

JEROME AVENUE NEIGHBORHOOD STUDY

PROCESS & PLAN UPDATE

March 2017



“The city is committed to deploying all necessary resources and tools in and around the study area to ensure capital investments, services & programs, affordable housing opportunities, and other resources are serving the needs of growing communities.”

Overview

The Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Study is an on-going community planning process involving multiple agencies producing work that positively affects the lives of thousands of stakeholders. The city is committed to deploying all necessary resources and tools in and around the study area to ensure capital investments, services & programs, affordable housing opportunities, and other resources are serving the needs of the existing residents of these growing communities.



As an Agency, the Department of City Planning (DCP) has been extremely busy over the last few months refining strategies and continuing to incorporate community input, as well as initiating an environmental review of proposed land-use actions associated with the Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Study. Upon completion of the draft environmental impact statement, DCP will submit a formal land-use application and will begin the public review process known as the Uniform Land-Use Review Procedure (ULURP). However, land use is just one of many components in the planning process and progress is being made on all fronts. From safety improvements along the Grand Concourse to grants to improve commercial corridors to setting the stage for free, high-speed wireless internet throughout the area via the LinkNYC program, investments and improvements continue to be made within the Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Study area. In short, implementation neither starts nor ends with changes to zoning.

This document summarizes only some of the recent work in the Jerome Avenue area. More to come as we continue to build the Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Plan together.




STUDY GOALS

Below is a just overview of some of the goals that have been identified as important outcomes of the Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Study. The list is by no means exhaustive and will no doubt continue to grow as the study progresses.



Community Resources

-  Ensure every neighborhood has green streetscapes, quality parks, and diverse recreation spaces.
-  Meet the present and future educational, health, and service needs of the community — especially those of youth and seniors — as the neighborhood develops.





Access, Mobility & Circulation

-  Promote a safe and walkable Jerome Avenue underneath the elevated train.
-  Make sure that streets are safe and attractive for those with mobility issues.
-  Improve the quality of life and health of the neighborhood.

Housing

-  Provide sustainable, high-quality, affordable housing with a range of options for residents at all income levels.
-  Protect tenants and improve housing quality.

Jobs & Businesses

-  Create greater retail diversity to meet current and growing retail and service needs.
-  Help Jerome Avenue residents prepare for jobs and career growth with appropriate job training and skills development.
-  Promote small businesses and support entrepreneurship throughout the corridor.
-  Support auto-related businesses and workers.

This document offers an overview of some of the momentum coming out of the Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Study. We have been working closely with other city agencies in order to focus city resources and to ensure that these goals are being met every step of the way.

Look for more this spring!

