

Quarterly Public Meeting #3

Gowanus Oversight Task Force

Thursday, September 28, 2023 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

P.S. 133 | William A. Butler School 610 Baltic St, Brooklyn, NY

Source: Noah Sheidlower

WELCOME!

- This meeting will be recorded and posted on the Task Force website (gowanustaskforce.net)
- Pick up meeting materials
- Restrooms located at the rear of the room, to the right of the school's front desk

¡BIENVENIDOS!

- Esta reunión será grabada y se publicará en el sitio web del Task Force (gowanustaskforce.net)
- Recoja los materiales de la reunión cuando ingrese
- Baños situados en la parte trasera de la sala, a la derecha de la recepción de la escuela.

Meeting Structure

Increase opportunities for **Public Engagement** Focus on **timely topics of interest** to the Gowanus community



AGENDA

1. Welcome and Agenda (5 min)

2. Waterfront Access and Amenities (45 min)

Presenting agencies: NYC Departments of City Planning (DCP), Parks and Recreation (DPR)

- GOTF Committees Opening Statement
- > Agency Presentation: DCP, DPR (initial)
- > Discussion and Public Q+A (10 min)
- Agency Presentation: DCP, DPR (cont.)
- Discussion and Public Q+A (15 min)

3. Flooding and Sewer Systems (45 min)

Presenting agency: NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

- GOTF Committees Opening Statement
- Agency Presentation: DEP (initial)
- Discussion and Public Q+A (10 Minutes)
- > Agency Presentation: DEP (cont.)
- Discussion and Public Q+A (15 Minutes)

COMMENTS + QUESTIONS

Please include on your note card:

- Your Name
- Affiliation
- Agency(ies) of interest
- City Commitment / Focus
 Area of interest



Website: gowanustaskforce.net

Questions can be sent to: info@gowanustaskforce.net

TASK FORCE MEMBERS



A LONG ROAD







Public Investments

Housing, public space, community amenities, workforce and business support

Priority Capital Needs for NYCHA

Gowanus Houses and Wyckoff Gardens

IMPACT OF COMMITMENTS



Accountability + Engagement



Housing



Open Space + Waterfront Access



Economic + Workforce Development



Sustainability + Resiliency



Public Infrastructure

City Commitment Tracker

- Comprehensive updates on <u>all</u> 56 Commitments uploaded to task force website prior to quarterly public updates
 - Gowanustaskforce.net:

Gowanus Oversight Task Force

Home Commitments Meetings About

GOWANUS OVERSIGHT TASK FORCE City Commitment Tracker					
City Rezoning <u>Tracker</u>	Committee	GOTF Item #	Item Description	Prime Agency	
					AGENCY UPDATE: Q1
15	Membership and Communications	1.1	Support the Council, Community Board 6, and other stakeholders to form a Community Oversight Task Force. In the first quarter of 2022, City Hall and DCP will support the Council, Community Board 6 (CB 6), and other stakeholders including NYCHA residents and Tenant Association leadership to develop a detailed plan for a Community Oversight Task Force dedicated to commitments related to the Gowanus Neighborhood Plan. The framework of this plan will include: • Quarterly meetings will be open to the public with relevant updates on implementation of major plan components and POA commitments, including capital project progress updates by the relevant agency.	DCP	DCP has been engaged during the facilitator selectior as well as the formation of the community oversight 1 driven primarily by City Council Members Hanif and R DCP's Director, Dan Garodnick, joined elected officials announcement for the final selection of the facilitator task force process. DCP will continue being involved a as needed, while ensuring that the task force is driver facilitator and other key stakeholders.

