

NWBPCR Community Meeting #4 Report Out December 7, 2022

Manhattan Community Board 1 Battery Park City Committee



AGENDA

- Welcome and Brief Background Refresher (15 minutes)
- Addressing General Project Questions (15 minutes)
- Addressing Reach-Specific Questions (75 minutes):
 - Reaches 1 & 2 (15 minutes)
 - Reaches 6 & 7 (15 minutes)
 - Reaches 3, 4, & 5 (45 minutes)
- Wrap Up & Outstanding Questions (15 minutes)

MEETING PURPOSE

Provide responses to Community Board 1 to inform their resolution related to the Draft Scope of Work before the comment period for the Scoping Document ends on December 31. We will:

- Reach-by-Reach, address as many questions received in the time allotted
- Provide clarifications and answer previously received questions related to the Draft Scope of Work.
- Respond to questions received at the September 19th NWBPCR Public Meeting

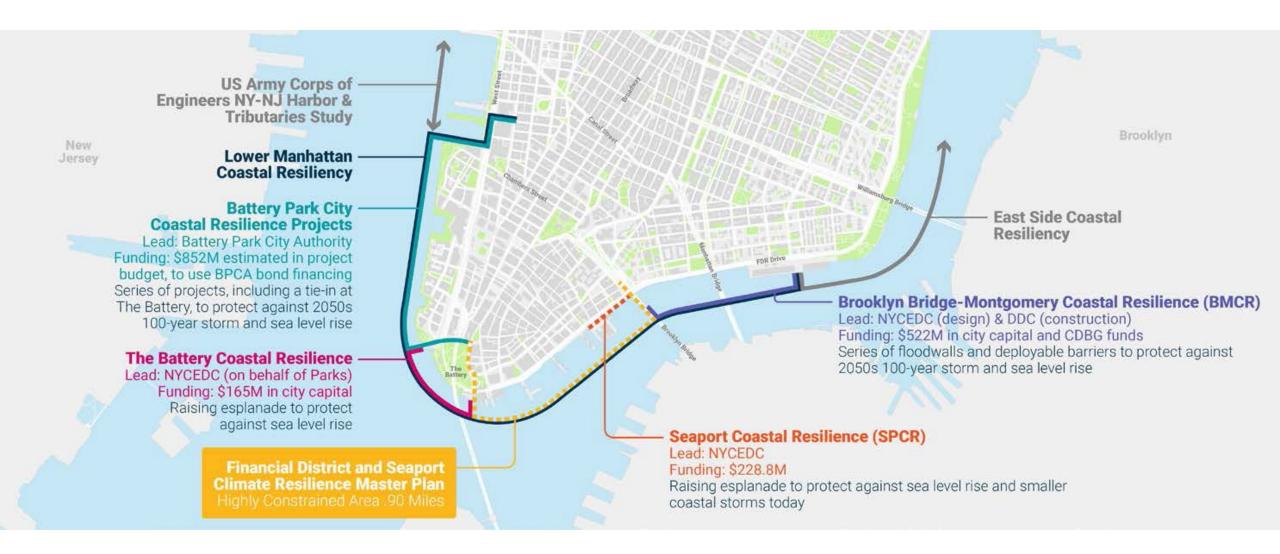
More information about the project can be found on our website: https://bpca.ny.gov/nwbpcr

Note: Tonight is not the only opportunity for submitting comments or asking questions regarding design considerations and their impact on the community.

PROJECT AREA



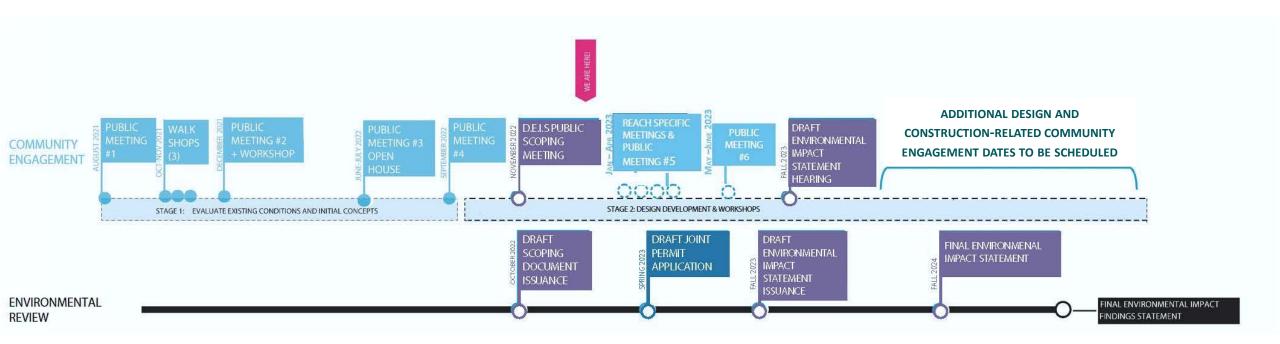
LOWER MANHATTAN COASTAL RESILIENCY (LMCR) FRAMEWORK





ADDITIONAL ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

There will be ongoing opportunities throughout 2023 for the community to provide additional feedback on the project design, including reach-specific workshops starting in early 2023.



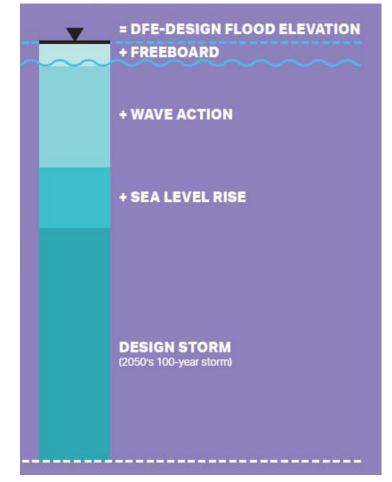
WHAT IS DFE?

The **design flood elevation** is the minimum elevation to which a structure must be elevated or floodproofed.

In concert with other BPCA and LMCR projects, NWBPCR's DFEs address the 2050s 100-Year Storm. They range from 15.5' – 21".

Those DFEs comprise:

- Still Water Baseline, which is FEMA's projections of a 100-Year Storm Today:
 - Astronomical Tide + Storm Surge
 - Offshore and Overland Wave Heights
 - Wave Runup
 - (These projections are validated by NOAA's recordings of actual storms, as well as a separate FEMA model)
- Sea Level Rise: New York City Panel on Climate Change's 90th percentile projections for sea level rise by 2050 (30")
- Wave Impacts: Computer simulations (MIKE21) to project potential wave crest for 100-Year Storm
- Freeboard: height FEMA recommends as a factor of safety to account for statistical uncertainty

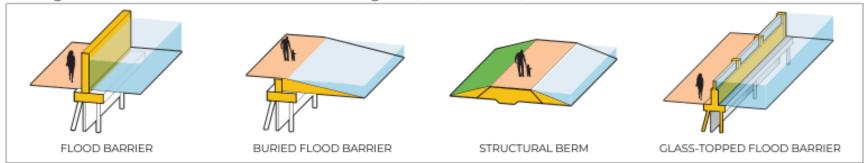




FLOOD BARRIER SYSTEM OPTIONS: FIXED & DEPLOYABLE BARRIERS

FIXED FLOOD BARRIER EXAMPLES

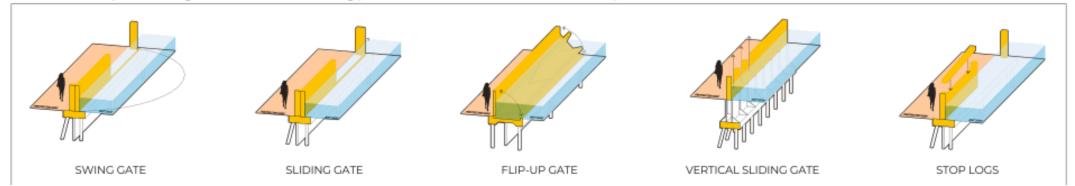
Fixed barriers can be either exposed or buried. Buried floodwalls can be concealed and hidden in the landscape. Exposed floodwalls are sometimes required in order to connect to adjacent structures, or because of technical challenges. While a floodwall has a narrow width above ground, the foundation, usually underground, is much wider to ensure that the floodwall can withstand wave action and other forces. Additionally, a fifteen foot tree and shrub offset on both sides of the barrier is required to prevent damage from roots.



