

What is sustainability?

Sustainability means the activities we undertake today will not compromise the present generation's or future generations' ability to meet their own needs.

Cities are innately sustainable because mixed-use growth in walkable, transit-accessible areas supports a low-carbon lifestyle. **People, economic development, and the environment** are interconnected, and for any to thrive, all must thrive together. In a sustainable city...



The air is breathable and waterways are clean



Buildings provide healthy environments, and are well designed for comfort and minimal energy costs



Contaminated land from our industrial history is cleaned up to create housing, parks, and opportunities for new jobs



Trees provide shade and refuge, and absorb carbon emissions

All levels of government and local groups have been actively working on projects that can help make Gowanus more sustainable. Many of the boards will go into detail on these projects, and we are interested in hearing additional suggestions for future projects that can be explored by working groups of community stakeholders.

What ideas do you have to make Gowanus more sustainable?

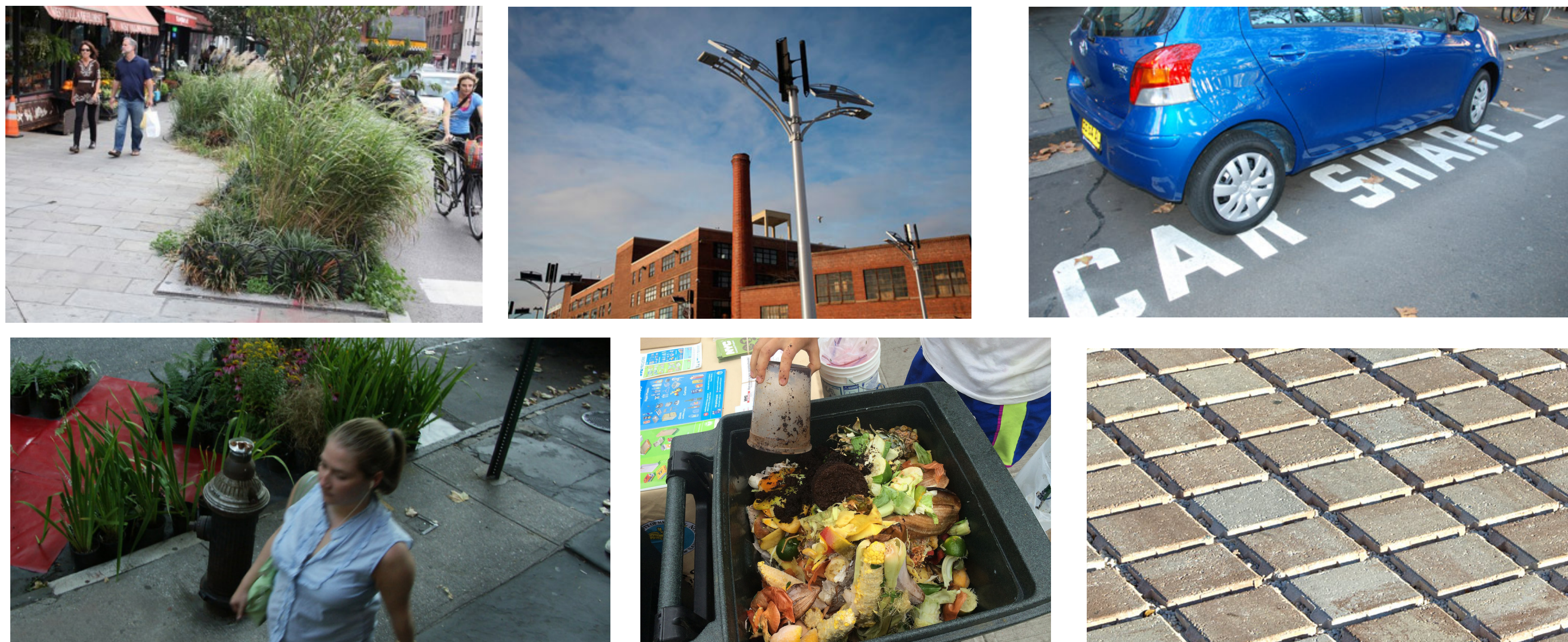
Where does sustainability happen?



