



HUNTERS POINT NORTH

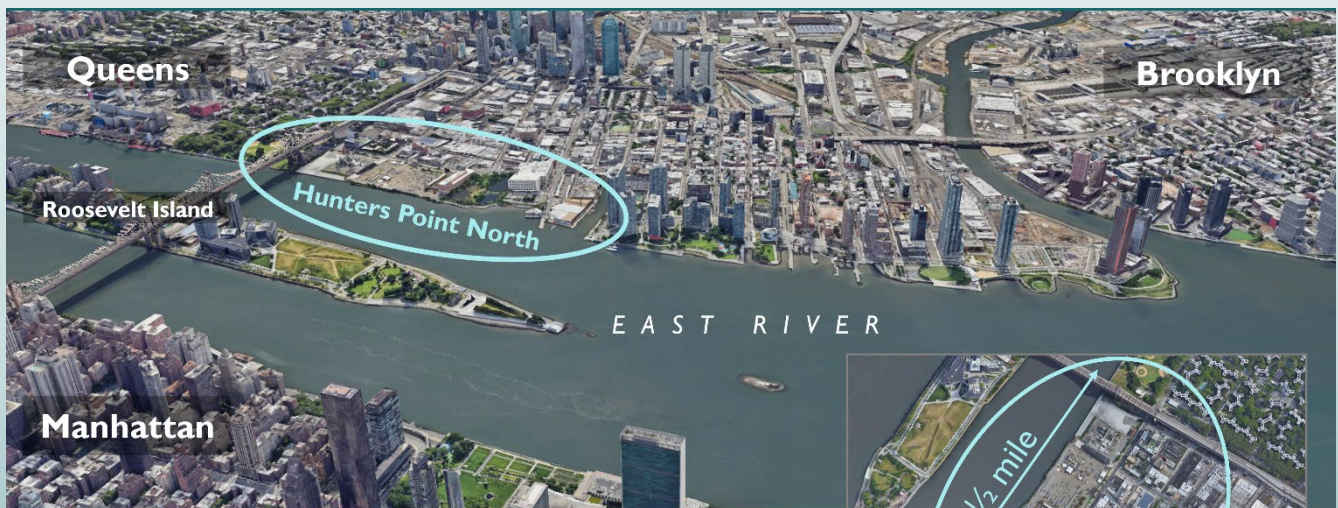
Vision Plan for Resiliency

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Where is Hunters Point North and why is it important?

Large, formerly industrial properties along this half mile of shoreline offer unparalleled opportunities for far-sighted and inclusive planning.

Sustainable and well-planned growth in Hunters Point North could help the city be proactive about climate change, restore environmental resources, increase social equity, return to a more productive economy, and distribute economic development and infrastructure investments more broadly and fairly.



Hunters Point North is on the East River across from Roosevelt Island and Midtown Manhattan; it extends from just south of Queensboro Bridge from Queensbridge Park to the Queens West development in Long Island City (LIC), NY

Why is resiliency the top priority?

Superstorm Sandy severely disrupted and damaged areas along the Brooklyn-Queens waterfront including Hunters Point North. In response, New York City documented a wide range of risks from climate change specifically faced by these communities in “A Stronger, More Resilient New York.”

Today, the major coastal hazard here continues to be storm surge.

- ◆ Over three feet of flooding is anticipated throughout most of Hunters Point North in a Category 1 Hurricane.
- ◆ Sea level rise, increased precipitation, and heavier downpours amplify the risks.
- ◆ Research indicates that heat waves will also pose significant risks by 2050.



“RESILIENCY IS OUR 1st PRIORITY”
 CB2Q’s Comprehensive Plan Working Group, 2019

“Long Island City residents are living with the outcomes of **rezonings that aren’t comprehensive and don’t take into account the whole neighborhood** or the whole of the community’s needs,” wrote Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer to City Limits in April 2018

WHAT ABOUT HOUSING?

