

Four Freedoms Democratic Club Climate and Environment Working Group
Resolution to Advocate for Green Space and Environmental Justice

Whereas

- Manhattan has fewer acres of green space per person than anywhere in the Nation; **(I)**
- Green spaces in cities mitigate the effects of pollution and reduce the urban heat island effect, which refers to heat trapped in built-up areas; **(II)**
- Urban green space and parks reduce harmful carbon pollution that is driving climate change, and also directly reduce some of the primary public health challenges that are exacerbated by climate change; **(III)**
- Privately owned public spaces (POPS) are spaces dedicated to public use and enjoyment and which are owned and maintained by private property owners, in exchange for bonus floor area or waivers. POPS are the result of City zoning regulations aimed at ensuring the densest areas of our city offer a measure of open public space and greenery; **(IV)**
- The Climate Mobilization Act (2019) is the largest climate solution put forth by any city in the world. It requires green space for buildings. It also requires all new buildings and buildings undergoing major roof renovations to be covered with solar panels, green roofs, or some combination of the two, and also consists of a slate of climate laws designed to dramatically cut carbon in New York City; **(V)**

Therefore, FFDC

- Calls for NYC to allocate more funding to open spaces, parks and planting of gardens and trees and throughout the city, which are vital determinants of public health and environmental justice;
- Advocates for Privately Owned Public Spaces including the redesign of existing POPS to provide improved public amenities in accordance with revised standards;
- Advocates for the full adherence and implementation of the Climate Modernization Act of 2019; comprised of Local Laws 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, and 97.

SOURCES

I. <https://www.geotab.com/urban-footprint/>

2021 ParkScore® ranking New York City has the least green space for each person living within its bounds, among the 15 major cities the firm examined. The Borough of Manhattan provides less greenspace per person than any other borough. 9587 people per acre of green space.

II. <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/april/parks-as-a-solution-to-climate-change/>

Parks and trees are one of the most effective ways to combat extreme heat. In addition, the cooling benefit of parks can extend as far as a half-mile from park boundaries, helping cool the neighborhood and reduce heat stress for residents.

III. <https://www.epa.gov/arc-x/public-health-adaptation-strategies-climate-change> Public health officials may benefit from working with transportation officials, air quality managers, state officials and industry to better assess public health needs and vulnerability. After identifying and assessing potential vulnerability, officials can collaborate with these partners to properly project the disease burden, assess public health intervention strategies, and develop a climate and health adaptation plan.

IV. <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/planning/plans/pops/pops-plaza-standards.page> The 2007 and 2009 amendments to the Zoning Resolution made significant changes to the design, amenities, and operational standards for privately owned public space. The amendments introduced a new type of POPS, the public plaza, which replaced provisions for urban and residential plazas.

V. <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/sustainability/legislation/climate-mobilization-act-2019.page#:~:text=The%20Climate%20Mobilization%20Act%2C%202019%3A%20Local%20Laws%2092%2C%2094,York%20City%2C%20including%20the%20following> Local laws 92 and Local Law 94 require all new buildings and buildings undergoing major roof renovations to be covered with solar panels, green roofs, or some combination of the two. The laws also require all buildings to reduce urban heat hazards.