

BOROUGH Bronx

MAP ID# BX8

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 11, 14

COMMUNITY BOARD: 7, 8

NAME OF PLAN: Jerome Park Reservoir Plan

Community Organization: Jerome Park Conservancy

Address c/o Office of the President, Lehman College
250 Bedford Park Blvd. Bronx, NY 10468

Contact Name: Anne Marie Garti

Phone Number: 718 884-7864

Fax Number 718 884-7864

Website www.lehman.cuny.edu/preservationreport/

TYPE OF PLAN

Environmental Restoration Plan

GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF PLAN

The Jerome Park Reservoir is bounded on the north and west by Sedgwick Avenue, on the southwest by Reservoir Avenue, and on the east by Goulden Avenue.

NEIGHBORHOOD/PLAN BACKGROUND

The Jerome Park neighborhood is a thriving residential with a large, diverse population, and many culturally and historically significant landmarks. It is located in the Northwest corner of the Bronx. There are several major schools in the area including DeWitt Clinton High School, Bronx High School of Science, and Hunter College (now Lehman College), with 25,000 students attending school around the reservoir. The Kingsbridge Armory, another historic building, is also located near the reservoir. The Jerome Park area was originally designed by renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted. A proposal in the mid-1990s by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to construct the Croton Water Treatment Plant on the Jerome Park Reservoir fueled renewed interest in revitalizing the area. Residents believed that the plant would have destroyed the environment, scenic value, and historical significance of the area, as well as jeopardized the health and quality of life of residents and students.

GOALS OF PLAN

The Jerome Park Conservancy was formed to preserve the beauty and heritage of Jerome Park Reservoir and its surrounding communities by the creation of a 125-acre park comprised of the water and the land around it. The Conservancy advocates the designation of the Jerome Park Reservoir as a scenic and historic landmark and the use of the reservoir as an educational resource for the 25,000 students who attend schools by the water's edge.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Remove the outer fence and replace the one by the water with an attractive wrought-iron safety fence

Create walking, jogging, skating and/or bicycling trails around the reservoir

Develop the dividing wall as a promenade

Plant ornamental trees, shrubs, ground-covers, and grass. Provide park furnishings such as benches, lights, and garbage cans

Remove any features or structures that don't fit into this new park setting, such as the Lehman parking lot and building and the Department of Environmental Protection's temporary pilot water treatment plant. Develop plans for alternative parking.

Develop areas for gardens, public gatherings and performance spaces.

Develop ecologically sound methods of avoiding water eutrophication.

Draft the rules and regulations for the operation of this new public space.

Restore the historic features around Jerome Park Reservoir, including the stone walls, the gate house, the Jerome Park Pumping Station and the geological mounds. Preserve and enhance the scenic vistas.

Develop new uses for the gate houses, such as a water-side café and an ecology center

Develop plans for using the reservoir as an educational resource for the 25,000 local students

Promote the presence of birds and other wildlife

Develop a maintenance and security plan that addresses the complementary needs of DEP and the community.

Integrate the reservoir with adjacent parks, the neighborhood and the network of New York City and Bronx Greenways.

IDENTIFIED STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The plan was developed with participation from many community residents and groups, local elementary and high schools as well as Lehman College, Montefiore Medical Center, Community Boards, and others. The Jerome Park Conservancy is made up of all of the stakeholders. Ideas for the park came out of community meetings and charettes.

Once the Croton water treatment plants, and associated components, are built at a location other than Jerome Park, then the City will no longer need the reservoir for delivering water. Like the Central Park Reservoir, it can be decommissioned, or used as an emergency water supply. The Conservancy's park plan should be implemented as an integral part of the change in the use of Croton water that will take place during the next five years.

PARTICIPATORY PROCESS

The plan was developed with the participation of many community residents and groups, local elementary and high schools as well as Lehman College, Montefiore Medical Center, Community Boards, and others. The Jerome Park Conservancy is made up of all of the stakeholders. Ideas for the park came out of community meetings and charettes.

PARTNERS

Amalgamated Housing, Bronx High School of Science, Bronx Landmarks Task Force, Community Board No. 7, Community Board No. 8, DeWitt Clinton High School, Friends of Van Cortlandt Park, Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, Kingsbridge Heights Neighborhood Improvement Association, Lehman College, CUNY, Montefiore Medical Center, Mutual Housing, New York Audubon Society, The New York Botanical Garden, Our Lady of Angels, P.S. 86, The Parks Council, Scott Towers, Superintendent, Bronx High Schools, Tracey Towers Tenants Association Wildlife Conservation Society

OBSTACLES The Department of Environmental Protection apparently does not want to relinquish control of the property to the Parks Department, nor open the site to the public.