LICC/HPCC supports:

Sustainable equitable housing supported by 21st century public infrastructure, open spaces, transportation and community services

Deeply affordable, well-maintained housing built outside the 2100 floodplain, in balance with the existing low-rise/high-density neighborhood and connected to the vibrant mixed-use community in LIC.

What are some of the other issues?

Decades of **overdevelopment, spot zoning, and piecemeal planning** in Long Island City have resulted in:

- ◆ overcrowded subways,
- ◆ jam-packed parks,
- ◆ overflowing schools,
- ◆ insufficient public services,
- ◆ inadequate infrastructure,
- ◆ and greater risks of flooding

...among many other issues.

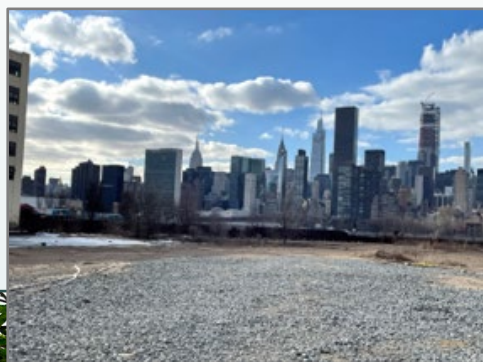
What is the Vision Plan for Resiliency?

Hunters Point North Vision Plan for Resiliency is a community-based plan that draws on the strengths of Hunters Point’s dynamic and creative community, unparalleled waterfront, robust urban fabric, and empowering human scale.

Four organizing principles define the plan: Resiliency · Equity · Balance · Connections

Together, they cover these imperatives:

- ◆ respect the natural environment and forces behind climate change,
- ◆ protect valuable public assets and land holdings,
- ◆ safeguard existing residents and businesses with sustainable growth,
- ◆ and build new connections that reduce emissions and make better use of the waterways.



Existing Conditions (above left) and **Proposed Hunters Point North Park** (above) looking west to Midtown Manhattan from new plaza at 44th Avenue and 5th Street

RESILIENCY

Be proactive about climate change

EQUITY

Protect public land for public use

BALANCE

Balance new development with protection for existing community

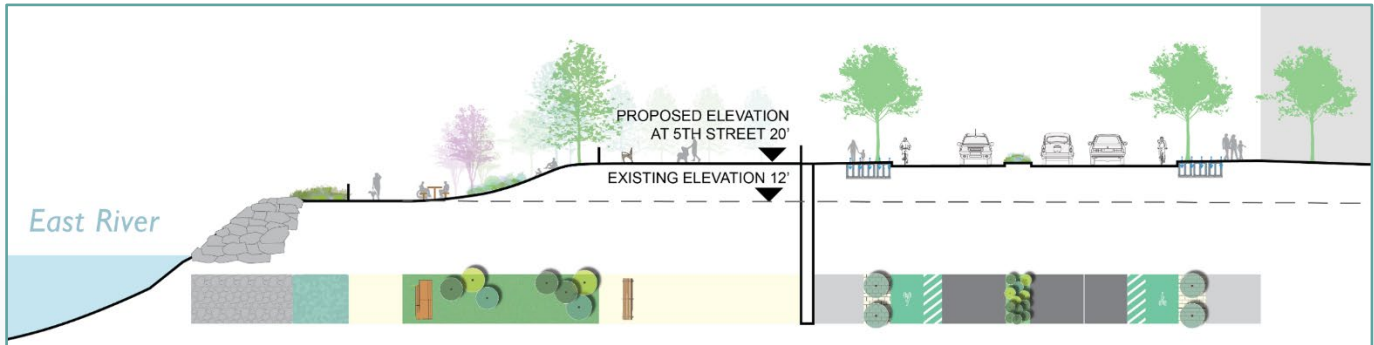
CONNECTIONS

Strengthen sustainable connections

1. Resiliency – Be proactive about climate change

The Vision Plan respects the natural environment in Hunters Point North by working with - rather than fighting against - the complex hydrodynamics of the East River. Using projections by the 4th New York Panel on Climate Change (NPCC4) for 2100, **the Vision Plan proposes multiple lines of resiliency** starting at the East River and moving inland to the original shoreline around Vernon Boulevard.

