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PROSPECT PARK ALLIANCE AND NYC PARKS
APPOINT SUE DONOGHUE AS PPA PRESIDENT AND PARK ADMINISTRATOR

Nonprofit Group Taps Longtime Brooklyn Resident and Former NYC Parks Assistant Commissioner to Lead Organization

NEW YORK, NY – The Prospect Park Alliance, the nonprofit organization that partners with the City to oversee the ongoing care and long-term stewardship of Prospect Park, and NYC Parks have appointed Sue Donoghue as the Alliance’s new President and Administrator of Brooklyn’s most visited park.

Donoghue is a longtime Brooklyn resident and a former Assistant Commissioner and Special Advisor for Communications and Special Initiatives at NYC Parks. She will begin at Prospect Park on October 6. She succeeds Emily Lloyd, who earlier this year was appointed Commissioner of the City’s Department of Environmental Protection by Mayor Bill de Blasio.

“Sue doesn’t simply have a sterling track record of vision and leadership in the New York City parks world – she has a contagious passion for Prospect Park and truly understands why it’s such a vital resource,” said Iris Weinshall, Chair of the Alliance. “In a field of distinguished candidates, Sue stood out because of that unique blend. I can’t think of anyone better suited to oversee the ongoing restoration and daily upkeep of the park, and continue to grow our network of thousands of donors, community partners and volunteers.”

“We are extremely happy to have Sue Donoghue back in the Parks family fulltime,” said NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP. “Her work on PlaNYC has brought benefits to millions of New Yorkers and our visitors with vibrant regional parks, hundreds of thousands of trees planted, more than 200 schoolyards converted to full-use playgrounds, and an ongoing commitment to making New York the greenest city in the world.”

“I'm thrilled with the selection of Sue Donoghue to lead Prospect Park – the heart and lungs of Brooklyn,” said New York City Council Member Brad Lander. “Sue is
a great problem-solver and a natural coalition-builder, and a champion for the sustainability and diversity of our parks. Most recently, we worked together to help save several dozen child-care slots for low-income families in our community, and I saw her hard work and creativity up close. And Sue is a neighborhood resident to boot! We've come so far in fulfilling the vision of Olmsted and Vaux of a park for all Brooklyn's communities. With today's appointment, Prospect Park's best days are yet to come.”

The Prospect Park Alliance was founded in 1987 to restore and maintain Prospect Park after a long period of deterioration and decline. The Alliance plays a significant role in funding the operating budget that keeps the park clean, safe and beautiful. Alliance staff work in partnership with NYC Parks to preserve the natural environment, restore historic design, and provide public programs and amenities for the Park, a treasured Brooklyn green space that receives more than 10 million visits each year. In 2013, the Alliance completed its most ambitious project to date, the LeFrak Center at Lakeside. Spanning more than 26 acres, this $74 million project restored and redesigned the southeast corner of the Park, and features seasonal skating and water play, as well as scenic new landscapes, public restrooms and other amenities.

“The Prospect Park Alliance plays an essential role for millions of New Yorkers, and is a perfect example of how nonprofit partners work collaboratively with NYC Parks to keep the city’s park system in good shape,” said Donoghue. “This is a natural continuation of the collaborative work I did at Parks, from project management and oversight to community stewardship, to building strong and effective partnerships. It gives me an opportunity to give back to a place my family and I love and couldn’t live without. I’m so honored to follow in the footsteps of Alliance Founder Tupper Thomas and Emily Lloyd, and the groundbreaking work they did in restoring this extraordinary park.”

During her six years at NYC Parks, Donoghue was responsible for managing the implementation of PlaNYC, which has enhanced sustainability, planted more than 900,000 of a million-tree goal, and renovated and constructed eight regional parks in all five boroughs – a project now nearing completion. Donoghue was also involved in helping to craft the agency’s long-term strategy for Jamaica Bay in partnership with the National Park Service. Finally, she spearheaded strategic and philanthropic partnerships – with the Mayor's Fund to Advance New York City on philanthropic giving, the New York Restoration Project on the MillionTreesNYC program, and the Trust for Public Land on the Schoolyards-to-Playgrounds initiative, among others.

At the Alliance, Donoghue will lead fundraising efforts to help fund its range of activities, from restoration to landscape management, maintenance and operations, and volunteer, recreation and education programs that serve more than 225,000 people each year.
Prior to joining NYC Parks, Donoghue worked in the financial services industry. She received her Master of Public Administration with a specialization in public and nonprofit management and policy from the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University, and a B.A. from the University of Vermont. Donoghue, her husband and three children are longtime residents of Brooklyn – they live in Park Slope – and consider Prospect Park an important part of their daily lives.

“Prospect Park is first and foremost the backyard for millions of Brooklynites – from Flatbush to Prospect-Lefferts Gardens, Crown Heights to Park Slope, and for many more beyond its immediate border,” Donoghue said. “As the Alliance continues its work with the City in improving and maintaining the park, we can’t lose sight of that. This is a park for the people, and it’s those everyday users who will continue to drive our work.”

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About the Prospect Park Alliance

The Prospect Park Alliance is a nonprofit organization that partners with the City of New York to ensure the ongoing care and long-term stewardship of Prospect Park, Brooklyn’s flagship park. The Alliance preserves the natural environment, restores historic design and provides public programs and amenities for the Park, which receives more than 10 million visits each year. For more information, visit prospectpark.org.

About NYC Parks

NYC Parks is the steward of almost 30,000 acres of land — more than 14 percent of New York City — including more than 5,000 individual properties ranging from Coney Island Beach and Central and Prospect Park to community gardens and Greenstreets. We operate more than 800 athletic fields and nearly 1,000 playgrounds, 550 tennis courts, 66 public pools, 48 recreational facilities, 17 nature centers, 13 golf courses, and 14 miles of beaches. We care for 1,200 monuments and 23 historic house museums. We look after 650,000 street trees, and two million more in parks. We are New York City’s principal providers of recreational and athletic facilities and programs. We are home to free concerts, world-class sports events, and cultural festivals.