# Gowanus Neighborhood Plan

Community Board 6 | Gowanus Green Project Update - December 2, 2019

MARCEL CONTRACTOR NO. 199 19

### » Gowanus Plan

- » Gowanus Green
- » Updated vision



The Gowanus Neighborhood Plan seeks to facilitate the long-term vision of a thriving, inclusive, mixed-use and resilient neighborhood, where a wholly unique resource--the Gowanus Canal--can play a central role in the area's equitable and sustainable growth.

### Proposal at a Glance



**Thousands of new homes**, including thousands for lower-income New Yorkers



New jobs across a variety of sectors



New open space and new schools



A resilient shoreline and cleaned-up brownfields



An expanded, greener urban canopy

Make Broader **Investments** & Community Goals Possible



### Background

Why Act Now?

- City-wide housing crisis + diversifying and thriving economy
- Adjacent to built-up neighborhoods that have strong access to public transit and central employment areas, but with limited room to grow
- Former industrial waterway and surrounding area lacks critical infrastructure, and floods regularly
- Market **pressure** and development interest around Canal
- Infrastructure needed to support growth, which is typically ad hoc
- Encouraging greater density of jobs and housing near public transit supports a more sustainable neighborhood



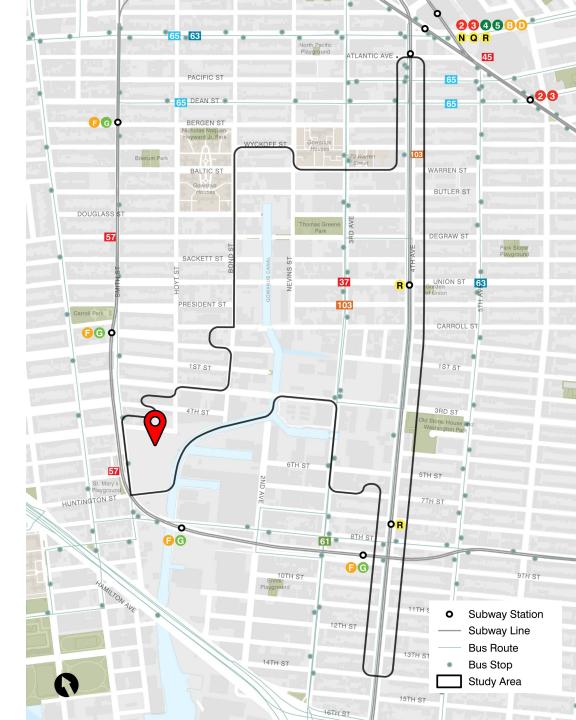
### Background

#### Transit Accessibility

## Gowanus is well-served by public transit and connected to major corridors

Public transit access in project area or within one quarter of a mile:

- $\circ$  Subway stations
  - Atlantic Terminal transit Hub (9 lines/LIRR)
  - Union St (R)
  - 4th Ave and 9th St (R/F/G)
  - Carroll St (F)
  - Smith/9th St (F/G)
- $\circ$  Bus lines
  - B37, B57, B61, B63, and B103
- Major corridors
  - North/south: 4th Ave
  - East/west: Union St, 3rd St, and 9th St



Median Household Income

- The median household income of the Gowanus Study Area & overlapping Census Tracts\* is \$107,344
- The median income for the Census Tracts\*\* with the NYCHA Gowanus Houses, Wyckoff Gardens and Warren St Houses is \$44,981

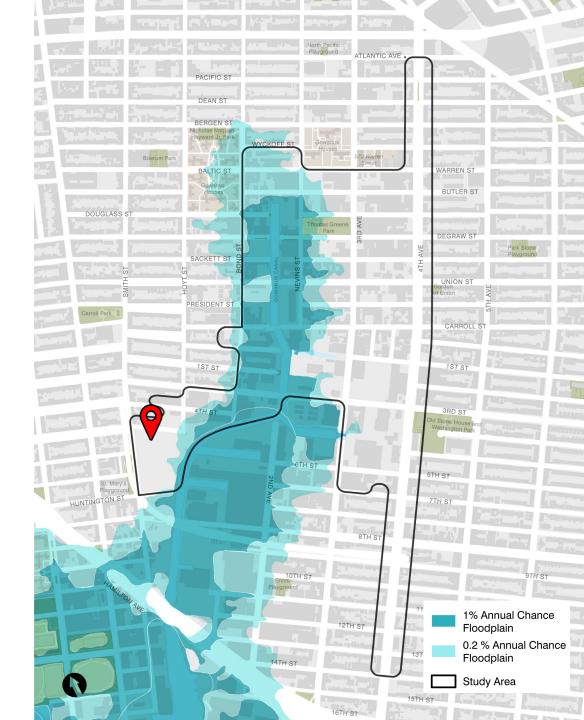


### Background

Flood Risk

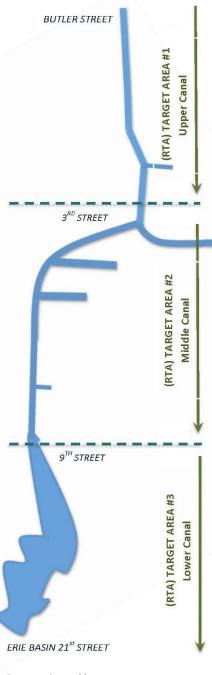
A portion of Gowanus is mapped within FEMA designated flood zone or Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA)

