







ABOUT WOODSIDE

Avenue NYC is a competitive grant program created by the NYC Department of Small Business Services to fund and build the capacity of community-based development organizations to execute commercial revitalization initiatives. Avenue NYC is funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, which targets investments in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.

Avenue NYC Commercial Revitalization grants provide multi-year commitments aimed at building the capacity of partner organizations to better understand neighborhood needs, develop impactful programs, and sustain their work in the community for at least three years.

The Commercial District Needs Assessment (CDNA) highlights a neighborhood's existing business landscape and consumer characteristics

This CDNA features the commercial corridors of 39th Avenue, 61st Street, Broadway, Queens Boulevard, Roosevelt Avenue, and Woodside Avenue and was conducted in partnership with Woodside on the Move between July 2023 and June 2024.

Key issues and opportunities identified through this assessment will help prioritize SBS-supported local investments, and serve as an informational and marketing resource for the neighborhood.

In This Report

Existing conditions, business data, and qualitative depictions of the neighborhood were gathered from more than **256 surveys** and various stakeholder meetings with neighborhood merchants, shoppers, workers, property owners, and residents.

Jump to...

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Background

Located in northwestern Queens, Woodside is a bustling commercial and residential district nestled between the transportation hubs of LaGuardia International Airport and the Woodside Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) station. The neighborhood is bordered to the south by Maspeth, to the north by Astoria, to the west by Sunnyside, and to the east by Elmhurst and Jackson Heights.

Originally part of the Town of Newtown (now Elmhurst), the area that would eventually become Woodside was first settled by farmers who drained swamps and clear-cut predator infested woods in the early 1700s. This farmland was developed into bucolic estates for New York's elite in the early 1800s, until it was subdivided for worker housing in the 1860s following the arrival of multiple rail lines to the area. By the 20th century, Woodside became home to the largest Irish American community in Queens, with approximately 80% of the population being of Irish descent by the 1930s. While Woodside maintains a strong Irish culture to this day, the area has also become home to a wide range of other immigrant communities hailing from across Asia, Central America, and South America. With this rich diversity, Woodside has become increasingly known for its range of restaurants and pubs – including ethnic enclaves such as the Filipino microneighborhood of "Little Manila."

Roosevelt Avenue, packed with a wide variety of shops and restaurants, is the main commercial corridor in Woodside, running east to west underneath the elevated 7 subway line. Other commercial corridors such as Woodside Avenue, 61st Street, and 39th Avenue intersect with Roosevelt Avenue, and become gradually more residential as they extend away from the district's commercial center. The intersection of Roosevelt and Woodside avenues in particular represents the geographic heart of the commercial district, and sits directly adjacent to the major transportation hub of Woodside station - with connections to the 7 train, LIRR, and buses to LaGuardia Airport. In the northern part of the neighborhood, Broadway serves as a smaller commercial strip for neighborhood residents. To the south, Queens Boulevard hosts some small businesses, chains, and several auto repair shops.

Following the decision to not locate Amazon's HQ2 in LIC in 2018, real estate speculators took notice of Woodside's proximity to transit and other rapidly growing Queens neighborhoods. As a result, both residential and commercial rents have continued to rise. As increased development continues both to the west in Long Island City and further to the east in Flushing, Woodside residents and community-based organizations anticipate additional local growth in the future.

Neighborhood Demographics

See more on page 17

Woodside has a population of approximately 78,717 residents. 43% of residents are Asian, with the largest groups being Chinese (27%), Bangladeshi (18%), and Filipino (16%). 34% of residents are Hispanic or Latino with Mexicans and Ecuadorians comprising 28% and 22% respectively. 20% of residents are White - with other smaller populations mixed in as well. The median household income in the area is \$71,623 compared to \$82,431 boroughwide, and 9.9% of the residents live below the poverty line compared to 11.7% citywide.

