

# Public Restrooms in New York City

## Introduction

With 975 operational public restrooms as of June 2025 for the 8.48 million residents of New York City, there is functionally one public restroom for every 8,697 people. To compare, San Francisco has approximately 1 public restroom for every 4,600 residents, Boston has around 1 for every 5,000 residents, and Chicago has around 1 for every 5,800 residents. In other words, New York City has one of the lowest rates of available public restrooms per residents for a major U.S. city. The majority of public restrooms (824, 85%) are located in public parks and are open from 8:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m daily. Public parks restrooms are open later seasonally. On January 10, 2026, Mayor Mamdani [announced](#) that the City is launching a new program to increase access to public bathrooms. This follows decades of calls for action and initiatives proposed by elected officials and advocates.

## Timeline of Public Restroom Access Efforts

1973-  
1976

### Committee to End Pay Toilets in America

Started a wave of bans from 1973-1976, citing gender and income discrimination.

1975

### NY Senate Bill 399-A

§ 399-a. Pay toilets; prohibition.

1. On and after September first, nineteen hundred seventy-five, no owner, lessee or other occupant of any real property or any other person, copartnership or corporation shall operate or permit to be operated pay toilet facilities upon such real property.
2. A violation of the provisions of this section shall constitute a violation.

2006

### Automatic Public Toilets

- A 20 year deal with Cemusa, later acquired by JCDecaux, is struck to build 25¢ public restrooms. Currently 7 are installed.
- 5 entities review after Department of Transportation proposal: Community Board, Councilmember, Public Design Commission, Council Speaker, Mayor

2012

### Building Code Update

- Building code updated to allow restaurants and coffee shops with an occupancy of 30 people or fewer to provide patrons with one restroom rather than two
- Plumbing code updated to allow places with fewer than 20 seats to not provide any restroom

2022

### Local Law 114 of 2022

- Requires identifying one restroom location in each ZIP code. Department of Transportation and Department of Parks and Recreation collaborated on a report published February 2024. The report found there was at least one in 98% of the City's 178 modified ZIP code tabulation areas and identified 151 additional restroom sites.

2023

**Crohn's & Colitis Foundation Survey**

- An independent external panel of 1,500 adults nationwide were randomly selected to be representative of national demographics by race and gender.
- An [op-ed in Crain's by the CEO](#) noted that for New York City:
  - 54% of New York City residents think there are not enough public restrooms in their neighborhood or town, compared with 36% nationwide.
  - 14% of residents reported having a urinary or bowel accident within the past year, compared to 8% nationwide.
  - 83% of City respondents said they could have avoided an accident if there had been a public restroom nearby.

2024

**Mayor Adams' "Ur in Luck" initiative**

- Goal to build 46 new public restrooms and renovate 36 existing restrooms over the next five years.
- Also created a Google Maps layer with every City restroom

2025

**"Bathroom Bill" – Local Law 58 of 2025**

- Creates a permanent, long-term strategic planning process for establishing and maintaining a citywide public bathroom network. Led by a Deputy Mayor in collaboration with the Departments of City Planning, Parks and Recreation, Transportation, and any other relevant agency. The relevant agency would be required to produce a strategic planning report, to be updated every 4 years, with the goal of providing at least 2,120 public bathrooms by 2035. The agency would also post a comprehensive online map of all public bathrooms in the City.

2026

**Mayor Mamdani Announces Expansion of Public Restroom Access**

- Mayor announces \$4 million commitment from the City for requests for proposals for [modular public restrooms](#).

