



Making *Waves*
2017 community action plan

Coney Island Creek & Parklands



Cover photo: Coney Island Creek. Credit: Charles Denson.
Inside cover: City Parks Foundation Coastal Classroom students working together in Kaiser Park.

All photos in this plan by the Partnerships for Parks Catalyst Program, unless otherwise noted.

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Connecting community to Coney Island Creek. Members of Coney Island Explorers and Coney Island Girl Scouts on a NYC Parks guided trip to discover and monitor horseshoe crabs. Citizen science projects are part of the community plan to gauge the health of the Creek estuary. Photo: Eddie Mark

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Community leadership in restoring the Creek



CONEY ISLAND BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT is an environmental organization that came into existence to help our community respond to the huge impacts of Superstorm Sandy. Our members wanted to respond to the devastation inflicted by the storm to help community members care for our local environment and build hope and relationships through cleanups and plantings. Since the storm we have continued to grow and now help convene key community conversations about important local environmental issues such as water quality & safety; resiliency and flood protection; stormwater management; waterfront access & programming; alternate forms of transportation for Coney Island; and various green infrastructure possibilities. Under CIBP President Pamela Pettyjohn's leadership, we have hosted the City of Water Day festival for 4 years along Coney Island Creek, and lead more than 10 environmental engagement events annually. We partner with dozens of community groups, schools and varying sized agencies to bring resources and expertise to our community members. We are a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit environmental organization and are building our capacity for greater impact. We are committed to supporting community participation in environmental solutions for issues that we all face together in Coney Island.



THE CONEY ISLAND HISTORY PROJECT, founded in 2004, is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that aims to increase awareness of Coney Island's legendary and colorful past and to encourage appreciation of the Coney Island neighborhood of today. As part of its community involvement, the CIHP teaches young people and community members about Coney Island Creek and its history, potential, and challenges. CIHP Executive Director Charles Denson has given "Creek Talks" for the past 15 years and has documented the creek's century-long history of pollution and neglect, while advocating for the creek's restoration as a thriving wetland ecosystem. A restored Coney Island Creek salt marsh would naturally protect the Coney Island peninsula against storm surges and provide community benefits. The Coney Island History Project continues to challenge policy makers to recognize that Coney Island Creek is a crucial part of the local bioregion that is appreciated and used by many in the community. Restoration of the creek ecosystem will help to guide policy decisions about resiliency, sewage spills, and stormwater management, leading to a protected, healthier Coney Island community.

Partnerships for Parks and City Parks Foundation support park and open space engagement for all of Coney Island (and communities everywhere in New York City). With funding from the New York Department of State, under title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund, Partnerships for Parks Catalyst program provided enhanced support for stewardship efforts for Coney Island Creek. Building from a community visioning session named **Making Waves** at the end of 2014, Catalyst supported the above groups while they led collaborative community efforts to restore and protect the Creek.



CULTURAL RESEARCH DIVERS is the community-directed, marine education effort led by Gene Ritter, a recently retired union commercial diver who led numerous diving exhibitions in the waters around Coney Island throughout his career. He is committed to providing vocational and educational opportunities for the next workforce generation that will protect, study, and work on Brooklyn's waterfront. He conceived of and led the 2012, large-scale Coney Island Creek event, **Beyond The Sea**, which brought hundreds to the Creek to remove trash and learn about the Creek. Superstorm Sandy hit the community just 10 days later, derailing much of the momentum and excitement from the event as priorities shifted to recovery mode in Coney Island. He and his wife Beth, (who both grew up in Coney Island) persevered, and stayed committed to protecting the Creek and involving future generations. Both are NY State Marine Education Association board members. Gene was inspired by Partnerships for Parks' long-standing, "It's My Park" community stewardship campaign. He created an event where he intentionally shifted the call to service to "It's My Estuary Day," an annual event that engages hundreds, to help community members learn about and care for Coney Island Creek's ecosystem.