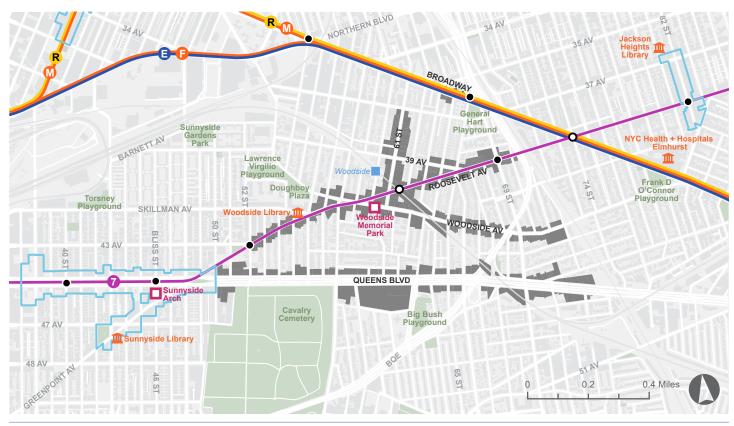
Future Opportunities

See more on page 5

By learning from recent real estate developments in neighboring Long Island City, Sunnyside, and Astoria, Woodside has an opportunity to better shape future development in the community to benefit local residents and businesses. With a strong local consumer base and pervasive sense of community, the area is poised to continue supporting local and culturally diverse businesses. With the recently completed renovation of LaGuardia Airport and the impending completion of renovations to the Woodside LIRR station, the neighborhood can continue to grow as a gateway to the rest of New York City and the global community.

NEIGHBORHOOD CONTEXT

Woodside



▲ Points of Interest

Assessed Commercial Corridors

Notable Places

Parks and Public Spaces

Business Improvement Districts

Public Facilities

▲ Notable Places







Neighborhood Events

Queensboro Dance Festival

St. Pat's for All Parade

Woodside Street Festival

Woodside Tree Lighting Ceremony

Community Groups

Emerald Isle Immigration Center

La Jornada

Moore-Jackson Community Garden

Northern Woodside Coalition

Sisa Pakari

Sunnyside & Woodside Mutual Aid

Woodside on the Move

KEY FINDINGS & OPPORTUNITIES

Strengths

- The diversity of the neighborhood makes it an attractive destination to enjoy global cuisines, especially Hispanic and Southeast Asian dishes
- The neighborhood has ample transit served by the 7 subway line, LIRR, and multiple bus routes including shuttles to LaGuardia Airport and is located at the nexus of Manhattan and other bustling Queens neighborhoods including Astoria, Sunnyside, Jackson Heights, and Elmhurst
- Woodside has a strong sense of community and neighborly feel, aided by the proliferation of mom-and-pop shops

- Clusters of bars and restaurants near transit makes Woodside a nightlife destination in Queens
- Pocket parks along Roosevelt Avenue provide spaces for residents to sit and gather
- A range of nonprofits support neighborhood residents and provide services
- Dense ethnic enclaves and strong cultural support networks make Woodside a popular first stop in the United States for a variety of immigrant groups

Challenges

- The elevated 7 train running above Roosevelt Avenue creates noise, blocks sunlight, and attracts pigeons, resulting in bird waste
- Queens Boulevard serves as a barrier between the southern portion of Woodside and the rest of the neighborhood with its wide lanes, fast vehicular traffic, and inadequate pedestrian safety features
- Residents have reported feeling unsafe on sections of Queens Boulevard and Roosevelt Avenue at night due to a lack of lighting and unsanitary conditions

- Illegal brothels and illegal cannabis dispensaries have proliferated throughout the neighborhood
- Ongoing construction at the Woodside LIRR station underpass has disrupted vehicle and pedestrian traffic and serves as a barrier between the east and west sides of the neighborhood
- ► There is a general lack of green space in the neighborhood
- Real estate speculation, as the result of the gentrification of nearby Long Island City despite the canceled siting of a new Amazon headquarters, has led to rising commercial and residential rents in the neighborhood

















Opportunities

- ► The neighborhood's rich diversity provides an opportunity to host more cultural events that highlight the local food scene
- Install murals on the numerous blank walls throughout the corridor that can serve as canvases for public art
- Clean and beautify the pocket parks along Roosevelt Avenue and host more cultural events and public art installations to activate these spaces
- Market Woodside's local pub scene and food offerings as a nightlife destination, driving foot traffic for longstanding Irish bars and more recently opened Asian and Hispanic restaurants
- Improve pedestrian safety, open space, and streetscape conditions through supplemental sanitation and other quality of life initiatives
- Explore additional pedestrian safety measures on Queens Boulevard

