

Overview

On December 8, 2016, the Department of City Planning (DCP) and partnering agencies hosted the second public meeting for the Gowanus Neighborhood Planning Study at the Wyckoff Gardens Community Center. The event focused on sustainability, resiliency, and environmental remediation in the Gowanus area. An estimated 200 people attended.

The evening began with a presentation by DCP, the City's Office of Environmental Remediation (OER), and the Mayor's Office of Recovery & Resiliency (ORR). Presenters provided updates on current projects and

initiatives affecting the Gowanus area, including ongoing cleanup of the Gowanus Canal, local sewer upgrades, and citywide flood resilience zoning.

The presentation also summarized outcomes of the October 27, 2016 Kick-Off event and next steps in the process for the Gowanus Neighborhood Planning Study. Participation and comments received at the Kick-Off helped determine the topic areas of the study's working groups - Arts & Culture, Housing, Industry & Economic Development, Public Realm, and Sustainability & Resiliency - that will help establish priorities for a

Gowanus land use and planning framework.

An open house following the presentation provided more information and an opportunity for attendees to discuss specific topics and issues with agency staff. Staff representing DCP, ORR, OER, the Mayor's Office of Sustainability (MOS), Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), among others, provided informational posters and hand-outs. They spoke with local residents, business owners, and other stakeholders about sustainability, resiliency, and remediation, as well as the study process

and land use and zoning regulations affecting the Gowanus area. Electronic copies of the presentation, boards, handouts and other materials can be accessed at nyc.gov/gowanus.

Attendees had several opportunities at the event to provide written comments and recommendations on the study process and sustainability and resiliency needs in Gowanus. Their notes and ideas, summarized in the following pages, continue to influence and enhance the study's process and priorities.

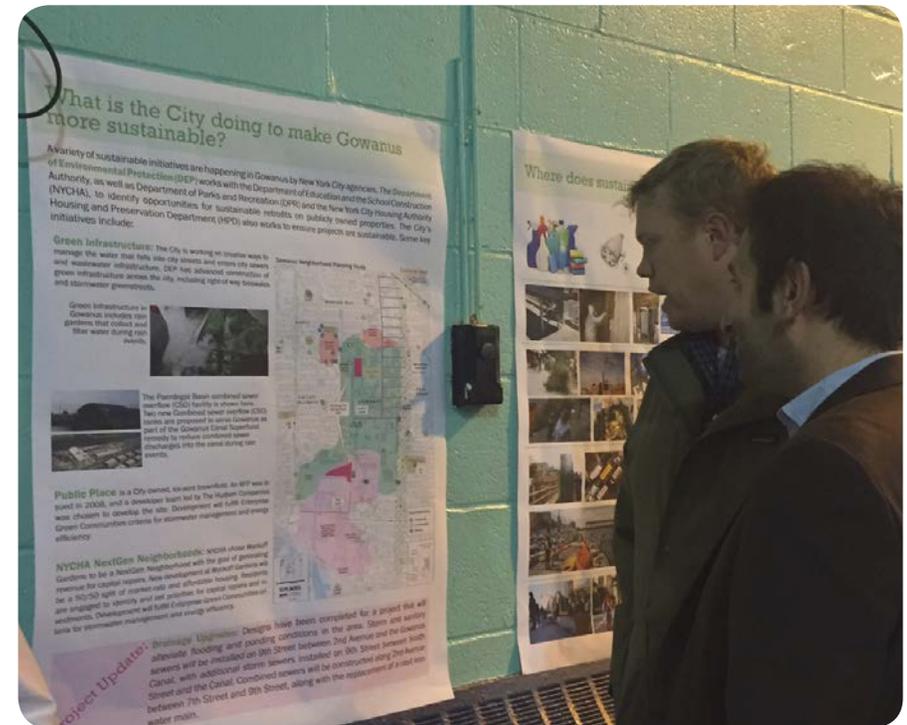


Environmental Quality

- "Toxic clean-up and keeping the area clean"
- "What measures are in place to monitor emissions, spills, and hazardous materials?"
- "In the context of all these environmental realities, what types of special districts, measures, and/or development standards are you exploring as part of the rezoning? Are you open to the creation of an Environmental Improvement Special District?"
- "I second this notion of an environmental improvement district. Goal = Zero CSOs, vibrant ecology, public space, energy efficiency."
- "Put bioswales on 7th Street, especially where trees were removed recently, e.g. by the Sendak School"
- "Thoughtful development - sustainable and esthetic"

