

LONG ISLAND CITY NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN

Draft Strategies

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NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
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Project Overview

OneLIC is a holistic community planning process to gain input and build consensus on key neighborhood challenges and opportunities towards the development of a neighborhood plan for Long Island City.

Since November 2023, Long Island City stakeholders including residents, business owners, non-profits, advocates, and others, have worked together to establish a vision, goals, and draft strategies through the Long Island City Neighborhood Planning Process.

Communities and City Agencies have weighed in on insights, opportunities, and priorities for the future of the neighborhood to produce the set of Draft Strategies presented in this booklet.

These Draft Strategies are the first step in developing a concrete set of zoning and policy changes, as well as investments in programs and services to support the neighborhood as it grows. They will continue to be refined over the coming months as the plan progresses.

The Community Recommendations can be found on website: www.licplan.nyc/community-recommendations

OneLIC Project and Context Area Map



Neighborhood Planning Process



Shared Goals

Identify Issues, opportunities, and priorities.

Explore ideas to shape how and where the neighborhood grows.



Draft Strategies

Proposed zoning changes.

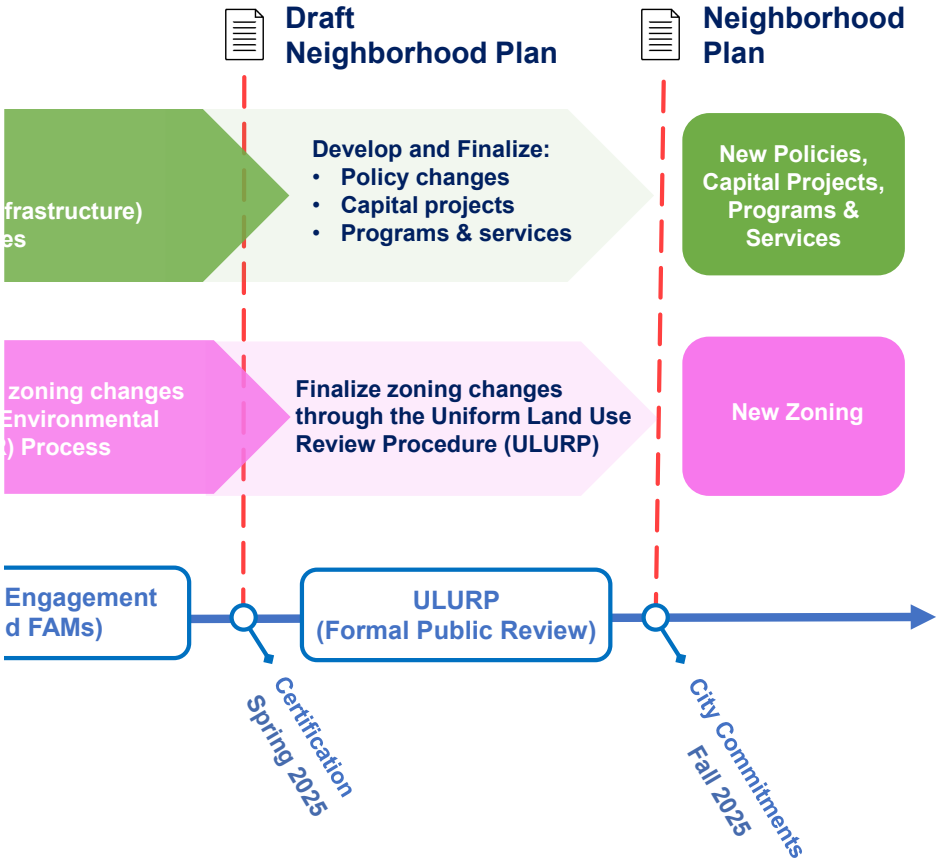
Initial strategies for new policies, capital projects (infrastructure), and programs & services.

