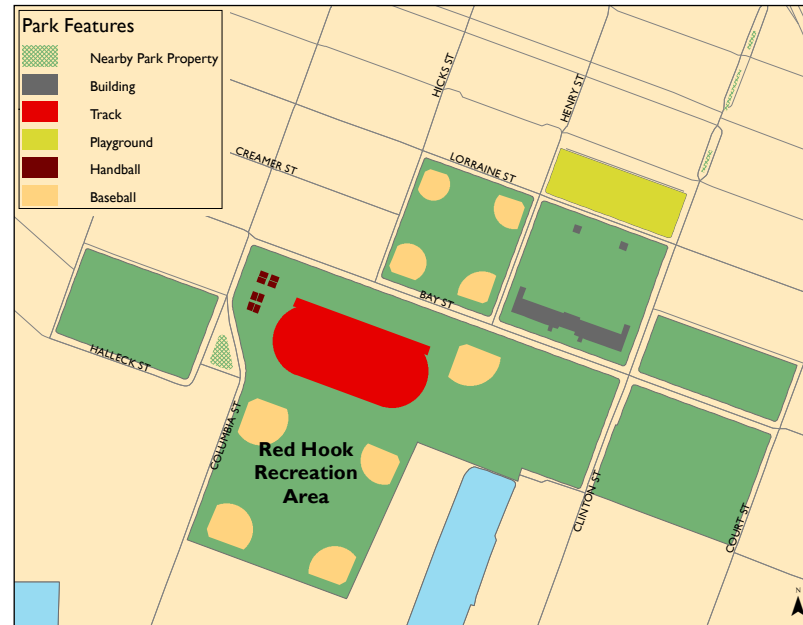
# Red Hook Recreation Area

Red Hook, Brooklyn  
59 acres

RED HOOK RECREATION AREA offers a variety of active recreation opportunities to a neighborhood with very few other open space resources. The park contains facilities for handball, basketball, soccer, and track. It also has a pool, recreation center, and playgrounds.



Litter and excessive weeds impact use of this asphalt track.



<b>RED HOOK RECREATION AREA</b>		<b>90</b>
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	68	
Bathrooms	100	
Courts	90	
Drinking Fountains	82	
Immediate Environment	91	
Lawns	78	
Natural Areas	N/A	
Pathways	80	
Playgrounds	100	
Sitting Areas	96	
Trees	93	
Water Bodies	N/A	

## Successes

Bathrooms and Playgrounds scored high marks in Red Hook. These facilities were clean, safe, and accessible to the public. Courts, Sitting Areas, and Trees also performed well.

## Challenges

Athletic Fields were impacted by areas of worn grass and damaged bleachers and benches. Lawns across the park had excessive weed growth and large bare sections without grass. Surveyors encountered litter, excessive cracks, and weeds along Pathways.



The grass on this football field is severely worn, and hundreds of rocks litter the ground.



# Shore Road Park

Bay Ridge, Brooklyn  
58 acres

SHORE ROAD PARK is a long, narrow waterfront park that runs along the western edge of Bay Ridge. Vantage points throughout the park provide clear views of the nearby Verrazano Bridge. The park offers basketball, handball, and tennis courts; playgrounds; dog runs; and a botanical garden. Shore Road Parks Conservancy, a non-profit partner of the Parks Department, raises private money for the park and advocates for its improvement.



Pathways throughout the park were impacted by cracks and weeds.



Sections of the park contain beautifully landscaped areas.



SHORE ROAD PARK	80
Feature	Score
Athletic Fields	72
Bathrooms	93
Courts	79
Drinking Fountains	77
Immediate Environment	79
Lawns	85
Natural Areas	72
Pathways	63
Playgrounds	80
Sitting Areas	87
Trees	89
Water Bodies	N/A

## Successes

Bathrooms were accessible and in good condition. Trees throughout the park appeared healthy and well-manicured. Tree pits were structurally sound and free of excessive litter and weeds.

## Challenges

Pathways posed the biggest challenge at Shore Road Park, scoring the lowest of all parks surveyed. Many areas of path were severely cracked and overgrown with weeds. Other sections showed even more significant structural deterioration. Natural Areas were infested with mugwort. During surveying hours, all Athletic Fields were locked, but posted signs indicated that the fields were “play by permit only.” Surveyors observed some synthetic damage to field fencing, seating, and synthetic turf.

# Sunset Park

Sunset Park, Brooklyn  
24 acres

Situated atop the crest of a hill, SUNSET PARK has spectacular views of the surrounding neighborhood, New York Harbor, and Lower Manhattan. The park contains a swimming pool, a recreation center, courts, fields, playgrounds, and a memorial to 9/11.

Sunset Park was one of the three large parks in Brooklyn to score an A.



The popular playgrounds at Sunset Park are well-maintained.



<b>SUNSET PARK</b>	<b>90</b>
Feature	Score
Athletic Fields	66
Bathrooms	82
Courts	91
Drinking Fountains	93
Immediate Environment	100
Lawns	85
Natural Areas	N/A
Pathways	100
Playgrounds	100
Sitting Areas	85
Trees	89
Water Bodies	N/A

## Successes

Sunset Park's Immediate Environment, Pathways, and Playgrounds received perfect scores. Drinking Fountains and Courts also received high scores, although both had some minor maintenance and repair needs.

## Challenges

Athletic Fields caused the most concern at Sunset Park. The asphalt surfaces suffered from serious deterioration, trash bins were full or overflowing, and bleachers were in need of maintenance and repair. Bathrooms lacked toilet paper and hand soap.

"We are a working class neighborhood. People are over-crowded in their apartments. The park is where people come to eat, talk, and cool off. This summer, the bathrooms were closed at 4:30 every afternoon. We've got thousands of visitors on summer weekends, and the bathrooms were closed during prime time."

*Maria Roca, Friends of Sunset Park*



This asphalt baseball field is covered in cracks, posing trip hazards to users.

Note: The asphalt baseball field pictured at left is currently undergoing capital renovations.





A ping pong tournament in Sunset Park Recreation Center, Brooklyn.

Passaic Garden 柏烈園 201-486-3278

Passaic Garden 柏烈園 201-486-3278

八大道社聯會

# MANHATTAN

Average Manhattan Park Score: 84

Park Name	Score	Grade	Neighborhood	CD	CB	Acres
1 Battery Park	92	A-	Financial District	1	1	20
2 East River Park	85	B	East Village & Lower East Side	2	3	57
3 Fort Tryon Park	79	C+	Fort George	7	12	67
4 Fort Washington Park	93	A	Washington Heights	7	12	160
5 Inwood Hill Park	78	C+	Inwood	7	12	196
6 Marcus Garvey Park	64	D	Harlem	9	11	20
7 Morningside Park	89	B+	Harlem & Morningside Heights	9	9	30
8 Randall's Island Park	82	B-	Randall's Island	8	11	273
9 Riverside Park	92	A-	Upper West Side & Morningside Heights	6,9	7,9	267
10 Riverside Park North	89	B+	Hamilton Heights & Manhattanville	7	9	50
11 St. Nicholas Park	88	B+	Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville & Harlem	7	9	23
12 Wards Island Park	81	B-	Wards Island	8	11	68

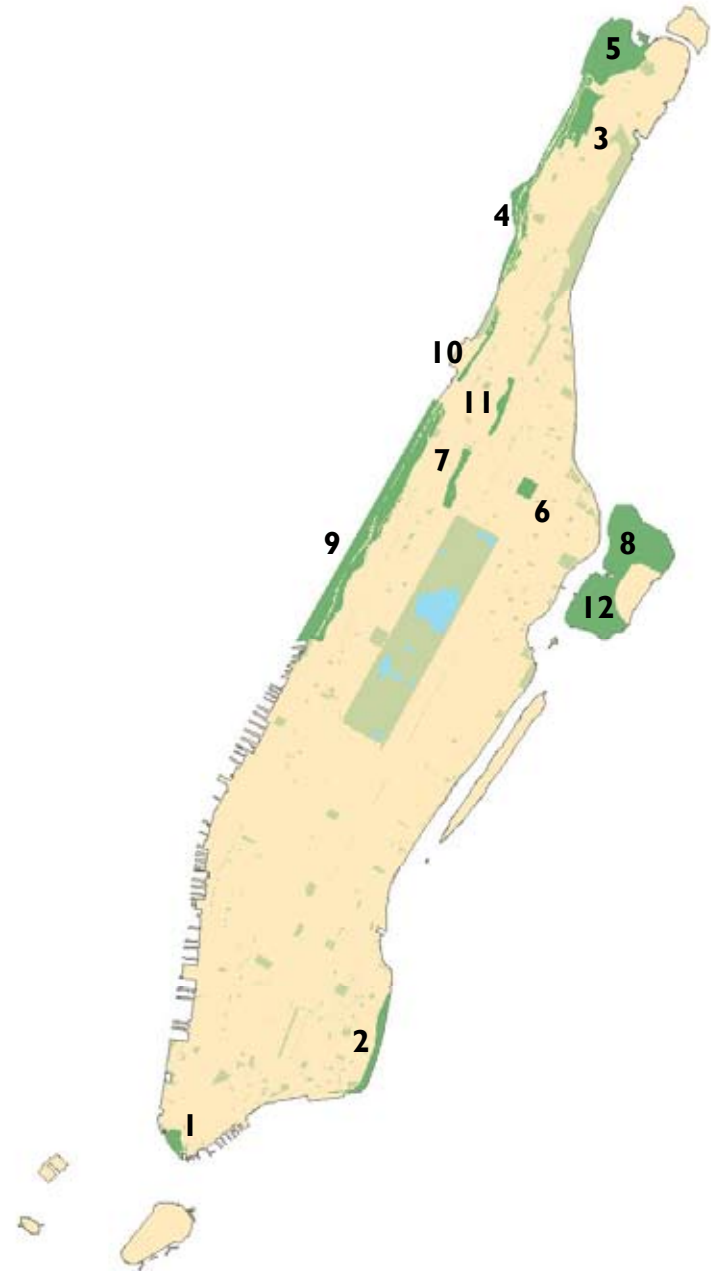
\*CD = City Council District; CB = Community Board



Inwood Hill Park, Manhattan



East River Park, Manhattan







Inwood Hill Park, Manhattan



# Battery Park

Financial District, Manhattan  
22 acres

Located on the southern tip of Manhattan, 22-acre BATTERY PARK boasts 180-degree views of New York Harbor. The park is home to historic Castle Clinton, a children's playground, and a community garden. Due to its location, the park experiences a high volume of visitors: both New Yorkers seeking respite from offices in the nearby Financial District and millions of tourists embarking on ferries to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. Battery Park is managed and maintained by the Battery Park Conservancy.



Battery Park provides sweeping views of New York Harbor and pleasant walking paths.



<b>BATTERY PARK</b>	<b>92</b>
<i>Feature</i>	<i>Score</i>
Athletic Fields	N/A
Bathrooms	N/A
Courts	N/A
Drinking Fountains	100
Immediate Environment	100
Lawns	96
Natural Areas	N/A
Pathways	97
Playgrounds	68
Sitting Areas	96
Trees	100
Water Bodies	N/A

## Successes

Drinking Fountains, Immediate Environment, Trees, Lawns, Pathways, and Sitting Areas all performed extremely well at Battery Park. The park benefits from a high level of maintenance provided by the Battery Park Conservancy, which receives private funding.

## Challenges

The playground in Battery Park scored poorly, primarily due to gaps or protrusions in the safety surfacing. Much of the play equipment was worn and in need of repainting.