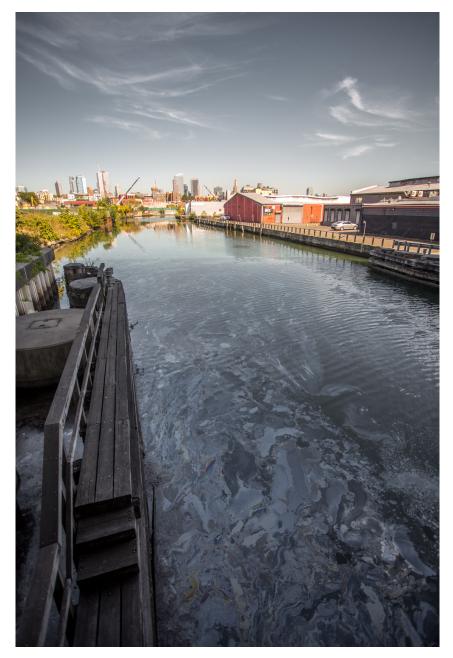
Base flood elevations (above grade) generally range from 1 to 6 feet



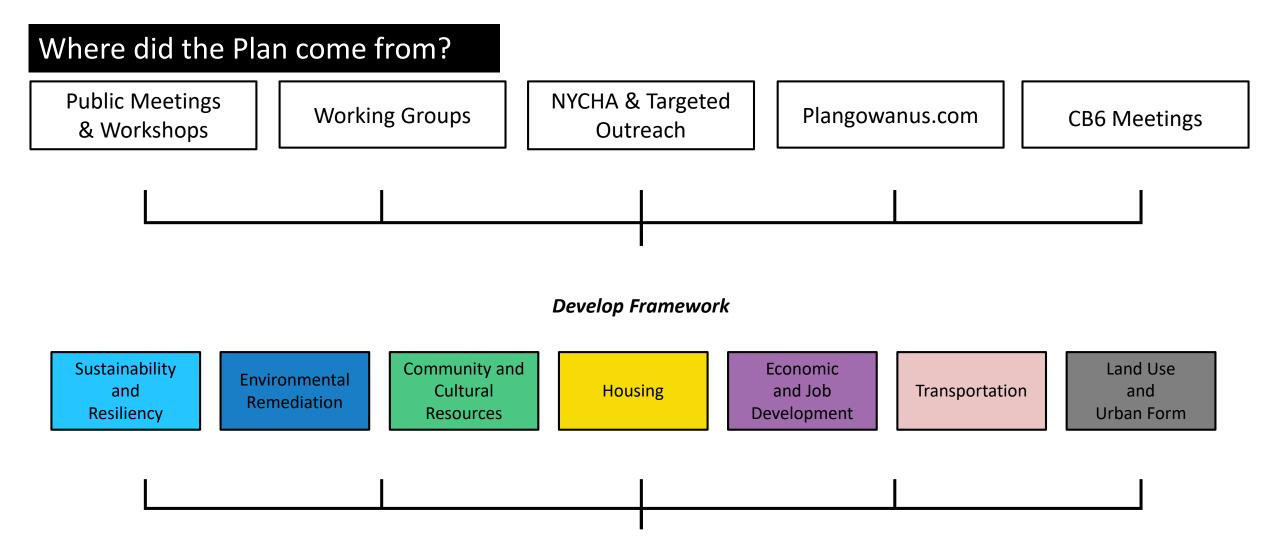


#### Superfund Cleanup





9<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge looking north



Gowanus: A Framework for a Sustainable, Inclusive, Mixed-Use Neighborhood

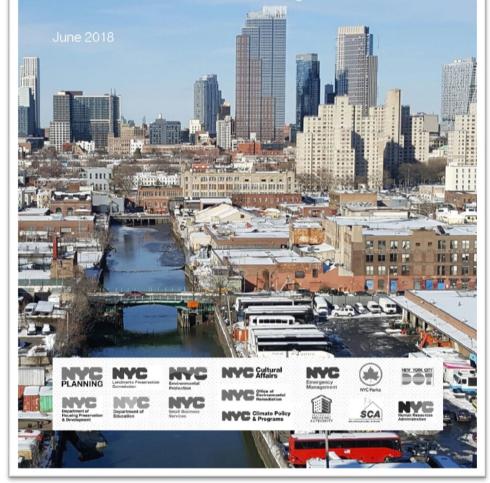
### **Gowanus Framework**

What is the Framework?

- Released in June 2018
- Roadmap to achieving a shared vision
  - *Requires collective action*
  - All levels of society
    - Agencies, CBs, CBOs, developers, businesses, etc.
- Organized around priorities
- Check-in point with community on direction
- Provided a direction towards a detailed Zoning Proposal
- Alignment of city tools and resources
- Tool for evaluating existing and future projects or programs

## **Gowanus:**

A Framework for a Sustainable, Inclusive, Mixed-use Neighborhood



### Zoning Actions Needed to Facilitate Vision

#### **Industrial and Commercial**

- Maintain for non-residential use only
- Increase density
- Rightsize parking and loading

#### Housing

- Allow for medium to high density housing
- Require permanently affordable housing through MIH

#### Waterfront Access

• Shape a unique, resilient waterfront open space

#### A true mix of uses

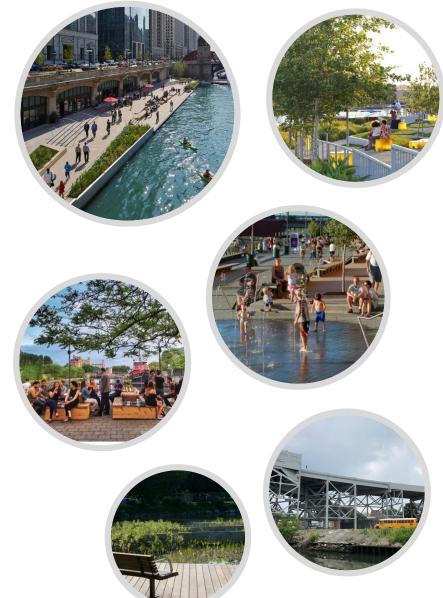
- Incentivise non-residential uses
- Create and enhance key corridors and nodes
- Activate the canal

