



The Jewel Streets Neighborhood Plan

Overview Presentation

June 24, 2023



Agenda

1. **Plan + Goals**
2. **Work To-Date**
3. **Desired Outcomes**
4. **Next Steps**

Study Area



Jamaica Bay

Spring Creek Park

Lindenwood Gardens

DSNY Facility

Lindenwood Village

Lindenwood

HPD/DCAS Site

USPS Facility

Linden Terrace

Spring Creek Gardens

Pink Houses

Gemini Fields

Linden Center

Linden Blvd.

Linden Plaza

Jewel Streets

East New York - City Line

S. Conduit Avenue

Drew St

Forbell St

N. Conduit Avenue

Sutter Ave

Robert E. Venable Park

A



The Jewel Streets, aka “The Hole”

- **Acute infrastructure needs**
 - Daily flooding
 - Large rain events can overwhelm drainage systems and cause rainwater to flow into low lying areas
 - Contaminated groundwater due to septic seepage and active industrial uses
- **Severe Disinvestment**
 - Concentration of vacant lots and open storage
 - Illegal vehicle storage, dumping and squatting
 - History of stalled planning efforts



Blake Avenue between 77th and 76th streets (looking east)



77th Street between Blake and Dumont avenues (looking south)

City-Owned site



The large City-owned site located two blocks south of Linden Boulevard.

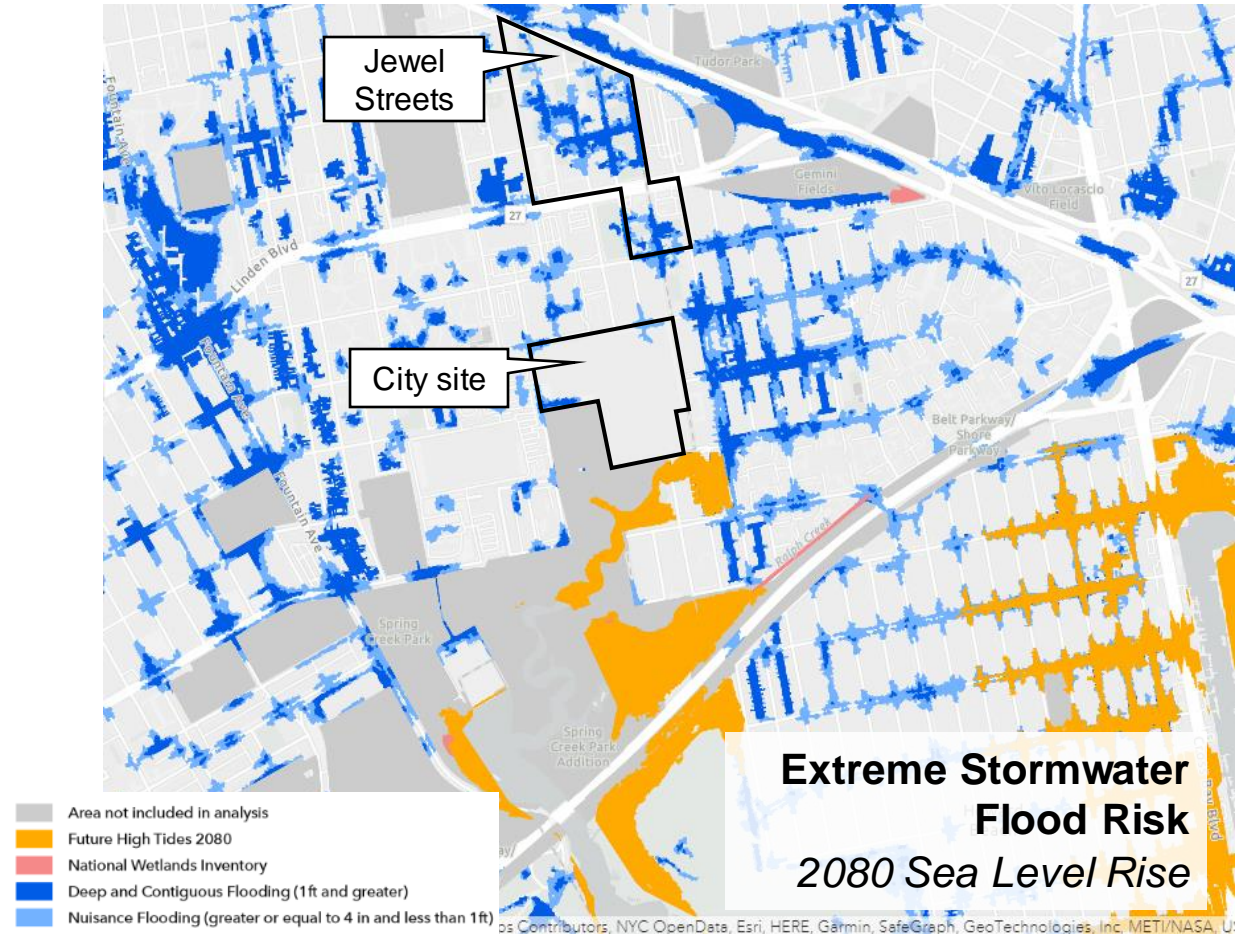


Looking south from 151st Street

Severe flooding and climate risk

Rainfall risk

- The **low topography** of the Jewel Streets make it vulnerable when a large amount of rain falls in a short time
- **High groundwater** table makes it difficult for water to infiltrate into the soil
- Significant risk for rainfall flooding **now and in the future**
- Flooding expected to worsen due to **climate change**

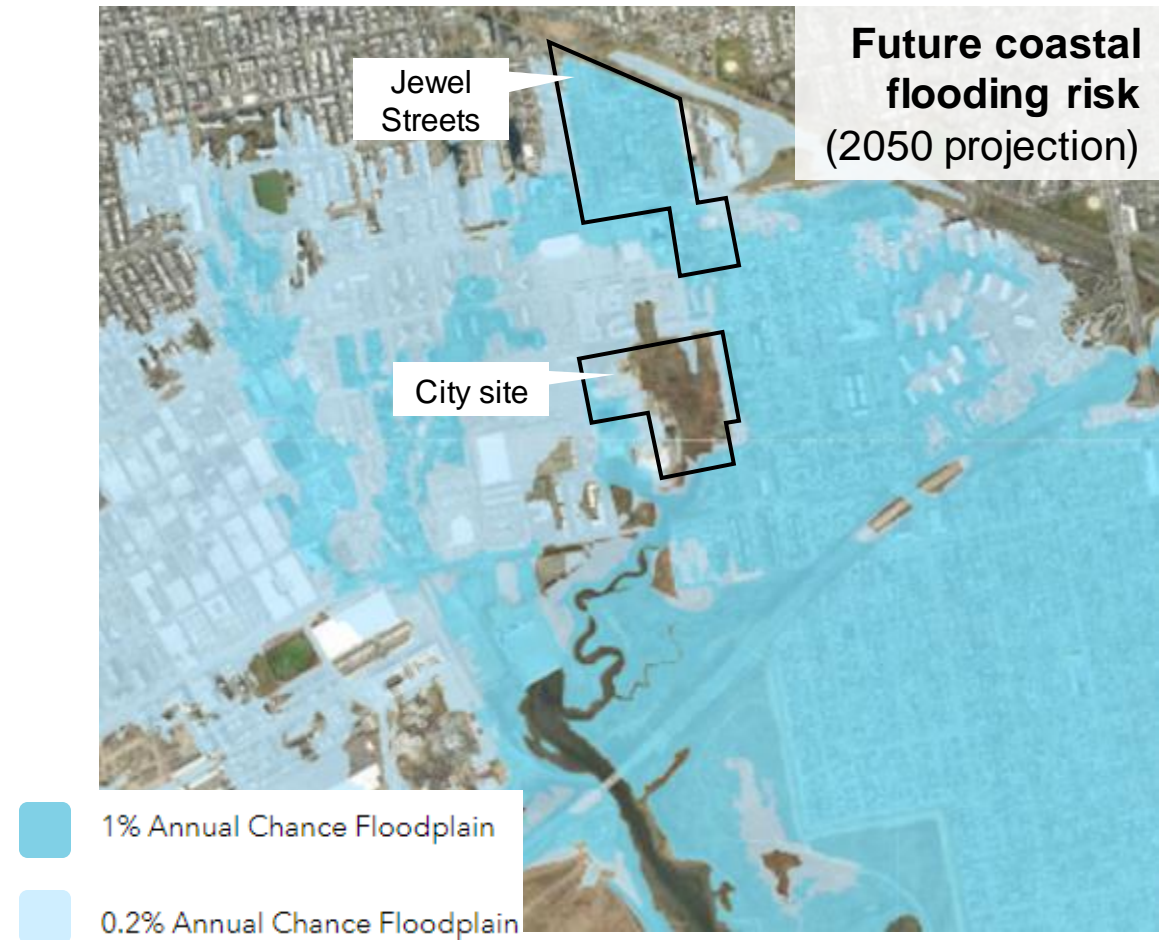


Severe flooding and climate risk

Coastal flood risk

- Intense storms can flood coastal areas through high tides or storm surges
- Most of the area is within high risk flood zones
- Flooding from coastal storms is expected to worsen due to climate change throughout the area

[NYC Flood Hazard Mapper \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

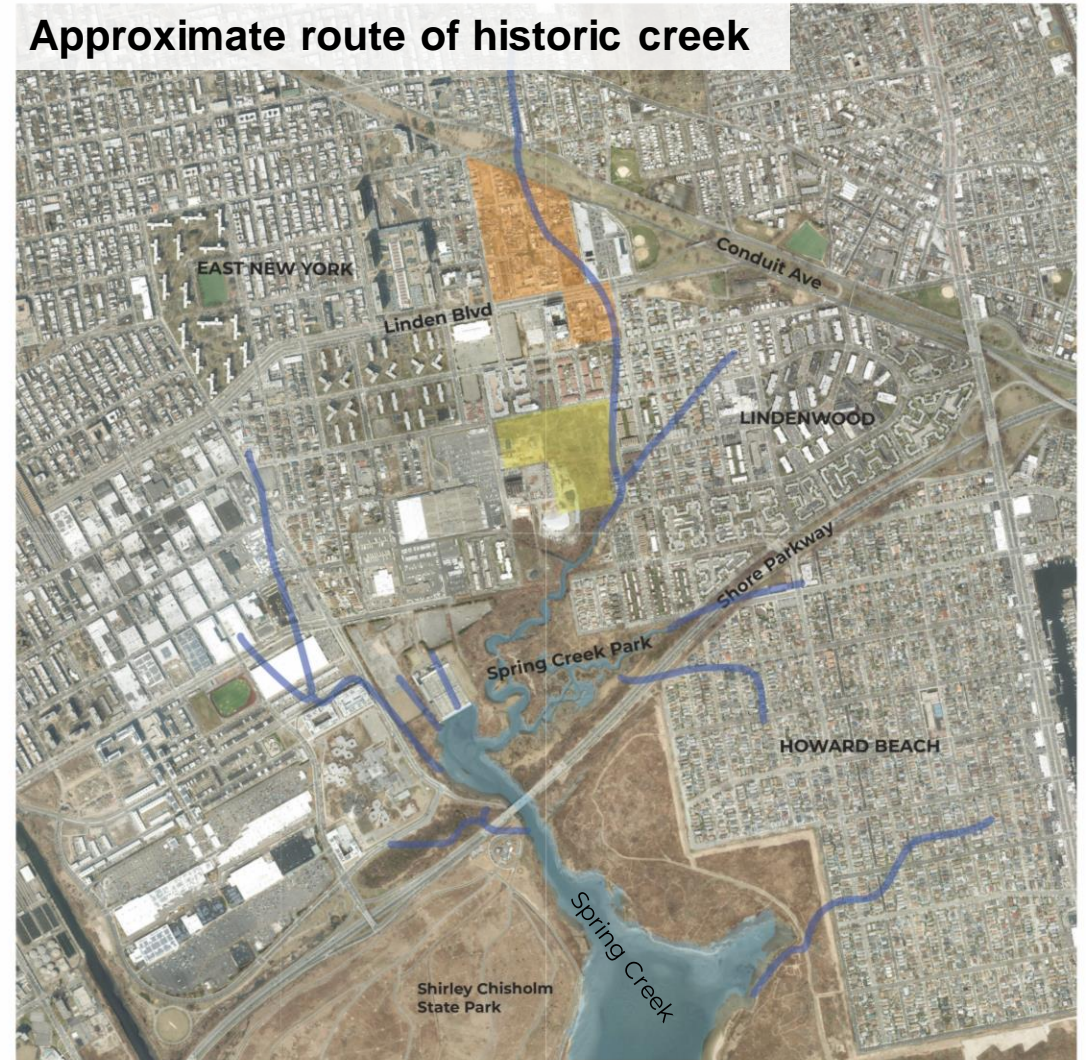


Why do the Jewel Streets Flood?

Reasons for Flooding

- Low-lying nature
- Proximity to the coastline
- The area was built on top of a historic creek, resulting in soft land and a high water table

Approximate route of historic creek



Goals

Stabilize a flood-prone neighborhood and foster a resilient and thriving community by:

- Reducing flooding now and in the future by building resilient green infrastructure and improving community resilience
- Developing a long-term land use plan for the Jewel Streets
- Outlining a community-supported vision for city-owned land
- Improving street infrastructure, pedestrian safety, and connectivity to surrounding neighborhoods
- Facilitating job creation, community services, and amenities



Work To-Date: Overview

Updates and Progress

February 2022:

- Local coalition sent letter to City requesting infrastructure intervention

April 2022:

- CM Barron established bi-monthly working group meetings to address issues

May 2022 - Present:

- City has made significant gains to address immediate drainage and sanitation issues



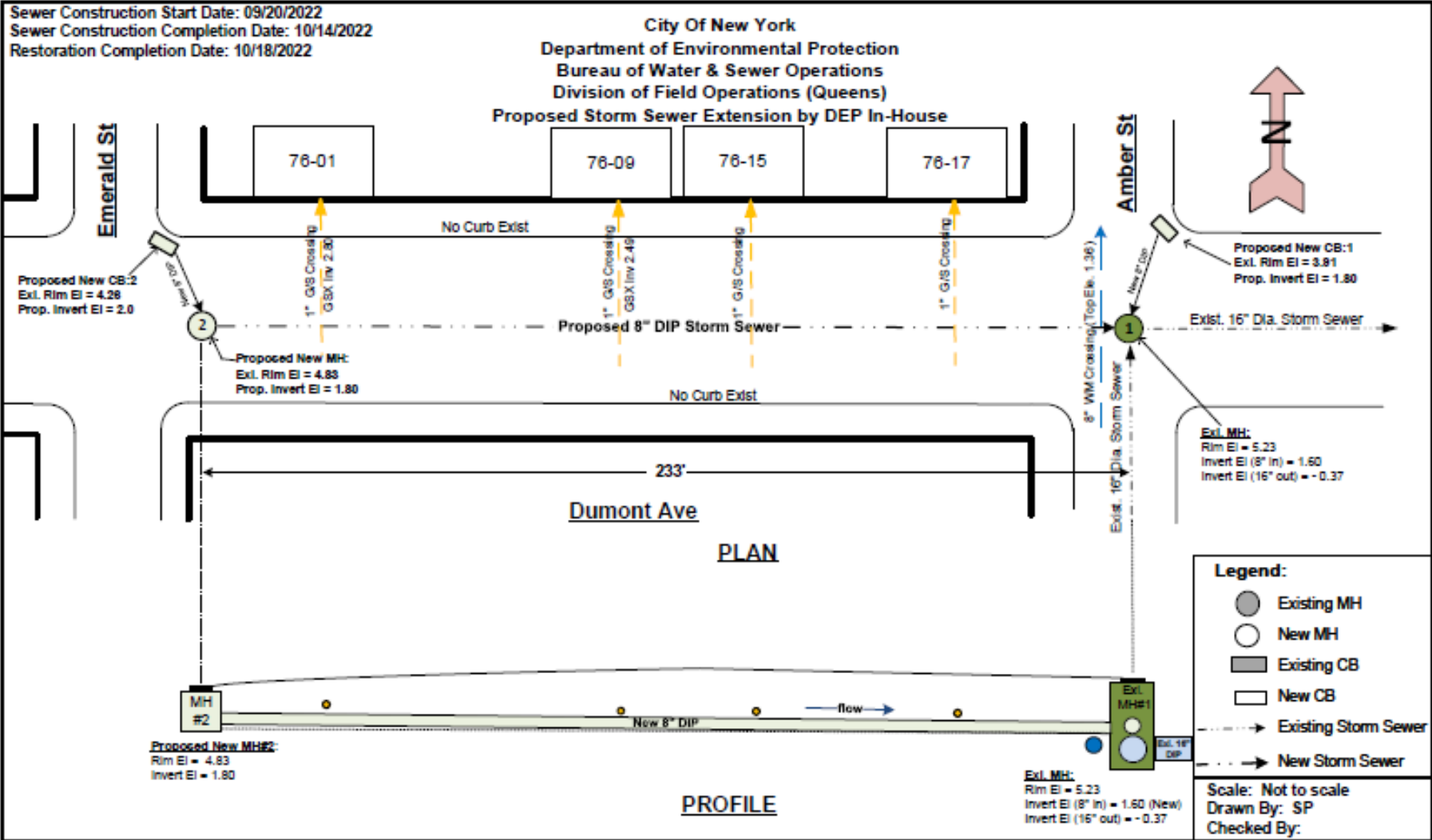
Work To-Date: New Sewer Installation North of Linden

The community asked if **two intersections that chronically flood** could be better drained; see image below:

- Emerald and Dumont
- Amber and Dumont
- DEP engineers determined that installing a **new 8” diameter sewer** under Dumont and connecting it to the **existing small pumping station** on 78th Street could drain those intersections
- Construction of that sewer was **completed at the end of October 2022**
- Ponding/flooding has reportedly subsided since construction was completed.



Work To-Date: New Catch Basins and Manholes

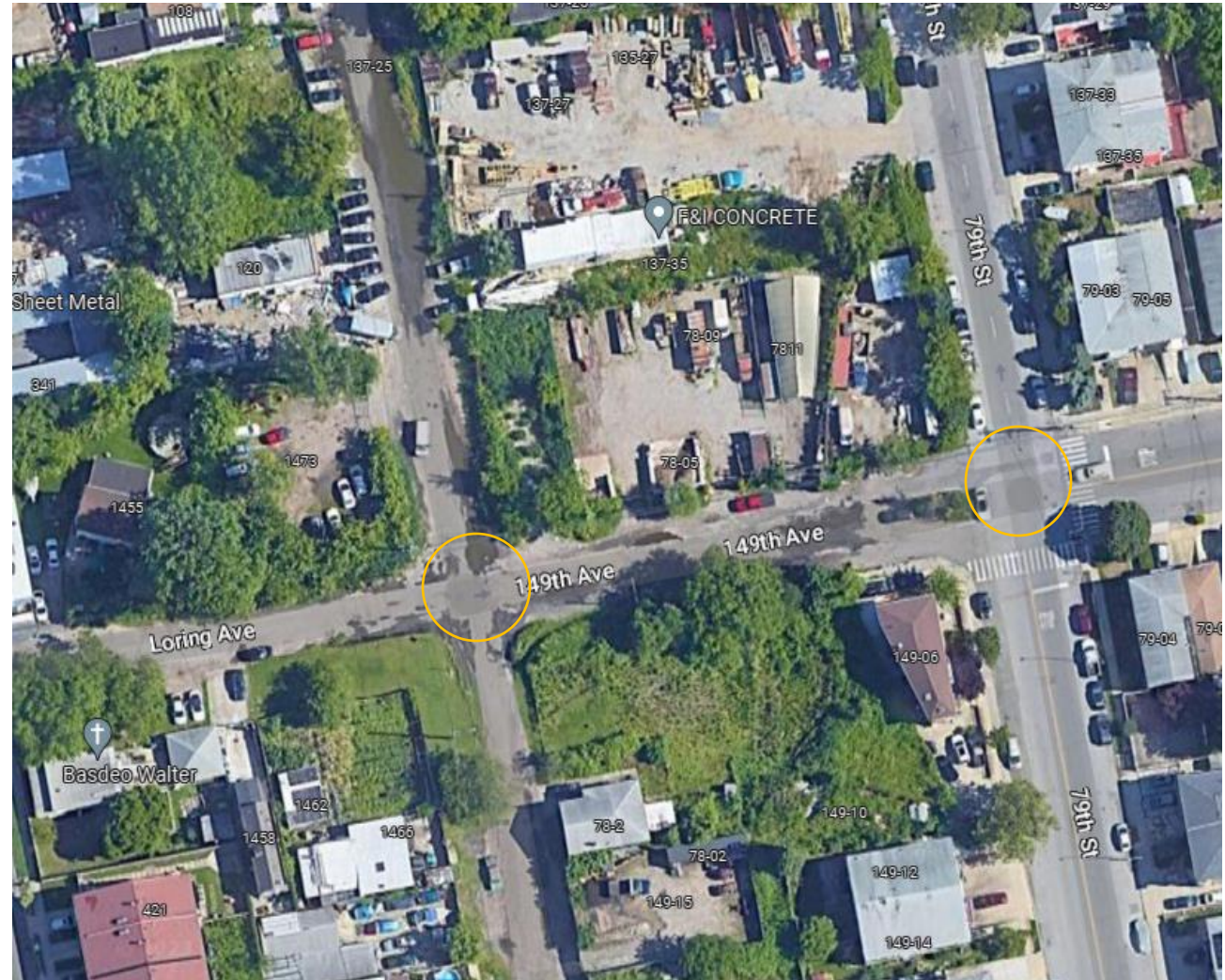


Work To-Date: DEP Crew Sewer Installation

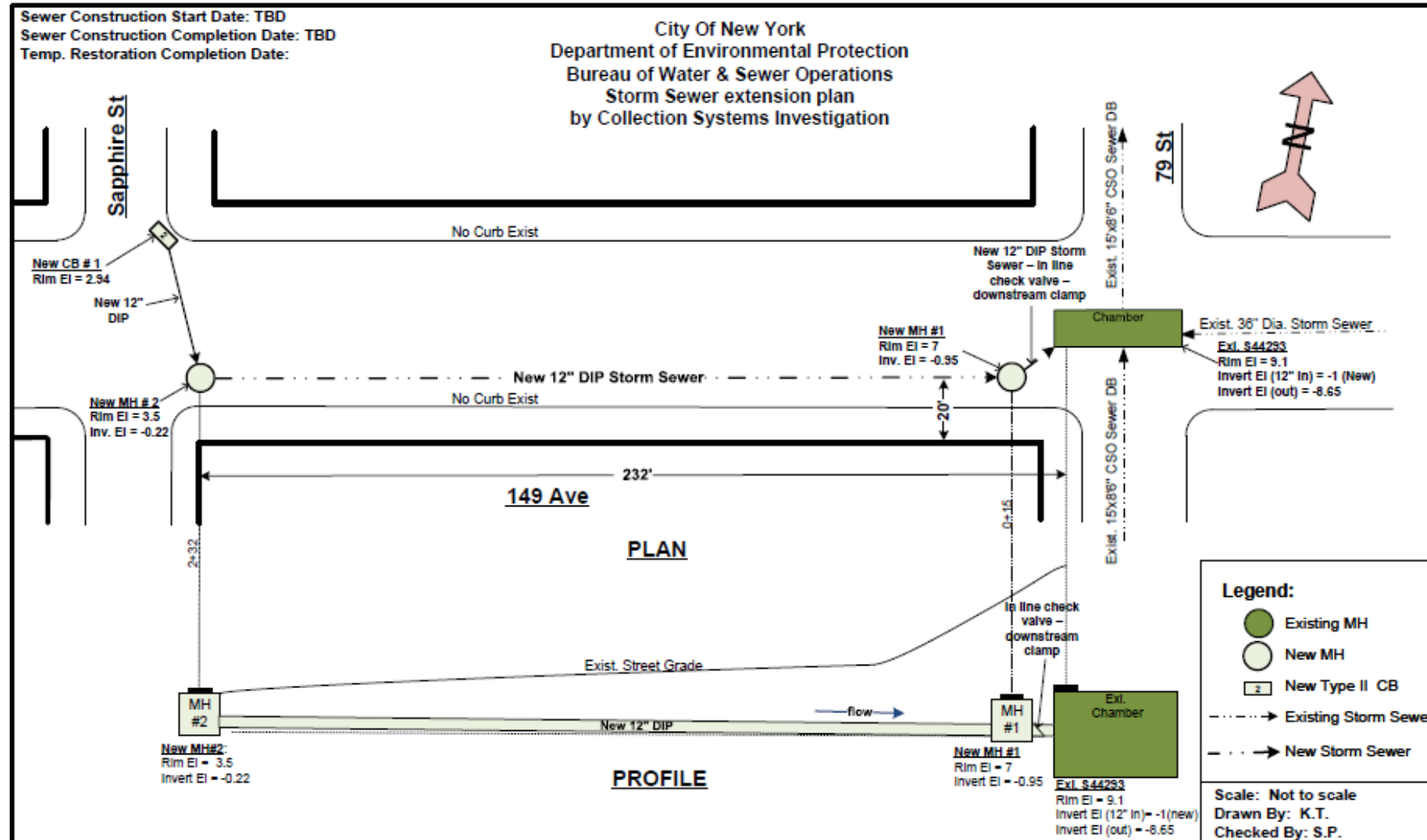


Work To-Date: New Sewer Installation South of Linden

- The community asked if **two intersections that chronically flood South of Linden** could be better drained; see image to the right:
 - Loring (149th Ave) and Sapphire
 - Loring and 79th Ave
- DEP engineers installed a **new 12” diameter sewer** under Loring and connected it to the existing sewer on 79th Street; added a **catch basin** on Loring



Work To-Date: New Sewer Installation South of Linden



Work To-Date: In addition to the projects DEP has been installing and evaluating, we send crews to pump the streets after heavy rain events

- On Friday, December 16, 2022, a community member sent CM Barron's office the left image of flooding on Sapphire street (south of Linden Blvd).
- The next morning, DEP crews were sent out to pump the water.
- The right image shows drier conditions on the same street on Saturday as a result of DEP's pumping operation.



Flooding on Sapphire Street before DEP addressed the issue.



Drier conditions on Sapphire Street after DEP pumping.

Work To-Date: DSNY and DOB

- **DSNY Updates**

- General Cleaning – 240 conditions addressed
- Lot Cleaning – nearly 80 tons removed
- Illegal Dumping – 15 illegal dumpers caught
- Derelict Vehicles – nearly 100 tagged and towed

- **DOB Updates**

- 11 properties investigated for illegal commercial and industrial uses
- 2 locations padlocked






Holistic planning needs

- Immediate daily challenges: drainage, sanitation, and illegal uses in the Jewel Streets
- Long-standing concentration of vacant land:
 - Difficult to redevelop
 - Blighting influence
 - Risk of piecemeal approach
- Neighborhood is highly vulnerable to rainfall and coastal flooding. Climate change will increase the risk.
- Need for coordinated plan



Aerial view of the Dumont Ave. and Emerald Street intersection while flooded, looking north.

Desired Outcomes: Jewel Streets

-  The Jewel Streets
-  HPD/DCAS Site
-  Borough Boundary

Spring Creek Park

Explore potential housing mobility buyout strategies in appropriate locations

Explore potential for bigger and taller buildings along major roads like Linden Blvd

Develop new open space and green infrastructure to help retain stormwater

Invest in drainage solutions that reduce flooding now and in the future with climate change




S. Conduit Avenue

N. Conduit Avenue

Linden Blvd.



Desired Outcomes: City-owned Site

-  The Jewel Streets
-  HPD/DCAS Site
-  Borough Boundary

Reconnect site to Spring Creek to redirect water to Jamaica Bay and reduce current and future flood risk

Explore possibility of green infrastructure to reduce flooding

Foster creation of new jobs

Possible addition of retail and housing

Jamaica Bay

Spring Creek Park

S. Conduit Avenue

N. Conduit Avenue

Drew St

Forbell St

Linden Blvd.




Sutter Ave

Robert E. Venable Park

A



Desired Outcomes: Linden Blvd.

-  The Jewel Streets
-  HPD/DCAS Site
-  Borough Boundary

Jamaica Bay

Spring Creek Park

Promote safety by adding crosswalks and bike lanes

Find opportunities for more and new retail along Linden Blvd

Explore more frequent bus service and other strategies to better connect residents to job centers (ie. JFK Airport)

Explore potential for bigger and taller buildings that could provide a mix of affordable homes and retail

Linden Blvd.

S. Conduit Avenue




N. Conduit Avenue

Robert E. Venable Park

A



Desired Outcomes: Conduit Ave.

-  The Jewel Streets
-  HPD/DCAS Site
-  Borough Boundary

Jamaica Bay

Spring Creek Park

Linden Blvd.

S. Conduit Avenue

N. Conduit Avenue

Robert E. Venable Park

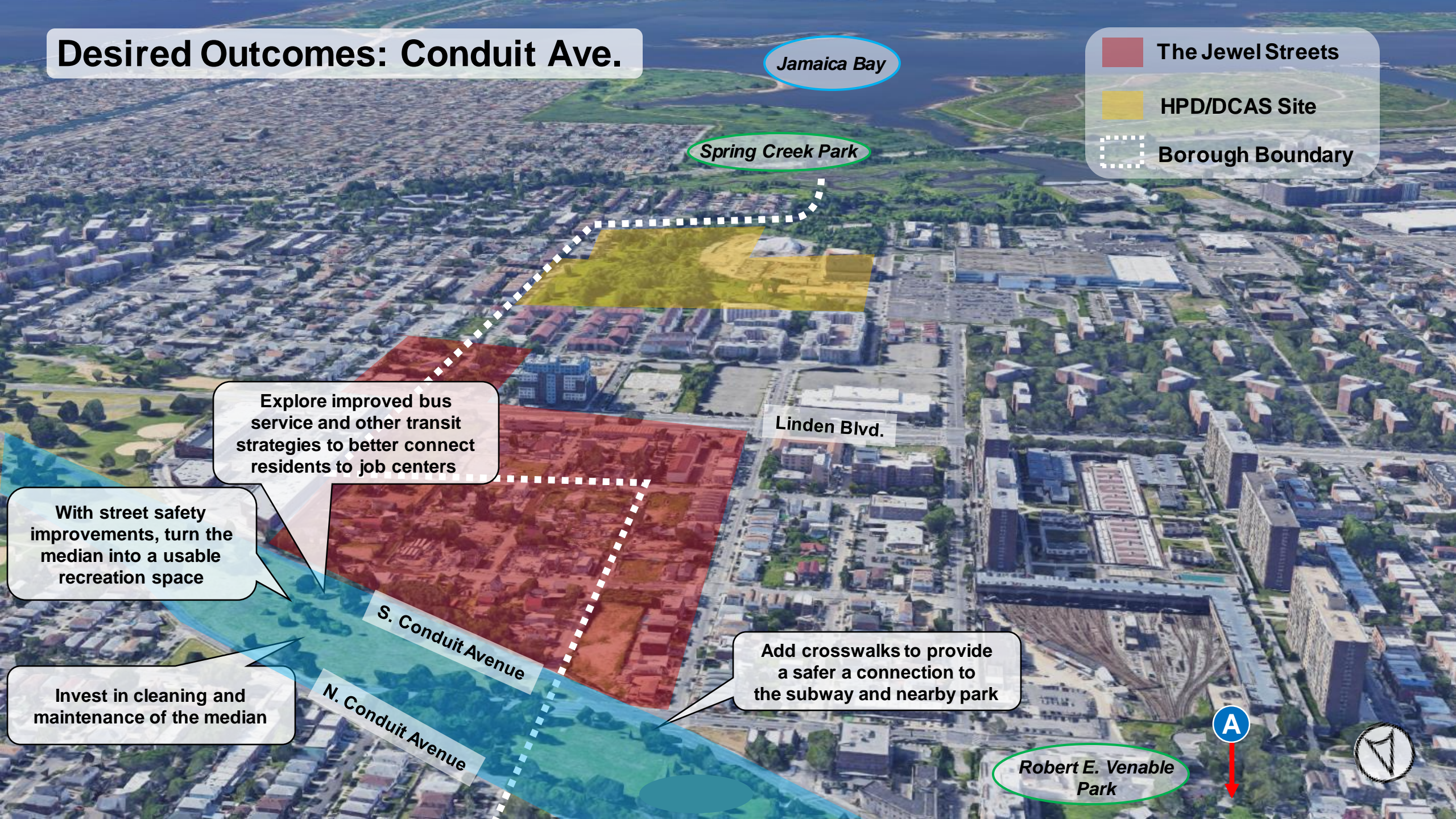
A

Explore improved bus service and other transit strategies to better connect residents to job centers

With street safety improvements, turn the median into a usable recreation space

Invest in cleaning and maintenance of the median

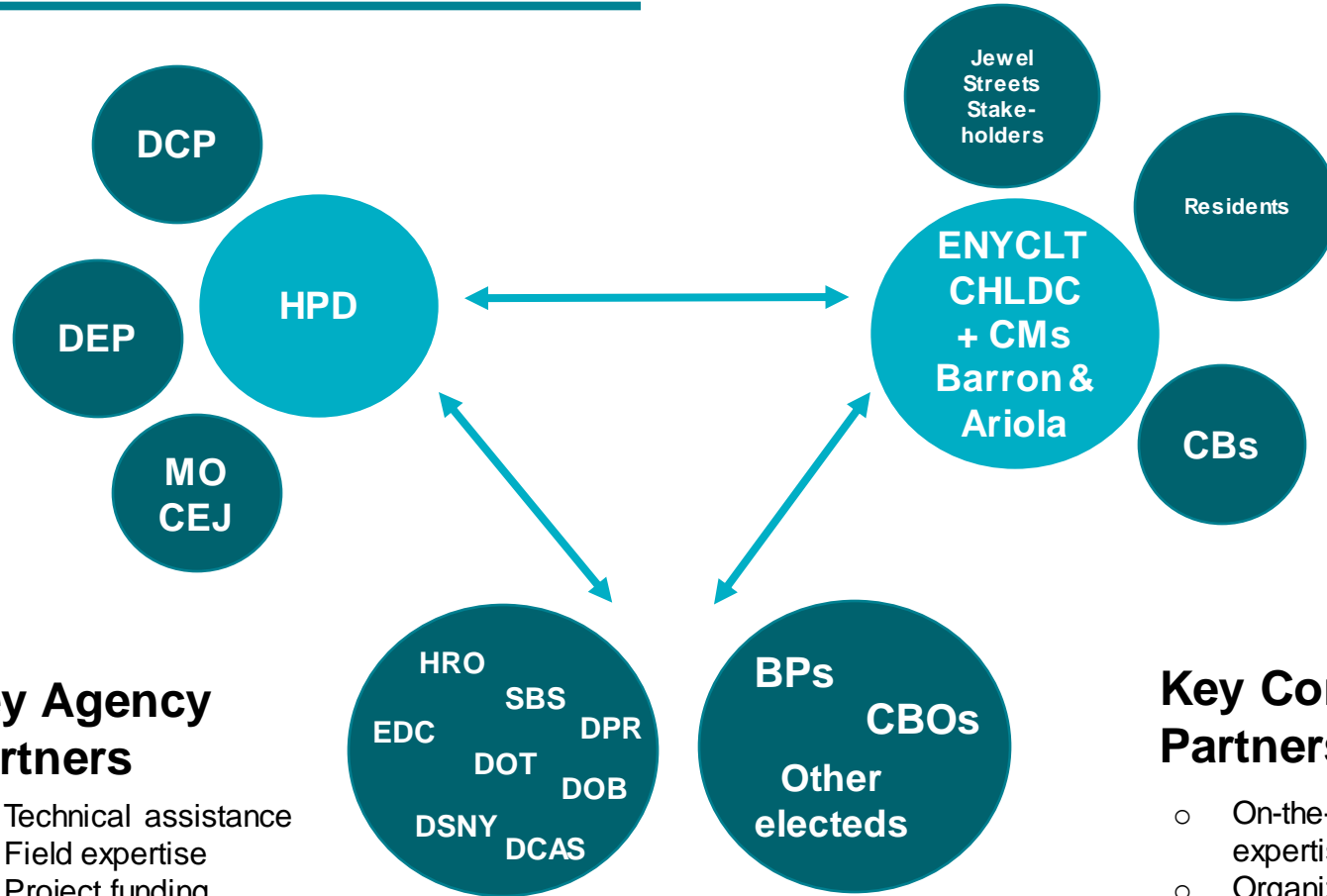
Add crosswalks to provide a safer a connection to the subway and nearby park



Engagement Partners

Core Agency Team

- Plan workshops
- Lead working group discussions
- Invite participants



Key Agency Partners

- Technical assistance
- Field expertise
- Project funding

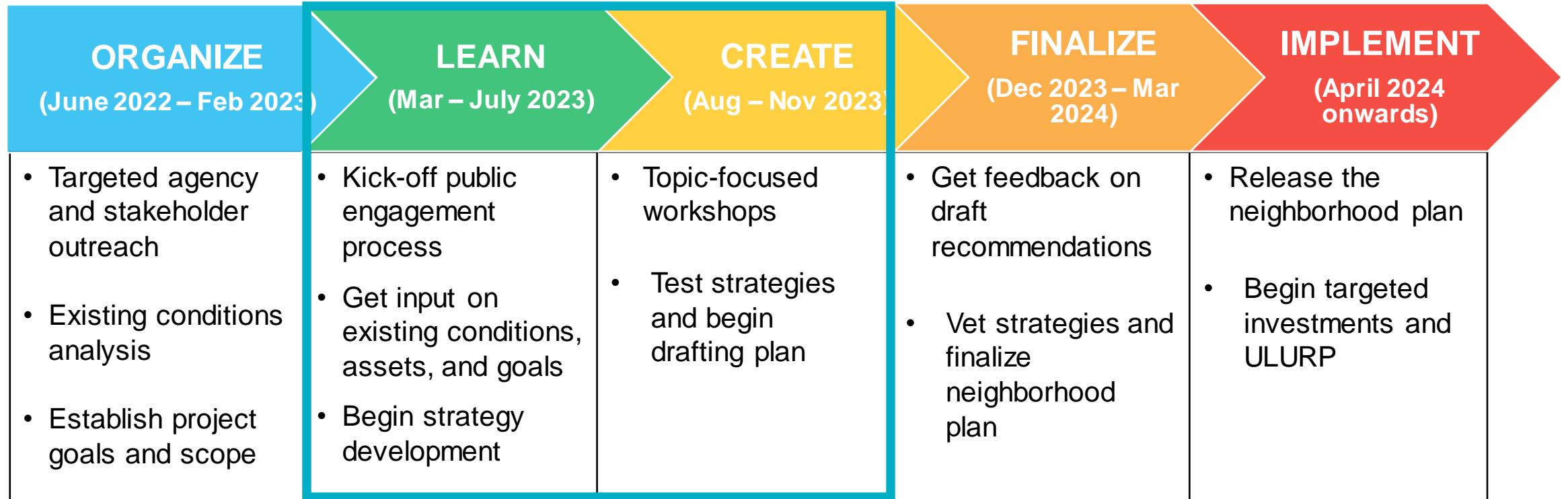
Core Community Partners

- Co-facilitate workshops
- Co-lead working group discussions
- Invite networks

Key Community Partners

- On-the-ground expertise
- Organized support

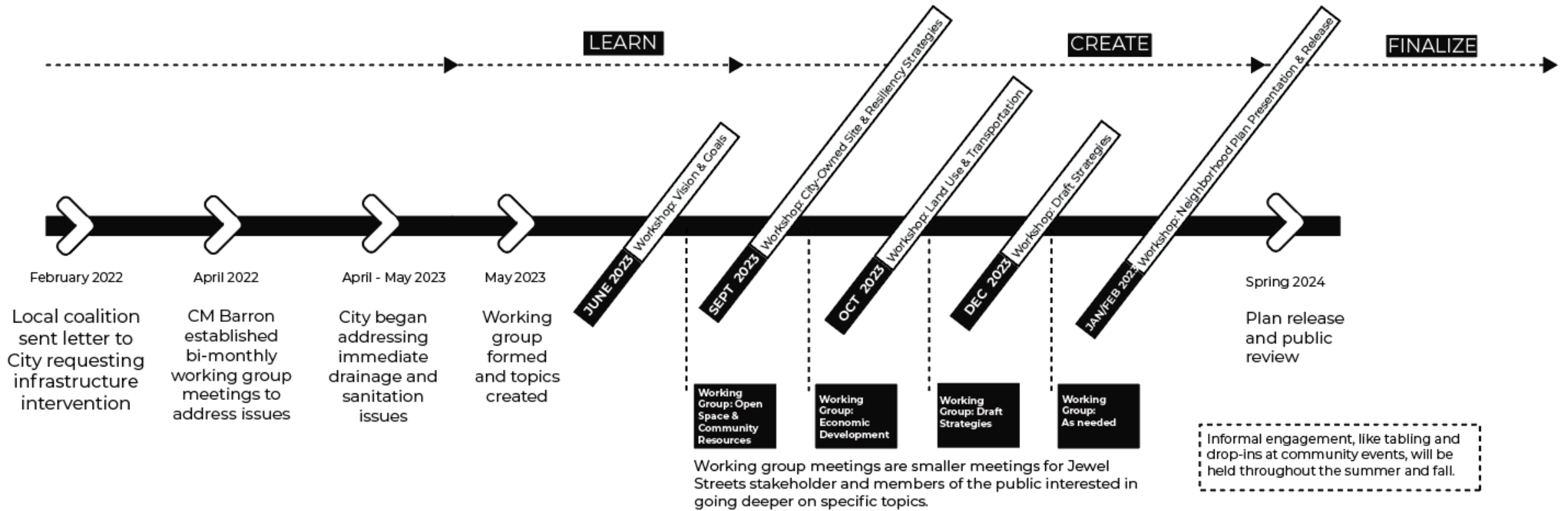
Implementation-Oriented Approach



- Builds on previous studies and agency work
- Provides concrete strategies for public feedback early in process
- Develops feasible solutions

Engagement Plan

JEWEL STREETS TIMELINE



Next Steps

Ongoing

- Agencies to continue short-term neighborhood improvements to address flooding, sanitation

Future Engagement Opportunities

- **August** - Working Group 1: Open Space and Community Health
- **September** - Workshop 2: HPD site visioning + resiliency strategies

How to Stay Involved

- Sign up for our email list to find out about tabling events, virtual engagement opportunities, and other ways to stay involved!



Breakout Group Discussions

Goal

Weigh in on existing challenges and opportunities for areas north and south of Linden Blvd

Format

- Each breakout table will have **one facilitator** and **one note taker**
- **Facilitators will ask for your feedback** about a range of topics, including housing, transportation, parks, etc.
- Note takers will record the conversation but **please add comments directly on the maps provided!**

Community Agreements

- **Share the air time** —work together to make sure everyone gets a chance to speak
- **Respect the diverse viewpoints and experiences in the group** — together, we know a lot; alone, we won't know it all; Please keep an open mind
- **Use “I” statements** – share from your own experience and avoid generalizations