

Valerie S. Mason
Chair

Ian McKnight
District Manager



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

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October 29, 2025

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

RE: Approval of the revised plan for the reconstruction of 24 Sycamores Park

Dear Mr. Simon,

At the Full Board meeting of Community Board 8 Manhattan held on October 22, 2025, the board unanimously approved the following resolution, which was originally presented on September 17, by a vote of 39 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, and 0 not voting for cause:

WHEREAS the Parks Department presented a plan for the restoration of 24 Sycamores Park based on feedback from the community and Community Board 8; and

WHEREAS the presentation covered many areas for all ages: new climbing equipment, all types of swings, basketball, handball, pickleball, fitness equipment, seating areas, game tables, better access for people with disabilities to the park, and restoration of trees and added greenery; and

WHEREAS the Parks & Waterfront Committee supports the proposed restoration of the missing trees from 24 Sycamores Park, as well as the use of rat deterrent plants; and

WHEREAS the Parks & Waterfront Committee supports the ramp accessing the upper and lower level, as well as changing the stairs for walking and sitting in keeping with the design in Andrew Haswell Green Park; and

WHEREAS the Parks & Waterfront Committee supports the changes in the handball courts, the addition of a climbing wall and fitness equipment on the south side, and the painted games for children on the pavement on the north side of the wall, when handball or tennis is not being played; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Community Board 8 Manhattan supports the plan presented by the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation for the reconstruction of 24 Sycamores Park with the following recommended changes:

- We strongly support the shared space with the basketball and pickleball superimposed on one another, given the existing positive interactions and cooperation between these user groups at the park. However, we recommend that the pickleball courts be turned in the north/south direction so that one basketball court and one pickleball court can be used at the same time. Parks agreed to investigate the feasibility of this suggestion and to paint the lines on the courts with contrasting colors so that each sport will be clearly delineated. They also agreed to show us the changes. (If the drawing is ready by the full board meeting on October 22nd, they will forward it to Community Associate Jon Kraus at the board office for the meeting.)
- Parks should work with the pickleball group to provide a storage container and location for pickleball nets and equipment.

- We would like the Parks Department to install wire hooks on the 16-foot fence with baskets for pickleball paddles.
- We request Parks review the upper-level arrangement of the tables and chairs and, if possible, add an additional swing.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Community Board 8 Manhattan is very concerned about the repair of the plumbing lines for the park house, which have been out of use for over a year. The Parks Department should make this a priority and report back to Community Board 8 Manhattan on the status of this issue now that we have the estimated cost.

Late Wednesday, October 22nd, just before the start of our Full Board meeting, the Community Board received a revised plan and accompanying letter of explanation incorporating nearly all of the community's requested changes—except one. These updates were essential, as the Full Board had voted down the above resolution at its September meeting.

The one request that could not be accommodated concerned the orientation of the pickleball courts. They will remain positioned east to west due to limited available space; reversing the courts would risk players running into the fence and potentially being injured.

Please see the attached copy of the new plan, which the Board unanimously approved.

We sincerely thank you for responding so promptly with the updated proposal, for listening carefully to community feedback, and for making every effort to address residents' concerns.

Separately, we would like to emphasize that Community Board 8M remains deeply concerned about the plumbing lines for the park house, which have been out of service for over a year. We request that the Parks Department make these repairs a priority and continue to provide CB8M with regular updates on the status of this issue.

Thank you for your continued dedication to our community and to the city.

Sincerely,

Valerie S. Mason

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Chair

Felice Farber and Judith Schneider

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

cc: Iris Rodriguez-Rosa, Commissioner, Department of Parks and Recreation
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

24 Sycamores Park | Schematic Design Revised 10/22/2025

