



BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD 8

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Laura Spalter, Chairperson

Ciara Gannon, District Manager

OFFICERS:

Vice Chairperson
Bob Bender

Secretary
Robert Jacklosky

Treasurer
Scott Krompinger

NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING

The regular Board Meeting of Bronx Community Board 8 will be held via Zoom on **Tuesday, January 10, 2022, at 7:00 PM.**

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2114033690>

Join Zoom Meeting by Phone: +16465588656

Passcode: 2114033690#

COMMITTEE CHAIRS:

Aging
Lisa Daub

Budget
David Gellman

Economic Development
Nicholas R. Fazio

Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs
Sylvia Alexander

Environment & Sanitation
Dr. Camelia Tepelus

Health, Hospitals & Social Services
Omar Murray

Housing
Stephen Vazquez

Land Use
Charles G. Moerdler

Law, Rules & Ethics
Martin Wolpoff

Parks & Recreation
Deb Travis

Public Safety
Edward Green

Traffic & Transportation
Kelli Buford

Youth
Julia Gomez

AGENDA

1. Public Gallery Session
2. Report from the Bronx Borough President's Office
3. Report from the 50th Police Precinct
4. Chairperson's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. District Manager's Report
7. Report from the NYC Department of City Planning
8. Roll Call
9. Committee Reports:
 - a) Aging
 - b) Budget
 - c) Economic Development
 - d) Education, Libraries & Cultural Affairs
 - e) Environment & Sanitation
 - f) Health, Hospitals & Social Services
 - g) Housing
 - h) Land Use
 - i) Law, Rules & Ethics
 - j) Parks & Recreation
 - k) Public Safety
 - l) Traffic & Transportation
 - m) Youth
 - n) Special Committee on Hudson River Greenway
 - o) Special Committee on Racial Equity
 - p) Special Committee on Veteran Services
10. Discussion of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of January 7, 2023
11. Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of December 10, 2022
12. Miscellaneous Business

Laura Spalter
Chairperson

1 – Operating Budget Update – FY2023

The budget for FY 2023 is \$259,208. This includes the standard budget allocated to Community Boards for FY2023.

Appropriation	Budget	Allocated	Remaining
Personal Services (PS)	\$ 219,117	\$ 98,303	\$ 120,814
Other Than Personal Services (OTPS)	\$40,091	\$7,683	\$32,408
<i>Total</i>	\$ 259,208	\$ 105,986	\$ 153,222

This report details the progress on the current budget to date. Please note that ‘allocated’ includes money spent as well as encumbered but not yet paid.

1.1 - Other Than Personal Services Detail

The table below summarizes the progress to date on the various object codes within the OTPS budget. There is \$25,071 in holding code 499.

Object Codes	Budget	Allocated	Remaining
100s - Supplies	\$2,500	\$1,656	\$844
300s – Equipment	\$3,250	\$1,743	\$1,507
400s – Office Items + Other	\$28,491	\$26	\$28,465
600s - Services	\$5,750	\$4,258	\$ 1,492
700s - Fees	\$100	\$ -	\$ 100
Total OTPS	\$ 40,091	\$ 7,683	\$ 32,408

1.2 – Budget Modifications

There are no budget modifications.

1.3 – Purchase Order & Accounts Payable update

As of the date of this report, the Community Board has \$0 in requested funds and holds \$2,943 in encumbered funds.

“Requested” funds include any items that the board office has requested to purchase but have not been purchased yet.

“Encumbered” funds include any items that have been purchased, inputted into the system and are awaiting payment.

Object Codes	Requested	Encumbered
100s - Supplies	\$ -	\$ 442
300s – Equipment	\$ -	\$ 777
400s – Office Items + Other*	\$ -	\$ 26
600s - Services	\$ -	\$ 1,698
700s - Fees	\$ -	\$ -
Total OTPS	\$ -	\$ 2,943

1.4 – Rent and Energy Detail

The budget for rent and energy is maintained separately from the standard community board budget. This is allocated and maintained directly by OMB per the lease contract. Progress is detailed below for reference.