Waterfront Access & Amenities

NYC Department of City Planning (DCP) NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Task Force Waterfront Access & Open Space Committee Task Force Public Infrastructure Committee

Waterfront Access + Amenities QUESTIONS

Please include on your note card:

- Your Name
- \circ Affiliation
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Waterfront Access and Amenities

Gowanus Oversight Task Force Quarterly Public Meeting | September 2023



Background Waterfront Access Plans

A Waterfront Access Plan (WAP) is a detailed framework set forth in the Zoning Resolution, that tailors waterfront regulations and public access requirements to the specific conditions of a particular waterfront. **WAP regulations attempt to be predictive, yet flexible.**





Background The Gowanus Waterfront Access Plan

The Gowanus WAP builds upon citywide waterfront access rules and **adapts zoning regulations to better suit the unique characteristics** of the Gowanus Canal.

The WAP requires public access on all private waterfront properties located within the rezoning area. These public spaces are formally referred to as **Waterfront Public Access Areas (WPAA).**





Waterfront Access Plan The WAP includes both requirements and incentives



Waterfront Access Plan How requirements and incentives interact



Interagency review: In Gowanus, Applicants typically coordinate with DCP, Parks, DOT, DEP, FDNY as well as EPA, DEC, and DOB as needed.



Street ends | "Public access points" **Status**

- O Public access points within/near the Gowanus WAP geography (10)
- Existing street ends predate the WAP (2)
- Proposed designs have been *approved* (4)
- No application under review / partially constructed (1)
- Planned City projects (3)





10 waterfront sites have proceeded to seek approvals for their proposed public space designs

(9 sites are within the WAP, and one of the sites, 300 Huntington was approved as a standalone application prior to the Gowanus rezoning, and is just outside the WAP)

- 6 of **10** have been approved
- 4 of **10** are under review

10 of **10** shared schematic designs with Brooklyn Community Board 6 and **8** of **10** presented at a Land Use Committee meeting.



Questions about waterfront access - requirements and incentives - on the Canal?

PROPOSED AMENITIES

amenity type	no. of amenities	no. of parcels	
+ water feature*	1	1	
+ play*	3	3	
+ activity*	7	6	
+ culture*	9	7	
+ ecology*	5	5	
+ designed seating	10	7	
+ green space	4	4	

LEGEND

+ water feature* - allows interaction with water (splash pad, boat launch/dock)

+ play* - encourages play activities (playground, court, field)

+ activity* - serves a specific active use (picnic area, dog run, skate park)

+ culture* - showcases history/art (historical signage, art installation)

+ ecology* - highlights ecological features of the neighborhood (get down, overlook)

+ designed seating - provides spaces for resting and gathering (terrace, sun deck)

+ green space - offers flexible use of areas with greenery/planting (lawn, garden)

* Listed as a community desired program in 2019 Gowanus Lowlands Master Plan





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Union St

Parcel 1 | 192-198 Douglass Street Interactive water feature



Parcel 2 | 267 Bond Street Sculptural play area, public art, and immersive planting







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Parcel 5 | 300 Nevins Street Pedestrian connection with seating and planting



Parcel 6b | 313-330 Bond Street Universally-accessible canal overlook with terraced seating





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Parcel 8a | 420 Carroll Street Wetland planting and "scramble" play area



Parcel 12a | 155 Third Street





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Parcel 17 | 459 Smith Street



Parcel 12a | 155 Third Street Amphitheater seating and flexible performance space





Active and/or Approved Projects Challenges and successes

er St

Challenges

Water access

Hurdles encountered:

- Grading challenges
- Limited depth and site planning constraints
- Competing priorities for inclusion of other amenities
- Cost and operational considerations

Potential pathway forward I Continue to advocate for inclusion of boat access via floating docks, particularly at locations with proposed gates.

