



CITY OF NEW YORK

MANHATTAN COMMUNITY BOARD FOUR

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Manhattan Community Board 4 Resolution Calling on the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to Make All New or To-Be-Renovated Park Facilities ADA Compliant

Whereas, The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation undertakes capital projects costing millions of dollars annually to upgrade park facilities in the 29,000 acres of parkland in the City; and

Whereas, An estimated 14% of New York's population has a disability, yet the majority of New York City's park comfort stations, park features, and other park facilities are not accessible for people with disabilities; and

Whereas, Any major renovations undertaken in New York should meet the highest standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), yet the Parks Department often makes renovations and performs requirements contract work without ensuring ADA compliance; and

Whereas, In a New York State Comptroller audit of the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation released in 2005, it was found that in a sample of 50 new park construction projects, 29 did not include specific plans to address ADA- accessibility requirements. While the Parks Department agreed to "do better", little progress has since occurred; and

Whereas, The prime example of exclusionary work is the Vesuvio Playground renovation, under which the entire park has been demolished and will be rebuilt, yet the non-compliant comfort station remains standing and is not slated for work to bring it into ADA compliance. The Parks Department has made a pattern of neglecting to bring entire parks into compliance when work is performed; and

Whereas, Of Manhattan's 207 playgrounds, under the Parks Department's accessibility codes, only 21 are considered accessible, leaving hundreds of children throughout this borough without proper playground access as every child needs and deserves; and

Whereas, It is time the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation commits to making every new capital project ADA compliant, from comfort stations to playgrounds, thus allowing every New Yorker to fully enjoy our public spaces;

Therefore be it Resolved, Manhattan Community Board No 4 call on the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation to require all major renovations and requirements contract capital work to include ADA compliant comfort stations, playgrounds, and all other facilities as far as the landscape will allow.