

# COMMUNITY DISTRICT 7: NORTH ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ) AREA

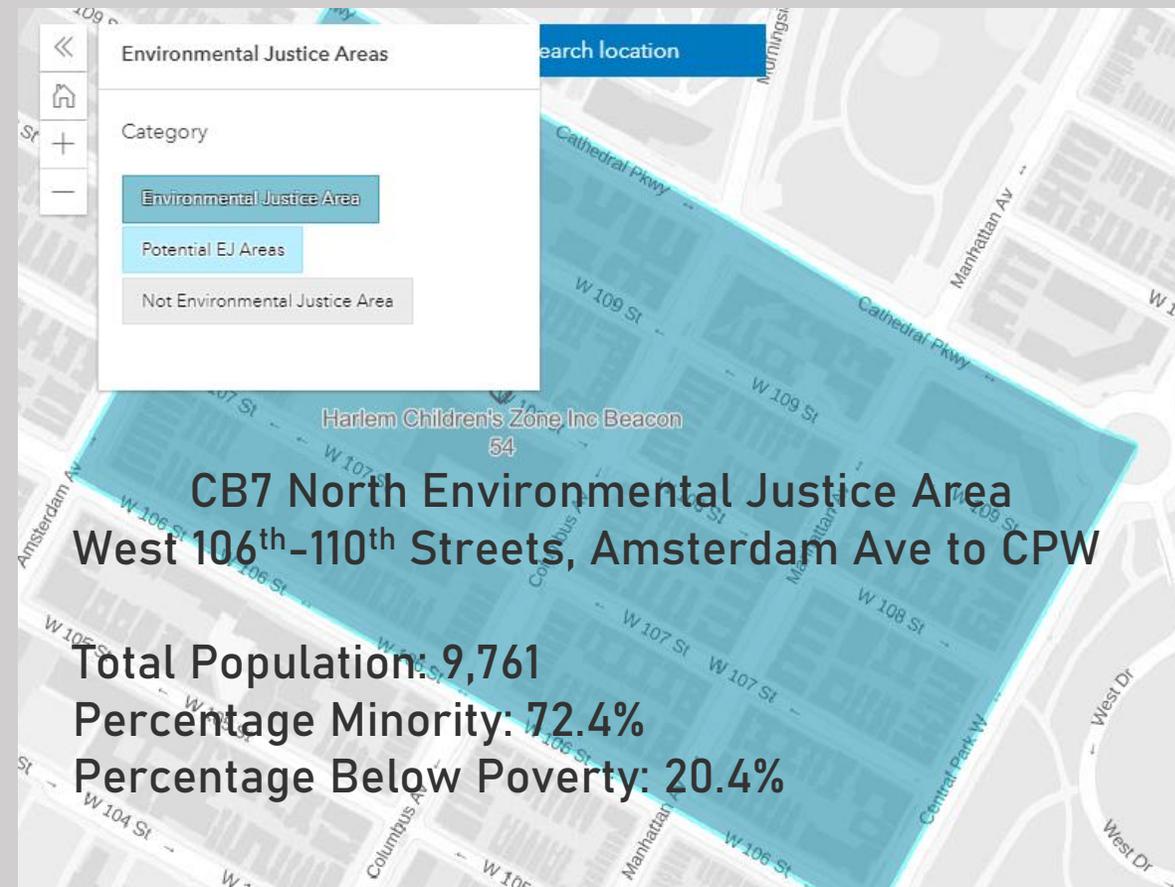
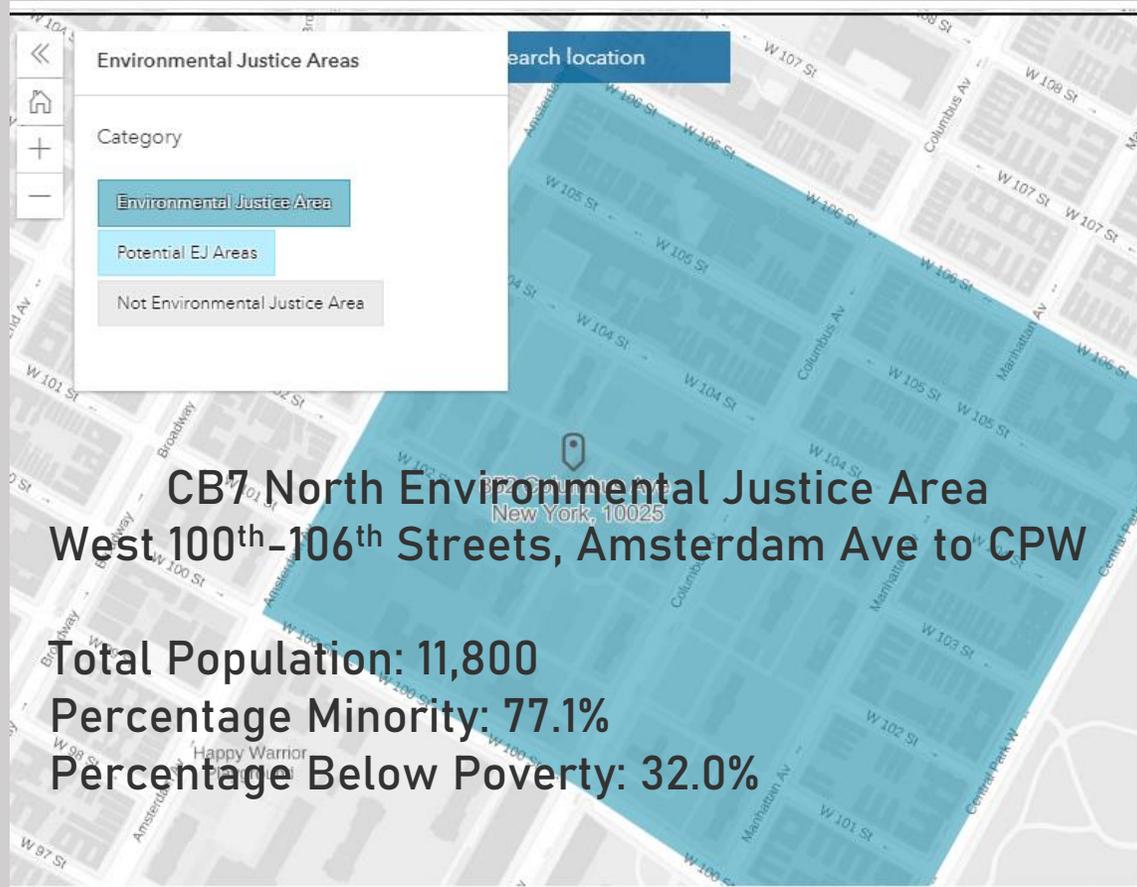
Bounded between Amsterdam Avenue and Central Park West, and 100th and 110th Street