Object Codes	Budget	Allocated	Remaining
414 – Lease	\$ 64,427	\$ 63,146	\$ 1,281
42C – Heat, Light & Power	\$ 3,022	\$ 1284	\$ 1,738
499 - Other	\$ 2	\$ -	\$ 2
Total OTPS	\$ 67,451	\$ 64,430	\$ 3,021

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BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD NO. 8 RESOLUTION

Environment and Sanitation Committee for Submission to the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
New York New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Study Tier 1 Feasibility Study (NYNJHATS)

WHEREAS, the CB8 Environment and Sanitation Committee (E&S) reviewed the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) New York New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Study Tier 1 Feasibility Study (NYNJHATS) available at <https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Projects-in-New-York/New-York-New-Jersey-Harbor-Tributaries-Focus-Area-Feasibility-Study/>, and its impacts on the Bronx Community Board 8 district;

WHEREAS, the CB8 E&S Committee “Water Working Group” submitted a report on the feasibility study to the E&S committee on January 3, 2023 for consideration by the committee;

WHEREAS, the main concerns of the CB8 E&S Committee relate to the possibility of the proposed changes in the Manhattan harbor area to direct more water north, impacting Bronx CB8 district, potentially increasing pressure against the outbound water from combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfalls and simultaneously exacerbating existing storm surge flooding patterns and conditions;

WHEREAS, the main recommendation from the Bronx CB8 E&S Committee is for USACE to study the impact of the additional water volume on the northern bank of the Harlem River, and to mitigate against stormwater backups in the Northwest Bronx;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Bronx CB8 approves the attached “*Bronx Community Board 8 Comments on the NYNJHATS Tier 1 Feasibility Study*”, as its comment on the study.

Unanimously approved by the E&S Committee on January 3, 2023.

Mr. Bryce W. Wisemiller, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District
Jacob K. Javits Federal Building, Room 17-401

Ms. Cheryl R. Alkemeyer, NEPA Lead
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New York District
Jacob K. Javits Federal Building, Room 17-420

c/o PSC Mail Center
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278

via email to: nynjharbor.tribstudy@usace.army.mil

Please find attached the submission of the Bronx Community Board No. 8 Environment and Sanitation Committee to the NYNJHATS project of the US Army Corps of Engineers.

We appreciate US ACE consideration of the information included.

Sincerely,

Dr. Camelia Tepelus
CB8 Environment & Sanitation Committee Chair

Laura Spalter
Bronx CB8 Board Chair

Bronx Community Board 8 Comments on the NYNJHATS Tier 1 Feasibility Study, for Submission to the NYNHATS Project of the USACE