Playground equipment is worn, and safety surfacing is uneven.



# East River Park

East Village & Lower East Side, Manhattan  
46 acres

Stretching the length of the East Village and Lower East Side, EAST RIVER PARK provides a variety of recreational facilities and expansive views of the East River. A part of the East River Greenway, it features an amphitheater, bike paths, playgrounds, sports fields, courts, gardens, and walking paths.



East River Park offers expansive views of the East River, Brooklyn, and Queens.



EAST RIVER PARK	85
Feature	Score
Athletic Fields	85
Bathrooms	85
Courts	88
Drinking Fountains	67
Immediate Environment	88
Lawns	65
Natural Areas	N/A
Pathways	91
Playgrounds	91
Sitting Areas	92
Trees	93
Water Bodies	N/A



This drinking fountain lacks the parts necessary to function and is surrounded by standing water.

## Successes

Trees and Sitting Areas throughout the park were in excellent condition. Playgrounds and Pathways also performed very well, although some asphalt and play surfaces were in need of repair or replacement.

## Challenges

Drinking Fountains scored poorly due to leaks or broken parts. Lawns and landscaped areas were impacted by litter, bare areas, natural debris, and weeds.

# Fort Tryon Park

Fort George, Manhattan  
67 acres

Located in northern Manhattan, FORT TRYON PARK offers extraordinary views of the Hudson River and is home to the Cloisters, a reconstructed medieval monastery that houses the Metropolitan Museum of Art's medieval collection. The park benefits from private fundraising undertaken by the Fort Tryon Park Trust. Donations are directed toward restoration, maintenance, and public programming.



Graffiti on benches impacted the score for Sitting Areas.



The winding paths throughout Fort Tryon Park are popular with runners and strollers.

<b>FORT TRYON PARK</b>	<b>79</b>
<i>Feature</i>	<i>Score</i>
Athletic Fields	N/A
Bathrooms	N/A
Courts	N/A
Drinking Fountains	60
Immediate Environment	97
Lawns	90
Natural Areas	96
Pathways	84
Playgrounds	N/A
Sitting Areas	63
Trees	100
Water Bodies	N/A

## Challenges

Drinking Fountains at Fort Tryon scored poorly due to insufficient water pressure and broken spigots. Sitting Areas we impacted by damage to benches and the presence of litter and graffiti.

## Successes

Fort Tryon Park received excellent ratings for Immediate Environment, Natural Areas, and Trees. Scores for lawns were also high but were impacted by the presence of uncovered holes, weeds, poor tree health, and litter.



# Fort Washington Park

Washington Heights, Manhattan  
183 acres

A destination park in northern Manhattan, FORT WASHINGTON PARK offers visitors a wide variety of features. It contains recreational facilities for baseball, basketball, and tennis; is home to the Little Red Lighthouse; and boasts spectacular views of the New Jersey Palisades and the George Washington Bridge.

Identified in PlaNYC as one of the eight regional parks to receive extensive capital enhancements, the park will soon receive new playgrounds, volleyball courts, and greenway paths; improved landscaping and access points from local neighborhoods; and new sitting areas with river views.

Fort Washington scored one of the highest overall scores in the survey.



Large swaths of discolored grass and overflowing trash cans detract from the park experience.



Fort Washington Park's Lily Brown Playground is a valued asset to the surrounding neighborhood.

## Successes

Fort Washington was one of the few parks to receive very high marks for Drinking Fountains. In addition to Drinking Fountains, Bathrooms, Courts, Natural Areas, Pathways, Playgrounds, Sitting Areas, and Trees also received excellent scores.

<b>FORT WASHINGTON PARK</b>	<b>93</b>
<i>Feature</i>	<i>Score</i>
Athletic Fields	76
Bathrooms	98
Courts	100
Drinking Fountains	100
Immediate Environment	89
Lawns	39
Natural Areas	100
Pathways	100
Playgrounds	100
Sitting Areas	100
Trees	100
Water Bodies	N/A

## Challenges

Lawns were the only feature to receive a failing score. Challenges included dead or discolored grass, dead trees, and the presence of broken glass and litter. Athletic Fields also scored poorly due to the presence of overflowing trash cans, litter, poor outfield conditions, and fences in need of maintenance and repair.

# Inwood Hill Park

Inwood, Manhattan  
196 acres

Located on the northern tip of Manhattan, INWOOD HILL PARK has water on two sides and boasts spectacular views of the Hudson River, Palisades, and Bronx. The varied topography of the park includes steep hills, natural areas, a salt marsh, and a protected inlet for boating. The park offers a wide variety of recreational facilities: basketball, handball, and tennis courts; baseball and soccer fields; a roller hockey rink; a canoe and kayak launch; playgrounds; and BBQ areas for picnics.



Inwood Hill Park offers beautiful natural areas with pleasant, winding pathways.



This playground is locked and missing portions of its safety surface.



<b>INWOOD HILL PARK</b>		<b>78</b>
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	82	
Bathrooms	79	
Courts	89	
Drinking Fountains	14	
Immediate Environment	97	
Lawns	68	
Natural Areas	97	
Pathways	98	
Playgrounds	75	
Sitting Areas	85	
Trees	N/A	
Water Bodies	N/A	

## Successes

The park received high scores for Immediate Environment, Natural Areas, and Pathways. Surveyors encountered some damaged fencing in natural areas and drainage issues on pathways, but by and large, these features were well-maintained.

## Challenges

Drinking Fountains received a failing score because several were non-functional. Other fountains had clogged basins with mold or algae growth, required maintenance or repair, or were surrounded by standing water. Lawns were often bare, discolored or overgrown with weeds. Bathrooms suffered from damaged stalls and a lack of toilet paper, hand soap, and hand towels or dryers. The score for Playgrounds suffered because one location was locked and missing portions of safety surfacing.



# Marcus Garvey Park

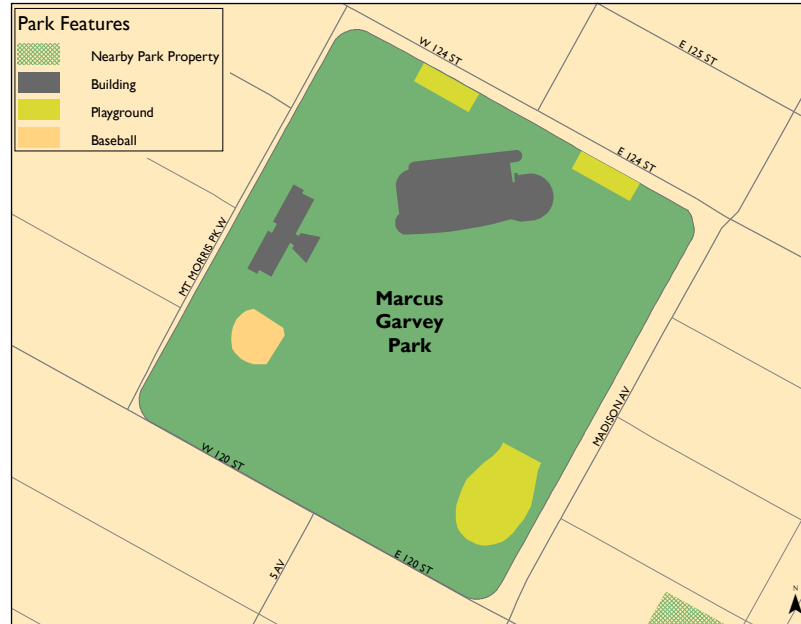
Harlem, Manhattan  
20 acres

Located in central Harlem, MARCUS GARVEY PARK is a popular neighborhood destination that offers basketball courts, a baseball field, playgrounds, an outdoor pool, and an amphitheater.

With a score of 64, Marcus Garvey Park was the lowest scoring park surveyed in Manhattan.

## Successes

Bathrooms and Immediate Environment scored very well at Marcus Garvey Park.



MARCUS GARVEY PARK	64
Feature	Score
Athletic Fields	0
Bathrooms	94
Courts	N/A
Drinking Fountains	86
Immediate Environment	100
Lawns	70
Natural Areas	80
Pathways	67
Playgrounds	43
Sitting Areas	50
Trees	78
Water Bodies	N/A



Many sitting areas are in need of repair.



Marcus Garvey is a neighborhood gathering place filled with people relaxing, playing, and socializing.

## Challenges

Among all the parks surveyed, the park received the lowest scores for Playgrounds and Sitting Areas. Playgrounds were impacted by jagged, broken fencing; disconnected safety surfacing; weed growth; and worn equipment. Benches and picnic tables in Sitting Areas were missing critical parts and suffered from inadequate repairs. Lawns received a low score due to weed growth, large depressions, and litter. Surveyors found a large quantity of condoms and syringes on lawns and pathways. This refuse indicates illicit behavior in the park and poses health hazards.

# Morningside Park

Harlem & Morningside Heights, Manhattan  
30 acres

MORNINGSIDE PARK is a narrow park spanning 13 city blocks. Its steep, rocky cliffs and lush greenery make for a dramatic setting. The park offers playgrounds, basketball courts, baseball fields, and an outdoor swimming pool. Friends of Morningside Heights Park, a group of local volunteers, offers additional stewardship and programming in the park.

## Successes

Pathways, Bathrooms, Courts, Trees, Immediate Environment, and Playgrounds scored high marks. These features were in good overall condition throughout the park; however, one basketball court was missing a rim and net, and the safety surfacing in one playground was disconnected.



Lawns were impacted by bare sections, weeds, and litter.



This water fountain flows continuously, wasting water and creating large areas of standing water nearby.

## Challenges

Drinking Fountains posed a challenge in Morningside Park. Some fountains were completely non-functioning, and one, pictured above, could not be turned off. Natural Areas were impacted by invasive species, dead tree branches, and litter. Lawns scored poorly due to the presence of weeds, bare spots, stumps, natural debris, and litter.

MORNINGSIDE PARK	89
Feature	Score
Athletic Fields	N/A
Bathrooms	92
Courts	90
Drinking Fountains	60
Immediate Environment	100
Lawns	85
Natural Areas	83
Pathways	100
Playgrounds	91
Sitting Areas	88
Trees	100
Water Bodies	N/A

“The park has come a long way since the 70’s and 80’s when it was neglected, and this score shows that. The scores for natural areas and lawns show that the park needs more horticultural staffing. It has incredibly rugged terrain that is difficult to maintain, and there is a huge difference between the paths in the lower section of the park and the upper paths, which tend to get neglected.”