CONTENTS

Process & Next Steps.....6

Study Area in Context.....7

Process Timeline.....8

Access, Mobility & Circulation.....10

Parks & Open Space.....18

Housing.....26

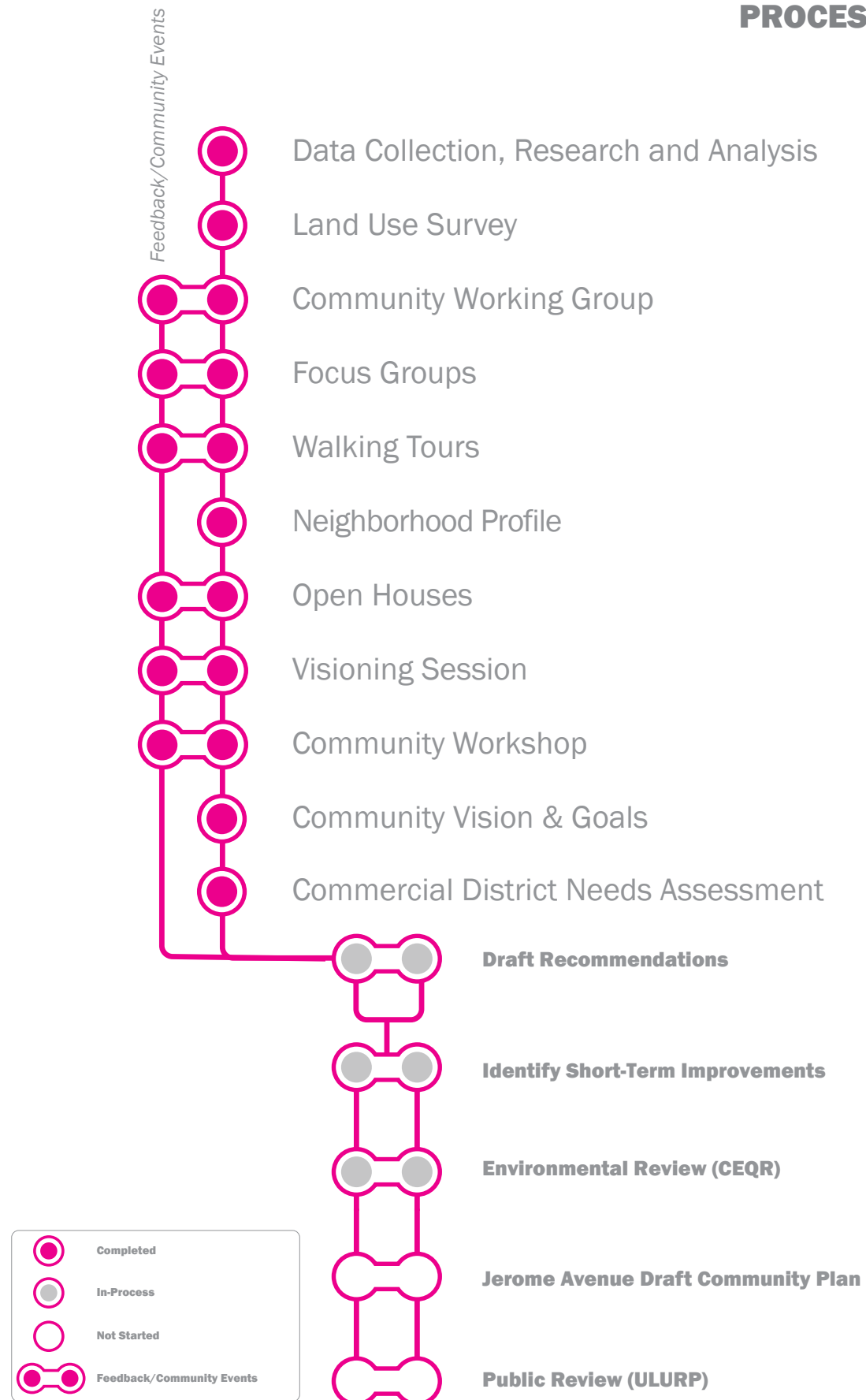
Jobs & Businesses.....34

Health & Wellness.....38

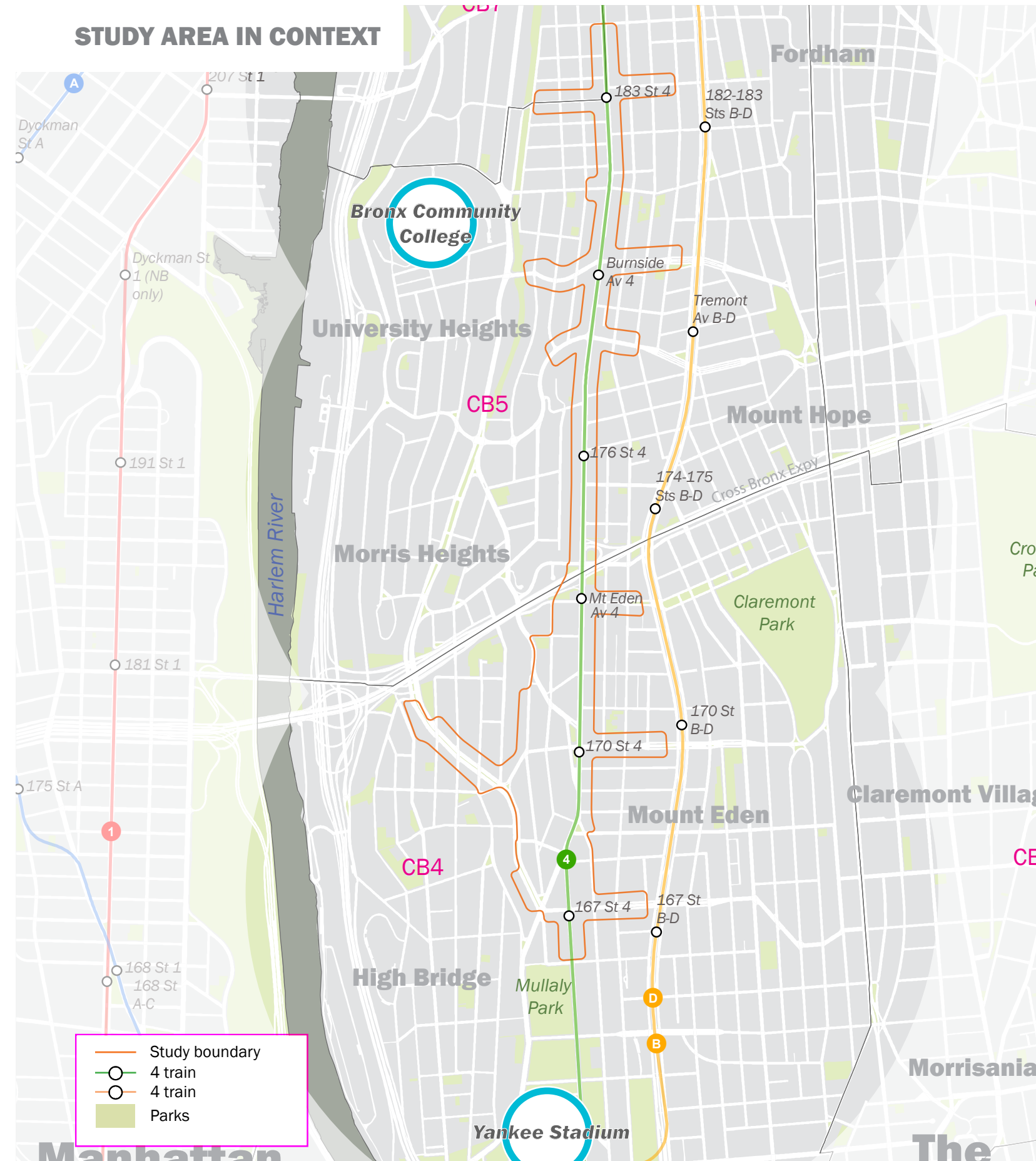
Environmental Remediation.....42

Immigrant Affairs.....46

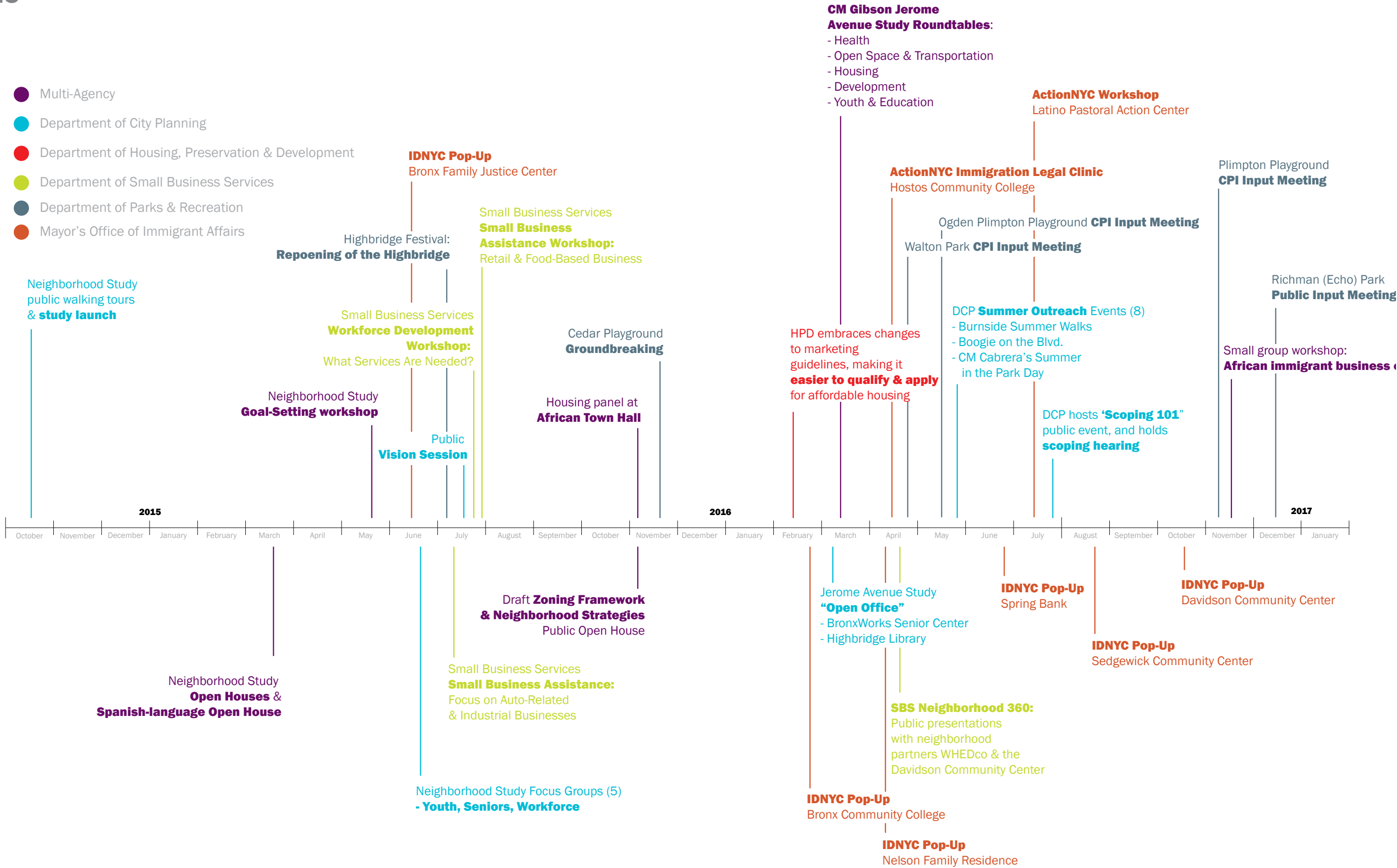
PROCESS & NEXT STEPS



STUDY AREA IN CONTEXT



Timeline





ACCESSIBILITY, MOBILITY & CIRCULATION



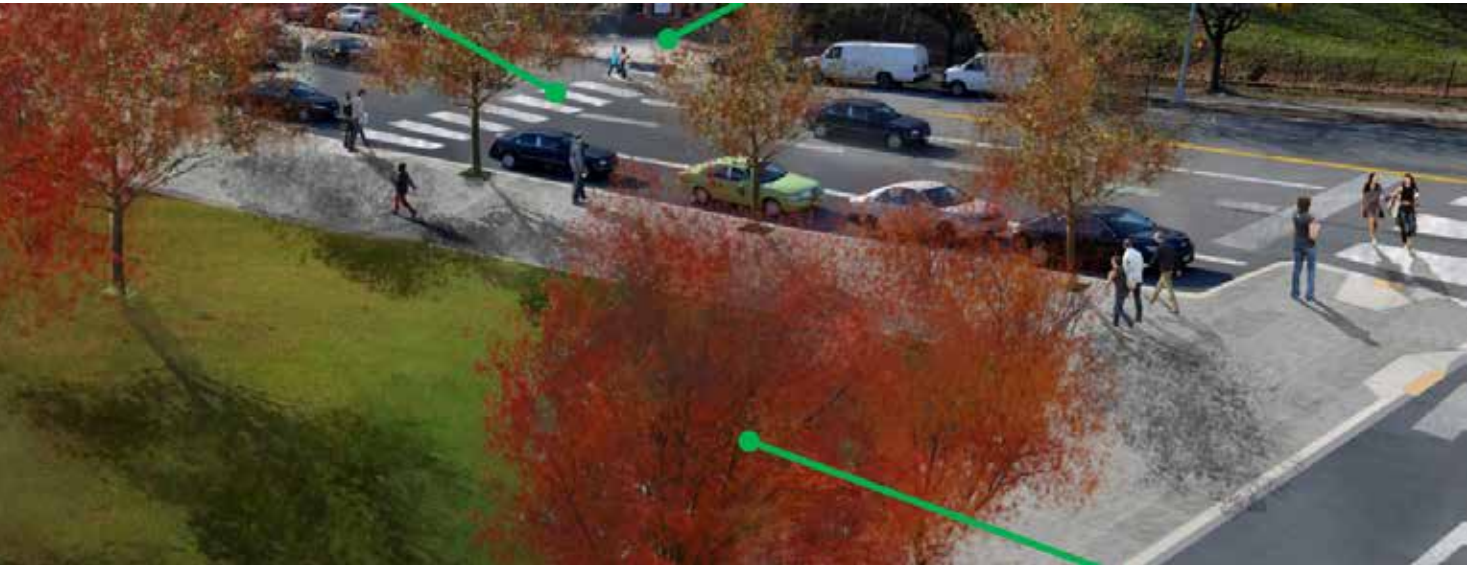
The Department of Transportation continues to accomplish Plan goals and invest in the area with approximately **\$100 million** in Ongoing & Recent Projects.

RECENTLY COMPLETED PROJECTS, 2016

MLK Blvd/University Ave/W 181st St Street Safety and Pedestrian Safety Improvements

The areas around MLK Blvd, University Avenue, and West 181st street were quickly becoming a hotbed of vehicle and pedestrian collisions. The area, just a couple of short blocks from the Jerome Avenue corridor, is a vital north/south connection through the community and a gateway to Bronx Community College. In response to these issues, DOT launched and completed the project, completing the stated goals:

- Reduce speeding / calms traffic
- Improve pedestrian access
- Reduce conflicts for motorists
- Safer, shorter pedestrian crossing
- Improve intersection processing
- Clarify vehicular movements



Various pedestrian improvements are planned for the MLK Blvd/University Ave/W 181st St area.

For more information, please see:
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/mlk-university-ave-cb5-jan2016.pdf>

Tremont Avenue Corridor Safety Project

In an effort to respond to community need and safety concerns, DOT recently installed bike lanes and pedestrian safety improvements along Tremont Avenue where there is a strong cyclist presence and where there were a number of pedestrian crossing issues. The project will go a long way toward achieving safety goals and improving connectivity throughout the Jerome Avenue study area. Project improvements included marked bike lanes and sharrows (arrows indicating bikes share the roadway with vehicular traffic), new crosswalks, neckdowns and pedestrian amenities, and strengthened connections to Bridge Park, Roberto Clemente State Park, Bronx River Greenway Echo Park, Tremont, Crotona, & Other Bronx Parks, as well as connections to numerous north-south bike routes.



Before and after images of Tremont Ave, looking toward the Grand Concourse.

For more information, please see:
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/tremont-ave-cb5-jan2016.pdf>

West Mount Eden Ave. Pedestrian Access Project

Mt. Eden Avenue, between Jerome Avenue and Macombs Road, provides a critical link between the 4 Train and the neighborhoods of Morris Heights and Mount Eden. For many years, residents complained about the lack of safe pedestrian access — there was no sidewalk — along the northern length of the street. As a result, many people opted to walk in the roadway, creating a dangerous situation. Additionally, the two-way direction of the street created congestion and vehicular traffic issues. In response to these issues, DOT converted Mt. Eden Ave to a one-way street west of Jerome Ave and installed a new sidewalk on the north side of the roadway.



