**Support Our Compost Partners Big Reuse:**

**URGENT ACTION NEEDED:**On 12/31/20Big Reuse will lose it's 3-yr Park's Dept. lease for compost processing under the Queensboro bridge (near Vernon Blvd). Park’s has mentioned using the space as a parking lot.  
After the compost budget was zero’d out during the pandemic and community SaveOurCompost action garnered 2.8M back for limited composting now the processing space is under threat.

**ROOSEVELT ISLAND / BIG REUSE HISTORY:**

* Since November 2015, Big Reuse has diverted from the landfill and processed over 150,000 pounds of Roosevelt Island Food Scraps into top quality compost to amend neighborhood soils.
* Those Roosevelt Island food scraps amount to the equivalent weight of 75 SUV's.
* Food scraps are not trash. When organic materials, like food scraps, go to landfill they give off methane gas. Methane gas is a more harmful pollutant than CO2. However, composting reduces gas emission.
* Big Reuse serves many neighborhoods but it's nearby location is a big environmental win for Roosevelt Island because it is less than two truck trips miles away using fewer fossil fuels.

**ACTION:**

**WRITE A LETTER - SIGN A PETITION - ADD YOUR ORGANIZATION’s NAME TO BIG REUSE’s LETTER**

Please see below and copy, paste and send a letter to both the Mayor and Park's Commissioner Silver requesting they reconsider. Ask them to renew, not end, Big Reuse's lease under the Queensboro bridge and express your support for the smart urban waste reduction composting program. Please sign this letter of support for the Queensbridge compost processing site. Directions below to send an email to Mayor DeBlasio to support saving Queensbridge Compost Site.

**Step 1. Copy and Paste 1st Letter below into form to contact the Mayor** [**https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/mayor-contact.page**](https://www1.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/mayor-contact.page)

**Step 2 Copy and Paste 2nd Letter below into form to contact Parks Commissioner Silver**

[**https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/home/mail/html/maildpr.html**](https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/home/mail/html/maildpr.html)

**Dear Mayor DeBlasio,**

We are asking you to immediately renew the Parks license agreement for the Community Composting Site operated by Big Reuse under the Queensboro Bridge. We are asking you to allow Big Reuse to continue operating the community composting site that Big Reuse, DSNY and many volunteers worked many years to create. Their license agreement will end and the site may be evicted on December 31, 2020. The community composting site will be destroyed in order to create a parking lot.

As Mayor you championed Zero Waste. Renewing the license agreement for this model community composting site is a simple way to maintain that legacy.

The Big Reuse community composting site is essential to the City’s efforts to provide composting. The site is essential to establish food scrap drop-offs in every community district and compost locally to improve soil in parks, community gardens, and street trees. The Big Reuse community composting site composts Parks leaf and yard waste in addition to residential food scraps. The compost is given to Parks, GreenThumb and over 200 community groups. The site is a logical and appropriate use of Park land since it creates compost for Park’s mission to care for NYC’s public green space. Big Reuse has been composting under the Queensboro Bridge for a decade and the composting site is an internationally recognized model site.

With Covid related budget cuts to DSNY composting, community organizations stepped in to create local composting drop offs. Community groups like ours rely on the compost site to process the food scraps we collect.

1000s of New Yorkers have come together in this effort - volunteering to create the composting sites and collect food scraps to compost throughout the city. Not renewing the license agreement will throw away our efforts along with the food scraps that we collect.

Parks controls over 30,000 acres and can easily provide space for community composting efforts. Parks controls extensive space under the Queensboro Bridge that could be used for claimed operational needs instead of the composting site.

In May 2019, NYC City Council declared a climate emergency which calls for an immediate emergency mobilization . The science is clear that when we send organics to landfill, it turns into methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Composting locally reduces transportation and methane emissions and sequesters carbon dioxide with compost application. Composting locally means we are not polluting other communities - we are greening our community by improving the urban forest, local food production, green spaces for schools and neighborhoods.

Big Reuse’s site composts 1 million lbs of food scraps and 300,000 lbs Parks yard waste every year. Parks wants to throw the site and these organics away because they claim composting is not their responsibility.

**Letter to Commissioner Silver**

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/home/mail/html/maildpr.html>

**Dear Commissioner Silver,**

We are asking you to immediately renew the Parks license agreement for the Community Composting Site operated by Big Reuse under the Queensboro Bridge. We are asking you to allow Big Reuse to continue operating the community composting site that Big Reuse, DSNY and many volunteers worked many years to create. Their license agreement will end and the site may be evicted on December 31, 2020.

The Big Reuse community composting site is essential to the City’s efforts to provide composting in the face of cancellation of curbside composting. The site is essential to establish food scrap drop-offs in every community district and compost locally to improve soil in parks, gardens, and street trees. The Big Reuse community composting site composts Parks leaf and yard waste in addition to residential food scraps. The compost is given to Parks, GreenThumb and over 200 community groups. The site is a logical and appropriate use of Parks land since it composts Parks organic waste and creates compost for Park’s mission to care for NYC’s public green space. Big Reuse has composted under the Queensboro Bridge for a decade. The community composting site is an internationally recognized model site.

Parks controls over 30,000 acres and could easily provide space for community composting efforts. Parks controls extensive space under the Queensboro Bridge that could be used for claimed operational needs instead of the composting site.

When Parks sends organics to landfills, it turns into methane, a powerful greenhouse gas. Composting locally reduces transportation and methane emissions and sequesters carbon dioxide with compost application. Composting locally means we are not polluting other communities but greening communities and providing local food. We ask that Parks support this effort by allowing Big Reuse to remain and renew the license agreement.

**From: BIG REUSE To: Our Community Compost Partners,**

Thank you all so much for the support and encouragement regarding our fight to keep Queensbridge Compost Processing site open. We wanted to offer another way to get involved to express our concern and hope that NYC Parks and Mayor DeBlasio will prioritize composting in our city.

Attached is a Sign On Letter of Support to Mayor DeBlasio that was created by the [**#SaveOurCompost**](https://www.bigreuse.org/blogs/news/saveourcompost-action-page/) Community Organization. I encourage you to follow their efforts! If you would like your community garden, organization or company to sign on, please let us know and we will happily add your community group/org/ [etc.to](http://etc.to/) the list.

Additionally, our partners at Prospect Heights Community Farm kindly made us our own QR code (Thank you!) to share our petition and a google doc version of the letters to both Mayor DeBlasio and Commissioner Silver. These are helpful to print or share with volunteers or community members! Please feel free to use these QR codes with your community!

Thank you all again, please let me know if you have any questions! Best, Mary Rose

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Mary Rose Robbins - Project Coordinator**  The New York City Compost Project Hosted by Big Reuse  ONE 12th street, Brooklyn NY 11226  maryrose@bigreuse.org | 646-320-1775 [www.bigreuse.org](https://www.bigreuse.org/) Follow us: [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bigreuse/) | [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/Bigreuse/) | [Twitter](https://twitter.com/bigreuse) | [Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com/bigreuse/) |

**ADDITIONAL ACTION FOR BIG REUSE & LES:**

There is also a joint action letter to sign to save processing site locations for both Big Reuse and Manhattan’s Compost processing partner, LES Ecology Center. Action Network Campaign Letter Click here: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/tell-the-parks-department-to-save-community-compost-sites?source=email&>