

## Parks & Environment Committee Meeting Minutes

03/09/2026

### Agenda:

#### 1. Presentation: Jim Morris, NYC Parks

##### Status Update on Current Capital Projects:

- Sunset Park Rec Center
  - Capital projects includes enclosing atrium and fixing HVAC issues
  - Currently, still waiting on DOB inspections to reopen the Rec Center
    - Pool will still open for the season
    - Rec Center will be closed to until the end of the year
- Greenwood Playground
  - Construction on handball courts has been completed
  - Currently working on the installation of new pickleball courts
- D'Emic Playground
  - Construction to start Fall 2026
- Pena Herrera Playground
  - Construction start delayed until Spring 2027
    - Delayed to add in reconstruction of restrooms into the contractor bid
- Gonzalo Plasencia Playground
  - Construction to begin Spring 2027
- Martin Luther Playground
  - Partial reconstruction of the playground equipment
  - Construction to begin Spring 2028
- John Allen Payne Playground
  - NYSDOT will be working on a 5 year project on the viaduct
    - NYSDOT will be allocating \$2M to reconstruct part of John Allen Payne Playground
  - Area within the park will only be closed for 2 years
  - Construction will include:
    - Skatepark
    - Pickleball courts
    - Adult fitness equipment
    - Basketball courts
    - Swing set will be upgraded

Question: Are there still issues with illegal gambling at Parks (Rainbow Playground)?

Answer: Please highlight if there are any issues, but NYC Parks has a capacity limit to their ability to enforce regularly.

Question: Changes to Greenwood Playground benches?

Answer: No changes were made to the benches at Greenwood Playground

Question: Re: Is accessible playground equipment in all the upcoming capital projects?

Answer: Yes, where there are upgrades to playground equipment, accessible features will be implemented

Question: Is John Allen Payne going to be closed for all 5 years?

Answer: No, NYSDOT will stay to a strict timeline for the park closure to only be limited to 2 years

Question: What kind of skate materials will be added to the skate park?

Answer: NYC Parks is working Steve Rodriguez on skate park design

## 2. Presentation: Sarah Evans, Greenwood Cemetery

Greenwood has completed a tree inventory – a tree census is completed every 10 years.

- There is an online portal that allows everyone to view tree info
  - <https://www.green-wood.com/tree-finder/>
- Over 2,600 trees have been planted in the last 10 years to reforest damages from Super Storm Sandy
- Greenwood's goal is to increase tree canopy goals to 35%, this means planting more trees closer together
- Public grand opening of The Green-House (located at the corner of 25th Street and Fifth Avenue) is on April 18, 2026.