Residents walk in the street prior to implementation of the West Mt. Eden Pedestrian Access Project.

For more information, please see:
<http://home2.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/mt-eden-and-inwood-macombs-may%202015.pdf>

WalkNYC
WalkNYC is New York City’s standard for pedestrian wayfinding. WalkNYC provides a clear visual language and graphic standards that can be universally understood, encourages walking and transit usage by providing quality multi-modal information, and provides consistent information across a broad range of environments in the city.

- Brand New to Study Area:
- Grand Concourse & E 170 St (ws)
 - Grand Concourse & E 170 St (es)
 - E 170 St & Jerome Av (ss)
 - E 167 St & River Av (ns)
 - W 170 St & Edward L. Grant Highway (ns)
 - Mt. Eden Av & Jerome Av. (Coming Soon!)

For more information, please see:
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/pedestrians/walknyc.shtml>



WalkNYC kiosk on 167th St.

PLANNED & ONGOING PROJECTS, 2017

Grand Concourse — Phase II (under construction); Phase III (planned); Phase IV (outreach in early 2017)

The “Great Streets” program includes permanent safety improvements to the Grand Concourse. The Concourse has high crash rates, high pedestrian volumes, high vehicle volumes — including in particular buses and trucks — and high transit usage. DOT aims to enhance safety, improve mobility for all users, and provide a boost to small businesses by making the street more attractive to shoppers.

The Great streets capital projects’ comprehensive overhaul achieves optimum safety improvements including raised medians, realignment of intersections, shortening of pedestrian crossing distances, physically separated bike lanes, and relocation of traffic signals. The Grand Concourse is now and will continue to bring livable, vibrant, green and high-quality streets complete with landscaping and planted street trees to the communities through which it passes. This will serve to both enhance the overall streetscape and provide proven traffic calming and safety benefits.



Courthouse Plaza off the Grand Concourse before and after improvements.



Bx6 SBS

The Bx6 is a vital crosstown route that connects 25,000 daily riders to multiple subway lines and bus routes in both the Bronx and Manhattan. In November of 2015, NYCDOT and the MTA started the planning process for Bx6 South Bronx Crosstown Select Bus Service. Select Bus Service (SBS) projects across the city have helped **reduce time spent waiting for the bus, boarding the bus, and traveling**. SBS routes operate in every borough, with a total of eight routes citywide. SBS improvements are customized for each SBS corridor, depending on the needs of the route. Improvements include:

- More attractive, appealing bus stops
 - Better trip information for riders to know when the bus is coming
 - More comfortable wait for the bus
 - Better visibility for pedestrians, bus operators, and drivers
 - Clearer, shorter pedestrian crossings
 - Faster bus rides
 - Reduced traffic conflicts between buses and traffic
- More reliable bus service
 - Buses spend less time stopped at red lights
 - Quicker bus boarding
 - Buses spend less time waiting at bus stops

Together, these improvements have made for faster, more reliable, and more comfortable bus service throughout the city as well as safer streets and sidewalks and more predictable roadways for drivers.