- ▶ Develop lighting and sanitation strategies to enhance the shopping experience along Roosevelt Avenue underneath the elevated 7 subway line
- Implement projects to improve pedestrian safety across the neighborhood, including pedestrianizing 65th Street and 39th Avenue, and increase foot traffic along 39th Avenue
- Install wayfinding to encourage higher foot traffic at businesses further away from main commercial corridors
- Work with the local NYPD police precinct to address merchants' and residents' concerns about safety
- Help local businesses access funds for storefront improvements and other types of business support

What's Next?

To address these key findings and opportunities, Avenue NYC Grants have been awarded by SBS to nonprofit organizations.

For more information, visit: nyc.gov/avenuenyc

Woodside

BUSINESS LANDSCAPE: WOODSIDE

Business Inventory

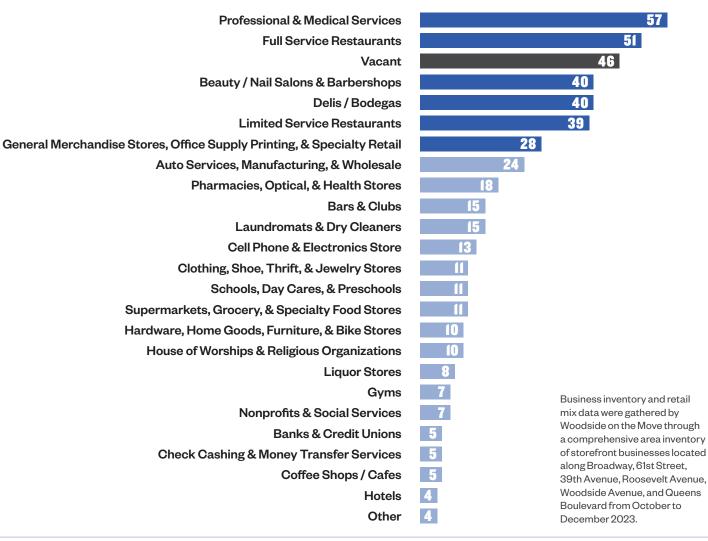
484

Total Number of Storefronts

9.5% Storefront Vacancy*

*Note: As of June 2024, New York City's 75 Business Improvement Districts have an average storefront vacancy rate of 12.8% and median storefront vacancy rate of 11.8% (LiveXYZ).

Storefront & Retail Mix



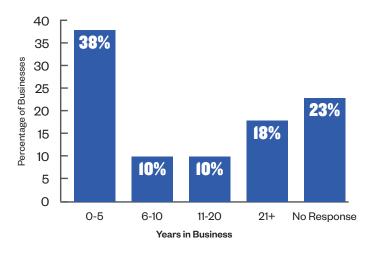


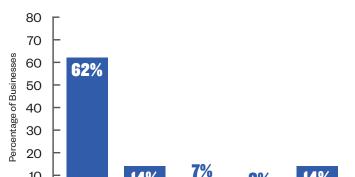




What We've Heard from Woodside Merchants

How many years have you been in business here?





14%

6-10

How many full-time employees do you have?

Median Mode

Note: The mean is the average of all responses, the median is the middle number when all responses are arranged in ascending order, and the mode is the most common response.

Mean Median Mode

Number of Employees

11-20

Do you own or rent your property?

Rent

No Response

Do you live in Woodside?

Yes

10

0

0-5

No Response

14%

No Response

3%

21+

Over the past year, has your business improved, stayed the same, or decreased?

Improved

Staved the Same

Decreased

N/A or No Response

Does your business have an online presence?

	% Merchant Responses
Website and Social Media	29%
► Website Only	8%
Social Media Only	15%
None	9%
➤ No Response	39%

In the coming year, do you plan to expand, stay, relocate, or close?

