

# Resiliency and Sustainability

## How did we get here?

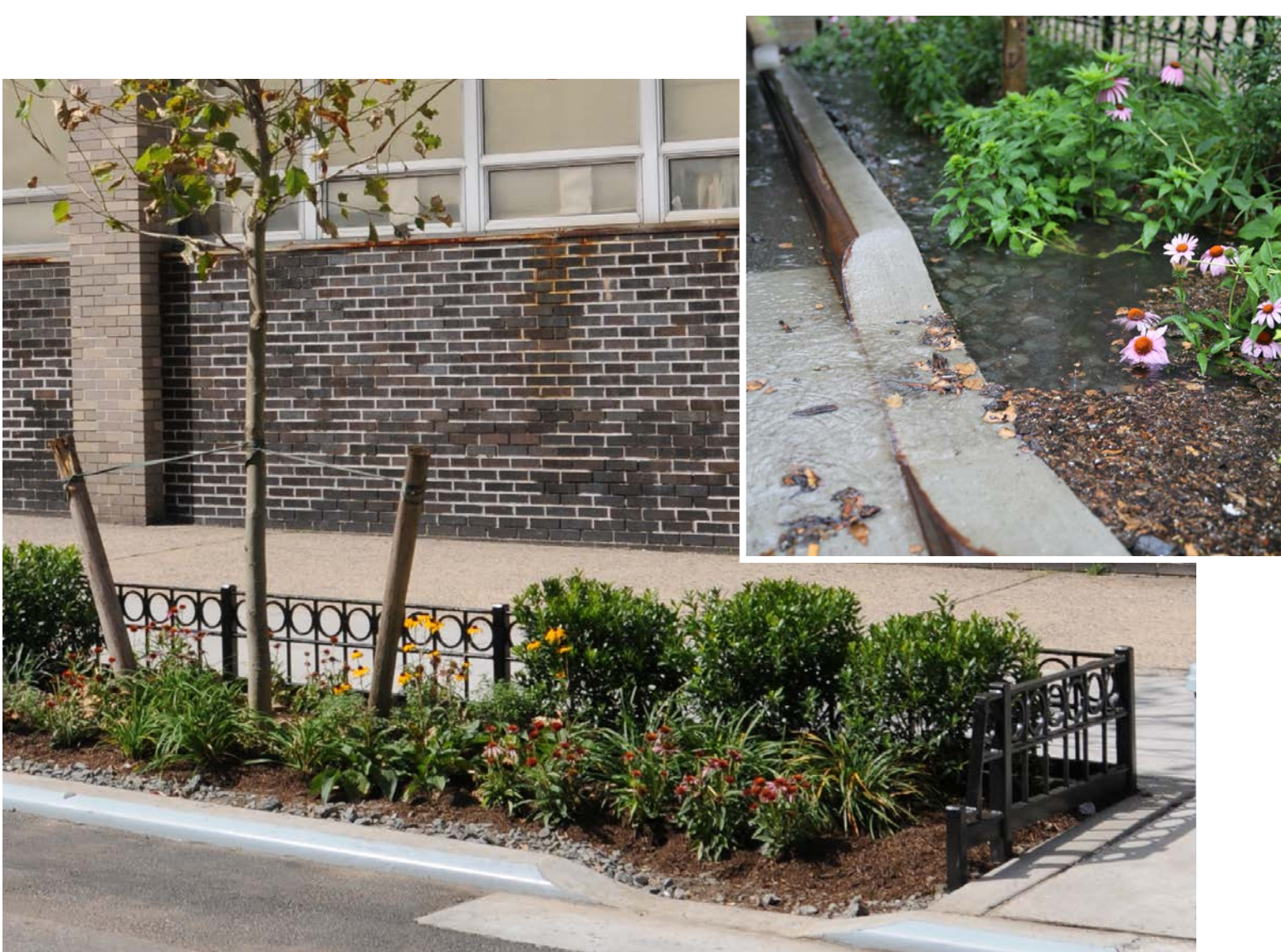
Planning for **sustainability** means that the activities we undertake today will not compromise our resources in the future.

Planning for **resiliency** means that people, buildings, neighborhoods, the economy and public services will be ready to withstand and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

