



The Mini Report  
Card on Parks

*Spotlight on NYC's Athletic Fields, Bathrooms and Drinking Fountains*

*November 2005*

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## Why A Mini Report Card on Parks?

Since 2002, New Yorkers for Parks (NY4P) has conducted comprehensive inspections throughout the five boroughs as part of our *Report Card on Parks* evaluation program. *The Mini Report Card on Parks*, a follow-up study undertaken during the summer of 2005, focuses on athletic fields, bathrooms, and drinking fountains, tracking the conditions of these features over a three-month period. This design is meant to track maintenance for specific, heavily used features, to monitor changes over time, and to “test” past *Report Card on Parks* inspection ratings.

The annual *Report Card* provides information on the following eight Major Service Areas (MSAs): playgrounds, active recreation, passive green space, bathrooms, drinking fountains, sitting areas, pathways, and the immediate environment. For the 2002-2004 summer surveys, we evaluated 200 neighborhood parks (1-20 acres) by visiting every park each year during the summer to inspect the applicable MSAs. While the overall average scores have improved since 2002, more than 40% of the parks were still receiving a score of C, D, or F in the last *Report Card*. Athletic fields, bathrooms, and drinking fountains have been problem areas since the first *Report Card on Parks* and consistently perform poorly. This past summer we visited a sample of approximately 50 parks as part of a new project, *The Mini Report Card on Parks*.

Our survey design included three separate inspections over three months – one on the same day of the week, at approximately the same time of day, in June, July, and August of 2005. Though the intention was to track trends and document changes over time, NY4P instead found that conditions at the city’s athletic fields, bathrooms, and drinking fountains were surprisingly consistent throughout the summer. Scores for bathrooms did rise from a low of 65% (D) to 77% (C+) by the end of the summer, but unfortunately scores for drinking fountains and athletic fields remained low for all three months — averaging 40% and 53% respectively. Several successes included a decrease in graffiti and vandalism on the features surveyed.

This study has proven that the more extensive *Report Card*, though it only included one site visit per summer, is indeed effectively tracking neighborhood park conditions. Low and mediocre scores for these three features covered in *The Mini Report Card* are not anomalies or “spikes”/“dips”— they are common conditions and consistent with the three previous *Report Card* studies.

These poor scores are the result of decades of disinvestment. Even with a recent modest increase, bipartisan cuts over the last 20 years have resulted in an almost 20% cut in the Parks Department’s budget and an approximately 60% cut in staffing.<sup>1</sup> The purpose of both *The Report Card* and *The Mini Report Card* is not to lay blame, but rather to spark debate and action to improve the conditions of our neighborhood parks. This report is designed to serve as a tool to help determine what New York City can do to ensure that all neighborhood parks are green, clean, and safe.



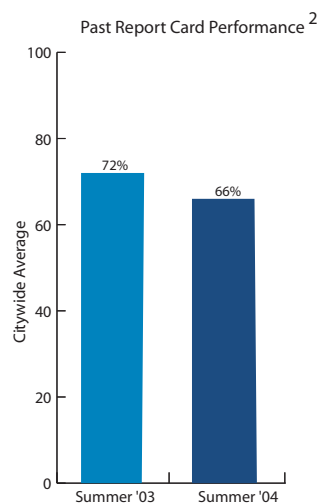
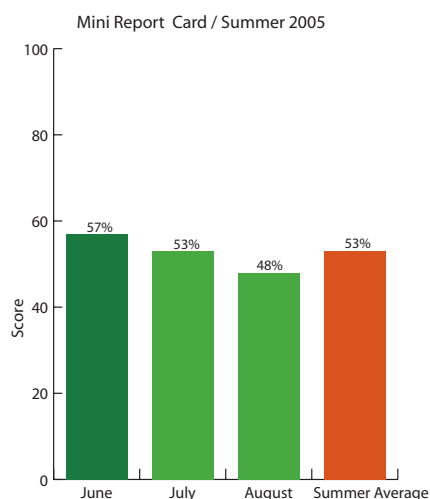
Mother and daughter at Sara D Roosevelt Park on the Lower East Side, Manhattan.