TIMELINE

INITIAL IDEA 1993 **FORMAL PLAN? YES** **DATE SUBMITTED:** 1997

SUBMITTED TO: None to date

CITY ACTION? None to date

MODIFICATIONS MADE TO PLAN N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Site opened as a reservoir park in 1906. Conservancy President approached the Parks Council for help in 1993.

BOROUGH BRONX

MAP ID#

BX12

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 14

COMMUNITY BOARD: 5

NAME OF PLAN: Mount Hope CCRP

Community Organization: Mount Hope Housing Company

Address 2003-05 Walton Avenue, Bronx, NY 10453

Contact Name: Sean Belle

Phone Number: 718.538.7017

Fax Number

Website

TYPE OF PLAN

Comprehensive Community Revitalization Plan

GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF PLAN

Mount Hope is located in Community District 5 in the South Bronx. It is bounded by the Cross Bronx Expressway on the south, Webster Avenue on the east, Burnside Avenue on the north, and Jerome Avenue on the west.

NEIGHBORHOOD/PLAN BACKGROUND

Mount Hope is a community of approximately 35,000 residents. The community is 63% Hispanic and 30% African American. During the 1970s many families moved out of Mount Hope, and many buildings fell into disrepair or were abandoned. There were massive public and private disinvestments. The formerly middle class community became home to a low-income population, with considerable need for educational, medical, and other community services. Crime became a serious problem.

Despite those bad times, Mount Hope, like many other neighborhoods has seen significant revitalization in the 1990s. Still, much more work is needed. The age of the housing stock calls for continued renovation efforts. The large number of children, the majority of whom are in poverty, highlights the need for playgrounds and daycare facilities. The high crime rate indicates a need for better street lighting and increased surveillance. The ongoing need to ensure that landlords maintain their buildings properly, keep new playgrounds safe and clean, and campaign against crime requires neighborhood organizing. The limited numbers of vacant lots call for immediate action to reserve sites for badly needed community facilities.

GOALS OF PLAN

Ensure that decent, safe, and affordable is available to all people who live in Mount Hope

Create more parks and ensure better park maintenance

Reduce crime in the neighborhood

Improve traffic safety

RECOMMENDATIONS

Continue to organize and work with homeowner and tenant associations

Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS) should designate Mount Hope as a target area

Rehabilitate two vacant buildings within the Morris Avenue Historic District

The City should acquire two privately owned, vacant buildings, with a view toward renovation