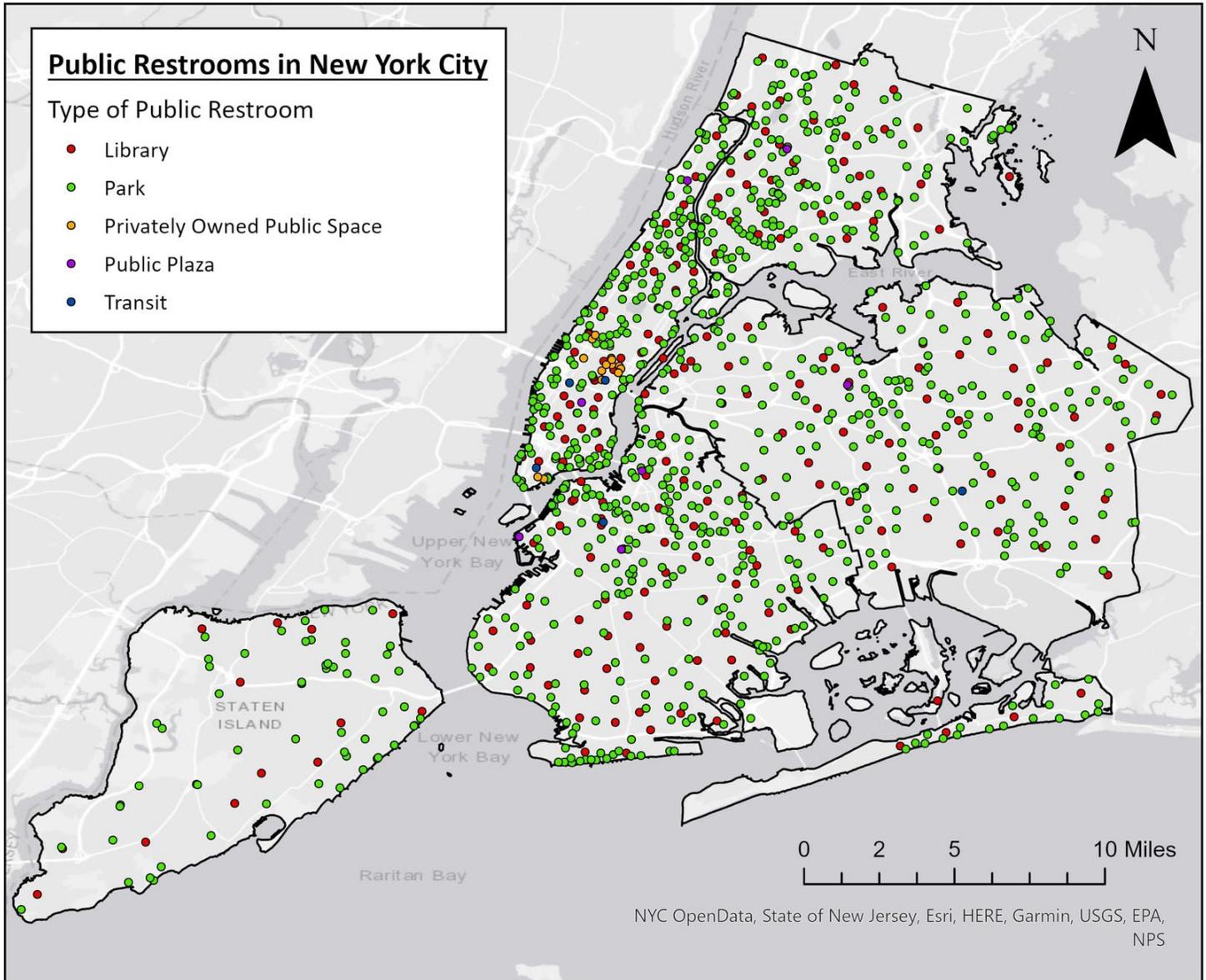
## Public Restroom Availability by Borough

Borough	Total Restrooms	Population per Restroom
Bronx	190	7,751
Brooklyn	289	9,467
Manhattan	235	7,210
Queens	280	8,591
Staten Island	72	6,885
<b>New York City</b>	<b>1,066</b>	<b>8,259</b>