DEPLOYABLE FLOOD BARRIER EXAMPLES

Deployable gates are temporary flood barriers that can be closed or placed prior to a coastal storm and then stowed afterwards. In a non-storm event, they can be stored in ways that integrate into the surrounding public realm with limited

impact. Deployable gates require mechanical systems to physically move the gates and have a larger footprint than a static floodwall, as well as vehicular access requirements.







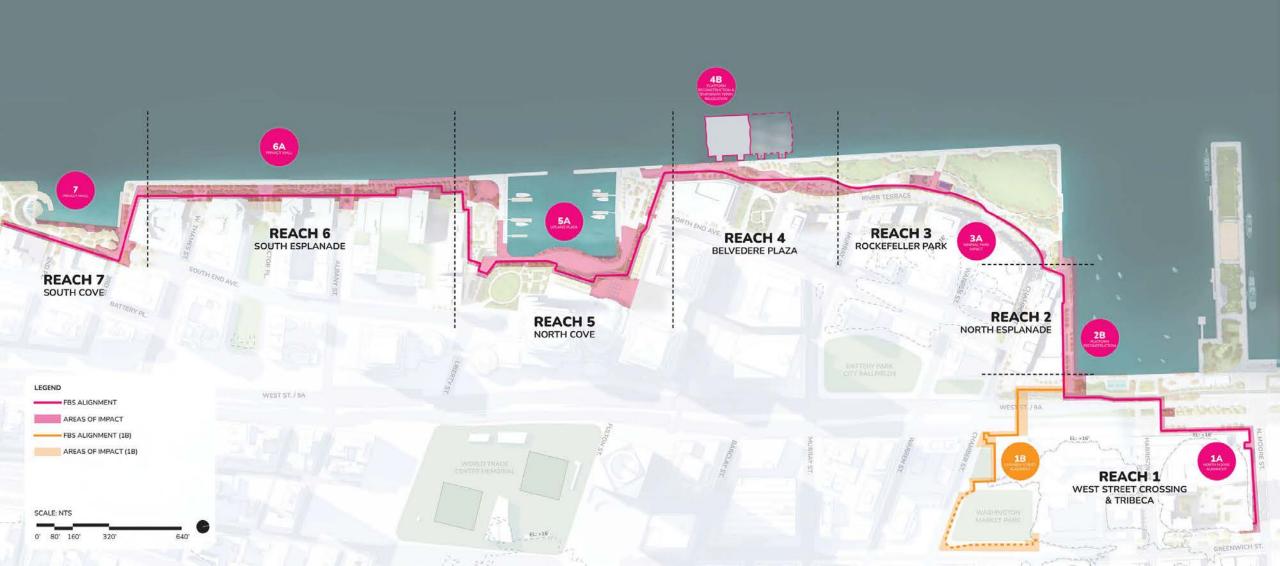
GENERAL PROJECT QUESTIONS RECEIVED AT SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETING



Alternative Alignments



Preliminary Preferred Alignment



GENERAL PROJECT QUESTIONS

- Will this project raise taxes?
- How will the schedule impact residents?
- How is this impacted by the latest report/recommendation from the Army Corps of Engineer and their choice of option 3B? Has the plan for the Battery Park City resiliency project considered the necessity of the project given the significant storm surge barriers planned by the US Army Corps? Has there been any coordination or integration of efforts among BPCA and US Army Corps concerning these two independent projects?
- Is it possible to see with a higher resolution and also a comparison of a current state vs. a future state?
- Have the environmental designers, engineers, architects, landscape designers consulted with professionals in other countries faced with similar waterfront challenges, such as Holland?
- The lowest elevation is on West St side how it will be addressed?
- How does this project address the impact of drainage rainfall?

GENERAL QUESTIONS (CONTINUED)

- 8. Where can we see details of the costs and how this work will be paid for? Where are details of the selection process for design and construction teams, advisors etc.? i.e. RFP submissions, scoring, disclosure of key individuals, conflicts of interest etc. Is federal funding considered and if not then why not please?
- 9. How many trees will be removed?
- 10. How many BPC features will need to be removed?
- 11. How many playgrounds will be removed or inaccessible for a number of years?
- 12. Why is building an inland wall around Battery Park City the best approach to fight coastal flooding?
- 13. How do you determine the height of the barriers?
- 14. What are the "alignments" how do you define this term?



REACH 1 QUESTIONS RECEIVED AT SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETING

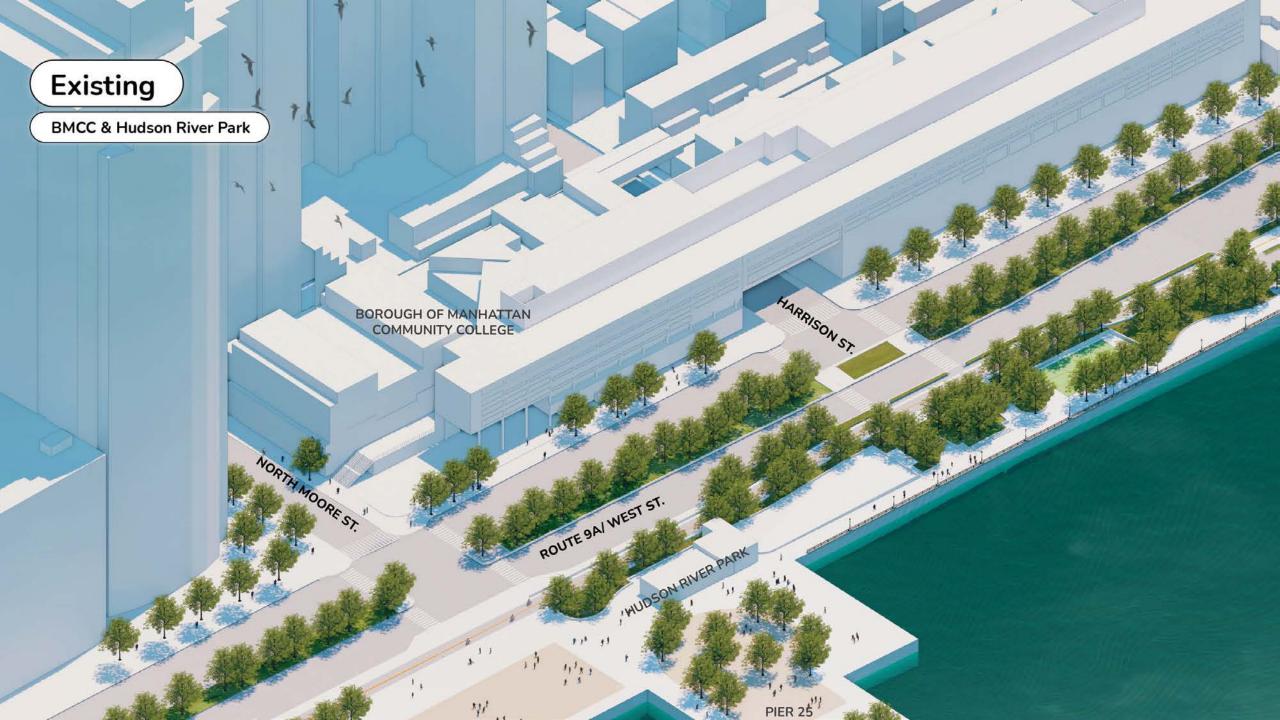
REACH 1 QUESTIONS

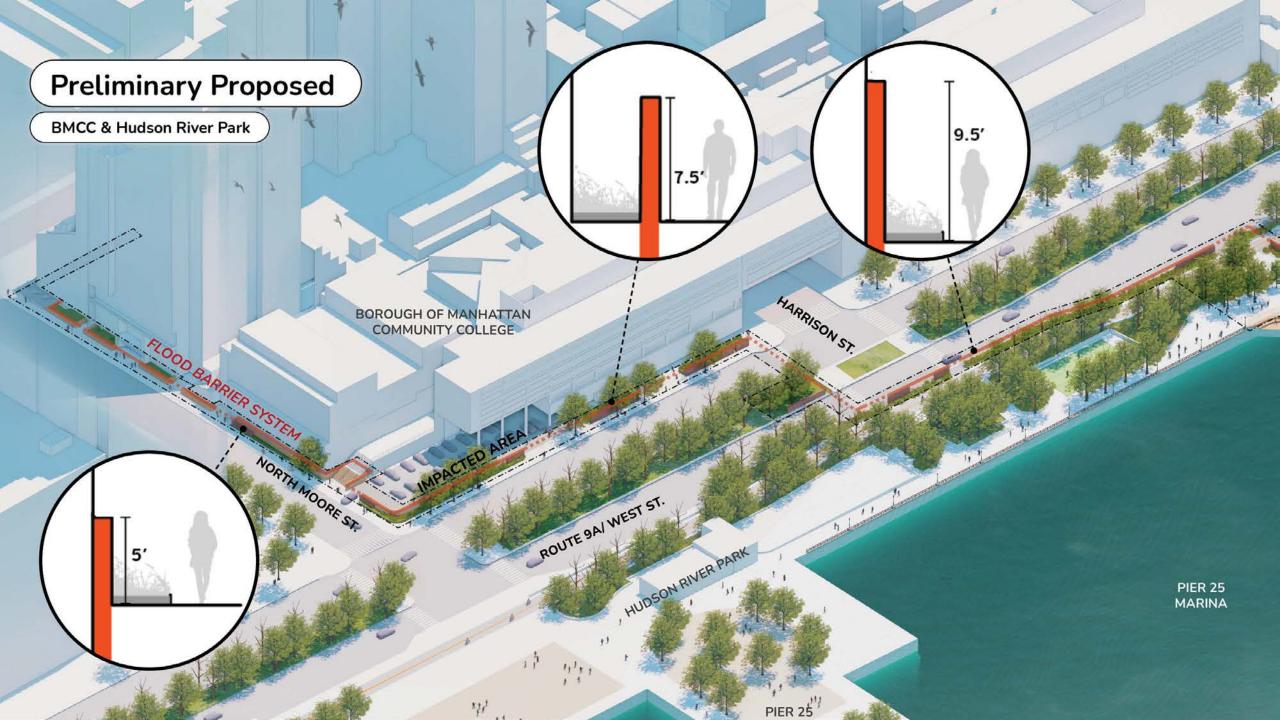
- How would this impact pedestrian use on N Moore St.?
- If the modeling will not allow for Reach 1B, could this be improved by putting the barrier between the bike path and the west side highway, rather than between the pedestrian and bike paths? That would provide an additional sound/pollution barrier for bikers and pedestrians, which would be an added benefit.
- Can you describe more how this would impact Washington Market, especially considering construction closure of green space along Battery Park? Where are parents and little kids supposed to go during construction?

REACH 1

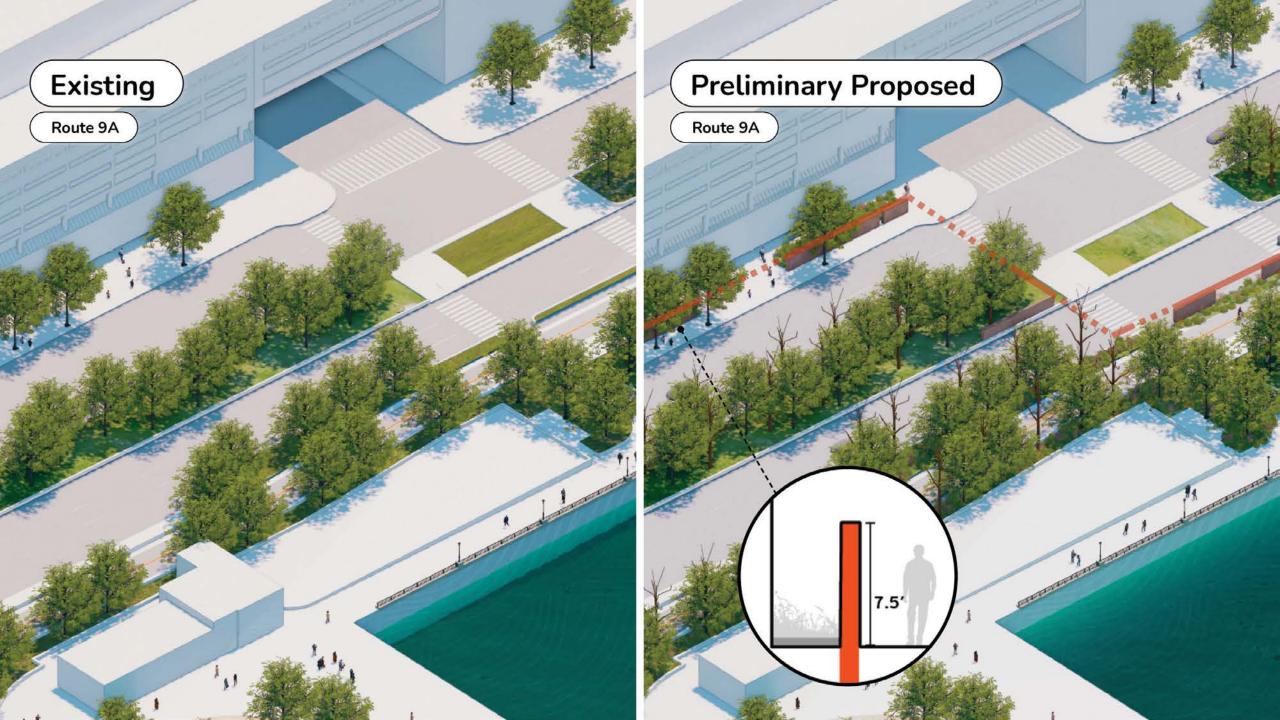
The following additional comments regarding Reach 1 were received during the Public Meeting and will be taken into account as the project design phase progresses:

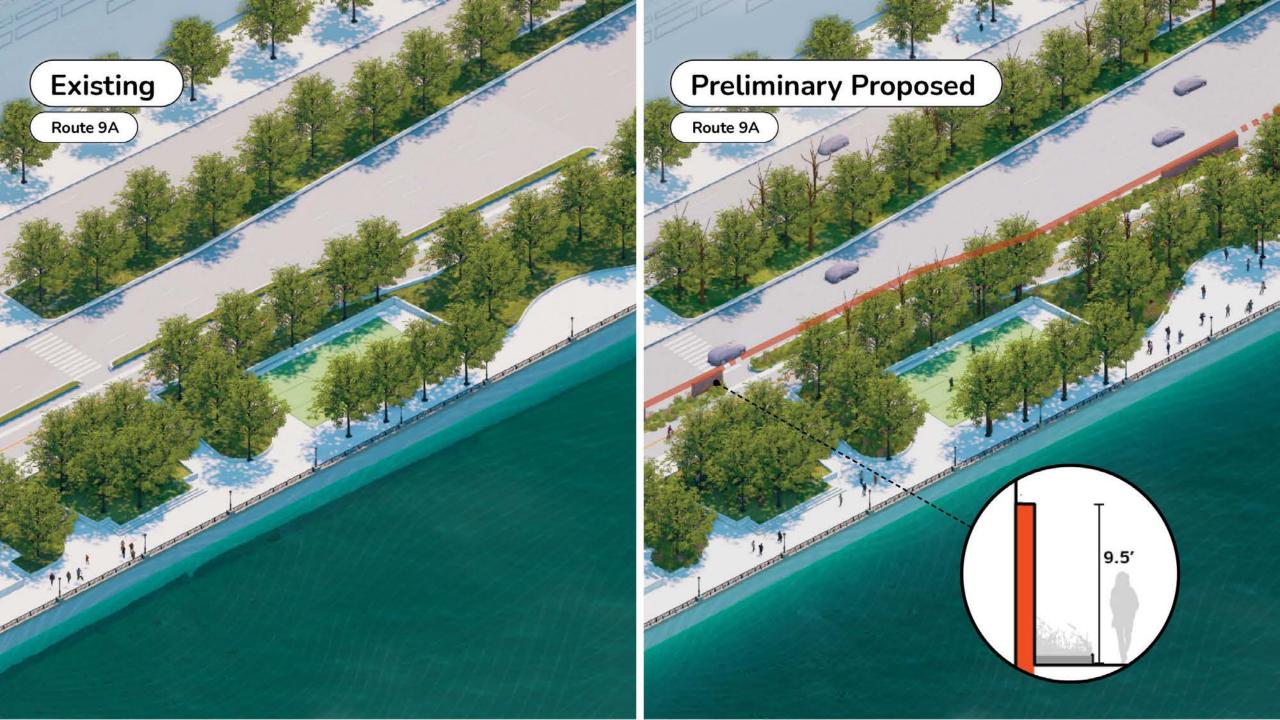
- I do not understand Reach 1 and need better visuals on this one and more to opine on it. I hear this from many in the community.
- The images are too low resolution to be legible. Please post hi res pdf. Thank you.