Construct affordable family housing on Walton and Townsend Avenues and 175th Street.
Develop City-owned sites with a mixture of housing and recreational space
Support senior citizen housing at 245 Echo Place
Reclaim Julius J Richman (Echo) Park from darkness, disrepair, and drugs. Initial efforts should be aimed at the playground and basketball courts
Redevelop pocket parks. In particular, De Vanney Square should be re-landscaped, with more plantings, and more lighting. A seven-days-a-week vendor should be established
Construct a new playground in the eastern part of the neighborhood. A possible site is the vacant lot at the southwest corner of Anthony Avenue and 176th Street
Create playgrounds for young children in the western part of the neighborhood. Use two city-owned vacant lots: one on the western side of Crotona Avenue, just below Burnside Avenue and the other at the southwest corner of Walton Avenue and 175th Street
Designate JHS 117 as a Beacon School
Construct an indoor recreation center; a possible location is the GreenThumb site at the southeast corner of Anthony Avenue and 176th Street
Designate selected streets as summertime "play streets" to be closed to traffic during set hours. Suggested streets are 179th Street between Walton and Morris Avenues and Henwood Place
Utilize a funeral home parking lot on 179th Street east of Creston Avenue as a part-time, informal play area with basketball hoops
Create a landscaped sitting area on the Grand Concourse; one possibility could be the vacant lot on the southwest corner at 176th Street.
Develop organized activities in neighborhood and nearby parks
The community and the Parks Department should continue to work together on the new park at 177th Street and Walton Avenue
Organize neighborhood park patrols
Increase Police Department foot patrols to reduce crime in the neighborhood, especially at critical crime locations
Community residents and the NYPD should work together to increase community policing
Increase the amount and intensity of street lighting on dangerous blocks: along Echo Place, along 179th Street between Creston and Jerome Avenues, along Morris Avenue between the Cross Bronx Expressway and 176th Street, and on the steps at the eastern end of Clifford Place.
Increase street trees and landscaping of public streets
Improve lighting at the 174th-175th Street subway station exit beneath the Grand Concourse
Designate the curbside area under and near the Morris Avenue arch beneath the Grand Concourse as a taxi stand, and move the Excellent Car Service stand from the Morris Avenue Bridge across the Cross Bronx Expressway to the northwest corner of Morris Avenue and the Cross Bronx Expressway
Crack down on car strippers; enforce auto business rules
Reuse the Jerome Motel for transitional housing
Re-time traffic lights on the Grand Concourse
Station a crossing guard at the Grand Concourse and East Tremont Avenue
Install stop signs at dangerous intersections such as Morris Avenue and 179th Street and Townsend Avenue and Clifford Place
Ban commercial traffic along Morris Avenue
Establish turning lanes on Jerome Avenue
Construct a daycare center on a vacant, city-owned lot at the eastern end of Echo Place
Work with Verizon to establish a daycare facility in the company's Mount Hope office building
Construct a second primary health care center
Reuse a row of vacant storefronts on 175th Street for community services
Develop a large early childhood center devoted to "educare"
Construct a multiservice center at the corner of Burnside and Creston Avenues
Create a community center in the western part of the neighborhood
Ensure that all Mount Hope residents have access to a public library
Continue to organize and support tenant and block associations
Continue to organize and support block watches and anticrime patrols
Organize a Mount Hope Homeowners' Association

Organize neighborhood youth groups

IDENTIFIED STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Persuade City and State agencies to provide needed funding and publicly owned land

PARTICIPATORY PROCESS

The effort was led by the Mount Hope Housing Company, a community-based organization that owns, manages, or has sponsored 42 buildings with 1,272 housing units (approximately 10% of the neighborhood's total housing stock) and has helped organize residents to confront a variety of issues. A core group of some 30 Mount Hope residents developed the plan over a two-year period, in consultation with a team of professional planners. Over 150 residents participated in the planning process, including a core group. Community members identified key issues and planning objectives at a series of local meetings and an all-day community workshop.

PARTNERS

CCRP, Mount Hope Housing Company, Abeles, Phillips, Preiss and Shapiro Planners, and numerous local organizations and residents.

OBSTACLES

N/A

TIMELINE

INITIAL IDEA 1992 **FORMAL PLAN? YES** **DATE SUBMITTED:** 1994

SUBMITTED TO: State of New York, NYC Department of City Planning

CITY ACTION? N/A

MODIFICATIONS MADE TO PLAN N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: N/A

BOROUGH

Bronx

MAP ID#

BX13

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 14

COMMUNITY BOARD: 5

NAME OF PLAN: Mt. Hope/Mt. Eden CCRP

Community Organization: PROMESA

Address 1776 Clay Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457

Contact Name: Director of Community Development

Phone Number: 718.299.1100

Fax Number

Website

TYPE OF PLAN

Comprehensive Community Revitalization Plan

GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF PLAN

The plan focuses on two adjacent neighborhoods in the South Bronx, Mount Hope and Mount Eden. The total area is bounded by East Burnside Avenue on the north, Webster Avenue on the east, East 170th Street on the south, and Grand Concourse on the west. The neighborhoods are located in Community Districts 4 and 5.

NEIGHBORHOOD/PLAN BACKGROUND

Mount Eden/Mount Hope is home to 29,000 people. The population is mostly African American and Hispanic. Two major facilities are located in the neighborhood: Taft High School which has about 2,900 students and Bronx-Lebanon Hospital which has about 2,000 employees.

During the 1970s and 1980s many families moved out of the neighborhood and many buildings fell into disrepair. This formerly middle class area became home to a low-income population, with considerable need for educational, medical, and other community services. Crime became a serious problem. Nevertheless, the area escaped the large-scale devastation that characterized much of the South Bronx, remaining physically intact.

