

EAST SIDE COASTAL RESILIENCY PROJECT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS: INITIAL DESIGN DIRECTION

OCTOBER 6&8, 2015

PROJECT AREA 1&2 SUMMARY REPORT

KEY STATISTICS:

10/06 Community Engagement Workshop at Grand Street Settlement

- 104 sign-ins (counts exclude City & consultant team members but include media (2) and elected officials reps. (8))

10/08 Community Engagement Workshop at Washington Irving High School

- 68 sign-ins (counts exclude City & consultant team members but include media (1) and elected officials reps. (1))

WORKSHOP FORMAT:

Building on the feedback gathered through prior rounds of community engagement workshops, the ESCR project team presented a preliminary flood protection alignment for PA1 and PA2: an Initial Design Direction. Prior to and after the presentation, participants were invited to engage in an interactive Q&A session with representatives of the project team, and use post it notes to share their impressions of this Initial Design Direction plan.



KEY FINDINGS:

1. General comments:

- Many participants inquired about the impact of the flood protection alignment on the existing drainage pattern
- Several participants questioned the M&O requirements associated with the deployable flood gates
- Participants were keen to find out more about the structural components of berms and floodwalls
- Construction phasing and coordination with concurrent projects, such as the EDC Ferry route and Solar Two facility, were key community concerns

2. Project Area One:

- Residents sought more information about the look and feel of the preliminary flood protection alignment along Pier 42 and at the Montgomery St. tie-back
- Participants raised concerns about the appearance of the flood protection wall, as viewed from the city side
- Several participants inquired about the integration of the Pier 42 Phase I master plan with the ESCR project
- The design of the Grand St. access point remains an unresolved issue and will be refined in close consultation with residents
- Participants solicited additional information about DOT's circulation improvements to the Houston St. overpass
- At E10th St., participants stressed the need to preserve and/or enhance these uses: BBQ area, playground and bathrooms

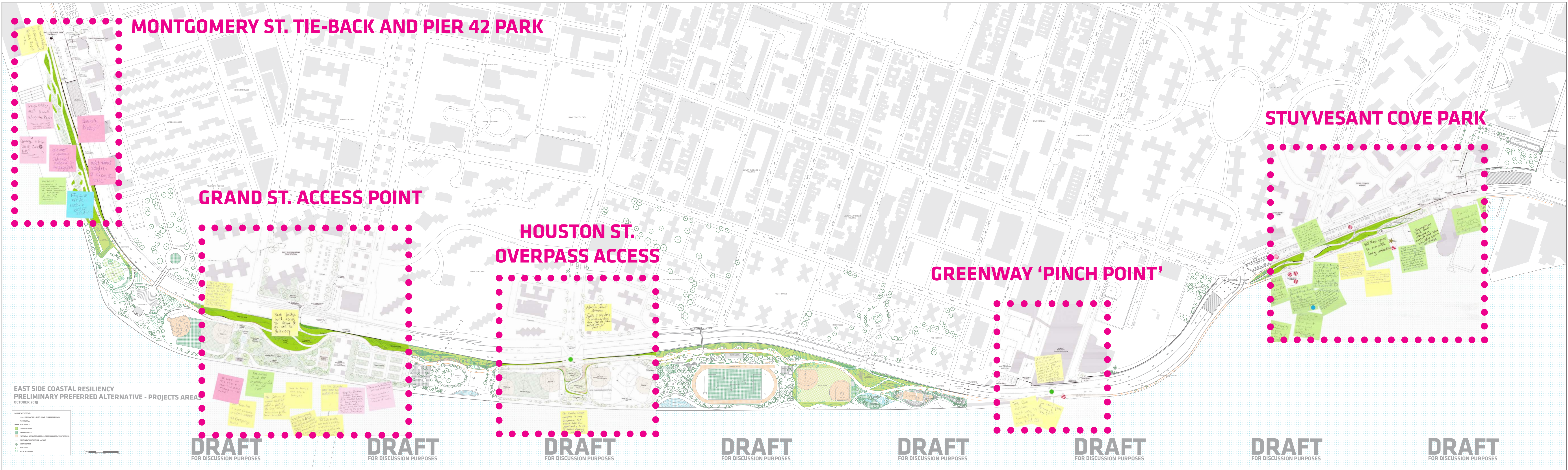
3. Project Area Two:

- Participants inquired about opportunities to improve the dangerously narrow section of the Manhattan Greenway by the Con Edison plant at E14th St.
- Several participants pointed out that direct access to the East River would be critical for kayak access
- Participants expressed strong support for an expanded event space in proximity to the Solar Two facility or/and at E20th St.
- Groups stressed the need to preserve the native plantings and rare local species in Stuyvesant Cove Park
- Some participants voiced concerns about the potential impact of a new ferry stop on the local circulation network