SOURCE: NYC Open Data

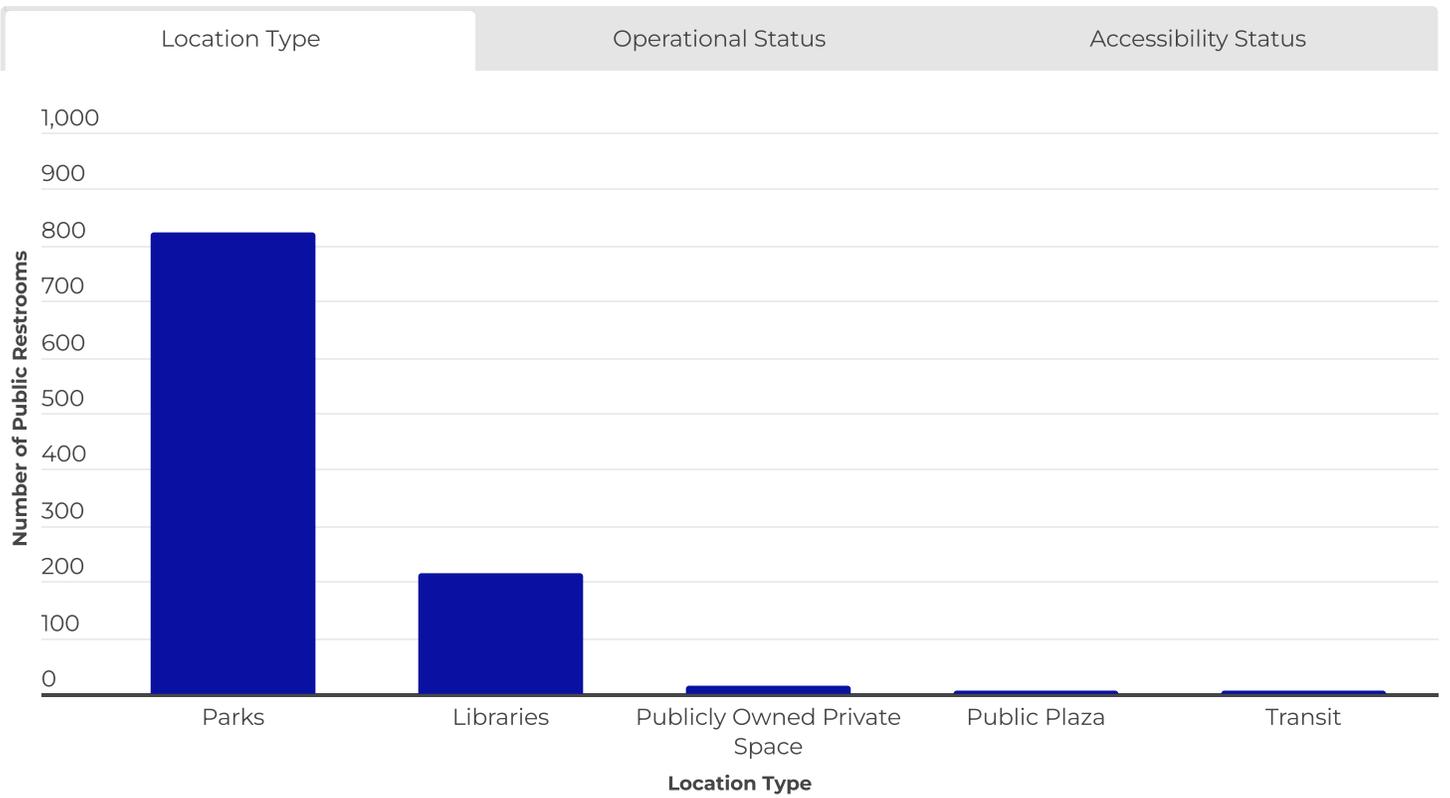
NOTE: All restrooms are reflected, regardless of whether they are operational or not. Numbers may not sum due to rounding.