Public restrooms

Hurdles encountered:

- Restroom floor area incentive was not utilized
- Maintenance concerns
- Too early to include designated restroom locations

Potential pathway forward Advocate to include bathrooms in new buildings rather than within or adjacent to a WPAA. Explore whether a future BID could help address maintenance concerns. Share successful precedents that could serve as a model.



ass St Iraw St cett St	PARCEL 1 - 198 Douglass St + water feature (interactive) + activity (scramble) + culture (sculptural gateway) + green space (sensory garden) + designed seating (grove) <i>GROUND FLOOR</i> : Gowanus mix, arts, retail + entertainment + outdoor retail seating	No contraction of the second sec	PARCEL 5 - 300 Nevins St + culture (art feature) + green space (2 gardens) + activity (pop up programming) <i>GROUND FLOOR</i> : Retail + outdoor retail seating PARCEL 6b - 313 - 331 Bond St + play (adventure play) + culture (art feature)
n St	PARCELS 2 & 3 - 267 Bond St & 497 Sackett St + play (sculptural playscape) + activity (picnic area) + culture (interpretive art terrace) + culture (historic interpretation) + ecology ("get down" with gate) + designed seating (sun deck) + designed seating (plaza) <i>GROUND FLOOR</i> : Residential + retail + outdoor retail seating		+ ecology (overlook) + designed seating (dune) + designed seating (plaza) <i>GROUND FLOOR</i> : Retail + outdoor retail seating PARCEL 8a - 420 Carroll St + culture (art feature) + ecology (overlook; wetlands) + designed seating (hammocks)
	PARCEL 6a - 450 Union St + culture (art feature) + culture (historic interpretation) + ecology (overlook) + designed seating (alcove) + designed seating (plaza)		PARCEL 12a - 155 Third St + activity (dog run) + designed seating (grove; logs) GROUND FLOOR: Residential + retail + outdoor retail seating
it Pl	GROUND FLOOR: Retail + outdoor retail seating		PARCEL 16 - Gowanus Green + activity (shared street) + green space (garden) + [future public park] <i>GROUND FLOOR</i> : Residential, retail, commercial, community, + potential school site
iuer St alson St		6 St	PARCEL 17 - 459 Smith St + play (active recreation grove) + activity (picnic area) + activity (dog run) + culture (art feature) + ecology (overlook)
Huntington 5		7 St	 green space (lawn) designed seating (terrace) water feature (potential boat dock) GROUND FLOOR: Residential + retail outdoor retail seating

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Active and/or Approved Projects Challenges and successes

Successes

- Tot lots with interpretative play features, including water play
- Multi-generational and universally
 accessible seating areas and picnic areas
- Opportunities for public art and historic interpretation
- Two dog runs in the "mid" and "lower" canal areas
- Overlooks and get-downs
- Lawn as a gathering space
- Smaller performance spaces and stepped seating areas
- A variety of landscape treatments with native planting as well as wetland areas
- Active ground floor frontages along the water's edge
- Additional open areas and expanded entrances, particularly near bridges (where feasible)





Active and/or Approved Projects Challenges and successes

How can the community stay involved and help shape proposals?

- Selecting artwork or historic interpretation features [] sites with proposed features (Parcels 1, 2, 3, 5, 6a, 6b, 8a, 17)

- Suggestions for ground floor program and tenanting



In progress

City-led projects CSO Red Hook Facility | "Head End"

Ongoing Work: Phase 2^[] the construction of the underground tank

Future Phases:

Phase 3 1.6 acre open space construction (scheduled for 2027-2030)

Engagement:

- The engagement efforts and design of the top of tank open space is completed.
- The design of the Degraw Street end will pick up at the end of next year.





In progress

City-led projects CSO Owls Head Facility | "Salt Lot"

Ongoing Work:

Phase 1 site preparation and the construction of the salt shed and interim compost facility.

Future Phases:

Phases 3 and 4 🛛 2-acre open space construction (scheduled for 2026-2029)

Engagement:

- 2022-2023: Four public engagement meetings to guide the character of the City's facilities, the 2 acres of public open space and the programming. The broader visioning of the open space is complete, and shared publicly this spring.
- The design will continue to be refined and shared out to Community Board 6 and the Public Design Commission review process.





City-led projects Bond Street

NYC Parks, in consultation with DOT, will transform a prominent Gowanus street end not slated for improvements through private investments via the WAP into open space.