*Brad Taylor, Friends of Morningside Park*



# Randall's Island Park

Randall's Island, Manhattan  
254 acres

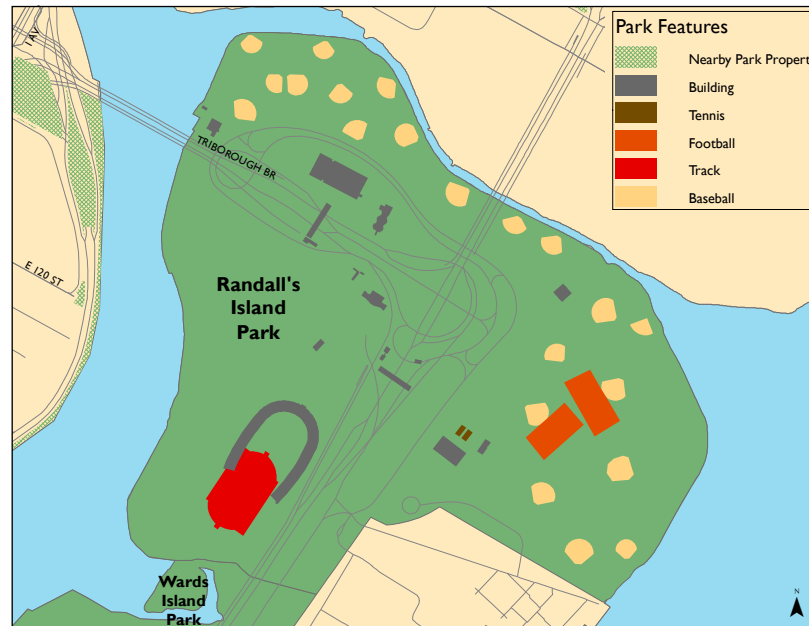
RANDALL'S ISLAND PARK is a recreation destination located on an island in the East River between Manhattan, Queens, and the Bronx. It offers facilities for tennis, golf, soccer, baseball, and track and boasts extensive waterfront paths for biking and walking. The park is operated and maintained by the Randall's Island Sports Foundation, a nonprofit partner of the Parks Department.



On Randall's Island, baseball fields share the same space as elevated train tracks and highways.



Many lawns on Randall's Island have large, bare patches.



<b>RANDALL'S ISLAND PARK</b>		<b>82</b>
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	80	
Bathrooms	N/A	
Courts	N/A	
Drinking Fountains	100	
Immediate Environment	64	
Lawns	72	
Natural Areas	76	
Pathways	96	
Playgrounds	N/A	
Sitting Areas	N/A	
Trees	N/A	
Water Bodies	N/A	

## Successes

Drinking Fountains and Pathways on Randall's Island received excellent scores. Many of the parks' athletic fields were under construction when surveyors visited. Those fields that were available for inspection were in good condition, although some benches need repainting and the fields were bare or weedy in some places.

## Challenges

Randall's Island's Immediate Environment score was low, due to noise and unpleasant odors. Constant traffic on the Triborough Bridge, which connects Manhattan, the Bronx, and Queens, and odors from a nearby wastewater treatment plant can impact the park experience. Some lawns suffered from weeds, bare areas, and litter. Natural Areas scored poorly due to the presence of broken glass, litter, and invasive species plants.

# Riverside Park

Upper West Side & Morningside Heights, Manhattan  
22 acres

RIVERSIDE PARK is a narrow waterfront park stretching 57 city blocks. Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, the park boasts spectacular views of the Hudson River, a public marina, and a wide variety of recreational facilities. Attractions include a skate park; a kayak and canoe launch site; baseball fields; basketball, handball, and tennis courts; a track; a roller hockey rink; playgrounds; and a bike path that is part of the Manhattan Waterfront Greenway. The park benefits from private dollars raised by the Riverside Park Fund, which undertakes capital improvements and stewardship.



There are over 40 courts in Riverside Park.



A number of fountains in Riverside Park did not work.



RIVERSIDE PARK	92
Feature	Score
Athletic Fields	100
Bathrooms	93
Courts	97
Drinking Fountains	58
Immediate Environment	88
Lawns	84
Natural Areas	98
Pathways	99
Playgrounds	98
Sitting Areas	96
Trees	96
Water Bodies	N/A

## Successes

Riverside Park scored very well overall. All features except for three received A scores. The Athletic Fields and Courts, which are in high demand, scored notably high scores.

## Challenges

Drinking Fountains scored a failing grade, due to the presence of non-functioning fountains, clogged basins, standing water, and algae.



# Riverside Park North

Hamilton Heights & Manhattanville, Manhattan  
13 acres

RIVERSIDE PARK NORTH runs along the western edge of Manhattan, from 135th to 153rd Street. In addition to expansive views of the Hudson River, it offers winding pathways, sitting areas, and playgrounds.

The park benefits from private dollars raised by the Riverside Park Fund, which undertakes capital improvements and stewardship.



Natural Areas in Riverside Park North were lush and free of litter.



The basin of this fountain, which could not be turned off, was full and overflowing.



<b>RIVERSIDE PARK NORTH</b>	<b>89</b>
<i>Feature</i>	<i>Score</i>
Athletic Fields	N/A
Bathrooms	100
Courts	N/A
Drinking Fountains	33
Immediate Environment	100
Lawns	81
Natural Areas	100
Pathways	100
Playgrounds	100
Sitting Areas	87
Trees	100
Water Bodies	N/A

## Challenges

Drinking Fountains received a failing grade because a number of fountains could not be turned off, leading to standing water in the basin and extensive water in the surrounding area.

Lawns received a score of 81 due to the presence of litter, weeds, and areas of discoloration.

## Successes

Bathrooms, Immediate Environment, Natural Areas, Pathways, and Playgrounds all received perfect scores of 100.

# St. Nicholas Park

Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville and Harlem, Manhattan  
23 acres

ST. NICHOLAS PARK is a narrow, land-locked park that offers basketball and handball courts, playgrounds, and sitting areas equipped for barbecuing.

## Successes

Playgrounds, Bathrooms, Trees, and Sitting Areas all scored well at St. Nicholas Park.

## Challenges

As at many other parks surveyed, Drinking Fountains, scored poorly due to insufficient pressure, mold, and structural deterioration. Lawns suffered from the presence of broken glass, natural debris, tree stumps, bare patches, and weeds.



Freshly painted handball courts.



Tree stumps impede use of this lawn.

ST. NICHOLAS PARK	88
Feature	Score
Athletic Fields	N/A
Bathrooms	94
Courts	86
Drinking Fountains	77
Immediate Environment	82
Lawns	67
Natural Areas	89
Pathways	84
Playgrounds	100
Sitting Areas	89
Trees	92
Water Bodies	N/A



# Wards Island Park

Wards Island, Manhattan  
68 acres

WARDS ISLAND PARK is located just south of Randall's Island Park, on an island in the East River between Manhattan, Queens, and the Bronx. The park offers a playground, soccer and baseball fields, a community garden, and paths for biking and walking. The park is operated and maintained by the Randall's Island Sports Foundation, and non-profit partner of the Parks Department.



<b>WARDS ISLAND PARK</b>		<b>81</b>
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	100	
Bathrooms	N/A	
Courts	N/A	
Drinking Fountains	0	
Immediate Environment	100	
Lawns	62	
Natural Areas	100	
Pathways	100	
Playgrounds	100	
Sitting Areas	76	
Trees	89	
Water Bodies	N/A	



Poor repairs impacted the Sitting Areas score.

## Successes

Athletic Fields, Natural Areas, Pathways, and Playgrounds scored perfect scores of 100.

## Challenges

Surveyors encountered non-functioning Drinking Fountains and Lawns that were often bare or weedy. Sitting Areas showed signs of wear and were impacted by poor repairs.



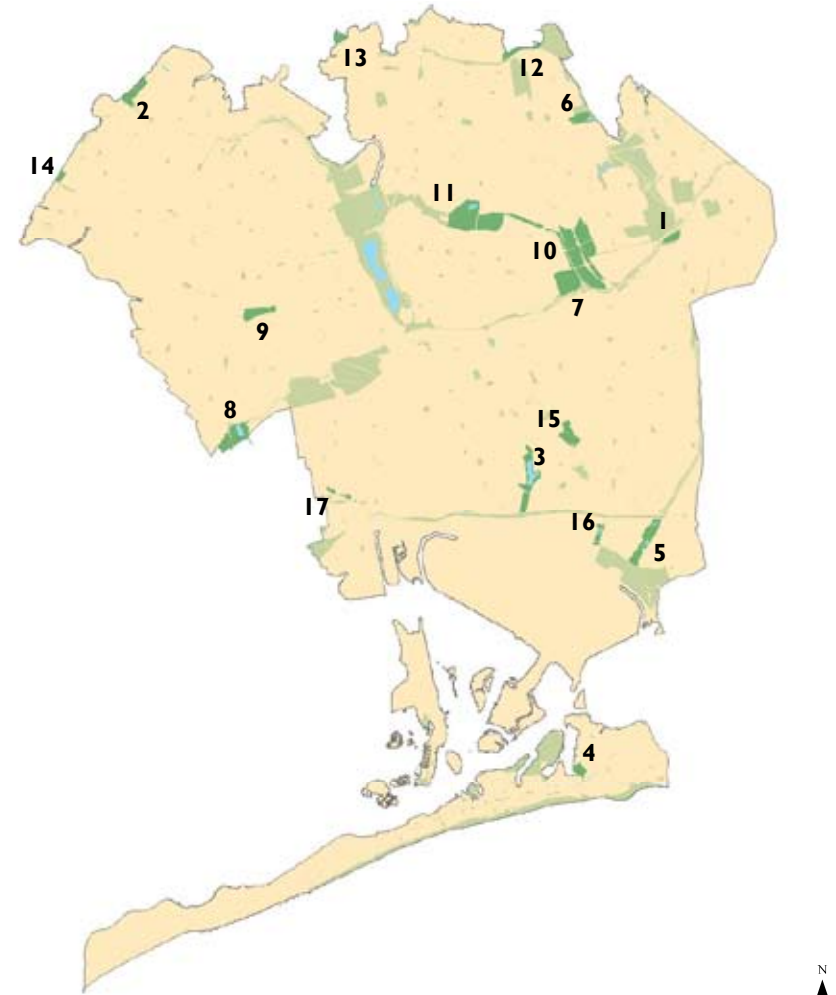
This drinking fountain provides no water.

# QUEENS

Average Queens Park Score: 87

Park Name	Score	Grade	Neighborhood	CD	CB	Acres
1 Alley Park Athletic Field	83	B	Oakland Gardens & Bellaire	23	13	31
2 Astoria Park	90	A-	Astoria	22	1	66
3 Baisley Pond Park	81	B-	Baisley Park & Rochdale	28	12	110
4 Bayswater Park	79	C+	Bayswater & Edgemere	31	14	30
5 Brookville Park	92	A-	Brookville & Rosedale	31	13	90
6 Crocheron Park	90	A-	Bayside	19	11	46
7 Cunningham Park	89	B+	Fresh Meadows, Oakland Gardens, Jamaica Estates & Holliswood	23	8, 11	358
8 Highland Park	85	B	Glendale	37	5	141
9 Juniper Valley Park	93	A	Middle Village	30	5	56
10 Kissena Corridor East	90	A-	Auburndale	20, 23	8, 11	46
11 Kissena Park	87	B+	East Flushing	20	7	235
12 Little Bay Park	85	B	Fort Totten & Clearview	19	7	50
13 MacNeil Park	84	B	College Point	19	7	29
14 Queensbridge Park	84	B	Long Island City	26	1, 2	20
15 Roy Wilkins Recreation Center	79	C+	St. Albans	27	12	57
16 Springfield Park	93	A	Springfield Gardens	31	13	24
17 Tudor Park	92	A-	Tudor Village	32	10	24

\*CD = City Council District; CB = Community Board



Crocheron Park, Queens



MacNeil Park, Queens







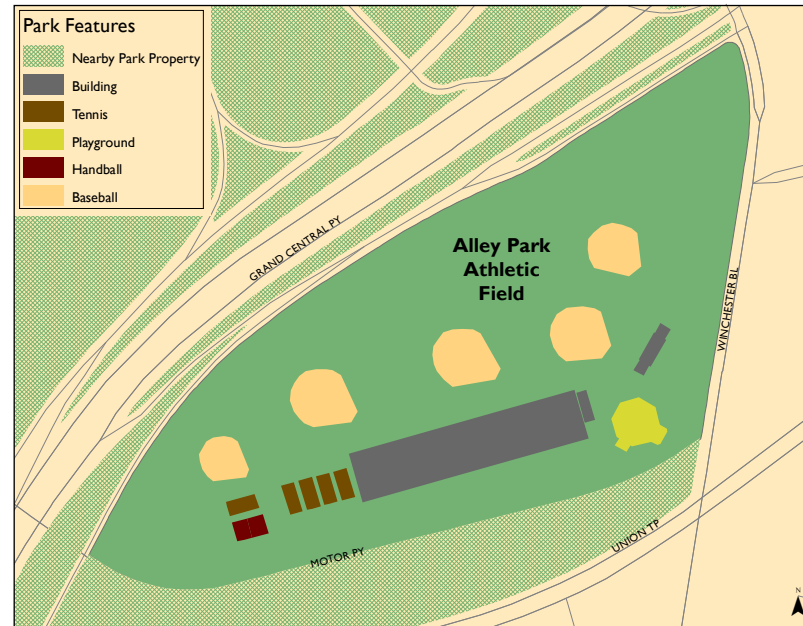
# Alley Park Athletic Field

Oakland Gardens & Bellaire, Queens  
31 acres

Located at the junction of the Grand Central Parkway and Union Turnpike, ALLEY PARK ATHLETIC FIELD is a recreation destination offering a variety of amenities. The park contains natural grass baseball diamonds, tennis and handball courts, a picnic area, and rolling lawns.

