



# 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 effect changes in their neighborhood park.

### What is the Community Visioning Cohort?

The Community Visioning Cohort is a learning community for park groups selected to participate in a five-part training series that prepares them to lead participatory activities and surveys within their community to uncover priorities for their local parks and advocate for those priorities. Participants will develop a strategy to gather public input around one of two key areas: physical improvements to park structure and design, or park programming and events. The resulting data will be used to advocate for additional resources and investments in these parks.

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

- Develop new relationships with community members and recruit volunteers
- Identify the range of needs and interests of diverse park users
- Discover public preferences for events and programming
- Decide on top priorities for physical park improvements
- Obtain a general consensus about the "feel and flavor" of a potential park redesign
- Educate the public about the NYC Parks capital process
- Build community engagement, collaborative leadership, and advocacy skills

### Preferred candidates have:

- A well-developed group structure (e.g. consistent volunteer base, multiple group members 3+)
- A strong motivation to learn from neighborhood park users and utilize that information to guide their group strategy
- A demonstrated history of collaborative work with Partnerships for Parks, NYC Parks, and/or City Parks Foundation, and a long-term commitment to stewardship
  - A group budget of less than \$10,000 or limited fundraising capacity
  - Supported parks in underserved neighborhoods

### 2020 VISIONING COHORT TIMELINE AND EXPECTATIONS

- **Completed applications submitted by Friday, January 10, 2020**
- **Applications reviewed and groups selected in January for a mid-February start**
- The five-part training series takes place in lower Manhattan between February and April with an estimated time commitment of 10-15 hours
- Attendance is required at all five training sessions by at least two members of the group
- Upon completion of the training, groups will have up to six months to implement their visioning strategy
- By the end of 2020, groups will develop community vision reports highlighting park priorities for planning and advocacy efforts

