

CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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JESSICA CHAIT
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

June 11, 2025

Iris Rodriguez-Rosa
Commissioner
NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
830 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Re: DeWitt Clinton Park Conditions

Dear Commissioner Rodriguez-Rosa,

Manhattan Community Board 4 (MCB4) would like to thank the NYC Parks Department for attending the May 8th Waterfront, Parks & Environment Committee (WPE) meeting and discussing the conditions of DeWitt Clinton Park (between 11th and 12th Avenues and 52nd and 54th Streets).

At its June 4th Full Board meeting, MCB4, by a vote of 43 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstentions and 1 present but not eligible, approved the following comments.

DeWitt Clinton Park (DWC) is one of our district's most utilized parks containing basketball courts, a large children's playground and water spray section, handball courts, pickleball accommodations and a dog run. The main athletic field sees both casual and permitted activity throughout the day and into the late-night hours.

Considering the large volume of people visiting the space daily, MCB4 makes the following requests:

- The athletic field, which occupies the greatest footprint at DWC, is enclosed with a large metal fence. Unfortunately, all field entrances are kept locked at all times except for one located at the far west side of the field. Regrettably, this is the least convenient entry/exit

point since it forces users to travel from the park's main entry points around the athletic field, often with heavy and large equipment. We request the field gates on the southeast side of the park remain unlocked for convenient and serviceable access.

Since our last WPE meeting, the Parks Department has unlocked one of these gates located at the southeast location of the field with favorable results.

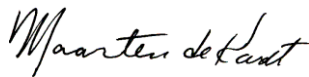
- Please consider placing "No Dogs Allowed" signage on the entrances to the athletic fields. Understanding prohibited dog use is a concern for Parks and is the reason given for locking the majority of the field entrances, specific signs delineating this rule may be helpful.
- The DWC field holds organized games all afternoon and night yet does not deploy second shift Parks employees. We urge parks to staff DWC Park at the times (late afternoon and night) it is arguably at its busiest.
- The bathroom should be open and accessible while permitted athletic activities are occurring.
- Recently, there have been a number of cited instances of smoking, both tobacco and marijuana, in the park. This activity is more pronounced in the evening and towards the western portion of the park. These areas, including the basketball courts and playground are conveniently the less-lit portions of the park, inviting prohibited activity. Adults settling in the playground area and smoking is particularly troubling. We would like Parks to enforce both the no smoking and the no adults in the playground unaccompanied by a child rules. The current situation is making the western part of DWC unsuitable for its intended use.

MCB4 thanks Parks for opening an additional athletic field gate per our request as mentioned above. We hope to monitor the situation and follow up on the additional requests listed. And thank you for your regular reports to the WPE Committee about parks conditions and events.

Sincerely,



Jessica Chait
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4
Environment



Maarten de Kadt
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks & Environment
Committee



Leslie Boghosian Murphy
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks &
Committee

CC: Hon. Erik Bottcher, NYC Council Member