

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com – Website
info@cb8m.com – E-Mail

September 24, 2025

Steve Simon
Chief of Staff to Manhattan Borough Commissioner
Department of Parks & Recreation
830 Fifth Ave
New York, NY, 10065

RE: Approval of the plan for the reconstruction of 24 Sycamores Park with a set of conditions

Dear Mr. Simon,

At the September 11th Parks and Waterfront Committee meeting, the committee voted in favor of the proposed restoration of 24 Sycamores Park as presented, so long as the following additional work was included:

- That the two main pickleball courts should be included as permanent nets.
- Hooks should be installed with wire baskets on the 16-foot fence to hold players' paddles and equipment.
- Nets should be provided for the practice pickleball courts and stored in a wire basket and hooked on the fence when not in use.
- To consider changing the height of the interior fencing from 4 feet to 6 feet.

That being said, prior to and at our September Full Board meeting, we heard from a number of residents, and in particular parents, who objected to making the pickleball courts permanent. If you would like to hear their concerns, I direct you to review the Public Session of our meeting on [YouTube](#). We were told there would have been even more parents testifying, except it was the first parent-teacher night for New York City public schools. The testimony against making the pickleball courts permanent at the expense of the basketball court and just, well, open space for young children was quite persuasive and led to a disapproval of the plan (see attached resolution).

We are hopeful that you can come back to the Parks and Waterfront Committee with a plan that addresses the parents' concerns, the need for free pickleball courts, and also meets the overall needs of a wide variety of park users.

On a separate note, we wanted to highlight that Community Board 8 is very concerned about the repair of the plumbing lines for the park house, which have been out of use for over a year. We request that the Parks Department make this a priority and report back to CB8 its status on this issue as soon as possible.

Thank you for all you have done for our city. We eagerly await your reply.

Sincerely,

Valerie S. Mason

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Felice Farber and Judith Schneider

Felice Farber and Judith Schneider
Co-Chairs, Parks and Waterfront Committee

cc: Honorable Tricia Shimamura, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, Department of Parks and Recreation
Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Jerry Nadler, 12th Congressional District Representative

Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District
Honorable Alex Bores, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Honorable Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Diana Ayala, NYC Council Member, 8th Council District

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Will Brightbill
District Manager



**The City of New York
Community Board 8 Manhattan**

505 Park Avenue, Suite 620
New York, N.Y. 10022-1106
(212) 758-4340
(212) 758-4616 (Fax)
www.cb8m.com – Website
info@cb8m.com – E-Mail

September 24, 2025

Iris Rodriguez-Rosa
Commissioner
Department of Parks & Recreation
830 Fifth Ave
New York, NY, 10065

RE: Approval of the plan for the reconstruction of 24 Sycamores Park with a set of conditions

Dear Commissioner Rodriguez-Rosa,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on September 17, 2025, the board approved the following resolution by a vote of 31 in favor, 6 opposed, 1 abstention and 0 not voting for cause:

WHEREAS, the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation presented a restoration of 24 Sycamore Park;
and

WHEREAS the presentation included new climbing equipment for children, all types of swings, basketball, handball, pickleball, adult fitness equipment, seating areas, game tables, better handicap access to the park, and restoration of trees and greenery; and

WHEREAS, the Community Board prior to and at its Public Session of its September Full Board Meeting heard a number of concerns from the public that given that there are so few parks on the Upper East Side a more flexible approach to space usage is necessary and "locking-in" the space for an activity that, at best, will accommodate the use of four people at a time will not facilitate a maximization of use (e.g., if the permanent pickleball courts are not being used, and there are 14 kids that want to play basketball, they will be forced into half of a basketball court); and

WHEREAS, given the concerns heard from the public, the Community Board determined that the Parks Department should come back and address those concerns, at which time the Community Board would reconsider a new proposal for the redesign of the park;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the presentation is disapproved.

Please advise us of any action taken on this matter.

Sincerely,

Valerie S. Mason *Felice Farber and Judith Schneider*

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Felice Farber and Judith Schneider
Co-Chairs, Parks and Waterfront Committee

CC: Honorable Tricia Shimamura, Manhattan Borough Commissioner, Department of Parks and Recreation

Honorable Kathy Hochul, Governor of New York
Honorable Mark Levine, Manhattan Borough President
Honorable Jerry Nadler, 12th Congressional District Representative
Honorable Liz Krueger, NYS Senator, 28th Senatorial District
Honorable José M. Serrano, NYS Senator, 29th Senatorial District
Honorable Edward Gibbs, NYS Assembly Member 68th Assembly District
Honorable Alex Bores, NYS Assembly Member, 73rd Assembly District
Honorable Rebecca Seawright, NYS Assembly Member 76th Assembly District
Honorable Keith Powers, NYC Council Member, 4th Council District
Honorable Julie Menin, NYC Council Member, 5th Council District
Honorable Diana Ayala, NYC Council Member, 8th Council District