Emergency & Flood Preparedness

- "What is DCP going to do to ensure that this rezoning, which is expected to increase residential development in hurricane Evauation Zones 1 and 2, which already disproportionately house vulnerable populations in Sandy-impaced areas, will better prepare Gowanus to respond to superstorms and other climate related events?"
- "Within the last 200 years, NYC has been hit by a hurricane every 16 years. In the future this is not going to change. What is DCP going to do to ensure Gowanus is capable of responding properly to the next hurricane?"
- "We need to have a community emergency preparedness plan first Gownaus residents and businesses. Put people first."
- "How are Office of Emergency Management and other agencies going to ensure that an emergency preparedness plan is created with and for the community?"
- "What emergency preparedness plans are in existence for this neighborhood, particularly for communities in public housing?"
- "We need a Gowanus Community Emergency Response Plan."
- "How can we save community hubs like this (Wyckoff Gardens) center which are critical during climate events and other emergencies?"





Economic Resilience

- "Small business protections are part of a resilient community."
- "Evolve the local manufacturing sector to support the green economy and job creation. Promote training and access to jobs."
- "Strengthen industrial manufacturing sector"
- "How are multi-generational families and small businesses who live and work in Gowanus being protected?"
- "Community land trust for affordable housing and union local jobs to repair their affordable housing units"
- "Keep all lots zoned Manufacturing as Manufacturing."
- "How can DCP protect commercial businesses so that residents have more affordable grocery stores and needed amenities, like laundromats and pharmacies?"
- "What is DCP's plan to address the issue of hospital closures and general lack of medical options available to low and moderate income families and seniors?"
- "What measures are in place regarding training, employment, and community cohesion?"
- "Resilient building incentives for industrial/manufacturing businesses"

Process & Outreach

- "What organizing is being done to improve communication between resiliency organizations?"
- "Outreach for practical sustainable behaviors"
- "Protect and outreach to 3rd Ave. corridor businesses and residents"
- "How will outreach be done to the large Spanish-speaking community so that they are included in this process?"
- "For Working Groups: have ground rules, explain scope and what group is to focus on"

Community Sustainability

- “Sustainability has to be about people, and making sure they can stay in the community and not be displaced is the measure of sustainability.”
- “Maintain housing, art, and business in Gowanus - accessibility for all - that is the definition of sustainable.”
- “The definition of sustainability should include the community feeling secure about housing, business, school - that people can thrive in a community for generations and build stronger lives together.”
- “Resiliency and sustainability need to be about the people (residents and businesses) in this community, not just the buildings.”
- “As we talk about resiliency and sustainability, we need to remember it is not just about infrastructure. It is about people in our community.”
- “What is being done to secure full funding towards re-opening the Gowanus Community Center, identifying additional community safe spaces, and ensuring programming and emergency preparedness resources can be maintained for our local community to be more resilient? At what point in the planning and rezoning conversation will this issue be addressed?”
- “What is being done to secure full funding towards re-opening the Gowanus Houses Community Center?”
- “What is DCP’s plan to address not only the lack of school seats but the segregation of students by race and economic status, both of which stand to be made much worse in the event of a rezoning that grows the population of our area significantly?”
- “Address school segregation and lack of quality school seats before bringing in new population.”

Housing

- “How is the DCP planning to make sure the rezoning of Gowanus uses public and private investment for public housing residents’ needs for repairs and improvements at the NYCHA properties?”
- “How is NYCHA handling the problems with blow-ups with radiators?”
- “How are deep affordable (below 30% AMI) housing units created?”
- “What is going to happen with original tenants when the housing crisis begins to change regarding upgrading and moving people out?”
- “Protect the residents of Wyckoff Gardens. No infill - give us repair.”
- “What special anti-harassment district model will be applied to Gowanus to protect long-standing rent-stabilized residents from being displaced?”
- “Will there be more attention to displacement and tenant harassment that became more common after the rezoning of 4th Ave?”
- “We need to address the crisis of displacement as an environmental justice issue in Gowanus.”