- 26.7 percent or more of the total population is at or below the poverty line \*
- 75 percent or more of the total population is a member of a minority group \*
- Total Population = 21,561

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and Seema Reddy



# NYC ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR ALL REPORT: BREAKDOWN OF CB7 NORTH ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ZONES



# OUR SURVEY RESPONDENTS CONSISTENTLY NOTED GARBAGE, PESTS AND AIR POLLUTION AMONG ITS 5 TOP ISSUES

## Top 3 EJ Concerns

1. Garbage and pests
2. Fresh Food Access
3. Air Pollution

## Additional EJ Area Concerns

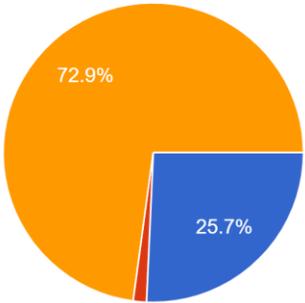
1. Services for the Homeless Population
2. Noise
3. Ensure mold and lead hazards are addressed in public housing and City-housing programs
4. Easy access to local recreational spaces
5. Traffic (especially truck idling)



# CB7 NORTH ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SURVEY RESPONSES

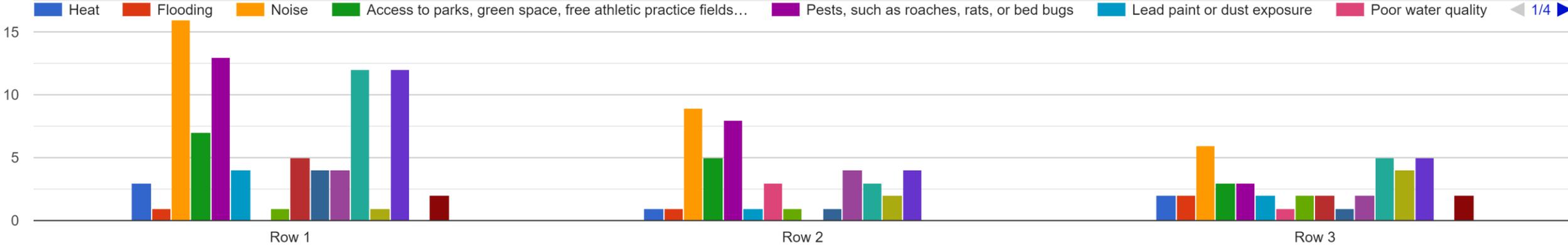
Do you live in an Environmental Justice area in our district?