<sup>1</sup> Reflects changes in Adopted Budgets between Fiscal Years 1986 – 2006. New York City Office of Management and Budget: Adopted Budget Expense, Revenue, Contract; Fiscal Years 1986-2006.

# Athletic Fields — No Joy in Mudville

NY4P surveyors inspected 32 fields at 14 randomly selected parks. The sample included soccer and baseball turf fields. No synthetic turf or asphalt fields were surveyed. Unfortunately, athletic fields performed poorly from the first inspection, declining throughout the summer. The June average was 57% (F), falling to 53% (F) in July and 48% (F) in August. This summer's average of 53% (F) is a decline from last year's score of 66% (D) for athletic fields.

## How Did Athletic Fields Perform?



### CHALLENGES INCLUDED:

- Damage to bleachers and benches (37% “unacceptable” on average);
- Damage to backstops, caging, and fencing (33% on average);
- Bare, discolored, or overgrown lawns (58% on average);
- Excessive litter (32% on average); and
- Excessive broken glass (23% on average).<sup>3</sup>

### SUCSESSES:

- Athletic fields were almost always free of graffiti and vandalism (92% of the time);
- Few fields were found locked or inaccessible (only 3% of inspections on average).

The summer of 2005 was one of the driest in decades and the Parks Department faced a significant challenge in keeping all fields regularly irrigated. This is partially responsible for the high rate of discolored fields. Although the Parks Department has been able to install irrigation systems at a number of city ballfields, none of the sites randomly selected for this study have been updated with them. One of the Parks Department's recommended strategies to eliminate the bare, discolored athletic fields is to use capital funding to replace natural grass with synthetic turf.

### NY4P RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Increase the number of litter pick-ups since many fields were soiled with sport and water beverage bottles left behind after games.
- In light of plans to replace many turf fields with synthetic materials, create a mechanism for the community to weigh the impact of synthetic turf versus the alternatives.
- Develop targeted maintenance programs for athletic fields, similar to those successfully used to maintain other park features such as playgrounds and bathrooms.

<sup>2</sup> Athletic Fields data is unavailable for summer 2002 due to a change in measurement.

<sup>3</sup> Question percentages are not mutually exclusive. For example, a park could have scored “unacceptable” for both “bare, discolored or overgrown lawns” and “damaged fencing” and would be counted in both percentage totals. This applies to question totals for all three features in this report.

# Athletic Fields — At A Glance

Dr. Charles R. Drew Mem. Park, Queens



July 2005



August 2005

*The scores for the athletic fields at Dr. Charles R. Drew Memorial Park in Queens plummeted as the summer went on – from 63% in June to 22% in August. Excessive litter was one problem affecting the field's performance.*

Jacob Joffe Fields, Brooklyn



June 2005



July 2005

*Although the grass at Jacob Joffe Fields in Brooklyn became less discolored as the summer went on, excessive weeds had invaded the field by July.*

Marconi Park, Queens



July 2005



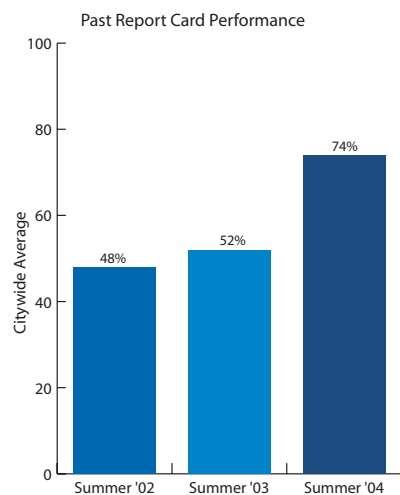
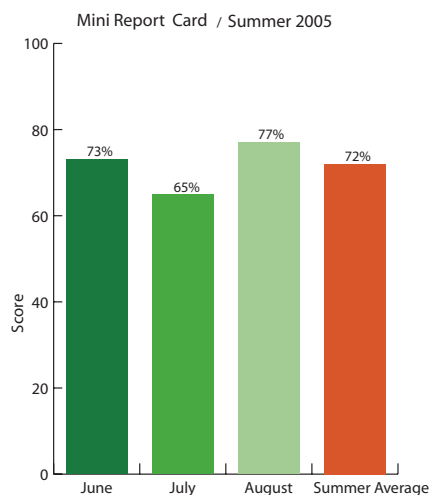
August 2005

