## Introduction to community boards and park projects in NYC

Community boards have been an important part of New York for over half a century and they have become an integral part of improving the communities of New York by listening to what the individuals of the area want and need. Park projects are a tool community boards use to help invigorate communities and help New York City become resilient and sustainable.

Community boards have been around a long time and they do an admirable job in helping the community voice their concerns to elected officials on certain matters and they do a variety of other tasks as well. The main function of community boards is to assist as well as guide government officials on what they can do to improve the area (Ref-AB12CD). However, they also help in other ways such as finding out what the budgetary needs of the community are before presenting them to the relevant government officials and monitoring complaints to make sure they are properly handled by elected officials (Ref-EF34GH). Helping park projects come into fruition to improve communities is another job of the community board.

Park projects have a profound impact on the communities around them. Park projects are needed to build parks which are an integral part of any community. Parks located in low-income areas are known for revitalizing communities as they have a great environmental impact on the community they are in. Parks help clean the air by supplying the community with trees, they help alleviate the adverse effects of climate change, and the help improve biodiversity making for a healthier ecosystem for the community around the park (Ref-SG2N81). A good example of this is the Morningside Park located in Harlem and the Centennial park project that was initiated to revitalize the community as well as the park which is now over a hundred years old. This involved multiple phases that included improving the biodiversity of the park by clearing any invasive species and adding new plants such as flowers, shrubs, and vines to attract pollinators (Ref-7X1Z9A).

Like most things in society, there is also an economic impact parks have on communities. Park agencies throughout the country generate over 139 billion dollars in economical activity and also provided nearly one million jobs from spending money on operations as well as capital, in addition, parks in New York are placed third in creating economical activity with California as well as Florida being ahead (Ref-J7X2N1). Parks also have several social beneficial impacts on communities. They help develop more livable social environments for the nearby neighborhoods they are located in and studies have connected having urban parks in communities to a decrease in crime and violence as they provide a place for young people to enjoy and participate in a variety of recreational activities such as basketball and soccer (Ref-1G9Q4B). An appropriate example of a park project that helped the community socially would be the West Harlem Piers Park. The Harlem-on-the-River Project did not only increase the limited access residences had with the Harlem waterfront, but also helped raise interest to their neglected neighbourhood (Ref-Z8A3B2).