Status: Pre-Design

Anticipated start: Design start is contingent upon reconstruction of the site's bulkhead which will occur during the Canal's cleanup Remedial Target Area (RTA) 2 phase

Project Timeline: The design process, which include a community input meeting, takes 10-15 months; procurement is 9-12 months; park construction will take 12-18 months.





Street ends | "Public access points" **Multiple ownership & built conditions**



Degraw St. West



Huntington St.



2nd St. East



President St. West (de-mapped)



1st St. East



2nd St. West

23



Street ends | "Public access points" Publicly-accessible vs. Private

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Bridges

Mapped Streets

Paper Streets

Streets that are officially mapped but that are not built, and only appear on paper maps

City Map Changes

Newly mapped streets



Upland Connection

Zoning-mandated publicly-accessible open space provided on private land from the upland street *to* the shoreline

Street ends within/near the Gowanus WAP geography (10)

Publicly-accessible street ends -*Title findings, map status and ownership varies* (9)

• Public streets where City owns Title* (2) Private street ends w/ public access obligations to be fulfilled (1)



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*Other public streets have been 'Dedicated to the City for street purposes' or have 'Cloud on Title' i.e., no title uncovered after search



Questions about waterfront projects, approved and planned?

Flooding & Sewer Systems

NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Task Force Sustainability & Resiliency Committee

Flooding + Sewer Systems QUESTIONS

Please include on your note card:

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Gowanus Rezoning Oversight Task Force

September 28, 2023





NYC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Our Mission

DEP's mission is to enrich the environment and protect public health for all New Yorkers by providing high quality drinking water, managing wastewater and stormwater, and reducing air, noise, and hazardous materials pollution.

Every day, DEP delivers a billion gallons of drinking water and treats 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater in the city's 14 wastewater resource recovery facilities.

The agency maintains 7,000 miles of in-city water mains, 109,000 fire hydrants, 148,000 catch basins, 7,500 miles of in-city sewers, and 96 pumping stations.

Our Work in Gowanus

- Managing stormwater runoff and reducing combined sewer overflows (CSO) into the Gowanus Canal
- Maintaining and improving sewer infrastructure to reduce sewer back-ups and flooding
- A multi-faceted approach: DEP's toolkit includes grey and green infrastructure and stormwater management regulations



Combined Sewer

- Gowanus, like about 60% of the city, has a combined sewer that collects both sanitary waste and rainwater.
- During rainstorms, the system can get overwhelmed when the amount of water produced by the storm is greater than the capacity of the pipes.



Overflows and Back-Ups

When the sewer system is overwhelmed, it can result in:



Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs): Overflows into local waterways



Sewer Back-Ups (SBUs): Overflow from manholes, catch basins, and basement sewer connections

4th and Carroll Streets

- Flooding at the area surrounding 4th Avenue and Carroll Street is a chronic problem.
- DEP has been evaluating alternative solutions that will alleviate flooding.



Flash flood event at 4th Avenue and Carroll Street Summer of 2019

Design Principles

- Increase capacity of the sewers
- *Lessen* reliance on pumping, which consumes energy
- Capitalize on capital sewer work in design and construction as much as possible



Sewer improvements in progress on 7th Street between 3rd and 4th Avenue September 2023

Phased Construction

Phase 1: 7th Street between 3rd and 4th Avenues Increase capacity of sewer by 78%

Funded: \$2.7M

Phase 2: 4th Avenue between Degraw and 7th Streets

Funded: \$115.8M*

Phase 3: 3rd Avenue between 7th and 22nd Streets Increase capacity of sewer by 495%

Funded: \$114.7M*



Impact to 4th & Carroll

Phase 1: 2024
40% flood reduction

Phase 2: 2031

50% flood reduction

Phase 3: 2033

100% flood reduction



5-Year Storm Flood Modeling: Existing Conditions Surrounding 4th Avenue and Carroll Street