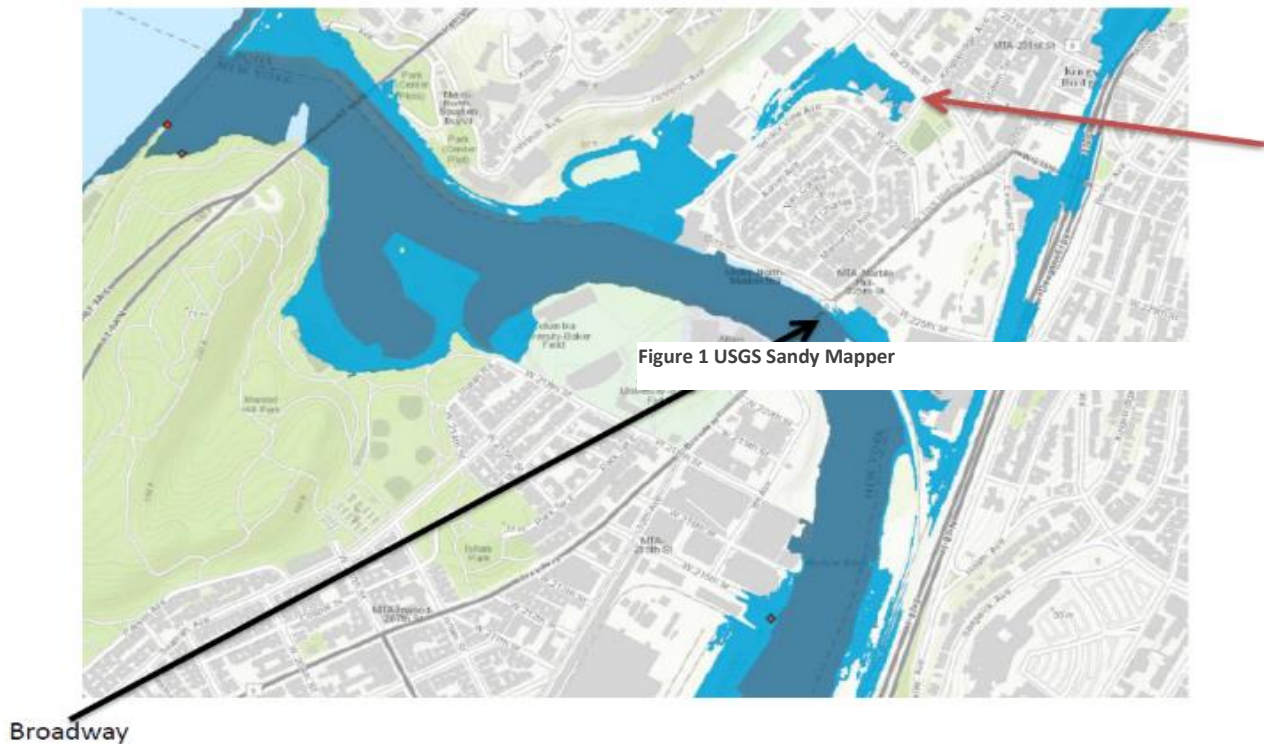
This report was drafted by the Water Working Group of the Environment and Sanitation Committee of Bronx Community Board 8 (CB8), and approved by the CB8 Environment and Sanitation Committee on January 3, 2023, to be provided as input to the NYNJHATS project of the US Army Corps of Engineers (ACE).

Summary

This submission is in response to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACE) New York New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries Study Tier 1 Feasibility Study (HATS), and its impacts on the community within the Bronx Community Board 8 district, Bronx County, NY.

The Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) chosen, or “Alternative 3B, is a Multi-basin Storm Surge Barriers with Shore-Based Measures.” The TSP includes a combination of coastal storm risk management (CSRМ) measures that function as a system to manage the risk of coastal storm damage in the New York Metropolitan Area, including a combination of shore-based and in-water measures.

USGS SANDY MAPPER: Spuyten Duyvil, Harlem River, Kennedy HS, Putnam Rail



These measures, located within the Hackensack/Passaic, Upper Bay/Arthur Kill, Lower Hudson/East River, Long Island Sound and Jamaica Bay Planning Regions, **appear to potentially neglect important low-lying areas of the Bronx** – a major part of which is home to many low-income and historically disadvantaged communities.

Despite the assertion that the TSP measures include complementary “Induced Flooding-Mitigation Features and Risk Reduction Features as well as nonstructural measures and natural and nature-based features”, the Bronx CB8 finds these to likely be insufficient.

Moreover, the proposal does not sufficiently adopt a watershed approach to the feasibility study, missing important unintended impacts, such as additional pressure and water volume management to and from the north.

1. Bronx CB 8 during Superstorm Sandy

During the 2012 Super Storm Sandy event, the surge along the Harlem River extended north to 238th Street on the land — specifically along the old Putnam Railroad bed, and into a spot along the picnic area at the lower edge of the Van Cortlandt Park — near the lower wetlands. One could imagine that there was a reason that the surge did not turn left to the Hudson. The Spuyten Duyvil Metro North station was under water. The storm surge from the lower Hudson River was stronger than the surge from the Harlem River.