*This bench at Marconi Park in Queens is in need of maintenance. The protruding bolt, missing slats, and rotting wood are serious safety hazards that were not fixed during the study period. At many parks, NY4P documented problem conditions that were not fixed over the three survey months.*

# Bathrooms — A Track Record of Improvements

Surveyors inspected 34 individual bathrooms at 17 randomly selected parks. The sample included a full inspection of both “Men’s” and “Women’s” rooms, when possible. Bathrooms performed better than athletic fields or drinking fountains, scoring an average of 73% (C) in June, dropping to 65% (D) in July and rebounding to 77% (C+) in August. Averaging 72% (C-) for the summer, bathroom performance has remained relatively steady since last summer, and has improved significantly since 2003 and 2004, a real success for the Department.

## How Did Bathrooms Perform?



### CHALLENGES INCLUDED:

- Poor maintenance work (74% of bathrooms “unacceptable” on average), such as sloppy paint jobs and shoddy or unfinished repairs;
- “Dirty conditions or offensive odors” (40% on average), reflecting plumbing problems or cleanliness issues;
- Stall doors that could not be locked (44% on average);
- Damaged windows (32% on average); and
- Damaged sinks (21% on average) ranging from broken knobs and water that could not be turned off to sinks that were completely missing.

### SUCCESSES:

- Only 3% of bathrooms were penalized for unexplained closures, which had been a major issue in past *Report Card* inspections.
- Only 6% of inspected bathrooms were impacted by vandalism and graffiti.
- Though conditions dipped in July, bathroom conditions were on par with last summer’s results, and bathrooms were open more frequently and cleaner more often.

Bathrooms this year were largely open and available for use, a significant improvement over years past. “Operation Relief”, a Parks Department maintenance program focused on comfort stations, is helping to keep bathrooms open for park users.

### NY4P RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Continue the “Operation Relief” program, which has clearly been successful in keeping bathrooms accessible.
- Improve the response time to maintenance needs, so that broken equipment will be replaced more quickly.

# Bathrooms — At A Glance

Big Bush Park, Queens  
July 2005



Stored items in this bathroom at Big Bush Park in Queens crowd the area and make it difficult to access the facilities.

MacArthur Park, Staten Island  
June 2005



Besides sloppy paint on the tiles, the bathroom at MacArthur Park in Staten Island is in good shape. Maintenance issues such as broken sinks and needed repairs are the most common problem in park bathrooms.

Macombs Dam Park, Bronx  
July 2005



The lock on this stall door at Macombs Dam Park in the Bronx is broken, requiring maintenance.

McKinley Park, Brooklyn  
July 2005



This sink at McKinley Park in Brooklyn is splattered with paint that was never removed.

Wayanda Park, Queens  
July 2005



Wayanda Park in Queens received the highest bathroom score in this year's Mini Report Card. It was open, clean, and working well – a great example of park upkeep.