70 responses



- Between 100-110th Street between Amsterdam Ave and Central Park
- Between 59-66th Street between Amsterdam Ave and Hudson River
- Community Board 7 area (59-110th Street between Hudson River and Central Park)
- Outside of Community Board 7 area

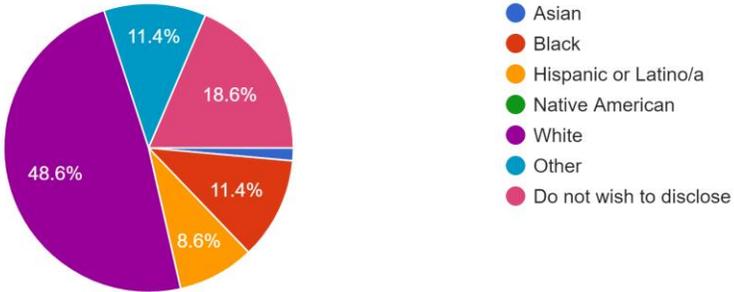
What are the top 3 environmental concerns in your area?



# CB7 NORTH ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SURVEY RESPONSES

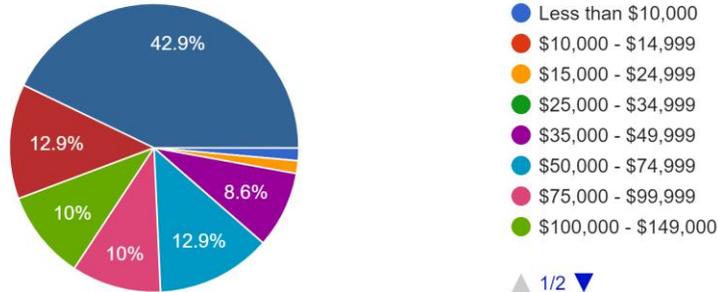
What is your race or ethnicity?

70 responses



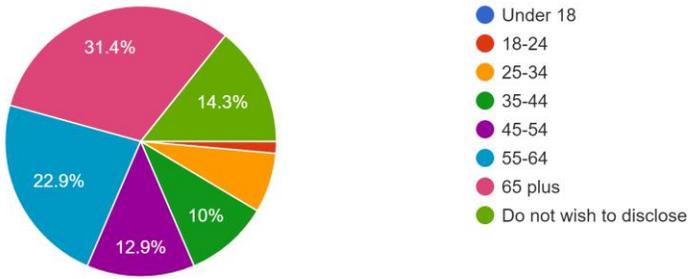
What is your annual household income?

70 responses



What is your age?

70 responses



The CB7 Manhattan Environmental Justice Survey included one long answer question: What do you think the City can do to improve your neighborhood's environment? The answers can be found in the following spreadsheet:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13S0xjJPw3WcWAJoa0KdvKzpkUbtVZv1lus86F9X7Dk/edit?usp=sharing>

# CB7 NORTH EJ AREA: GARBAGE

- The trash bins provided at Douglass Houses are insufficient; one small bin serves a 20-story building, for example. Elsewhere in the area, in preparation for garbage collection days, garbage bags line the streets and block the sidewalks throughout the area (see appendix photos). The black trash bags in which the garbage is stored is an invitation for rats and other vermin. “Mice and rats directly transmit diseases, and their droppings can contaminate food and water supplies” (p. 57).\*



- In addition at Douglass Houses recycling bins are stored behind fences and scaffolding, making them inaccessible. The fences and scaffolding have been in place for about two years, apparently awaiting the start of construction and repair at Douglass, which isn't happening.

\*<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/page/file/1074866/download>

# CB7 NORTH EJ AREA: FRESH FOOD ACCESS



There are four supermarkets in this area:

- Central Markets on 110th Street (expensive, gourmet supermarket),
- Los Vecinos Meat Market and Supermarket between 108th and 109th Streets (small butcher shop and mini market specializing in Latin American food products),
- Columbus Food Market on 104th Street (low-cost mini market with Latin American food products) and
- Associated Supermarket on 100th Street (low-cost supermarket).