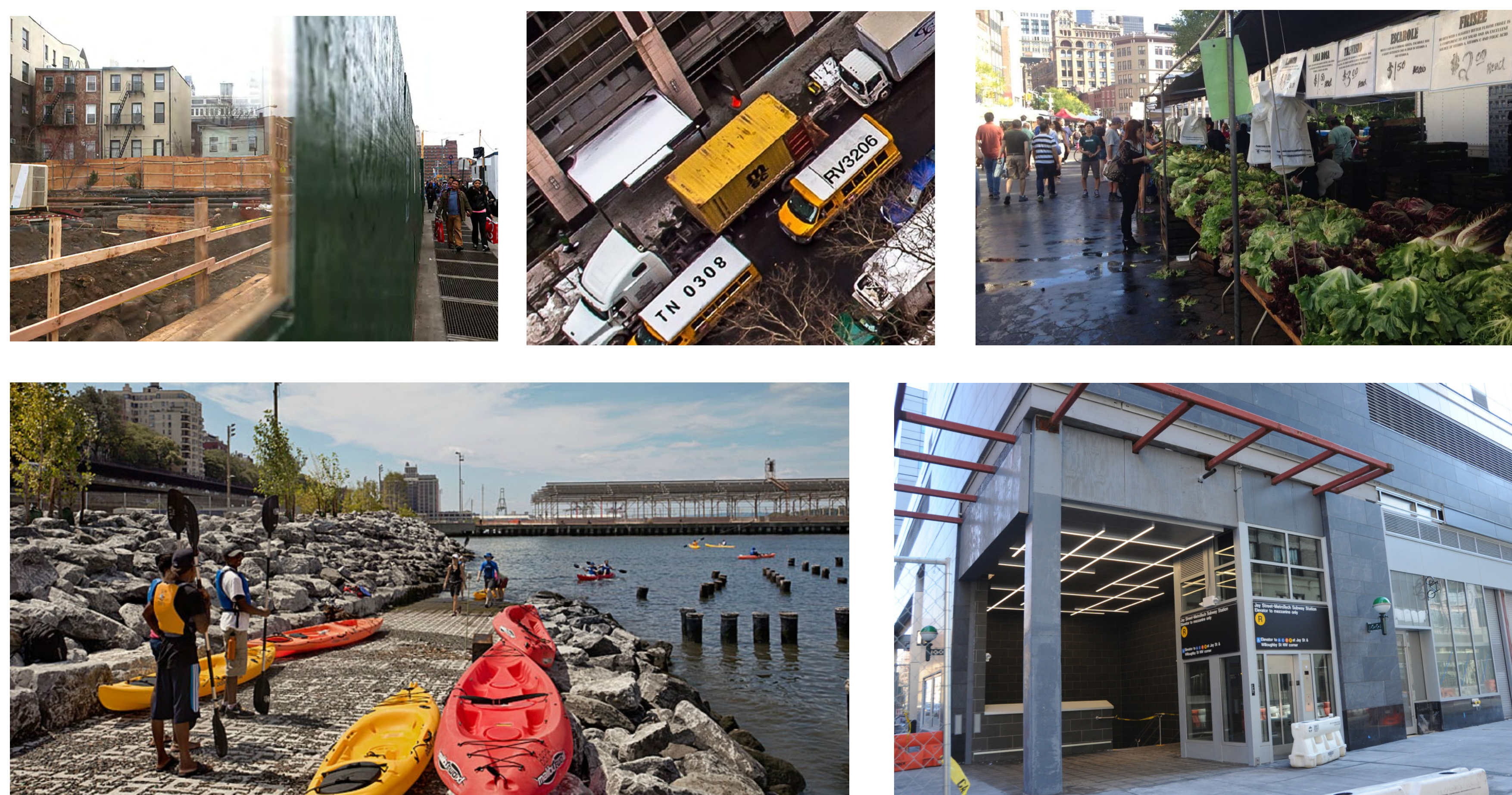
Your bathroom & kitchen



Your building



Your block



Your neighborhood