Sara D. Roosevelt Park, Manhattan  
August 2005

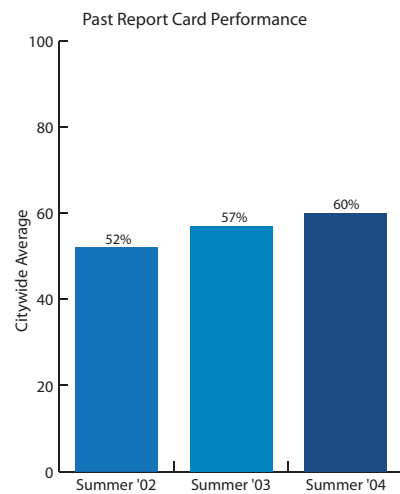
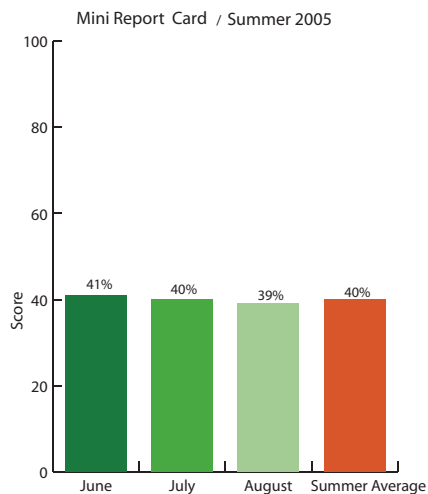


In general, park bathrooms – like this one at Sara D Roosevelt Park in Manhattan -- were open and available for use during the summer of 2005.

# Drinking Fountains — No Relief

Surveyors inspected 78 drinking fountains at 28 randomly selected parks. The sample included a full inspection of all drinking fountains in each park. Drinking fountains fared the worst of the three features tracked in *The Report Card* summer surveys, scoring a 41% (F), 40% (F), and 39% (F) from June through August, respectively. Drinking fountains have consistently scored poorly in *The Report Card*, but this summer's average of 40% (F) is a significant drop from last summer's score of 60% (D).

## How Did Drinking Fountains Perform?



### CHALLENGES INCLUDED:

- Unusable fountains that could not be turned on (18% “unacceptable” on average);
- Lack of sufficient pressure for drinking (15% on average);
- Standing water or debris in the basin (16% on average);
- Fountains that could not be turned off (25% on average); and
- Need for maintenance attention (64% on average), including persistent leaks, unsanitary conditions, such as algae or food in the basins, chipping paint, and missing parts.

### SUCCESS:

- Only 6% of drinking fountains had signs of vandalism or graffiti.

The conditions of drinking fountains exhibited the most variability of the three surveyed features: fountains are either in fairly good condition or are not working at all. For example, when we remove the fountains that scored a 0%, the remaining scores average 77%, an improvement of 37 points from the summer average. It is important to note, however, that few of the major issues affecting drinking fountain scores this summer would require capital investment to repair. Fountains that were not working at all typically had plumbing problems rather than insurmountable structural problems. Most commonly, fountains suffered from basic maintenance needs such as dirty basins, missing parts, or needed plumbing repairs.

### NY4P RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Improve the response time to maintenance needs, especially when replacing broken equipment.
- Clean fountains more frequently.



# Drinking Fountains — At A Glance

Edenwald Playground, Bronx



June 2005



July 2005

*The need for a fresh coat of paint at this drinking fountain at Edenwald Playground in the Bronx grew more desperate as the summer went on. Maintenance projects like this one are not particularly time consuming or expensive, but when completed, can dramatically improve the appearance of our city parks.*

Fox Playground, Brooklyn



July 2005



August 2005

*This fountain was functioning well in July, but by August the spigot had been damaged, resulting in a challenging situation for park users in search of a sip.*

Tremont Park, Bronx



June 2005



August 2005

*Unsanitary and unsightly algae took over this drinking fountain at Tremont Park in the Bronx over the summer. More frequent clean-ups by Parks employees would help limit this type of condition.*

# Recommendations: More Maintenance, New Management Strategies

Though the majority of problems at our neighborhood parks can be fixed through maintenance work, **too often features are allowed to decay beyond the point of repair.** The Parks Department should focus on replacing rotten bench slats, cleaning bathrooms thoroughly and frequently, and fixing plumbing problems rather than relying on capital funds to replace equipment that has deteriorated due to neglect. **Keeping up with maintenance needs is the fiscally responsible strategy.**

