



# COMMUNITY VISIONING COHORT

## People Make Parks

### What is community visioning?

A public input process led by community members that gathers ideas, desires, and concerns from a broad and diverse audience to affect changes in their neighborhood park.

### The cohort

The Community Visioning Cohort is a group of park stewards selected annually by Partnerships for Parks to participate in a training series. Our series of five trainings will prepare neighborhood groups to lead participatory activities and develop priorities for their local parks. Accepted participants will learn how to gather public input that informs park design and programming, or drive advocacy for funding capital projects. Through the Community Visioning Cohort, participants will:

- Develop a community visioning strategy
- Design and lead participatory activities and surveys
- Gather useful input from a diverse cross section of their community

### Cohort focus types

**Physical improvements:** Gathering community input to support advocacy for structural improvements including capital projects (\$35,000+). (Please be aware that pursuing a physical improvements focus may require approval and internal coordination with NYC Parks.)

**Programming:** Gathering community input to inform activities and events in the park.

### What can community visioning do for my park group?

Hosting a community visioning event can help your group:

- Build relationships with community members and recruit volunteers
- Learn about the range of needs and interests of diverse park users
- Discover preferences for events and programming
- Decide on priorities for physical park improvements
- Obtain a general consensus about the "feel" and "flavor" of a potential park redesign
- Build community engagement, collaboration, and advocacy skills among group members

### 2019 cohort requirements

- Attendance at all cohort trainings by at least two members of the group. There will be a total of five trainings in lower Manhattan between March and May with an estimated time commitment of ten hours
- Application received by February 17, 2019

### Preferred candidates

- Have led an It's My Park (IMP) service project
- Have a well-developed group structure (i.e. consistent volunteer base, multiple group members 3+)
- Have a demonstrated interest in learning from park users and utilizing that information to guide strategy
- Have a strong history of collaborative work with Partnerships for Parks, NYC Parks, and/or the City Parks Foundation, and a long-term commitment to stewardship
- Have a group budget of less than \$10,000 or limited fundraising capacity
- Have supported parks in underserved neighborhoods

### Post training opportunity - visioning implementation

Upon completion, groups will have the opportunity to receive continued support from the Community Visioning and Planning manager to implement their vision.

For more information, email [pmp@cityparksfoundation.org](mailto:pmp@cityparksfoundation.org)

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