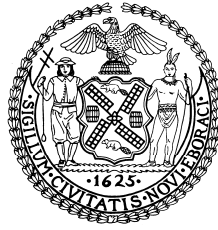


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The City of New York
Manhattan Community Board 8

Parks Committee Meeting
New York Blood Center
310 East 67th St.
Conference Room 1 & 2
Thursday, December 6, 2012, 6:30 PM

CB8M Members Present: Molly Blayney, Susan Evans, Peggy Price, Barbara Rudder, Teri Slater
Excused: Scott Falk, Rita Popper, Barry Schneider, Judy Schneider, Helene Simon

1. Assessment of Conditions at CB8M area parks following Hurricane Sandy.

Mark Vaccaro, a Manhattan parks manager with the NYC Parks Dept., detailed the effects of Hurricane Sandy on parks in the CB8M district.

According to Mr. Vaccaro, the most storm-damaged CB8M park areas, in order of destruction, were:

1. The Bathhouse at John Jay Park.
2. A portion of the sea wall at Carl Schurz Park
3. Most of the plantings at Andrew Haswell Green Park.

While the storm took a toll on John Jay Park, overall, the worst effects were seen at the bathhouse, which suffered \$350,000-\$500,000 of damage. That included all the bathhouse's mechanical and electrical equipment. The Parks Dept. has already ordered a new boiler for the building and will apply to FEMA for reimbursement of costs. The Parks Dept. is trying to determine if it can winterize the bathhouse (removing all the water in it before it freezes) using temporary sources of heat. However, the park's playground areas, including play equipment, as well as the swimming pool, survived the storm's surge.

During the storm, Carl Schurz Park lost several large, old trees, and a couple of benches and some fencing around Gracie Mansion were broken. In addition, it's likely that the salt water from the East River damaged some of the park's plantings. The storm also washed away a 20-foot piece of sea wall along John Finley Walk. Most of that sea wall damage has already been repaired, at a cost that's likely to exceed \$100,000.

At Andrew Haswell Green Park, the late October storm surge filled the area with salt water, debris and oil. It's likely that some 90% of the plantings have been affected and many killed, especially by the salt water from the East River. The Parks Dept. has been preparing a budget to submit to FEMA to replace what had been expensive park plantings. However, it appears that the park's pavement surfaces, railings and benches survived the storm's onslaught.

According to Mr. Vaccaro, most of the other CB8M parks survived the storm without too much damage. However, Stanley Isaacs Park did get badly flooded, which likely destroyed the planting beds and perhaps some trees, and the motherboard of the furnace in the park house probably will need replacing. Moreover, 24 Sycamores Playground is likely to have lost about 8 trees, and will need to replace 2-to-3 of its \$1,400 planters.

Along the East River Esplanade, flooding from the East River is likely to have killed about 50% of the area's trees, devastated the shrubs and harmed the electrical systems, including lighting. In 122 places between 14th St. and 125th St., capstones and pieces of fascia along the sea wall were swept into the East River. Although the missing capstones and fascia are not creating any structural or safety issues, the storm created damage at 3 Esplanade spots north of 59th St.—at 66th St., 79th St. and 117th St.—that may be structural. However, engineers will be reviewing conditions along the Esplanade to determine the extent and severity of storm damage to the area.

Overall, in the aftermath of the storm, the City will be stepping up its attention to conditions along sea walls and retaining walls. And Central Forestry is likely to reassess its list of desirable plants with an eye toward favoring those best able to tolerate being submerged in salt water, Mr. Vaccaro said.

Although he's still unsure when replacement planting can begin, Mr. Vaccaro said he hopes it will start this coming spring.

2. Update on the status of repairs of the East River Esplanade.

An engineering study of the condition of the East River Esplanade—and needed repairs to it—is expected to be completed in February or March, 2013. As of now, however Esplanade repair work involves only filling in the area's sink holes. (So far, 18 sink holes have been reconstructed, and work has begun on 13 others). Before permanent restoration can begin, the sea wall needs to be repaired. The engineering study will determine how extensively the Esplanade will need to be repaired, and how much it will cost. At that point, the office of Council Member Jessica Lappin will seek funding for the project. Parks Committee members expressed hope that once the engineering study is finished, restoration of the Esplanade will proceed quickly.

Margaret Price and Barbara Rudder, Co-Chairs for the Parks Committee