Bx6 Select Bus Service

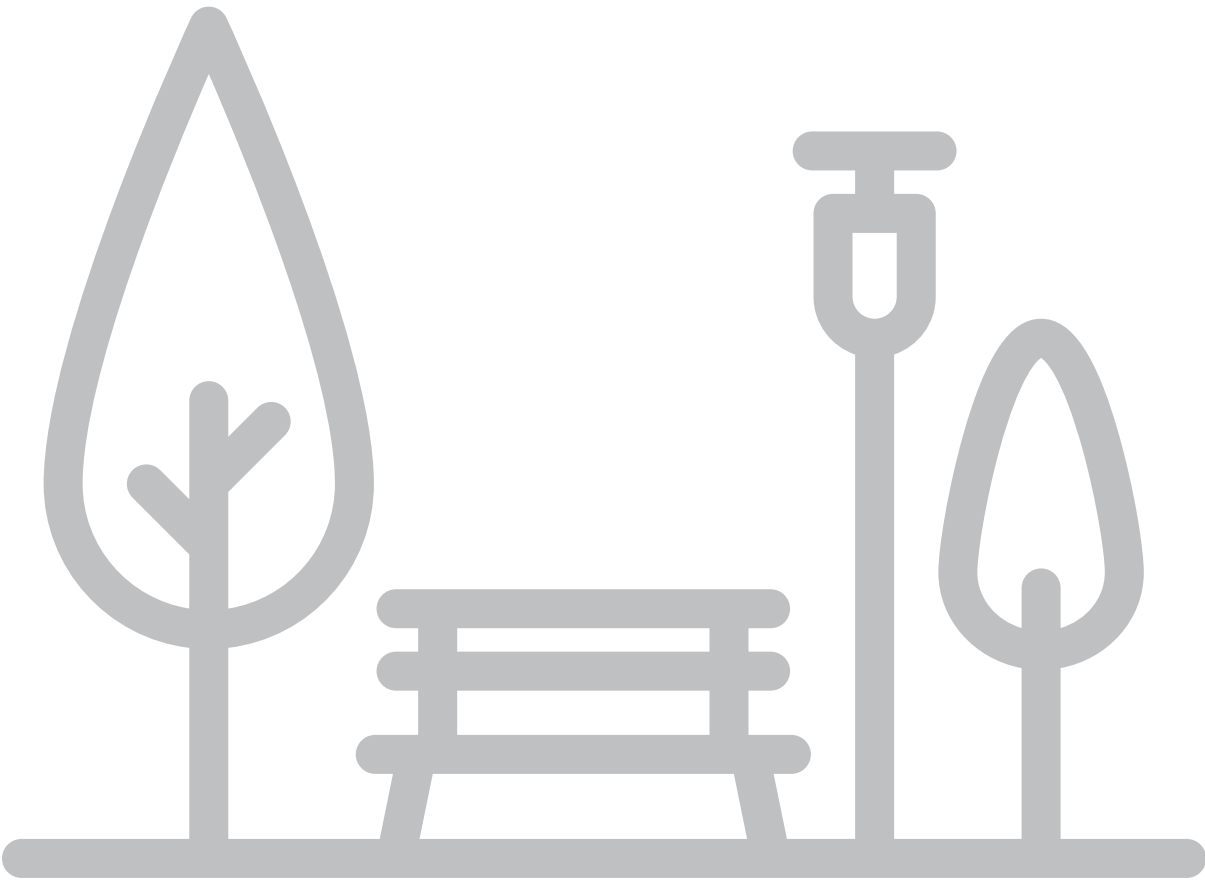
WHAT ELSE WILL BE HAPPENING?

- Complete MLK Blvd/University Ave – W181st Street Safety Improvements
- Continue Grand Concourse reconstruction and beautification by beginning construction of the project’s Phase III and completing the design of Phase IV
- Improve the pedestrian safety - particularly in realm under the El - and strengthen key commercial corridors leading to the El
- Re-imagine the intersection of Jerome and the Cross Bronx
- Reconstruct Clifford Place, Davidson, and West Tremont Step Streets
- Create safe and inviting refuges at bus stops on Jerome



Sketches from neighborhood visioning event.





PARKS & OPEN SPACE



“The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation is committed to improving local parks in dense and growing neighborhoods that have not seen significant capital investment in a generation.”

The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation is committed to improving local parks in dense and growing neighborhoods that have not seen significant capital investment in a generation. Through the Community Parks Initiative, and other measures, NYC Parks will continue to serve the Jerome Study Area. In the Fall NYC Parks held a public meeting to gather ideas from the communities who use these parks and incorporating those ideas in our designs for the reconstruction of Plimpton Playground.



For more information, please see:
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/downloads/pdf/mlk-university-ave-cb5-jan2016.pdf>

NYC Parks continues to accomplish plan goals and invest in the area with approximately **\$20 million** in Ongoing & Recent Projects

- Grand Avenue Playground
 - St James Park
 - Claremont Park
 - Cedar Park
- Aqueduct Walk
 - **Walton Park**
 - **Ogden-Plimpton Playground**



Ogden-Plimpton Playground
Community Parks Initiative 2016



Walton Park
Community Parks Initiative 2016

IN ADDITION, NYC PARKS IS COMMITTED TO CONTINUING TO SERVE THE AREA THROUGH THE NEIGHBORHOOD STUDY BY:



Improving quality of, and amenities within existing parks

NYC Parks has continued to work with elected officials and the community to identify resources for transformative park improvements in and around the study area for existing and future residents, including a wider range of amenities and increased greening.



Expanding and improve access to open space

NYC Parks continues to explore partnerships and locations where open space access can be increased (such as Grant Park in Community Board 4), including opportunities for both expansion of existing parks and creation of new parks and pedestrian plazas.



Complete ongoing upgrades to existing neighborhood parks

NYC Parks continues to explore partnerships and locations where open space access can be increased (such as Grant Park in Community Board 4), including opportunities for both expansion of existing parks and creation of new parks and pedestrian plazas.

- St. James Park*
- Basketball Court Reconstruction
 - Synthetic Turf Soccer Field Conversion

- Poe Park*
- Cottage Landscaping & ADA Access

- Grand Ave Playground*
- Playground construction & expansion

- Cedar Playground*
- Basketball Court Reconstruction
 - Public Restroom Reconstruction

- Aqueduct Walk*
- Plaza Reconstruction
 - Comfort Station Construction

- Mt. Hope Garden*
- Play Area Reconstruction

- Joyce Kilmer Park*
- Fence construction

- Mott Playground*
- Roofing Systems Reconstruction

- Grant Park*
- Playground Reconstruction





Half-Nelson Playground (2009) Complete Reconstruction



Fitness Equipment
Aqueduct Walk

This page left intentionally blank.



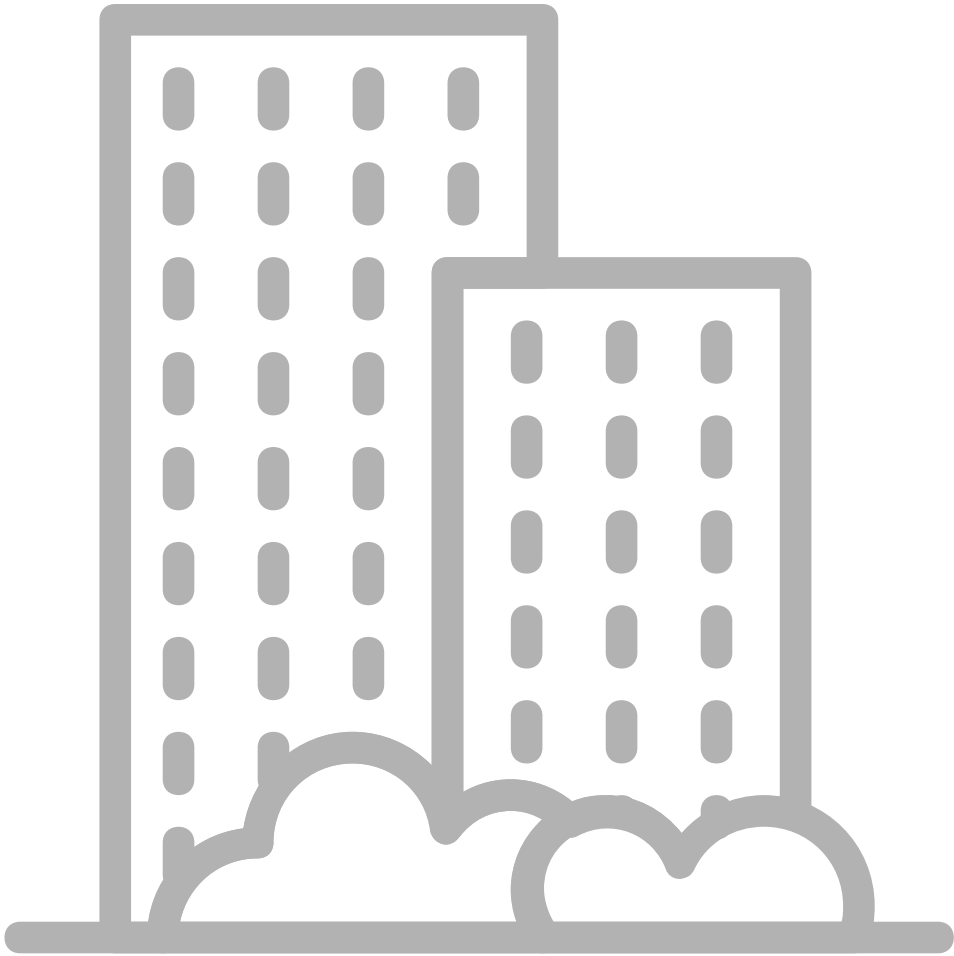
Mullaly Park (2008)
Basketball courts, playground, synthetic turf multi-purpose field