## Successes

Natural Areas and Pathways each received perfect scores. Courts also scored well, although some surfaces needed repainting and others had cracks that needed to be filled. Lawns scored very well, with only a few exhibiting excessive weed growth.



<b>ALLEY PARK ATHLETIC FIELD</b>		<b>83</b>
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	88	
Bathrooms	84	
Courts	94	
Drinking Fountains	40	
Immediate Environment	86	
Lawns	94	
Natural Areas	100	
Pathways	100	
Playgrounds	86	
Sitting Areas	76	
Trees	N/A	
Water Bodies	N/A	



Alley Park Recreation Center

## Challenges

Drinking Fountains received a failing score, mostly due to the presence of mold on and around the fountains. Sitting Areas suffered from worn benches in need of maintenance attention and barbecue grills which contained leftover charcoal and food grime.



Mold grows around the base of this drinking fountain.



# Astoria Park

Astoria, Queens  
60 acres

ASTORIA PARK is a waterfront park situated on the East River. It is home to the largest public pool in the city, as well as tennis and basketball courts, a track, a bandstand, and playgrounds. The park benefits from the stewardship of multiple local volunteer groups.

## Successes

Pathways, Playgrounds, and Sitting Areas were accessible, safe, and well maintained. Courts were in good condition, but several were missing nets. Bathrooms were clean and well-stocked, but trash bins were overflowing in some.

## Challenges

Lawns were the only feature at Astoria Park to receive a failing score. Challenges included discolored grass, barren areas, and excessive weed growth. Drinking Fountains received a score of 82 due to the presence of litter within or nearby the fountains.



<b>ASTORIA PARK</b>		<b>90</b>
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	N/A	
Bathrooms	92	
Courts	93	
Drinking Fountains	82	
Immediate Environment	86	
Lawns	53	
Natural Areas	N/A	
Pathways	100	
Playgrounds	100	
Sitting Areas	100	
Trees	100	
Water Bodies	N/A	



Enjoying the basketball courts at Astoria Park.



Large bare patches contributed to a failing score for lawns.

# Baisley Pond Park

Baisley Park & Rochdale, Queens  
109 acres

BAISLEY POND PARK provides facilities for a full range of activities, including football, soccer, cricket, baseball, handball, tennis, and barbecuing. The park also boasts a track and playgrounds.

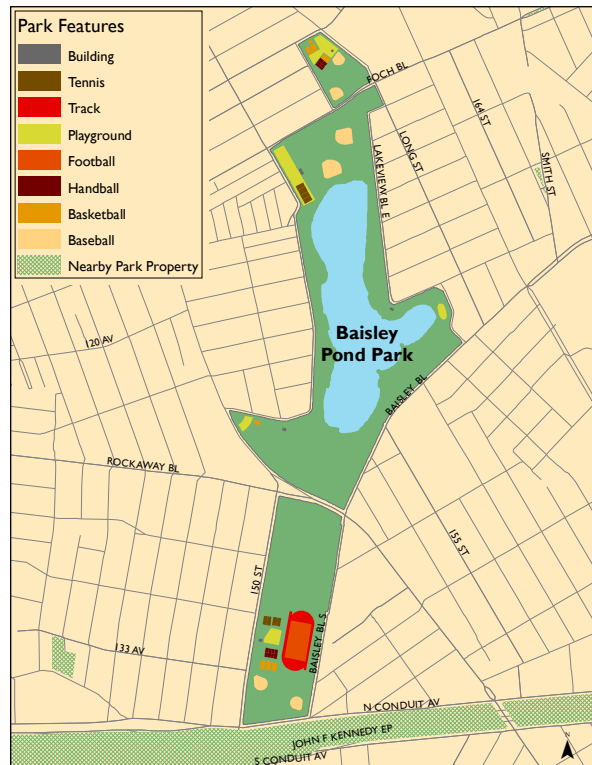
Baisley Pond Park benefits from the programming and stewardship efforts of Baisley Pond Park Coalition.



These basketball courts get constant use.



Litter covers a portion of this natural area.



BAISLEY POND PARK	81
<i>Feature</i>	<i>Score</i>
Athletic Fields	86
Bathrooms	84
Courts	93
Drinking Fountains	67
Immediate Environment	100
Lawns	51
Natural Areas	0
Pathways	98
Playgrounds	91
Sitting Areas	89
Trees	94
Water Bodies	N/A

## Challenges

The park received a failing score for Natural Areas due to profuse amounts of litter and invasive species plants. Lawns fared poorly due to discolored areas, litter, and declining tree health. Low scores for Drinking Fountains reflect non-functioning fountains, clogged basins, and standing water.

## Successes

The Immediate Environment at Baisley Pond Park performed extremely well, as did Pathways. Like many other parks, the Courts were in good condition but lacked nets and exhibited cracking, and some tree pits contained weeds and stumps or misplaced pavers.



# Bayswater Park

Bayswater & Edgemere, Queens  
30 acres

Located on the Rockaway Peninsula, BAYSWATER PARK offers basketball, handball, and tennis courts; baseball fields; playgrounds; and areas for barbecuing.

Bayswater Park was one of the lowest scoring parks in Queens.



Bayswater Park offers waterfront views of Jamaica Bay.



This drinking fountain emits water continuously, creating a large pool of standing water with mold.



<b>BAYSWATER PARK</b>		<b>79</b>
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	94	
Bathrooms	48	
Courts	85	
Drinking Fountains	41	
Immediate Environment	86	
Lawns	70	
Natural Areas	100	
Pathways	96	
Playgrounds	100	
Sitting Areas	81	
Trees	89	
Water Bodies	N/A	

## Successes

Bayswater Park received excellent ratings for Natural Areas and Playgrounds. Athletic Fields and Pathways also received high marks.

## Challenges

Bathrooms failed because of unsanitary conditions. Drinking Fountains were either non-functioning, leaking, or covered in algae. The grade for Lawns, while low due to weed growth, actually scored above-average overall.

# Brookville Park

Brookville & Rosedale, Queens  
90 acres

BROOKVILLE PARK in eastern Queens contains handball, bocce, and tennis courts; baseball fields; playgrounds; a path for biking; and areas for barbequing.

## Successes

Brookville Park's overall score was fairly high because it received perfect scores in several areas: Athletic Fields, Natural Areas, Pathways, Playgrounds, Sitting Areas, Trees, and Water Bodies. Courts also scored high, although many were missing nets.



Brookville Park's synthetic turf fields were in excellent condition.



Natural debris and tall grass detract from this lawn.



<b>BROOKVILLE PARK</b>	<b>92</b>
<i>Feature</i>	<i>Score</i>
Athletic Fields	100
Bathrooms	91
Courts	97
Drinking Fountains	60
Immediate Environment	86
Lawns	57
Natural Areas	100
Pathways	100
Playgrounds	100
Sitting Areas	100
Trees	100
Water Bodies	100

"Friends of Brookville Park is doing great, progressive things in in the park, and the Parks Department has invested a lot of resources there too. Also, Council Member Sanders is invested in the park and has allocated a lot of funding for it!"  
*Fred Kress, President of the Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces*

## Challenges

Lawns scored poorly due to the presence of natural debris, weeds, tall grass, bare patches, and discolored or dead grass. Drinking Fountains suffered from unsanitary conditions such as algae growth and debris-clogged basins.



# Crocheron Park

Bayside, Queens  
46 acres

Located on the shore of Little Neck Bay, CROCHERON PARK offers users baseball fields, basketball, and tennis courts, playgrounds, dog runs and a pond.



<b>CROCHERON PARK</b>		<b>90</b>
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	95	
Bathrooms	100	
Courts	80	
Drinking Fountains	50	
Immediate Environment	100	
Lawns	51	
Natural Areas	93	
Pathways	96	
Playgrounds	100	
Sitting Areas	100	
Trees	100	
Water Bodies	85	



A popular swing set in Crocheron Park.



A large orange barrel was floating in the pond.

## Successes

Crocheron Park performed exceptionally well with respect to Bathrooms, Immediate Environment, Playgrounds, Sitting Areas, and Trees. Athletic Fields also scored highly, although surveyors noted large holes in the outfields. Natural Areas and Pathways performed well, although some paths exhibited drainage problems, structural deterioration, and maintenance needs.

## Challenges

Drinking Fountains suffered from leaks, clogged basins, and standing water. Lawns were marred by excessive weeds, stumps, and large piles of natural debris.

# Cunningham Park

Fresh Meadows, Oakland Gardens, Jamaica Estates & Holliswood, Queens  
358 acres

One of the largest parks in Queens, CUNNINGHAM PARK offers a wide variety of recreational activities: basketball, bocce, tennis, volleyball, soccer, football, handball, and cricket. The Long Island Motor Parkway, one of the first modern highways (now car-free) runs through the park and serves as a link in the Brooklyn-Queens Greenway.



Cunningham Park is the headquarters for a number of athletic leagues.



Weeds and unmoved grass grow alongside a baseball field.



CUNNINGHAM PARK	89
Feature	Score
Athletic Fields	95
Bathrooms	100
Courts	N/A
Drinking Fountains	100
Immediate Environment	100
Lawns	25
Natural Areas	86
Pathways	87
Playgrounds	N/A
Sitting Areas	N/A
Trees	100
Water Bodies	N/A

## Challenges

Lawns scored particularly poorly at Cunningham Park due to litter and an abundance of overgrown weeds. At some lawns, nearly 100% of the growth was weed.

“For the most part, the park is well maintained in the most commonly used areas. Some of the less used parts, like the trails, could use more maintenance. Considering its size and the tremendous use, clean up after weekends and events is swift and thorough.”

*Elaine Young, Vice President,  
West Cunningham Park Civic*

## Successes

This park achieved perfect scores for Bathrooms, Drinking Fountains, Immediate Environment and Trees. The park’s many Athletic Fields were in good condition but suffered from occasional puddling and unkempt outfields.