Like Hunters Point South, **these combine both natural and engineered solutions**, such as: continuous waterfront parks with floodable areas, storm water retention terraces, and estuarine habitat restoration; new development elevated above the floodplain (in concert with brownfield cleanup) and set back behind an underground floodwall; and updated stormwater management and infrastructure.



Proposed Section (44th Ave from East River to 5th St)

The Vision Plan also proposes both green and gray solutions to reduce risks from rising temperatures, which are already up to 8°F above average for NYC in the adjacent Industrial Business Zone (IBZ). For example, on streets leading to the waterfront, new cooling corridors are proposed with more native and deciduous tree planting, porous pavements, bike lanes, green roofs, and climate-resilient streetscaping.

The Vision Plan significantly increases public access to the East River by creating a network of new and existing open spaces that builds on the cooling corridors. These new streetscapes reconnect communities on both sides of the Bridge and link back to parks like Court Square. Along the waterfront, **Hunters Point North Park connects existing public parks to the north and south.**



Proposed Open Space Network

2. Equity – Protect public lands for public uses

The Vision Plan strongly supports **the protection of ALL valuable public assets for public use**. New public community facilities are essential to address LIC’s record residential growth from recent rezonings, which has far outstripped essential services, infrastructure, schools, streets, transit, and open spaces. To deliver equitable community benefits, the top ten community facilities and services proposed in Hunters Point North include continuous public open spaces along the waterfront, state-of-the-art educational buildings, redevelopment of the existing NYC DOE Building for multiple community uses, and critically needed community services.

3. Balance – Protect the existing community in balance with new development

Growing sustainably means **first investing in LIC’s existing creative businesses, manufacturers, residents, and artists**, supporting organic evolution through land value capture (LVC) programs and phased improvements, rather than destabilizing, large-scale development. The Vision Plan enhances the IBZ’s existing ecosystem of productive businesses, incorporating new live/workspaces along with manufacturing that is innovative, cleaner, greener and quieter. For example, a new marine facility for transporting supplies and products, including e-commerce, will reduce pollution from trucks and ease the tangle of traffic around the Queensboro Bridge.



Community Consensus on Key Elements

4. Connections – Strengthen sustainable connections

Among the new connections proposed in the Vision Plan are **low-carbon solutions** to reduce emissions, such as more pedestrian and bicycle access to the waterfront including an expansion of the Queens Waterfront Greenway. To activate the waterways, a new East River dock supports NYC’s Blue Highway initiative to **“move from road to river.”** In addition, the recently renovated wharf in Queensbridge Park presents a ready-made location for a new terminus of the East River route of the NYC Ferry system. For many residents and businesses within walking or biking distance, the addition of a new ferry stop at Queensbridge is a high priority.



Proposed Vision Plan (looking south from Queensboro Bridge and the East River)

What are the next steps?

This vision of a resilient waterfront addresses the extraordinary potential of Hunters Point North. Its multiple lines of resilience, respect for environmental resources, equitable distribution of economic development and public benefits, balanced development, support of a productive economy, and sustainable connections form a unified concept for achieving the promise and hopes of this community.



Hunters Point North Vision Plan for Resiliency

Building on the momentum of this community-based planning process, it is essential to continue **meaningful community participation** and ensure sustained resources.

Some priorities are:

- ◆ designing a **land value capture (LVC) program**, including a land pool and climate resiliency funds,
- ◆ exploring **technical feasibility** and collaborating with the public and private sectors on an action plan for implementation,
- ◆ developing a **comprehensive framework for sustainability** in Hunters Point North.

Ideally, a **comprehensive framework for the sustainability of Hunters Point North** will be developed, supporting the needs of LIC's vibrant neighborhoods and **bringing public and private sectors together to collaborate with the community** on mutually beneficial plans.

LIC COALITION

**Hunter's Point
Community Coalition**

For more information,
please visit hunterspoint-north.com