

Gowanus:

A Framework For a Sustainable, Inclusive, Mixed-Use Neighborhood

Gowanus: A Framework for a Sustainable, Inclusive, Mixed-use Neighborhood, released in June 2018, is a roadmap for potential goals and strategies, including recommended land use changes, to be developed and implemented as part of a Neighborhood Plan. The framework is the culmination of more than 100 hours of public outreach and community meetings to solicit input since the Gowanus PLACES Study launched in October 2016. It is informed by previous reports and studies, including Bridging Gowanus, and ongoing community efforts by government agencies and community stakeholders and organizations.

The vision laid out in this framework aims to foster a thriving, inclusive and more resilient Gowanus where existing and future residents and workers are able to participate in civic, cultural and economic activities and where a wholly unique resource – the Gowanus Canal – can thrive and play an active role in that equitable and sustainable growth.

Reading the Framework

The framework is organized first into chapters that describe planning and policy strategies proposed across the Gowanus neighborhood – addressing ***Sustainability and Resiliency, Environmental Remediation, Community*** and ***Cultural Resources, Housing, Economic and Job Development***, and ***Transportation*** – followed by a discussion of ***Land Use and Urban Form***. Each chapter describes goals for Gowanus and specific strategies proposed to achieve them. Strategies include zoning, capital investments, and support for existing City and community initiatives.

The Land Use and Urban Form chapter identifies three types of areas in Gowanus with distinct approaches and recommendations: Industrial and Commercial, Enhanced Mixed-Use, and the Canal Corridor, which reflect the key components of the neighborhood's diverse and complex mix of uses. The framework proposes land use and urban form strategies for each of Gowanus's different neighborhood sub-areas.

The full framework document is available at www.nyc.gov/gowanus.

Next Steps

The full document will be shared and discussed at an Open House on Wednesday, June 27 at P.S. 32, 317 Hoyt Street, from 5:00 to 8:30 PM. (This activity is not sponsored or endorsed by the New York City Department of Education.) DCP and 16 other City agencies will be at the meeting to get direct feedback from the community. Feedback and input can also be provided through www.PlanGowanus.com.

Through refinement and community feedback on the framework, a Neighborhood Plan and draft zoning proposal will be developed to begin implementing this collective vision. The Neighborhood Plan will implement this vision by aligning community and government resources and effectuating zoning and land use changes through the City's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP) process.

Feedback and input can be provided through www.PlanGowanus.com or by emailing the DCP team at gowanus@planning.nyc.gov or calling DCP's Brooklyn Office at 718-780-8280.

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Key Strategies

The framework consists of proposed goals and strategies to make Gowanus a cleaner, greener, inclusive neighborhood that can serve as a model of sustainability for New York City and beyond. Stitched together, the tapestry of policies and proposals aim to support the evolution of Gowanus into an eco-neighborhood where existing and future residents and workers can live, work and play with a minimal carbon footprint and impacts on climate change. Key strategies include:

- Promoting a more resilient future, where buildings and infrastructure are designed to manage flood risk today and into the future
- Increasing public open space that is green and resilient along the Canal and capitalizing on opportunities to green public spaces throughout the area
- Creating new job-generating space and fostering a mix of uses within the neighborhood so residents can live, work, create, play and shop and all users can reach their destinations by walking and bicycling or other means
- Promoting new housing – creating and preserving affordable housing and improving public housing – near public transit to further reduce carbon footprint
- Improving access to new jobs, training opportunities and other resources that support social, economic and environmental resiliency in the community
- Improving mobility and safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers on streets and public areas
- Planning for meeting the infrastructure and community resources needs of growing neighborhood



Vision sketch looking north from 3rd Street