#### **Built Form**

- Relate to neighbourhood context
- Allow for an architectural variety along the canal
- Maintain light and air to the future waterfront
- Promote resiliency and sustainability



### Waterfront Access Plan





Danie Ot

Danie Ot



### **PROJECT TIMELINE**

#### 2007

HPD releases request for proposals (RFP) for affordable housing at Public Place

#### 2008

Development team's *Gowanus Green* proposal selected for implementation

#### 2010

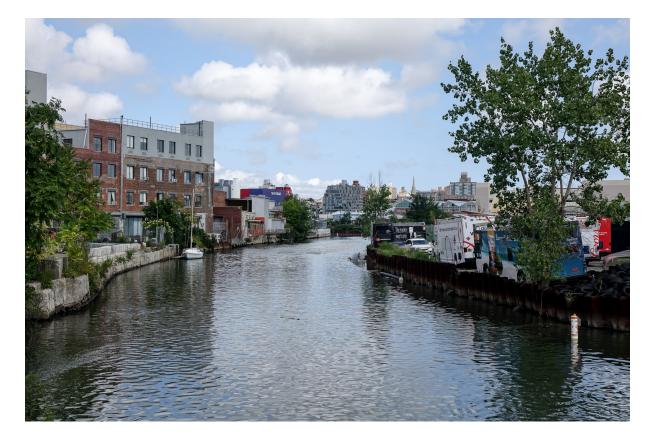
EPA designates Gowanus Canal as a Superfund site

#### 2018

Community Visioning Workshop takes place for Gowanus Green in November

#### 2019

National Grid begins remediation of Public Place in the summer



### **2018 COMMUNITY VISIONING WORKSHOP RECAP**



### ACTIVITIES

- I. Visioning and Goals
- II. Site Plan exercise
- III. Site Massing
- IV. Open Space

Public Place Community Workshop (November 2018)



#### **Transportation & Mobility**

- Concerns about overcrowding and level of service of current transit options
- Implement alternative transportation measures such as a bikeable greenway
- Increased connectivity between the waterfront and neighborhood

Public Place Community Workshop (November 2018)



#### Community Spaces: Indoor & Outdoor

- Indoor spaces that are culturally enriching
- Programs for people of all ages
- Open space network that is walkable, resilient, and promotes waterfront access
- Space for passive and active recreation

Public Place Community Workshop (November 2018)



Bioswale Care Handbook, NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection

#### **Environmental Remediation & Resiliency**

- Prioritize sustainable design features
- Restore and preserve the environment
- Mitigate impact of future storm disasters



#### **Urban Design Features**

- Green, recessed roofs
- Multiple entrances, wide building setbacks to promote foot traffic
- Build out highest stories at middle of site

Image of Via Verde, courtesy of Jonathan Rose Companies



Smith Street looking south towards the Gowanus Green site (Google Maps)

#### Affordability: Residential & Retail Uses

- Activate Smith Street with retail space
- Local businesses, creative sectors, healthy food options
- Affordable homes for a range of needs, including seniors

