

Where to Find Information on Urban Renewal

by Christine Bruzzese

Slum Clearance Reports. In the early to mid-1950's, the Mayor's Committee on Slum Clearance published *Slum Clearance Plan under the Title I of the Housing Act*. These reports cover the clearance and renewal plans for various slum areas such as Penn Station South, Gramercy Park and Lincoln Square. Generally, the report is comprised of redevelopment and relocation plans, maps, description of problems in the area and other relevant information. Some follow-up reports entitled *Title I Slum Clearance Progress* were released later on in the 1950's.

Urban Renewal Designation reports. The City Planning Commission published a series *Urban Renewal Designation Reports* in the 1960's. Examples are the Ebbets Field and Fort Greene area designation reports which discuss the City Planning Commission's study of the area, recommendations and summarize what took place at public hearings.

Neighborhood Land Disposition Plans. The Department of City Planning prepares Neighborhood Land Disposition Plans to study what actions need to be taken to revitalize and renew a particular area. Land use, zoning, demographics and disposition strategy are some of the areas discussed in these plans. They often include photographs, diagrams, maps and statistical tables to supplement the text and provide the reader with necessary information. Please note that the City Hall Library collection of these plans is not

comprehensive. Texts of hearings involving these plans, original size maps and drawings and minutes are not available at the City Hall Library. Contact the Records Access Officer at the Department of City Planning for further assistance.

Lower Manhattan Redevelopment after 9/11. The Lower Manhattan Development Corporation and other agencies have prepared reports and plans dealing with reconstruction and redevelopment of Lower Manhattan following the 2001 terrorist attacks. *Preliminary Urban Design Study for the Future of the World Trade Center Site and Adjacent Areas* is an example. LMDC and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey collaborated on this study which outlines the plans for a memorial, redesign of train stations and street grid. Visual aids to the text include photographs and maps. Also, check the LMDC website at www.renewnyc.com for more information.

Websites. Try the City Planning website at www.nyc.gov/html/dcp for information about zoning, land use and other topics. Housing Preservation and Development at www.nyc.gov/html/hpd offers publications and other resources on various programs such as the Ten-Year Housing Marketplace Plan. Also, check the Department of Records website at www.nyc.gov/html/records under the link "**Publications**" for city agency reports on the topic "Housing and Buildings."