

July 27, 2023

East Side Coastal Resiliency Community (ESCR) Community Advisory Group (CAG)
C/O Tara Duvivier
Pratt Center for Community Development
200 Willoughby Avenue Brooklyn, NY 11205
VIA EMAIL

Re: Status of Lower East Side Ecology Center (LESEC) Compost Facility in East River Park

Dear ESCR CAG Members,

Thank you for your letter to DDC and the ESCR project team after the June 2023 CAG Meeting regarding the return of the compost facility to East River Park. In addition to DDC, this letter was compiled in coordination with the NYC Parks (“Parks”), the Department of Sanitation (DSNY), and staff from the Deputy Mayor of Operations. As originally communicated, we expect construction on the compost facility to be completed around the same time as the overall completion of ESCR Project Area 1 at the end of 2026. Please see below for additional information in response to your request.

1) Communications with LESEC regarding the proposed design of new facilities

Parks Response: Parks has maintained regular communications with LESEC throughout the project, including bi-weekly calls with the Parks Strategic Partnerships division. Parks is committed to communicating any progress updates as the compost yard project moves forward. Parks appreciates LESEC's input during the scoping phase of design and will work with our City partners to share updates as design progresses.

2) Proposed design of new facilities

DDC Response: The DDC design team anticipates the design of the compost yard to be completed during summer 2024. The schematic design is anticipated for LESEC and CB3 review, and subsequent PDC Preliminary Review, in fall 2023. Per PDC submission guidelines, a Final Review is required at approximately 90% completion. This review is anticipated in spring/summer 2024.

While we will still be coordinating outreach during the schematic design phase, it should be noted that the composting facility is scoped to fit the project budget and includes the following:

- a) An outdoor gathering area / educational programming area large enough to host workshops for up to 20 participants. The outdoor gathering area will be covered and include a countertop working space, a sink, and an electrical connection. The water provided to this area will have the ability to be winterized and allow the site to be used year-round.

- b) Plant beds for a demonstration garden will be provided close to the outdoor gathering area to allow access to the workstation.
- c) A compost area to support the receiving, blending, screening, and making of compost with overhead lighting and electrical connections.
- d) Vehicle access will be via the shared use pathway and on-site vehicular parking will be provided within the composting facility.
- e) Perimeter security fencing and lighting will be provided with community access points from both main pedestrian pathways – the shared use path and the esplanade.
- f) The site will harvest rainwater for reuse where feasible.

3) Temporary Compost Site

DSNY Response: DSNY is actively fulfilling the city’s commitment to provide LES Ecology Center with a temporary compost site that they will operate until Phase 1 of the ESCR project (inclusive of a new compost site) is complete. DSNY secured a city owned DCAS property on Rockaway Avenue in Canarsie suitable for development into a new compost site. The department engaged with HDR design firm to bring the alternate compost site to 100% design. LES Ecology Center provided frequent input throughout every stage of the design process. The department has covered all expenses associated with site design and has allocated \$2.1 million towards the construction of this facility. With 100% design in hand, the project has been formally handed over to the LES Ecology Center who will manage the construction phase of this site. Construction is anticipated to last approximately six months.

4) Construction of new facilities

DDC Response: With the design scheduled to be completed mid-2024, construction of the compost yard will likely begin in mid-2025, following construction procurement. As the design progresses, the ESCR team will continue to refine the construction schedule for the compost yard and share updates with the LESEC and the CAG. We currently expect construction on the compost yard to be completed around the same time as the overall completion of ESCR Project Area 1 at the end of 2026.

We understand the importance of this community facility and welcome its return to East River Park as part of the ESCR Project. Thank you again for your questions.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey A. Margolies