

EAST SIDE COASTAL RESILIENCY PROJECT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSION: WATERFRONT USE AND ACCESS

MARCH 19 & 23, 2015

SUMMARY REPORT

KEY STATISTICS:

03/19 CE Session at Bard High School

- 57 sign-ins (counts exclude City & consultant team members but include media and reps from elected officials)
- 26 surveys collected
- 11 survey maps collected

03/23 CE Session at Washington Irving High School

- 83 sign-ins (counts exclude City & consultant team members but include media and reps from elected officials)
- 37 surveys collected
- 25 survey maps collected

KEY POINTS:

1. 95% of participants indicated that they visited East River Park vs. 55% for Stuyvesant Cove Park. This may be because East River Park is a larger park equipped with sports facilities and/or because many of the participants resided in Project Area 1. Those who indicated that they did not visit East River Park were mainly concerned about crime. Those who indicated that they did not visit Stuyvesant Cove Park listed poor/dangerous access (under the FDR and at the Con Ed choke point) as a deterrent.
2. East River Park:
Participants indicated that they would like to see more passive green space and as a café in ERP (Survey results: Nature Walk (61%), Café (55%), Horticultural displays (52%), Sunbathing (26%), Sports (e.g. bocceball, volleyball etc.) (26%)). A café would allow for more “eyes on the streets” and thus help to address safety concerns. There is keen interest in building a dog run in ERP, which would also help to address safety concerns.
3. Stuyvesant Cove Park:
Participants indicated that they would like to see a kayak facility and a café in Stuyvesant Cove Park (Survey results: Kayaking (48%), Café (48%), Community Services (34%), Retail (16%), Sports (e.g. indoor sports, volleyball etc.) (15%)). Many participants suggested that the FDR underpass should not be occupied by parking and voiced strong opposition to implementing retail along this stretch of the waterfront.
4. Access Points:
The Corlears Hook Park pedestrian bridge is the favorite access point to ERP; participants indicated that it was a safe and pleasant crossing and that the ramping was appropriate for strollers, bikes and seniors. It is heavily utilized and leads to the amphitheater, a well-loved area of ERP. The Delancey St. pedestrian bridge is the least favorite access point to ERP; participants voiced concerns about the narrow staircase and felt unsafe in the area at night.
5. Access Routes:
Based on the 36 survey maps which were collected at the end of the CE sessions, the Corlears Hook Park pedestrian bridge and the Delancey St. pedestrian bridge are the most frequently utilized access points to the East River waterfront.
6. Waterfront views:
A majority of participants listed the following as their favorite waterfront views: the Amphitheater (views to the Statue of Liberty), the northern basketball courts in ERP (views to Koch bridge), Captain Patrick J. Brown walk (views to BK), and the Stuyvesant Cove Park promenade (views to BK).

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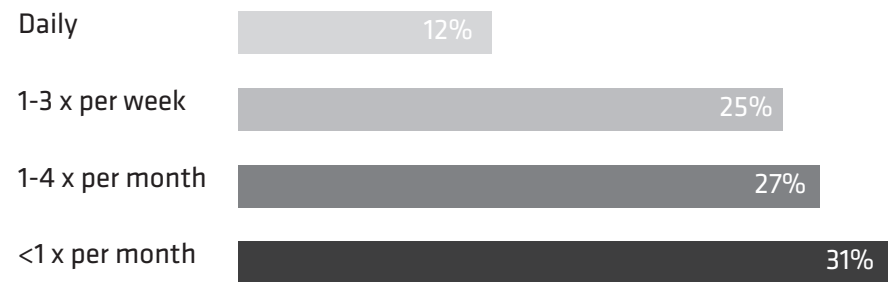
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SURVEY RESPONSES

USE OF EAST RIVER PARK:

Do you visit East River Park? **95%** ✓ **5%** ✗

If yes, how often?

