PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

Make a plan that can be implemented over the next 20 years by coordinating the efforts of elected officials, NYC Parks, City agencies, community members and non-profit partners.
Over $150 million in capital projects have been recently completed or are underway.

Purpose of the Master Plan

Identify and coordinate the next projects that will address community concerns and recreational needs as well as restore infrastructure and ecology.
Stitch the parks together as a system of ecological areas, scenic paths, bike routes, and river access points. Distribute recreational facilities needed by the whole community.

Neighborhood embraced by 5 major parks and 9 miles of shoreline

- Ft. Washington
- Ft. Tryon
- Inwood Hill
- Isham
- Highbridge

Population 208,000
678 acres of parkland
3.2 acres per 1000 people
More than 20 groups are currently engaged in improving Northern Manhattan Parks

Advance the work of non-profit partners and volunteers.
Success of the Master Plan depends on:

1. Shared understanding of the park problems and community needs
2. Commitment to the proposed solutions, and to obtaining funding for them
3. Coordinated long-term effort between agencies, non-profit partners, community groups and elected officials to fund and implement projects
Northern Manhattan Parks

Master Plan: PLANNING GOALS

Identify and address community concerns, waterfront design and access, pedestrian and bicycle circulation, recreational needs and preferences, as well as ecological and sustainability goals, community health and fitness, service and security problems.
Develop an in-depth understanding of community concerns, wishes and initiatives.

Interview community members, non-profit groups and representatives of elected officials.
Build on the planning efforts of other agencies and groups

- Department of Transportation
- City Planning
- Department of Health
- New York Restoration Project
- Partnerships for Parks
- City College
- Parks Capital Projects
- Prior Parks Master Plans
- Natural Resources Group

Facilitate the formation of stewardship groups and partners who will assist with implementation
Make extensive use of internal experts:

• Partnerships for Parks
• Natural Resources Group
• Rangers
• Parks Inspection Program
• Operations division

Planning Goals

Implement the 21st Century Park Design Guidelines

Advance the goals of PlaNYC

Advance the goals of the NYC Waterfront Plan Vision 2020

Incorporate the FIT City Active Design Guidelines
Master Plan: INFORMATION GATHERING

Learn what people know, what they are concerned about, what they are working on and what more they think can be done. Review existing studies, interview elected officials, leaders, Parks Department and external experts.
Northern Manhattan Parks 2030 Master Plan

Community Concerns Maps

We conducted work sessions with maps to record concerns, wishes and existing projects:

- Restore forest health, views and ecology
- Increase river access
- Connect bike paths

- Restore paths and historic features
- Increase enforcement of drug laws
- Prevent homeless encampments
- Improve park cleanliness
- Connect communities to the park
Northern Manhattan Parks 2030 Master Plan

Community Board 12 Vision

We worked with Community Board 12 to develop a vision for the Master Plan:

1. Connect parks to neighborhoods through the creation of green corridors and prominent gathering spaces

2. Prioritize safe, well-maintained and accessible parks

3. Offer programming, features and amenities that will serve the community’s needs and diverse interests

4. Protect the integrity of the natural environment, including the unique geology, forest, wildlife and wetlands

5. Provide safe and convenient access to bicycle and watercraft for both recreation and commuting

6. Advance design concepts that are relevant to the culture of the community
We used the Princeton Sociology department’s web-site *ALL OUR IDEAS* to reach people who don’t go to meetings.

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.
Inwood and Washington Heights at a Glance

**Population**
Total number of people living in Inwood and Washington Heights in 2000:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Inwood &amp; Washington Heights</th>
<th>Manhattan</th>
<th>NYC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-17 Years</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-24 Years</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44 Years</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-64 Years</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+ Years</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Poverty**
In Inwood and Washington Heights, the percent of residents living below the poverty level is higher than in Manhattan and NYC overall.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Inwood &amp; Washington Heights</th>
<th>Manhattan</th>
<th>NYC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 8th grade</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some high school, no diploma</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College graduate</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Race / Ethnicity**
Inwood and Washington Heights have a much higher proportion of Hispanic residents than Manhattan and NYC overall.
More than 1 in 5 adults are obese

48% of the adults do not get physical exercise

Adults in Inwood and Washington Heights are more likely than those in the rest of New York City to develop diabetes

**Diabetes**

Adults in Inwood and Washington Heights are more likely to have diabetes than Manhattan adults

**Obesity**

More than 1 in 5 of adults in Inwood and Washington Heights are obese

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*Data Source: NYC Community Health Survey 2002-03-04*
Compared the levels of service recommended by the New Yorkers For Parks “Open Space Index,” to the quantity of existing facilities. The community would benefit from additional fields, courts and indoor recreation space.

Based on the 2000 census population of 208,414 — 53,600 of whom are under 17
Dark red areas have the greatest numbers of children between the ages of 0 and 17.

We assess recreational adequacy primarily by walking distance. It is desirable to have a playground within a ten minute (¼ mile) walk of every residence.

We also consider the quantity of facilities using the New Yorkers for Parks “Open Space Index” as a guide.

22 Playgrounds needed

7 Playgrounds
In parks

2 Playgrounds
In schools

Area in need of a playground

¼ mile radius

2000 Census

Northern Manhattan Parks 2030 Master Plan

Playgrounds
It is desirable to have a comfort station within playgrounds and within a ten minute (¼ mile) walk from recreation areas.
Based on population, the community would benefit from more fields within a twenty-minute (½ mile) walk of every residence. George Washington High School is located in the area described.

**Fields: Soccer**

It is desirable to have athletic fields within a twenty-minute (½ mile) walk of every residence.
It is desirable to have athletic fields within a twenty minute (½ mile) walk of every residence.
It is desirable to have ball courts within a twenty minute (½ mile) walk of every residence. Based on population, the community would benefit from more courts.
Northern Manhattan Parks 2030 Master Plan

Courts: Handball

It is desirable to have ball courts within a twenty minute (½ mile) walk of every residence.
Northern Manhattan Parks 2030 Master Plan

Courts: Tennis

It is desirable to have tennis courts within a thirty minute (1 mile) commute of every residence.
It is desirable to have a recreation center within a thirty minute (1 mile) commute of every residence. Based on population, the community would benefit from more interior recreation space.