JOHN DEWEY HIGH SCHOOL and their excellent STEM programs have been leading service-learning projects at Coney Island Creek for 6 years. They have organized and led large-scale beach cleanups and marine environmental learning events open to all local schools and community members. The school is instrumental in organizing the annual International Coastal Cleanup Day and It's My Estuary Day service learning events at Kaiser Park and Coney Island Creek. These events are large-scale, school and community partner collaborations. These events provided a positive framework for many local schools to cooperate, and yielded the Brooklyn Marine STEM Education Alliance. This alliance brings teachers and schools together from more than 20 South Brooklyn schools to foster real-world, project-based, outdoor learning opportunities for students. John Dewey science teacher Lane Rosen is the president of the New York State Marine Education Association, which encourages teachers to connect students with outdoor learning opportunities. Dewey students involved in robotics/SeaPerch programs, under the direction of Filippo Dispenza, have created robots that collect trash from the floor of Coney Island Creek. Dewey alum Dr. Meryl Kafka continues to provide leadership and expertise to many Creek related efforts.

Large-scale Creek community stewardship and engagement events were dubbed "Making Waves" events. The above groups worked in collaboration with each other and also led individual, distinct projects that engaged thousands of community members in extraordinary efforts to teach & learn about, care for, and protect Coney Island Creek. The "vision" of this community action plan was achieved by working with these partners and listening and learning from hundreds of community members during the events documented in this report. Their work has been outstanding.

CONEY ISLAND CREEK: HISTORY & CHALLENGES

Reversing a century of neglect

Coney Island Creek is the last remnant of a vast and vibrant salt marsh estuary that once covered nearly 3,000 acres between the sand dunes of Coney Island and the glacial plain of what is now Southern Brooklyn. The waterway became Coney Island's earliest attraction as the island's first hotels sprang up along the creek's shoreline during the 1820s. Until the late 19th century, pristine Coney Island Creek remained a popular destination for boating, fishing, crabbing, and hunting waterfowl.

The sprawling resorts that opened along the oceanfront in the 1870s began using the creek to dispose of raw sewage, initiating of a pattern of abuse that continued for the next century. As Coney Island developed and grew into the "World's Playground," the surrounding marshes were filled in with garbage and ash, polluting the creek and transforming it into a two-mile long industrial waterway that still drains Southern Brooklyn through numerous storm sewer systems. For several decades, the neglected and toxic creek survived misguided attempts to destroy it by filling it in rather than restoring it.

The Clean Water Act of 1972 and a new ecological awareness changed public perception and gave new life to Coney's neglected waterway. The 100,000 residents who live in close proximity to Coney Island Creek are coming to realize that the creek can be an asset instead of a liability. It's now a case for Environmental Justice. For years the surrounding community was exposed to pollution that could have been eliminated if laws were enforced. Today the creek has four parks along its shoreline and is once again being used for recreation, fishing, and boating. But much work remains to be done in restoring and protecting this dynamic ecosystem. This work will require a collaborative effort, and Making Waves is working with the community to achieve this goal.

By Charles Denson, Coney Island History Project



Toxic coal tar was removed from a section of the Creek during a 2006 remediation. Photo: Charles Denson.



Community members and students study and care for Coney Island Creek, It's My Estuary Day, May 2015.



1 Calvert Vaux Park

2 Six Diamonds Park

3 Kaiser Park

4 Coney Island Creek Park

5 Gravesend Bay

6 Coney Island Creek

7 Coney Island

8 Atlantic Ocean

WATER QUALITY

Restoring and protecting the Creek

Successes

Convened hundreds of people in community visioning activities to think about Coney Island Creek concerns.

Removed 30K pounds of debris from the water and beaches of Coney Island Creek.

Connected numerous experts to help care for and protect the Creek, including: Waterfront Alliance, Stormwater Infrastructure Matters (SWIM) Coalition, the NYC Water Trail Association, New York City Soil and Water Conservation District, NYC Water Trail Association, and the Riverkeeper.

Responded to key community concern, *Is the water in the creek clean?* by studying the bacteria counts with the Citizen Water Quality Testing Program and discovering a massive, illegal sewage discharge into the Creek. With the magnitude of the 2016 sewage discovery...

Converted our traditional International Coastal Cleanup Day event into an inland Kaiser Park cleanup and community press conference. The press conference mobilized hundreds and called for clean waters, accountability for the polluters, and to establish continued, independent oversight for the Creek.

Worked with local officials and Community Board 13 to improve community pollution alerts by NYC DEP and with NYS DEC to achieve environmental justice by holding recent polluters accountable. NYC DEP recently installed warning signs to alert the community to the continued sewage discharges into the Creek.