# Highland Park (Queens)

Glendale, Queens  
101 acres

HIGHLAND PARK is home to Ridgewood Reservoir, which was an integral part of the city's water system for more than a century. Now decommissioned, the three reservoir basins have been left untouched and have filled with plants and trees, making it a popular site for birders.



<b>HIGHLAND PARK (QN)</b>		<b>85</b>
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	100	
Bathrooms	90	
Courts	89	
Drinking Fountains	100	
Immediate Environment	100	
Lawns	43	
Natural Areas	82	
Pathways	N/A	
Playgrounds	N/A	
Sitting Areas	81	
Trees	N/A	
Water Bodies	N/A	



Highland Park is a popular spot for picnickers.



Fallen tree limbs and litter contributed to the low score for lawns.

## Successes

Athletic Fields, Drinking Fountains, and Immediate Environment were among the highest scoring features in the Queens portion of Highland Park. Bathrooms also scored well, although liquid soap and hand towels were missing in some.

## Challenges

Lawns received a failing score due to litter, exposed stumps, dangling or fallen tree branches, and bare or discolored areas.

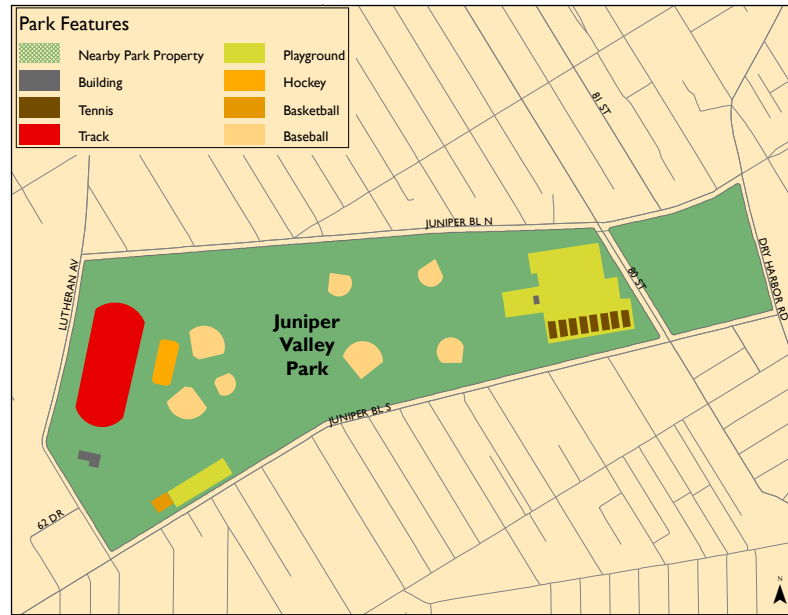
Survey results for the Brooklyn portion of the park can be found on page 23.

# Juniper Valley Park

Middle Village, Queens  
56 acres

JUNIPER VALLEY PARK has a varied history: before it became a park, it served as a farm, a cemetery, a source for peat moss, and a garbage dump. Today, the park offers vast lawns and tennis, handball, bocce, shuffleboard, and basketball courts.

The park's high score reflects the additional stewardship of an active group of local volunteers.



JUNIPER VALLEY PARK		93
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	100	
Bathrooms	100	
Courts	95	
Drinking Fountains	70	
Immediate Environment	100	
Lawns	73	
Natural Areas	N/A	
Pathways	100	
Playgrounds	100	
Sitting Areas	96	
Trees	100	
Water Bodies	N/A	



An orderly flower bed in Juniper Park.



The bocce courts stay busy, reflecting the neighborhood's active Italian community.

## Successes

Juniper Valley's high overall score reflects its many high-scoring features. Athletic Fields, Bathrooms, Immediate Environment, Pathways, Playgrounds, and Trees all received perfect scores. Courts and Sitting Areas also scored well, although surveyors identified some maintenance needs among these features.

## Challenges

Drinking Fountains and Lawns were the lowest scoring features at Juniper Valley Park. Drinking Fountains suffered from leaks, mold, and standing water. Lawns were impacted by excessive weeds, bare areas, and discolored grass.



# Kissena Corridor East

Auburndale, Queens  
46 acres

KISSENA CORRIDOR EAST is a long, linear park that provides a green connection between Kissena Park and Cunningham Park. It features natural areas, ballfields, playgrounds, a bocce court, a community garden, and a bicycle path.

The park benefits from the stewardship of a park conservancy.



Kissena Corridor East serves as an essential bicycle segment linking together many parks in eastern Queens.



The park's basketball and handball courts were in good condition.



<b>KISSENA CORRIDOR EAST</b>		<b>90</b>
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	100	
Bathrooms	92	
Courts	90	
Drinking Fountains	100	
Immediate Environment	66	
Lawns	59	
Natural Areas	96	
Pathways	91	
Playgrounds	95	
Sitting Areas	100	
Trees	89	
Water Bodies	N/A	

## Successes

Kissena Corridor East's Athletic Fields, Drinking Fountains, Playgrounds, Natural Areas, and Sitting Areas all performed extremely well in the survey.

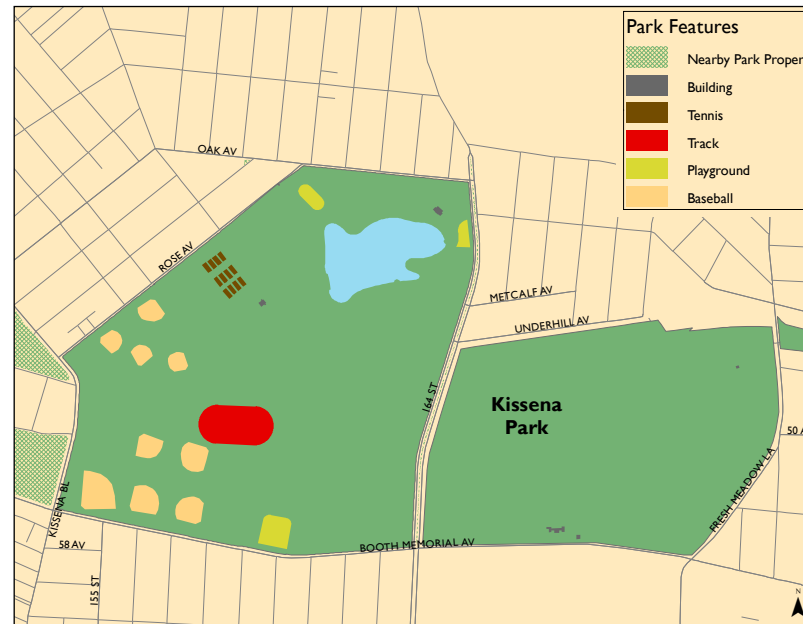
## Challenges

The score for Lawns was impacted by widespread weed growth, tall grass, and hazardous depressions. The Long Island Expressway, which cuts across the park, contributed to a low score for Immediate Environment due to noise and accessibility issues.

# Kissena Park

East Flushing, Queens  
101 acres

KISSENA PARK provides a wide variety of both passive and active recreational opportunities. Visitors can relax around Kissena Lake, bike at Kissena Park Velodrome, or play a round of golf at the park's public course. Additionally, the park offers playgrounds; baseball, football, and soccer fields; and tennis, bocce, and handball courts.



<b>KISSENA PARK</b>	<b>87</b>
<i>Feature</i>	<i>Score</i>
Athletic Fields	88
Bathrooms	N/A
Courts	N/A
Drinking Fountains	89
Immediate Environment	86
Lawns	100
Natural Areas	83
Pathways	75
Playgrounds	N/A
Sitting Areas	N/A
Trees	N/A
Water Bodies	N/A



The edges along this path are starting to deteriorate.



Kissena Park provides an idyllic setting, perfect for escaping the city.

## Successes

Kissena Park received the highest score for Lawns among all parks surveyed. Lawns were mowed, evenly graded, and free of excessive litter, natural debris, and weeds.

## Challenges

Pathways exhibited severe cracking and deterioration, and a downed tree blocked one path. Natural Areas were afflicted with mugwort, an invasive species, and some poison ivy.



# Little Bay Park

Fort Totten & Clearview, Queens  
55 acres

Bounded on two sides by expressways and on the third by the shore of Little Bay, LITTLE BAY PARK provides great views of the bay, the East River, and the Throgs Neck Bridge. The park offers users a roller hockey rink, a shoreline bicycle path, football and soccer fields, a baseball field, and waterfront sitting areas.

The park benefits from the stewardship efforts of Friends of Fort Totten Parks and other local volunteers.



Little Bay Park provides scenic views of Little Bay and Throgs Neck Bridge.



Standing water and overflow have caused algae to form in the basin and along the base of this fountain.



LITTLE BAY PARK		85
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	80	
Bathrooms	N/A	
Courts	66	
Drinking Fountains	50	
Immediate Environment	86	
Lawns	90	
Natural Areas	100	
Pathways	100	
Playgrounds	N/A	
Sitting Areas	94	
Trees	N/A	
Water Bodies	N/A	

## Successes

Natural Areas and Pathways garnered perfect scores for their pristine conditions. Sitting Areas and Lawns also had notably high scores.

## Challenges

Drinking Fountains failed due to leaks and structural deterioration. The low score for Courts was due in large part to the poor condition of the roller hockey rink.

# MacNeil Park

College Point, Queens  
29 acres

MACNEIL PARK is situated on a small promontory on the northern tip of Queens, and many sections of the park have waterfront views. The park offers rolling lawns shaded by mature trees, facilities for baseball and basketball, and a playground for children.



Excessive weeds and tall grass were challenges on many lawns.



A walking path runs alongside the waterfront throughout the park.



<b>MACNEIL PARK</b>		<b>84</b>
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	79	
Bathrooms	N/A	
Courts	N/A	
Drinking Fountains	100	
Immediate Environment	86	
Lawns	60	
Natural Areas	87	
Pathways	80	
Playgrounds	N/A	
Sitting Areas	N/A	
Trees	89	
Water Bodies	N/A	

## Successes

MacNeil Park's best-performing feature was Drinking Fountains, which scored a perfect 100. Trees also scored well; however, some tree pits needed maintenance attention.

## Challenges

Lawns received a poor score due to the presence of low-hanging branches, tree stumps, natural debris, and excessive weeds. Athletic Fields were impacted by weed growth.



# Queensbridge Park

Long Island City, Queens  
20 acres

QUEENSBRIDGE PARK offers a variety of recreational facilities, including baseball, soccer, and football fields; basketball, volleyball, and handball courts; playgrounds; and picnic areas. The park also contains rolling hills, large trees, and spectacular views of the East River.



<b>QUEENSBRIDGE PARK</b>		<b>84</b>
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	71	
Bathrooms	85	
Courts	86	
Drinking Fountains	96	
Immediate Environment	86	
Lawns	66	
Natural Areas	N/A	
Pathways	91	
Playgrounds	93	
Sitting Areas	84	
Trees	N/A	
Water Bodies	N/A	



Overflowing trash bags and litter impacted the score for lawns.



Children enjoy athletic fields at Queensbridge Park.

## Successes

Drinking Fountains, Pathways, and Playgrounds received high marks.

## Challenges

The presence of litter, natural debris, dangling tree branches, weeds, and bare areas resulted in a low score for Lawns. Athletic Fields received a mediocre score due to weeds and a variety of maintenance needs.

# Roy Wilkins Recreation Center

St. Albans, Queens  
57 acres

ROY WILKINS RECREATION CENTER offers baseball and cricket fields; basketball, tennis and handball courts; a track; a theater; a community garden; and a recreation center with an indoor pool. The park is maintained by the Southern Queens Park Association, a nonprofit organization that also runs extensive programming at the site.