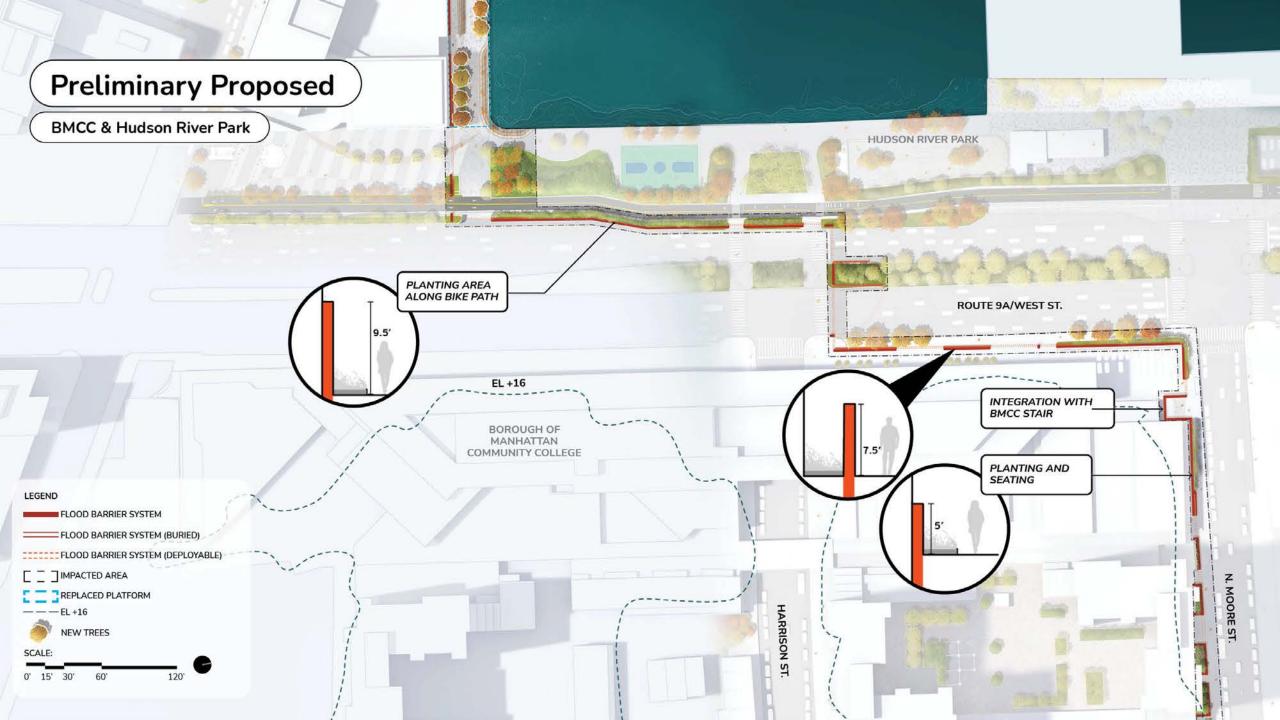














REACH 2 COMMENTS RECEIVED AT SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETING

REACH 2

The following comments regarding Reach 2 were received and will be taken into account as the project design phase progresses:

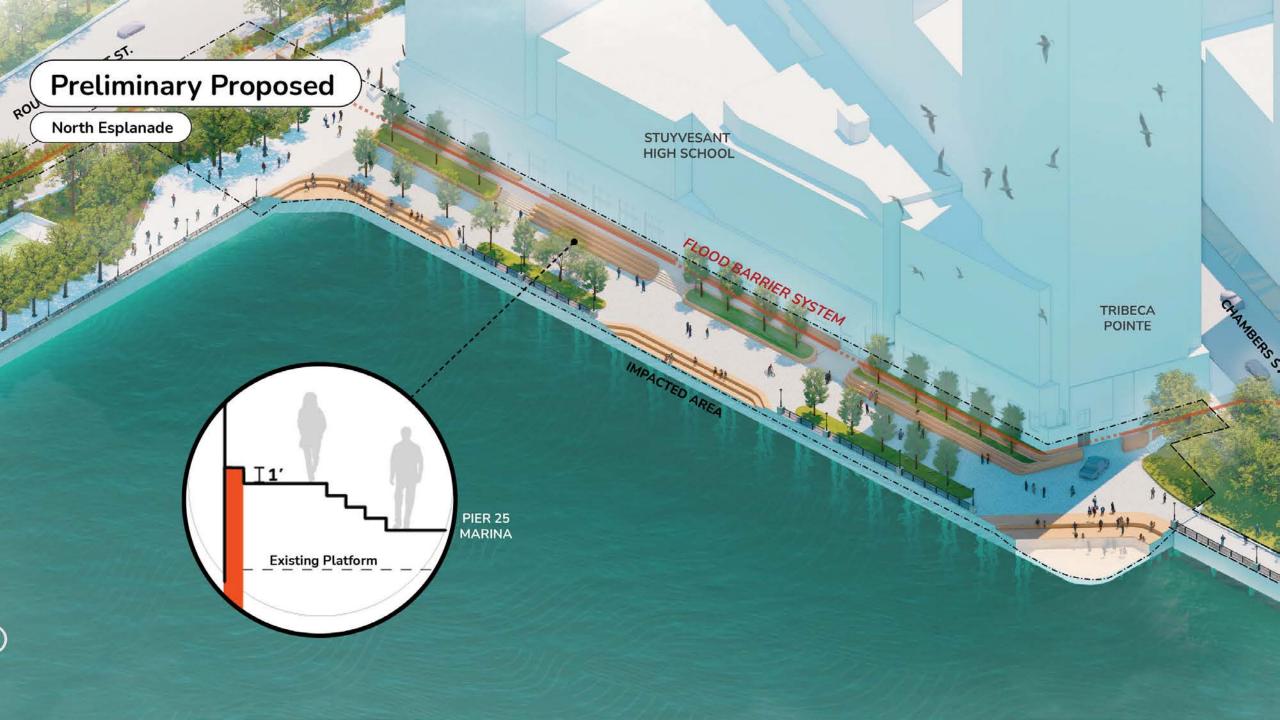
- Need to understand if more opportunity for nature based approaches like oysters, marshes etc. Also last open house, made a comment about a floating pool + Would like to see this option with pros and cons and presented to community for feedback.
- This pathway is commonly full with families and runners all summer. The wider pathway is important and necessary for the regular use of this space.
- Water access is a nice change. +1 for this option if the cost / work duration difference isn't significant.
- If the costs aren't prohibitive, seems worth the effort to expand this well used stretch including added natural elements, water interaction, and not mentioned above, but presumably either greater flood protection or lower flood wall requirements.

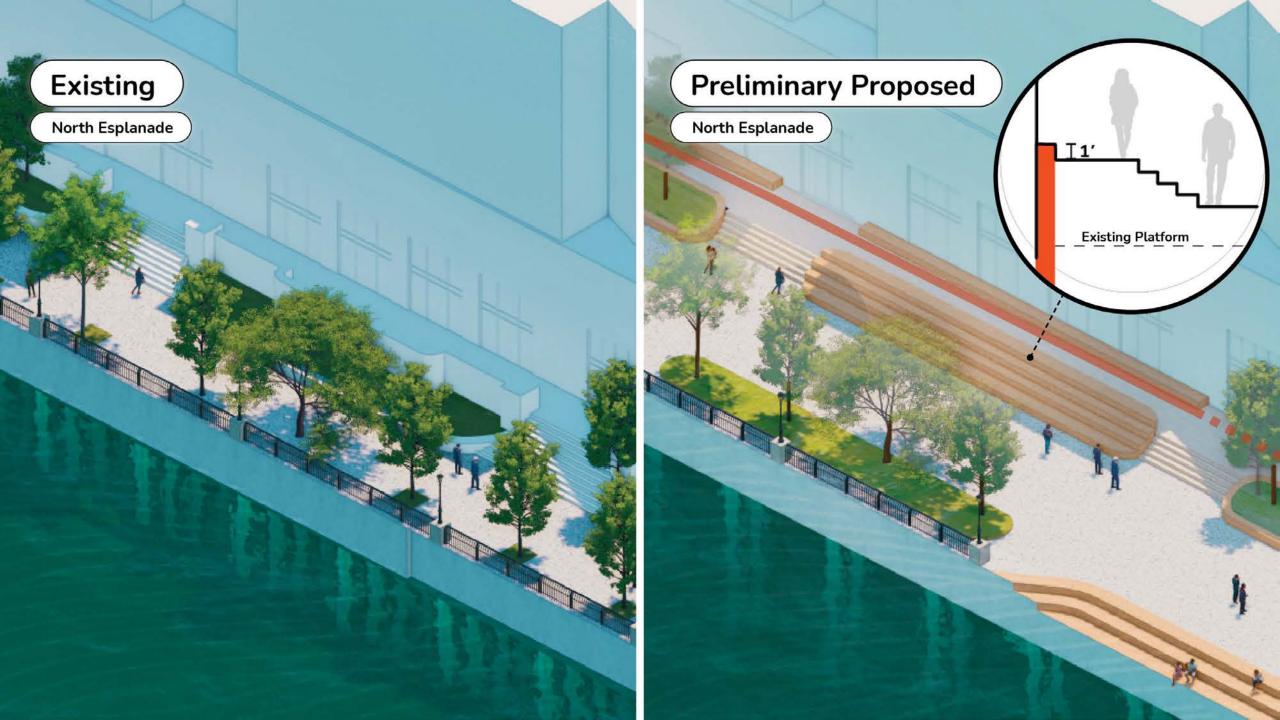
REACH 2 (CONTINUED)

