

Recap: Re-invent St. Mary's Park!



Summary of Feedback from the Community Visioning Meeting Held on March 4, 2015 at the Heketi Community Charter School in the Bronx

64 adults **11** children

Participants varied in age – tots, teens, college students, adults, and older adults. Participants included:

- Speaker of the City Council Melissa Mark-Viverito
- Community Board 1 District Manager
- Members of Friends of St. Mary's Park
- Representatives from the Borough President's Office, NYC Department of Health, and NYPD 40th Precinct
- Nonprofits (MASA, BronxWorks, New York Road Runners, New Yorkers for Parks, Transportation Alternatives, New York Restoration Project, Green Generations)
- Schools (Heketi Community Charter School, University Heights HS, PS 114, Bronx Charter School for Children, All Hallows HS, Fordham)
- Local baseball coaches
- Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver & Parks staff from the Bronx borough and beyond



Overall Themes

- Participants want St. Mary's Park to represent South Bronx's community character and meet changing neighborhood needs.
- Residents care about both active recreation and passive recreation.
- Activation of underutilized areas, improved safety and accessibility, and better maintenance are critical to the park's users.
- Programming makes the park; enhancing this asset is important alongside capital improvements.

Overview of Comments

- Athletic field improvements including considering multipurpose use for the baseball fields, and multi-purpose track improvements.
- Formal reprogramming of key park areas, including the performance lawn, the central hilltop, and the barbeque area at the southwest corner of the park.
- Improvements to park circulation (entrances, pathways, wayfinding), and a potential perimeter pathway around the park for active recreation.
- Expanded amenities, such as new fitness equipment.
- Renovations and comfort station improvements at Playground West and Playground East.
- New programming ideas, such as food concessions and potential reuse of former rail tunnels under the park.
- Infrastructure improvements, including site grading and drainage, lighting, and waste and recycling stations.



Summer 2015 Programming Highlights

- City Parks Foundation will continue its SummerStage offerings with six events at St. Mary's Park for summer 2015, plus an expanded music and film event to follow this year's Sunday Family Day.
- Parks is partnering with New York Road Runners to host free running events and programs, which kicked off June 3 with a 5k run celebrating National Running Day in the Bronx, followed by a weekly Saturday Open Run.

St. Mary's Playground West

St. Mary's Playground West is funded for reconstruction. Feedback from the Visioning Session concerning Playground West was collected separately. Schematic design review with Bronx Community Board 1 is anticipated in fall 2015.

Next Steps

The priorities you identified will help guide collective advocacy for funding improvements in St. Mary's Park. Stay in touch! Email stmarys@parks.nyc.gov with any ideas or questions that you have. To get involved with Friends of St. Mary's Park, contact friendsofst.maryspark@gmail.com.