Dog Run
Franz Sigel Park







HOUSING



“HPD is working on multiple fronts to keep New Yorkers in their homes and make sure our housing stock is in good financial and physical shape. However, to accommodate a growing population and ensure that a shortage of housing does not drive rents higher, we must ensure that the supply of housing also increases, and that any new housing built includes permanently affordable homes.”

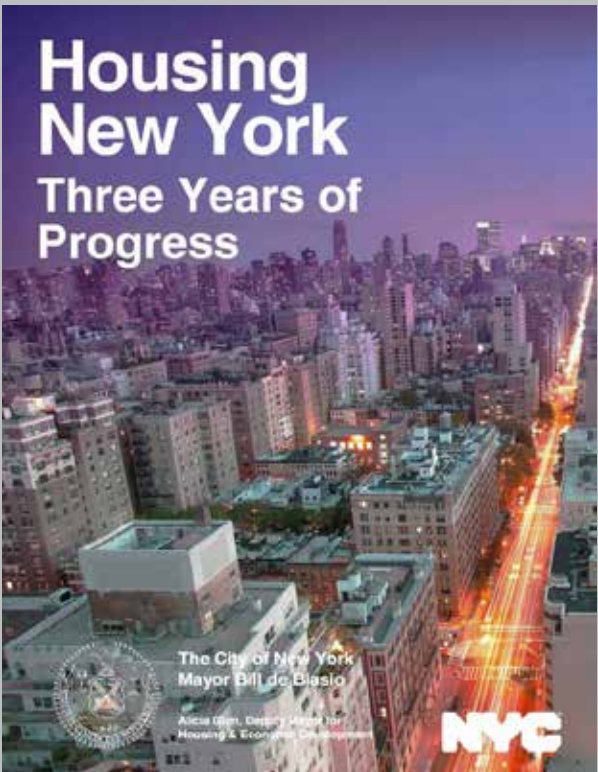
HOUSING NEW YORK: THREE YEARS OF PROGRESS

In May 2014, the Administration unveiled Housing New York, a comprehensive plan to create and preserve 200,000 high-quality, affordable homes over 10 years – enough for almost half a million people. Three years in, we are ahead of schedule. The Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and Housing Development Corporation (HDC) have financed the new construction or preservation of 62,506 affordable homes – the highest rate of affordable housing production in 25 years.

The Administration has also exceeded its commitment to financing far deeper levels of affordability than prior housing plans. Of the units financed, 17,246 are serving the lowest-income New Yorkers making less than \$31,750 for an individual or \$40,800 for a three-person family. And 8,877 of those units serve New Yorkers making less than \$19,050, or \$24,500 for a three-person family.

The City is also doing more to serve New Yorkers with special needs: to date, the City has financed 5,160 apartments set aside for formerly homeless households, including 2,431 supportive housing units with on-site social services. HPD has increased the number of accessible and affordable apartments for New Yorkers with disabilities across all of its programs. And by 2024, the City is aiming to create and preserve a total of 15,000 affordable homes for seniors.

On the eve of his 2017 State of the City address, Mayor de Blasio committed to allocating \$1.9 billion towards creating an additional 10,000 affordable units serving households earning less than \$40,000. Half of those units would be set aside for seniors, and 500 would be reserved for veterans.



PRESERVE EXISTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Administration is working on multiple fronts to keep New Yorkers in their homes and make sure our housing stock is in good financial and physical shape. HPD preserves affordable housing by rigorously enforcing the Housing Maintenance Code; financing improvements in the quality, physical condition, and efficiency of residential buildings in exchange for restrictions on the rents an owner can charge; and monitoring the condition and long-term financial stability of affordable buildings. Under Housing New York, the City has also worked with the State to protect tenants from deregulation and harassment, expanded and refined its preservation tools to reach a wider range of properties, and created new incentives to preserve long-term affordability in changing neighborhoods.

Finance and Safeguard Affordability

A large proportion of the existing homes in the Jerome study area (over 60%) are rent stabilized, rent controlled, and/or receive some form of governmental assistance that limits the rents that can be charged. Those receiving assistance, whether through HPD, New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR), or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), are monitored closely by the respective agency.

HPD’s goal is to keep the homes in our portfolio under regulatory protections that restrict rents, and it does so by proactively reaching out to owners of buildings with affordability restrictions that are ending to let them know about the financial incentives the City can provide to help them keep the apartments affordable.

For buildings that are not currently assisted by a government agency, HPD is taking a much more proactive and strategic approach than ever before to identifying and reaching building owners who could benefit from our financing and tax incentives in exchange for agreeing to maintain the affordability of their units. Many owners are either not aware of the City’s financial resources or feel uncomfortable working with a public agency, but HPD is trying to better serve those owners.

Promote Safe and Healthy Housing

HPD’s Office of Enforcement and Neighborhood Services (OENS) works closely with other HPD divisions and community partners to identify buildings that are in poor condition; assess and develop appropriate strategies to resolve those problems; and develop plans, with responsible owners, to return buildings to firm financial footing and good physical condition.

OENS responds to 311 calls, Housing Court requests, and building referrals by community groups and elected officials by sending inspectors to see if building conditions violate the City’s Housing Maintenance Code. If OENS finds such conditions, they issue violations, which require that the owner correct the condition. The most serious conditions must be corrected immediately, while less serious conditions must be corrected within 30 to 90 days. If owners do not correct violations, buildings may enter into one of HPD’s enforcement programs.



So far in FY 2017 (July 2016 to February 2017), OENS conducted 42,144 inspections in Jerome and issued 37,710 new violations. Over 39,000 violations were closed. The agency spent more than \$330,000 in emergency repair work, accounting for about 23% of all emergency repair dollars spent in the Bronx. HPD’s Housing Litigation Division was involved in 32 Housing Court cases on comprehensive litigation to both compel a landlord to repair all open violations on the building and to seek civil penalties where appropriate.

As part of HPD’s focus on Jerome, OENS is prioritizing “block sweeps” throughout the neighborhood. Working with community advocates, HPD will identify buildings and blocks that are experiencing issues with maintenance or other housing-related issues. The Division of Neighborhood Preservation (DNP) will then assess the referred building and all other properties on the same block. HPD will take appropriate action if a building is showing distress, which may include inspections, litigation, loan programs, or referrals to legal services.