The installation of irrigation systems, which improve the health, appearance and safety of our parks' athletic fields, represents a strategic use of capital funds. Athletic fields, without irrigation and without the presence of a regular park worker, are difficult to keep green during the hot summer months. Without proper attention, discolored fields become bare, resulting in unsafe play conditions and decreased green space for the city. Investing in irrigation is a long-term solution to these issues. Installing irrigation systems can be expensive, however. **The Parks Department should use a multi-faceted approach to the management of fields that involves a mix of capital investments and enhanced maintenance, such as more frequent watering by fixed staff.**

Enhancing full-time staffing resources will allow for more timely maintenance repairs and will deter improper uses of the parks. Job Training Program

participants, or JTPs, are often the only daily presence in city parks, and though they do valuable work, they are not trained to perform many of the regular repairs that require professionals, such as plumbing or landscaping work. The short-term nature of their transitional work positions, which only span six months, results in employees who are not familiar with the Parks Department's system and have more difficulty reporting and resolving problems.

**By maintaining a skilled full-time presence, we can assure that parks remain clean and safe.** The Parks Department's support of the Neighborhood Parks Initiative – a program to install full-time gardeners in neighborhood parks across the five boroughs – is a good start. Another success for Parks is the addition of 50 new Parks Enforcement Patrol (PEP) officers in city parks this year, doubling the force. Though these are important efforts, every New Yorker deserves a great place to play – a green, clean, and safe park. Without proper funding, most parks will not reach this goal. Another step in the right direction would be to allow the Parks Department to keep the \$50 million in concession revenue that it generates in parks each year. With more resources allowing for more fixed, professional staffing, the condition of every neighborhood park will improve.

## Post – 2005 Election

The recent campaign season provided a good opportunity for elected officials and candidates to address the challenges facing our parks system. NY4P's Parks1 campaign – to make NYC's parks #1 in the nation by working towards increased funding – was a tremendous success: 80 out of 100 candidates for office pledged their support for the campaign, and 30,000 individuals signed the plea for parks. This overwhelming support illustrates a demand for parks that are green, clean, and safe. Parks were a priority as candidates discussed the issue at forums, in their campaign literature, and on the campaign trail.

*Now that the election is over, constituents look forward to elected officials tackling these issues:*

- ❖ Are neighborhood parks in good condition – green, clean, and safe?
- ❖ How can the city provide equitable services in all five boroughs?
- ❖ What strategies should be used to maintain an ever-growing system?
- ❖ Should we have an expanded full-time professional staff or rely on transitional workers?
- ❖ When is it appropriate to use synthetic turf instead of a grass field?
- ❖ Should Parks keep the money it makes from concessions to augment its budget?
- ❖ How can we best engage communities in their parks?
- ❖ How can we best strike a balance between capital and maintenance funds?

## Find Your Park

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Surveyors visited 53 randomly selected parks in order to evaluate the conditions at a sample of the city's athletic fields, bathrooms, and drinking fountains. Use this section of the report to find out which sites were selected, which feature was selected at each site, and how the feature performed. Organized first by "feature surveyed" and then alphabetically by park, the charts list the summer feature average for 2005, the scores for each individual month, as well as the neighborhood, Community Board, and City Council District.

*Please note that the scores given to each park pertain only to the specific feature evaluated – the scores are not meant to represent the conditions of the entire park. Use these evaluations as tools to advocate for improved neighborhood parks in your community and as a starting point for discussing what strategies are and aren't working in our parks.*

