

Fwd: Mount Prospect Park - background with click-throughs

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Date: Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 02:19 PM EST

Thank you so much for presenting during our hybrid meeting.

I am sending this useful information over to our officers. I am sure our recording secretary will note all these links and resources in our minutes.

Teddy

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Friends of Mount Prospect Park** <friendsofmountprospectpark@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Feb 19, 2025 at 10:26 PM

Subject: Mount Prospect Park - background with click-throughs

To: Theodore Theoharis <teddytheoharis@gmail.com>

Thanks very much, Teddy and PPUABA, for welcoming me on behalf of [Friends of Mount Prospect Park](#)! We hope the association's members will join the thousands of community members who have signed the [petition](#) to save the park and shift construction to nearby paved space. If folks opt in for updates, they will receive information and notes about upcoming meetings.

Below please find a background write-up with click-through links, including images from tonight's chat. We also have an [FAQ here](#). Please let us know if these materials serve the purpose; we are glad to provide more!

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE OF MOUNT PROSPECT PARK AND ITS DESIGN: The New York State Historic Preservation Office has determined Mount Prospect Park [eligible for the National Register of Historic Places](#). The determination remarks on Mount Prospect Park's virtually intact WPA-era landscape architecture, enduringly designed specifically to support "quiet recreation" -- which we have found is particularly salient for many of our youngest and eldest community members, as well as people with disabilities and people who are neurodiverse. The historic assessment further notes the park is studded with "massive" oak trees. As stated City priorities make clear, these are exactly the climate-critical mature shade canopy trees we are supposed to protect. The construction project endangers the trees and their root systems, and would generate yet another large concrete surface or urban "heat island," typically more than ten degrees hotter than the "cooling islands" of public green spaces we all need.

COMMUNITY BOARD 9 AND THOUSANDS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO CARE ABOUT THE PARK OPPOSE: Thousands of Brooklynites have signed on with [Friends of Mount Prospect Park to stop the construction of a skateboard complex on urban green park space](#), refusing to let healing green space go without a fight. Community Board 9 deemed the plan "bad public policy" and [voted against it](#), citing climate, process, and safety flaws. The Board welcomed construction on nearby already-paved space "with open arms."

SOLUTION: Instead of destroying vital green parkland, we urge that the project should [use existing paved space](#). The preceding click-through shows a handful of illustrative examples. We note languishing skate spaces nearby that have for years drawn skater complaints for poor features and maintenance.

MILLIONS IN PUBLIC FUNDING: Celebrity Tony Hawk's California Skatepark Project foundation lobbied NYC officials to the tune of more than a quarter-million dollars and is helping design the four sites in the plan. (All the projects except Mount Prospect Park are sensibly slated for already-paved spaces.) **Contrary to many people's assumptions when**

they hear the mega-millionaire's name, the facilities are to be paid for using NYC taxpayers' money. Over \$11M would be funneled into the poured-concrete facility on Mount Prospect Park. That spend is equivalent to more than half this year's citywide Parks cuts to staffing and services. Some Parks staff have conceded the project seems "contrary to mission." (Is Parks paving large swaths of other urban green parks? If so, why? If not, why do so here?)

SKATE SAFETY QUESTIONS RAISED BY PROFESSIONAL MATERIALS:

In addition to endangering our safety in the climate crisis, building a skate complex on Mount Prospect Park also appears dangerous for skaters. Located atop what was once the Mount Prospect Reservoir, the park has no sightlines from the street. [Skate facility design professionals](#) claim they surveyed police and determined that clear sightlines from the street through a skate facility are key to averting "antisocial behavior" and "significant delinquency" (quoting the professional manuals). Also, skaters acknowledge the park's two access points, a ramp and towering granite stairs, tempt dangerous skating – and both empty into traffic-filled, multi-laned Eastern Parkway. Furthermore, skate facility manuals caution to avoid "shedding" tree species that rain down "danger pebbles" that send skaters flying when a wheel hits; Mount Prospect Park's historic oaks abundantly shed thousands of acorns. Foreseeable accidents, injuries, policing problems, and liability further shadow this ill-considered project. For months Friends of Mount Prospect Park has posed specific safety points made by professionals to proponents; we have received no response.

We welcome volunteers, and continue to encourage community members to contact officials to resolve this unnecessary conflict. **We also welcome questions and suggestions via email to FriendsofMountProspectPark@gmail.com.**

Best,

Hayley Gorenberg
Steering Committee Member
Friends of Mount Prospect Park

