

GOWANUS LOWLANDS MASTER PLAN

OVERVIEW DRAFT 2018.12.05

The future of Gowanus is entering a critical phase with the confluence of several major long-standing efforts: the federally mandated cleanup under the Canal's Superfund status; related cleanups at the state and city levels; and probable land use changes that will cue both private development and city investment in the public realm. Gowanus Lowlands is a master plan for a network of parks and public spaces centered on the Gowanus Canal and connecting to the surrounding watershed. The following pages provide an overview of objectives and design concepts for the spaces and systems below. During the next phase of work, this overview will be expanded into chapters for each section.

SPACES

THE CANAL

We are developing schematic design for esplanades and street ends, including boat access and bulkhead elevation; path alignment and elevation; and pedestrian bridges, playgrounds, public art, and other site-specific installations. Bulkhead design guidelines will maximize performance and benefits and minimize cost while also serving to adapt to flooding and rising sea levels, manage site drainage, provide water access and aquatic habitat, and conform to NYC guidelines for waterfront shore public access. We are additionally developing objectives and concepts for in-water restoration capital projects, programming, and access, including floating gardens, accessible docks, and barges.

Consultants: SCAPE, Langan

Coordination with: EPA, DEC, NOAA, USFW, NYC DEP, DCP, DOT

STREETSCAPE

We are developing tree planting, green infrastructure and paving typologies, coordinated with NYC Builders Pavement Plan requirements, to support active and vibrant streetscapes that address a high water table, street flooding and mixed use traffic. We are additionally identifying priority streetscape and intersections for city capital improvements to improve safety, wayfinding and environmental performance.

Consultants: SCAPE

Coordination with: NYC DEP, DCP, DOT, DPR

UPLAND PARKS & PUBLIC SPACE

We are developing objectives and design concepts for NYC capital investment in upland parks and public spaces that connect the waterfront to the larger neighborhood, manage stormwater, and provide community programs and amenities. These capital projects should be funded through the Neighborhood Development Fund, Natural Resource Damages Assessment, and ongoing discretionary funds.

Coordination with: NYC DEP, DCP, DOT, DPR

SYSTEMS

PLANTS

The combination of salt spray, impermeable soils and flooding makes Gowanus a unique planting environment. Based on our experience gardening in Gowanus over the past 10 years, we are developing a plant palette for the Lowlands, including species for different site types, as well as planting details, soil specifications, and sourcing recommendations.

Consultants: SCAPE

Coordination with: NYC DCP, DPR, Natural Areas Conservancy, DEC

MATERIALS

In order to celebrate and reinforce the unique character of Gowanus, we are developing a material palette for site furniture, paving patterns and materials, railings, lighting fixtures, benches, trash cans, bike racks, signage, and tree guards for use on waterfront esplanades, plazas, parks and streets.

Consultants: SCAPE

Coordination with: NYC DCP, DPR, DOT

STORMWATER & SEWAGE

The added density proposed in the DCP Gowanus Framework will result in a substantial increase in combined sewage overflow into the Canal. We are developing an integrated water management plan, with techniques, design details, capital projects, and funding mechanisms with the goal of a net zero gain in combined sewage overflow.

Consultants: ARUP

Coordination with: NYC DEP, DCP, DOT, DPR

ARTS & CULTURE

As the Gowanus neighborhood faces dramatic changes, it is critical that the neighborhood's vibrant history, culture and diverse stories are preserved and integrated into our future. We are developing principles and techniques for integrating arts and culture across the Lowlands, including curatorial guidelines and site-specific goals for interpretation, public art, wayfinding and programming.

Partners: Old Stone House, Arts Gowanus, Carnival of Connectivity, Gowanus Souvenir, Arts & Democracy, Gowanus Houses Art Collective, Artichoke Dance, Brooklyn Historical Society

Coordination with: NYC DCLA, DOT, DCP, DPR

PUBLIC SPACE MANAGEMENT

Ongoing public space management will impact how the public space in Gowanus Lowlands looks and feels over the long term. We are developing a strategy for coordinated management across property lines to reduce overall costs, optimize performance, allow for targeted workforce development, and ensure that programming meets the needs of the diverse users.

Coordination with: NYC DEP, DCP, DOT, DPR