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COMMUNITY FEEDBACK ON THE INTIAL DESIGN DIRECTION PLAN: FOCUS AREAS

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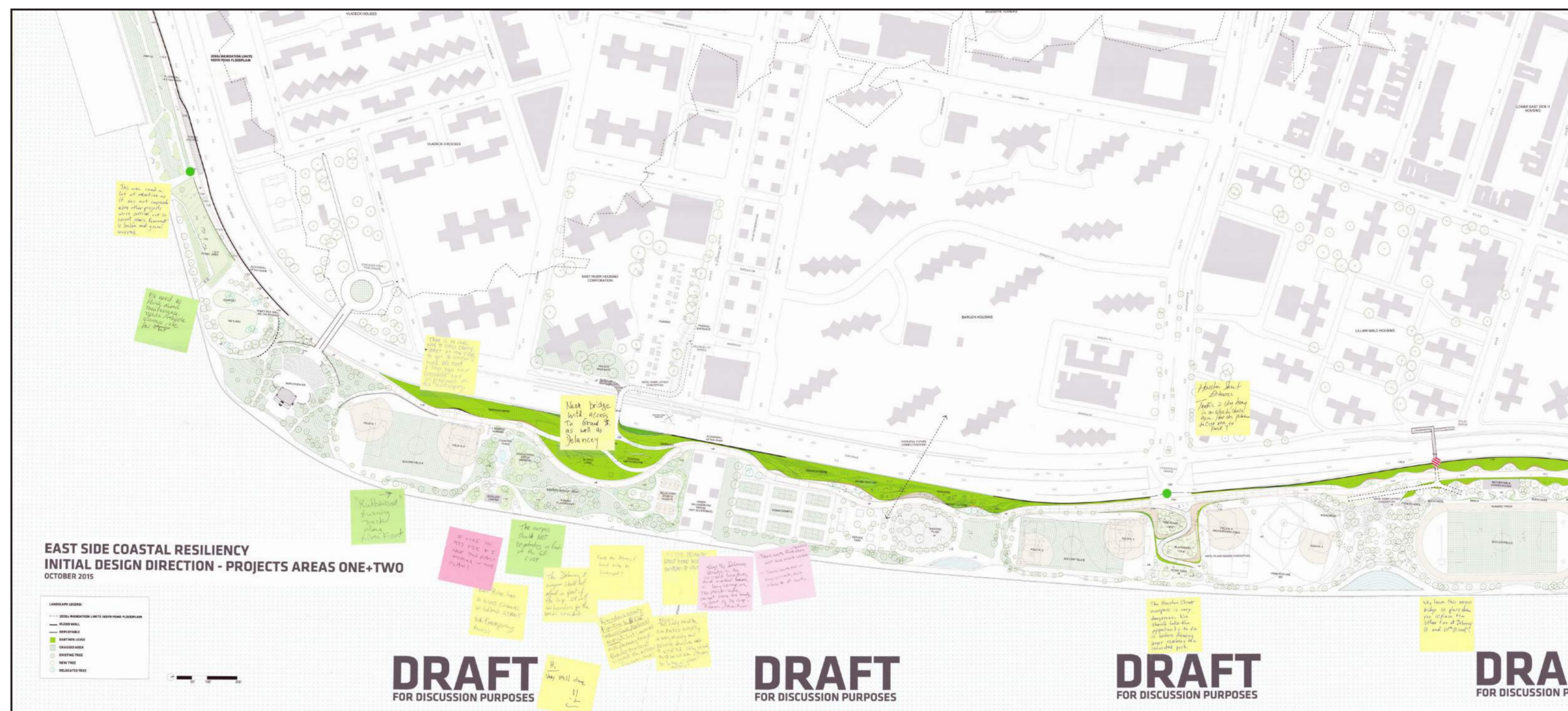
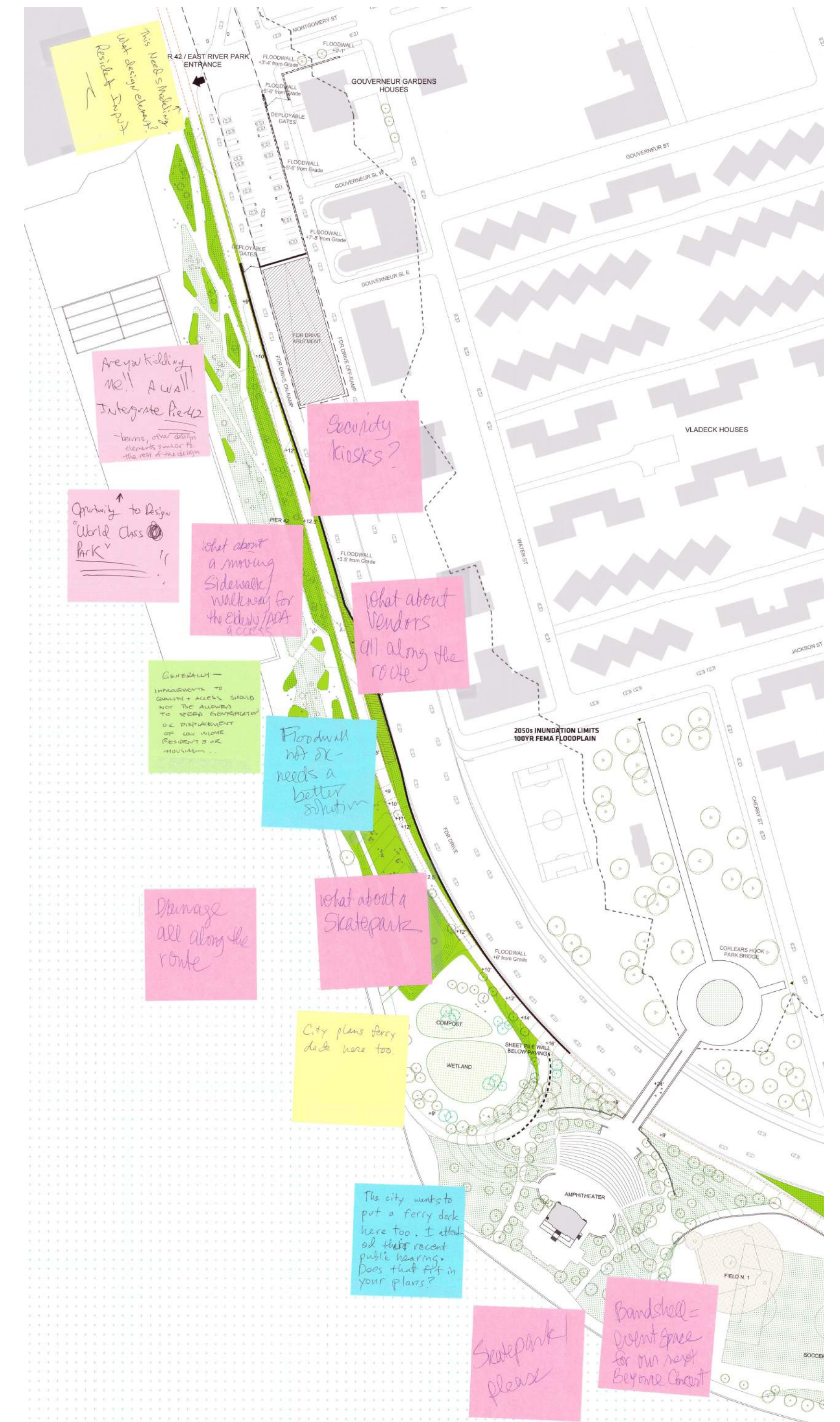
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PROJECT AREA 1