Between September 2016 and February 2017, based on HPD data about buildings showing signs of distress, HPD visited 382 buildings and conducted detailed surveys at 91 properties in Community Districts 4 and 5 under this special initiative. Based on those visits, 104 buildings have been added to the Proactive Preservation Initiative for inspection, and litigation has been initiated against 14 properties.

If you would like to recommend buildings to be surveyed, please send the building addresses to hpdproactive@hpd.nyc.gov.

Protect Tenants

Many low- and moderate-income renters, especially seniors, depend on rent regulation, and those who do are poorer and more likely to have a Black or Hispanic head of household than tenants in unregulated units. Over the last few decades, over 150,000 units citywide have left rent stabilization, which means landlords and owners can raise rents to market rates. The City has worked with tenants, advocates, and the State Assembly to achieve significant reforms in the laws, but more needs to be done to save our critical rent-regulated housing. The City will:

- Continue to provide free legal representation to Jerome area residents facing harassment. The City recently committed \$93 million to fund legal services for all tenants facing eviction in Housing Court. Those earning less than \$50,000 per year are guaranteed free legal representation, and those earning more will be offered free legal counsel.
- Continue our work with the new Tenant Harassment Prevention Task Force to investigate and take action against landlords who harass tenants.
- The Tenant Support Unit is proactively engaging with tenants through door-to-door and community-based outreach, to connect them with legal assistance and resolve housing quality issues. (TSU has already knocked on about 29,000 doors and opened cases on behalf of about 960 residents in zip codes 10452 and 10453).
- Continue to educate tenants about their rights and resources to prevent displacement.
- Continue partnering with NYS for heightened compliance efforts to ensure that rent stabilized tenants are not being charged unlawful rents.
- Continue to explore the creation of a “Certificate of No Harassment” Pilot Program.

Case Study: New Settlement Apartments

New Settlement Apartments, a 14-building project in Mount Eden, received financing from HPD’s Participation Loan Program and other subsidies to moderately rehabilitate 893 units of affordable housing in exchange for extending their regulatory term for another 60 years. Units are available at 30%, 50%, 60%, and 85% of the Area Median Income (example rents for one-bedroom apartments are approximately \$420, \$750, \$920, and \$1,400 per month, respectively), and the owner agreed to continue providing 30% of the units for homeless families and individuals. The complex will also house Bronx Lebanon Hospital’s WIC clinic and the Young Adult Opportunity Initiative (YAOI), a community group for underemployed young adults.



DEVELOP NEW AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Protecting residents who want to remain in the neighborhood is the City’s number one priority. However, to accommodate a growing population and prevent a shortage of housing from driving rents higher, we must also ensure the supply of housing increases, and that any new housing built includes permanently affordable apartments.

Since the inception of Housing New York, the City has made enormous progress in creating new affordable housing: we have financed or incentivized the construction of 20,854 homes, which represents the largest number of affordable homes created over any three-year period in the city’s history. Since fiscal year 2004, HPD has financed the construction of about 4,800 affordable units and the preservation of about 9,800 affordable units in Community Districts 4 and 5. In the last year alone, HPD closed on construction loans for about 800 units throughout this area.

The City will also implement Mandatory Inclusionary Housing to require that a share of all new residential development along the Jerome corridor include permanently affordable housing. However, MIH is only the floor – not the ceiling. HPD is committed to working with owners of privately owned property who may be interested in affordable housing development. Subsidies will only be offered where the developer agrees to exceed the minimum MIH requirements by providing additional



affordable units, additional units for low-income households, or additional permanently affordable units. HPD will also explore opportunities to promote home ownership in multifamily buildings using City financing.

To assist mission-driven organizations interested in affordable housing development, a number of resources are available:

- HPD recently published a Pre-Qualified List of Owner’s Representatives to help mission-driven organizations who may have underutilized land but little to no real estate experience. HPD evaluated each organization’s technical expertise, experience, and capacity required to represent owners in the development of affordable housing.
- HPD worked with LISC NYC to launch the New York Land Opportunity Program, which will provide dedicated technical assistance to mission-driven owners with development sites.
- The New York City Acquisition Fund offers preferred rates and terms to non-profit organizations to acquire existing buildings and development sites.
- The NYC Office of Environmental Remediation offers predevelopment grants to non-profit organizations.

INCREASE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

HPD recognizes that the affordable housing application process can be time-consuming, and it continues to take steps to help residents become better prepared to submit complete and accurate applications. HPD’s Housing Ambassadors program trains local community groups on the Housing Connect website and application process, who then provide free technical assistance to residents applying for affordable housing. Mid-Bronx Desperadoes (MBD) and BronxPro are Housing Ambassadors in the Jerome area. HPD staff or Housing Ambassadors are available to participate in community events to assist residents with marketing- or Housing Connect-related questions. If you know of a group that might be interested in becoming a Housing Ambassador, contact hernandv@hpd.nyc.gov.

HPD is also working to remove barriers to qualifying for affordable housing by restricting the credit criteria developers may use to evaluate applicants, including limited look-back periods and more inclusive criteria related to debt. For example, HPD’s new tenant selection criteria do not allow for tenants to be rejected based on credit score alone or because they were taken to Housing Court by a landlord for a case that did not result in a judgment against the tenant.

PROMOTE LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The City is committed to leveraging its investments in affordable housing to create local jobs and strengthen small businesses. In partnership with the Department of Small Business Services (SBS) and Economic Development Corporation (EDC), HPD is implementing a host of new programs and requirements. For example:

- HireNYC now requires that any City contract over \$1 million and any housing development receiving \$2 million or more in HPD subsidy post open positions with the Workforce1 system and consider qualified candidates.
- In all HPD Requests for Proposals for the development of City-owned property, applicants must demonstrate a plan for outreach to residents of the community district related to employment opportunities generated by the proposed project.
- HPD is committed to promoting the participation of M/WBEs and non-profit organizations in the development and management of City-subsidized affordable housing through the Building Opportunity Initiative. For example, HPD recently announced a new requirement that all developers of projects where HPD contributes \$2 million or more must spend at least a quarter of all HPD-supported costs on certified M/WBE construction, design, or professional service firms.



Case Study: 284-298 East 162nd Street

HPD closed on the construction loan for 284-298 East 162nd Street, a 126-unit low-income project in Concourse Village, in June 2016. Units are available at 40%, 60%, and 80% of the Area Median Income (example rents for one-bedroom apartments are approximately \$590, \$930, and \$1320 per month, respectively). This project also has a set-aside for formerly homeless families and individuals. The building will include a community library, computer room, fitness room, and laundry; a landscaped yard with play equipment; and solar panels to cover most of the common area charges.