## Successes

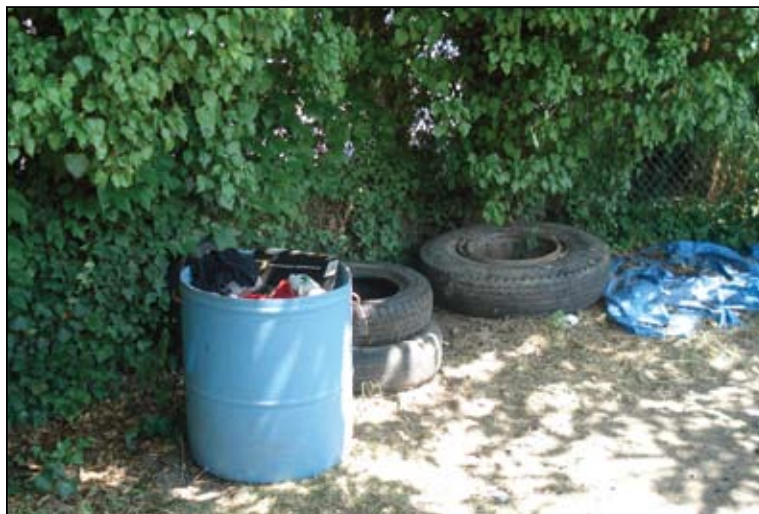
The best-performing features at Roy Wilkins Recreation Center were Immediate Environment and Pathways, each of which received perfect scores. Athletic Fields also scored favorably, although some fields contained very tall grass.

## Challenges

As in many of the parks surveyed, Drinking Fountains and Lawns received the lowest scores. Drinking Fountains suffered from leaks and structural deterioration. Lawns were impacted by the presence of broken glass, unattended machinery, weeds, bare areas, and discoloration.



ROY WILKINS RECREATION CENTER		79
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	90	
Bathrooms	84	
Courts	N/A	
Drinking Fountains	50	
Immediate Environment	100	
Lawns	52	
Natural Areas	N/A	
Pathways	100	
Playgrounds	N/A	
Sitting Areas	86	
Trees	N/A	
Water Bodies	N/A	



A full barrel of trash and a pile of old tires impact the edge of this lawn.



Lawns suffered from bare areas and discolored grass.

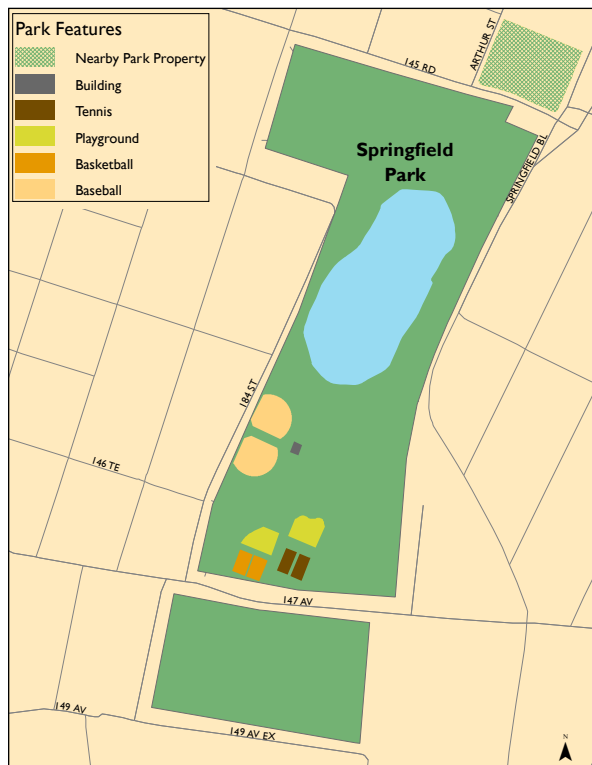


# Springfield Park

Springfield Gardens, Queens  
24 acres

SPRINGFIELD PARK offers basketball and tennis courts, baseball fields, playgrounds, and a pond.

Springfield Park had one of the highest overall scores among the parks surveyed. It benefits from the stewardship of an active volunteer group.



Springfield Park's natural areas were in great condition.



Dangling limbs and poor tree health impacted the score for lawns.

SPRINGFIELD PARK	93
Feature	Score
Athletic Fields	88
Bathrooms	94
Courts	97
Drinking Fountains	94
Immediate Environment	86
Lawns	63
Natural Areas	100
Pathways	100
Playgrounds	100
Sitting Areas	93
Trees	89
Water Bodies	80

## Successes

Natural Areas, Pathways, and Playgrounds scored perfectly, while Bathrooms, Courts, Drinking Fountains, and Sitting Areas scored high marks as well.

## Challenges

Lawns present an ongoing challenge for most of the parks in this study, and Springfield Park is no different. Tall grass, weed growth, poor tree health, and natural debris all contributed to a near-failing score for lawns.

# Tudor Park

Tudor Village, Queens  
24 acres

TUDOR PARK is composed of two separate parcels along North Conduit Boulevard in southern Queens, just west of JFK Airport. The park features baseball fields, basketball and handball courts, a playground, and a horse stable.

Tudor Park received one of the highest scores in the survey.



Tudor Park's artificial turf fields were in excellent condition.



Overgrown weeds and bare areas impacted the score for lawns.



<b>TUDOR PARK</b>	<b>92</b>
<i>Feature</i>	<i>Score</i>
Athletic Fields	97
Bathrooms	N/A
Courts	95
Drinking Fountains	67
Immediate Environment	100
Lawns	67
Natural Areas	N/A
Pathways	100
Playgrounds	100
Sitting Areas	100
Trees	100
Water Bodies	N/A

## Successes

Several features received perfect scores, including Immediate Environment, Pathways, Playgrounds, Sitting Areas, and Trees. While the artificial turf fields were in excellent condition, one of the grass fields had damaged and deteriorated caging and backstops, and another had a weedy outfield.

## Challenges

Tudor Park's feature scores tended to the extreme high or low. The lowest scores went to Drinking Fountains and Lawns. Surveyors encountered leaks, algae growth, and standing water at fountains. Lawns suffered from the presence of litter, weeds, and bare areas.





Community garden in Roy Wilkins Recreation Center, Queens

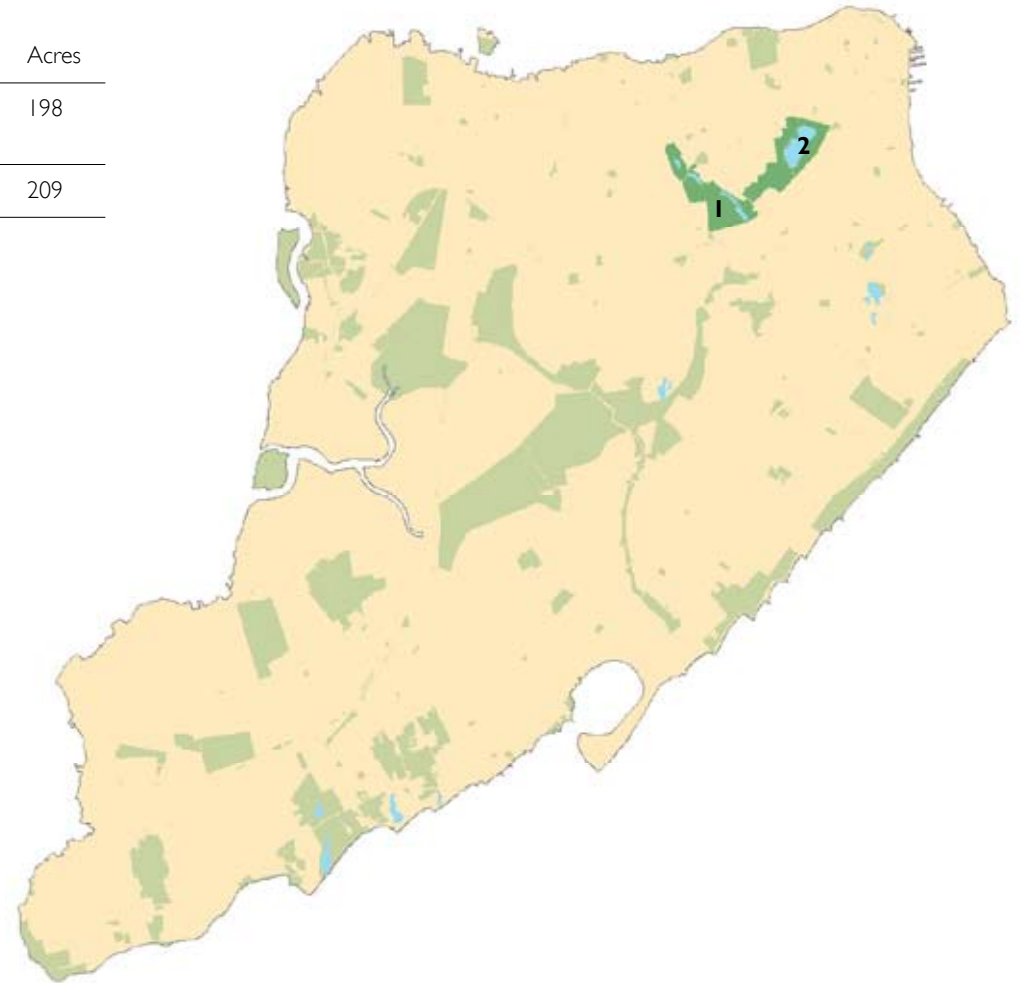


# STATEN ISLAND

Average Staten Island Park Score: 93

Park Name	Score	Grade	Neighborhood	CD	CB	Acres
1 Clove Lakes Park	93	A	West Brighton, Castleton Corners & Sunnyside	49	I	198
2 Silver Lake Park	92	A-	Silver Lake & West Brighton	49	I	209

\*CD = City Council District; CB = Community Board



Silver Lake Park, Staten Island







# Clove Lakes Park

West Brighton, Castleton Corners & Sunnyside, Staten Island  
193 acres

CLOVE LAKES PARK offers a variety of recreational and natural amenities. The park has facilities for baseball, football, soccer, basketball, ice skating, and children's play. Meandering through the center of the park is a series of ponds connected by bubbling streams.

Clove Lakes Park received one of the highest scores in the survey.



Playgrounds received a perfect score in Clove Lakes Park.



The water bodies in Clove Lakes Park were free of litter, providing a good habitat for wildlife.



<b>CLOVE LAKES PARK</b>		<b>93</b>
Feature	Score	
Athletic Fields	N/A	
Bathrooms	N/A	
Courts	N/A	
Drinking Fountains	N/A	
Immediate Environment	91	
Lawns	80	
Natural Areas	79	
Pathways	96	
Playgrounds	100	
Sitting Areas	N/A	
Trees	N/A	
Water Bodies	100	

## Successes

Clove Lakes Park received high marks on most features surveyed. Playgrounds, Pathways, and Immediate Environment scored A's.

## Challenges

Natural Areas and Lawns were the lowest-scoring features in Clove Lakes Park. Surveyors encountered litter, and uprooted trees in the wooded areas of the parks. Lawns scored poorly due to the presence of litter, tall grass, weed growth, and some large holes.