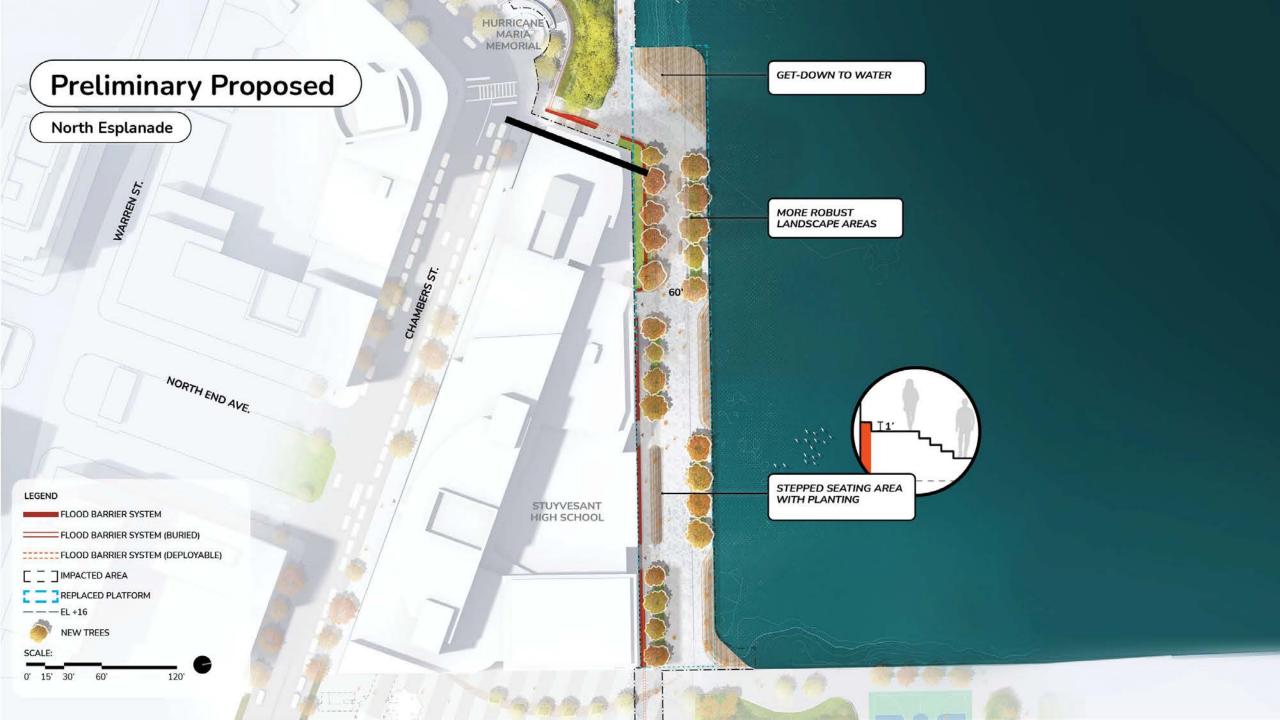
The following comments regarding Reach 2 were received and will be taken into account as the project design phase progresses:

- Widened shared pathway and greater planting areas are worth the interagency coordination.
- Option 2B is preferable for several important reasons: actual access to the water for boating (not just seating by the water) and more options for greenery on a wider pathway.
- This is preferred if it's not cost prohibitive and doesn't significantly delay the overall project.











REACH 6 QUESTIONS RECEIVED AT SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETING





REACH 6 QUESTIONS

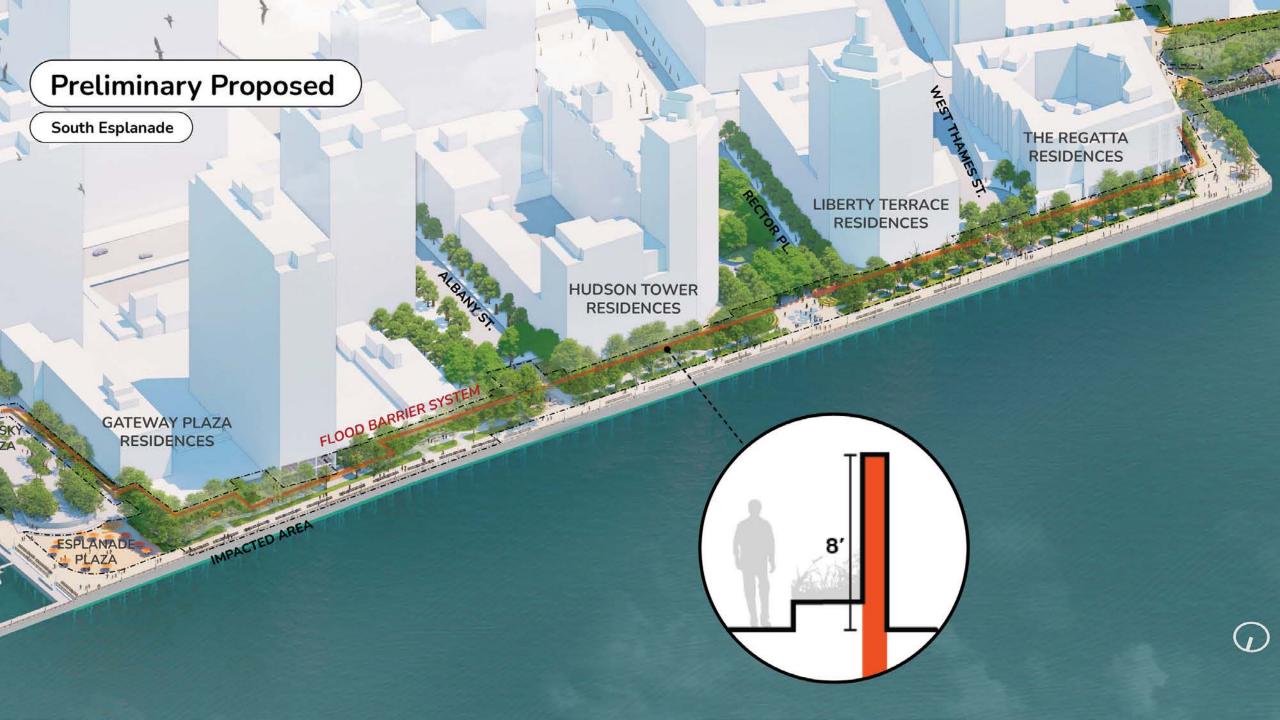
- What do you mean by technical complexity? How is this a disadvantage? 6a appears from this brief description to be preferable to 6b for minimal impact. Please consult residences nearby for thoughts on the disruption to views.
- Can you provide higher resolution pictures and include a comparison current state vs the future state, please also include elevations. Most of the buildings here have pretty high walls facing the esplanade can you explain what will be different?
- How will existing views be impacted?
- Would it be possible to design the south esplanade open space to achieve more of a green footprint? This would bring it in line with the majority of the BPC areas that directly border the Hudson.