Students and community members cleaning Coney Island Creek's shoreline at Kaiser Park. International Coastal Cleanup Day, September 2015.



Taking a water sample from the Creek as part of the Citizens Water Quality Testing Program. September 2016. Photo: Charles Denson



Using more trash booms in the Creek will help us remove floating garbage. Photo: Charles Denson



John Dewey High School and Coney Island Beautification Project worked with community and local officials to prevent the loss of International Coastal Cleanup Day and converted it into a park cleanup and Creek advocacy event. Here, a press conference along the Creek in response to the Creek sewage crisis, October 2016.



Community members participating in a citizen science outing with NYC Parks Natural Resources Group, monitoring, counting, and tagging horseshoe crabs at Kaiser Park. June 2016. Photo: Eddie Mark

Looking Forward

Will engage more volunteers in the Citizen Water Quality Testing program to maintain community vigilance in monitoring and protecting our waters.

Will pilot and advance community monitoring programs of the over 100 water outfalls into the creek to catch and prevent illegal sewage discharges.

Will enlist community and students in citizen science efforts like horseshoe crab monitoring to understand the health of our Creek's ecosystem.

Will pilot and employ key Green Infrastructure measures and other technologies in keeping the creek clean, such as:

- Enhancing and expanding wetlands and embracing “living shorelines.”
- Growing oyster reefs to help filter the waters of Coney Island Creek naturally. One oyster filters 50 gallons of water per day!
- Using booms that catch floatables at the opening of Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) pipes.

Will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the NYC DEP Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) for Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO's) into Coney Island Creek.

Will continue to advocate that NYC DEP designate Coney Island Creek as a priority water body, and help them develop and implement their Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) plan and water quality improvement program for the Creek.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT and EDUCATION

Community building for a lifetime relationship with our environment

Successes

Our major waterfront events (It's My Estuary Day, City Of Water Day, International Coastal Cleanup Day, and Beyond The Sea Festival) have brought more than 5000 students and community members to Coney Island Creek for service and learning programs.

Our outdoor marine science festival, It's My Estuary Day, inspired the Chancellor of NYC Schools, Carmen Fariña, to participate, where she called our event “a model for community and school partnership that should be elevated. This kind of community work brings outdoor learning alive for our students, families and community members.”

Our large-scale school collaborations at Kaiser Park have helped yield the Brooklyn Marine STEM Education Alliance, led by teachers in our coalition. This network of over 30 South Brooklyn schools is now a DOE recognized program that fosters best environmental and outdoor education practices through professional development days, conferences and skill sharing sessions.

Brooklyn Marine STEM Education Alliance is working with dozens of schools and community partners to create a K-College STEM pipeline, where we prepare our young people for careers that interact with South Brooklyn's most abundant natural resource – the water and environment that is all around us. Key education hubs such as Brooklyn College, Science and Resiliency Institute of Jamaica Bay and Kingsborough Community College are working with us to realize this vision.

Coney Island Beautification Project worked with the Stormwater Infrastructure Matters (S.W.I.M) Coalition, and the WCS New York Aquarium to provide a series of community workshops with policy makers on topics such as: Green Infrastructure, Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO's), and Community Notification procedures and recommendations in times of Creek emergencies.



Events like It's My Estuary Day bring more than 30 schools and organizations together to learn about and care for our environment. May 2016



Community members feel energized after a workshop about environmental issues facing Coney Island Creek and the community. February 2017, NY Aquarium. Photo: Orlando Mendez



Students learn about marine life in the Creek. City Of Water Day, July 2016.



Charles Denson of Coney Island History Project has been providing creekside learning opportunities.



Gene Ritter of Cultural Research Divers has been leading a range of environmental and vocational waterfront learning experiences. Photo: Gregory Mango, NY Post

Looking Forward

Create a modern outdoor classroom and environmental science center along Coney Island Creek to build world class education and vocational learning opportunities for our students and community members. Let's welcome community to the creek.

Continue building on the exceptional program successes of City Parks Foundation's Coastal Classroom, the WCS New York Aquarium's Outreach, Education and NY Seascape Programs, and the New York State Marine Education Association. Our partners provide some of the best outdoor learning experiences available in New York City.

Support and advance our exceptional partnerships with programs like Billion Oyster Project, American Littoral Society, Horseshoe Crab Monitoring trips with New York City Parks, Fish Counts with New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation and vocational training programs with providers like the local Diver's Union 1556 and Kingsborough Community College.

Provide research and teaching grants to local teachers so that we can identify and share best outdoor classroom teaching practices in our region.

Build learning gardens and teaching areas in our parks so that children can learn about native plant and animal species in our unique estuary ecosystem.

Explore using the many submerged shipwrecks in the Creek to study marine habitats and to be considered for developing natural oyster beds.

Help students and community build pride and stay invested in our communities by leading service and planting projects for our parks, beaches and street trees.

ACCESS and ON-WATER PROGRAMMING

A community that connects with its water cares for its water

Successes

Thousands of New Yorkers now know and appreciate the Creek and park shorelines at places like Kaiser Park thanks to our volunteer driven events such as City Of Water Day, It's My Estuary Day, and International Coastal Cleanup Day.

Plaques that identify and teach about historical and environmental sites around the Creek at Kaiser and Calvert Vaux Parks were created and installed by Coney Island History Project (CIHP), helping to enrich the experience of countless natural explorers. CIHP also made brochures that guide readers to experience Creek walks in both parks that list many local historic and natural elements.

We have demonstrated that the lack of access and sight lines along the eastern end of the Creek promotes neglect, pollution, dumping and illicit sewage discharges into the Creek's waters. We continue to advocate for more access and visibility for this end of the Creek.

City Parks Foundation's Coastal Classroom has taught hundreds of middle school students through its excellent summer marine science institute. The flagship program for middle school students along Coney Island Creek continues to expand. Budding career naturalists from local high schools have assisted staff as educators and camp counselors.

Our community leaders such as Chancellor of New York City's public schools Carmen Fariña, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, Deputy Borough President Diana Reyna, State Assemblywoman Pam Harris, and New York City Councilman Mark Treyger have participated and support our STEM-driven, outdoor education and engagement practices. We have established a model and best practices that stand out in New York City.

We are all working together to prepare our young people to become the next generation workforce with careers that are rooted in and which care for our community's waterways and coastlines.



Students studying birds and wildlife during City Parks Foundation's Coastal Classroom annual summer institute for middle school students. July 2015.



Members of the Downtown Boathouse are supportive of community efforts for more free boating activities for our community. City Of Water Day, July 2016.



Coney Island History Project used a grant from Partnerships for Parks to create and install signs that teach about the history and ecology of the Creek and Kaiser and Calvert Vaux Parks. Photo: Charles Denson



Commercial union diver Bob Rieche teaching kids about careers and skills needed working with our waterways. It's My Estuary Day, May 2016.



Students from John Dewey High School studying an oyster reef during It's My Estuary Day, May 2015. Photo: Charles Denson.

Looking Forward

Establish a state-of-the art environmental science center to build on the amazing success of our growing network of outdoor educators and to help the community learn more about the incredible Creek estuary habitat.

Repair the fishing piers at Kaiser Park back to working order. Fishing is an important practice to many in our diverse communities and helps to feed local families.

Ensure that all points of the creek are open and suitable for public access and viewing, enabling community members to have proper sightlines for monitoring the Creek and preventing future illicit dumping and sewage discharges.

Improve the kayak launch points at Calvert Vaux park so the public can use them.

Expand the Billion Oyster programs education sites along Coney Island Creek. Use some of the many shipwrecks for protected oyster reefs and other marine research. Work to establish living oyster reefs to reestablish one of nature's greatest natural water filtering systems.

Connect more local schools to best outdoor classroom practices through professional development sessions, meet-ups, and start-up seed grants.

Engage the community in walking tours of Calvert Vaux park, enjoying the newly installed wayfinding signs that point at natural and historical points of interest.

Connect more local middle school children into the City Parks Foundation's Coastal Classroom, free summer education program, to develop our next generation of Creek stewards.

Work with community partners such as the Waterfront Alliance and The Downtown Boathouse to create a free, volunteer driven kayaking and canoeing program for community members.

RESILIENCY and FLOOD PROTECTION

Protecting our community and enhancing natural assets

Successes

Organized and rallied community voices to continue to inform policy makers about the need to protect the peninsula in ways that protect community members and restore the creek.

Organized dozens of local opportunities for community members to engage with policy makers, where they could express concerns, raise questions, and demand accountability. We have seen this advocacy influence government and private agency policy recommendations

Worked with the Waterfront Alliance on a consistent basis to connect Coney Island community members with key Creek issues. During their annual conferences

- **2015** We provided strong community representation during a special half-day session on Coney Island Creek.
- **2016** Coney Island History Project's Charles Denson presented best practices and engagement strategies for Coney Island Creek.
- **2017** Coney Island Beautification Project's Pamela Pettyjohn presented during the keynote session about the state of community waterfronts.

Advocated about the need for a Coney Island ferry service. We want to insure our community has reliable transportation, the ability to evacuate and have access to supplies in the event of emergency.

Partnered with the NYC DEP Rain Barrel Give-Away Program during Coney Island Beautification Project's City Of Water Day to help more community members capture stormwater during peak rain events to prevent stormwater from flooding streets, sewers, and ultimately, the Creek, and to promote water conservation for neighbors when they water their plants.

Worked with NYC DEP Stormwater Management Program and the Stormwater Infrastructure Matters (S.W.I.M.)

Coalition to present community workshops about Green Infrastructure programs.



Coney Island community members and advocates during the 2016 Waterfront Alliance annual conference.



Charles Denson of Coney Island History Project teaching youth about the history of the Creek and its floods, during a day with City Parks Foundation's Coastal Classroom program. Kaiser Park. July 2015.



Workshop participants during the Coney Island Creek Community Workshop, February 2016.



Enhancing wetlands on the Coney Island Creek will protect the community and provide healthier waters and a more resilient natural habitat. Photo: Charles Denson

Looking Forward

As we seek to promote community resilience and prevent catastrophic flooding like we saw in Superstorm Sandy, **we want to protect the community and Creek together.**

- **A FEMA certifiable project that maximizes enhanced and expanded wetlands, green infrastructure strategies and “living shoreline” methods** is possible and best for our community. Strong wetlands are nature’s great flood protectors. They help to naturally decompose heavy metals and also filter sewage out of the water.
- **Any flood protection measures should provide secondary benefits to our community and the natural habitat.**
- **Ferry service should become available to our community** to enhance connectivity with other boroughs and to protect us during severe storm events. Any additional flood protections and resiliency measures should be designed so they do not prevent access for ferry service to the Coney Island community. Storm surge protections should enhance quality of life and not impede opportunities for those living on the peninsula.
- **Secondary benefits such as increased access to the waterfront, walking and bike paths** are desired. The use of outdoor classrooms for environmental learning has been an excellent and growing practice here. Flood interventions and adaptations to the parklands and Creek should enhance opportunities for this practice, not disrupt it.

BLUEWAYS and GREENWAYS

Connecting Coney Island to New York City: ferry service, paddling, and biking

Successes

“Blueways” are another term for water trails. They are designated routes that allow access to waterways for non-motorized boats (and sometimes motorized vessels), innertubes, and other craft like canoes, kayaks, and rowboats.

- **Mobilized community members to testify** about the need for a Coney Island Ferry service.
- **Worked with local officials to test ferry service** in the Creek to study viability and water currents.
- **Participated with Pratt graduate student** and Taconic Fellow Inna Guzenfeld in building a community case for the development of a Coney Island Ferry.

“Greenways” are trails, open-spaces, or even strips of undeveloped land near an urban area, set aside for recreational use or environmental protection.

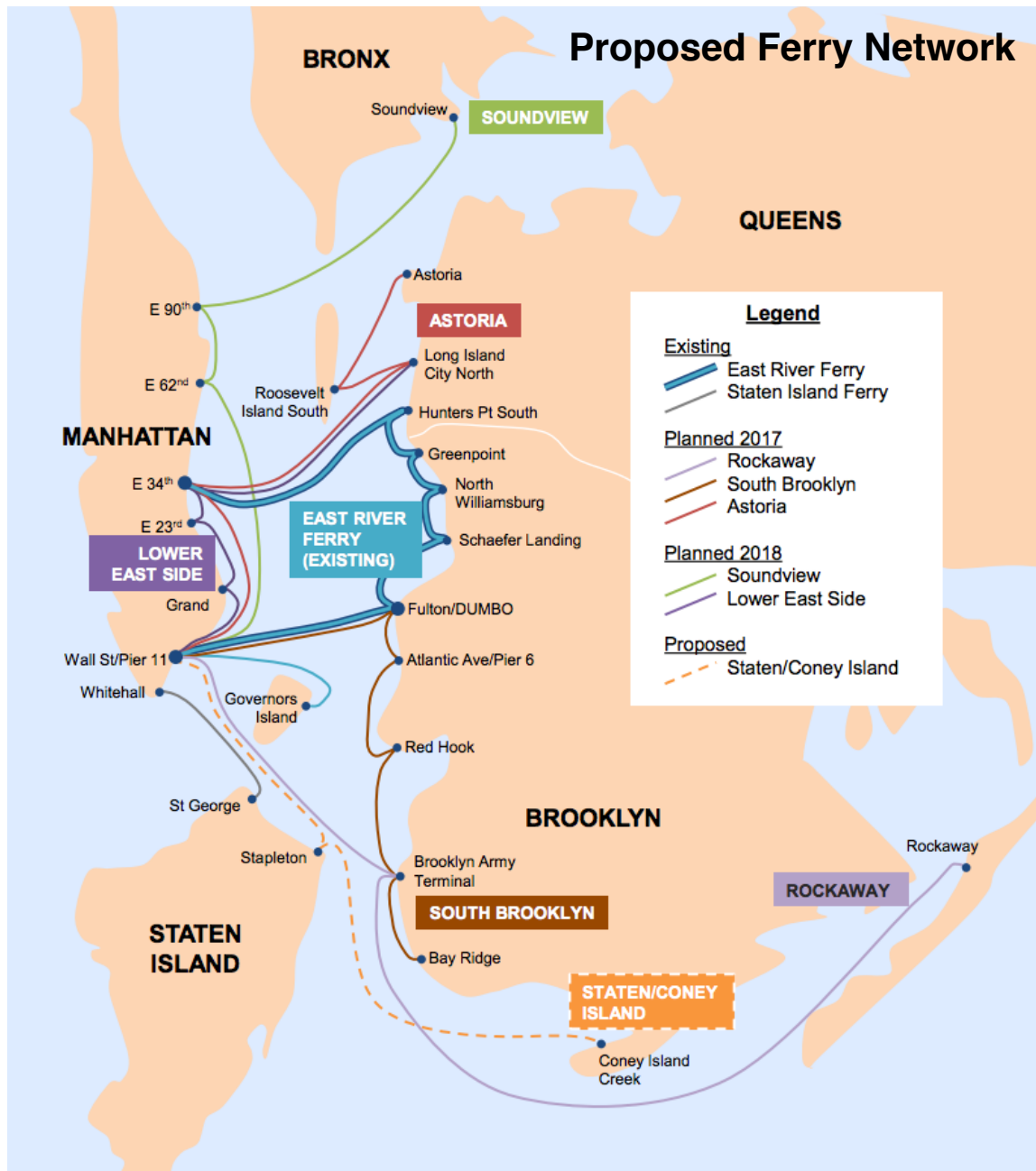
- **Supported several Brooklyn Greenway Initiative events** and fundraisers. Getting the Brooklyn Greenway to connect Red Hook to Coney Island and then to Riis Beach is a priority for many community members. The Brooklyn Greenway today is currently interrupted just north of Calvert Vaux Park.
- **Community members have advocated for bike racks** in Calvert Vaux and Kaiser Park to support increased bike use for community members and visitors. Community has also called for improved bike paths that enhance shorelines.



Explorers and Girl Scouts worked with Coney Island Beautification Project's Pamela Pettyjohn to support the Brooklyn Greenway Initiative's Epic Ride, July 2016.



Community members imagining a Coney Island Ferry service during City of Water Day, July 2014. Photo: Inna Guzenfeld



Earlier city plans and designs like this 2015 map included proposed ferry service to Coney Island. More recent plans are dropping the proposed service from maps and designs.

Looking Forward

FERRY SERVICE should connect Coney Island with the rest of the city. Ferry service will help us in times of natural emergency, it will relieve local traffic congestion, and connect residents to better year-round jobs.

- **Severe storms like Superstorm Sandy have disrupted our transportation systems for weeks at a time.** These disruptions isolate our entire community and make our elderly and disabled especially vulnerable.
- **We are overwhelmed with car traffic during the warm season.** We are already a high-density community with plans to add significantly to that density. This congestion is a quality of life issue for us. In warm months, drivers cannot get home easily, or find parking, or get off of our peninsula without long delays. And police, fire and ambulance first responders face these same delays.
- **Cutting down the long commute times to Manhattan would lower barriers to better employment opportunities** for Coney Island community members. Too many of our local jobs are seasonal. Many hard-working residents face three and four hours of commuting each day to hold onto year-round jobs in other parts of the city.

Ferry transportation will help our community on all of these fronts. It provides critical transportation during emergency events and gives us important alternative forms of transportation when we need it most during the summer months. Finally, it could save residents up to two hours each day from commute times, time that can be better spent with their families or neighbors.

Coney Island Creek could be known as a great place for recreational paddlers and boaters. Numerous volunteers have shown they are interested in supporting community paddling programs.

The Brooklyn Greenway should extend all the way to Coney Island, connecting a new generation of bikers with one of the city's most historical neighborhoods. Increasing bike use will increase healthy lifestyles for community members and will reduce car congestion in the warmer months.

CREATING COMMUNITY...

Sustaining thriving parks and public spaces for generations

Coney Island is a place where material resources can be scarce. But we do have an abundance of natural resources. These resources, namely our beaches, our parks, and Coney Island Creek, are invaluable community assets that we must care for and protect. We have only begun to glimpse the great potential for community enrichment we can cultivate by caring for these natural resources. We have done some strong work and we have much work still to do. With continued support from our long-standing partners, and vision, leadership, and commitment from all corners of our community, we can care for and protect Coney Island Creek and parklands in ways that will benefit our community for generations to come.



Participants in the many Coney Island Law Enforcement Explorers programs have been constant stewards and volunteers for our parks and the Creek. City Of Water Day, July, 2015.



Friends of Kaiser Park and Rocco Brescia have been building community in our parks for over a decade. December 2016.



Community members, educators, and NYC Parks team members working with the Billion Oyster Project to expand hands-on learning experiences with oysters and the Creek. March 2017. Photo: Eddie Mark



Community members and elected officials hold a joint press conference for the Creek in the wake of the 2017 diesel spill. April 2017.



Supporting youth opportunities with Coney Island's Explorers programs provides great ways for our youth to challenge themselves. Explorer's Extravaganza, August 2016.



Kaiser Park has become a hub for sports, learning, environmental programs and community-building efforts. Here, youth celebrating their acrobatics and dance performance with Bulletrun Parkour. Explorers Extravaganza. August 2016.



...IN OUR PARKS & OPEN SPACES



Mentoring youth during service projects builds strong bonds in our community. HeartShare Human Services Spring Celebration, Poseidon Playground. June 2016.



Coney Island Beautification Project's annual Sandy Commemorative Day of Service has helped turn a disaster into a community celebration. CIBP president Pamela Pettyjohn admires the community effort. November 2016.

(p. 20 far left) Coney Island Beautification Project's Andrea Clinton leading gardening activities for local youth. August 2016.

(p. 20 near left) Kaye Dupont and volunteers lead tutoring programs at Kaiser Park with I Believe In Me. July 2015.



City Parks Foundation is dedicated to invigorating and transforming parks into dynamic, vibrant centers of urban life through sports, arts, community building, and education programs for all New Yorkers.



NYC Parks

Our vision is to create and sustain thriving parks and public spaces for New Yorkers.



Partnerships for Parks supports and champions leaders who care and advocate for neighborhood green spaces. We equip people, organizations and government with the skills and tools they need to transform green spaces into dynamic community assets.

Acknowledgements

The Making Waves Coalition was led by the continuous leadership, service and stewardship efforts by:

Coney Island Beautification Project
Coney Island History Project
Cultural Research Divers
Explorers Programs of Coney Island
John Dewey High School
Brooklyn Marine STEM Education Alliance
which ushered in numerous local school communities to the coalition's efforts.

Support for this Community Action Plan and the efforts and events detailed in it was provided by the Catalyst Program of Partnerships for Parks. The Catalyst Program is a special initiative of Partnerships for Parks and City Parks Foundation that provides committed, long-term support to historically underserved park communities.

In 2011, Kaiser Park, Coney Island Creek, and the surrounding communities were selected to receive Catalyst support. Catalyst community investment normally completes after a four year term. But in 2015, Partnerships for Parks decided to extend its commitment to Coney Island for an additional two years due to the enduring impacts of Superstorm Sandy.

Much of the Catalyst community investment was made possible through funding by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection which places special emphasis on supporting stewardship for New York waters.

While Partnerships for Parks and City Parks Foundation provide support for park and open space engagement designed to benefit all of Coney Island (and communities everywhere in New York City), in this initiative, Catalyst provided enhanced support for stewardship efforts directly connected to Coney Island Creek.

Stemming from a Catalyst led community visioning session of the same name, Making Waves became the name of a coalition of community groups leading extraordinary efforts to teach & learn about, care for, and protect Coney Island Creek.

Our lead community partners organized numerous programs and events that offered community members opportunities to engage with many local community groups, organizations, schools, and policy makers, including:

Academy for Career Exploration High School
Alliance for Coney Island
American Museum of Natural History
American Littoral Society
Aquatic Research and Environmental Assessment Center,
CUNY Brooklyn College
Atlantic Engineering Underwater Inspections
Billion Oyster Project
Brooklyn College, Department of Earth and
Environmental Sciences
Brooklyn Community Services
Bulletrun Parkour
Captain Mike's Diving
C.E.R.T. Community Emergency Response Teams
City Parks Foundation Arts, Education and Sports programs
Community Board 13
Coney Island Autism Angels
Coney Island Generation Gap
Coney Island Girl Scouts
Coney Island International Kite Festival
Coney Island Prep
Coney Island Sports Foundation
Coney Island U.S.A.
Edward R. Murrow High School
Garden State Underwater Recovery Unit
Genomic Observatory
Gotham Whale
Great Fish Count (NYS DEC)
Graffiti Ministries
Heartshare Human Services
Historical Diving Society
I Believe In Me
IS 228, David A. Boody School
IS 239, Mark Twain School for the Gifted and Talented
IS 281, Joseph B. Cavallaro School
Japan Society of the Conservation of Horseshoe Crabs

Kingsborough Community College, offices of STEM and
 Maritime Technology
 Kingsborough Community College Early College
 Secondary School (6-12)
 Kites In Motion Club
 Kiwanis Club
 Kyushu University, Japan – Ecological Engineering Laboratory
 Liberation Diploma Plus High School
 Local Divers and Dockbuilders Union, 1556
 National Wildlife Federation
 NYC Department of Education, STEM Program
 NYC Department of Environmental Protection
 NYC Department of Parks and Recreation
 NYC Department of Sanitation
 NYC Economic Development Corporation
 NYPD, 60th Precinct and PSA-1
 New Yorkers For Parks
 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
 New York State Marine Education Association
 Northeast Diving Equipment Group
 NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
 NY Microscopical Society
 Ocean Conservancy
 Parachute Literary Arts
 PS 90, Edna Cohen School
 PS 188, Michael E. Berdy School
 PS/IS 288, The Shirley Tanyhill School
 Rachel Carson High School for Coastal Studies
 Safe Summer Program
 Science and Resilience Institute @ Jamaica Bay/
 New York Sea Grant
 STEM Pilot program
 S.W.I.M. – Stormwater Infrastructure Matters Coalition
 Touch the Music
 Union Divers Local 1556
 US Navy-Sea Perch
 Waterfront Alliance
 WCS New York Seascape
 William H. Maxwell, CTE High School
 World Science Festival

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 NYC Councilman Mark Treyger and staff
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 NYS Senator Diane Savino and staff
 NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver, FAICP and staff
 NYC Brooklyn Parks Commissioner Martin Maher and staff

Disclaimer: The alphabetical list of partners represents agencies and groups that provided resources and participated in the many community engagement activities connected to Coney Island Creek. These partners did not produce the recommendations listed in the preceding chapters.

Special recognition goes to Friends of Kaiser Park and the WCS New York Aquarium. Their long-term commitment to Kaiser Park and Coney Island Creek is instrumental.

Catalyst is a program of Partnerships for Parks, a joint program of City Parks Foundation and the NYC Department of Parks & Recreation. Catalyst is made possible with funds provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.



Partnerships for Parks is a joint program of



