



CITY OF NEW YORK
MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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LESLIE BOGHOSIAN MURPHY
Chair

JESSE R. BODINE
District Manager

March 17, 2026

Tricia Shimamura
Commissioner
NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
The Arsenal, Central Park
830 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10065

Re: DeWitt Clinton Park Renovation Plan

Dear Commissioner Shimamura,

Manhattan Community Board 4 thanks the Parks Department for their presentation at the February 12 meeting of the Waterfront, Parks and Environment Committee regarding the current state of planning for renovations in DeWitt Clinton Park. The project will cover the basketball, pickleball and handball courts, spray shower and picnic area in the northwest corner of the park. Your fine plan has taken into consideration suggestions made by both the public and previous presentations to the Committee. Nevertheless, as we express below, we have some remaining concerns.

By a vote of 44 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstaining and 1 present but not eligible to vote, at the full Board meeting of March 4, 2026, we appreciate and approve the current plan with the following comments and concerns.

The Board has increasingly expressed its concern for environmental improvement in our district. We are pleased to note your plan includes several environmentally friendly elements:

- Improving tree health and growing condition by adding root growth areas.
- Reducing stormwater and runoff by directing water to new planting beds and water retention devices. Permeability is being increased from 1% to 10% of the project's area.
- Reusing cobble stone blocks
- On-demand activation of spray showers.
- Preserving existing tree canopy

- Planting five new trees
- Using Recycled Plastic Lumber instead of wood.
- Controlling rat populations in the design of new garbage containers.

We were pleased with your attention to a phased closing of the park enabling sections of it to continue to be in use during the construction of this project.

Even with these, we have the following suggestions and concerns:

The basketball courts remain junior courts, albeit with slightly less area. The two courts have four basketball hoops. We suggest adding two more at midcourt for use when no full-court games are being played and consider making at least one of them a junior height for younger kids. Please also consider installing additional benches on the east side of the basketball courts next to the picnic area.

The pickleball courts seem to take space that could be used for additional courts. Please re-examine their placement in the context of the overall project to see if additional courts could be included.

While the shadow of the tree canopy precludes large scale installation of solar arrays, the fence line is not in shadow and should be considered for the installation of solar panels. While not part of the present project, the restroom building is also an ideal spot for solar panels.

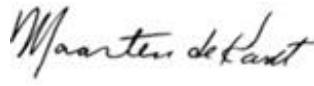
While we were pleased with the increase of permeable area to 10%, especially as it protects several trees' roots, we were disappointed that this section of DeWitt Clinton Park will only have 10% permeable area.

Even with these comments and suggestions, we were extremely pleased with the project's design, and we thank you for your presentation.

Sincerely,



Leslie Boghosian Murphy
Chair
Manhattan Community Board 4



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



Catie Savage
Co-Chair
Waterfront, Parks &
Environment Committee