

Open Space Inventory and Report

NYC Manhattan Community Board 1

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Introduction

- CD1 is undergoing demographic transformation
 - Growth trends/ Residential population increase
 - Additional infrastructure demand
- Open Spaces Index →
 - Update record of the existing infrastructure
 - Assess and prioritize community needs
- Project prior to COVID-19

Introduction - Open Space

“Publicly or privately-owned land that is publicly accessible and available for leisure, play, or sport, or is set aside for the protection and/or enhancement of the natural environment”

- This report focuses on:

Source: CEQR Technical Manual, 2014 Edition



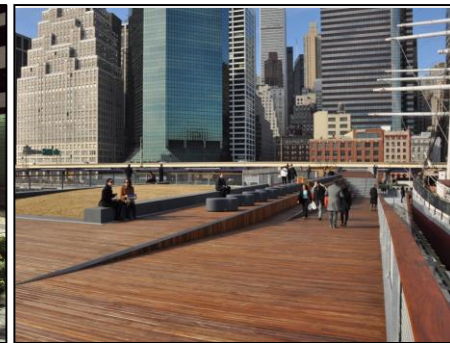
Parks

City Hall Park
Source: NYC Parks



Plazas

Vietnam Veterans Plaza
Source: NYC Parks



Esplanades

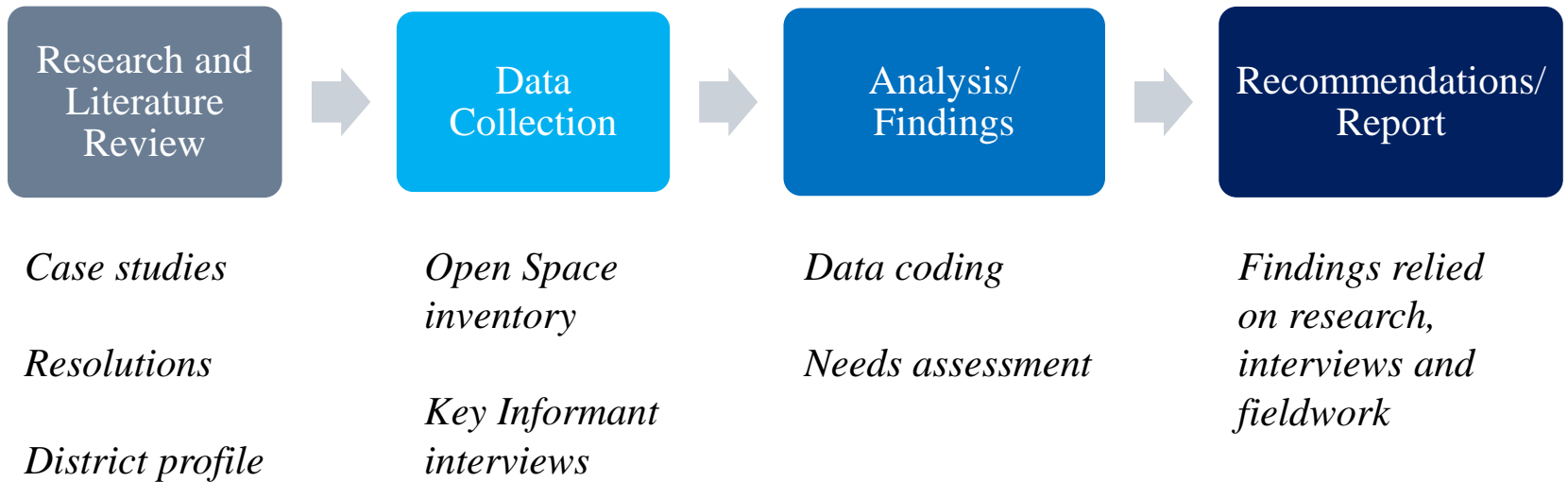
East River Waterfront Esplanade
Source: NYCEDC



Playgrounds

Imagination Playground
Source: NYC Parks

Methodology



Methodology – Main Research Question

- Need to prioritize the community's most pressing and timely issues, and efficient and equitable distribution of resources

What are Manhattan CD1's most pressing needs as it pertains to Open Space?

- Attitudes and perceptions
- Adequacy for the district's growth
- Policy, planning and priorities

Primary Themes

- Maintenance and Repairs
- Space Preservation/ More Space
- Accessibility
- Usability
- Security
- Climate Resilience
- POPS

Open Space Findings

- 108 open spaces, including:
 - 51 parks, plazas and esplanades
 - 57 POPS
- Total: About **3,634,300 sq. ft**
- No central inventory of all spaces
- Unclear/ undefined nomenclature, categorization and distinction

Open Space Findings

- Sq. ft of open space per 1,000 people (residential pop.):
 - 2010 = 684,892 sq. ft
 - 2017 = 566,000 sq. ft
- Change in open space ratio 17% decrease
- Full picture? Existing day-time population unknown

Needs Assessment Findings

- More accessible public space
- Improved maintenance
- Recapture/preserve existing spaces
- Consider various age demographics
- Vulnerability to range of climate change risks → Design, function, preservation

Recommendations

- Prioritize, maintain, preserve and increase access
- Improve quality
- Facilitate provision and addition of open space
- Focus on diversified and equitable spaces
- Encourage investment

Recommendations

- Increase oversight; safeguard design and management
- Adhere to sustainability and resiliency standards
- Promote benefits
- Encourage private-public partnerships

Implementation Suggestions

- Reclaim open space: “Brooklyn Banks” lot under Brooklyn Bridge (Manhattan side)
- Temporary spaces
- Activate community
- Educate
- Creative ways to create/use space
- Dedicated Advisory Board or Committee



Image source: Wikipedia

Conclusion

Priority

Treat as essential
& critical
infrastructure

Maintenance/management
Community benefits
Policy that reflects value

Provision

Increase &
preserve space

Access, design & quality
Diversified & equitable
Resources

Partnership

Collaborative
effort to preserve
& progress open
spaces

Social & economic well-
being
Public-private sector
stakeholders
Sustainability

Questions?



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