Enhance the picturesque park:
Expose gigantic rocks and meadows

Provide more opportunities for healthy activity:
Improve the recreation center, athletic fields, playgrounds & restrooms

Improve forest and ecology health:
Remove invasive trees and the vines that are killing trees. Enhance habitat for birds and locally rare species such as Dusky Salamanders

Create opportunities for adventure:
Provide rock climbing, mountain biking, skateboarding, and BMX biking

Improve bike path continuity and connections to the community:
Construct a visible and continuous middle level path through the entire length of the park connecting to the High bridge
**Highbridge Park**

*The rocks are cloaked in bittersweet and invasive trees, hiding their great beauty, they are sometimes gigantic, always scenic, and beckon exploration.*

The exposed bluff near Laurel Hill Terrace is 150 feet above the Harlem river.
Highbridge Park

The restoration of the High Bridge will make it possible to bike on the Croton Aqueduct Trail from Manhattan to Westchester.
Highbridge Park

Restore and reveal the picturesque beauty of the park, provide a safe and scenic route through the middle level of the park connecting to the High Bridge.

Activate isolated areas with uses that are attractive to adventure seeking people, who will make maximum use of the rock outcroppings, steep topography and difficult sites.
Community Concerns as reported on All Our Ideas

Each “word cloud” shows the top ten concerns people mentioned. If the type is larger, it means more people requested that item.
Highbridge Park

Community Concerns as reported on All Our Ideas

Each “word cloud” shows the top ten concerns people mentioned. If the type is larger, it means the item has a high probability of being requested by other community members.
Highbridge Park
North

Community Concerns as reported on *All Our Ideas*

Each “word cloud” shows the top ten concerns people mentioned. If the type is larger, it means the item has a high probability of being requested by other community members.
Highbridge Park

Physical Issues South

1. Improve interior path continuity to encourage use, service access, and police patrol.
2. Overgrown landscape blocks scenic views and inhibits use of park interior for positive uses.
3. Imminent bridge rehabilitation and opening requires improved bicycle and pedestrian access to the High Bridge.

Opportunity for continued improvement to park perimeter.

Concept Plan South

1. Improve playground.
2. Convert the Highbridge Pool House into an interior recreation center. Provide exterior access to restrooms.
3. Create water playground and add shade and picnic areas.
4. Improve pedestrian access route to Amsterdam Ave. from the Washington bridge, and across 178, 179 and 181st Streets.
5. Improve vehicular access for police and service vehicles.

Highbridge Park

- Rebrand as an adventure park.
- Full court press on invasive species.
- Open sight lines to bike path.
- Connect the middle level.
- Improve entire perimeter.
- Create a destination area.
- Create a neighborhood.
- Restore the Highbridge Pool House.
Highbridge Park

Recreation center needs reorganization to improve use

176

Improve interior path continuity to encourage use, service access, and police patrol

Overgrown landscape blocks scenic views and inhibits use of park interior for positive uses

Control invasive plants to improve forest health

Opportunity for continued improvement to park perimeter

Restroom facilities at recreation and play areas needed to enhance public enjoyment

Improve access to park interior

Inlet is filling up with silt providing an opportunity for a healthy marsh

Concept Plan North

Create green corridor to K.J. Hood Wright Park
Create pedestrian access route to Amsterdam Ave. from the Washington bridge and across 178, 179, and 181st. Streets

Create water playground and add shade and picnic areas

Create new soccer field

Improve vehicular access for police and service vehicles

Buffer highway and soften McNally Plaza with plantings

Expand mountain bike course

Highbridge Park

- Rebrand as an adventure park
- Full court press on invasive vine and tree removal
- Open sight lines to bike route from upper level to change social nature of the park

Physical Issues North

Improve the street and intersections for pedestrians and bicyclists

Opportunity for continued improvement to park perimeter

Branding as a “Paseo” place for an evening stroll

Create a striped bike connection

Open views of marsh and create a new park entrance from Tenth Ave.