The area is primarily composed of bodegas and delis, which sell some basics (sandwiches, juices, canned goods), but are also heavily stocked with fast food (cookies, chips and soda), which are generally found at the front of the store by the register and are easily accessible. Fresh food access is mainly limited to the larger supermarkets on 100th and 110th streets of which only one (Associated Supermarket) is low cost.

# CB7 NORTH EJ AREA: AIR POLLUTION

Per the CB7 survey, community members complained about the idling Fresh Direct trucks on Amsterdam Avenue between 101 Street and 102 Street and the emissions of trucks making deliveries to Home Goods, T.J. Maxx and Whole Foods on Columbus between 97th-100th Street. In addition, complaints have been made on the numerous cars that are parked on 100th Street between Amsterdam Ave and Columbus Avenue.

A respiratory hazard index for Douglass Houses and its surroundings shows that 79 percent of the NYS population has a respiratory problem with a lower value than Douglass Houses and the surrounding area.

Additionally, low income people of color may lack affordable health care and may have pre-existing conditions that are then exacerbated by pollution and/or make them more susceptible to pollutants and illnesses deriving from the same. Air purifiers, which may help with pollutants, are expensive and only address indoor air quality concerns.\* More needs to be done to address the short and long term effects of pollution on low income communities of color.

\*<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2021/04/28/environmental-justice-pollution/>



# Douglass Houses as described by Dearyl H Miles, a long-time NYCHA resident and community leader.



- Scaffolding: The scaffolding all around the Douglass Houses have been up for two years now and residents have seen no visible work associated with these structures. As a result of the scaffolding, residents must keep windows closed; they don't have access to fresh air, which has been crucial during Covid for circulation and ventilation.
- Elevators: The elevators in multiple Douglass Houses are constantly out of order, which is problematic for residents on the upper floors, those with physical disabilities and for older residents. For example, when 2 new elevators were installed at 875 Columbus Avenue, one of them broke down 17 times in the first month after the installation. Residents on upper floors had to walk up 20 flights.
- Mailboxes: Multiple buildings in the complex have broken mailboxes that haven't been fixed. When residents are expecting checks in the mail, they encounter a security issue.
- Front door locks: Multiple buildings in this NYCHA development have broken front door locks, which poses a security and safety issue for the residents inside.
- Water pipes: At 875 Columbus Avenue, a water pipe burst and although a temporary solution has been installed, residents continue having problems with water temperature control. When the water pipe burst, residents had no water at all.
- Garbage: Small garbage bins in minimal numbers are located outside of the Douglass Houses buildings servicing up to 180 apartments per building. Garbage accumulates outside of the buildings becoming breeding/feeding grounds for rodents and pests.
- Fences: Fences were installed throughout the Frederick Douglass Houses grounds blocking benches (where residents sit in the warmer weather), playgrounds and recycling bins. Residents depend on the use of these spaces for recreation (benches/playground) and to follow the law (recycling).

# CB7 NORTH EJ AREA WALKTHROUGH OBSERVATIONS

## Community Fridge:

There is one community fridge (Ujamaa Community Fridge) within the Environmental Justice area of concern on 101st and Columbus Avenue in the Douglass complex. Community fridges provide food to the community for anyone to take without limit removing stigma and enabling residents with hardship to access fresh, nutritious food. CB7 is advocating for the installation of additional community fridges in the Environmental Justice area of critical need.



## Community Center:

There is now only one community center (Frederick Douglass Center) in the Environmental Justice area of concern on Columbus Avenue between 103rd and 104th Street; it is temporarily closed due to Covid. The center is run by Children's Aid to provide essential services to children, youth and families in the vicinity. The center has a gymnasium, an outdoor playground and classrooms for afterschool programs. The area is in need of additional community centers to provide services to low income and minority residents.



# CB7 NORTH EJ AREA WALKTHROUGH OBSERVATIONS

## Health Centers:

There are no urgent care facilities in the northern CB7 Environmental Justice area. Only two medical offices were located within this region: Columbus Medical Arts, between 104<sup>th</sup> and 105<sup>th</sup> Streets and Columbus Medical Group on 108<sup>th</sup> and Columbus Ave. Overall, there is a lack of medical care facilities in this cited area of critical need to service the total population of 21,561 residents.