# Athletic Fields

Park Name	Borough	Summer Average Score	June Score	July Score	August Score	Neighborhood	CD*	CB*
Ambrosini Field	Bronx	65	78	79	38	City Island	13	10
Bayside Fields	Queens	48	0	68	76	Auburndale	19	11
Col. Charles Young Playground	Manhattan	74	76	64	83	Harlem	9	10
Commodore Barry Park	Brooklyn	66	69	80	50	Downtown Brooklyn	35	2
Dr. Charles R Drew Memorial Park	Queens	36	63	24	22	South Jamaica	28	12
Frank Golden Park	Queens	56	73	54	42	College Point	19	7
Harvey Park	Queens	43	46	40	42	Whitestone	19	7
Jacob Joffe Fields	Brooklyn	54	75	87	0	East Flatbush	46	18
Marconi Park	Queens	5	0	0	15	Jamaica	28	12
Maurice Park	Queens	79	80	85	71	West Maspeth	26	5
Montbellier Park	Queens	41	19	66	38	Laurelton	31	12
Queensboro Oval	Manhattan	47	78	0	63	Turtle Bay	5	8
Riverdale Playground	Bronx	69	69	57	81	South Riverdale	11	8
Stapleton Playground	Staten Island	51	70	39	45	Stapleton	49	1

\*CD = City Council District; CB = Community Board

# Bathrooms

Park Name	Borough	Summer Average Score	June Score	July Score	August Score	Neighborhood	CD*	CB*
Bayside Fields	Queens	43	31	23	74	Auburndale	19	11
Bensonhurst Park	Brooklyn	65	69	70	56	Bath Beach	47	11
Big Bush Park	Queens	89	82	93	93	Woodside	26	2
Bowne Park	Queens	80	78	83	78	Auburndale/Woodside	20	7
Colucci Playground	Bronx	84	92	82	77	Pelham Bay	13	10
Commodore Barry Park	Brooklyn	76	70	76	81	Downtown Brooklyn	35	2
Cooper Park	Brooklyn	80	73	83	83	East Williamsburg	34	1
Fox Playground	Brooklyn	81	88	82	73	East Flatbush	45	18
Gravesend Park	Brooklyn	58	40	71	64	Borough Park	44	12
MacArthur Park	Staten Island	84	90	76	86	Dongan Hills	50	2
Macombs Dam Park	Bronx	70	82	66	61	Concourse	17	4
McKinley Park	Brooklyn	48	36	30	78	Bay Ridge	43	10
Quarry Ballfields	Bronx	51	76	0	76	East Tremont	15	6
Rufus King Park	Queens	70	89	27	95	Jamaica	28	12
Sara D. Roosevelt Park	Manhattan	80	89	80	72	Lower East Side	1	3
Sperandeo Brothers Playground	Brooklyn	64	70	57	66	Highland Park	37	5
Wayanda Park	Queens	95	95	100	91	Bellaire	27	13

\*CD = City Council District; CB = Community Board

# Drinking Fountains

Park Name	Borough	Summer Average Score	June Score	July Score	August Score	Neighborhood	CD*	CB*
Arthur Von Briesen Park	Staten Island	100	100	100	100	Shore Acres	50	1
Bicentennial Vet/Park at Weir Creek	Bronx	47	27	52	63	Edgewater Park	13	10
Carl Schurz Park	Manhattan	26	50	14	14	Yorkville	5	8
Chelsea Park	Manhattan	85	81	92	81	Chelsea/Midtown South	3	4
Columbus Park	Manhattan	0	0	0	0	Chinatown	1	3
Commodore Barry Park	Brooklyn	55	53	62	49	Downtown Brooklyn	35	2
Corlears Hook Park	Manhattan	0	0	0	0	Lower East Side	2	3
Edenwald Playground	Bronx	0	0	0	0	Edenwald	12	12
Father Macris Park	Staten Island	80	68	86	86	Graniteville	49	2
Flushing Fields	Queens	45	33	51	50	Linden Hill /Whitestone	20	7
Fordham Landing Playground	Bronx	20	0	61	0	University Heights	14	7
Fort Independence Playground	Bronx	45	63	36	36	Van Cortlandt Village	11	8
Fox Playground	Brooklyn	52	93	29	33	East Flatbush	45	18
Francis Lewis Park	Queens	25	0	0	75	Whitestone	19	7
Jacob Joffe Fields	Brooklyn	20	26	33	0	East Flatbush	46	18
James J. Walker Park	Manhattan	28	50	0	34	West Village	3	2
Jennifer Park	Staten Island	77	64	85	82	Graniteville	49	1