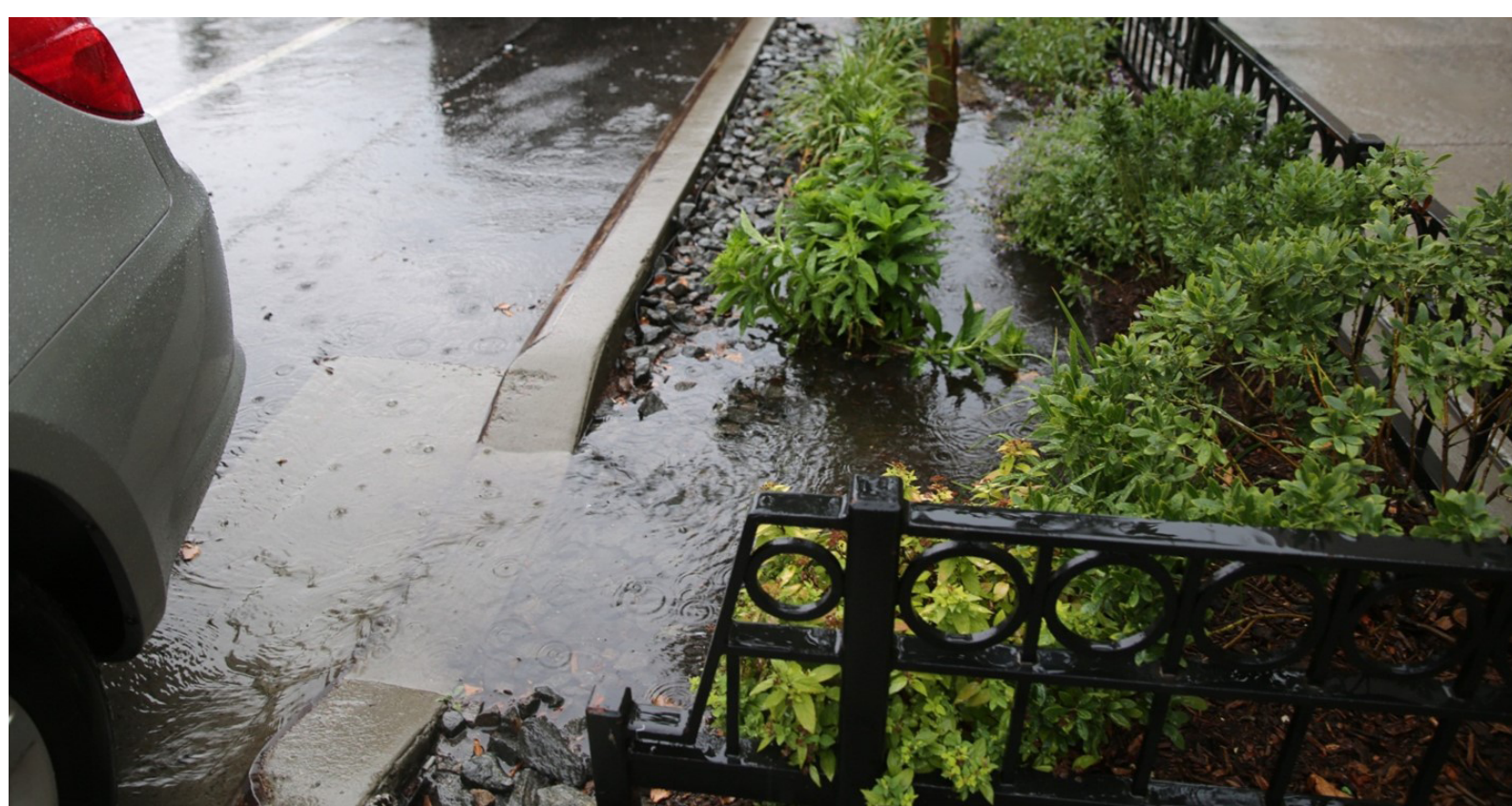
Your commute

What is the City doing to make Gowanus more sustainable?