"Clove Lakes, in particular, is always filled with both active and passive recreation. High school ball teams play on the ball fields. Groups of Walk-a-thoners, runners clubs and high school track meets utilize the main lawn at Clove Lakes to stage events. With regard to the natural areas, Clove Lakes is in need of restoration. Too many trees downed (in recent storms) still lay about the park waiting to be removed from the waterway that defines the Clove Valley and the horse trails that meander throughout."  
*Cliff Hagen, Friends of Pine Oak Woods, Staten Island*



# Silver Lake Park

Silver Lake & West Brighton, Staten Island  
206 acres

SILVER LAKE PARK is home to a large, picturesque reservoir; a golf course; tennis courts; baseball, football, softball, and soccer fields; playgrounds; and trails for biking and walking.

## Successes

Trees, Water Bodies, Pathways, and Immediate Environment scored 100. Sitting Areas and Natural Areas also received high scores, reflecting good overall maintenance.

## Challenges

The poor score for Drinking Fountains reflects the presence of fountains where there was not sufficient water pressure to take a drink.



SILVER LAKE PARK	92
Feature	Score
Athletic Fields	N/A
Bathrooms	N/A
Courts	N/A
Drinking Fountains	75
Immediate Environment	100
Lawns	82
Natural Areas	92
Pathways	100
Playgrounds	N/A
Sitting Areas	91
Trees	100
Water Bodies	100



The large reservoir can be viewed from many parts of the park.



A woman finds respite in the shade.

“Many residents rely daily on (Silver Lake Park). Walkers, people (with) dogs, and many joggers visit the slopes of Silver Lake every day. Offering the best sunsets in the city, the western facing, sloping lawns host plenty of picnics and gatherings throughout the warmer months. Ball playing, frisbee, and dog running eventually tramples the lawn. Understandably, Parks cannot tend a lawn so heavily used.”  
*Cliff Hagen, Friends of Pine Oak Woods, Staten Island*

# Scores by Park

\*Listed in descending order by score

Park Name	Borough	Score
Seton Falls Park	Bronx	94
Fort Washington Park	Manhattan	93
Juniper Valley Park	Queens	93
Springfield Park	Queens	93
Clove Lakes Park	Staten Island	93
Battery Park	Manhattan	92
Riverside Park	Manhattan	92
Brookville Park	Queens	92
Tudor Park	Queens	92
Silver Lake Park	Staten Island	92
Red Hook Recreation Area	Brooklyn	90
Fort Greene Park	Brooklyn	90
Sunset Park	Brooklyn	90
Astoria Park	Queens	90
Crocheron Park	Queens	90
Kissena Corridor East	Queens	90
Morningside Park	Manhattan	89
Riverside Park North	Manhattan	89
Cunningham Park	Queens	89
St. Mary's Park	Bronx	89
Highland Park	Brooklyn	88
St. Nicholas Park	Manhattan	88
Kissena Park	Queens	87

Park Name	Borough	Score
East River Park	Manhattan	85
Little Bay Park	Queens	85
Highland Park	Queens	85
MacNeil Park	Queens	84
Queensbridge Park	Queens	84
Parade Ground	Brooklyn	83
Alley Park Athletic Field	Queens	83
McCarren Park	Brooklyn	82
Randall's Island Park	Manhattan	82
Wards Island Park	Manhattan	81
Baisley Pond Park	Queens	81
Soundview Park	Bronx	81
Shore Road Park	Brooklyn	80
Fort Tryon Park	Manhattan	79
Bayswater Park	Queens	79
Roy Wilkins Recreation Center	Queens	79
Crotona Park	Bronx	79
Inwood Hill Park	Manhattan	78
Asser Levy Park	Brooklyn	76
Marcus Garvey Park	Manhattan	64
Claremont Park	Bronx	62
Coney Island Boat Basin	Brooklyn	56
<b>AVERAGE SCORE</b>		<b>85</b>







# Conclusions & Recommendations

## *Mayor Bloomberg and Speaker Quinn:*

Spearhead a joint citywide campaign to fix or replace drinking fountains in parks

Through PlaNYC and the NYC Department of Environmental Protection's "NYC Water" promotion, the Bloomberg Administration has undertaken an admirable campaign to encourage New Yorkers to drink from the tap rather than purchasing bottled water. As DEP's website touts, NYC water is healthy, affordable, green, and convenient.



Yet public drinking fountains in City parks are in woeful need of repair and maintenance. Drinking fountains were the lowest-scoring park feature in our assessment, with one-third of all parks surveyed receiving a failing grade, and 57% receiving a grade of D or lower. Surveyors found inoperable and vandalized fountains, low water pressure, leaking spigots, clogged drains, algae, and pooling or standing water at the base of the majority of fountains. We observed failing drinking fountains in parks across every borough except Staten Island, and in high- and low-scoring parks alike.

Clean, functional, publicly-accessible drinking fountains benefit park users and help eliminate plastic bottle waste. DEP's "Water-on-the-Go" initiative provides portable drinking fountains at special events throughout the summer – but well-maintained drinking fountains in parks would give New Yorkers access to NYC water at any time in almost every one of the city's 1,700 parks. Given the Mayor's and Speaker's shared focus on improving New Yorkers' health and reducing solid waste, the benefits of investing in public drinking fountains extend well beyond the boundaries of our city's parks and should be a joint initiative of City Hall and the City Council.

## *NYC Department of Parks and Recreation:*

Analyze why proximate parks have disparate maintenance records

Over the years, NY4P *Report Cards* have found that scores for parks within the same neighborhood can vary widely due to different levels of maintenance. Our sense is that the disparate conditions are often the result of more intensive usership at one park over another, but a more in-depth analysis of why these differences exist is needed. Taking a close look at individual park utilization patterns could help explain why one park appears better maintained than another one nearby and could enable the Parks Department to deploy staff and other resources more efficiently.

## *NYC Department of Parks and Recreation:*

Prioritize maintenance of low-performing parks

Lawns, which require constant upkeep, were the second-lowest scoring feature in our survey. Surveyors encountered lawns strewn with trash and debris, infested with weeds, and in need of watering and other care. Many lawns were impacted by low-hanging or dangling tree limbs, which can endanger users. The Parks Department's current forestry budget provides for a 15- to 20-year tree pruning cycle. This infrequent maintenance leads to dangerous and unsightly conditions.

General park maintenance requires a large and dedicated staff to provide long-term, consistent care. Unfortunately, the Department of Parks and Recreation has undergone a series of budget reductions since 2008, including hiring freezes and delays, the elimination of vacant positions, and reductions in the seasonal workforce. At the same time, significant new efforts like MillionTreesNYC and new destination parks - all important investments in the city's environmental infrastructure - put additional maintenance burdens on an already-stretched department and underscore the need for planning for the long-term care of our entire network of open space resources.

Can the Parks Department realistically do more with less? There are always trade-offs when resources are limited. However, NY4P hopes Parks will use the results of this report to target maintenance staff in those parks in most immediate need.



## City Council Members and Borough Presidents: Allocate capital funding for your local parks

Many of the city's parks were built four or five decades ago and are in desperate need of new investment. However, because the Parks Department does not have a significant budget for capital improvements, the City is reliant on the City Council and Borough Presidents to allocate discretionary funding for capital upgrades in parks. To keep up with these needs, it is essential that elected officials work closely with the Parks Department to identify needed improvements, assess costs and timing, and appropriate funds accordingly.

Leon Kaiser Playground is an excellent example of the transformation that can occur when a downtrodden park's stakeholders work together to effectuate park improvements. Mayor Bloomberg, Council Member Domenic M. Recchia, Jr., and Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz together allocated nearly \$4.5 million in funds for new basketball courts, recreational lighting, handball courts, drinking fountains, landscaping, and upgrades to fitness areas in Leon Kaiser Park. Through this kind of coordinated effort, failing spaces can become model parks. See box below for more details.

*"Leon Kaiser Park was neglected for decades, but thanks to Mayor Bloomberg, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz, the NYC Council, the Parks Department and the City Parks Foundation, we were able to revitalize one of the largest parks in Brooklyn, which has helped rejuvenate the entire community. There's more work to do, but through this partnership, we've come a long way."*  
Council Member Domenic M. Recchia, Jr.

### Leon Kaiser Park: Coordinated Capital Funding Leads to Big Change for Park

Report Card surveyors visited Leon Kaiser Park in 2010 and evaluated the maintenance of the park at that time. The inspection resulted in a failing score of 57 due to low scores for drinking fountains, lawns, natural areas, and sitting areas.



In 2010, sitting areas and lawns were severely impacted by litter.

However, following 2011 capital investments in courts, lighting, fountains, and landscaping, this park looks and feels radically different. The improvements will undoubtedly impact the quality-of-life of nearby residents.



In 2011, a revamped park building greets visitors as they enter the park.



New basketball courts with lighting.

## All New Yorkers:

### Get more involved in the care of your local park

**Join your local park's "Friends Of" group or help start one to provide volunteer labor and raise private money for your park.**

While we continue to advocate for additional public funding for parks, New Yorkers must invest in their parks as well. Friends-of-Parks groups and volunteers can contribute to park upkeep and beautification through clean-up and planting efforts and by raising private funds to augment the City's budget for parks.

**Advocate for your local Council Member and Borough President to allocate discretionary capital funding for needed improvements to your park.**

Most capital improvements in parks happen because Council Members and/or Borough Presidents allocate discretionary funding for specific parks projects in their jurisdiction. Community members who care about their local parks need to let their elected officials know what their greatest park needs are. Each spring, the City Council and Borough Presidents develop a budget of priority projects in their districts, in consultation with local Community Boards, and parks need to be on their agenda during this process. For more information about how to get involved in the budget process, see the NY4P website, [www.ny4p.org](http://www.ny4p.org).



Friends of Seaside Park coordinated a clean-up and flower bulb planting with local high school students and members of the horticulture team from the Parks Department. Asser Levy Park, Brooklyn.

*"Most of the parks in Queens that scored well have very active volunteer groups. That makes a difference."  
Fred Kress, President of the Queens Coalition  
for Parks and Green Spaces*





Inwood Hill Park, Manhattan



# Detailed Methodology

This section describes in detail the methodology used by New Yorkers for Parks in creating the *Report Card on Large Parks*. The methods are derived from New Yorkers for Parks' award-winning *Report Card on Parks* survey methodology, first implemented in 2003. In 2005, the *Report Card on Parks* received a Community Indicators Award from the Community Indicators Consortium and the Brookings Institution's Urban Markets Initiative.

## THE METHODOLOGY IS BROKEN DOWN INTO SEVEN SECTIONS:

- Survey Population
- Identifying & Weighting Major Service Areas
- Survey Instrument: Feature Forms
- Assigning Numerical Scores
- Sample Calculation: Red Hook Recreation Center
- Converting Numerical Scores to Letter Grades
- Conducting the Survey

### Survey Population

The *Report Card on Large Parks* focuses on DPR park properties between 20 and 500 acres in area. Due to staffing constraints and the length of the surveying season, surveying parks larger than 500 acres was deemed unfeasible. (There are 14 parks larger than 500 acres.)

DPR operates approximately 130 park properties between 20 and 500 acres. In selecting sites appropriate

for surveying, the following categories of park properties were removed from the survey population: Highway Properties, Undeveloped Parkland, Islands, Gardens, Golf Courses, Marshes, Beaches, Forests, properties without active recreation, properties undergoing significant Capital Projects, and parks in which all zones are larger than 50 acres. The final survey universe was 45 parks.