2. Bronx CB8 Current Conditions

The 56 acres of freshwater wetlands in Van Cortlandt Lake/Pond, wetlands and buffers are protected by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The Army Corps of Engineers is required under section 404 of the Clean Water Act to protect wetlands and our waterways.

In 2012, there was more parkland and undeveloped permeable space south of CB8 along the Bronx side of the Harlem River, which has subsequently been developed and is now primarily impervious. The entire South Bronx waterfront from Lincoln Avenue to 152nd Street is currently completely developed. During Super Storm Sandy, this area was under 8 inches of water.

In CB8, there has also been a large increase of housing development adjacent to the area of the 2012 surge. The increased development with little or no additional infrastructure, may explain the severe flooding during 2021 Ida Remnant — with tens of cars blocked under water on the Major Deegan Highway.

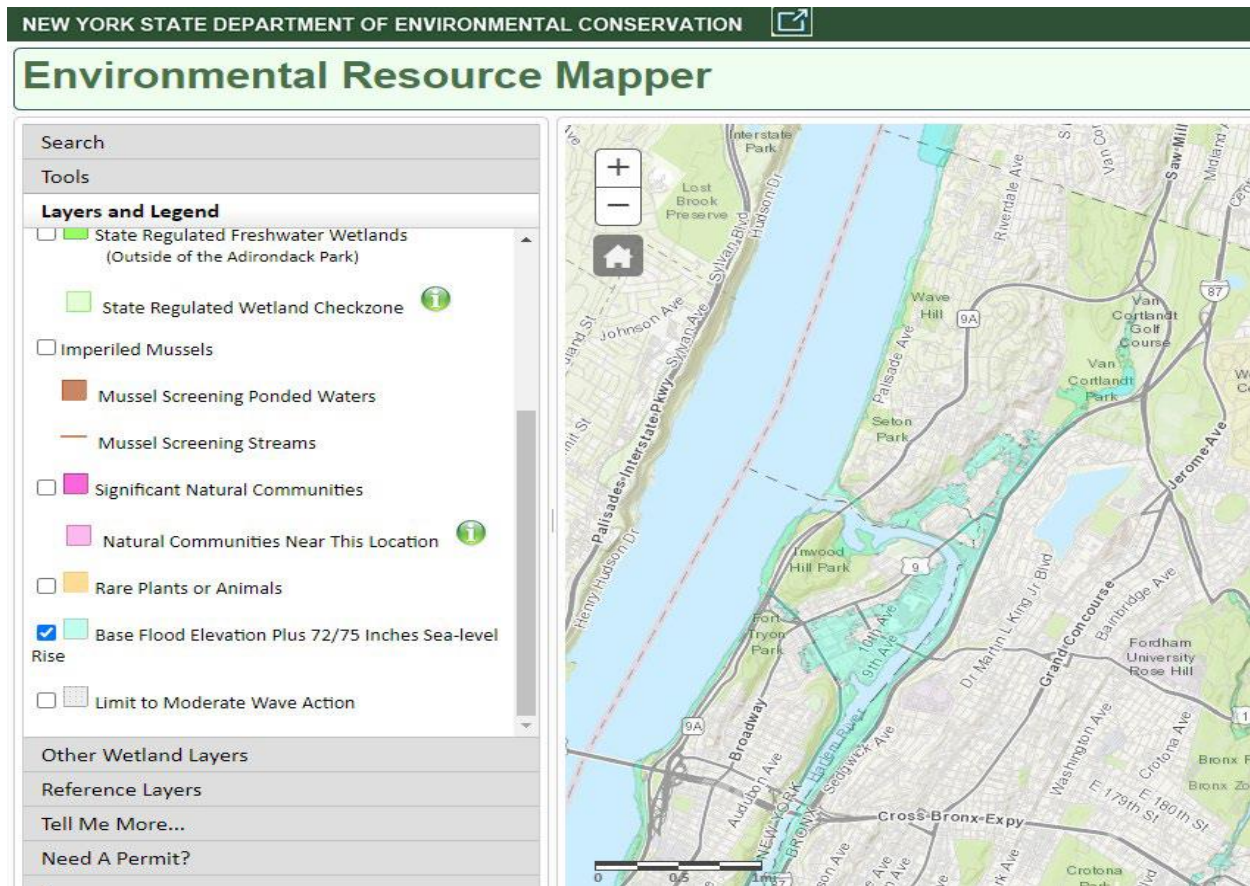


Figure 2 NYS DEC Environmental Resource Mapper