### **DEVELOPMENT TEAM**

#### FIFTH AVENUE COMMITTEE



#### HUDSON COMPANIES, INC.



#### THE BLUESTONE ORGANIZATION



JONATHAN ROSE COMPANIES





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### **DESIGN TEAM**

MARVEL ARCHITECTS



#### **SCAPE** LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS





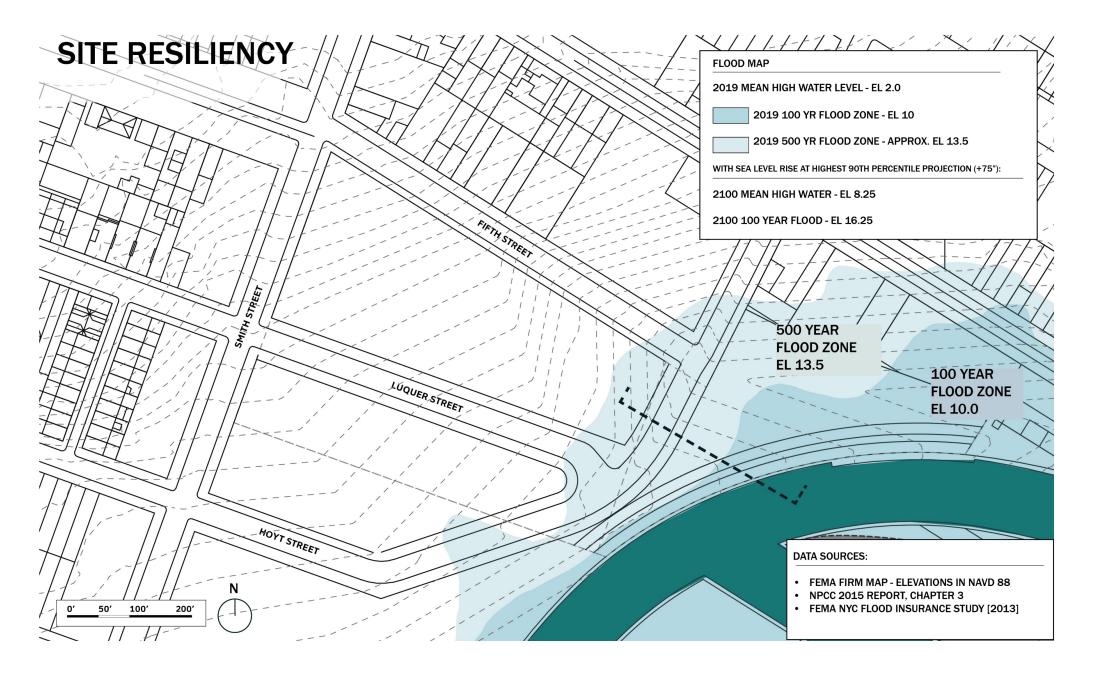