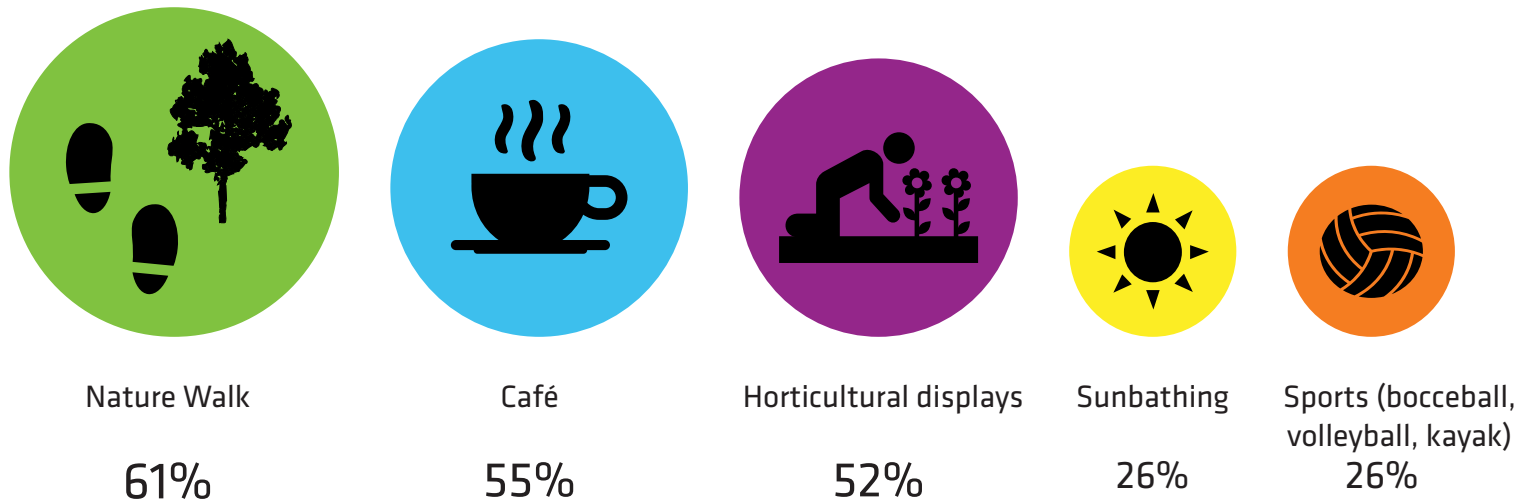


If no, why not?

"It's not as appealing as the Hudson River Park"

"I was robbed of my bike in East River Park"

What additional services, activities or spaces would you like to see in or near East River Park?



Other suggestions include: a dog run, an ice-skating rink, a bike rental facility, a batting cage, movie nights during the summer months, a beach, ping-pong tables, shade structures, a playground, and an eco-festival

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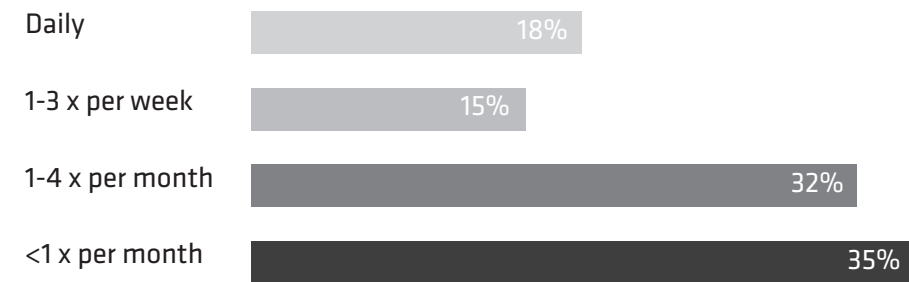
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SURVEY RESPONSES

USE OF STUYVESANT COVE PARK:

Do you visit Stuyvesant Cove Park? **55%** ✓ **45%** ✗

If yes, how often?