## Community Gardens:

There are 3 Community Gardens in the northern Environmental Justice area of CB7, as well as Frederick Douglass Houses farm, which sits on the former site of the tennis courts within the NYCHA development. They are the Mobilization for Change Community Garden, La Perla Community Garden and West 104th Street Garden. The gardens are open to the public 20 hours per week from April to October. Although signs are translated into 2 languages, operating hours are only listed in English. More information is needed on the members of color/lower income members of the community who participate in maintaining the garden, visiting the garden and/or getting produce from the gardens.



# CB7 NORTH EJ AREA ACCESS ISSUES: PLAYGROUNDS & RECREATIONAL SPACES

Almost all playgrounds and recreational spaces in this area have complicated access issues, particularly in terms of recreation uses. The fields at Frederick Douglass Playground are technically available to all, but teams with permits take precedence and often overtake the fields at prime times (e.g., after school, weekends). The Bloomingdale Playground is beautiful and accessible. But access to portions of that playground are also shared with PS 145. Similar access issues also arise with the recreational spaces in Central Park and Riverside Park. Residents listed the need for free access to athletic fields for all as an issue in the CB7 survey.



# CB7 NORTH EJ AREA: PLAYGROUNDS IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT



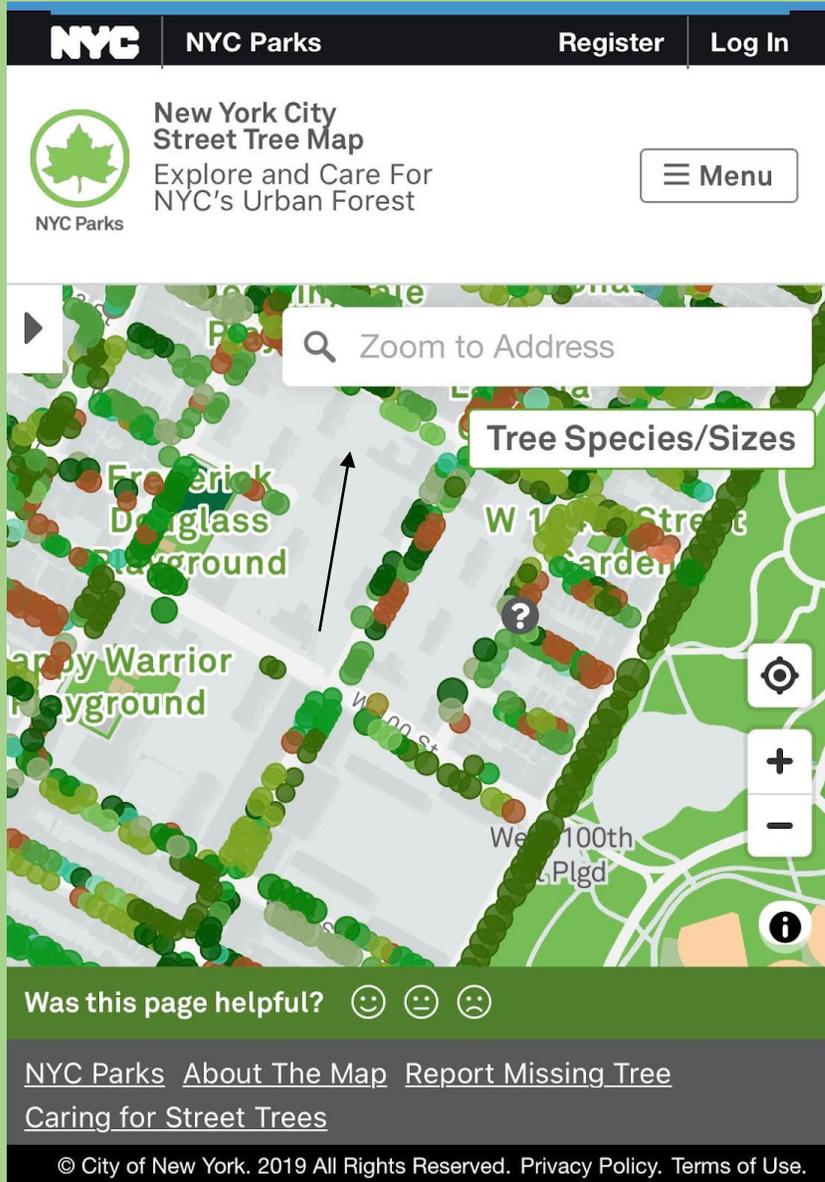
Anibal Aviles Playground on West 108<sup>th</sup> Street bet. Amsterdam & Columbus



Frederick Douglass Playground on West 100<sup>th</sup> Street on Amsterdam Ave



# NYC STREET TREE MAP – CB7 NORTH EJ AREA: TREE SCARCITY



The area within Douglass Houses (and throughout the CB7 North EJ area) is in need of more trees to clean and cool the surrounding air. Additional tree plantings could affordably and significantly improve residents' health and the area's carbon footprint.