A variety of sustainable initiatives are happening in Gowanus by New York City agencies. The **Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)** works with the Department of Education and the School Construction Authority, as well as Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), to identify opportunities for sustainable retrofits on publicly owned properties. The City's Housing and Preservation Department (HPD) also works to ensure projects are sustainable. Some key initiatives include:

Green Infrastructure: The City is working on creative ways to manage the water that falls into city streets and enters city sewers and wastewater infrastructure. DEP has advanced construction of green infrastructure across the city, including right-of-way bioswales and stormwater greenstreets.

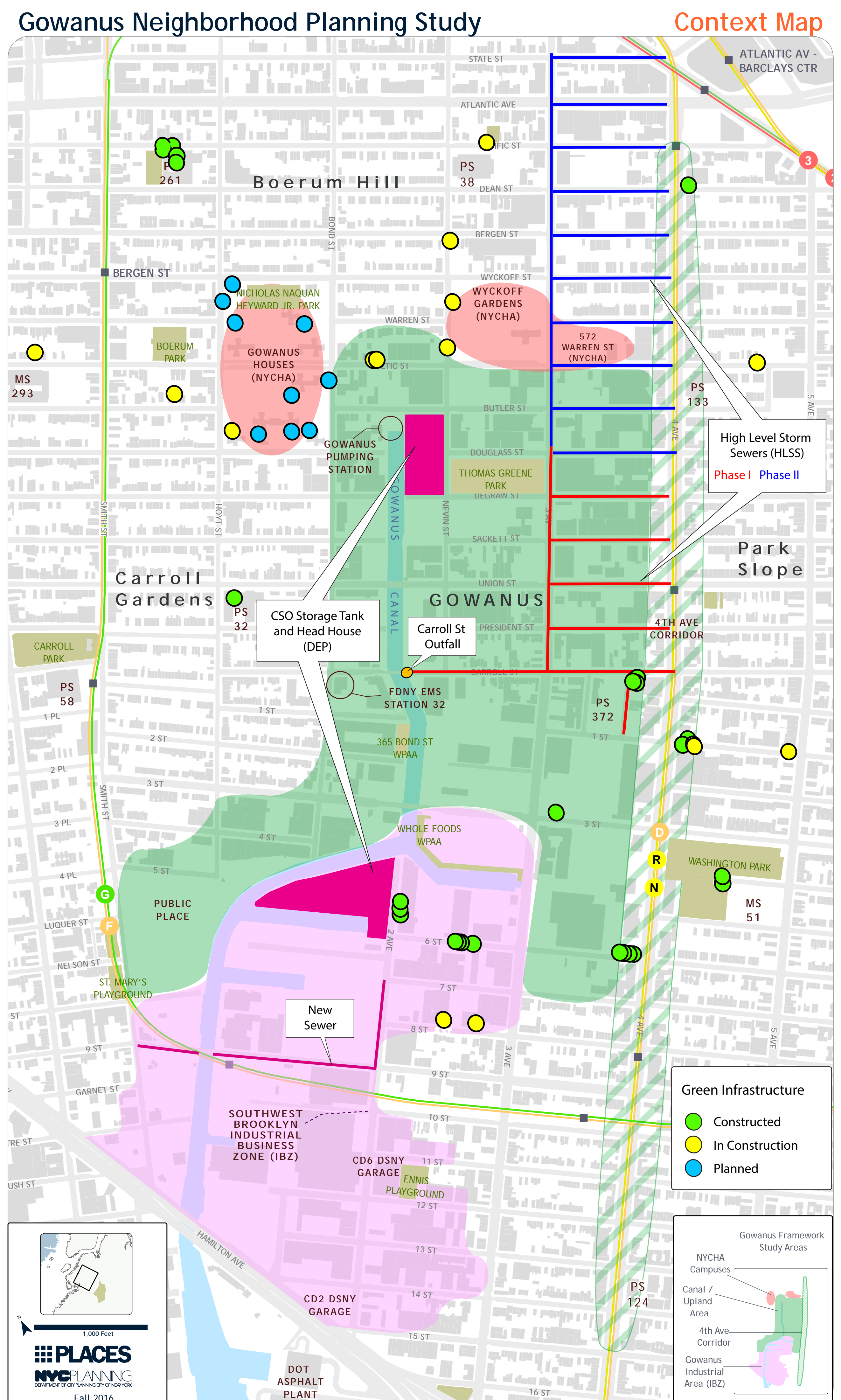
Green Infrastructure in Gowanus includes rain gardens that collect and filter water during rain events.



