



# Beyond Pesticides and NYC Parks

## ORGANIC LAND MANAGEMENT

Joining with the New York City (NYC) Parks and Recreation Department, Beyond Pesticides and Eco-Friendly Parks for All (EFPA) is spearheading organic land management demonstration sites in parks and on playing fields throughout the five boroughs. EFPA includes Beyond Pesticides, The Black Institute, Grassroots Environmental Education, the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Voters for Animal Rights, and retired public school Paula Rogovin.

## SAFE FOR PEOPLE, PETS, AND WILDLIFE

Spurred by the adoption of legislation (Intro 1524, an update to Local Law 37) on Earth Day 2021, the program intersects with critical issues of public health, biodiversity, and climate by eliminating petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers. It maintains and enhances the beauty of the parks and the playability of playing fields. Organic land management works with nature to strengthen plant resilience and cycle nutrients, naturally reducing fertility costs over time and retaining higher levels of moisture, which allows for decreased irrigation and better adaptability to drought.

The NYC program is supported by Stonyfield Organic Yogurt, which underwrites the horticultural consultation services, including testing of soil biology, development of a plan with recommended practices and materials, as well as ongoing collaboration with Parks Department staff. Beyond Pesticides, through its Parks for a Sustainable Future program, collaborates with communities across the country to transition parks, playing fields, and public spaces to organic land management.

## ABOUT BEYOND PESTICIDES

Beyond Pesticides educates the public on the hazards of petrochemical pesticides and fertilizers and the adoption of alternatives to their use. Through our program, we affirm the core value of protecting health and the environment, rooted in scientific understanding of biological systems that are central to the sustainability of life. We track science and policy as a vehicle for informing action at the local, state, and federal level. The information we provide, including unique databases (Gateway on Pesticide Hazards and Safe Pest Management, Pesticide-Induced Diseases Database, and ManageSafe), daily news blog, factsheets (e.g., 40 Most Commonly Used Lawn Pesticides), and quarterly journal on hazards and alternatives, empowers grassroots education and advocacy, and advances changes in practices, products, and policies that are responsible for adverse health and environmental effects, with disproportionate adverse impact on people of color communities.