#### VHB UTILITIES AND CIVIL ENGINEERING

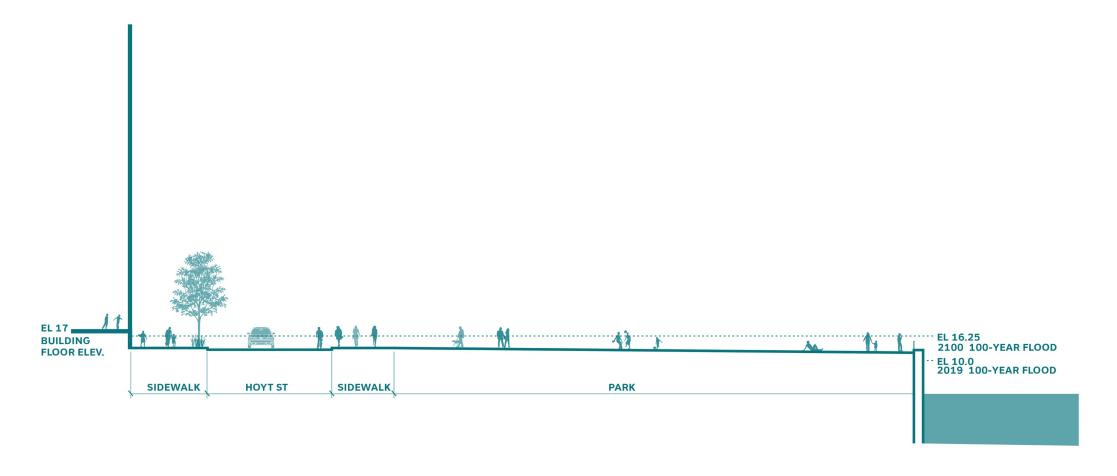








### SITE RESILIENCY

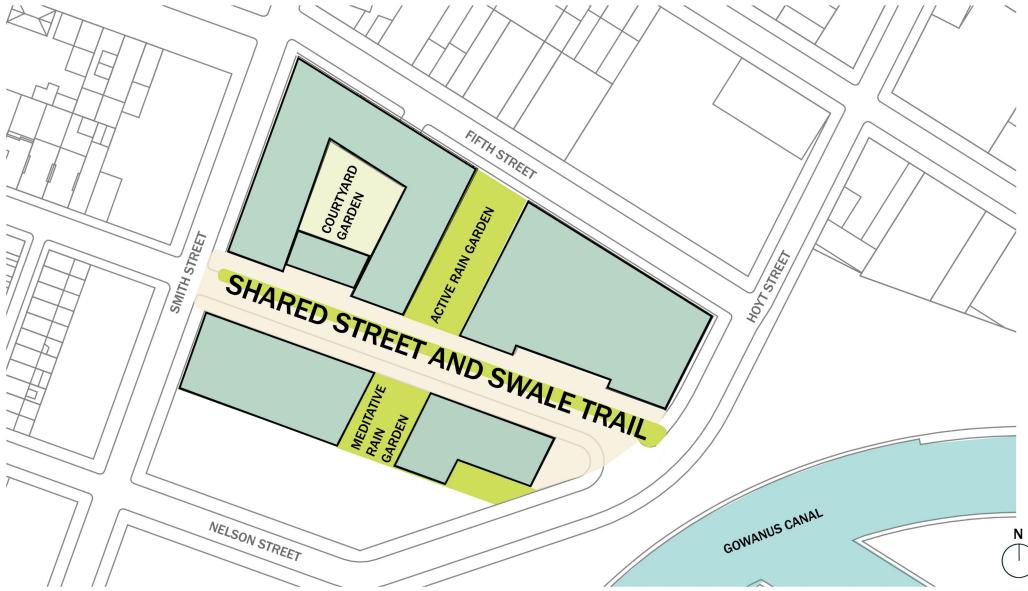


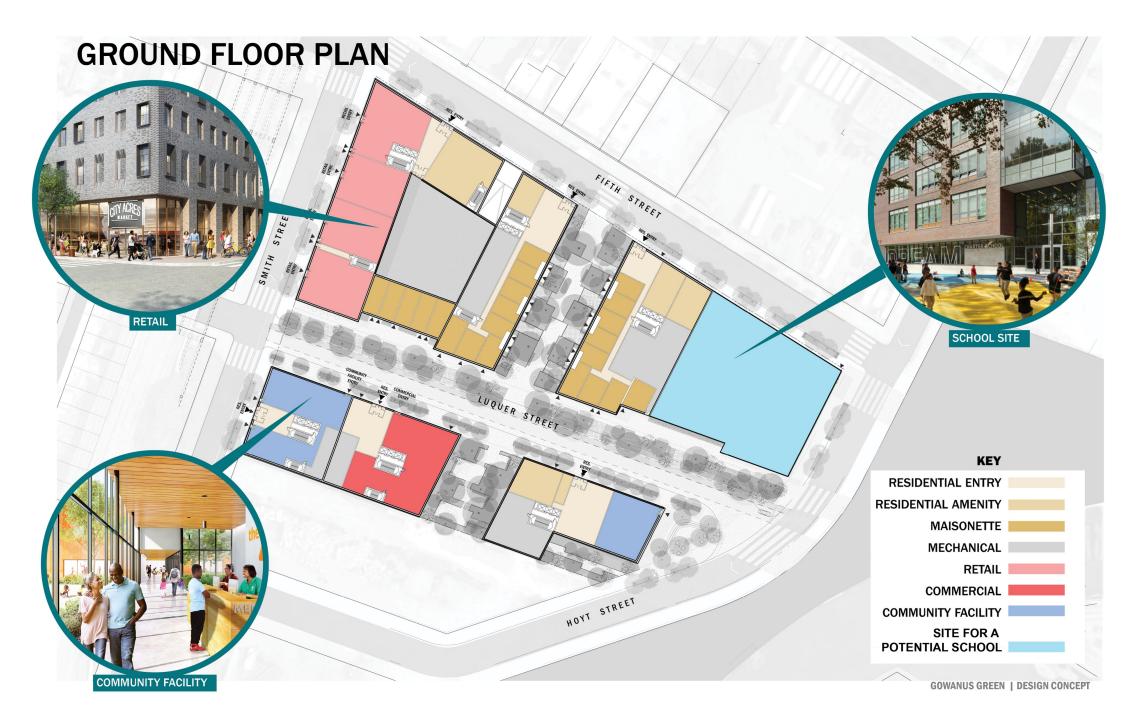


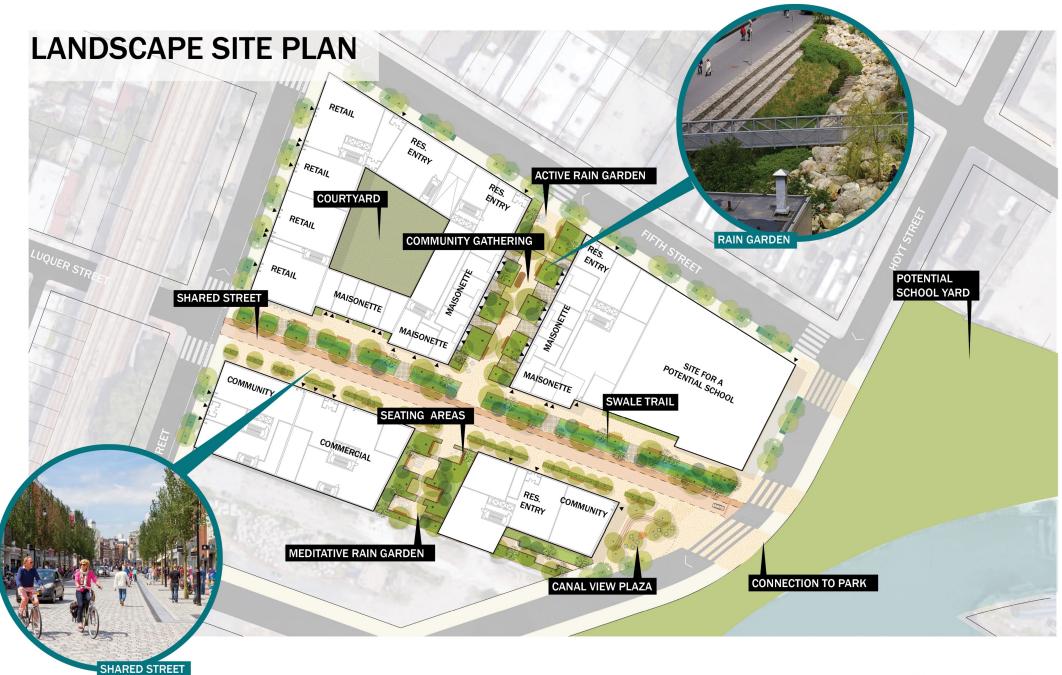
### **STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**



