

BOROUGH Queens

MAP ID#: Q7

COUNCIL DISTRICT: 26

COMMUNITY BOARD: 2

NAME OF PLAN

Community Organization: Hunters Point Community Coalition

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TYPE OF PLAN

Waterfront Revitalization and Access Plan

GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF PLAN

Hunters Point is a mixed-use neighborhood located in Long Island City, overlooking the East River.

NEIGHBORHOOD/PLAN BACKGROUND

This portion of Long Island City sits near the junction of the East River and Newton Creek. The two waterways and the location of the Long Island Railroad's ferry terminal in the neighborhood clinched its value as an industrial center. Although still industrial in character, some residential enclaves have remained. Over the last decade, there has been interest in developing a large combined residential and commercial complex, known as Queens West, which would consist of numerous high-rise residential buildings, commercial office buildings, and retail businesses.

GOALS OF PLAN

To provide an alternative to the Queens West plan that would address the issues of open space, senior housing, manufacturing jobs, parking and traffic

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop three buildings up to 20 stories high with any remaining development remaining low-rise.
- Keep view corridors open
- Allocate 27 acres of open space, mostly at the waterfront
- Preservation of and integration with the existing community.

Traffic

Hunters Point is unique because its waterfront is one of the few in New York City that has not been blocked off from the upland community by highways. To keep it that way, traffic going to the waterfront is directed to existing wide streets (44th Drive and Borden Avenue) and otherwise dispersed to reduce its impact on the neighborhood. Traffic going through Hunters Point to other areas is kept inland on the diagonal Jackson Avenue, 11th Street or 21st Street.

Streets

The distinctive east-west street and block pattern is extended to the waterfront where it meets a new Hunters Point Drive.

Pedestrians

A new network of pedestrian routes linking open spaces (both existing and new) and major public buildings is planned to provide pleasant walks to the waterfront from the community and from public transportation on Jackson Avenue.

Uses

The existing pattern of a mixture of uses extends to the waterfront with an emphasis on residential and new open space. Commercial uses are concentrated along Jackson and Borden Avenues, while retail remains on the central Vernon Boulevard.

Landmark

Both national, and neighborhood landmark are preserved.

Density

Density corresponds to adjacencies and access. The highest density is near the Queens Midtown Tunnel and Borden Avenue.

Views

All view corridors are maintained

Environment

Naturalistic portions of the waterfront are respected and a continuous pedestrian link is provided along the entire waterfront.

IDENTIFIED STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

The Hunters Point Waterfront Alternative Plan will be implemented as an amendment to the UDC/PA/PDC General Project Plan approved in 1990. \$155 million of public funds have already been committed to the project for public improvements, site acquisition, and further studies. The amendment will reduce density, extend the Special Hunters Point Mixed-Use District, change the mapping of streets, parks and pedestrian easements, decrease on-site infrastructure, increase off-site improvements and change the construction staging.

PARTICIPATORY PROCESS

The Hunters Point Community Coalition (HPCC), a coalition of local residents, community groups, and businesses and the 197-a steering committee, which includes the coalition, among other local organizations and agencies developed the plan.

PARTNERS

Hunters Point Community Coalition
Hunters Point Community Council
River View Community Coalition
LIC Business Development Corporation
Hunters Point Community Development Center
Long Island City Community Gardeners, Inc.
LIC Interblock Association
Queens Borough President's Office
Queens Community Board 2
Queens Department of City Planning

OBSTACLES

N/A

TIMELINE

INITIAL IDEA 1990

FORMAL PLAN? YES

DATE SUBMITTED: N/A

SUBMITTED TO: N/A

CITY ACTION? N/A

MODIFICATIONS MADE TO PLAN
N/A

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
N/A