According to the American Forests organization:

- US trees absorb 17.4 million tons of air pollutants & prevent 670,000 asthma cases annually;\*
- Trees reduce outdoor air temperatures by up to 9 degrees;\*
- Trees cool down city blocks by up to 10 degrees;\*
- Trees capture/store 1/5 of US carbon emissions;\*
- Trees limit heat-related illnesses;\*
- Trees boost mental health.\*

\*<https://www.americanforests.org/what-we-do/research-and-reports/>

# SCAFFOLDING AND CONSTRUCTION IN CB7 NORTH EJ AREA: DOUGLASS HOUSES



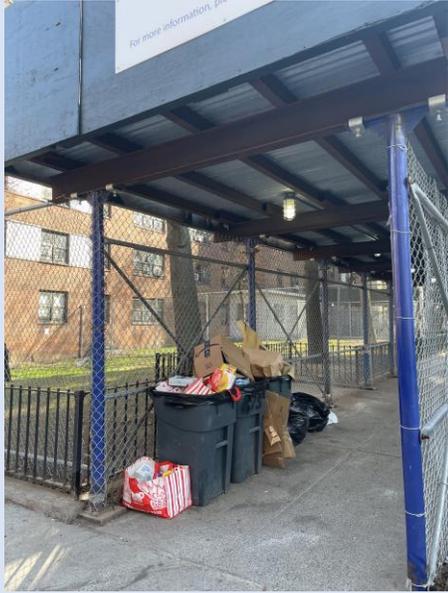
Scaffolding snakes through the whole campus of Douglass Houses on sidewalks and passageways. Shown here on Columbus Ave and West 104<sup>th</sup> Street (830, 865, and 875 Columbus Ave; and 140 W104<sup>th</sup> Street). Oddly, the scaffolding does not seem to be associated with construction in the buildings.



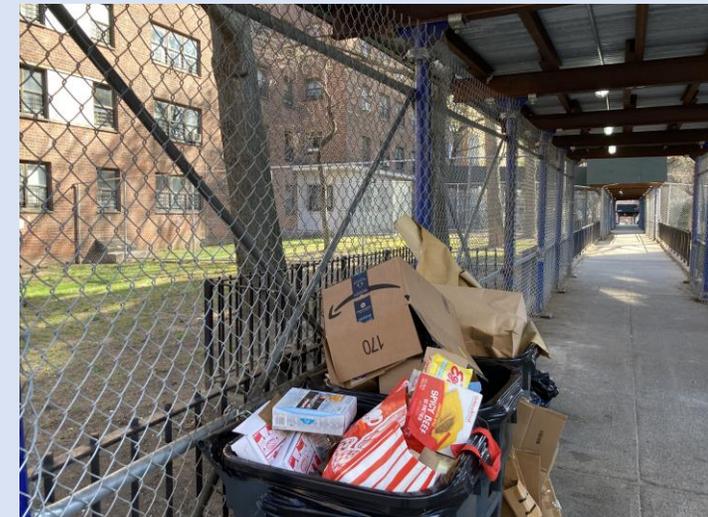
Even more problematic is the access restrictions imposed by the unknown construction and scaffolding. Here is a central pathway at the Frederick Douglass Playground at W101<sup>st</sup> Street

At Douglass Houses, the scaffolding closes off sets of recycling bins and access to seating and/or green space for residents throughout the campus

