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MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD 10
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March 2, 2022

Susan Donoghue
Commissioner
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation
830 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Re: Request for a Ten Year Master Plan for Manhattan Community Board 10 Parks and Recreational Facilities

Dear Commissioner Donoghue:

Manhattan Community Board 10 is writing this letter to request that NYC Parks and Recreation develop a ten year Master Plan for Central Harlem parks and recreational facilities.

The mission would be to create a plan to be implemented over the next 10 years by coordinating the efforts of elected officials, NYC Parks, City agencies, corporate, not-for-profit partnerships and the community. The plan would capitalize on the strength of CB 10 open spaces, resolve problem areas, and facilitate a coordinated long-term effort between agencies, non-profit partners, elected officials and community groups. The Conceptual Plan would also serve to guide the next decade of park network restoration.

The plan design would be used to provide guidance in determining visioning questions which could be used to discern research themes, inform policy frameworks to vet goals and principles with the community and stakeholders in order to generate plans based on mutually developed designs and review.

This will ensure that Parks equity, as it pertains to preservation and expansion of well-maintained parkland in Central Harlem, will be integral to reduction of long-standing disparities in access to greenspace.

Since 2014 Central Harlem parks, playgrounds and recreational facilities have undergone a great deal of extensive renovations. We have been the beneficiary of programs such as The Community Partnership Initiative and Parks Without Borders in addition to NYC Parks capital projects through Community Board advocacy. The Community would like to preserve, protect and maintain these relatively recent investments as well as the integrity of our park network as a whole. As a long-time under-served community this effort would be integral to retention of this achieved equity.

Community Board 10 is asking NYC Parks and Recreation to develop a master plan that will:

- Preserve and create safe, well-maintained and accessible parks.
- Offer features and amenities to serve the community's needs and diverse interests.
- Provide safe and convenient access to bicycle routes and watercraft for recreation and commuting.
- Advance design concepts that are relevant to the culture of the community.

- Promote partnerships to collaborate with Parks on fitness and arts programming, regular volunteer projects, and advocacy for their neighborhood parks.

The plan could also incorporate use of coastal strategies to strengthen a first line of defense against flooding and sea level rise. Harlem River Park, still underdeveloped, could be advanced to foster a resilient Central Harlem where neighborhoods, buildings and infrastructure would be able to withstand and recover quickly from flooding and climate events.

Community and stakeholders along with NYC Parks could work together to develop an in-depth understanding of community concerns, wishes and initiatives to:

- Identify and coordinate the next projects that will address community concerns and recreational needs as well as restore infrastructure and ecology.
- Shared understanding of the park problems and community needs
- Commitment to the proposed solutions and to obtaining funding for them
- Coordinated long-term effort between agencies, non-profit partners, community groups and elected officials to fund and implement projects
- Investigate the existing conditions of the sites to determine the problems, opportunities and constraints
- Facilitate the formation of stewardship groups and partners who will assist with implementation

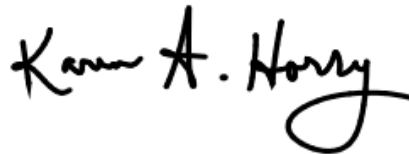
It is the strong recommendation of Manhattan CB10 that this ten year Master Plan for CB 10 Parks, Playgrounds and Recreational Facilities be developed to ensure continued equity for CB 10 youth and residents. This is particularly warranted in view of the greatly pronounced need to engage our youth who have been under-served for decades.

On March 2, 2022 the General Board had quorum and voted by common consent, 39 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions and 0 recusals to support the Request for a Ten Year Master Plan for Manhattan Community Board 10 Parks and Recreational Facilities.

Sincerely,



Cicely Harris
Chairperson
Manhattan Community Board 10



Karen Horry
Chair
Parks and Recreation Committee
Manhattan Community Board 10