Broader Impact

Phase 1: 2024 4% flood reduction in drainage plan area

Phase 2: 2031 □ 33% flood reduction in drainage plan area and 1% reduction in tributary area

Phase 3: 2033 □ 83% flood reduction in drainage plan area and 19% reduction in tributary area



Considerations

- The 19th Street Pump Station will **NOT** require upsizing, but it will be renovated to meet updated safety, operations and resiliency guidelines to ensure reliable service.
- This plan:
 - Reduces cost \$158M in savings!
 - Expedites schedule
 - Reduces energy consumption
- DEP will use a similar design approach to increase the level of service for the Bond-Lorraine sewer that runs on the west side of the Gowanus Canal.



19th Street Pump Station, constructed 1951

Questions about sewer upgrades?

Unified Stormwater Rule: What is It?

- In 2022, DEP increased the amount of stormwater new and redeveloped properties must manage on-site.
- Stormwater can overwhelm the city's sewer system and this rule is a primary tool to reduce sewer overflows and back-ups.
- DEP provides guidance for stormwater management practices to meet the requirements of the rule.
- DEP and Department of Buildings enforce the rule.



USWR: How Does it Work?

If your project....

Disturbs 20,000 square feet or more of soil

Adds 5,000 square feet or more of new non-permeable area



Courtesy of NYC Department of City Planning

...you must

Retain 1.5 inches of stormwater runoff

USWR: How Does it Work?

If your project....

Requires a connection to the city sewer



...you must

Detain additional stormwater and slow its release into the sewer system

USWR: What's the Impact?

- The Unified Stormwater Rule is essential to reduce combined sewer overflows (CSO).
- In Gowanus, the rezoning presents a *huge opportunity* to improve the health of the canal through stormwater management.
- DEP calculates a **net decrease in CSOs into the Gowanus Canal by 5.42 million gallons a year** with the full rezoning buildout, new CSO tanks, and new stormwater rule.
- That's the volume of 8 Olympic-sized swimming pools!



Gowanus development, July 2023

USWR: Gowanus Case Study

Stormwater Management Practices (SMPs): Green Roof + Blue Roof + Detention Tank



Site Information

General:

Lot Area: 40,000 SF Sewer Type: Combined Constraints: Space

Site Characteristics: Rooftop: 40.000 SF

Pavement: 0 SF Green: 0 SF



Results:

- Manages 51% more stormwater on site
- Releases captured stormwater to the sewer 63% slower
- Requires green infrastructure with co-benefits (increased habitat, reduced heat island effect)
- These stormwater management practices are preventing **230,000 gallons** of CSO from entering the Gowanus Canal per year

Questions about the Unified Stormwater Rule?

Gowanus Canal CSO Facilities

Community Construction Liaisons

Red Hook Site: Valentina Mascaro and Tiffany Asberry, Johnson and Asberry •gowanusccl@johnson-asberry.com •934-216-0209

Owls Head Site: Lisa Blake, Michael Baker International •<u>GowanusCCL_OH@mbakerintl.com</u> •646-682-5562

https://www.nyc.gov/site/dep/water/gowanus-canal.p age







Construction Progress CSO Facilities



Owls Head Tank Site aka Salt Lot

- GCC relocated to 9th Street in February 2022
- Bulkhead reconstruction nearly complete
- Phase 1 (site prep and construction of salt shed and interim composting facilities) has begun



Red Hook Tank Site aka Head End

- Phase 1 (site prep) completed in January 2023
- Phase 2 (construction of the tank) broke ground in March 2023
- In September, crews began building the support walls for excavation of the tank



COMMENTS + QUESTIONS

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USWR: What Are the Tools?