# GARBAGE IN CB7 NORTH EJ AREA: DOUGLASS HOUSES

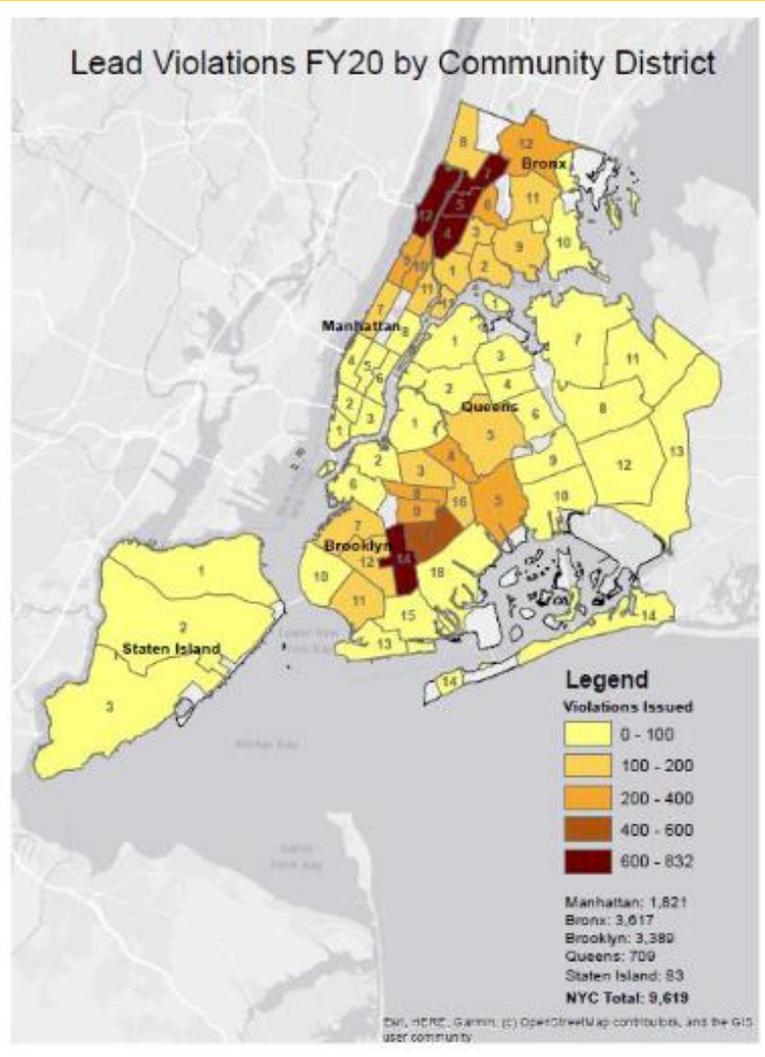


Throughout Douglass Houses, there is insufficient capacity to accommodate the garbage and recycling needs of residents. Most paths throughout the complex have overflowing bins that are unsightly and unhygienic.



# APPENDICES

- 1. <https://nychamonitor.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/8.13.20-Fifth-Quarterly-Report-Letter-Final.pdf>
- 2. [Report to the City Council: The Department of Housing Preservation and Development's Implementation of Local Law #1 of 2004 in FY 2020 \(July 1, 2019 –June 30, 2020\)](#)



# SCHOOLS IN CB7 NORTH EJ AREA – MANHATTAN VALLEY

## Public Schools

1. Booker T. Washington Middle School (JHS 54)
2. PS 145
3. PS 106
4. Edward A. Reynolds West Side High School

## Private Schools

1. Park West Montessori School

school

The School at Columbia University  
4.8 ★★★★★ (6)  
Private educational institution · 556 W 110th St  
Closed today · (212) 851-4215

Public School 145  
4.5 ★★★★★ (13)  
School · 150 W 105th St  
(212) 678-2857

The Studio School  
5.0 ★★★★★ (6)  
School · 117 W 95th St  
Closed today · (212) 678-2416

BASIS Independent School  
5.0 ★★★★★ (4)  
Private educational institution · 795 Columbus Ave  
Open until 6:00 PM · (347) 305-4960

Bank Street School for Children  
4.6 ★★★★★ (45)  
Private educational institution · 610 W 112th St  
Closed today · (212) 875-4420