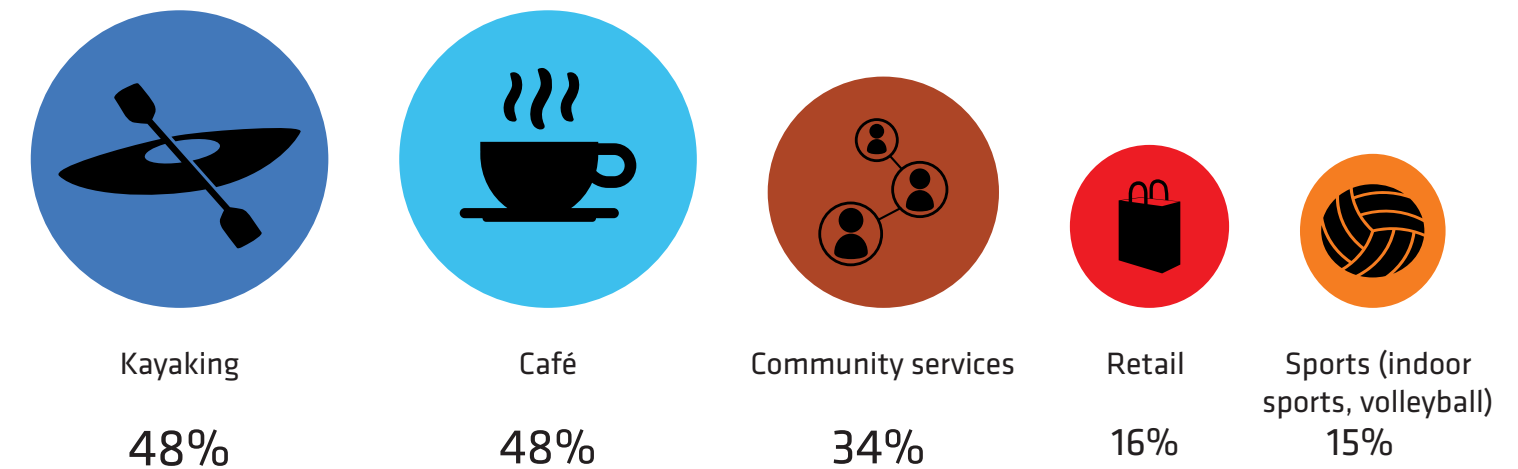


If no, why not?

"Access is limited and the intersections are hard to navigate"

"There is nothing to do there"

What additional services, activities or spaces would you like to see in or near East River waterfront, including under the FDR drive?



Other suggestions include: an LGBT educational facility, a soccer field, a bocceball court, concerts and performances during the summer months, a sledding hill and a paddleboard dock

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SURVEY MAP RESPONSES:

HOW DO YOU GET TO THE EAST RIVER WATERFRONT?

KEY:

19%

Percentage of pedestrian routes that culminate at an access point



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ACCESS POINTS

23rd St and FDR Drive

- Difficult intersection to navigate for pedestrians due to high-speed traffic exiting the FDR drive
- Noisy due to FDR and skyport traffic
- Concerns about structural stability of elevated FDR



E 20th St and FDR Drive

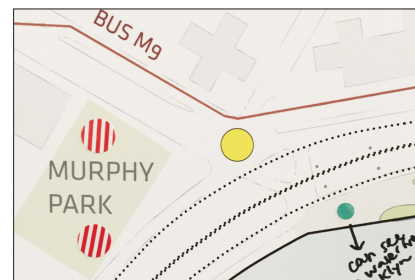
- Difficult intersection to navigate for pedestrians due to high-speed traffic exiting the FDR drive
- Concerns about structural stability of elevated FDR



Avenue C and FDR Drive

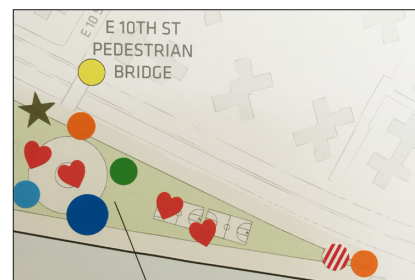
- Tricky and dangerous access to Stuyvesant Cove Park for cyclists

(n.b. few participants provided comments regarding the Ave. C and FDR access point)



E 10th St pedestrian bridge

- Noisy and unpleasant crossing
- Bridge can feel unsafe at night and in the early morning
- Easy access to running track and soccer field



ACCESS POINTS

E 6th St pedestrian bridge

- Noisy pedestrian crossing
- Leads to the most frequently utilized sport field in ERP (running track and soccer field)



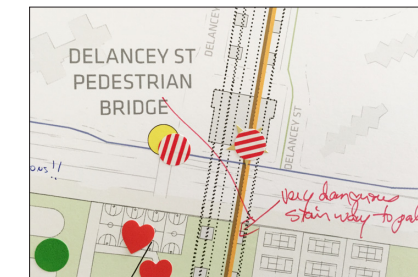
Houston St Overpass

- Crossing is difficult to navigate due to circular traffic pattern
- Dangerous for bikes and strollers
- No zebra crossing or pedestrian lights on the park side
- Frequently utilized return route from ERP



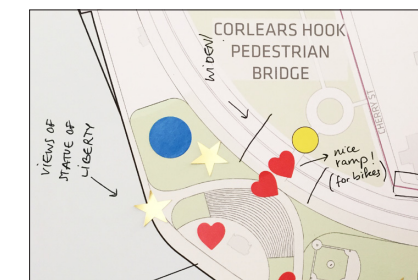
Delancey St pedestrian bridge

- Strongly disliked
- Dangerous staircase on the park side
- Noisy and unpleasant crossing
- Williamsburg bridge underpass feels unsafe at night



Corlears Hook pedestrian bridge

- Favorite Access point to ERP
- Safe and pleasant crossing
- Ramping is appropriate for strollers, bikes and seniors
- Leads to a well-loved and heavily utilized area of ERP: the Amphitheater



Montgomery St

- Noisy under the FDR drive
- Easy access to Pier 42

(n.b. few participants provided comments regarding the Montgomery St access point)