Infiltration

Example: Bioretention, no underdrain



Filtration Example: Sand filter



Detention Example: Detention tank



Evapotranspiration

Example: Green roof



Reuse Example: Reuse in cooling tower



Filtration + Detention

Example: Bioretention with controlled release underdrain



USWR: Reporting

- The Unified Stormwater Rule is essential for citywide combined sewer overflow (CSO) reduction.
- With NY State Department of Environmental Conservation, DEP established equivalency rates for all green infrastructure practices and for specific waterbody drainage areas.
- These rates allow DEP to calculate the CSO reduction from the stormwater capture.

Green Infrastructure Practice Class or Program	Rete or De	ntion tentio n	Equivalency Rate (SW MGY/unit)	
2012 Stormwater Rule	Detention		0.13	
2022 Unified Stormwater Rule	Retention		0.97	
2022 Unified Stormwater Rule	Detention		0.68	
Green Roofs with Orifice Control	Detention		0.68	
waterbouy Drainage Are	a	(SW I	MGY/CSO MGY)	
Alley Creek		2.75		
Jamaica Bay and Tributaries	3.67			
Bronx River		2.35		
Coney Island Creek	2.75			
Hutchinson River	1.73			
East River / Open Waters	1.87			
Flushing Bay	1.25			
Flushing Creek	1.91			
Gowanus Canal			2.75	
Newtown Creek		1.72		
Westchester Creek	5			

USWR: Gowanus Case Study

Stormwater Management Practices (SMPs): Green Roof + Blue Roof + Detention Tank

SMP #2

SMP #2

SMP #1

Stair

SMP #2







DA 1: 30 000 SE

DA 2: 10,000 SF

SMP #1

SMP #1

WATER QUALITY VOLUME REQUIREMENT

- Manage more stormwater: 35,500 gallons/year
- Use SMP toolkit: Green and blue roofs would be typical SMPs for constrained sites

TOTAL STORMWATER VOLUME REQUIREMENT

- Manage more stormwater: 43,800 gallons/year
- Credit for green and blue roof (see above) = 18,300 gallons
- Slowing down flow: Release rate = 0.092 cubic feet per second

RESULT

- Increased stormwater management by 51%
- Detained stormwater volume released at a rate 63% slower
- Using equivalency rates, these stormwater management practices are preventing 230,000-gallons of CSO from entering the **Gowanus Canal per year**

USWR: How Does it Work?

Rule Triggers

- ✓ Project disturbs 20,000 SF or more of soil
- ✓ Project adds 5,000 SF or more of new impervious area

Rule Requirements



Chapter 19.1 Water Quality Volume Retain 1.5 inches of stormwater over a 24-hour rain event, through retention, to reduce combined sewer overflows and polluted stormwater runoff in waterbodies

 Project requires a certified site or house connection proposal for connectin to a city sewer



Chapter 31 Stormwater Quantity and Flow Rates

Detain additional volume and slowly release to the sewer system to improve operations during wet weather

Sites that trigger both rule requirements have a multi-step process that requires multiple permits, inspections and annual certification of stormwater management practices.

- Enforced by DEP and Department of Buildings
- Penalties for non-compliance

5. THANK YOU | NEXT STEPS

- X
- X
- Next Public Meeting: December 14, 2023

Communications + Engagement

Ensuring ongoing public access to GOTF updates

Housing

Investing in NYCHA improvements, new affordable housing + resident engagement

Open Space + Waterfront Access

Increasing access to quality green space + waterfront

Economic + Workforce Development

Enabling the growth of small businesses + advancing workforce programs that are equitable + community-centered

Sustainability + Resiliency

Reducing the adverse environmental impacts of the rezoning

Public Infrastructure

Tracking the completion of public works and facilities

CITY AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

More than 75% of the 56 POAs involve 7 NYC agencies

- NYC Department of City Planning (DCP)
- New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)
- NYC Department of Transportation (DOT)
- NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development (HPD)
- NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- NYC Small Business Services (SBS)
- NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

Other with POA responsibilities: DOE; SCA; EDC; DYCD; MOCEJ; CTO/OTI; Brooklyn Public Library (BPL)