



**Post Office Box 265  
The Bronx, New York  
10464-0265  
[www.bceq.org](http://www.bceq.org)**

January 22, 2014

**Re: Letter of Support for the Friends of Brook Park and the City of New York  
Department of Parks and Recreation: WCS-NOAA Brook Park Wetland  
Restoration Project Preliminary Submission to the Public Design Commission**

To Whom It May Concern:

As an ongoing partner and collaborator with the Friends of Brook Park and the City of New York Department of Parks & Recreation, the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality (BCEQ) is pleased to express our enthusiastic support for the WCS-NOAA Brook Park Wetland Restoration Project Preliminary Submission to the Public Design Commission.

Since 1971, BCEQ has sought to establish — as an Inherent Human Right — a sound, forward-looking environmental policy regarding an aesthetic, unpolluted, environment protecting a natural and historic heritage. Since 2001 we focused on Harlem River issues with our elected officials to develop connections to and along the river and create on-water access and activities in an effort to improve water quality. We did this with local community groups, including the Friends of Brook Park. We have also collaborated with NYC Parks on projects, including the WCS-NOAA pop-up wetland project at Pier 5, and the NYS Brownfields Opportunity Area project, both on the Harlem River.

We are very excited to recommend these partners and their unique and creative environmental project as a model for future sustainable and productive stormwater uses. This is the first project of its kind in NYC, and should prove to be a cost effective and environmental stormwater management tool. It will provide critical flood protection and enhance water quality for the Harlem River.

The opportunity to collect runoff from 26 home rooftops adjacent to the park is truly *extraordinary!* Currently, runoff from these rooftops is combined in an underground storage system and then goes into the sewer system. This project will take roof storm water and divert it to the wetland. After 36,000 gallons of rain fills the wetland, water continues to the sewer, exactly as it is doing right now.

At the January 8, 2014 BCEQ Board meeting, a vote was passed to renew our support for the Brook Park project and promise, as a community-based organization, to be actively engaged.

Sincerely,

Joyce Hogi, President, BCEQ

Dart Westphal, Co-Chair, BCEQ Water Committee