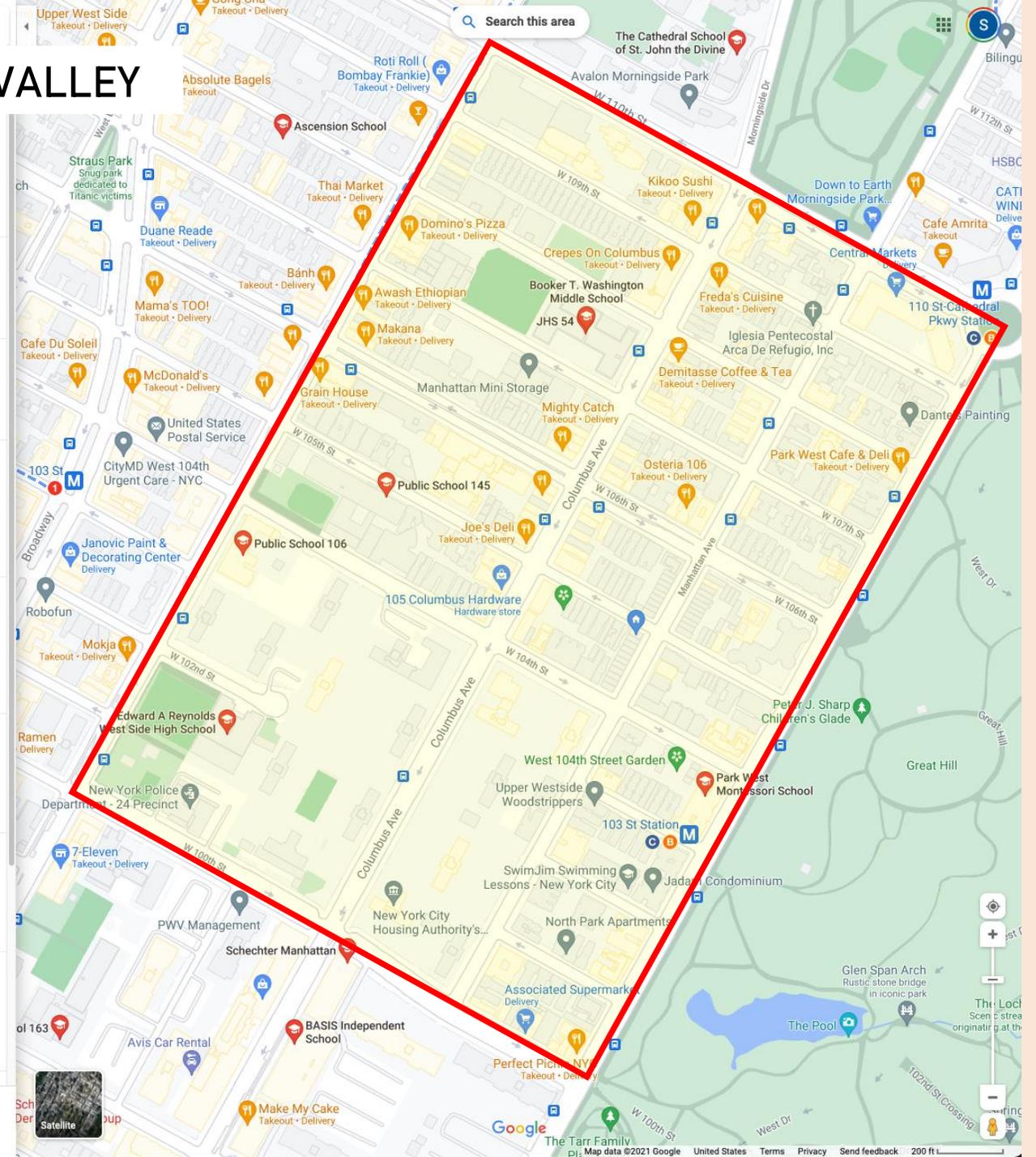
Public School 208  
2.6 ★★☆☆☆ (5)  
Public educational institution · 21 W 111th St  
(212) 534-9580

Ascension School  
3.8 ★★★★★ (11)  
Private educational institution · 220 W 108th St  
(212) 222-5161

Booker T. Washington Middle School  
4.0 ★★★★★ (19)  
School · 103 W 107th St  
(212) 678-2861

Showing results 1 - 20

Update results when map moves



# CB7 NORTH EJ AREA: PRESCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



The Open Door Childcare Center on West 100<sup>th</sup> Street and Columbus Avenue can be found on the grounds of Douglass Houses. The center provides early childhood care at low cost. The grounds are bleak and in need of an upgrade.



# CB7 NORTH EJ AREA: MORE ACCESS ISSUES

Lingering construction on West 100<sup>th</sup> Street has closed off the sidewalk on the south side of the street. Pavement and steps throughout the area are in disrepair. Benches are enclosed behind fences. Front door locks are broken and doors are wide open.



# CB7 NORTH EJ AREA: DOUGLASS HOUSES PLAYGROUNDS

Various playgrounds throughout the complex are enclosed behind fences; other playgrounds are grey and barren.



# CB7 NORTH EJ AREA: ADDITIONAL GARBAGE PHOTOS

The EJ area outside of Douglass Houses to 110<sup>th</sup> Street contends with the same garbage accumulation issues.