Expand

Stay

Relocate

Close

No Response



BUSINESS LANDSCAPE

39th Avenue

Business Inventory

Total Storefronts

26%

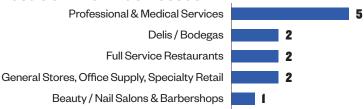
Storefront Vacancy

Storefront Conditions

Poor

Average

Most Common Businesses





Gist Street

Business Inventory

Total Storefronts

Storefront Vacancy

Storefront Conditions

Average

Most Common Businesses





Broadway

Business Inventory

Total Storefronts

Storefront Vacancy

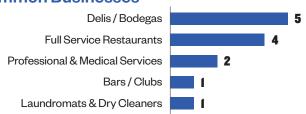
Storefront Conditions

Poor

Average

Good

Most Common Businesses





Queens Boulevard

Business Inventory

Total Storefronts

10%

Storefront Vacancy

Storefront Conditions

Average



Most Common Businesses



Roosevelt Avenue

Business Inventory

Total Storefronts

10%

Storefront Vacancy

Storefront Conditions

Most Common Businesses





Woodside Avenue

Business Inventory

Total Storefronts

Storefront Vacancy

Storefront Conditions

Poor

Average

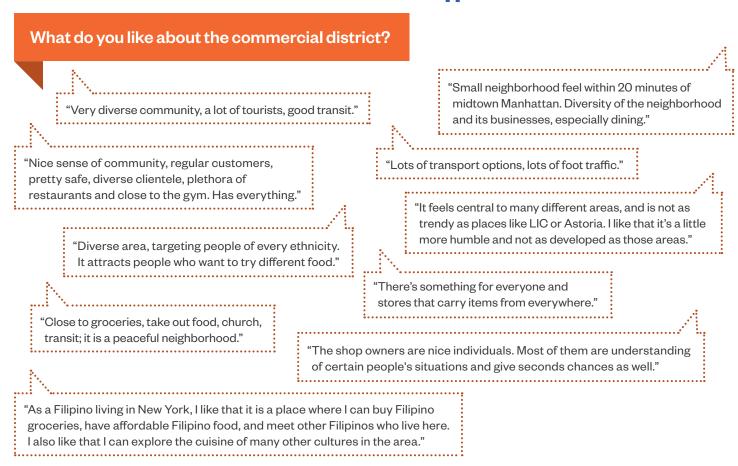
Most Common Businesses

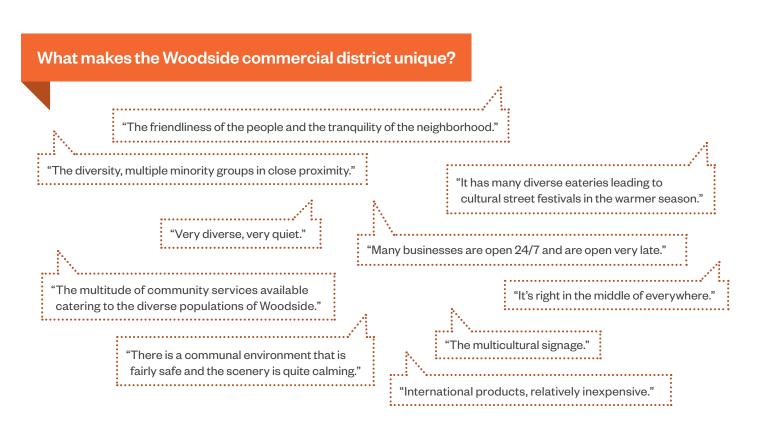




BUSINESS LANDSCAPE: WOODSIDE

What We've Heard from Woodside Merchants & Shoppers





BUSINESS LANDSCAPE

What We've Heard from Woodside Merchants and Shoppers

"MTA construction is blocking storefronts too much."

"We need a place to bring the community together and teach skills."

"Ease up on the fines! It is getting more dangerous recently at night."

"Have more community events!"

"Trash cans on every corner to keep the neighborhood clean."

"Pest removal, tell people to stop feeding pigeons & rats under 48th Street LIRR bridges."

"Less traffic and more pedestrian walking space. I don't feel comfortable crossing the road sometimes."

"MTA construction is blocking storefronts too much."

"Get rid of the "Spas"!"

