

Testimony of Tamar Renaud,
Associate Vice President and New York State Director, Trust for Public Land
Parks and Recreation Testimony, 1/27/25

On behalf of the Trust for Public Land (TPL), I wanted to express my appreciation to the members of the Assembly Standing Ways and Means and the Senate Standing Finance Committees for the opportunity to address you.

TPL was founded in 1972 on the conviction that all people should have access to nature and the outdoors, close to home, in the cities and communities where they live. To that end, we work with communities throughout New York and across the nation to create parks and protect public land where it is needed most, as a matter of health, equity, and justice.

We strongly commend Governor Hochul for launching, and urge the members of the committees to support, NYPLAYS, which will do much to fulfill the critically important need of helping communities construct new playgrounds and renovate existing playgrounds.

In New York City alone, TPL's community schoolyards program has transformed over 230 asphalt schoolyards into vibrant green spaces.

By way of example, PS184 in Chinatown faced significant flooding during Superstorm Sandy. After TPL transformed the space, Hurricane Ida struck, and the playground withstood the impact without flooding. This project led to a \$47 million partnership with New York City to build 20 more green school yards over the next four years. These green spaces are quite frankly game changers for building climate resilience.

It is also why TPL remains as committed as ever toward ensuring all Americans can access a park or green space within a 10-minute walk from home. Our work is the fulfillment of a dream of a future that is cool and green, and where all children have a safe and beautiful place to play and explore. The mental health benefits of green spaces is also well known and we strongly encourage their development for the emotional enjoyment they promote.

The Governor's NYPLAYS initiative is a significant step toward this very worthy goal, and TPL stands ready to continue its work with the state, while searching for new opportunities and initiatives to create parks and vibrant public spaces in the service and to the benefit of New York communities.

My thanks again, for affording me the opportunity to address this issue.

Tamar Renaud
Associate Vice President & New York State Director
Trust for Public Land

