NYC PARKS AND PROSPECT PARK ALLIANCE TO REVITALIZE EPIPHANY PLAYGROUND IN SOUTH WILLIAMSBURG

Alliance to Provide Pro-Bono Design Work as Part of NYC Parks’ Community Parks Initiative

BROOKLYN, March 18, 2016—NYC Parks and the Prospect Park Alliance, the non-profit organization that sustains, restores and advances Prospect Park in partnership with the city, have begun the $2.6 million renovation of the Epiphany Playground in South Williamsburg. The Alliance will provide pro-bono design services for the project, which is being funded through NYC Parks’ Community Parks Initiative (CPI). NYC Parks and the Alliance held a scoping session on Monday, March 14, to solicit community feedback, and construction is slated to begin in 2018.

“This is an exciting opportunity to share the Alliance’s expertise beyond the borders of Prospect Park,” said Sue Donoghue, President of the Prospect Park Alliance, which has committed to provide pro-bono design for three CPI projects including Epiphany Playground. “We look forward to working with the South Williamsburg community to develop a design for a new playground that fully meets their needs.”

“The Community Parks Initiative is bringing crucial resources to neighborhoods across the city, and in Brooklyn, the Prospect Park Alliance has been a vital part of this effort from the start,” said NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP. “Epiphany Playground is a beloved place in the South Williamsburg community, and we look forward to working closely with the Alliance to create an outstanding design for a space that can be enjoyed for years to come. Thanks to funding allocated by Mayor de Blasio, and with support from local elected officials, we will continue to make needed quality of life improvements for New Yorkers of all ages.”

Epiphany Playground is the Alliance’s second of three projects through its participation in CPI, a commitment totaling $700,000 of in-kind support. Last year, the Alliance led the redesign of Stroud Playground in Crown Heights, which was guided by community feedback solicited at a
public forum in December 2014. Stroud was the Alliance’s first major design project outside of Prospect Park.

Epiphany Park is named for the nearby Epiphany Roman Catholic Church. Currently, the playground has a basketball court, play equipment with safety surfacing, benches, spray showers, a drinking fountain and a garden area.

Nearly 100 community residents attended the March 14 scoping session, including many children. Among the ideas generated through the community workshop were the desire for improved play equipment, space for children to run around and play ball, more trees and greenery, especially along the perimeter sidewalks, and safety improvements including better lighting and safety surface.

“Williamsburg and Epiphany Playground have a unique opportunity to draw from the nearly 30 years of dedication and experience at Prospect Park Alliance. I can’t think of a more qualified and dedicated group of individuals to breathe new life into a underutilized community space,” said Senator Martin Malavé Dilan.

“I am proud to see collaboration between the Parks Department, Prospect Park Alliance, and El Puente in committing to provide pro-bono design services for three Community Parks Initiative projects, including Epiphany Playground,” said Council Member Stephen Levin. “Well maintained playgrounds and green space are vital for every community and I am happy to know South Williamsburg will benefit from this work.”

Introduced by Mayor Bill de Blasio and Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver in 2014, CPI is a multi-faceted investment in smaller public parks located in dense and growing neighborhoods with higher-than-average concentrations of poverty. In total, CPI will invest $285 million in capital dollars through 2019 – along with a sustained annual commitment of over $2.5 million in expense funding – to improve neighborhoods’ quality of life by revitalizing 67 community parks that have not undergone significant improvements in decades.

The Prospect Park Alliance is a non-profit organization that sustains, restores and advances Prospect Park, Brooklyn’s flagship park, in partnership with the City of New York. The Alliance cares for the natural environment, restores historic design, and provides public programs and amenities for the Park, which receives more than 10 million visits each year. Learn more at www.prospectpark.org.

# # #

Media Contact:
Grace McCreight, (718) 965-8954/gmccreight@prospectpark.org
Maeri Ferguson, (212) 360-1311/pressoffice@parks.nyc.gov