Define potential:

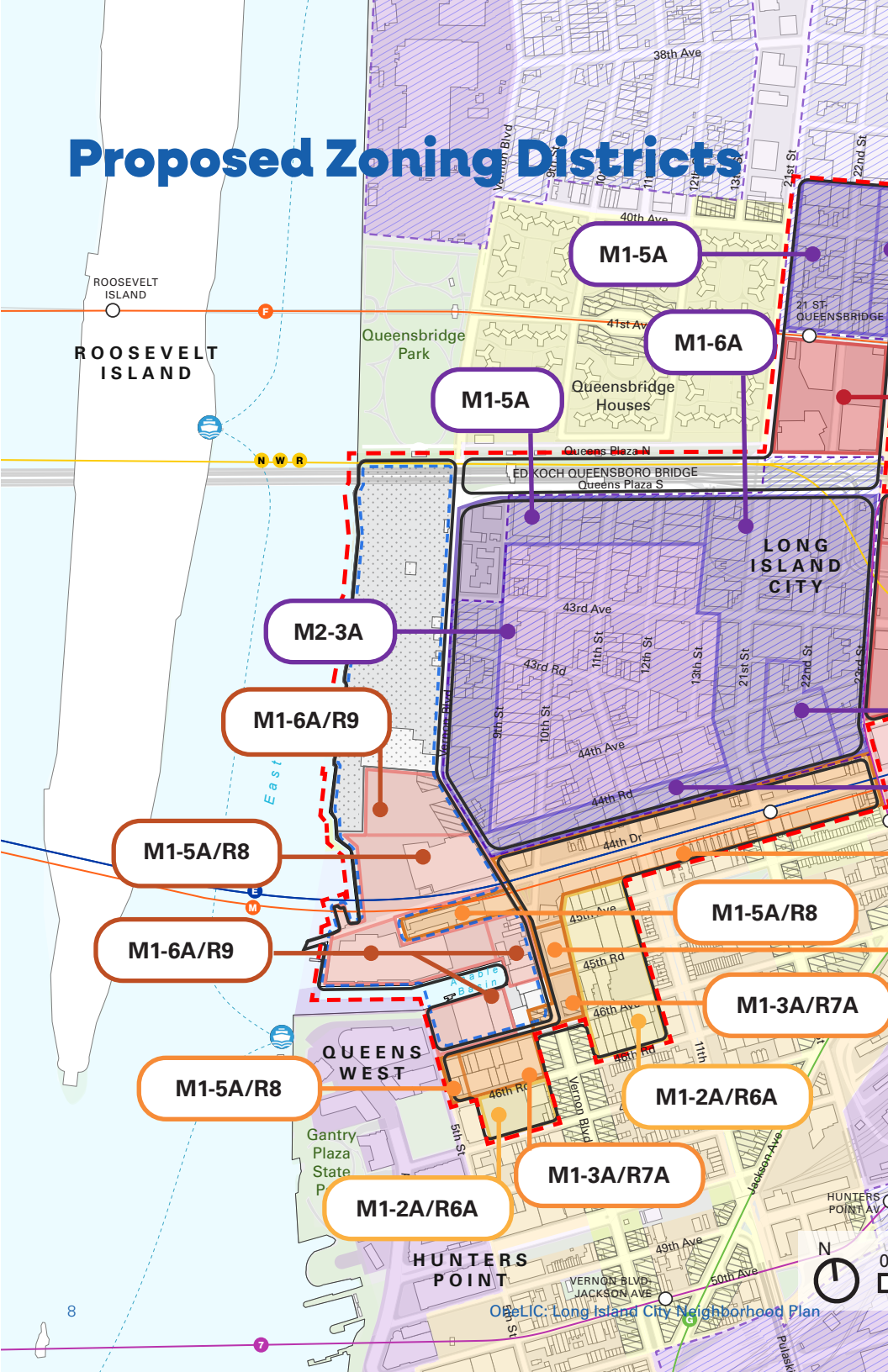
- Policy changes
- Capital projects (in
- Programs & service