MONTGOMERY ST. TO E14TH ST.

During both of the community engagement meetings, project staff engaged with workshop participants to discuss the mechanics of the overall flood protection alignment, and provide additional information about discrete areas and features of the Initial Design Direction plan. The key takeaways from these discussions are summarized below:

- Residents who live in proximity to the Montgomery Street tie-back sought more detailed information and visuals that illustrate the look and feel of the flood protection alignment in this location.
- Participants voiced concerns about the overall appearance of the flood protection elements as seen from the city side, west of the FDR Drive, and inquired about treatment of surfaces and opportunities for landscaping.
- Several groups inquired about the integration of the Pier 42 Phase I masterplan with the ESCR project, and what the impacts on park access would be during the construction period.
- A large percentage of participants commented on the Delancey Street Bridge area, as represented in the Initial Design Direction plan, and opinions remain divided over the Grand Street access point. While many residents see value in creating an additional access point, others voiced concerns about emergency vehicle access and impediments to overall circulation for East River Coop residents.
- Participants solicited additional information on DOT's scope of work for the Houston Street overpass rehabilitation project, as several individuals pointed out that the enhanced park and associated amenities would likely draw larger crowds to this access point.
- The existing playground and BBQ areas by the E10th Street Bridge are highly valued by the community and workshop participants stressed the need to preserve and/or enhance these amenities.



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PROJECT AREA 2

E14TH ST. TO E25TH ST.

During both of the community engagement meetings, project staff engaged with workshop participants to discuss the mechanics of the overall flood protection alignment, and provide additional information about discrete areas and features of the Initial Design Direction plan. The key takeaways from these discussions are summarized below:

- Participants expressed concern over whether the drainage system would serve as a conduit to convey flood waters into the neighborhood and were eager to learn more about the impact of the flood protection alignment on the existing drainage pattern.
- Participants were keen to find out whether there would be an opportunity to improve the dangerously narrow portion of the Manhattan Greenway by the Con Edison plant at E14th St. as many stressed that this pinch point is hazardous to pedestrians and cyclists, and hinders north-south connectivity along the East River waterfront.
- While participants emphasized that robust flood protection remains the number one priority for this neighborhood, some expressed interest in maintaining direct access to the water to facilitate future kayak use and access.
- Integrating event space within Stuyvesant Cove Park is a community priority, and participants appreciated efforts to expand the existing event space by Solar One and integrate a secondary informal gathering space into the landscape. Representatives of community groups, which collaborate with Solar One to host events throughout the summer, pointed out that additional storage room, vehicular access and power connections would be beneficial. Several participants also expressed interest in preserving the native plantings and rare local species currently featured in Stuyvesant Cove Park.

