



NORTH  
BROOKLYN  
PARKS  
ALLIANCE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***NBK PARKS CALLS ON COMMUNITY TO REIMAGINE THE BQE  
IN A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME CHANCE FOR CHANGE***



*Image: Aerial view of The Kosciuszko Bridge, BQE, and Under the K Bridge Park in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Courtesy North Brooklyn Parks Alliance*

**February 10, 2023 — Brooklyn, NY** | Communities throughout Brooklyn are facing a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reimagine one of the area's most infamous roadways: the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway (BQE). Since 1937, the borough has been divided by the daunting transportation infrastructure, envisioned by Robert Moses, which either cut a trench or built an elevated highway bifurcating historic neighborhoods.

Nearly a century later, North Brooklyn Parks Alliance (NBK Parks) is leading outreach in those same neighborhoods to participate in NYC Department of Transportation's new effort to modernize the BQE across its entire corridor. NBK Parks was selected as a "BQE Community Partner" by NYC DOT through an open, competitive application process last fall. The BQE partnership builds on longstanding collaborations between NBK Parks and transportation agencies across multiple levels of government that explore the intersection of transportation and open space. For example, over the last three years, NBK Parks has acted as a Public Plaza and Open Streets Partner with NYC DOT, collaborating on the creation of a new network of open spaces that connect our existing parks and playgrounds to the streets that surround them.

NBK Parks also worked hand-in-glove with New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) to design, build, and operate Under the K Bridge Park – the first public park of its kind that transformed seven acres of formerly abandoned space underneath the Kosciuszko Bridge. The park’s community-driven design framework evolved over several years of public engagement between 2017-2019 that included walking tours, visioning workshops, and public programs. Under the K Bridge Park broke ground in May 2020 and opened to the public on June 6, 2021, when NBK Parks began managing and operating the space in partnership with NYS DOT.

NBK Parks’ current approach as a BQE Vision Community Partner follows a similar strategy of access and engagement, spanning multiple digital and in-person opportunities to attract the broadest range of participants and ideas. This month NBK Parks kicks off a series of public BQE workshops that are open and accessible to all. Specifically, these workshops will encourage short- and long-term improvement ideas across a variety of topics, including parks and open space; street safety and quality of life; freight and traffic; and land use & development. The series includes three workshops:

### **Virtual Meeting**

Wednesday, February 15

7:30–9:00 PM

Via Zoom (Pre-Registration Required)

### **Lunch & Learn**

Saturday, February 25

1:30–4:00 PM

75 Thomas St (Waste Management HQ)

Lunch Provided

### **Drop-In Open House**

Saturday, March 4

1:00 – 5:00 PM

86 Kent Ave (Bushwick Inlet Park Building)

Free Childcare + Translators Provided

Participants are welcome to join one or all of the public workshops, and free registration is available at [bit.ly/nbkparks\\_bqe](https://bit.ly/nbkparks_bqe). Workshops will be facilitated by NBK Parks BQE Outreach Consultant Konstancja Maleszyńska. Originally from Poland, Maleszyńska has been an active environmental advocate for the Greenpoint & Williamsburg open space community since 2014. NBK Parks will compile the resulting feedback and ideas into a report that will inform NYC DOT’s efforts to modernize the BQE.

*“From Under the K to BQGreen, NBK Parks has long championed innovative ideas on how our community can adapt and reuse the BQE to improve our neighborhood,”* said Katie Denny Horowitz, Executive Director, North Brooklyn Parks Alliance. *“Because of the scale and state of the BQE, however, these extraordinary interventions felt impossible; today, we are more confident than ever that change is on the highway horizon.”*

*"NYC DOT is moving forward to fix the BQE in Brooklyn and is committed to working with neighborhoods along the highway to set a shared vision for this project. Currently, communities divided by the BQE experience increased noise and air pollution, while also having limited access to jobs and other important resources. We support this effort to reconnect communities divided by the BQE, which starts with us coming together to shape the future of this transit corridor."*

— New York City Department of Transportation

*"As a longtime Greenpoint resident, I am eager to engage my fellow neighbors who live near the BQE North corridor, whether they use the highway daily, cross under it on errands, or are affected by quality of life issues related to it. I'm hopeful that our outreach to PTA's, senior centers, and various community groups will yield an abundance of actionable solutions to make BQE North safer and more neighborhood-friendly."*

— Konstancja Maleszyńska, BQE Outreach Consultant, North Brooklyn Parks Alliance

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**About North Brooklyn Parks Alliance:**  
**nbkpark.org / @nbkpark / #nbkpark**

North Brooklyn Parks Alliance (NBK Parks) was founded in 2003 as the Open Space Alliance. NBK Parks is the only non-profit conservancy in NYC with a district-wide mandate encompassing multiple parks and open spaces—as opposed to a single park or parcel. With this unique mandate, NBK Parks is dedicated to equitably maintaining and programming the public realm across Brooklyn's Community Board 1 (Greenpoint & Williamsburg). NBK Parks works closely with government agencies, elected officials, community organizations, and volunteer groups to further their mission.



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## PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

HELP SHAPE THE  
FUTURE OF THE  
BROOKLYN QUEENS  
EXPRESSWAY



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[bit.ly/nbkparks\\_bqe](https://bit.ly/nbkparks_bqe)

### VIRTUAL VISIONING

WED **15** FEB / ZOOM  
7:30 - 9:00 PM

### LUNCH & LEARN

SAT **25** FEB / 75 THOMAS ST. BK 11222  
1:30 - 4:00 PM

*\*Waste Management HQ. Lunch will be provided.*

### OPEN HOUSE

SAT **04** MAR / 86 KENT AVE. BK 11249  
1:00 - 5:00 PM

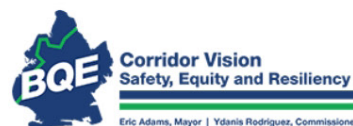
*\*Bushwick Inlet Park Building. Childcare + Translators provided.*



Image: Aerial view of Under the K Bridge Park in Greenpoint  
Courtesy North Brooklyn Parks Alliance



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