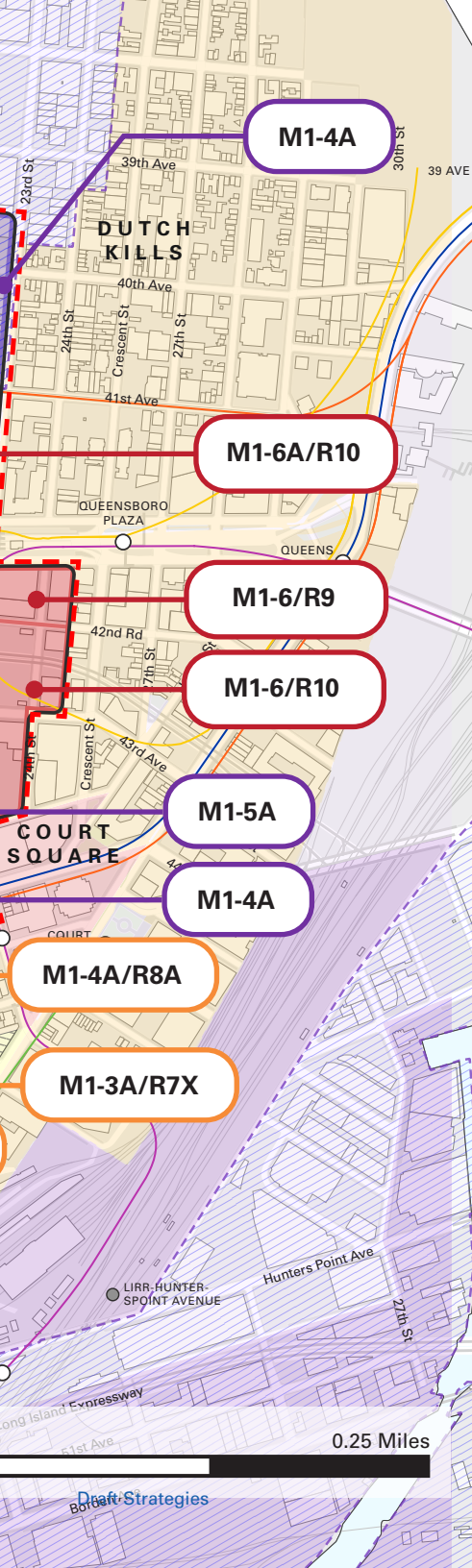
Analyze the proposed through the Citywide B Quality Review (CEQR







Proposed Zoning Districts











PROPOSED LAND USE FOR STUDY AREA










Mixed Industrial and Commercial

-  Industrial & Commercial (Medium-High)
-  Industrial Preference (Medium)

Mixed Residential, Commercial, and Light Industrial

-  Mixed-Use (Highest)
-  Mixed-Use (Higher)
-  Mixed-Use (High)
-  Mixed-Use (Medium)
-  Waterfront Access Plan (WAP)
-  No Changes to Use or Bulk Regulations

EXISTING ZONING (OUTSIDE STUDY AREA)

-  Residential
-  Light Manufacturing
-  Heavy Manufacturing
-  Mixed-Use District (MX)
-  Commercial
-  LIC Special District
-  Study Area
-  Industrial Business Zone (IBZ)
-  Commercial Overlay
-  Park

0.25 Miles

Shared Goals



Protect existing affordable housing and generate significant new housing, especially affordable housing that serves diverse types of households and family needs.



Invest in existing parks and deliver new open space along the waterfront and in the core that is high-quality, resilient, sustainable, and accessible.



Enhance connectivity with multi-modal transportation, improve safety for pedestrians and bikers, and improve logistics for deliveries, loading zones, and truck access.



Plan for a more resilient and sustainable Long Island City by addressing existing challenges, planned development, population growth, and climate change.



Support existing businesses and the creative community, increase local job growth, and improve access to diverse, quality jobs and training.



Invest in neighborhood services, education, and community programs to improve access for marginalized communities and promote public safety.



Increase the knowledge and capacity of planning partners (including residents, local business owners, community-based organizations, city agencies and others) to effectively and equitably work together to shape the future of the neighborhood.



Shared Goal 1

Protect existing affordable housing and generate significant new housing, especially affordable housing that serves diverse types of households and family needs.

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- 1.1** Strengthen support for existing tenants and homeowners to increase housing stability and prevent displacement. This may include HPD's Homeowner Helpdesk program for homeowners in need of support to protect and maintain their homes and the HomeFix program which offers small, no interest loans to homeowners struggling to maintain their homes or invest in repairs or energy efficiency improvements.

- 1.2** Proactively market programs to local property owners that would fund new construction or preservation of homes in exchange for requiring affordable housing.