3. Tibbetts Brook Watershed Project, Largest Green Infrastructure Project in NYC

The Daylighting of Tibbetts Brook is a NYC DEP-led project aiming to daylight Tibbetts Brook currently diverted into the NYC sewer system. The project is anticipated to be completed in 2025, at a time when the Tier 2 of the NYNJHATS study may also be available. The main need for the Tibbetts Brook Daylighting is to partially alleviate chronic flooding that already exists along both the west side of the Broadway commercial corridor, and on the east side toward the Major Deegan Highway.

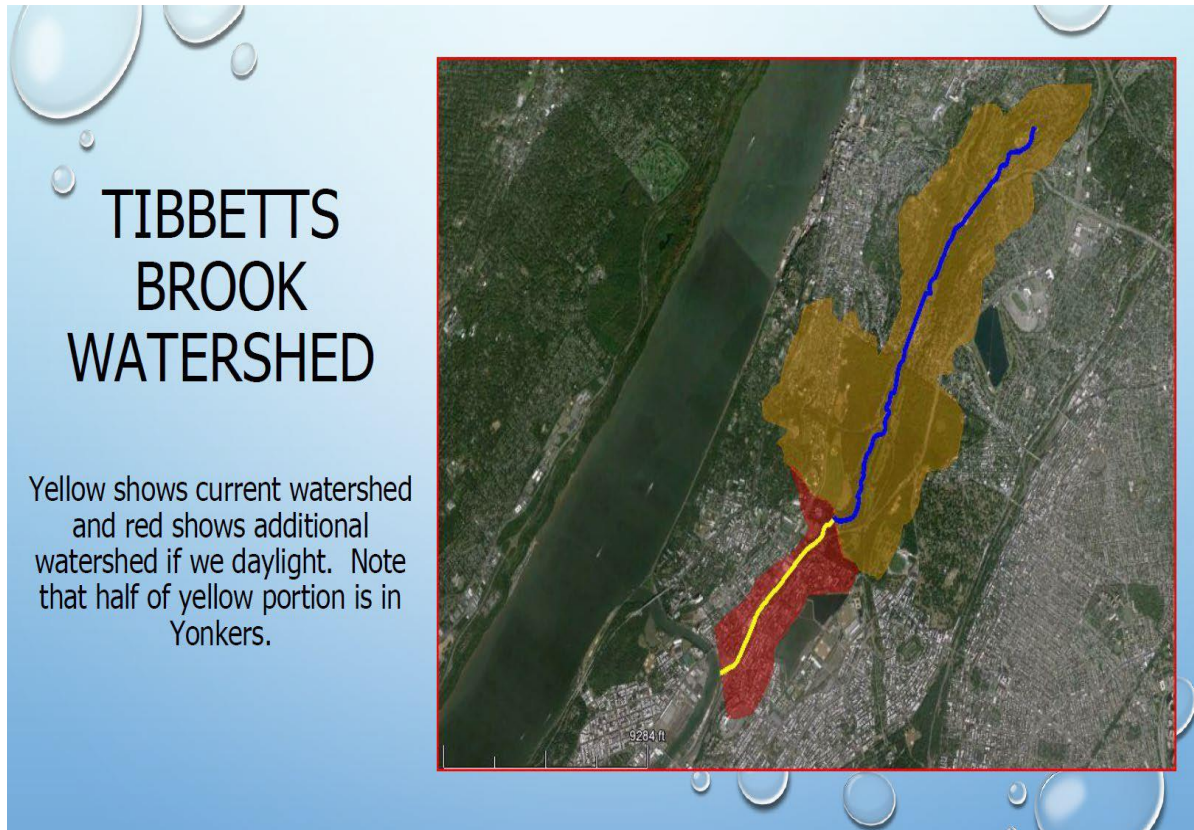
One hundred years ago the area was all wetlands. As the City grew, those wetlands were filled in. Even then, the water was so high, that excess water had to be drained from the Van Cortlandt Park Lake into the sewer system. Since that time, four major highways were developed to cross the park, including the Saw Mill River Parkway, Major Deegan Expressway, Mosholu Parkway, Henry Hudson Parkway. All of them are vulnerable to dangerous flooding.

