What is the Gowanus Neighborhood Planning Study?

The Gowanus Neighborhood Planning Study seeks to foster a thriving neighborhood by reinforcing and encouraging a robust local economy anchored by a mix of uses and businesses, while creating opportunities for new housing with affordable housing in appropriate locations.

Study Goals

The study will examine ways to balance the range of issues and needs in Gowanus by seeking to:

• encourage and expand neighborhood services and amenities
• improve streetscapes and pedestrian safety
• explore incentives to preserve and develop space for job-generating uses, including arts, cultural and creative sectors
• promote opportunities for new housing with affordable housing and protect residential tenants against harassment and displacement
• coordinate necessary infrastructure improvements throughout the area to support the continued cleanup of the Gowanus Canal and to accommodate existing and future needs

Stay in Touch!

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About the Department of City Planning

The Department of City Planning (DCP) is New York City’s primary land use agency and is instrumental in designing the City’s physical and socioeconomic framework. DCP’s ambition is to make all of New York a better place to live, to maintain what works and improve what doesn’t.
Gowanus Timeline and Process

**Update to CB 6 on study launch & process feedback**
- **Dec 2016**

**Update and gather input on working group process from CB 6**
- **Jan 2017**

**Gowanus EXPO Event**
- **May 2017**

**Presentation to CB 6**
- **June 2017**

**Presentation to CB 6**
- **Nov 2017**

**Presentation to CB 6**
- **June 2018**

**WE ARE HERE!**

**Next Steps**
- Community event on framework
- Gather feedback & ongoing community engagement
- Site specific planning discussions
- CSO Facility Design Review
- Public Place
- Develop draft zoning proposal and move the framework forward into a draft Neighborhood Plan

**Develop Planning Framework**
- **June 2018**

**Planning and Land Use Framework**
- **June 2018**

**Draft Neighborhood Plan and Zoning Proposal**
- Goal: Writer 2018

**Public Review and Implementation**

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**Working Groups**

- The Department of City Planning and relevant City agencies worked with residents and community stakeholders to develop specific recommendations that meet Study goals in five Working Groups. Above, each dot represents a working group meeting.

- **Housing**
- **Arts and Culture**
- **Industry and Economic Dev.**
- **Public Realm**
- **Sustainability and Resiliency**
Gowanus: A Framework for a Sustainable, Inclusive, Mixed-use Neighborhood

The framework is a road map for Gowanus to become a sustainable, model green neighborhood where a wholly unique resource – the Canal – can thrive and play an active role in promoting equitable and sustainable growth.

- 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 that residents can live, work, create, play and shop, and all users can reach their destinations by walking, bicycling or other means
- Promoting new, denser housing - creating and preserving affordable housing - and improving public housing near public transit will reduce energy use and 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 a growing neighborhood
In April 2017, the Department of City Planning (DCP) piloted an online engagement platform called Plan Gowanus to broaden public participation through interactive tools and a user-friendly interface. Input provided on the website, together with feedback gathered through public meetings and other outreach, was used by DCP and other city agencies to create the planning and land use framework.

In addition to the framework, the site contains sub-pages for each of the working groups and the documents that were shared, summaries of past public meetings and general information about the study and its goals. As of June 2018, the site has received nearly 12,500 total page visits with an average of 30-40 daily visitors. Thank you to everyone who participated in the engagement tools. We want to hear your ideas and feedback on the framework! In conjunction with the framework release, visit Plan Gowanus to provide input using the 'Ideas' tool.

Do you have ideas and suggestions to improve the framework? What goals and strategies would you change, add or remove?

How can we implement these specific goals and strategies? What partnerships would make Gowanus more of an inclusive, mixed use neighborhood?

What is Plan Gowanus?

Among the different interactive tools is 'Map Your Neighborhood' which allows users to place pins on a map and add comments for what they like or what needs improvement in Gowanus and the nearby area. Since launching, 85 contributors have placed 221 pins and comments on the interactive maps.

Here’s a sample of thoughts and ideas we’ve heard...

Sewer on this block. Can take very sharp left and fast turns here. I see debris, should be excavated and re-opened. This is part of the Superfund plan, but the city should plan for it as well.

Great Historic Structure here, the wall and the stone... This area should be developed for art and science education.