The Paerdegat Basin combined sewer overflow (CSO) facility is shown here. Two new Combined sewer overflow (CSO) tanks are proposed to serve Gowanus as part of the Gowanus Canal Superfund remedy to reduce combined sewer discharges into the canal during rain events.

Public Place is a City-owned, six-acre brownfield. An RFP was issued in 2008, and a developer team led by The Hudson Companies was chosen to develop the site. Development will fulfill Enterprise Green Communities criteria for stormwater management and energy efficiency.

NYCHA NextGen Neighborhoods: NYCHA chose Wyckoff Gardens to be a NextGen Neighborhood with the goal of generating revenue for capital repairs. New development at Wyckoff Gardens will be a 50/50 split of market-rate and affordable housing. Residents are engaged to identify and set priorities for capital repairs and investments. Development will fulfill Enterprise Green Communities criteria for stormwater management and energy efficiency.



Project Update: **Drainage Upgrades:** Designs have been completed for a project that will alleviate flooding and ponding conditions in the area. Storm and sanitary sewers will be installed on 9th Street between 2nd Avenue and the Gowanus Canal, with additional storm sewers installed on 9th Street between Smith Street and the Canal. Combined sewers will be constructed along 2nd Avenue between 7th Street and 9th Street, along with the replacement of a cast iron water main.

What is a Brownfield? And how do they get cleaned up?

Brownfield is a common name for land where redevelopment is complicated by environmental contamination. Brownfields might be former industrial sites or properties where land was filled in with material of unknown origin.

Remediation is the process of cleaning up contaminated properties so that they no longer pose a threat to human health or the environment. It begins with a thorough environmental investigation and usually results in removal of pollutant sources and elimination of human exposure to toxins. The contaminated materials are disposed of at licensed facilities. Program clients ensure workers and the public are protected from exposure to contaminants during remedial work.



Fulton Municipal Gas Works MGP, Gowanus, 1924
Now a NYS Superfund project



To learn more, watch OER's video explaining environmental investigations:
<http://www.nyc.gov/oer/videos>

New York State Superfund is the common name for sites on the New York State Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites. These sites pose a significant threat to public health or the environment. They are managed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Under the **Federal Superfund Program**, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulates highly contaminated sites on the National Priorities List (NPL), such as the Gowanus Canal Superfund Site. EPA identifies parties responsible for the cleanup and regulates the remediation at these sites.

Stay in Touch!

Email: brownfields@cityhall.nyc.gov

Phone: 212-788-8841

Website: www.nyc.gov/oer

New York City Voluntary Cleanup Program

While the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) manage highly contaminated sites, in NYC, the **New York City Office of Environmental Remediation (OER)** oversees the cleanup of lightly to moderately-contaminated land.

OER is a team of scientists and engineers that was established to design, build, and operate a set of world-class municipal programs to advance cleanup and redevelopment of lightly- to moderately contaminated land.

OER operates the NYC **Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP)**, which has enrolled over 460 projects since 2011. The average vacancy of remedial properties is over ten years, and roughly half are located in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.