\*CD = City Council District; CB = Community Board

## Drinking Fountains *(continued)*

Park Name	Borough	Summer Average Score	June Score	July Score	August Score	Neighborhood	CD*	CB*
Linden Park	Queens	26	0	34	43	Corona	21	4
Madison Square Park	Manhattan	80	50	96	93	Flatiron	3	5
Martinez Playground	Brooklyn	0	0	0	0	East Williamsburg	34	1
Old Fort #4 Park	Bronx	0	0	0	0	Kingsbridge Heights	14	8
Quarry Ballfields	Bronx	14	43	0	0	East Tremont	15	6
Stanley Isaacs Court	Manhattan	36	33	52	23	East Harlem / Yorkville	4	8
Tappan Park	Staten Island	57	86	0	86	Stapleton	49	1
Thomas Boyland Park	Brooklyn	78	77	86	70	Ocean Hill	37	4
Thomas Jefferson Park	Manhattan	61	73	51	58	East Harlem	8	11
Tremont Park	Bronx	23	46	24	0	East Tremont	15	6
Union Square Park	Manhattan	43	29	79	21	Gramercy Park	2	5

\*CD = City Council District; CB = Community Board

# Methodology

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*The Mini Report Card on Parks is intended as a follow up to the New Yorkers for Parks 2003, 2004, and 2005 Report Card on Parks. The Mini Report Card on Parks measures the performance of three park service areas – athletic fields, bathrooms, and drinking fountains – in randomly selected neighborhood parks. Each feature was monitored on three separate site visits, one each in June, July, and August 2005, to measure variability within the survey set.*

*Using handheld computers and digital cameras, NY4P staff inspected targeted features using the same extensive questionnaire designed for The Report Cards on Parks. These results were uploaded into a database and analyzed to arrive at the findings cited in this report.*

## Survey Population

In designing *The Mini Report Card* methodology, NY4P began with the population of 190 DPR “park” properties of between one and twenty acres targeted in its earlier surveys. From the collection of 190 DPR properties, three separate lists were drawn; the number of park properties in each list appears in parentheses:

- *Parks featuring at least one grass or synthetic turf athletic field (81);*
- *Parks featuring at least one bathroom (108); and*
- *Parks featuring at least one drinking fountain (167).*

Within each subpopulation, NY4P then drew random samples of one-sixth of the park properties. The first sample was comprised of fourteen parks containing at least one grass turf athletic field; the second eighteen parks containing at least one permanent or temporary bathroom<sup>1</sup>; and the third twenty-eight parks containing at least one drinking fountain. Note that the three samples are not mutually exclusive; larger parks in the DPR collection routinely contain more than one of the three targeted features. Park properties selected for each sample can be found in the “Find Your Park” section of this report.

<sup>1</sup>Originally, NY4P drew a random sample of 18 parks of the 108 properties featuring bathroom facilities. These were evaluated in each of the three survey periods. Following a meeting with DPR staff, NY4P determined that one of the park properties surveyed — Fordham Landing Park — does not feature a DPR-maintained bathroom facility. The facility present in that park is, in fact, maintained by a private construction company. For this reason, the Fordham Landing bathroom feature was dropped from the analysis presented in this report. This changes the sample size relative to the park bathroom population from 18 out of 108 (16.7%) to 17 out of 107 (15.9%).



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## Survey Instrument

In preparing the methodology for the 2003, 2004 and 2005 *Report Card on Parks*, NY4P staff developed question forms with which to evaluate athletic fields, bathrooms, and drinking fountains. Individual questions were designed to measure the performance of each of the three park features in the following categories:

- Maintenance*
- Cleanliness*
- Safety*
- Structural integrity*

Whenever possible, the form questions were adapted from the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation's own internal evaluation mechanism, the Parks Inspection Program (PIP). All form questions were sorted into one of two distinct groups: priority and routine. Priority ratings refer to those conditions of a park feature necessary for its safe use. To further refine the routine group, NY4P convened a focus group of park experts to weight each question on a scale from one to five, one being the least important to a user's park experience, and five being the most important.

