Greenpoint/Williamsburg
Open Space Plan

THE PLAN
No Green, parks and recreation would make a splash of smokestacks and piers, pedestrians, bikers, fishers, kids, local history, local culture, and local commerce. The area has long been a center of urban life, but little dedicated open space. Meanwhile practical and vital street corners and public squares would be poised for new life. Carrying out the vision for Greenpoint and Williamsburg will involve a significant investment of time, money, and energy. It will also require real dialogue between the community, stakeholders, and decision makers. Some of the key challenges will involve

• Where should new parks be? How can we ensure that everyone’s voice is heard in the process?
• How can we ensure that new parks are located where they’re needed the most?
• How can we ensure that new parks are not duplicated or jostle with each other?
• How can we ensure that new parks are safe and accessible to the community?

To answer these questions, we will need to explore new opportunities for parks and green space and also consider where old parks can be improved or expanded.

THE VISION
A park poor community envisions its waterfront of the future. The community sees possibilities for more and better parks of all sizes and shapes, from large anchor parks to small pocket parks. People also want to see waterfronts that are more accessible, more connected, and more inviting. They envision open space that is safe, beautiful, and vibrant. They envision a waterfront that is more than a place to walk, but a place to recreate, relax, and recharge.

THE NEED
Brooklyn Community District One’s population is 160,000, equivalent to a small city. However, it has only 3.4 acres of public open space per 1,000 residents, far below the national average of 13.5 acres. This means that after a population increase of 25 percent and a waterfront open space ratio of only .07 acres per 1,000 residents. This means that the rezoning proposed by the city adds significant new park space, just up South 5th Street. Department to design pockets of natural habitat.

Ambitious? Yeess!! Doable? Yeess!!

NEXT STEPS
Parks for growing communities. In 2009, New York State appropriated $100 million to support the creation of new and improved waterfront parks. This is a historic opportunity. We will need to work with our city colleagues to ensure that this money is spent on parks that are needed and that are of high quality. We will also need to work with other stakeholders to ensure that these parks are part of a larger plan for the waterfront.

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THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND
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Two firefighters sit on a bench at the Mexican War Memorial. A park poor community envisions its waterfront of the future. The community sees possibilities for more and better parks of all sizes and shapes, from large anchor parks to small pocket parks. People also want to see waterfronts that are more accessible, more connected, and more inviting. They envision open space that is safe, beautiful, and vibrant. They envision a waterfront that is more than a place to walk, but a place to recreate, relax, and recharge.

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A Vision of Multiple Parkland Uses:

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See shore-end park at Division Street
Write Under-the-Bridge Park on current DOT site
Domino Sugar

Expanded Domino Park
to include power-plant
in ground

Greenpoint
- 9th Street
- 8th Street
- 7th Street
- 6th Street
- 5th Street
- 4th Street
- 3rd Street
- 2nd Street
- 1st Street

1. Continue regional integrator
2. Add full park.
3. Continue waterfront
   to include power-plant
   in ground

4. Work with park planners for
   extension of pedestrian
   walkway and bikeway through
   park.

5. Proposed boat house for kayaks
   and small boats launch

6. Proposed Under-the-Bridge
   Park on current DOT site

7. Work with developers of these
   blocks to coordinate pedestrian
   walkway.

8. Provide pedestrian amenities and
   work with DOT to make West
   Street one way.

9. Convert portion to segregated bicycle
   path running length of waterfront

10. Seek acquisition of former
    “Continental Iron Works” site
    where iron clad USS Monitor
    was built and launched;
    to become “Monitor Park”
    with National Landmark Status

11. Work with 184 Kent Avenue
    owner to create esplanade
    at water’s edge and arcade
    through building at ground
    floor. Lined with cafes and
    storefronts these would close
    the gaps in the shorewalk and
    River/West streets.

12. Expand Barge Park to become a
    significant active use park for
    North Greenpoint, which must
    incorporate a full-size soccer
    field, two softball fields, tennis
    courts, basketball courts and
    a park house with storage and
    bathrooms.

13. Work with park planners for
    extension of pedestrian
    walkway and bikeway through
    park.

14. Proposed boathouse for kayaks

15. New suspension bridge & footbridge
    access to park from other street

16. Proposed home of the future
    Greenpoint Monitor Museum

17. Additional parkland on north
    side of Inlet

18. Possible Kayak launch

19. Possible Water Taxi

20. Possible Playground

21. Possible Fishing Pier

22. Possible Sailboat Mooring Area

23. Possible Underwater Fishing Pier

24. Possible Bike and Walkway

25. Possible Public Accessway and
    Greenway

26. Bike and Walkway (part of Brooklyn
    Waterfront Greenway)

27. Possible T-shaped fishing piers
    will replace deteriorated and
    missing fishing piers while
    facilitating community
    recreation.

28. Suspension Bridge across bird
    sanctuary will unify the park
    system.

29. North South bicycle and pedestrian
    route will provide access now
    along the riverfront, while the
    shorewalk is completed.

30. One of several possible pockets
    of habitat

31. Proposed Green Space

32. The Under-The-Bridge Park: Plaza
    and water features will create a
    meeting ground on the water.

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