

PARKS 101

Parks & Recreation, just like Sanitation, Transportation, or the Police, is a department of New York City's executive government. Parks' principal mission is to keep the parks, playgrounds, and sitting areas of New York City clean and safe, while also developing the City's recreational opportunities by offering quality facilities, programs, and events to meet the needs of all New Yorkers.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- ✓ The acquisition, repair, restoration, renovation, and routine cleaning and maintenance of the City's 28,000 acres of public park land—including parks, playgrounds, ballfields, natural areas, and recreation centers.
- ✓ With the Department of Education, holds partial responsibility for **Jointly Operated Playgrounds (JOPs)** at City schools
- ✓ Oversees those **GreenThumb community gardens** that are on Parks Department property (approximately 200 gardens).

***Note:** The lights in City parks are the responsibility of the **Department of Transportation**.

STRUCTURE OF THE AGENCY

The Commissioner and his staff work at the **Arsenal** in Central Park. The Commissioner has four Deputy Commissioners. Each of the five boroughs has as parallel management structure, with Borough Commissioners and Chiefs. Primary responsibility for the routine maintenance of parks falls to the borough offices.

IN THE ARSENAL:

- ✓ **Amy Freitag** is **Deputy Commissioner for Capital Projects**, in charge of the building of new park spaces and the renovation of old ones.
- ✓ **Robert Garafola** is **Deputy Commissioner for Management and Budget**
- ✓ **Liam Kavanagh** is **Deputy Commissioner for Maintenance and Operations (M&O)**
- ✓ **Kevin Jeffrey** is **Deputy Commissioner for Public Programs**, including Partnerships for Parks, the Urban Park Rangers, and Recreation.

IN THE BOROUGHS:

There are 12 Partnerships for Parks **Outreach Coordinators** working in the five boroughs, who act as liaisons between the City and the volunteers and any community groups involved their neighborhood parks.

Bronx:

Borough Commissioner		Chief of Recreation	
Dorothy Lewandowski	718-430-1801	Iris N. Rodriguez	718-430-1858
Chief of Operations		Outreach Coordinators	
John Bachman	718-430-1866	Maria Luisa Cipriano	718-430-4641
		Anthony Martinez	718-430-1861

Brooklyn:

Borough Commissioner Julius Spiegel	718-965-8920	Chief of Recreation Lee Henry	718-965-6980
Chief of Operations Charles Gili	718-965-8922	Outreach Coordinators Jeff Sandgrund	718-965-8902
		Kaceen Jordan	718-965-8992
		Kerry Lowe	718-965-8907

Manhattan:

Borough Commissioner William Castro	212-408-0201	Outreach Coordinators Nate Harris	212-408-0282
Chief of Operations Namshik Yoon	212-408-0212	Nicole Smith	212-408-0230
Chief of Recreation Chris Clouden	212-408-0243		

Queens:

Borough Commissioner Richard Murphy	718-520-5905	Chief of Recreation Chris Caropolo	718-520-5918
Chief of Operations Jacqueline Langsam	718-520-5925	Outreach Coordinators Helen Ho	718-520-5913
		Tom Panzone	718-520-5948

Staten Island:

Borough Commissioner Tom Paulo	718- 390-8004	Chief of Recreation Mary Cali-Dalton	718- 816-6172
Chief of Operations Hector Aponte	718- 390-8006	Outreach Coordinator Frank Filatro	718-390-8016

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

- ✓ Parks are divided geographically into **Park Districts**, which are the same as the Community Board districts.
- ✓ Flagship parks, such as Central and Prospect Parks, have their own Park Districts.
- ✓ **Supervisors of Parks & Maintenance Operations (SPMOs)** are the direct supervisors of all maintenance work conducted in the parks. SPMOs may oversee one or several park districts.
- ✓ Cleaning and maintenance duties are performed by **City Parks Workers (CPWs)** and participants in the **Work Experience Program (WEPs)** and **Professional Opportunities at Parks (POPs)**.
- ✓ SPMOs report directly to **Parks & Recreation Managers (PRMs)**, each of whom is responsible for several districts.