"Street benches and more trees."

"More events like the annual "Momo-Crawl" combining community & local business."

What changes need to occur in Woodside to attract more visitors/shoppers?

	% Merchant Response	% Consumer Response
► Safety	58%	27%
► Sanitation	44%	49%
Street lighting	30%	28%
Community events	26%	51%
Landscaping/beautification	26%	62%
Graffiti removal	17%	20%
► Merchant collaboration	16%	18%
► More open space	13%	38%
► Transportation improvements	11%	23%
Storefront improvements	5%	30%
► Other	0%	3%

BUSINESS OUTLOOK

Woodside Retail Demand

Residents spent

\$2.62B

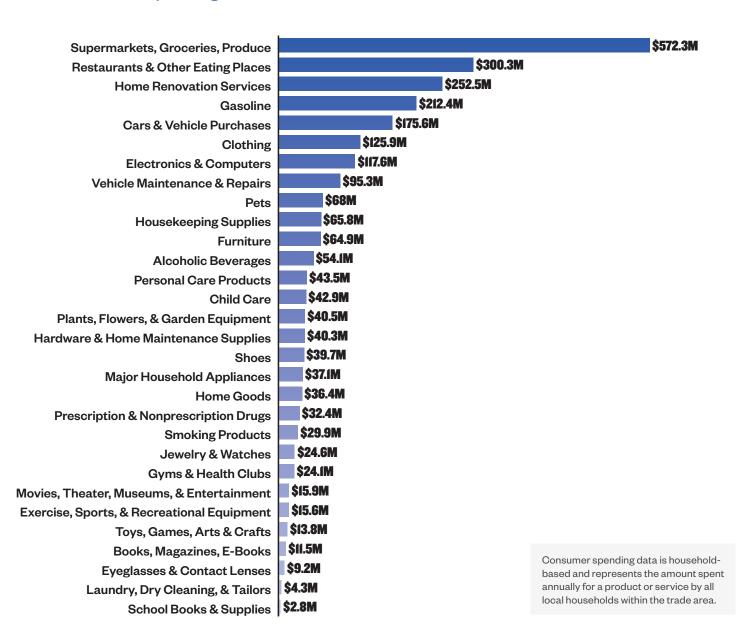
on retail goods and services in 2024

Residents will spend

\$3.00B

each year on retail goods and services by 2029

2024 Consumer Spending



BUSINESS OUTLOOK

Business Trends

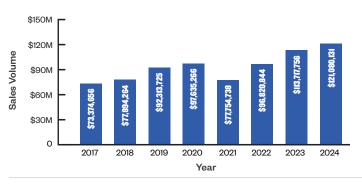
Change in Total Business Sales, 2017-2024



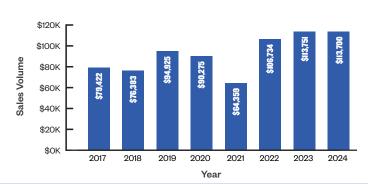
Change in Median Sales by Business, 2017-2024



Woodside Total Business Sales



Woodside Median Sales by Business



^{*}Year 2024 reflects data gathered up until March 2024. Source: Division of Tax Policy, NYC Department of Finance

What We've Heard from Shoppers

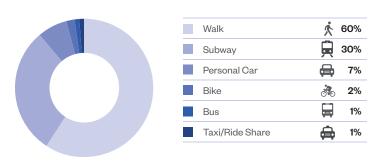
What additional types of businesses would you like to see in Woodside?

► Gyms	1 - 1
► Full Service Restaurants	"1
Cafes, Bakeries	111
► Art/Event/Community Spaces	€ E
▶ Book Stores	
► Clothing Stores	Ŷ

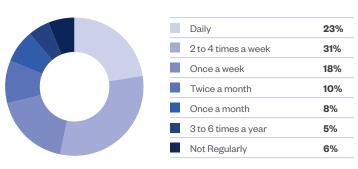
When do you usually shop in Woodside?



How do you usually travel to Woodside?



How often do you shop in Woodside?



PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Storefront Vacancies









An analysis of 484 storefronts along 39th Avenue, 61st Street, Broadway, Queens Boulevard, Roosevelt Avenue, and Woodside Avenue revealed that 16% of storefronts are in poor condition, 62% are in average condition, and 22% are in good condition

Streetscape Observations

- Queens Boulevard's wide, auto-centric design poses challenges for retail activity aside from auto-related uses, and the boulevard suffers from poor pedestrian lighting and low foot traffic
- Woodside Avenue becomes less dense away from its intersection with Roosevelt Avenue, and sections of this corridor enjoy large trees and benches; storefront vacancies disrupt the retail continuity of this corridor
- The elevated train above Roosevelt Avenue produces a significant amount of noise, blocks the sunlight, and attracts bird waste
- 39th Avenue can feel a bit desolate and suffers from litter and a lack of trees
- Most sections of 61st Street have great trees and are fairly clean, but foot traffic drops off farther away from the subway station
- Broadway is dominated by a wide street, large apartment buildings, and large industrial spaces looming in the background; it feels fairly uninviting to shoppers - with lots of litter, few plants, inadequate street lighting, and poor storefront conditions

Street Vendor Study

Street Vendor Retail Mix

Clothing

Literature

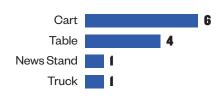
Prepared Hot Foods

Fruits and Vegetables

Snacks & Drinks

Woodside is home to a small yet eclectic collection of street vendors. Nearly all of the vendors in Woodside are located on Roosevelt Avenue or adjacent streets, and they are especially concentrated near the Woodside train station. Vendor types vary from fully equipped food trucks to portable tables. Most of the vendors in the area sell food - primarily Mexican cuisine. The most concentrated area of activity is directly beneath the train station, where pop-up tables feature a variety of goods including clothing, snacks, and drinks.

Street Vendor Equipment Type



Total Number of Street Vendors

12

Average Number of Years Spent Vending

7

This information was gathered by Woodside on the Move on a weekday and weekend day in April 2024. The presence of each stationary street vendor (food truck, food cart, pushcart, tables, and stands) and those using no equipment (e.g. selling out of a cooler) was documented through on-the-ground observations. Vendors in movement were excluded from this study.

Public Space Study: Woodside Memorial Park - Woodside Memorial Triangle

Woodside Memorial Park is located in the heart of the Woodside commercial district, at the intersection of Woodside and Roosevelt avenues next to the Woodside train station. With its benches and small landscaped spaces, the park serves as a small plaza but is currently underutilized and in need of improvements, including broken benches, neglected landscaping, and litter. The consistent presence of a group of older men who drink during the day has made the space feel unwelcoming to others in the neighborhood. A large opaque storefront along the park's eastern side compounds the issue, reducing foot traffic and doubling as a space for unhoused people to sleep and store their belongings. Currently, many people pass through the park quickly on their way to somewhere else or sit briefly to relax, eat, or smoke.



What is your relationship to this space?

% Space User Responses

Live in neighborhood	87%
► Visiting	13%
➤ Work in neighborhood	0%

How often do you visit this plaza?

13%

73%

13%

Regularly

Occasionally

Rarely

How do you typically use this space?

% Space User Responses

► Socializing/meeting friends	67%
► Commuting/passing through	13%
► Eating	13%
▶ Dog Walking	7%



When do you typically visit this space?

100%

0%

67%

33%

Day

Evening

ekday W

What are the top three issues that need to be addressed in this space?

Landscaping/Beautification
Deanliness
Physical Conditions/Amenities
Programs/Events
Removal of Unhoused Individuals
Safety
Lighting
Space User Responses
33%
P7%
Page 1
Programs/Events

DATA APPENDIX

Study Area Boundaries

Assessed Commercial Corridors

Primary data on Woodside storefront businesses presented on pg. 6-9 was gathered along the following commercial corridors:

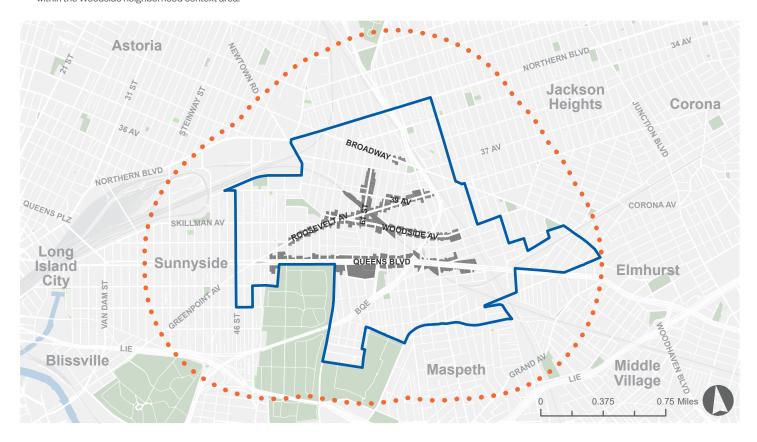
- ▶ 39th Avenue between 63rd Street and Roosevelt Avenue
- ▶ 61st Street between 37th and Woodside avenues
- ▶ Roosevelt Avenue between 52nd Street and the Brooklyn Queens Expressway
- ▶ Woodside Avenue between 56th and 72nd streets
- ► Queens Boulevard between 50th and 74th streets
- ▶ Broadway between 63rd and 65th streets

Woodside Context Area

Demographic and employment data on pg. 16-17 represents the population within the Woodside neighborhood context area.

··· Trade Area

Consumer spending data on pg. 12 corresponds to the 0.75 mile trade area.



Area Demographics

Total Population		
81,518	Woodside	
2,360,826	Queens	
8,622,467	New York City	

Population Density (per square mile)

47,828	Woodside
21,616	Queens
28,517	New York City

Average Hous	ehold Size
2.6	Waadaida

2.0	woodside
2.85	Queens
2.56	New York City

Car Ownership

51.0%	Woodside
63.3%	Queens
45.3%	New York City

Commuting Patterns

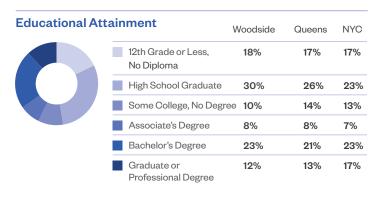


1.017	Live & Work in Woodside
17,853	Work in Woodside, live elsewhere

B2,455 Live in Woodside, work elsewhere

Area Demographics

Race/Background Woodside NYC Queens Hispanic or Latino 35% 28% 29% White alone 20% 24% 31% Black or African 1% 17% 21% American alone Asian alone 43% 26% 14% Two or more races 3% 3% Some other race alone 0% **2**% 1% American Indian and 0% 0% 0% Alaska Native alone Native Hawaiian and 0% 0% Other Pacific Islander



Population Age

	Woodside	Queens	NYC
Under 5 Years	6%	6%	6%
5-14 Years	10%	11%	11%
15-24 Years	8%	11%	12%
25-44 Years	35%	29%	31%
45-64 Years	26%	27%	25%
65+ Years	15%	17%	16%

Median Age		
39.8	Woodside	
39.9	Queens	
37.5 New York City		

Foreign-Born Population		
59%	Woodside	
47%	Queens	
36%	New York City	

Income

Median Household Income

\$71,551	Woodside
\$82,431	Queens
\$76,607	New York City

Pop. Below Poverty Line

10%	Woodside	
12% Queens		
17%	New York City	

Employment

Population in Labor Force

66%	Woodside	
64%	Queens	
63%	New York City	

Unemploy	/ment*
4 N%	\\/ -

110/0	vvoodside	
7.0%	Queens	
7.6%	New York City	

^{*}Note: As of May 2024, the unemployment rate is 4.3% for Queens and 4.9% for New York City (NYSDOL); updated neighborhood-level data for Woodside is not available.