Development did not only come from the south. The built-up areas of the Tibbetts Brook watershed in Westchester County added to the extremely high-water table within Van

Cortlandt Park. From work of the NY City Department of Environmental Protection, 65% of the water entering Van Cortlandt Park wetlands comes from Yonkers.

We are concerned that the mitigations discussed in the current version of the study will have a direct impact on Van Cortlandt Lake (a DEC protected fresh water wetland) once the daylighting project is completed due to blocking outfalls and increasing storm surge by directing more water north.

Figure 3 Friends of Van Cortlandt Park power point



4. Bronx CB8 Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) Concerns

We are concerned the changes you propose will direct more water north, directly at the area of Bronx CB8 district, and increase pressure against the outbound water from CSO outfall, WI-056.

This is the largest discharge in the city (and is half the discharge of the other 72+ Harlem River outfalls). Each day, there are new pipes connected to discharge into the Harlem River with the new buildings going up. It seems like a modicum of softening of the shore through additional plant matter and recreating the wetland natural edge would be highly impactful, creating a natural absorption and drainage buffer to the water line.

5. Engineering with Nature / Nature Based Natural Features / Green Infrastructure (GI)

We acknowledge that the risk of flooding is not manageable by Green Infrastructure alone. We understand that one tree alone cannot help, but a forest might. We are not talking about a simple bioswale or bioretention garden. Just like the power of a tree can be expanded to a forest, a continuous linear rain garden living shoreline can be envisioned and built.

Furthermore, the Bronx lost shoreline over the years. It's also worth noting that the best way to get a walking/bike connection between the Harlem River Greenway and the Hudson River Greenway would be a walkway extension over the water with green infrastructure and plant matter underneath.

A project similar to this tide deck in Manhattan could be considered:

<https://hudsonriverpark.org/locations/pier-26/>

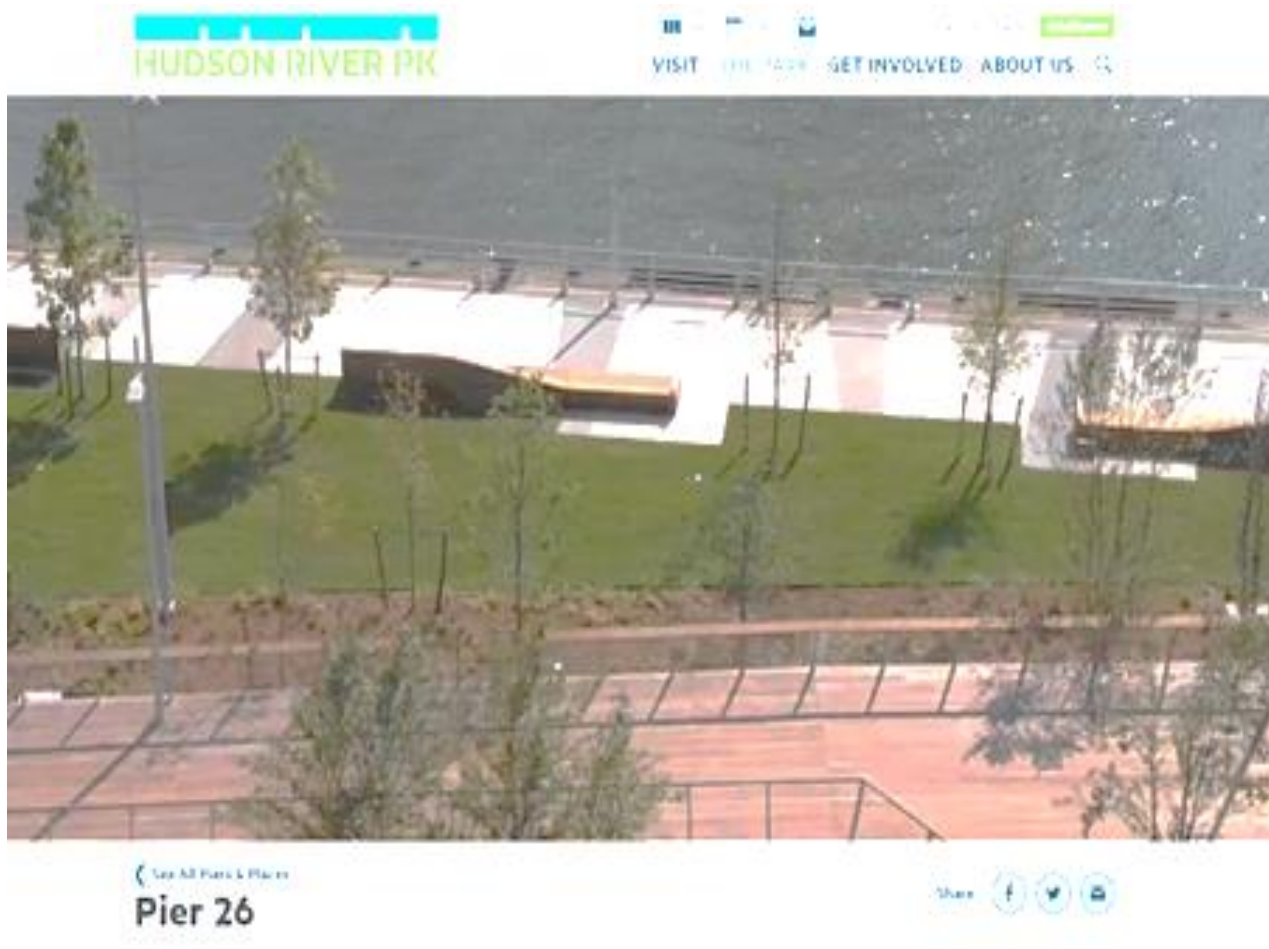


Figure 4 Tide Deck in Hudson River Park

RECOMMENDATIONS

The main recommendation of the Bronx CB8 is for US ACE to consider undertaking a study of the impact of the additional water volume on communities north of the project zone and to mitigate against storm surge backups in the Northwest Bronx.

This study should compare the impacts and costs of softening the impacts of the hard edge with a natural shoreline along our most southern waterfront along the Metro North. The study should also review the hydraulic pressure of a surge in the Hudson River to ascertain if it forces more water through the Spuyten Duyvil "Creek" and over to the Harlem River.

In addition, along the Hudson are CSO outfall pipes at the western edge of CB8. We anticipate that by the time the Tier 2 study would take place, there will be additional large construction including building Continuing Care Residential Centers close to the Hudson River shoreline both upland and inland. It is also worth noting that, during Hurricane Sandy the Westchester County Sewer Treatment Plant in Yonkers discharged contents into the Hudson.

The potential confluence of the increased volume and pressure to the northeast may result in greater flooding than would ever occur, absent these forces. The concern here is that every action has an equal and opposite reaction, and communities such as the Bronx CB8 neighborhoods abutting both Hudson and Harlem Rivers will be impacted negatively.

Finally, we urge USACE to consider further reviewing the existing plan and incorporate an approach that is more watershed-based, to complement existing risk management plans for NYC. We also ask USACE to consider shoreline configurations that use 'engineering with nature' techniques rather than an excessive reliance on concrete barriers, impacting greenhouse gases.