The Parks Department divides all Large Parks into maintenance zones called Park Inspection Program Zones, or PIP zones. The zone boundaries often follow pathways, streets, physical barriers such as a tree-line or hill, or the outside of a cluster of active recreation features. Due to the large size of the parks, an evaluation of the total acreage of every property was not feasible. To address this challenge, NY4P surveyed a subset of all the PIP zones in the 45 parks. The project statistician randomly selected the least number of zones greater than or equal to 50% of all zones within a given property.

In a small number of instances, certain zones selected for inclusion in the survey were replaced when

surveyors arrived at the site and found that they could not survey the zone. In these cases, a replacement zone was randomly selected for survey.

### Identifying & Weighting Major Service Areas

In constructing the *Report Card* methodology, NY4P took a user-focused approach to identify eight Major Service Areas (MSAs) impacting a park user's experience. NY4P convened a group of park experts, community leaders, and elected officials to help define the eight MSAs, along with a scale of weights to reflect the relative importance of different indicators.<sup>1</sup> Participants were asked to rate the MSAs on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being the least important to their park experience, and 5 being the most important. Participants also provided feedback on the structure and composition of the MSAs. In addition, 20 park users at Brooklyn's Prospect Park were also asked to rate the relative importance of the eight MSAs to be used in the survey. The rankings provided by the 30 respondents were then averaged and rounded to the nearest whole number to provide a final MSA relative weight figure, see Table 1.

<sup>1</sup> Participants in the first focus group included Council Member Joseph Addabbo, Jr., former Chair, Parks & Recreation Committee, New York City Council; Matt Arnn, United States Forest Service, Regional Landscape Architect, NYC; John Ameroso, Cornell Cooperative Extension, New York City; Skip Blumberg, Friends of City Hall Park; Frank Chaney, Community Board member; Jim Dowell, Riverside Park Fund, Manhattan Parks and Green Space Coalition; Susan Marraccini, Turnaround Friends, Inc.; Martin Olesh, Friends of Cunningham Park; Robert Pasqual, Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces; and Gene Russianoff, Senior Attorney, New York Public Interest Research Group.



### Survey Instrument: Feature Forms

NY4P staff, in cooperation with statistical consultants from the firm of Ernst & Young, then developed question forms with which to evaluate the MSAs found in each park. Individual questions were designed to measure the performance of the MSAs in each of the following categories: Maintenance, Cleanliness, Safety, and Structural Integrity.

Whenever possible, the form questions were adapted from DPR’s own internal evaluation mechanism, the Parks Inspection Program (PIP). During the construction of *The Report Card on Parks*, a second focus group<sup>2</sup> was convened to provide relative weights to individual feature forms on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 being the least important to their park experience, and 5 being the most important. Next, the focus group was asked

to designate each of the individual form questions as “priority” or “routine.” Priority ratings refer to those conditions of a park feature necessary for its safe use. Finally, the focus group rated questions tagged as routine on a scale from 1 to 5.

NY4P hosted a third focus group<sup>3</sup> on “Active Recreation Space.” This group provided commentary on ideal conditions for active recreational activities and provided general feedback on active play areas, including courts, turf ballfields, and asphalt ballfields, which was then integrated into the survey questions.

**Table 1: Major Service Areas and Relative Weights**

Major Service Areas	Description	Weight
<b>Active Recreation</b>	This MSA evaluates the maintenance, cleanliness, safety, and structural integrity of each hockey rink; soccer, football, and baseball field; and tennis, bocce, handball, basketball, and volleyball court in a zone.	3
<b>Passive Greenspace</b>	This MSA evaluates the maintenance, cleanliness, safety of every lawn, landscaped area, garden, water body, natural area, and tree pit in a zone.	5
<b>Playgrounds</b>	This MSA evaluates the maintenance, cleanliness, safety, and structural integrity of each playground in a zone.	5
<b>Sitting Areas</b>	This MSA evaluates the maintenance, cleanliness, safety, and structural integrity of each sitting area in a zone.	5
<b>Bathrooms</b>	This MSA evaluates the maintenance, cleanliness, safety, and structural integrity of each bathroom in a zone.	4
<b>Drinking Fountains</b>	This MSA evaluates the maintenance, cleanliness, safety, and structural integrity of each discrete drinking fountain in a zone.	3
<b>Pathways</b>	This MSA evaluates the maintenance, cleanliness, safety, and structural integrity of each type of walkway in a zone, including those made of asphalt, pavers, brick, dirt or concrete.	3
<b>Immediate Environment</b>	This MSA measures how well a zone is insulated from the potential impacts of its surroundings.	3

### Assigning Numerical Scores

Each completed form was assigned a numerical grade between 0 and 100. Any park feature receiving an “unacceptable” rating on any priority question was assigned a form grade of zero. However, in the large majority of completed forms, park features received only “acceptable” ratings to all priority questions. In these cases, the calculation appears as follows:

Let A denote the sum of the relative weights of routine survey questions receiving “acceptable” ratings. Let B denote the sum of the relative weights of routine survey questions receiving either “acceptable” or “unacceptable” ratings. Each form’s final numerical score is then 100 times the quotient of A divided by B. No form score was assigned a park that lacked any given feature; in this way no park was penalized for not having any of the survey’s 12 feature types.

<sup>2</sup> Participants in the ‘Second Focus Group’ included four park and advocacy experts: Mark Caserta, Director, Waterfront Park Coalition, New York League of Conservation Voters; Susan Craine, Consumer Advocate, New York Public Interest Research Group; Neysa Pranger, Coordinator, Straphangers Campaign; and Paul Sawyer, Executive Director, Friends of Van Cortlandt Park.

<sup>3</sup> Participants in this focus group included Tom Brasuell, Vice President, Community Relations, Major League Baseball; Carlos Feliciano, President, Quebradilla Baseball Organization; Rich Berlin, Executive Director, Harlem RBI; and John Oswald, Director, Beacon Program Pathways for Youth.

Once each form was scored, MSA ratings were calculated. First, scored forms were grouped by MSA for each park property across all zones. Those MSAs with exactly one corresponding completed form were allotted the numerical score of that single form. Those MSAs with more than one completed form were scored according to a weighted average of the corresponding form scores, as follows:

Suppose C1, C2, . . . , Cn are the n-many form scores corresponding to a given MSA. Let D1, D2, . . . , Dn be those forms' corresponding relative weights (see figure 2). MSA numerical scores were then calculated as the following quotient:

$$(C1 * D1 + C2 * D2 + \dots + Cn * Dn) / (D1 + D2 + \dots Dn)$$

No MSA rating was assigned to a park that lacked any given major service area; in this way no park was penalized for not having any of the survey's eight MSA types.

Each park's raw score was calculated in a similar fashion. Suppose E1, E2, . . . , Em were a park's MSA scores with corresponding weights F1, F2, . . . , Fm. Final raw scores were then calculated as the following quotient:

$$(E1 * F1 + E2 * F2 + \dots + Em * Fm) / (F1 + F2 + \dots Fm)$$

### Sample Calculation: Red Hook Recreation Area, Brooklyn

Table 2 shows actual surveyor responses for Red Hook Recreation Area in Brooklyn. Tables 2, 3, and 4 include a summary of form data and the subsequent form, MSA, and park score.

**Table 2: Summary of Red Hook Recreation Area Form Data**

Form	Form Scores	MSA Score
Playgrounds	100	100
Immediate Environment	100, 86, 100, 77	91
Lawns and Landscaped Areas	92, 89, 86, 92, 86, 88, 89, 0	78
Park Trees	100, 89, 89	93
Sitting Areas	100, 100, 86, 100	96
Bathrooms	100	100
Drinking Fountains	86, 86, 82, 86, 86, 68	82
Courts	91, 89, 80, 89, 89, 80, 100, 100	90
Athletic Fields (grass)	81, 81, 69, 90, 0, 87	68
Pathways	100, 100, 100, 100, 0	80

**Table 3: Summary of Red Hook Recreation Area MSA Data**

MSA	Calculation	MSA Score
Playgrounds	Form score average from Figure 3	100
Immediate Environment	Form score average from Figure 3	91
Passive Greenspace	(Lawns, Landscaped Areas*2 + Park Trees*1) / 3	83
Sitting Areas	Form score average from Figure 3	96
Bathrooms	Form score average from Figure 3	100
Drinking Fountains	Form score average from Figure 3	82
Active Recreation	(Athletic field average + Court average) / 2	79
Pathways	Form score average from Figure 3	80

The raw score for Red Hook Recreation Area was calculated by the weighted average of the eight MSA scores listed in figure 4.

**Table 4: Calculation of Raw Score and Letter Grade—Red Hook Recreation Area**

MSA	MSA Score times Weight
Playgrounds	100 * 5 = 500
Immediate Environment	91 * 3 = 273
Passive Greenspace	83 * 5 = 413 (with rounding)
Sitting Areas	96 * 5 = 482 (with rounding)
Bathrooms	100 * 4 = 400
Drinking Fountains	82 * 3 = 246
Active Recreation	79 * 3 = 237
Pathways	80 * 3 = 240
<b>Total</b>	<b>2791</b>

This total, 2791, was then divided by the sum of the weights of the eight MSAs. This sum is 31, so that the raw park score for Red Hook Recreation Area is 2791/31 = 90.0.

Applying this numerical score to the letter grades listed in Figure 2, it can be seen that a score of 90 corresponds to a grade of "A-".



## Converting Numerical Scores to Letter Grades

During the creation of the *Report Card on Parks*, a fourth focus group<sup>4</sup> consisting of park managers and open space experts was convened to determine the assignment of letter grades to raw scores. Participants were brought to three parks in Manhattan and asked to provide a letter grade for the park based on a brief description of the MSAs and a tour of the park. These letter grades were consistent with the raw number scores for the parks and resulted in the raw score/grade assignment chart.

**Figure 5:  
Conversion from Raw Scores  
to Letter Grades**

Raw Scores	Letter Grade
97–100	A+
93–96	A
90–92	A-
87–89	B+
83–86	B
80–82	B-
77–79	C+
73–76	C
70–72	C-
60-69	D
59 and below	F

## Conducting the Survey

Survey work for *The Report Card on Large Parks* took place from June to August 2010 from the hours of 10 AM to dusk, Tuesday through Thursday. NY4P trained four staff members to complete the survey work. NY4P senior staff held a training session during June 2010 to train surveyors in the following techniques: use of the handheld computers and digital cameras, delineation of park features, use of survey forms and standards manual, and procedures for documenting features with digital cameras. The training sessions included the full review of a park, collection of data according to defined standards, proper photo documentation, safety procedures, and methods for storing data in *The Report Card's* database upon completion of survey.

In the field, surveyors completed a feature form for each feature included in a selected zone. For example, for every drinking fountain in a zone, a “Drinking Fountain” form was completed so that in a zone with three drinking fountains, a surveyor would complete three “Drinking Fountain” feature forms. Additionally, surveyors completed a form for every playground, for every bathroom, for every lawn or landscaped area, etc.

In addition to completing survey forms, surveyors took extensive digital photographs to support and complement survey results. All survey findings and feature forms receive an identification number and are correlated to a series of photographs documenting conditions for each park in the survey. Survey results and photo documentation are stored in a central database. When photo documentation did not correlate with results or did not adequately illustrate park conditions, the park was revisited and re-evaluated by surveyors.

<sup>4</sup> Fourth focus group participants included Jerome Barth, Director of Operations, Bryant Park Restoration Corporation; Charles McKinney, consultant, former administrator, Riverside Park; and Andy Stone, Director, NYC Programs, Trust for Public Land.

**GREAT PARKS**

**MAKE A GREAT CITY**

**NEW YORKERS FOR PARKS**