

June 16, 2020

Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP  
New York City Department of Parks & Recreation  
830 Fifth Ave  
New York, NY 10065

Dear Commissioner Silver,

We appreciate NYC Parks' efforts to meet the community's demand for opening the 50 Kent portion of Bushwick Inlet Park, but it is not enough.

We believe the department's plan to open the space in three and a half weeks, beginning July 9th, can be strengthened. Our preference is that the park be open seven days a week but understand the department's choice of opening during peak days (Thursday to Sunday). We do not believe, however, that the suggested hours meet community needs. Closing at 6 pm is too early during these summer months; sunset is not until after 8 pm. The early closure severely limits park usage, in this unshaded space, to the hottest time of day.

The limited open time creates unnecessary confusion and conflict with residents and parkgoers. Most city parks are open during daylight hours. Why not do the same here?

During this period, we are asking city officials to work with us to ensure that residents can social distance safely and successfully in order to stop the spread of Covid-19. Arbitrary impediments, like limiting park hours to the times it's least likely to be used, fail to meet community needs and makes residents cynical about our civic institutions.

Again, we appreciate your timely consideration and look forward to working toward a productive outcome.

Sincerely,



Anthony Buissereth  
Executive Director

cc: Mayor Bill de Blasio, City of New York  
Public Advocate Jumaane Williams, City of New York  
Council Member Stephen Levin, NY City Council  
Martin Maher, Brooklyn Borough Commissioner, NYC Parks  
Mary Salig, Director of North Brooklyn Parks, NYC Parks