

Your LIC: Resiliency and Public Open Space Executive Summary (see full text [HERE](#))

This is a summary of key takeaways and recommendations by participants in community engagement activities focused on Resiliency and Public Open Space. This outreach was conducted by the Your LIC team, and includes online submissions on this topic by the public at [YourLIC.nyc](#) and a public workshop with approximately 100 community residents on December 16, 2019 at Hunter's Point Community Middle School.

Next Steps: The Your LIC team will use the aspirations and suggestions to inform open space and resiliency planning for the waterfront development project.

Takeaway 1: Create Abundant Green Space to Improve the Environmental Resiliency of Long Island City. Plans for the site area should become a model waterfront resiliency through comprehensive planning and smart design begin to address long-standing resiliency problems.

"We should build wind shelters, shade structures and trees to make public spaces usable in summer and winter." - Community Participant, Dec. 16th Workshop

"A community garden. A flower garden where the community can sit and enjoy the waterfront and flowers." - P., Community Participant ([online](#))

Summary of Residents' Suggested Strategies (see full text [HERE](#))

- **Create an ecosystem of plants, water and people:** Use an integrated approach to planning of open space that is multi-use and flexible by combining natural elements with human activity (walking, biking, kayaking, sports, play, pets, and education). Create large, flexible lawns for passive ("hanging out") and active (picnics, soccer) uses. Use trees and man-made structures to create many areas of shade and protection from the elements.
- **Use natural strategies to improve resilience and provide access to the water:** Use natural strategies to improve resilience. Use soft edges along water to create resilient spaces and provide people with the ability to enjoy an expansive shoreline, coastal ecology, and water activities. Create a boardwalk to enhance accessibility to the water, catch a breeze, and connect different parts of the open space by providing a continuous running trail. Maximize coastal flood protection for the community by leveraging the entire district as one continuous system.
- **Find new strategies to manage stormwater and sewage:** Need for more robust stormwater cleansing to protect the East River ecosystem. Remove stormwater from the combined sewer system to reduce community flooding and combined sewage overflow ("CSO") events.

Takeaway 2: Create Multiple Cultural and Recreational Spaces. Plans for the site should build community, providing access to markets, educational spaces, and cultural activities, and encourage use and accessibility.

“I believe this area would prosper if it became a safe and easily accessible place for the community. The area at the moment is extremely underserved and is in need of a place where the community can come together. A park would serve as a place for children as well as a place for community events within said park. Making sure the waterfront is accessible will also bring a sense of community.” - L., Community Participant ([online](#))

“We need more activity and a plaza street that ends closer to the water, this way there can be a natural breeze throughout. The boardwalk should connect along the restoration area. This way people can run around the whole park.” - Community Participant, Dec. 16th Workshop

Summary of Residents’ Suggested Strategies (see full text [HERE](#))

- **Build infrastructure for the arts and education:** Create space for environmental education for all, especially for early childhood education. Create a floating stage in the Anable Basin for plays, exhibits, community movie night – things that would facilitate community and collaboration to plan and execute. Develop walkways and connections to Queensbridge with attention to increasing safety, particularly under the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge.
- **Build infrastructure for recreation:** Provide both indoor activities, such as a roller rink or swimming pool, and outside activities such as fitness courses, basketball courts, or skate parks. Provide built structures that create community such as a public plaza, a shaded green market space, a public fountain and/or an adult & child water play feature, a covered pavilion. Provide public access for water activities. Build on-site kayak and boat storage and changing facilities. Provide 24/7 access to well-maintained public bathrooms.

Takeaway 3: Ensure Collaborative Planning and Fact-Based Design. Plans for the site should pull from most current data and planning parameters and should include the long-term financial upkeep of the public amenities. Build with the awareness of current, near-term, and future residential density and its impact on the environment and city infrastructure capacity.

“The City has 2018 Waterfront flooding data which is more recent than the FEMA records. Has this been taken into consideration? I’m worried because the 9/11 Museum needed to be raised because of flooding, and that the same thing might happen in Long Island City. The walkway by the new Library in Long Island City already flooded, even on sunny days.” - B., Community Participant, Dec. 16th Workshop

“I have questions about the new residences and office spaces that will be coming with the development— why aren’t we talking about that tonight? Open Space and Resiliency initiatives are only abstract until the developers become more transparent about the height and density of new luxury housing.” - Community Participant, Dec. 16th Workshop

Summary of Residents’ Suggested Strategies (see full text [HERE](#))

- **Collaborate with experts:** Involve national organizations, such as the National Conservation Service, the regional Waterfront Alliance, the NYC East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR) Project, etc. Look at

problems at other nearby parks, such as John Murray park, which has issues with its plastic grass and water retention, to better understand the potential challenges of the site.

- ***Use the most up-to-date data:*** Use the most up-to-date data from multiple sources and incorporate the latest scientific recommendations (such as the 2020 resilience standards and forthcoming federal guidelines on resiliency in New York City). Involve national organizations, such as the National Conservation Service and the Waterfront Alliance.
- ***Connect resiliency and public open space plans to broader site plans:*** Provide proposed site plan and proposed building specifics as soon as possible. Provide information about how such metrics as the percentage of public space is determined in planning. Outline how the increasing population density with new tall residential and commercial buildings will impact the community's ability to develop a resilient and ecological waterfront.