Find a new place for the operations compound and create new park entrance

Strengthen pedestrian connections through the housing development

Create new playground

Create small-boat launch and storage

Create low marsh habitat

Create high marsh habitat

Manage alfalfa as landscape, scenic, and operations

Create food concession

Make park entrance greener and more beautiful

Create bike and food concession

Open views of marsh and create a new park entrance from Tenth Ave.
Highbridge Park

Provide restrooms
Add play value and exercise opportunities to playgrounds
Develop rock climbing and adventure trails

Open views from upper level park to bike route, rocks and meadows

Block views of highway

Improve the health and beauty of forest and meadows

Extend and connect middle level bike path from 158th St. to Dyckman St, with police access
Highbridge Park

Open views of middle level path and scenic elements

Remove scrub growth

Raise the tree canopy

Plant to block views of the highway.
Highbridge Park

Create an adventure trail through the park’s middle level
Provide opportunities to learn to climb rocks and explore rugged terrain

Increase path visibility from the upper level of the park, but keep it rustic

Remove scrub growth and invasive trees around rock outcroppings

Attract day camps

Encourage family adventure
Highbridge Park
Create opportunities for adventure

Remove pipe rail and benches in front of these major rocks

Provide training and programs to encourage the use of these rocks for adventure sports

Obtain sponsors or partners for training and programs
Make the **Highbridge Recreation Center** a year-round family activity and fitness attraction.

- **New Path**
- **New Soccer Field**
- **Skate park**
- **Terrace Café**
- **Picnic area**
- **Rock and water spray play**

**Connect the bike path from the High Bridge to 182nd Street**

**Signalized pedestrian crossing to the River**

**Access to top of the tower**

**Local food café and catering, bike rentals**

**Expand the Recreation Center**

**The restored High Bridge**
Highbridge Park  Create a path through the middle level of the park

176th Street

Section A-A

existing grade
lower existing athletic field 2'
proposed grade
install 4' retaining wall and guide rail
stabilize lower slope and open views to river where feasible
Highbridge Recreation Center

Construct external locker rooms and a new vestibule to free up internal recreation space in the recreation center during the summer.

- Move locker rooms to pool deck
- Create new vestibule to join the wings
- New changing and locker rooms

New changing and locker rooms

New vestibule to join wings
Highbridge Recreation Center

Parsons School of Design students constructed the changing pavilions in Summer 2011.
Highbridge Park

Improve landscape beauty, recreational opportunities and traffic safety

Improve mountain biking trails and pedestrian paths

Upgrade playgrounds

Provide a comfort station

Install beautiful perimeter plantings

Stop drag racing on the street

Construct a walkway around Sherman creek and restore the marsh

Improve park character and pedestrian crossings along Dyckman St.

Small boat launch and storage

Remove invasive vines and open views

NEIGHBORHOOD FAMILY FUN AND FITNESS
Highbridge Park

Activate isolated areas of the park with uses that are attractive to adventure-seeking people, who will make maximum use of the rock outcroppings, steep topography and difficult sites.

BMX biking

mountain biking

skateboarding
Highbridge Park

Restore forest health, ecological benefits, and scenic beauty

Remove invasive vines and trees, evaluate each species, its value or threat to the ecology, and develop a manual for treatment.

Replant to establish forest balance and maintain scenic views.

Clear around rock areas and scenic viewpoints.

Establish volunteer, and after-school ecological restoration, educational and work programs.
Highbridge Park

Remove invasive trees and vines

• Inspect important trees vulnerable to disease, such as the American Elm
• Protect sensitive areas, some are home to the Dusky Salamander, a NYC rarity, as well as garter snakes and white foot mice
• Update the entitation maps

This is a map of the plant communities prepared by the Natural Resources Group to guide restoration decisions. It considers cover type, canopy species, understory types and species and soil conditions.

The red and purple areas require attention or the vines will continue to kill trees
Highbridge Park

Open views of middle level path and scenic elements

Remove invasive trees and vines

Overlay maps of invasive trees and vines with maps of desirable and undesirable views, to plan removal and replanting

Replant view corridors with middle scale trees, and meadows
Highbridge Park

Open views of middle level path and scenic elements

Remove tall fences and scrub growth that impedes views where dumping has subsided.

Orient benches to face views.

Locate benches at view points.
Highbridge Park

- Restore the stone stairs, parapets and fences
- Remove improper pointing and painting from the structure
- Light structures for scenic interest and pedestrian safety
- Remove domestic scale planters

Restore stair ensembles throughout park
Highbridge Park

Redevelop the Dyckman Rest area for bike rentals and food concession

Provide attractive food vendors and an eating place

Develop a waiting area for livery car operators

Develop a mountain bike rental and concession
Highbridge Park

Improve perimeter appearance

- Extend the perimeter treatment of Jackie Robinson Park
- Replace the guardrail with a wooden barrier rail
- Replace vandal resistant benches with a decorative metal bench
- Redesign vehicular gates
Highbridge Park

Develop a rustic landscape plan that highlights the rocks and captures the water from springs and street

- Create interesting views into the landscape
- Establish new paths up to Amsterdam Avenue from Dyckman street
- Regrade to create low areas to capture water and support plantings
- Correct faulty storm sewers on Amsterdam Avenue