- 1.3** Encourage new development to meet the needs of a range of household sizes and types by offering a variety of unit sizes

- 1.4 Increase permitted residential densities in the Study Area to encourage the development of new housing, including allowing for new residential uses in areas where no new residential uses are permitted today.

- 1.5 Require that new housing developed in the Study Area include a percentage of income-restricted units pursuant to Mandatory Inclusionary Housing (MIH) and explore which MIH Options are best suited to neighborhood needs.

- 1.6 In partnership with residents, explore opportunities and sources of funding to improve quality of life within Queensbridge Houses, investing in shared spaces and bringing units into a good state of repair

- 1.7 Explore ways to provide technical assistance and operational support for Community Land Trusts (CLTs) that are establishing themselves. This may include identifying additional public sites that are suitable for transfer, launching new programs and tools to assist in the acquisition of private sites, and exploring pathways to leverage CLTs to stabilize private owners in financial distress to help avoid foreclosure or prevent displacement.



Shared Goal 2

Invest in existing parks and deliver new open space along the waterfront and in the core that is high-quality, resilient, sustainable, and accessible.

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- 2.1** Encourage the development of waterfront sites and the creation of a continuous public open space along the LIC waterfront, connecting Gantry Plaza State Park to Queensbridge Park by modify zoning regulations.
- 2.2** Update the design requirements for new open space along the waterfront to encourage new gathering spaces for the community that offer a variety of amenities to support diverse users and nactivities, improve the resiliency of upland sites, and are accessible to all.
- 2.3** Explore ways to increase open space outside of the waterfront which may include Open Streets and other related programing, expanding access to schoolyards during non-school hours, and creating zoning incentives for publicly accessible open space to be included in new development.
- 2.4** Invest in existing neighborhood public parks to meet current and future demand and serve people of all ages.



Shared Goal 3

Enhance connectivity with multi-modal transportation, improve safety for pedestrians and bikers, and improve logistics for deliveries, loading zones, and truck access.

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- 3.1** Explore ways to improve the reliability and frequency of bus service through the ongoing Queens Bus Network Redesign and improve bus stops to be ADA compliant.
- 3.2** Explore ways to improve the reliability, frequency, and accessibility of existing subways and regional rail.
- 3.3** Evaluate feasibility to improve Ferry connections for Queensbridge residents and re-evaluate existing route connections in LIC through broader Citywide Ferry study efforts.
- 3.4** Identify opportunities to improve pedestrian safety, implement traffic calming measures, and expand bike infrastructure, including new bike routes and protected bike lanes.

- 3.5 Identify opportunities to fill gaps in the Western Queens Waterfront Greenway to provide a continuous and protected multimodal path along or near the waterfront.
- 3.6 Monitor curbside usage throughout the neighborhood, including at Queensbridge Houses to help ensure that curb regulations (e.g. parking, loading) match the diverse needs of the community and reduce conflict among different types of users.
- 3.7 Explore opportunities to provide community scale delivery hubs for package pickup/drop off and deliveries by sustainable mode in the neighborhood, including learnings from previous and ongoing pilot programs such as Commercial Cargo Bikes, Microhubs and LockerNYC.
- 3.8 Explore opportunities to provide EV charging and bike parking near transit, including learnings from previous and ongoing pilot programs.



Shared Goal 4

Plan for a more resilient and sustainable Long Island City by addressing existing challenges, planned development, population growth, and climate change

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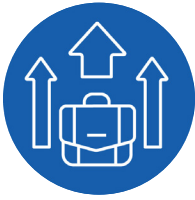
- 4.1** Plan for long term coastal protection by working with the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that future projects are responsive to local priorities and conditions and utilizing zoning to elevate open space along the shoreline to address sea level rise, promoting soft shorelines where feasible.
- 4.2** Utilize existing tools and zoning mechanisms to reduce the vulnerability of new and existing buildings to current and future coastal flooding.
- 4.3** Explore a range of stormwater management strategies and strategic investments in infrastructure over the long term to reduce neighborhood flooding and sewer backups during storm and rain events. Consider DOT's Resilient Waterfront Street Ends Initiative to create a network of resilient, accessible public spaces with amenities, green stormwater infrastructure, flood protection, and climate resiliency.

