



**NORTH  
BROOKLYN  
PARKS  
ALLIANCE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***NORTH BROOKLYN PARKS ALLIANCE UNVEILS VISION  
FOR SEVEN ACRES UNDER NEW KOSCIUSZKO BRIDGE***

***Designed by PUBLIC WORK, future Greenpoint park creates new  
venue for arts, ecology and play in a series of massive industrial spaces***



*Rendering of 'K-flex 2,' 2019. Courtesy PUBLIC WORK.*

**June 25, 2019 - Brooklyn, NY** - Today the **North Brooklyn Parks Alliance** unveiled plans for a new park in Greenpoint, Brooklyn that will transform nearly seven acres beneath the Kosciuszko Bridge into a public park, cultural destination, and ecological hub.

Called **Under the K**, the new public space is designed by **PUBLIC WORK**, the Toronto-based landscape architecture firm responsible for The Bentway. Similar to Under the K, The Bentway is a linear public space created below Toronto's elevated Gardiner Expressway that quickly gained visibility as a major cultural attraction for the city. Located at the hub of four of diverse and growing neighborhoods, Under the K will fill a void within the area's current open space network and stitch together several established yet disparate public spaces. Envisioned as a collaborative space unlike any other traditional park, Under the K celebrates the resilience of nature and Brooklyn's diverse community culture.

The vision unveiled today balances programming and placemaking, delivering a spectrum of diverse atmospheres and experiences, ranging from immersive ecological landscapes to active, highly flexible multi-purpose spaces for recreation and public events. Echoing some of Brooklyn's most memorable places that emerged organically, informally, even spontaneously, the design anticipates a programmatically diverse space that will evolve over time. Under the K creates a process-place that is less centered around the perfection of finished composition, and more firmly rooted in the dynamic local culture of Brooklyn. >>>

Defined by the bridge's soaring concrete beams that expand from 40-foot-high at the entrance to 120 feet at the waterfront, Under the K is at once a park and a series of massive industrial spaces that create opportunities for cross disciplinary collaborations not possible in other New York City venues. Culminating at the Newtown Creek, Under the K will be among the few public access points to the water's edge, becoming a platform for environmental initiatives. Other programming will span public art installations, musical performances, and recreation.

The design framework imagines a series of four distinct spaces, articulating the journey from over the Kosciuszko Bridge with its sweeping Manhattan skyline view and climaxing at the Newtown Creek. Upon arrival visitors experience 'The Arm' - a linear promenade that receives pedestrians and cyclists from along the bridge, bringing them into the main park spaces through a series of successional planting zones capable of hosting community markets. 'K-flex 1' is the first main multifunctional zone, geared to rotating programming, community activities, and play. 'K-flex 2' is a massive space with the capacity to host larger scale events, performances and recreation – featuring a striking landform and bleacher for public gatherings. Finally, Creekside celebrates its prime position along the waters edge with public outlooks and seating, and a restorative landscape of native creek side ecologies.

Connecting Brooklyn and Queens, the new Kosciuszko Bridge is the first bridge built in New York City since the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge opened in 1964. The first Queens-bound span of the new bridge opened in 2017, and the final Brooklyn-bound span is scheduled to open to traffic this fall, serving approximately 200,000 commuters daily. New York State approached the North Brooklyn Parks Alliance in 2017 to explore potential uses for the open space beneath the bridge's Brooklyn side. NBPA engaged Public Work as the project's design partner and has since hosted several public workshops to inform the design and future programming.

"As our neighborhoods become increasingly dense amid historic development, we all must reimagine the types of spaces that can become open and public," said **Katie Denny Horowitz, Executive Director, North Brooklyn Parks Alliance**. "Under the K is a visionary solution to the urban plight of limited space, transforming how cities can and should approach future parks."

"We founded the North Brooklyn Parks Alliance (formerly OSA) more than 15 years ago for the purpose of expanding and maintaining parks in North Brooklyn," said **Joseph Vance, AIA, NBPA Board Member**. "We are absolutely thrilled at the possibility this partnership with New York State Department of Transportation provides to create nearly seven acres of exciting multi-use open space for our neighborhood."

"Few parks could offer such raw potential for community engagement in activation, recreation, culture, and nature – a testing ground for contemporary expressions of social and ecological transformation." said **Marc Ryan and Adam Nicklin, cofounders of PUBLIC WORK**. "Under the 'K' dreams of a collaborative space that celebrates the resilience of nature and Brooklyn's diverse community culture."

**ABOUT NORTH BROOKLYN PARKS ALLIANCE (NBPA) >>** Formed in 2003 as Open Space Alliance, the North Brooklyn Parks Alliance is a nonprofit that raises private funds to expand and improve open space in North Brooklyn. NBPA is modeled after other successful conservancies, working with the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation, elected officials, and the community to maintain, activate, enhance, and expand local parks. Unlike traditional park conservancies, however, NBPA is committed to improving ALL the parks in Brooklyn's Community District 1 rather than focusing on a single park. In doing so, less advantaged areas of our community can be improved by leveraging resources from more affluent parts of the district. - [nbkparcs.org](http://nbkparcs.org)

**ABOUT PUBLIC WORK >>** PUBLIC WORK is an urban design and landscape architecture studio focused on one of the foremost public topics today—the intelligent evolution of the contemporary city. Using landscape as their primary medium, they aim to produce transformative works that invigorate the public realm, optimize and enhance the performance of urban and natural systems, and support public life by adding new layers of experience to the city. PUBLIC WORK has emerged as a leading design studio who are innovators of transforming under-utilized terrain into new urban landscapes. They have honed a progressive and resourceful approach to public space design which works selectively with existing conditions to make bold, considered transformations. - [publicwork.ca](http://publicwork.ca)

**SUPPORT >>** This design initiative is made possible with support from Greenpoint Community Environmental Benefits Fund (GCEF), in partnership with the New York State Department of Transportation.

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