Local Residents' Employment

Local Jobs and Employment





Jobs Located in Woodside



V۱	roodside	
	Educational Services, Health Care, Social Assistance	31%
	Accommodation, Food Services, Arts, Entertainment	8%
	Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	2%
	Retail Trade	15%
	Other Services	14%
	Transportation, Warehousing, Utilities	1%
	Construction	10%
	Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	3%
	Manufacturing	3%
	Public Administration	13%

DATA APPENDIX

Woodside Transportation



▲ Woodside Transportation

Bus Routes

••• Bicycle Lanes

Long Island Railroad

NYC Subway

,	
12,458	Q53 SBS
11,430	Q66
10,687	Q60
6,896	Q18
6,879	Q32
6,720	Q49
6,699	Q47
5,500	Q33
4,262	Q29
3,999	Q39

Average Weekday Bus Ridership (2023)

Average Daily Vehicular Traffic (2022)			
14,752	Broadway from 58th Street to Roosevelt Avenue		
11,936	Roosevelt Avenue from 58th Street to Broadway		
7,660 Woodside Avenue from Northern Boulevard to 65th Place			
5,142	39th Avenue from Woodside to Roosevelt avenues		
2,684	61st Street from Roosevelt to 39th avenues		

Average Weekday Subway Ridership (2023)		
43,672	78 F M R	74 Street-Broadway/Jackson Heights-Roosevelt Avenue
13,225	7	Woodside-61 Street
9,157	7	46 Street-Bliss Street
8,343	7	82 Street-Jackson Heights
4,631	MR	Northern Boulevard
4,449	7	52 Street
4,325	7	69 Street

1,745

Q104

Recent SBS Neighborhood Investments

Commercial Revitalization, Avenue NYC multi-year grant of \$300,000 awarded to Woodside on the Move, 2023-2026.

Existing Plans & Studies

Northern Boulevard Bus Improvements, MTA, 2022.

Queens Boulevard - Yellowstone Boulevard to Union Turnpike Proposed Corridor Safety Improvements, NYC Department of Transportation, 2018.

 $Woodside \, and \, Sunnyside \, Community \, Health \, Profiles, NYC \, Department \, of \, Health \, and \, Mental \, Hygiene, 2018. \, Leaving the profiles of the pro$

Sunnyside - Woodside Rezoning, NYC Department of City Planning, 2011.

Sources

ESRI and Consumer Expenditure Surveys, Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2024 ESRI Retail Demand Outlook.

 $Metropolitan Transportation Authority, 2023. Average \ Daily \ Weekday \ Subway \ Ridership \ and \ Average \ Daily \ Bus \ Weekday \ Ridership.$

 $NYS\,Department\,of\,Transportation.\,2022\,Annual\,Average\,Daily\,Traffic, using\,Traffic\,Data\,Viewer.$

NYC Department of Finance, Division of Tax Policy, using data from NYS Department of Taxation and Finance. Business sales are reported by tax year, which runs from March 1st to February 28th. Sales data are compiled from sales tax returns, which are rolled up by tax filer within a year, excluding returns with negative sales amounts. For each year, each tax filer is reported according to the address listed on their latest return. Large outliers were removed from the analysis, and the top 5% of filers from Manhattan and the top 1% of filers from the outer boroughs by sales were removed.

 $Live\ XYZ, NYC\ Store front\ Data, June\ 2024.\ SBS\ Business\ Improvement\ Districts\ Trends\ Report, FY\ 2023.$

U.S. Census Bureau. 2024. On The Map Application. Longitudinal-Employer Household Dynamics Program.

 $U.S. Census \, Bureau. \, American \, Community \, Survey, 2022 \, American \, Community \, Survey \, 5-Year \, Estimates, using \, NYO \, Population \, FactFinder. \, Woodside \, Tracts: \, 245, 243, 489, 485, 483.01, \, 483.02, \, 247, \, 249, \, 251, \, 253.02, \, 253.01, \, 169, \, 255, \, 257, \, 259, \, 261, \, 263, \, 265.01, \, 291, \, 293$

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ABOUT SBS

The NYC Department of Small Business Services helps unlock economic potential and create economic security for all New Yorkers by connecting New Yorkers to good jobs, creating stronger businesses, and building a fairer economy in neighborhoods across the five boroughs.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to recognize and thank the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to the development of the Woodside Commercial District Needs Assessment:

Queens Borough President Donovan Richards NYC Council Member Julie Won Queens Community Board 2 Woodside on the Move Woodside Merchants Woodside Shoppers and Residents