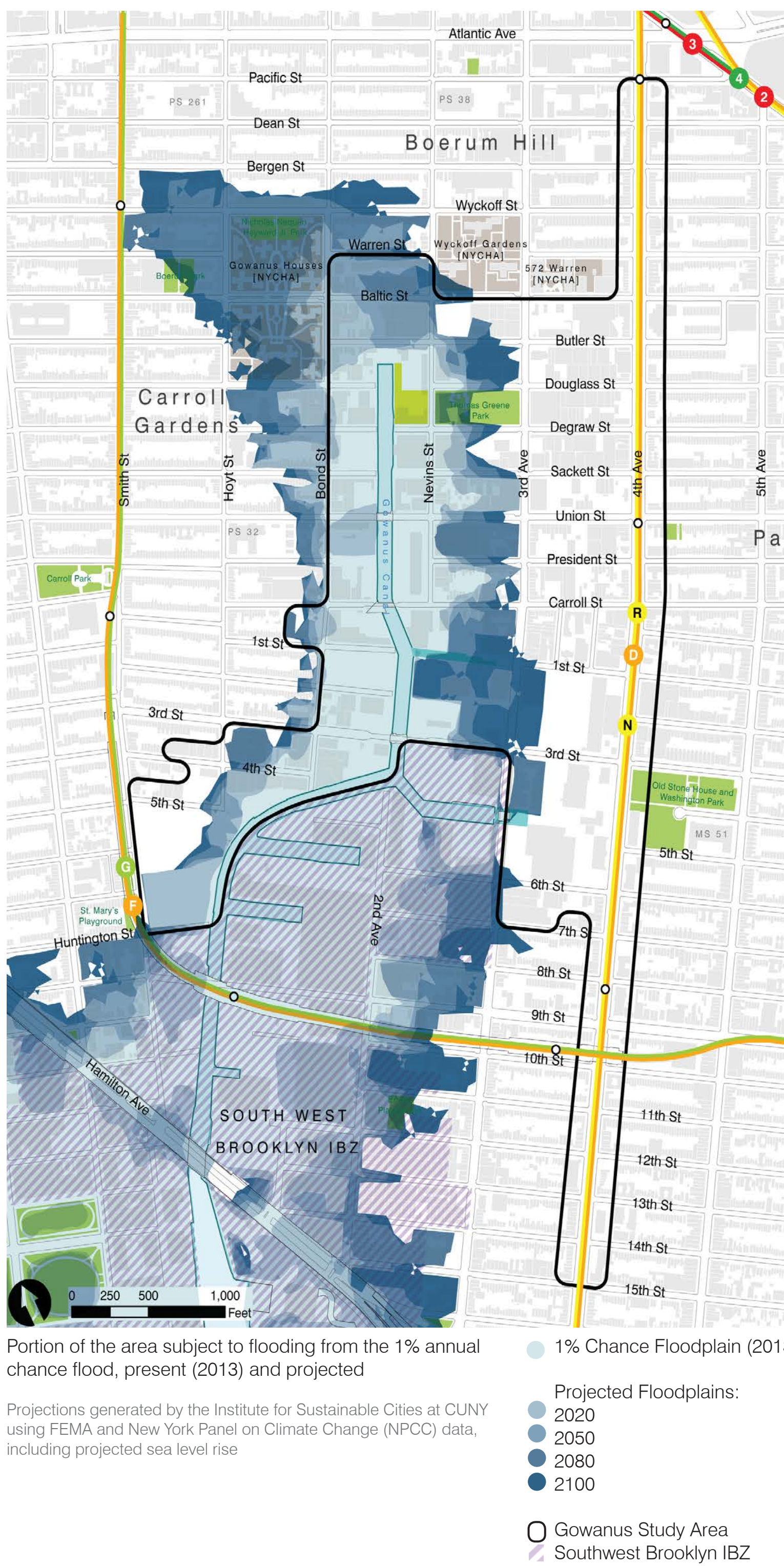
Residents and businesses in Gowanus experience stormwater-related flooding of streets and basements. They recall inundation and damage from Hurricane Sandy in 2012. For years, the Gowanus community has been working toward a sustainable and resilient future, led by the efforts of a number of community-based organizations that have worked to tackle the root of many existing environmental issues, including the impacts of climate change, Urban Heat Island effect and brownfield contamination.



Sustainability and Resiliency Community Meeting, December 2016



Green infrastructure: Bioswales on Fourth Avenue and Dean Street



The objectives in the framework were identified from input and ideas of community organizations, City agencies and residents, whose interests and ideas ranged from **building energy** to **open space**, from **transportation** to **sewer infrastructure** and from **sanitation** to **emergency response**. Each strategy represents an important step toward Gowanus's bright future as a model green neighborhood.



# Resiliency and Sustainability Framework Goals and Strategies

## Goal 1: Support existing and future sustainability efforts to make Gowanus a model green neighborhood

### Efficiency and Alternative Energy

- Foster growth in solar power capacity
- Support Gowanus district energy microgrid development

### Water Management and Treatment

- Use grey and green infrastructure to reduce combined sewer overflow (CSO)
- Increase the amount of local stormwater managed on-site

### Waste and Litter Reduction

- Encourage composting in homes and businesses
- Improve waste collection

Through engagement with the Gowanus community, DCP received feedback and ideas for improvement on the existing building regulations to assist Gowanus in preparing for climate change. Proposed updates to the Zoning Resolution would include requirements and allowances to support flood-resistant construction in M-zoned areas, including the Industrial Business Zone (IBZ), the construction of active mixed-use buildings in and around the floodplain, and the retrofitting and flood protection of attached homes.



Wet-floodproofing strategy

New York City outlined commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050 in its 2014 Roadmap to 80 x 50.

A citywide zoning amendment, written by DCP based on recommendations from the mayoral Green Codes Task force in 2012, removed zoning impediments to sustainable construction and retrofitting including height limitations on solar panels.

DCP and the Mayor's Office of Climate Policy & Programs will examine the Zoning Resolution to address remaining impediments to efficient design in Gowanus.



## Goal 2: Support existing and future efforts to encourage flood-resilient buildings and community preparedness

### Flood Risk Reduction and Stormwater Management

- Update regulations to reduce risk of damage to buildings in the floodplain
- Improve capacity of infrastructure to meet increased demand

### Social and Economic Resiliency

- Engage community members and organizations in a community emergency response planning process
- Connect NYCHA and other area residents to green jobs opportunities



# Help us take it to the next step!

Your participation and input will help in the development of the **Gowanus Neighborhood Plan**

Questions to help you get started:

- Are you part of an organization or do you know any partners that could help advance some of these strategies?
- What ideas do you have that can help advance a particular goal or strategy?
- Which strategy or goal is a priority for you and why?



**Please visit [PlanGowanus.com](http://PlanGowanus.com) to continue to provide feedback and input**  
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