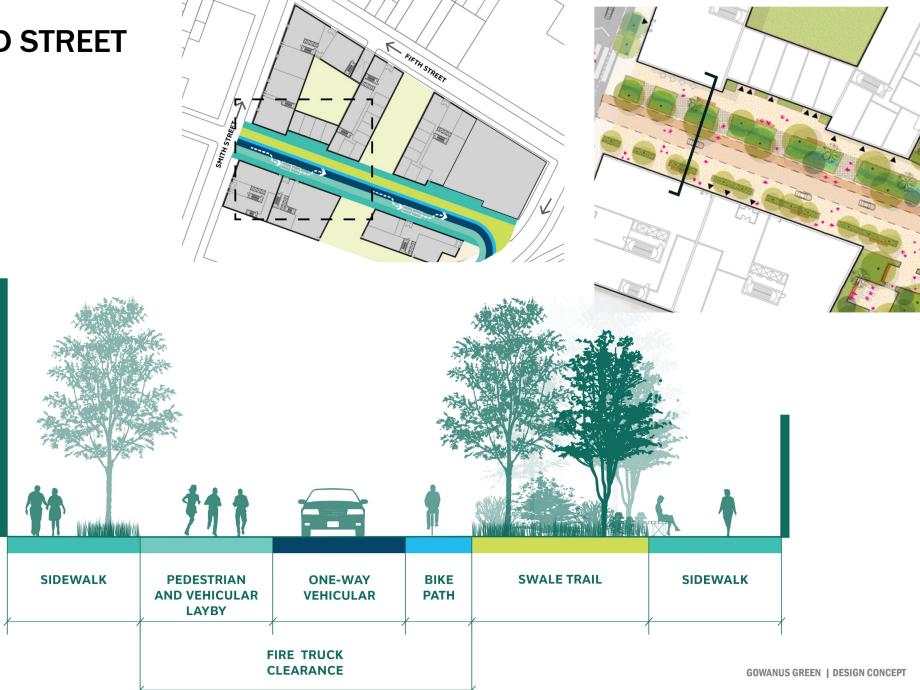
### SITE CONCEPT

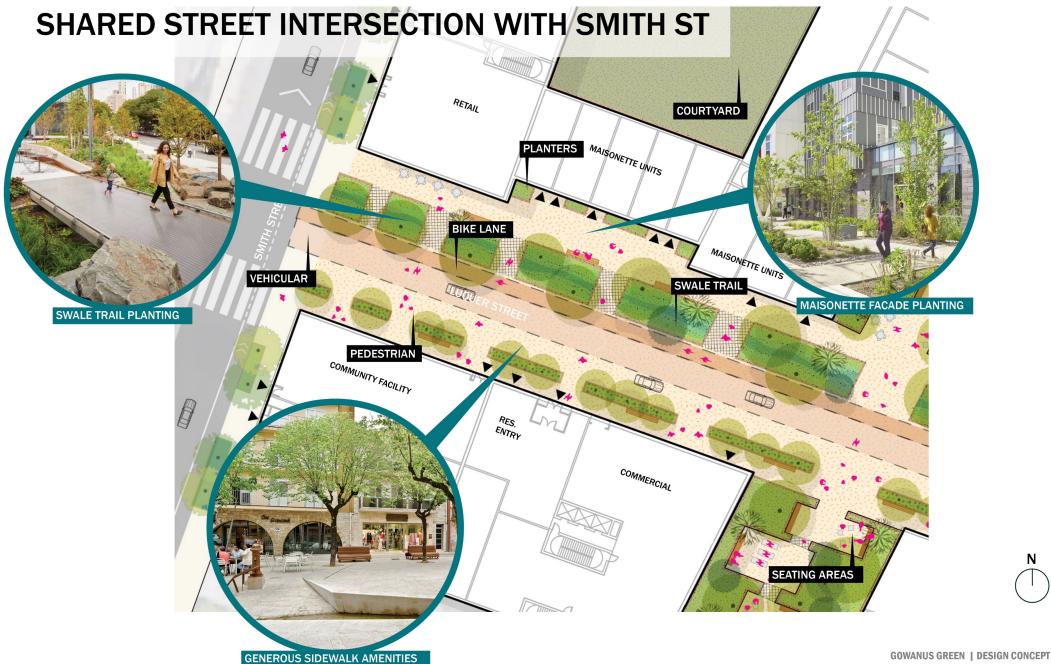








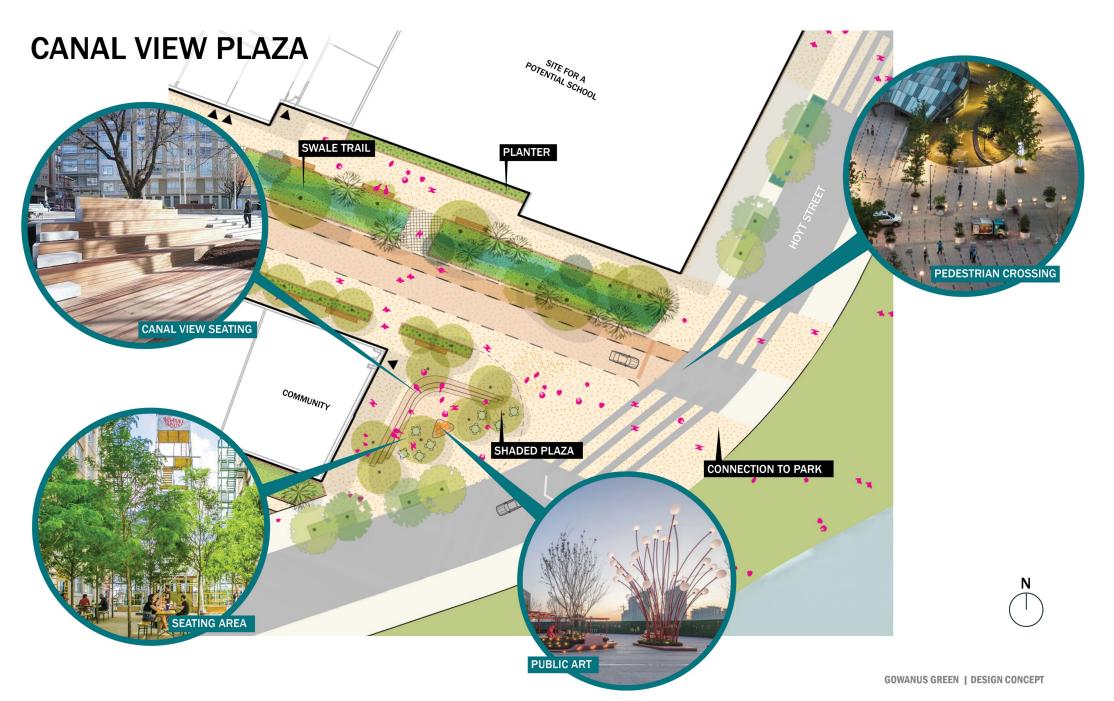


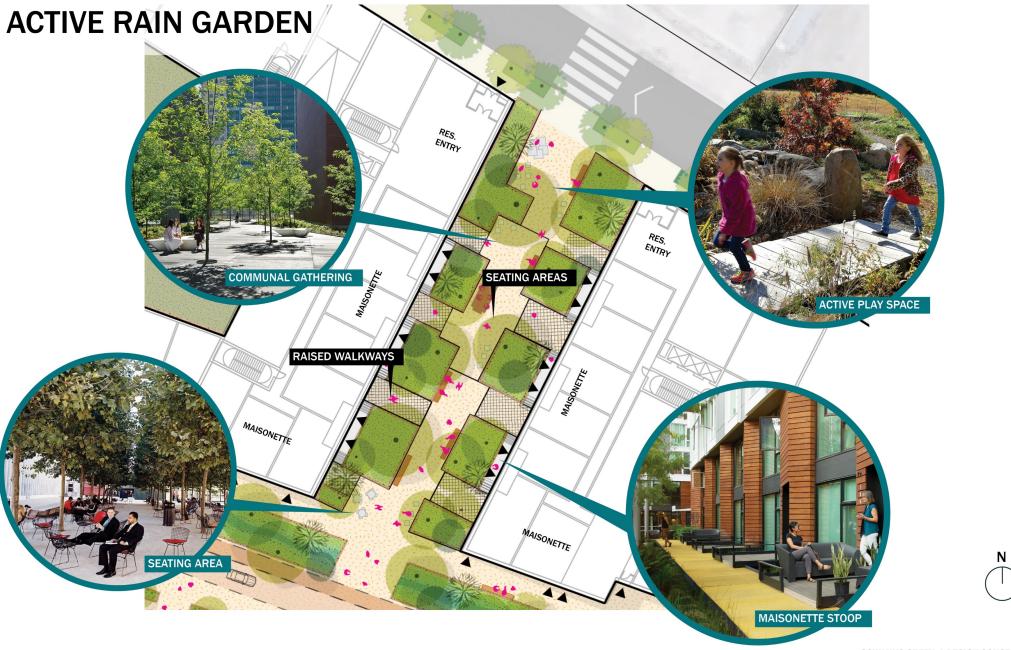


### **VIEW -** EAST FROM LUQUER STREET



34

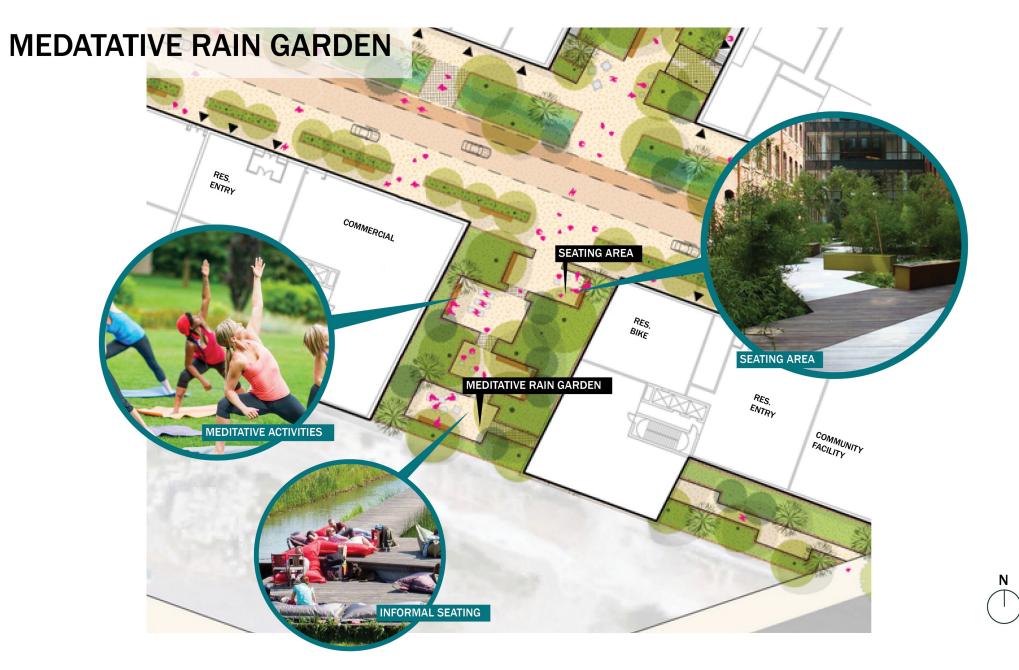




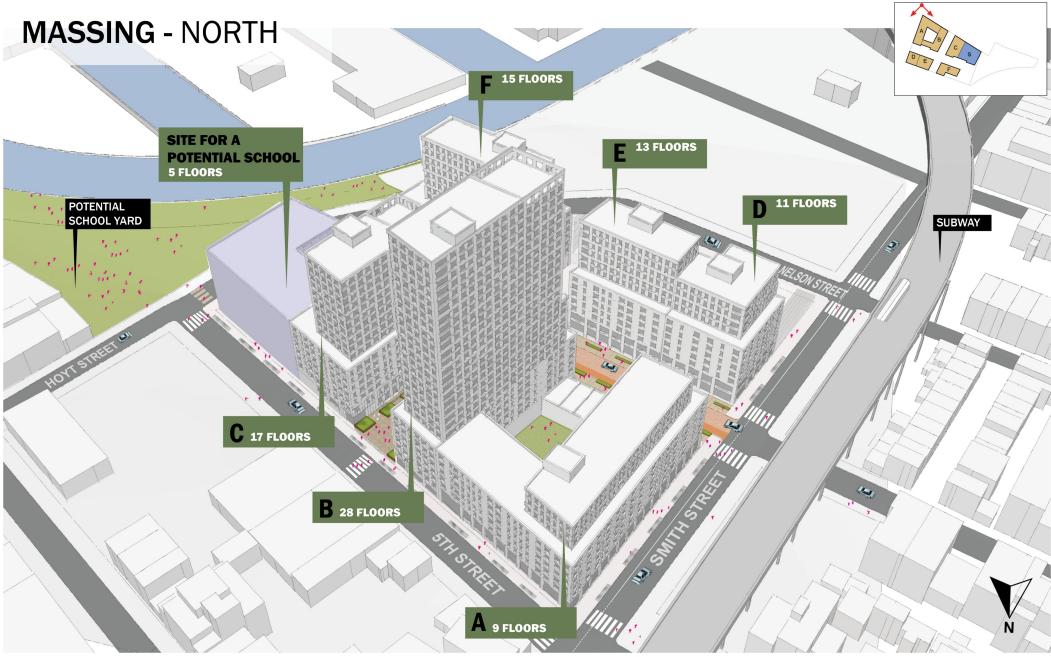
### **RAIN GARDEN**

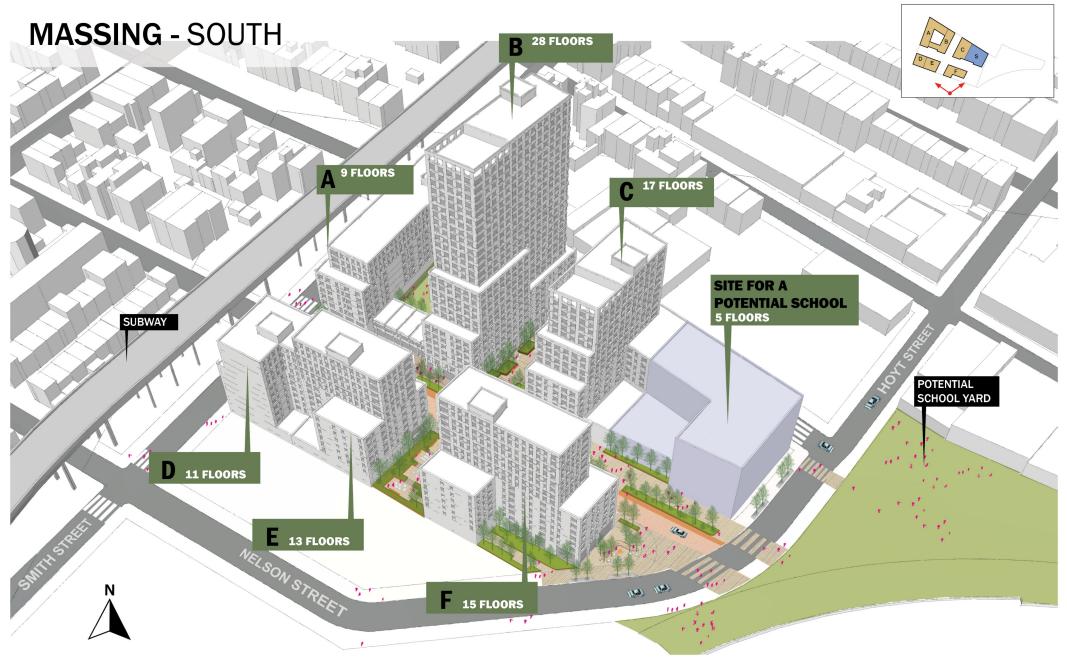








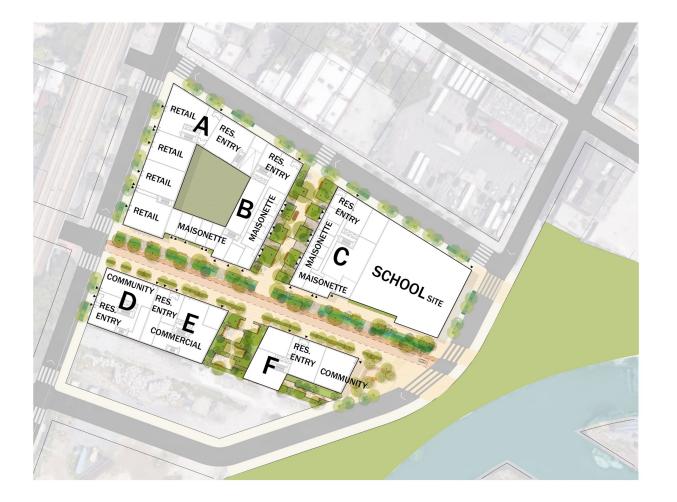






43

### **PROJECT SUMMARY**



950 new Residential Units in a Transit Rich Location

#### Affordable Housing serving a wide range of incomes and needs,

including housing dedicated to formerly homeless, senior and extremely lowincome New Yorkers

#### A network of unique **Open Spaces** that connect people to the

proposed esplanade and public park after the site has been fully remediated, including an active Shared Street, active and meditative Rain Gardens, and other community gathering areas

## A Sustainable, Resilient and Environmentally healthy community that improves site resilience, generates

renewable energy, and implements innovative stormwater management strategies that reduce combined sewer overflows into Gowanus Canal

A dedicated site for a future **Public School** across from the public park, including an at-grade play area adjacent to the proposed public park

**Retail Space** along Smith Street and neighborhood serving uses such as a food/grocery store and affordable space for local retailers

#### Community Spaces with a preference for early childcare,

healthcare, senior programming, and a range of space for artists and makers that reflect the Gowanus Mix

44