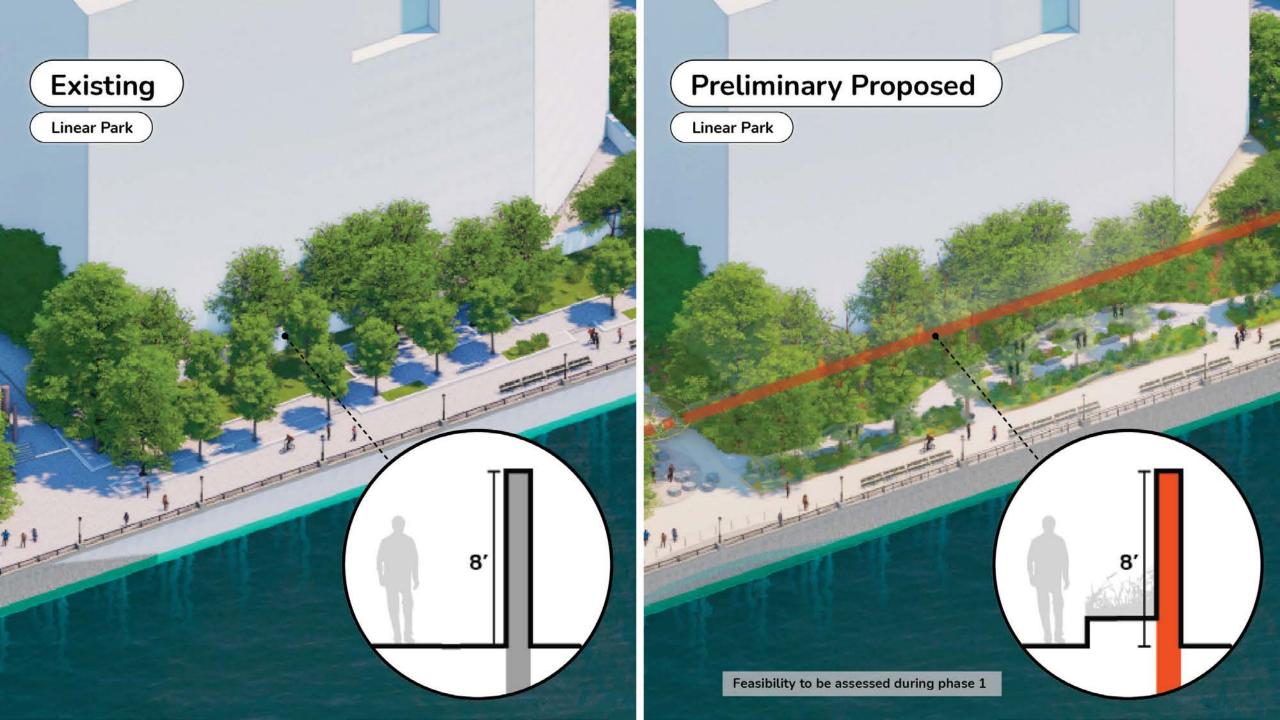
REACH 6

The following comments regarding Reach 6 were received and will be taken into account as the project design phase progresses:

- 6a appears from this brief description to be preferable to 6b for minimal impact. Please consult residences nearby for thoughts on the disruption to views.
- This is definitely preferred—minimal disruption, less cost and construction duration, etc. All attempts should be made to keep at least some continuous path open during construction.
- Clear design principles of minimal disruption and preservation of mature trees.
- No, 6B is not a good option. We want minimal disruption and construction.
- Please ensure you get feedback from Jennifer Jones of Battery Park Montessori so you do not block all the windows for the kids in the school. I understand this is one of the more at risk areas because it was one of the first areas of fill and soil quality is low. It is why trees went down here in storms.











REACH 7 QUESTIONS RECEIVED AT SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETING





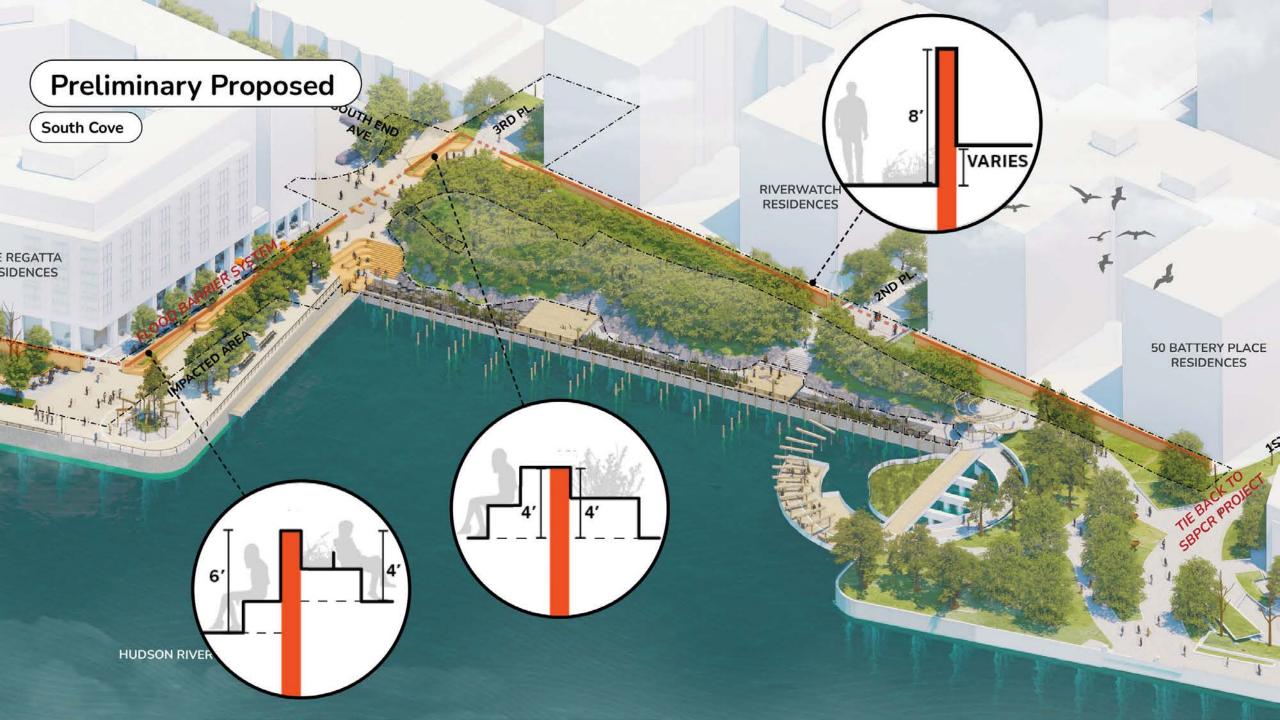
REACH 7 QUESTIONS

1. Are there deployables or other ways to address Regatta views?

The following comments regarding Reach 7 were received and will be taken into account as the project design phase progresses:

• This seems like the best option – having walls further out (which seems like the only other option) would disrupt flow along the paths, views for people walking/biking, access, etc. Would be nice if we could transition the lower planted areas to plants that can tolerate (or even benefit from) regular inundation.















REACH 3 QUESTIONS RECEIVED AT SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETING

REACH 3 QUESTIONS

- 1. Why does the newly renovated playground need to be rebuilt? Couldn't the wall pass behind it?
- 2. Also the site says that no tree can be within 15 feet of the barrier, does that mean that trees on North End would have to be removed?
- 3. Are there ways to preserve the duck pond too? Would like to see options with pros/cons
- 4. The playground was only just reconstructed. Is there not an alignment that maintains this? What would the tradeoffs be?
- 5. Can the trees be relocated rather than destroying them?
- 6. Why can't the playground, which was recently renovated and which the community waited so long for, be kept intact and open? Why can't the plan accommodate that?
- 7. Can the trees to be impacted be clearly identified and details provided of what will happen to them, how the number of trees overall in the area can be maintained and what can be done to minimize loss of trees?

The following comments regarding Reach 3 were received and will be taken into account as the project design phase progresses:

- This might be a minimal impact design (and is far preferable than 3B), but it could still make room for new ways to think about resilience, and natural ways to adapt the park for inundation. There's opportunity with this design for the BPCA to lead and influence resilience design options elsewhere.
- This is the preferred option-leaves the park (and esplanade) largely open during construction and is less invasive overall. Also cheaper. Win-win-win.
- Absolutely not. This is the approach taken at Wagner Park that needs to be revised and is causing significant outcry. This was the approach at ESCR that also is causing significant outcry.
- This plan is horrible. BPC residents and their neighbors love their green space and want to preserve as much of it as we can. We want continuous access to green space, and everyone that just got booted out of Wagner Park is going to want to come here. You can't close all the green space downtown!