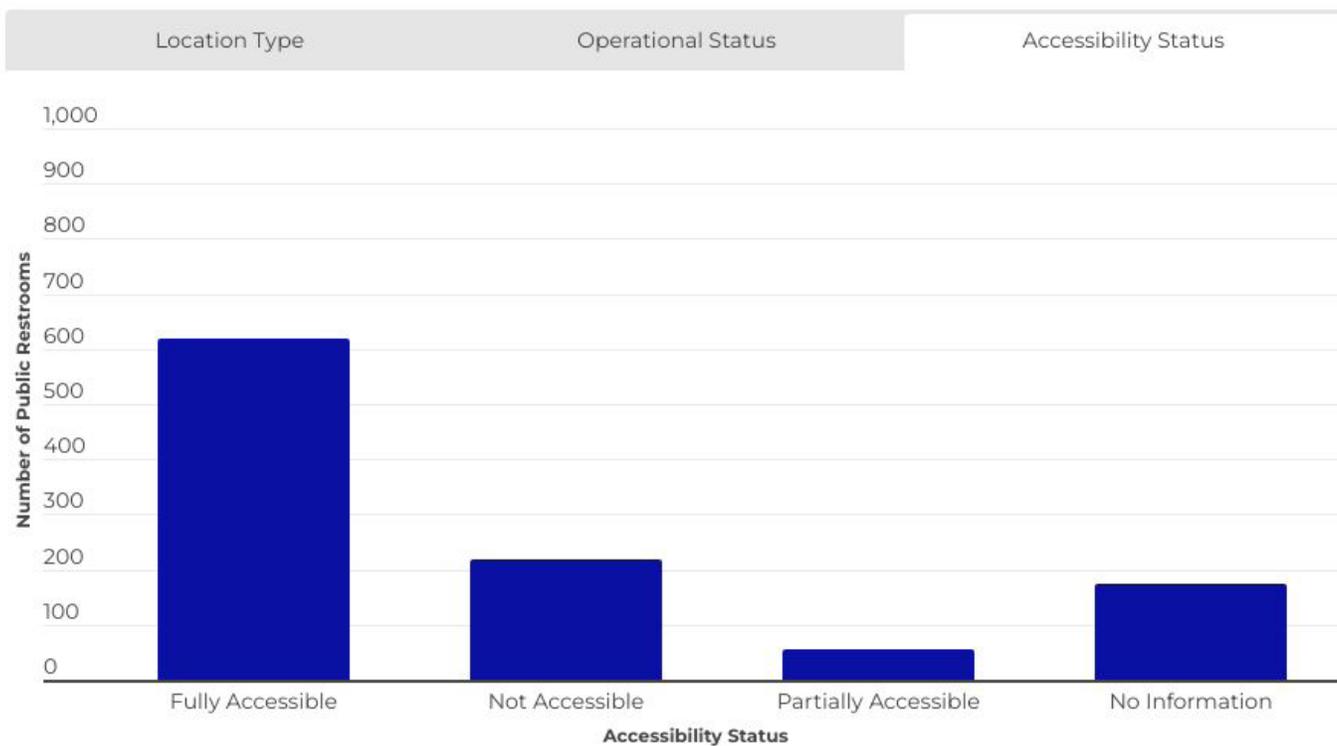
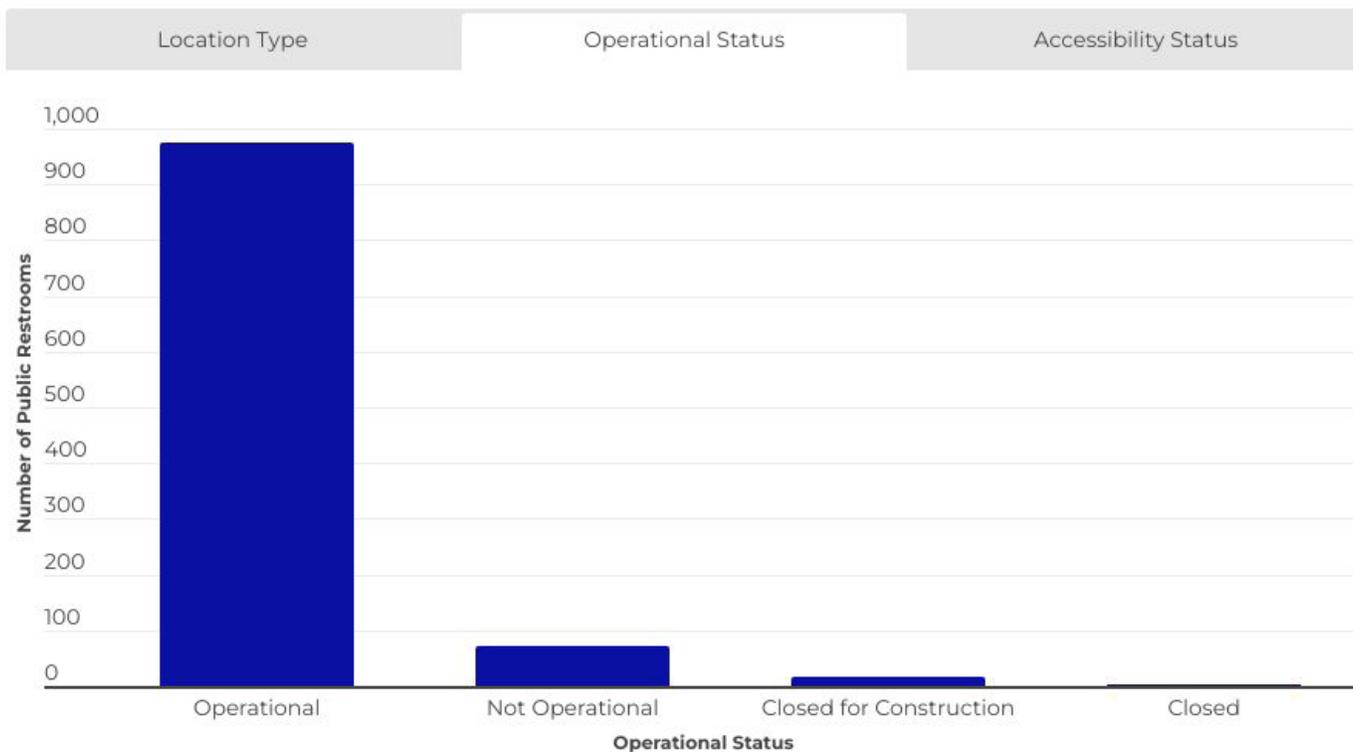
# Public Restroom Location by Borough



SOURCE: NYC Open Data, LL114 Restroom Report

# Public Restrooms by Type, Operational and Accessibility Status





SOURCE: NYC Open Data; Metropolitan Transportation Authority

NOTE: All restrooms are reflected, regardless of whether they are operational or not. Partially Accessible includes one restroom classified as limited accessibility. Category definitions for "Accessibility" tab used in this chart are available on the [NYC Open Data site](#).