We appreciate US ACE consideration to this submission of the Bronx CB8 Environment and Sanitation Committee.

CB8 Environment and Sanitation Committee is profoundly grateful and thanks our "Water Working Group" (Karen Argenti - Lead, Robert Fanuzzi, Debra Travis, Robert Spalter) for the research on this topic.

Bronx Community Board 8








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DOT Truck Route

-  Limited Local
-  Local
-  Through

Best Usage Classification

-  Bathing, Boating, Fishing, Shellfishing (SA)
-  Bathing, Boating, Fishing (SB)
-  Limited Bathing, Boating, Fishing (SC)
-  Boating, Fishing (I)
-  Fishing Only (SD)

Community District

Parks and Recreation Committee
Bronx Community Board No. 8
Approval of Amateur Astronomers Association Public Observatory
from December 22, 2022 Meeting

WHEREAS, the Amateur Astronomers Association presented their proposal for the first public observatory in New York City to be located in Jerome Park along Goulden Avenue south of Jerome Park Reservoir Gatehouse #5 to the Community Board 8 Parks and Recreation Committee on December 22, 2022;

WHEREAS, the Parks Department has granted initial approval for the observatory structure, which previously resided on the campus of Nassau Community College in Garden City, New York and was transferred to the Amateur Astronomers Association to be used as a public observatory as part of their citywide programming;

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) who operates the Jerome Park Reservoir, has been consulted on the planned programming and approved the siting of the observatory;

WHEREAS, the observatory will have a zero carbon footprint and the Amateur Astronomers Association has agreed to modify their planned observatory walkway to construct it of permeable materials which they will maintain;

WHEREAS, the Amateur Astronomers Association is a 95-year-old not-for-profit organization with 60 years of experience planning events in New York City parks;

WHEREAS, the Amateur Astronomers Association has already formed programming partnerships with Bronx High School of Science and Lehman College and will be reaching out to all schools around the Jerome Park Reservoir to encourage their participation in programming at the observatory;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Community Board 8 supports the Amateur Astronomers Association's proposal for the observatory at Jerome Park Reservoir with a permeable walkway.

Committee Vote:

Favor: Ramdat, Rob Jacklosky, Ramdat Singh, Deb Travis (Chair), Leona Teten

Oppose: None

Absent: Bob Bender

RESOLUTIONS
Public Safety Committee
Bronx Community Board 8
December 20th, 2022

RENEWAL APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, Miguel Acosta, Representative of Yukka Latin Bistro, located at 5684 Riverdale Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on December 20th, 2022 to renew this establishment's liquor license.

WHEREAS, Representatives of NYPD's 50th Precinct stated they were unaware of any prior notable disturbances or complaints at the location of this establishment.

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

Therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED**, Bronx Community Board 8 approves this application.

Approve in favor 4: C. Calhoun, I. DeLeon, E. Green, B. Kaplan.

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

RENEWAL APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider.

WHEREAS, Sandra Klipstein, a Representative of TCR Tennis Club of Riverdale, Inc., located at 2600 Netherland Avenue, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on December 20th, 2022 to renew this establishment's liquor license.

WHEREAS, Representatives of NYPD's 50th Precinct stated they were unaware of any prior notable disturbances or complaints at the location of this establishment.

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

Therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED**, Bronx Community Board 8 approves this application.

Approve in favor 4: C. Calhoun, I. DeLeon, E. Green, B. Kaplan.

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

NEW APPLICATION: Liquor, Wine, Beer & Cider

WHEREAS, Miguel Acosta, Representative of Ezili Luxury Hall Corp, located at 5540 Broadway, appeared before the Public Safety Committee on December 20th, 2022 for a new liquor license.

WHEREAS, a 2AM agreement was signed by the establishment's owner and received by the Board.

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee unanimously approved this application.

Therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED**, Bronx Community Board 8 approves this application.

Approve in favor 4: C. Calhoun, I. DeLeon, E. Green, B. Kaplan.

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0
