

COMMUNITY-DESIGNED WATERFRONT GREEN SPACE FOR THE SOUTH BRONX

MOTT HAVEN-PORT MORRIS WATERFRONT PLAN | SOUTH BRONX UNITE

The South Bronx is rich in culture, creativity, and resourcefulness, including activism and community organizing. However, systemic discrimination and disinvestment have left South Bronx residents vulnerable to social, economic, and environmental challenges and with limited access to resources. Compared to other areas in New York City, the South Bronx waterfront is characterized by polluting infrastructure, including power plants, waste transfer stations, last-mile warehouses, and expressways. New Yorkers for Parks data show that public and private investments in Bronx parks and open space are lacking compared to other boroughs.

The Mott Haven-Port Morris Plan Waterfront Plan, developed through a community visioning process led by South Bronx Unite, aims to increase access to the local waterfront and create green spaces to improve quality-of-life, mitigate air pollution, create better health outcomes, and protect the community from flooding from coastal storms and sea level rise.

TOTAL OPEN SPACE

MOTT HAVEN

1.1 ACRES
per 1,000 residents

STANDARD IN NYC

2.5 ACRES
per 1,000 residents



Table 1. Park maintenance costs by borough in Fiscal Year 2021

| BOROUGH | MAINTENANCE COST | COST PER PARK ACRE |
|---------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Queens | \$16,823,320 | \$2,164 |
| Brooklyn | \$16,037,076 | \$3,318 |
| Manhattan | \$13,801,987 | \$4,786 |
| Staten Island | \$10,810,830 | \$1,413 |
| Bronx | \$10,217,803 | \$1,418 |

Adapted from New Yorkers for Parks (2014), "Mott Haven Open Space Index"

THE MOTT HAVEN-PORT MORRIS WATERFRONT PLAN

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's 2016 Open Space Plan recognized the Waterfront Plan as a priority project.

Park Avenue Boat Launch & Waterfront Park

Lincoln Avenue Waterfront

Alexander Avenue Extension

Bronx Kill Waterfront

Stony Point Trail

Historic Port Morris Gantries
132nd-134th Connector Trail

East 132nd Street Pier

17.6 ACRES
of new park area along the waterfront

1,350
trees



7.15 ACRES
of greenspace with bioswales, rain gardens, and open grass lawns



6 MILES
of connecting/waterfront trails



Flood mitigation measures



THE WATERFRONT PLAN WILL PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Earth Economics, South Bronx Unite, and the Center for Sustainable Urban Development's Resilient Coastal Communities Project collaborated to estimate the value of Waterfront Plan's economic and community benefits.

The analysis finds that the Waterfront Plan will provide over **\$258 million** (USD 2021) in social, environmental, and economic benefits every year.

In addition, the Waterfront Plan will support **537 construction jobs** and another **1,063 jobs in related industries**, generating at least **\$105.3 million** (USD 2021) in local economic activity over 50 years.



Waterfront access points, waterfront trails, and parks beautify the community, increase opportunities to be in nature, and provide spaces for people to gather and engage in healthy physical activity, improving physical and mental health and nurturing a greater sense of belonging. Water-side parks and greenspaces can also host education and community events that help people feel connected to each other and the neighborhood.



Street trees, and greenspace provide additional benefits, reducing air, water, and noise pollution and reducing extreme heat through evapotranspiration and shade.



Bioswales, rain gardens and pervious pavements also provide environmental benefits, including lower stormwater management costs. Bioswales and raingardens are large garden beds filled with mulch, low-growing plants, and trees that collect, store and filter polluted stormwater before it infiltrates into the groundwater.

Investing in the Mott Haven-Port Morris Waterfront Plan will

- (1) advance environmental justice and equity in the South Bronx,**
- (2) revitalize local business, and**
- (3) support, strengthen, and promote local businesses.**

Together, these benefits of the Waterfront Plan reduce the impacts of unexpected events and natural disasters while strengthening community power and the ability to adapt to ever changing conditions.

For more information: info@southbronxunite.org