Dear Friend:

For Prospect Park Alliance and our community of supporters, 2019 was a year of great accomplishments and a focus on the future of our most cherished green space.

Prospect Park Alliance was founded more than 30 years ago to renew and revitalize Brooklyn's Backyard. Who could imagine when we embarked on this journey the vibrant green space that would flourish today? As Brooklyn continues to grow and evolve at an unprecedented pace, it is critical that the Alliance ensures the park remains open and accessible to all. Now more than ever our work is essential to the health and well-being of our entire Brooklyn community.

Our park was designed to be a place where we could escape the pressures of the city, and "nourish body and spirit." Park designers were inspired by the democratic ideals of community and equality, which takes on even more urgency today. 2020 is a significant year for our community and beyond. The outcome of the upcoming United States Census will play a critical role in the funding of our parks and public spaces. Brooklyn is one of the most undercounted areas in the nation, and vital federal funding and government representation depends on our census count. The Alliance will play a leadership role in supporting our community with this effort.

Additionally, this September's Climate Week brought much needed attention to the plight of our environment and what we can do on the local level to make a difference. In 2020, Prospect Park Alliance will strengthen its partnership with the community to safeguard our park, home to Brooklyn’s last remaining forest and only lake, and a critical haven for hundreds of species of plants and wildlife.

Below is an overview of the work we accomplished in the past year thanks to your support. We invite you to make a resolution to get more involved in the coming year. Join us for an event, volunteer in a park cleanup or planting, or become a member of Prospect Park Alliance. There are many ways to make a difference, and none of our vital work would be possible without your support.

See you in the Park!

Sue Donoghue
President and Park Administrator
Advancing the Park

2019 was full of historic moments in Prospect Park. The Alliance broke ground on two new entrances to the park along Flatbush Avenue, the first since the 1940s, and announced the design of a monument to Brooklyn trailblazer Shirley Chisholm. We also received a prestigious Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award for our adaptive reuse of the Wellhouse.

To expand recreational opportunities in Brooklyn, we cut the ribbon on a new adult recreation area at the Parade Ground and piloted a turf-misting line—the first in a NYC park. We also celebrated the opening of Stroud Playground in Crown Heights, which we designed pro-bono as part of the city’s Community Parks Initiative.

Caring for Brooklyn Nature

In 2019, the Alliance Natural Resources Crew committed 12,000 hours to care for the park’s 30,000 trees, 250 acres of woodlands and 60-acre lake.

This year, we revitalized an important part of the park’s watercourse, a series of pools, streams and waterfalls that wind through the 150-acre woodland Ravine. Staff and volunteers donned waders to clean up garbage, clear downed trees and branches, and remove debris and invasive plants.

The crew also expanded vibrant natural areas with native plants near Bartel-Pritchard Square, Lullwater Cove and the Long Meadow, and continued our important restoration work in areas hard hit by severe storms.

Sustaining the Park

In 2019, Alliance horticulturalists and turf crew dedicated 6,000 hours to maintain more than 150 acres of lawns and playing fields, as well as acres of beautifully manicured landscapes.

More than 3,000 volunteers dedicated 18,000 hours alongside our crews to keep the park green and vibrant. This work included high-profile projects such as the revitalization of the pergola the Parkside entrance and the landscape at the Garfield entrance.

In addition, the Alliance supplemented city crews to provide 6,000 hours of additional garbage cleanup throughout the year.

Engaging the Community

In 2019, Prospect Park Alliance welcomed nearly 750,000 participants in our recreation, education and public programs.

The Alliance offers robust programming at the Tennis Center, LeFrak Center at Lakeside, Carousel, Audubon Center, Pop-Up Audubon and Lefferts Historic House.

In 2019, we also partnered with community organizations to present the Brooklyn Roots Festival; University Open Air; caribBEING Prospect Park; Prospect Park Yoga; Summer Movies Under the Stars; and, in its 40th year, the Halloween Haunted Walk and Fair.