

Planning Approach

Neighborhood planning processes should always respond to the local community and context. In the case of the Southern Boulevard Neighborhood Study, the City recognized the unique communities with which they were working and tailored the planning approach in three ways:

1. coordinating a multi-agency collaboration
2. building on past planning efforts
3. planning for healthy communities

Approach 1: Coordinating a Multi-Agency Collaboration

In a neighborhood planning process, it is important for City agencies to work together in new and unique ways alongside communities. Due to the known challenges these communities face regarding housing and health, the NYC Department of City Planning (DCP) created a close interagency collaboration with HPD and DOHMH specifically for the Southern Boulevard Neighborhood Study.

The partnership of these three City agencies was supported by many others to ensure that agencies had a seat at the table and were available to work with the community to advance their ideas.

City Agencies

DCP

City Planning

DCP is New York City's planning and land use agency. Their role in City government is to work closely with communities, local stakeholders, and elected officials to create a long term vision that will help influence and shape the future of neighborhoods and our city.

nyc.gov/planning

HPD

Housing Preservation & Development

HPD is committed to preserving the affordability and quality of NYC's existing housing stock by protecting tenants, promoting safe and healthy housing, and financing and safeguarding affordability.

nyc.gov/hpd

DOHMH

Health & Mental Hygiene

The mission of DOHMH is to protect and promote the health of all New Yorkers. nyc.gov/health

SBS

Small Business Services

SBS helps unlock economic potential and create economic security for all New Yorkers by connecting New Yorkers to good jobs, creating stronger businesses, and building thriving neighborhoods across the five boroughs. nyc.com/sbs

DYCD

Youth and Community Development

DYCD invests in a network of community-based organizations and programs to alleviate the effects of poverty and to provide opportunities for New Yorkers and communities to flourish. nyc.gov/dycd

DEP

Environmental Protection

The mission of DEP is to equitably provide services that promote the health and wellbeing of all 8.6 million city residents, while continuing to be a good neighbor and partner with dozens of upstate communities. nyc.gov/dep

SCA

School Construction Authority

The SCA's mission is to design and construct safe, attractive and environmentally sound public schools for children throughout the many communities of New York City. nyc.gov/sca

DOT

Transportation

DOT is responsible for providing safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible movement of pedestrians, goods, and vehicular traffic on the streets, highways, bridges, and waterways. nyc.gov/dot

HRA

Human Resources Administration

HRA is dedicated to fighting poverty and income inequality by providing New Yorkers in need with essential benefits such as Food Assistance and Emergency Rental Assistance. nyc.gov/hra

MOR

Mayor's Office of Resiliency

Through science-based analysis, policy and program development, and capacity building, MOR leads the City's efforts to ensure that New York City is ready to withstand and emerge stronger from the multiple impacts of climate change in the near- and long-term. nyc.gov/

NYCT/MTA

NYC Transit / Metropolitan Transit Authority

NYCT/MTA preserves and enhances the quality of life and economic health of the region it serves through the cost-efficient provision of safe, on-time, reliable, and clean transportation services. mta.info

PARKS

Parks and Recreation

Parks seeks to create and sustain thriving parks and public spaces by: planning resilient and sustainable parks, public spaces, and recreational amenities; building a park system for present and future generations; and caring for parks and public spaces. nyc.gov/parks

DCLA

Cultural Affairs

DCLA is dedicated to supporting and strengthening New York City's vibrant cultural life. Among our primary missions is to ensure adequate public funding for non-profit cultural organizations, both large and small, throughout the five boroughs.

OER

Environmental Remediation

OER manages the New York City Voluntary Cleanup Program, a city-wide land cleanup program that protects public health, spurs economic development, and promotes growth and vitality in communities across the city. nyc.gov/oer

NYCHA

NYC Housing Authority

NYCHA's mission is to increase opportunities for low- and moderate-income New Yorkers by providing safe, affordable housing and facilitating access to social and community services. nyc.gov/nycha

and more, including the Economic Development Corporation, Dept. For the Aging, the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs

Approach 2: Building On Past Planning Efforts

The neighborhoods along Southern Boulevard have a longstanding, well-documented history of community planning and the Southern Boulevard Neighborhood Study strived to lift up and build off of these past planning efforts.