- 4.4 Explore ways to reduce the urban heat island effect and keep residents safe from extreme heat, which may include identifying gaps in existing tree canopy, particularly street tree coverage, to guide tree-planting efforts and utilizing sidewalks and open space to provide shading structures and cooling features.

- 4.5 Create new opportunities for buildings to adopt green practices through adaptive reuse, renewable energy generation, and retrofits.

- 4.6 Explore ways to increase access to fresh affordable foods by supporting community gardening at Queensbridge Houses and making finished compost available to the community.

- 4.7 Support efforts to build a circular food system to reduce food waste by connecting food establishments with organizations who distribute food to individuals in need.



Shared Goal 5

Support existing businesses and the creative community, increase local job growth, and improve access to diverse, quality jobs and training.

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- 5.1** Increase local jobs by supporting existing businesses that seek to grow and new businesses that want to locate in the neighborhood by changing the zoning in the IBZ in the Study Area to encourage new development that will accommodate a wide range of non-residential uses including community facilities as well as commercial and industrial uses at higher densities than what is permitted today.

- 5.2** Support arts and manufacturing uses by changing the zoning in an area of the IBZ to preference those uses over other uses that are permitted in M-districts.

- 5.3** Build a pipeline of job training and workforce development programs to increase access to high-quality job opportunities, including green jobs for New Yorkers, including youth

- 5.4 Support existing and new small business growth by marketing City programs in LIC that support small businesses start, operate, grow, and address resiliency needs and promote local shopping.
- 5.5 Support efforts to promote LIC as a destination for Arts and Culture by convening the local arts community to self-advocate and support the development of a shared identity among different artists and institutions, build awareness of local arts and cultural institutions, and explore funding models to increase support for local artists, organizations and initiatives.
- 5.6 Support the development of community hiring requirements that would apply to applicable City agency capital spending projects in the neighborhood.
- 5.7 Leverage the City's Project Labor Agreements to set requirements for union labor on applicable City capital construction projects
- 5.8 Increase opportunities for the local creative community to develop new works of public art.



Shared Goal 6

Invest in neighborhood services, education, and community programs to improve access for marginalized communities and promote public safety.

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- 6.1** Support the siting of new public schools in the neighborhood by creating zoning incentives for new development to include a school.

- 6.2** Pending new City funding, ensure that adequate numbers of school seats are provided for existing needs and future growth in the district to provide students and families in the area with public-school options. Continue to monitor school seat needs in Community District 30 and amend the 5-Year Capital Plan as needed.

- 6.3** Work with government agencies and local stakeholders to identify opportunities to activate public sites for affordable housing, open space, investments in the waterfront, job creation, and community-serving uses.

- 6.4** Explore ways to foster public safety and employ a range of crime mitigation strategies within Queensbridge Houses and the community at-large.

- 6.5** Continue to operate community partnership programs such as Health Advocacy Partners Program and NYC Public Health Corps to work with community organizations to improve health access and outcomes. In partnership with non-governmental organizations, work to identify areas in need of greater healthcare access, including residents in Queensbridge, Ravenswood, and Blissville.

- 6.6** Build partnerships with existing local research and healthcare institutions, such as Cornell Tech and LaGuardia Community College to explore new healthcare resources.

- 6.7** Explore opportunities to expand library resources including reopening the Court Square library.

- 6.8** Provide programming for youth and seniors, workforce training/employment resources, and recreational opportunities.

- 6.9** Invest in improvements to “in between” spaces in the neighborhood, which may include areas around the bridges.

- 6.10** Continue to partner with local community groups and facilities to distribute critical information to communities on how to access mental and physical health support.

- 6.11** Promote access to critical care workers such as a nurse, doula, or community health worker to make in-person or virtual visits to the home of a parent who is pregnant or has an infant or young child through Taskforce on Racial Inclusion & Equity and New Family Home Visits programs



Shared Goal 7

Increase the knowledge and capacity of planning partners (including residents, local business owners, community-based organizations, city agencies and others) to effectively and equitably work together to shape the future of the neighborhood.

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- 7.1** Convene local stakeholders to shape new projects committed through the plan.
- 7.2** Share updates with the community on the status of community investments.

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