GOALS OF PLAN

- Reduce crime and improve community safety
- Restore the aging housing stock
- Improve and create youth services, parks and recreation
- Create additional retail areas, and improve existing retail areas
- Improve the physical appearance of the area

RECOMMENDATIONS

Public Safety:

- Reclaim inherently unsafe locations with additional lighting and surveillance:

The worst crime spot, the 174th-175th Street subway station, must be addressed by improving the lighting at the subway exit beneath Grand Concourse; installing surveillance cameras at the station; and designating the curbside area under and near the arch as a taxi stand.

- Introduce legitimate retail uses at intersections that are now devoted to drug trafficking; two possible locations are 175th Street and Monroe Avenue and 173rd Street and Clay and Anthony Avenues.

- Drive drug activity from East 175th Street by rerouting traffic: East 175th Street, Clay Avenue, and Prospect Place should be made into one-way streets.

- Organize residents along Topping Place to report and deter crime there.

Housing:

- Neighborhood Housing Services should make the community a target area
- New subsidized housing should be build on vacant, city-owned land; community gardens should be constructed on these lots in the interim.
- Bronx-Lebanon Hospital should build staff housing in the area: potential sites include the two vacant lots on opposite corners of 173rd Street and Weeks Avenue; the ground floors of the buildings should be used for daycare and other services for the entire community.
- Plant street trees along the better traveled residential streets

Youth and Education:

- Create a catalog of childcare, educational, and recreational facilities. Distributed about the neighborhood and available to all residents
- Construct daycare facilities: the city should commit funds for a facility planned by PROMESA at the northwest corner of Anthony Avenue and Prospect Place; another facility should be constructed at 1760 Anthony Avenue, a city-owned building; additional facilities should be built on the ground floors of new apartment buildings south of the Cross Bronx Expressway.
- Construct a large early childhood center devoted to "educare"; an appropriate site would be the parking lot on Mt. Eden Avenue between Weeks and Monroe Avenues.
- Make CES 70 into a community resource by creating a Beacon or Community school.
- Construct a community cultural and recreation center across from CES 28.
- Involve residents in creating safe play streets; the City should designate certain streets as "play streets" including 172nd Street between Grand Concourse and Sheridan Avenue; Topping Avenue between 173rd and 174th Streets, and Eastburn Avenue between 174th and 175th Streets.
- Construct basketball courts on Taft High School property
- Create new playground space for CES 70
- The Grand Concourse library branch should use volunteer workers to remain open longer hours; the library should also expand its offerings.

Parks and Recreation:

- Create a football or baseball field in the northeast corner of Claremont Park.
- Construct new parks in the underserved Mount Hope portion of the planning area; an active recreation area is recommended for Topping Avenue just north of the Cross Bronx Expressway

Economic Development:

- Create additional retail nodes. Potential sites include the intersections of Monroe Avenue and 175th Street and 173rd Street and Clay and Anthony Avenues.
- Create a one-day-a-week outdoor market on 174th Street between the Grand Concourse and Monroe Avenue.
- Establish a food co-op in one of the burned out storefronts at 170th Street and College Avenue.
- Install an automated teller machine (ATM) in the Bronx-Lebanon Hospital lobby.
- Explore the feasibility of establishing a restaurant on one of the parkway malls on Mt. Eden Avenue.

Health and Human Services:

Bronx-Lebanon Hospital should provide ambulatory, outpatient care at two satellite locations; the locations are the former Mt. Eden Synagogue and the old Mt. Eden Hospital.

Land Use and Zoning:

- Designate a Grand Concourse Historic District
- Enforce restrictions against retail uses and signage along the Grand Concourse.

Transportation:

- Increase the frequency of service on the Bx32 bus line

- Provide street parking for Bronx Lebanon hospital employees on Mt. Eden Avenue between the Grand Concourse and Weeks Avenue.
- Provide parking for Taft High School teachers and students at an existing parking lot at 171st Street and College Avenue.

IDENTIFIED STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

N/A

PARTICIPATORY PROCESS

PROMESA, a local organization sponsored the plan, working with an Advisory Council made up of residents, local schools and police precincts, medical and social service providers, and utilities.

PARTNERS

CCRP
Mount Eden/Mount Hope Neighborhood Advisory Council
PROMESA
Abeles Phillips Preiss & Shapiro

OBSTACLES

N/A

TIMELINE

INITIAL IDEA 1992 **FORMAL PLAN?** YES **DATE SUBMITTED:** 1994

SUBMITTED TO: State of New York, NYC Department of City Planning

CITY ACTION? N/A

MODIFICATIONS MADE TO PLAN N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION N/A