Grassroots community organizing and planning dates back to the restoration of the area's housing and building stock. In the late 1970s and 1980s, groups like Banana Kelly, Nos Quedamos, Mid Bronx Desperadoes, and others were foundational in rebuilding the neighborhoods that had been devastated in the years prior. They continue to be important housing advocates today. At the same time, other groups, such as The Point CDC, Youth Ministries for Peace and Justice, the Southern Bronx River Watershed Alliance, and the Bronx River Alliance, have been focused on the environmental justice issues in the area, caused by highway construction and traffic, river pollution, and heavy industry.

In the early 1990s, local community boards, neighborhood organizations, and non-profits were engaged in formal planning processes in the area. Community Board 3 completed the first 197-a Plan (an officially adopted Community-District-level plan) in the city with the goal to re-establish the Community District as a dynamic and viable community. In the following years, Mid-Bronx Desperados published the Crotona Park East Plan which sought to inform the future revitalization efforts that were being undertaken by other local organizations and institutions. The plan aimed to develop housing, and create a safe and affordable neighborhood.

Later, in the 2000s, two plans focusing on ecology and the waterfront were published. The Southern Bronx River Watershed Alliance's Community Plan and the Bronx River Greenway Plan each advocated

for better connections to the Bronx River waterfront and improved sustainability and environmental health.

More recently in 2013, the City-sponsored Sheridan-Hunts Point Land Use and Transportation Study sought to reconnect the communities around the Bronx River to its waterfront by converting the Sheridan Expressway into a safer-to-cross and pedestrian-friendly boulevard.

In 2015, the Crotona Park Master Plan identified a variety of proposed capital improvements to the park.

Today, several concurrent and on-going efforts are in process. Those include:

- The Bronx Metro-North Station Area Study
- Hunts Point Vision Plan 2.0
- Hunts Point Longwood Avenue NYC Grant
- DOT's Vision Zero Initiative
- Community Parks Initiative
- Starlight Park Phase II
- CreateNYC - A Cultural Plan For All New Yorkers

In addition to City-agency specific plans, many local organizations are advancing their own work and plans in the area every day. This planning summary document can act as another support to strengthen and highlight the importance of their work.



CD3 197-a Plan

Community Board 3 1993

CB3 created a comprehensive plan to reestablish their district as 'a dynamic, viable community'. This was the 1st community district plan in the City.

Goals:

1. To reestablish the Community Board 3 district as a dynamic, viable community
2. To increase the population in the district to 100,000 by the year 2000
3. To provide a viable economic base for the community through the provision of job training and the creation of labor intensive opportunities
4. To maintain, develop and expand the supporting infrastructure of the district
5. To maintain the parks and recreation areas throughout the district

Accomplishments:

- CD3 population increased from approximately 57,000 residents in 1990 to 83,000 residents in 2014
- Many vacant lots were turned into green spaces or developed into housing, retail, or community facilities
- The elevated 2/5 subway was repainted in 2015



Crotona Park East Plan

Mid-Bronx Desperatdos 1995

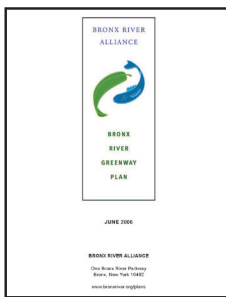
This quality-of-life physical plan is to inform future revitalization efforts by neighborhood organizations and institutions as part of a Comprehensive Community Revitalization Program.

Goals:

1. Vacant lots developed for housing
2. Create a vital neighborhood with safe and usable open space and recreational facilities
3. The neighborhood should be clean, attractive and safe

Accomplishments:

- Shopping Center and Rock Garden Park completed
- Many vacant lots highlighted in the plan were developed into housing, retail, or community facilities
- Advocated for homeownership and health care facilities



Bronx River Greenway Plan

Bronx River Alliance 2006

A projects-based plan to create a Bronx River greenway that restores the river and creates a "vibrant, sustainable, and beautiful watershed".