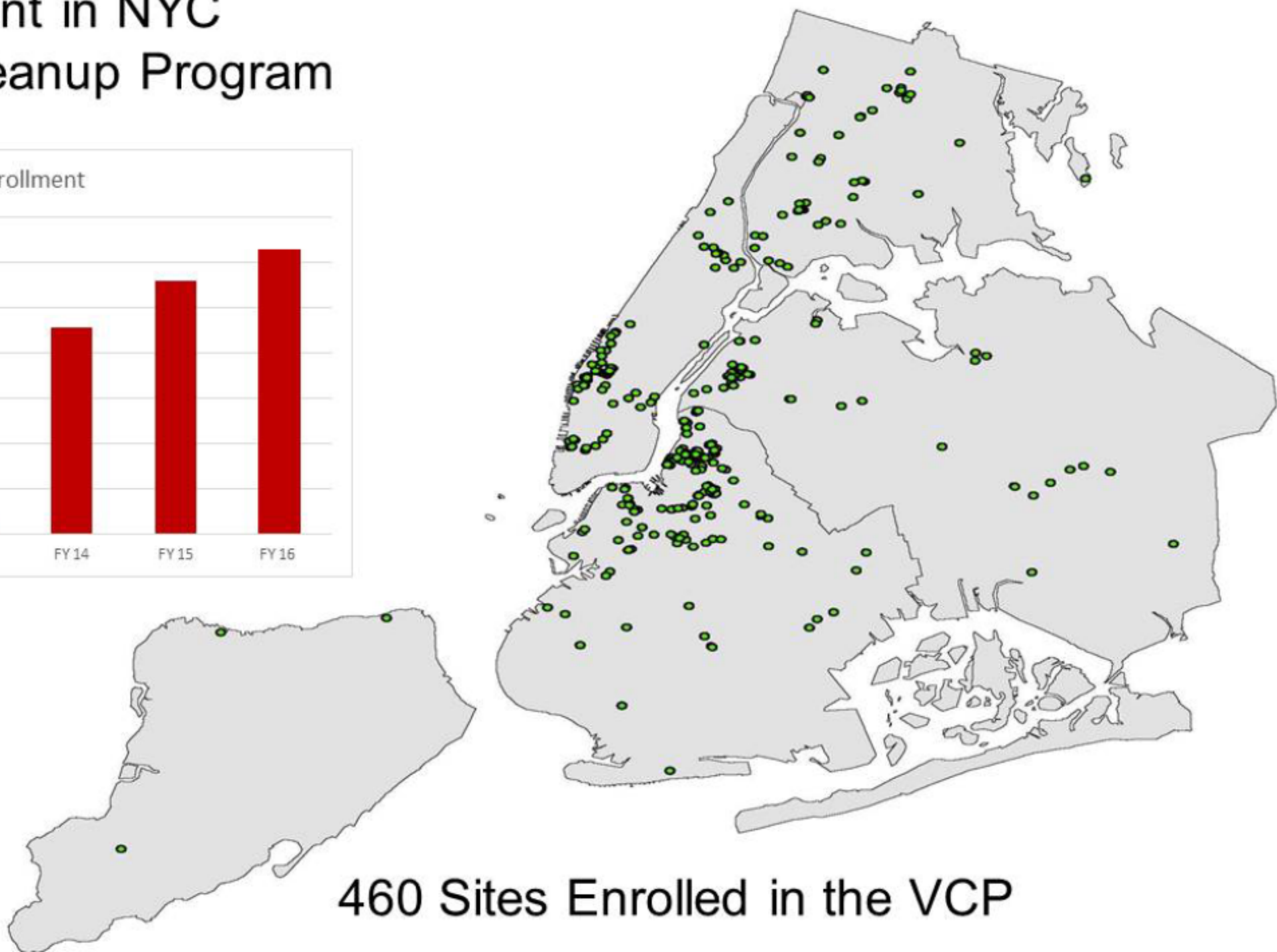
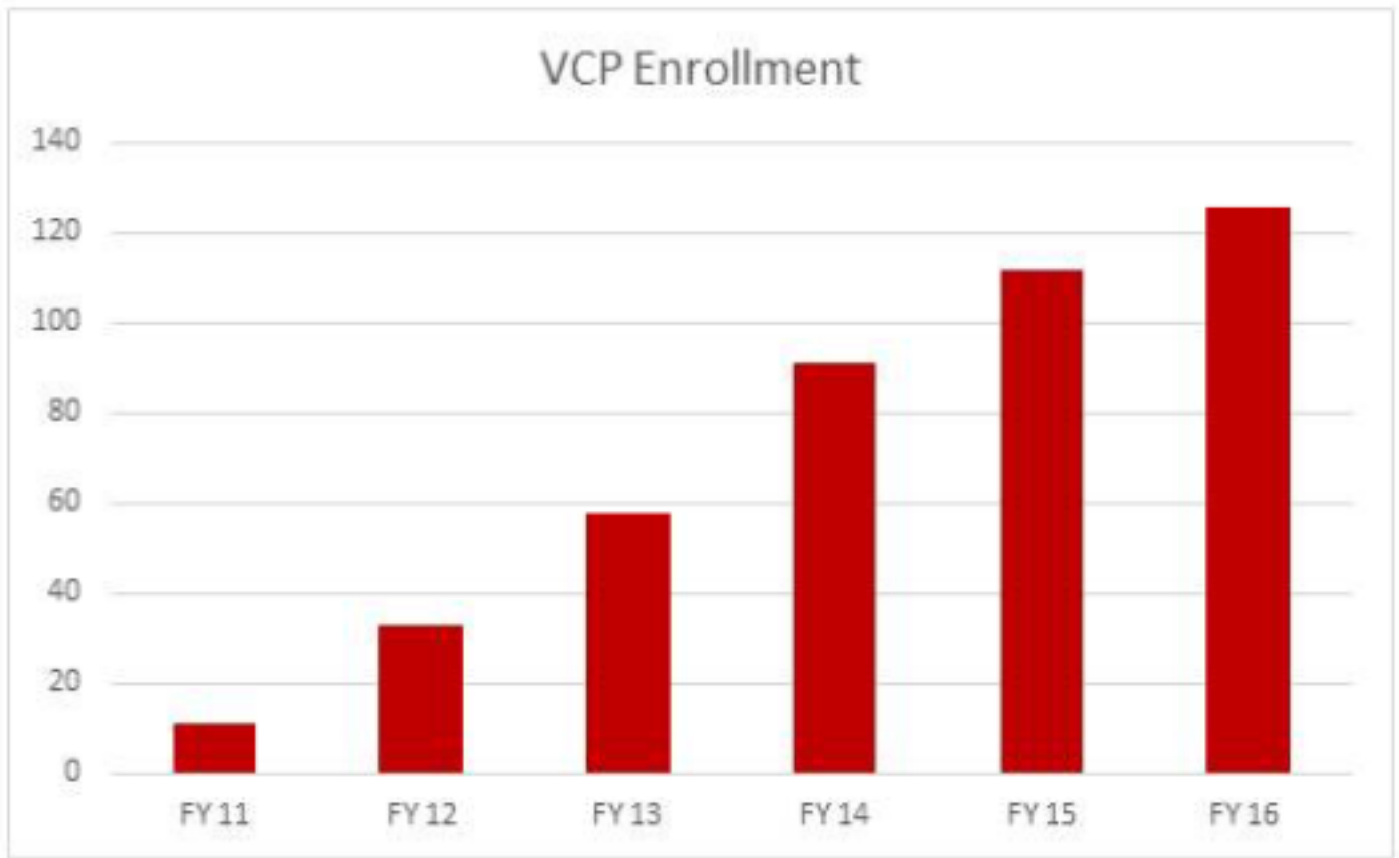
OER regulates **E-Designation** requirements for hazardous materials, noise, and air-quality issues. E-Designations are established by the Department of City Planning during rezoning actions to ensure protection of public health and the environment.

OER works closely with the **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)** on land remediation projects and refers highly contaminated land to DEC for their Brownfield and Superfund programs.

Stay in Touch!

Email: brownfields@cityhall.nyc.gov
Phone: 212-788-8841
Website: www.nyc.gov/oer

Enrollment in NYC
Voluntary Cleanup Program



Give us your thoughts and suggestions for a cleaner Gowanus!