

New York City Council Member Bill de Blasio

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DE BLASIO ANNOUNCES RESTORATION OF VANDERBILT STREET PLAYGROUND IS UNDERWAY

Brooklyn -- Councilmember Bill de Blasio and the Prospect Park Alliance are pleased to announce that the restoration of the Vanderbilt Street Playground has begun in Prospect Park, Brooklyn.

Councilmember de Blasio secured \$1.8 million in City Council capital funding, the full cost of the expected one year long renewal project. This project will create a playground that promotes imaginative play as well as a safe environment for its visitors.

“I am proud to have fully funded the renovation of Vanderbilt Playground, which will provide an exciting new recreation space for our community. It is our responsibility to ensure that we provide quality outdoor space for our children to allow them to interact with the world and engage in healthy activity. An active lifestyle is essential to their future development,” said Councilmember Bill de Blasio.

“This is a really exciting project designed entirely by the Prospect Park Alliance Design and Construction Office. We have been very lucky that the local community has played such a large role in the design and are grateful to Councilmember Bill de Blasio for securing full funding,” said Tupper Thomas, President of the Prospect Park Alliance.

“While it is sad that Vanderbilt Playground will be closing for a while, we look forward to a refurbished playground that kids throughout the neighborhood can enjoy. Especially exciting are the interactive water features for toddlers and older kids which will be a huge improvement to the playground's current single sprinkler. Thanks to the Prospect Park Alliance, Council Member Bill de Blasio, and especially to the small group of Windsor Terrace parents who started calling for an improved Vanderbilt Playground just a few years ago,” said Windsor Terrace Alliance Chairperson Lauren Elvers Collins.

The Vanderbilt Street Playground has been open since 1929 and was last redesigned by the Prospect Park Alliance in 1990. This project was planned by the Prospect Park Alliance Office of Design and Construction. Throughout the design process, the Alliance held numerous meetings with the community to discuss its plans.

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The plan to reconstruct the playground is a result of its current condition. The playground is in need of updated equipment, paths, and picnic tables in addition to more accessible drinking fountains.

The project design is intended to create a playground with both traditional and non-traditional play equipment as well as separate water features for toddlers and older children. Picnic tables will be relocated to a location where they are easier to maintain. Additionally, new seating, drinking fountains, and fencing will be added to the playground. The Alliance also hopes to increase safety in the playground by realigning the entrance path leading from Prospect Park Southwest. There will also be new plantings and increased Park security lighting.

The Vanderbilt Street Playground is located just inside Prospect Park by the intersection of Vanderbilt Street and Prospect Park Southwest. Prospect Park has six other playgrounds, including the Imagination Playground (located on Ocean Avenue between Lincoln Road and Parkside Avenue), The Detective Stewart Playground (located at the Prospect Park Parade Ground) and the Harmony Playground (located at 11th Street and Prospect Park West), which are the closest to the Vanderbilt Playground.

For more information on Prospect Park events, programs, membership and volunteering at the Park, call the Park Hotline at (718) 965-8999 or visit www.prospectpark.org, Constituents can also dial dial 311 for all Parks & Recreation information.

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