Goals:

1. Complete projects along the Greenway such as: construct Concrete Plant Park, reconstruct Starlight Park and construct a river house

Accomplishments:

- Concrete Plant Park (2009)
- Starlight Park Reconstruction (2012)
- River House and Boat Facility (2018 anticipated)
- Greenway Extension with bridges across the Bronx River (in progress)



SBRWA Community Plan

Southern Bronx River Watershed Alliance 2006

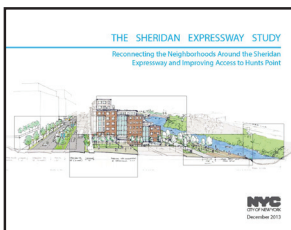
Worked together to design a more economically and ecologically sensible solution to local traffic and land use problems associated with the Sheridan Expressway.

Goals:

1. Providing access from the Bruckner Expressway to Hunts Point at Leggett Avenue
2. Removing the Sheridan
3. Elevating portions of the Bruckner to improve safety

Accomplishments:

- Became an advocacy document and tool that influenced the Sheridan Expressway-Hunts Point Land Use and Transportation Study



Sheridan-Hunts Point Land Use & Transportation Study

DOT, EDC, DCP, Souther Bronx River Watershed Alliance, The Point CDC, YMPJ, and many other community partners 2013

A community-led effort to reconnect the communities around the Bronx River to its waterfront by converting the Sheridan into a boulevard.

Goals:

1. Improve Connectivity & Accessibility
2. Improve Sustainability & Environmental Health
3. Neighborhood Vitality

Accomplishments:

- SDOT is in the process of implementing the conversion of the expressway into a boulevard as well as ramps directly into Hunts Point (in progress)
- The elevated 2/5 subway was repainted in 2015
- The pedestrian crossings at Freeman St and Southern Blvd were redesigned in 2015
- Part of Manufacturing zone along Whitlock Avenue was rezoned for mixed-used affordable housing by a private developer in 2017



Crotona & Tremont Park Master Plan

NYC Parks, Friends of Crotona Park, Community Board 3 2015

A long-term capital improvement plan to "make Crotona Park a vital part of its community as well as the City's most scenic small park".

Goals:

1. Nature and Landscape Beauty
2. Circulation and Safety
3. Recreation and New Facilities
4. Social Life, Culture, and Education

Accomplishments:

- Programming is on the rise with festivals, movie nights, concerts, and more in the park!
- Several capital projects recommended are currently underway, including: Ballfield 5 Synthetic Turf Field conversion, Playground of the Stars bathroom reconstruction, and the restoration of the Indian Lake shoreline

SOUTHERN BOULEVARD NEIGHBORHOOD STUDY

Approach 3: Planning for Healthy Communities

A person's ZIP code should never determine their health. Yet, the health outcomes of the Southern Boulevard study area are some of the lowest in the city. Health is influenced by more than just having a good doctor, inheriting certain genes or maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Creating a healthier neighborhood requires a coordinated approach from policymakers, close collaboration with community-based organizations, and meaningful engagement with residents to address the social determinants of health.

The City of New York is committed to reducing health inequities by addressing their root causes in residents' daily lives, guaranteeing health care, and facilitating both healthy lifestyles and a healthy physical environment. The housing in which we live, the design of our streets and public spaces, the communities and people who surround us and the state of the economy all impact our ability to lead healthy lives.

Policies and practices based on a history of racism and discrimination have resulted in an inequitable distribution of neighborhood resources. This contributes to unequal health outcomes between neighborhoods. Throughout the public engagement process, many residents said that they see health as a social justice issue, and can easily see the connections between policies, systems, and their impact on health. Health is a social justice issue.

This study was designed to address these health challenges through a strong working partnership among DOHMH, HPD, DCP, and the community.

From the beginning, DOHMH began conversations by hosting "What Creates Health?" workshops for City agency and community partners, exploring the roles that policy, urban planning, racial justice, and the built environment have on health. Agency and community partners also participated in "UnDesign the Redline" tours and trainings, unpacking the many ways that redlining has had a lasting effect on communities of color.

Throughout the planning process, health has been a reoccurring theme that was often used as a lens to explore issues such as housing, parks, and food.

The objectives presented in this document aim to address longstanding inequities by focusing on the root causes of the quality of life and health issues neighborhood residents are faced with.