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**CITY PARKS FOUNDATION & PARTNERSHIPS FOR PARKS  
TO HOST URBAN FOREST COMMUNITY KICKOFF EVENT  
MAY 15 IN EAST HARLEM, MANHATTAN**

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE MAYOR'S OFFICE OF  
CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

[City Parks Foundation](#) and [Partnerships for Parks](#), in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice, NYC Parks, Natural Areas Conservancy, and The Nature Conservancy will be hosting a NYC **Urban Forest Community Kickoff** event at the **Thomas Jefferson Center** in **East Harlem, Manhattan** on **Thursday, May 15**.

The new Urban Forest Plan is focused on expanding New York City's tree canopy across public and private property from 23% to 30% coverage. Expanding this canopy will improve public health, equity, and the climate benefits of the urban forest, which includes all the trees on public and private land across the city.

The event will serve as an opportunity to introduce, educate, and include local Staten Island community members regarding this new plan, allowing them to share ideas with the plan writers, and to learn how to get involved and become engaged as volunteers caring for trees in the city's neighborhoods.

The featured community group presenting is [WE ACT for Environmental Justice](#), which aims to create healthy communities by ensuring people of color and/or low income residents participate meaningfully in the creation of sound and fair environmental health and protection policies and practices. **Environmental Health Manager Valentina Rojas** will speak to residents about the importance of the Urban Forest Plan in Manhattan.

Notable speakers include **Paul Onyx Lozito, Deputy Executive Director** of the **Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice**, **Valentina Rojas** with **WE ACT for Environmental Justice**, and **Ted Enoch** with **City Parks Foundation/Partnerships for Parks Catalyst & Urban Forest Programs**. **Ted Enoch** will also be available for on-site press interviews.

The NYC urban forest is a fascinating and complex social-ecological system composed of all of the trees in NYC and the physical and social infrastructure that support them. It includes approximately 7+ million trees on public and private property, covering a variety of forest types from street trees to natural forest, the soil, and the forest understory.

To **register** for the Urban Forest Plan: Community Kick-off event, please visit:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd03O7ITqzaSqCIA6aO4AW8Dd8-7eS9-L-qiaXyX5W7DkwFJA/viewform>

**WHERE:** **Thomas Jefferson Recreation Center (located in Thomas Jefferson Park - 2180 First Avenue) - East Harlem, Manhattan**

**WHEN:** **Thursday May 15 - 5:30pm - 7:50pm**

**Doors:** 5:30pm

- Will include registration, refreshments, networking, and visioning activities

**Welcome Remarks:** 6:00pm

**Urban Forest Plan Input Sessions:** 6:25pm–7:40pm

- Will include breakout conversations

**Plenary Session:** 7:40pm

**Close:** 8:00pm

**MEDIA CONTACTS TO RSVP:**

Aliza Rabinoff; [aliza\\_rabinoff@dkcnews.com](mailto:aliza_rabinoff@dkcnews.com)

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**About City Parks Foundation**

At City Parks Foundation, we are dedicated to invigorating and transforming parks into dynamic, vibrant centers of urban life through sports, arts, community building and education programs for all New Yorkers. Our programs -- located in more than 400 parks, recreation centers and public schools across New York City -- reach over 285,000 people each year. Our ethos is simple: thriving parks mean thriving communities.

**About CityParks Build**

CityParks Build's efforts empower more than 31,000 individual volunteers, nearly 500 grassroots community park groups and the more than 50 nonprofit park stewards who help

advocate and care for our city's parks and green spaces. Partnerships for Parks (PfP), a public-private initiative managed jointly with NYC Parks and celebrating its 30th anniversary, supports the most grassroots and volunteer efforts, while the NYC Parks and Open Spaces Partners coalition helps increase the capacity of nonprofit partners to support neighborhood parks. We provide funding to these efforts through the NYC Green Fund, support operations through fiscal sponsorship and shared resources, and offer coaching and skills training workshops on fundraising, marketing, and other organizational and management issues. Most importantly, we connect this critical network of partners to each other.

### **About Partnerships for Parks**

Partnerships for Parks is a unique public-private partnership between City Parks Foundation and NYC Parks that supports and champions neighborhood volunteers to advocate and care for neighborhood parks and green spaces. We equip people, organizations, and government with the skills, tools, and resources to ensure these spaces are dynamic community assets. More information about Partnerships for Parks is available at [partnershipsforparks.org](https://partnershipsforparks.org).