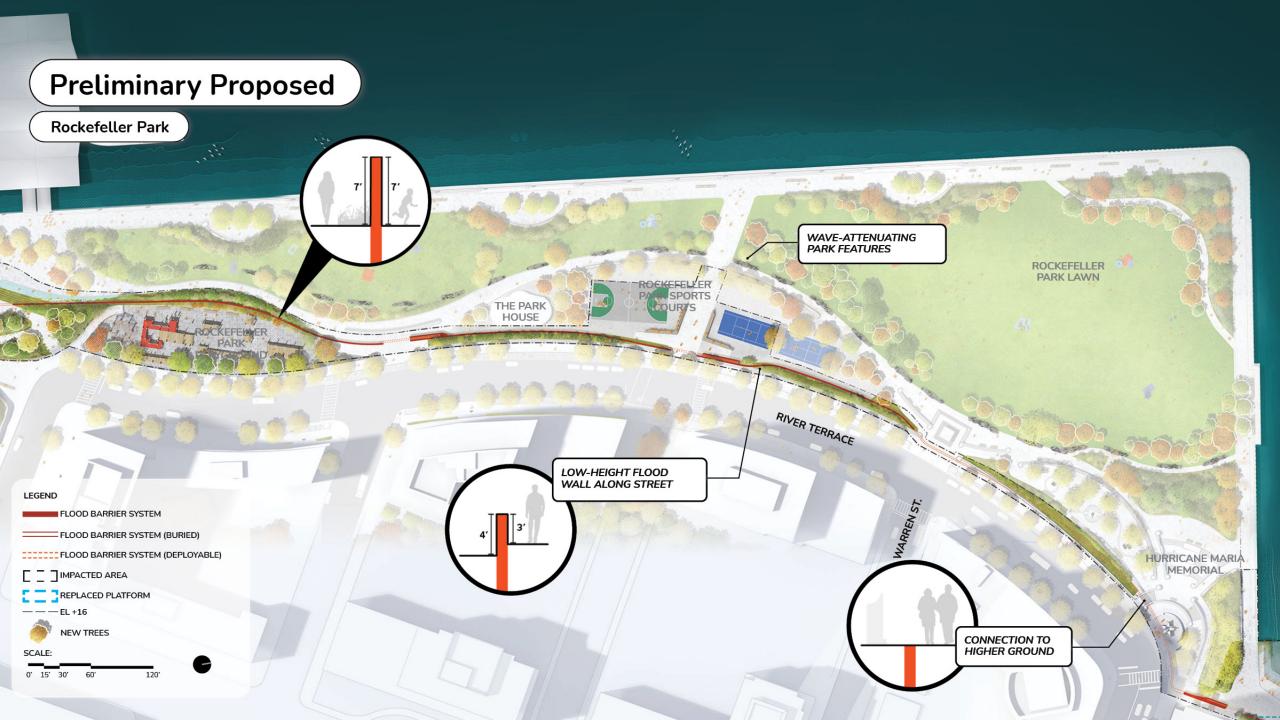
The following comments regarding Reach 3 were received and will be taken into account as the project design phase progresses:

- This plan is terrible, it replaces grass with concrete, breaks up open green space which is so scarce south of Central Park. Please please please do not do this, it would destroy the gem that is Rockefeller Park and be a huge mistake and shame for whoever decided to do it.
- This is not preferred—disrupts the park both during construction and afterwards. Also more expensive.
- I listened to the September 19, Community Meeting, and the experts as well as the top executives of BPCA, didn't actually say how many feet higher Wagner Park will be after this intervention. They limited themselves to speak about the marina, facing Winter Garden, and there was no clear answer -if sea level goes up by 2-3 feet- what will happen to Battery Park City as other parts of the city are not doing anything to protect their communities from a raising sea. In few words, this redesign of Wagner Park is a waste of money. What we need is an overall city project building a protective structure – as the Dutch have done for their cities – at the very entrance to the harbor.













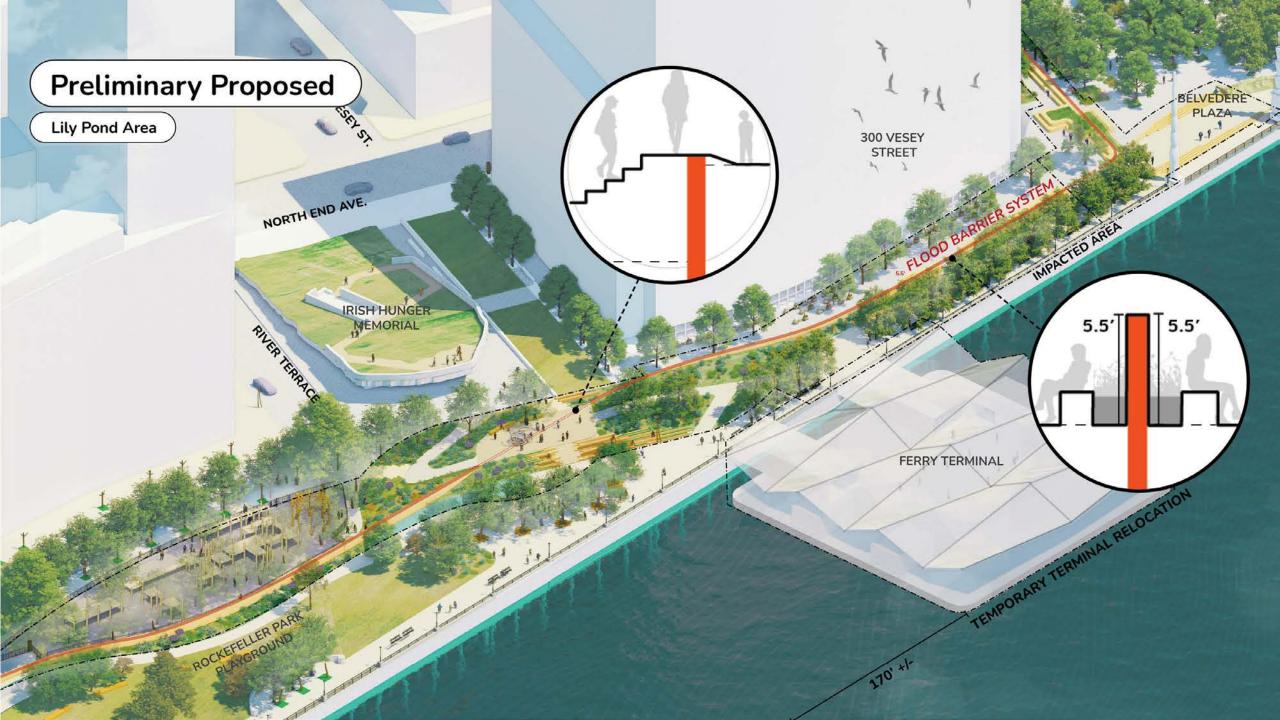
REACH 4 QUESTIONS RECEIVED AT SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETING

REACH 4 QUESTIONS

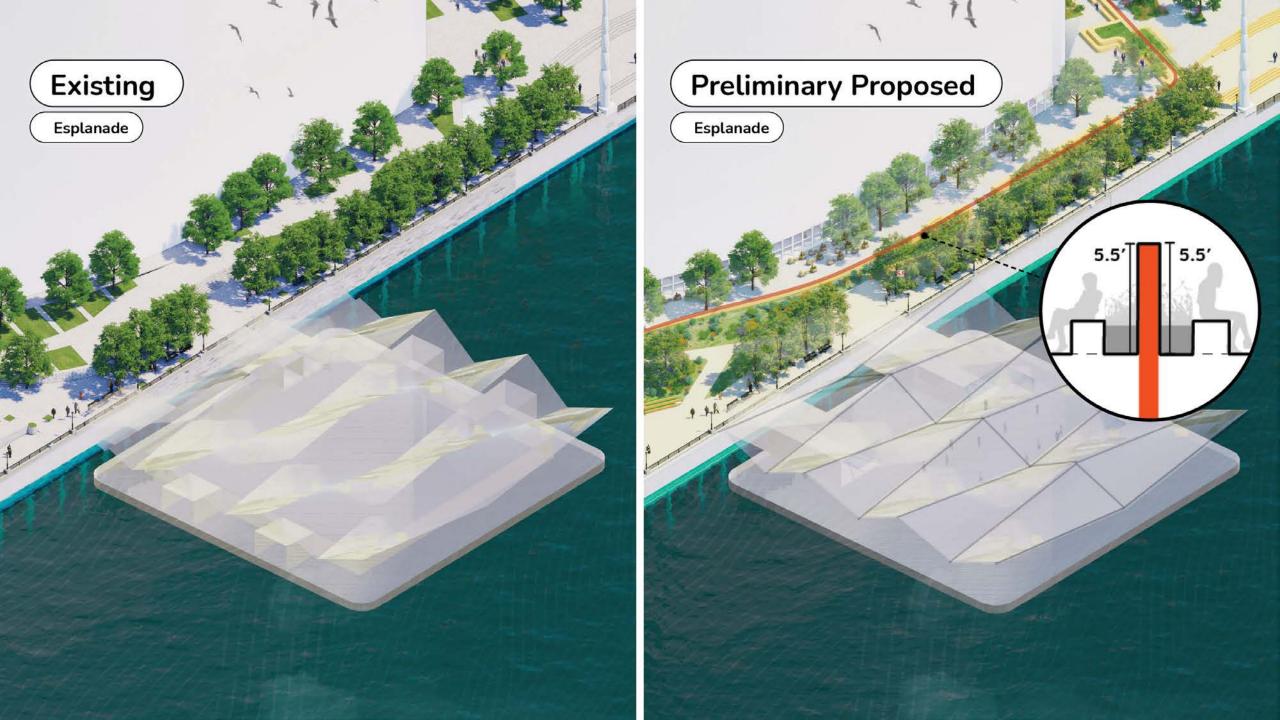
- 1. Could the ferry just be moved away from the shore, with longer pathways that can land passengers where there isn't construction, rather than fully relocated?.
- 2. Do not move the ferry terminal closer to the residential areas or the playground and do not close the playground it was recently closed for so long. How was this potential work not considered when the decision was made to renovate the playground recently?
- 3. The speakers noted that a more southerly alignment of the ferry terminal (in its existing configuration) would negatively impact the comings and goings of the marina. Would an alternate configuration, one that eliminated South side docking stations at the terminal allow this?
- 4. How does moving the terminal improve access?