## Fieldwork

Survey work for *The Mini Report Card on Parks* took place from June through August 2005 from the hours of 10 AM to dusk, Monday through Thursday. NY4P reassigned two previously trained surveyors and trained an additional surveyor (all NY4P staff members) to complete the survey work. NY4P's veteran surveyors held a two-day training for the new surveyor who was trained in the following techniques: use of the handheld computers and digital cameras, delineation of park features, use of survey forms and standards manual, and procedures for documenting features with digital cameras.

In the field, surveyors completed a feature form for each feature that was randomly selected for inspection at that park. For example, if a park was selected for inclusion in the "drinking fountains" study, surveyors would inspect every drinking fountain in that park. Thus, in a park with three drinking fountains,

a surveyor completed three "drinking fountain" feature forms. For each question in the applicable feature form, surveyors answered *acceptable*, *unacceptable*, or *not applicable*. Each park selected for inclusion in the study was visited three times during the summer – once each in June, July, and August. Re-visits took place on the same day of the month, at approximately the same time of day.

In addition to the completion of the required survey forms, surveyors took extensive digital photographs to support and complement survey results. Survey results and photo documentation are stored in a central database. When photo documentation did not correlate with results or did not adequately illustrate park conditions, the park was re-visited and re-evaluated by surveyors.

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## Rating the Parks

Park service area scores are based entirely upon surveyors' responses on feature forms. Feature form scores range between 0 and 100, based upon the proportion of park service area features rated as in service and acceptable, with responses weighted in accordance with the relative priorities assigned by the focus group. For each of the three survey periods, park service area scores were assigned by averaging all feature forms completed. The three survey period park service area scores were then averaged to assign a single 2005 score for each targeted park and service area. All scores – form, park service area by survey period, and park service area 2005 average – can be converted to letter grades to provide a simple yardstick for interpreting data. Table 1 (right) illustrates the conversion from numerical scores to grades.

The survey is designed to fairly rate all features that are or should be available to a user visiting a park: for example, if a park has a bathroom, then it should be available to users. Should that bathroom be locked or closed without explanation, it would fail a priority question and hence receive a rating of zero in this survey. (Parks with no bathrooms, or any other service area, however, are never penalized on this feature in this or any other *Report Cards on Parks*.)

Table 1: Conversion of Raw Scores to Letter Grades

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Numerical Score	Letter Grade
97-100	A+
93-96	A
90-92	A-
87-89	B+
83-86	B
80-82	B-
77-79	C+
73-76	C
70-72	C-
60-69	D
59 and below	F

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## Sample Calculation — Commodore Barry Park, Brooklyn

Table 2 includes actual survey results from Commodore Barry Park in Brooklyn. We chose this park to use as a sample calculation because it is the only park to have been chosen by random selection to appear in all three feature samples:

**Table 2: Sample Calculation**

	Ist Survey Period	2nd Survey Period	3rd Survey Period	2005 Average
Ballfield #1	69	69	50	<b>63</b>
Ballfield #2	69	90	50	<b>70</b>
Athletic Field Average	69	80	50	<b>66</b>
Men's Bathroom	59	80	81	<b>73</b>
Women's Bathroom	82	71	82	<b>78</b>
Bathroom Average	70	76	81	<b>76</b>
Drinking Fountain #1	71	54	86	<b>70</b>
Drinking Fountain #2	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Drinking Fountain #3	71	86	54	<b>70</b>
Drinking Fountain #4	0	68	68	<b>45</b>
Drinking Fountain #5	68	71	71	<b>70</b>
Drinking Fountain #6	86	86	68	<b>80</b>
Drinking Fountain #7	71	71	0	<b>47</b>
Drinking Fountain Average	53	62	49	<b>55</b>





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