JOB & BUSINESS

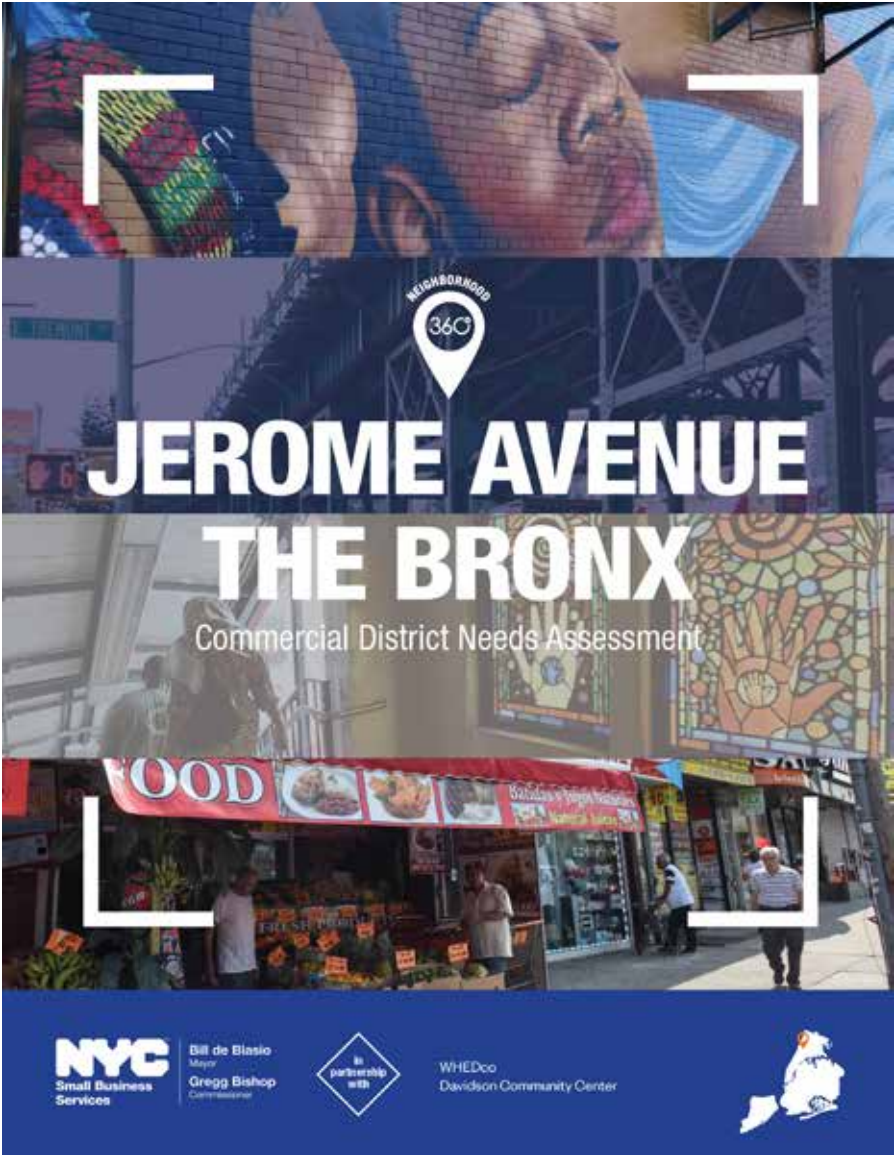


“Through proactive planning and targeted investments, Neighborhood 360° supports projects that strengthen and revitalize the streets, small businesses, and community-based organizations that anchor New York City neighborhoods.”

The Neighborhood 360° program was created by the Department of Small Business Services to identify, develop, and launch commercial revitalization projects in partnership with local stakeholders. Through proactive planning and targeted investments, Neighborhood 360° supports projects that strengthen and revitalize the streets, small businesses, and community-based organizations that anchor New York City neighborhoods.

As a part of Neighborhood 360°, SBS partnered with local community-based organizations WHEDco and the Davidson Community Center to conduct a Commercial District Needs Assessment (CDNA) throughout the Jerome Avenue neighborhood study area. The CDNA identified the needs and opportunities for revitalization of the Jerome Avenue commercial district, with recommendations for merchant organizing, public programming, district marketing and branding, streetscape enhancements, business support services, and other quality of life improvements.

The Jerome Avenue CDNA report and Neighborhood 360° Grant were released in the fall of 2016. Up to \$500,000 in annual grant funding will be awarded through the Neighborhood 360° Grant program for nonprofit organizations to staff, plan, and implement customized commercial revitalization programs informed by the Jerome Avenue CDNA over multiple years. Neighborhood 360° Grant awards for Jerome will be announced in early 2017.



Jerome Avenue Commercial District Needs Assessment
More info here: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/sbs/downloads/misc/cdna-jerome/index.html>

ONGOING

The Department of Small Business Services continues to offer high-quality and accessible services to businesses and residents in the Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Study area, including:

Workforce1 Career Centers

Workforce1 Career Centers offer services provided by the NYC Department of Small Business Services that prepare and connect qualified candidates to job opportunities throughout New York City. Services include one-on-one career advisement, resume and interview workshops, and recruitment events. In the Bronx, the Workforce1 system connected residents with nearly 4,200 jobs in 2016. The Workforce1 Career Center system helps connect residents to approximately 25,000 jobs a year across NYC.

Employment Works

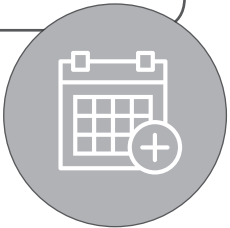
Employment Works services are provided to for individuals with criminal justice involvement. Services include: Career advisement, job connection, interview preparation such as guidance on answering questions related to past convictions, occupational training, and connection to High School Equivalency preparation services. In 2016, Employment Works connected over 700 of these customers to employment opportunities.

NYC Business Solutions

NYC Business Solutions are a set of services offered by the New York City Department of Small Business Services to help businesses start, operate, and expand in New York City. Services include: Financing assistance, pro-bono legal assistance, business education courses, selling to and navigating government assistance, employee recruitment, employee training, and incentives.

UPCOMING EVENT:

Neighborhood 360° Grant awards for the Jerome Avenue area will be announced in early 2017.





HEALTH & WELLNESS



NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH INITIATIVE

In 2015, the New York City Health Department released **Take Care New York 2020**, which outlines how DOHMH wants to see the city’s health improve by the year 2020. Their goal is twofold — to improve every community’s health, and to make greater strides in groups with the worst health outcomes, so that our city becomes more equitable.

To begin building momentum toward TCNY 2020 goals, the Health Department held dozens of Community Consultations across the city to ask community members to share what issues they see as most urgent in their neighborhoods. In the summer of 2016, DOHMH also offered an opportunity for New Yorkers who weren’t able to attend a consultation to offer their input online.

Through the process, they heard from **more than 1,000 New Yorkers** about local health priorities.

During the second half of 2016, the Health Department supported community organizations in eight under-served neighborhoods as they facilitated the development of community-driven health improvement plans. Each TCNY Planning Partner undertook a process that consisted of:

- Convening community members to review health data and select a health improvement objective to advance locally
- Researching local assets, resources, and opportunities for intervention
- Re-convening community members to identify top strategies for community health improvement
- Collaborating with community stakeholders to develop a plan for implementing the strategies

The TCNY Planning Partner organizations and the priorities of the communities they served are outlined below. **DOHMH will continue to support these partners in 2017 as they solidify their plans and begin piloting their communities’ top-priorities strategies for health improvement.**

In the Jerome Avenue Study Area (Fordham Heights), DOHMH worked closely with the Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition on exploring their No. 1 health priority, violence. Together, they identified persistent poverty, poor access to training and employment opportunities and significant upcoming economic development as local conditions and barriers to positive health outcomes. Their top priority community health improvement strategy is to **promote inclusive workforce pipelines and policies to promote employment of poor people of color, especially youth.**



For more information, please see:
<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/tcny/tcny-2020-annual-report.pdf>

STEP STREET BEAUTIFICATION

Additionally, DOHMH continues to pursue other neighborhood health priorities and recently partnered with ArtBridge to commission two step street beautification projects in the Study Area!



Artist renderings (“I Love the Bronx” by ClarkFlyID, left & “Cross Stitch Street” by Laura Alvarez, right) of step street beautification protects in the study area.



For more information, please see:
<http://art-bridge.org/project/stepstreets/>





ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDiation



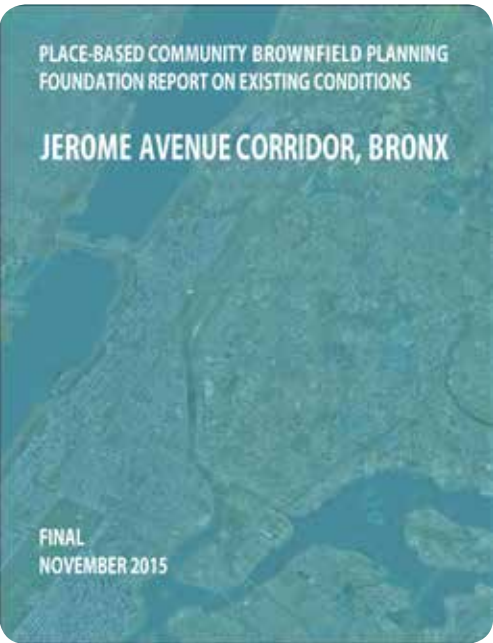
“The NYC Mayor’s Office of Environmental Remediation was established to encourage and oversee cleanups of these sites and to create programs to promote their redevelopment.”

ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION

Brownfields are properties where environmental contamination gets in the way of redevelopment. Examples of brownfields include former gas stations, dry cleaners, and industrial operations; abandoned railroads; or illegal dumping sites. In general, brownfields are not in use for activities that create jobs, provide housing or neighborhood services, or otherwise serve communities. Although they may be located anywhere, brownfields are typically found along transportation corridors, former rail lines, and areas where material was placed to fill in wetlands. Based on estimates of vacant industrially-zoned sites, there are over 3,100 potential brownfield sites in New York City.



A former gas station site requires environmental remediation before being redeveloped as an affordable housing development



The Jerome Avenue Neighborhood area is considered a Place-Based Community Brownfield Planning Area, as identified in OneNYC, the City’s plan for growth, sustainability, and resiliency. MOER supports meaningful community engagement in site cleanups and larger redevelopment projects. We offer technical and financial assistance to community brownfield planners interested in neighborhood revitalization and pre-development activities.

For more information, please see:
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/oer/html/resources/community-brownfield-planning.shtml>

Or email:
brownfields@cityhall.nyc.gov






IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS





“New York City’s Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs works to ensure that all immigrant New Yorkers are part of the City and have access to justice, and advocates for continued immigration reforms at all levels of government in order to eliminate inequities that impact New York’s immigrant communities.”
— Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs

IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

The New York City Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) promotes the well-being of immigrant communities by creating programs and policies that enhance the economic, civic, and social integration of Immigrant New Yorkers. MOIA works with community organizations, libraries, and other City agencies to provide the following services to the Jerome Avenue community.





Message to Immigrant New Yorkers from Mayor de Blasio and Speaker Mark-Viverito

“During these uncertain times we must remind ourselves of who we are as a city, and hold steadfast to our values. Hard work, respect and unity during times of adversity define us as New Yorkers and that will not change, no matter who is president. Our commitment to standing with and protecting our immigrant communities is stronger than ever. As always, the City of New York is prepared to defend and protect our immigrant brothers and sisters. We will never turn our back on you.”

This resource guide serves as a quick and easy road map of City services currently available to all New Yorkers.

Resources for New York City Immigrants

The City of New York supports all its residents. Most City services are available to everyone, including undocumented immigrants, like going to school or using the health care system or other services. City employees will not ask about immigration status unless it is necessary to do their jobs. They must keep immigration status information confidential.

IDNYC

- IDNYC is the City’s identification card for all New Yorkers. IDNYC does not collect immigration status information, and we keep applicants’ information confidential. The City will protect IDNYC information to the full extent of the law.

Education

- Children age 4 or turning 4 are eligible for Pre-K. All residents have the right to attend public school from age 5 until graduation or until the end of the school year when they turn 21. Classes are available for English learners.

Health care

- Low-cost emergency and non-emergency health care is available to all at public hospitals and clinics and at other affordable clinics.
- NYC Well is a free, confidential connection mental health care, in more than 200 languages, any time of day. Call 1-888-NYC-Well, text WELL to 65173, or go to nyc.gov/nycwell

Child care

- Low-income families with children age 6 weeks through 12 years old can get free or low-cost child care.

Emergency food and shelter

- Locations across NYC provide free food to people in need.
- The Homebase program can help residents avoid entering the shelter system.

Public safety

- The City does not conduct immigration enforcement. The NYPD does not ask about the immigration status of crime victims, witnesses, or other people who ask for help.
- Anyone who has been the victim of a hate crime, or is not sure, should contact the NYPD. To contact the NYPD Hate Crimes Task Force directly, call (646) 610-5267.

Immigration legal help

- Free, safe immigration legal help is available through ActionNYC. Call the ActionNYC hotline at 1-800-354-0365 during business hours Monday to Friday.
- Beware of unlicensed immigration service providers who take advantage of their customers. Get help only from a trusted, licensed attorney or accredited representative. For questions about this, call the New Americans Hotline at 1-800-566-7636 between 9AM-8PM on Monday through Friday.

Protection from discrimination

- New Yorkers also have the right to be free from unlawful discrimination, retaliation, and harassment in the workplace, housing, and public places.
- To file a complaint or learn more, call 311 or call the NYC Commission on Human Rights at (718) 722-3131.

Do you have questions or concerns?
Call 311 for more information about these resources, or call the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs directly during work hours at (212) 788-7654. Translation is available.

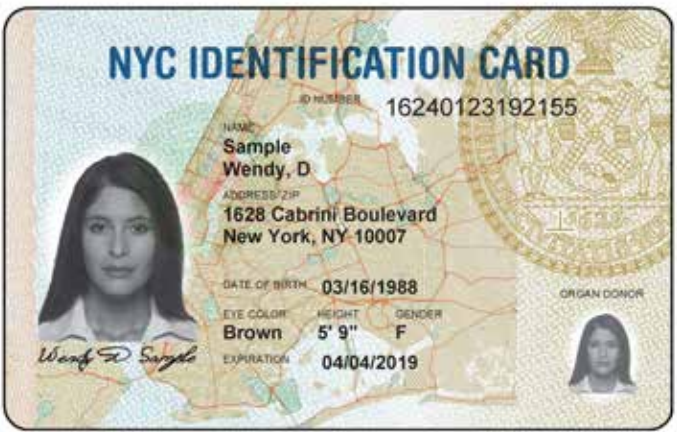
The Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Affairs Programs & Services



IDNYC

IDNYC The largest municipal ID program in the country. IDNYC is a government-issued ID card that is available to all city residents age 14 and older, regardless of immigration status. New Yorkers can use the IDNYC to access city services, enjoy cultural benefits, open bank accounts, and more.

- Lincoln Hospital
 - New York Public Library, Bronx Library Center
- NYC Department of Finance



ID NYC, city identity card



ActionNYC

Free, safe immigration legal help in a network of trusted community-based locations throughout NYC, including non-profit organizations & schools.

- BronxWorks



NYCitizenship

Free citizenship and financial counseling services at select library branches throughout the city.

- Bronx Library Center
- Mott Haven Library



We Are New York

An Emmy-Award winning television series created to help immigrant New Yorkers practice English while informing them of the city’s resources.



2016 POP-UPS

MOIA served the Jerome Avenue Neighborhood Study area specifically through a variety of temporary service locations and “pop-ups” in 2016, including the following:

IDNYC 2016 Pop-ups

- Sedgwick Houses- Spring 2016
- Spring Bank- Spring 2016
- Davidson Community Center- Summer 2016
- Bronx Community College- Fall 2016
- Community Board 6- Fall 2016

ActionNYC (Free, safe immigration legal help)

- Hostos Community College (legal clinic only)
- Latino Pastoral Center (DACA/DAPA workshop only)

This page left intentionally blank.



For more information, please see:
<http://www.nyc.gov/immigrants>



IMAGE CREDITS:

Pages 12, 13 and 14: NYC Department of Transportation

Page 15: Jonathan Ramirez, Flickr

Page 16: NYC Department of Transportation

Pages 20, 21 and 22: NYC Parks

Pages 28 and 29: NYC Department of Housing Preservation & Development

Page 34: NYC Small Business Services

Page 39: NYC Parks

Pages 42 and 43: NYC Office of Environmental Remediation

Page 46: IDNYC

Page 48: Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs