

# Southern Blvd Neighborhood Study

## Parks, Public Space, & the Waterfront Deep Dive

Notes from 3/14/19 + Online Survey

### Waterfront

What types of shorelines should be encouraged?

	Like	Like Notes	Dislike	Dislike Notes
Natural living shoreline	8		0	
Get down area	8		1	Kids safety not considered
Stone revetment	1		0	
Bulkhead with guardrail	3	For kid's safety	1	You should be able to touch the water

What additional types of seating are needed?

	Like	Like Notes	Dislike	Dislike Notes
Seating steps	1		3	
Social seating	2		0	
Companion seating	11	Wood material is more welcoming	0	
Moveable tables and chairs	1		2	Maintenance challenge
Multi-use seating	7		0	
Custom Seating	2		0	

How should future waterfront esplanades address flood risk?

	Like	Like Notes	Dislike	Dislike Notes
Fully raised esplanade	3	Kids safety; People will climb over guardrail regardless	0	
Split Level Esplanade – planted buffer	3		0	
Split-level esplanade – bench & wall	3		1	Safety issues; maintain visual connectivity
Split level esplanade – seating steps	3	Guaranteed a seat	0	
Planted slope between path & water	6	Landscape controls climate	0	
High path with stepped edge	0		4	Too much concrete

**What kind of building uses should support activity on future waterfront esplanades?**

	Like	Like Notes	Dislike	Dislike Notes
Residential planted buffer	4		1	
Residential with balconies	1		2	
Elements to support residential	7		1	
Large-scale retail	1		5	Negative impact on local retail
Retail at corners of buildings	4	Attracts more people	3	

**What do you want to see on the waterfront side of the Sheridan?**

	Like	Like Notes	Dislike	Dislike Notes
Neighborhood serving retail	5		2	
Community facility or res amenity space	13	Link to education		
Large retail use	3	Healthier food options; better signage	1	
Residential units and lobby	0		3	
Screened parking w/ artwork or fence	1	(Half planting and half artwork option)		
Screened parking with planting	2	Connection to green along water; (Half planting and half artwork option)		

**Vision for waterfront**

	Like	Like Notes	Dislike	Dislike Notes
Neighborhood and local serving	4			
Residential units and lobby (typo)	1	Mixed-income housing	0	
Bronx destination	0		0	
Cultural center	5		0	
Jobs center	0		0	
Place for entertainment	1	Movie theaters, bookstores, indoor public space	0	

## Streets & Public Space

	Now	In the future
How are streets and public spaces existing assets?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Playstreets should be mandated next to parks for “high need” neighborhoods</li> </ul>
How do streets and public spaces create a healthier neighborhood?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They don’t—our streets are overrun with truck traffic and public spaces are minimal (e.g. Hunts Point Square: so much opportunity, yet it is bare bones)</li> <li>Parks are places for exercise, recreation, and social interaction in a healthier air environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More gathering spaces and safer streets will contribute to a healthier neighborhood</li> <li>School curriculums and youth development programs should be mandated to utilize park space</li> </ul>
How are streets and public spaces places for youth, seniors, and people of all ages?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They aren’t—streets in low socioeconomic neighborhoods are in poor condition</li> </ul>	
How do you travel throughout the community, the Bronx, and the city?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taking the subway</li> <li>Walking</li> <li>Biking</li> <li>Driving</li> <li>Taking the bus</li> </ul>	

### Notes:

- Increase lighting at Tiffany Park Playground
- Connection Enhancements = protected bike lanes + connect to BX especially west from Bronx River Greenway
- More lighting (E 174<sup>th</sup> / E 173<sup>rd</sup> between Southern and West Farms Road)
- 1 hr muni-meters (Southern from 163<sup>rd</sup> to 167/Simpson)
- We know issues with traffic...we need ENFORCEMENT of traffic signals
- El space, Green infrastructure, light Whitlock (6)
- BX6: N-S pedestrian crossing on E 163<sup>rd</sup> not timed well
- BX6: enforcement signal timing at 163
- Trees block streetlights
- Speed cameras at 172 /Jennings, also daylighting
- We need a speed bump on Intervale between Freeman and 169<sup>th</sup> St; if not, stop cards from speeding to 169<sup>th</sup> street
- Under the 6 train when cars are making the left, there should be a specific lane and sign just or the turning. Then to go straight a different light with a different lane. The lanes need to be seen in order for this to work

- Bus stop under the el for BX19
- Lighting at the Sheridan
- Sheridan check-ins with the community
- A crossing guard would be GREAT! Especially in helping students get to parks since there are many schools in the Whitlock area.
- More noticeable signs when to cross and not
- 3<sup>rd</sup> ave and 149<sup>th</sup> (?)
- Southern Blvd/Westchester intersection dangerous
- Southern Blvd/Freeman
- Green medians on 174<sup>th</sup> street bridge
- Protected bike lanes on Westchester Avenue
- Westchester/Whitlock intersection
  - Lighting on bridge
  - Art mural on bridge
  - Better lighting
  - Better crossings
  - Need a crosswalk at Home/Westchester. Pedestrian was hit and there's residential there
- Lighting from Westchester to Longfellow on Whitlock

# Parks

	<b>Now</b>	<b>In the future</b>
<b>How do parks benefit the community?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host art and cultural gatherings</li> <li>• Provide healthy living opportunities that give the community and its visitors a space to be social</li> <li>• Give the community a place to play, walk, run, and socialize</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support existing open space and wildlife along the Bronx River corridor</li> <li>• Another option/resource for communities with inadequate access to parks</li> </ul>
<b>How do parks create a healthier neighborhood?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide recreation space</li> <li>• Create better air quality</li> <li>• Provide a place to sit in a neutral environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use for community meetings and events, social events including tournaments, and concerts</li> <li>• Provide outdoor work out equipment and tracks</li> </ul>
<b>How do parks serve as places for youth, seniors, and people of all ages?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A place to play, walk, run, and socialize</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a space for gathering with full programming</li> <li>• Opportunity for people to take ownership of parks by maintaining them and using them for educational, social, and economic opportunities</li> <li>• Economic opportunities for vendors and sponsors</li> <li>• An open-air laboratory for learning and community activities</li> </ul>
<b>How do you get to your parks?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking</li> <li>• Biking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>

## Notes:

- Better/clear entrance to Concrete Plant Park
- Travel through dangerous streets and intersections to get to parks
- Bronx River Waterfront should be completely driven by community residents. It should include a playground for children and infants to enjoy, and tables with chess boards. It should never close, and it should have the most advanced rodent deterrent system.
- The Bronx River Waterfront should focus on supporting the river as a unique natural waterway that continues to link wildlife and community alike. It is important to continue enhancing the environment around the river and the quality of the river itself through healthy, ecologically-minded land uses in the area.

# Connections

## General

- Need more trash receptacles and lighting
- Dog waste
- Need healthier food options

## Crotona Park

- Hylan Park path lighting (create/improve)

## Southern Blvd & Bruckner

- Pedestrian bridge too dangerous right now
- Need more protection

## Westchester/Whitlock Intersection

- Poorly signalized; street too wide; cars speed as they head south and turn out of Whitlock
- Tenants say night club is a nuisance; concern due to safety
- More park space on waterfront
- Westchester Ave complete street bike lane thoroughfare common to other Bronx intersections to park entrances
- Whitlock Ave has a dangerous bike lane
- Whitlock needs to be enhanced
- Entrance to concrete plant park unsafe
- Barrier to Parkchester
- Traffic lines up on Westchester
- West Farms and Boone: Route for students; not safe to cross; stop sign needs to be enforced

## 174<sup>th</sup> Street

- Trash needs to be cleaned

## Other

- Paradise on earth community garden – new park with bathroom is beautiful
- Prospect to Home to Freeman&Hoe to Simpson/Westchester a food desert