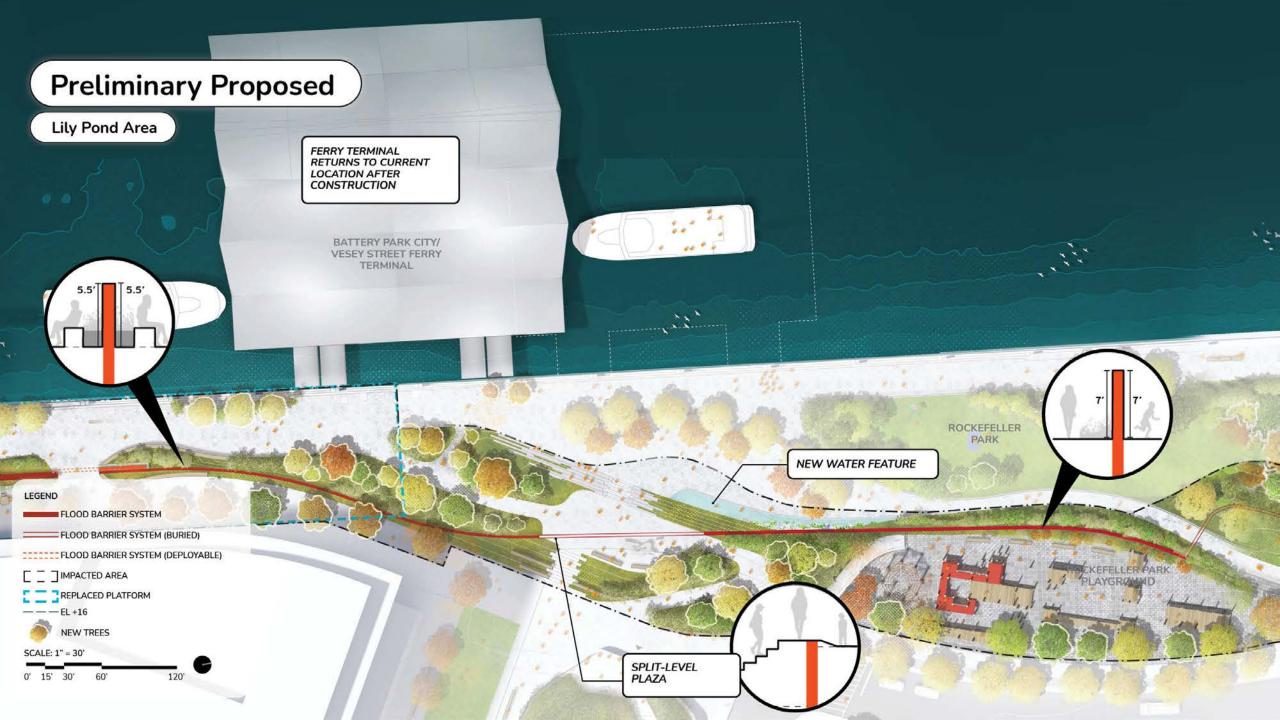
The following comments regarding Reach 4 were received and will be taken into account as the project design phase progresses

- Leave the playground alone. We endured it's closure long enough, now have lost Wagner, and you just want to keep closing essential facilities for families who live here. Please just leave the playground alone so we can play!
- Do not move the ferry terminal closer to the residential areas or the playground and do not close the playground it was recently closed for so long.
- Adding to say that you should leave the recently renovated playground alone! You just skip over all the
 details on what would happen, and how long it would be closed, but we've already waited a long time
 for it's renovation. It should remain as is, with continuous access.











REACH 5 QUESTIONS RECEIVED AT SEPTEMBER 19, 2022 PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT MEETING

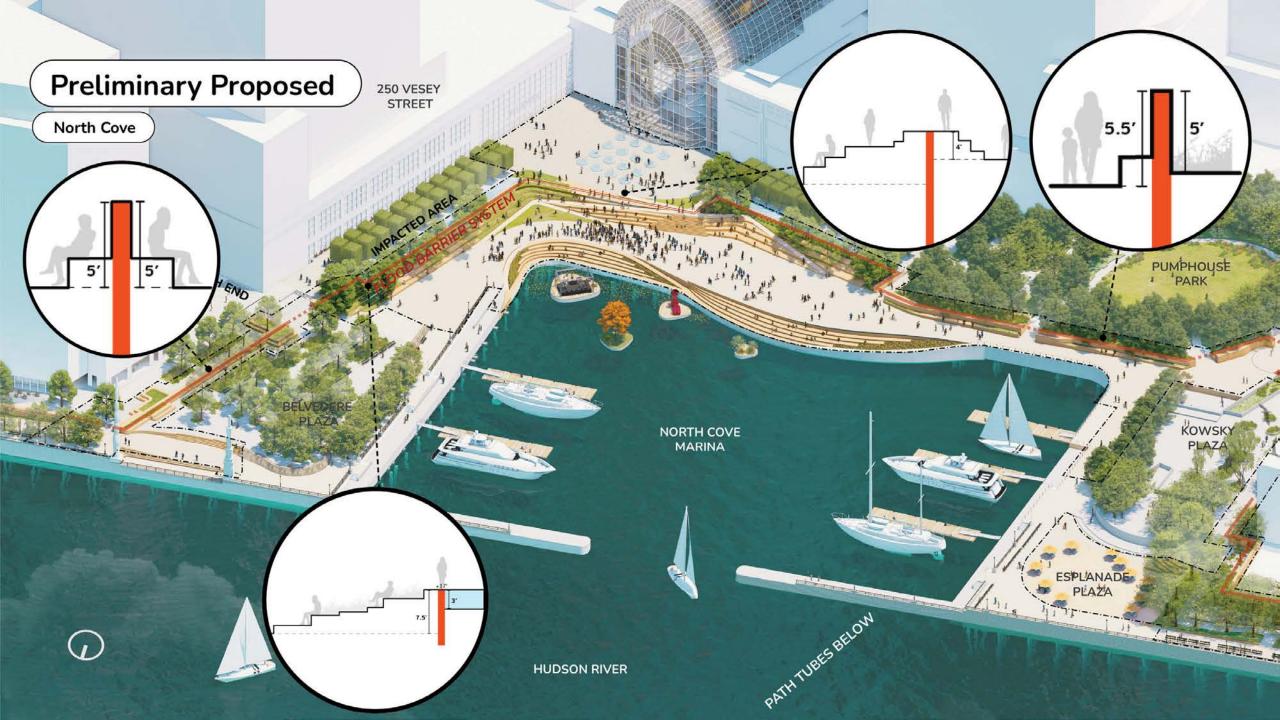
REACH 5 QUESTIONS

- 1. Would option 5A obscure the views for diners at Liberty Bistro and PJ Clarkes?
- 2. Would the sailing club maintain access?
- 3. Is an outboard alignment (5B) even a legitimate option?
- 4. How can universal accessibility be improved in North Cove?

The following comments regarding Reach 5 were received and will be taken into account as the project design phase progresses:

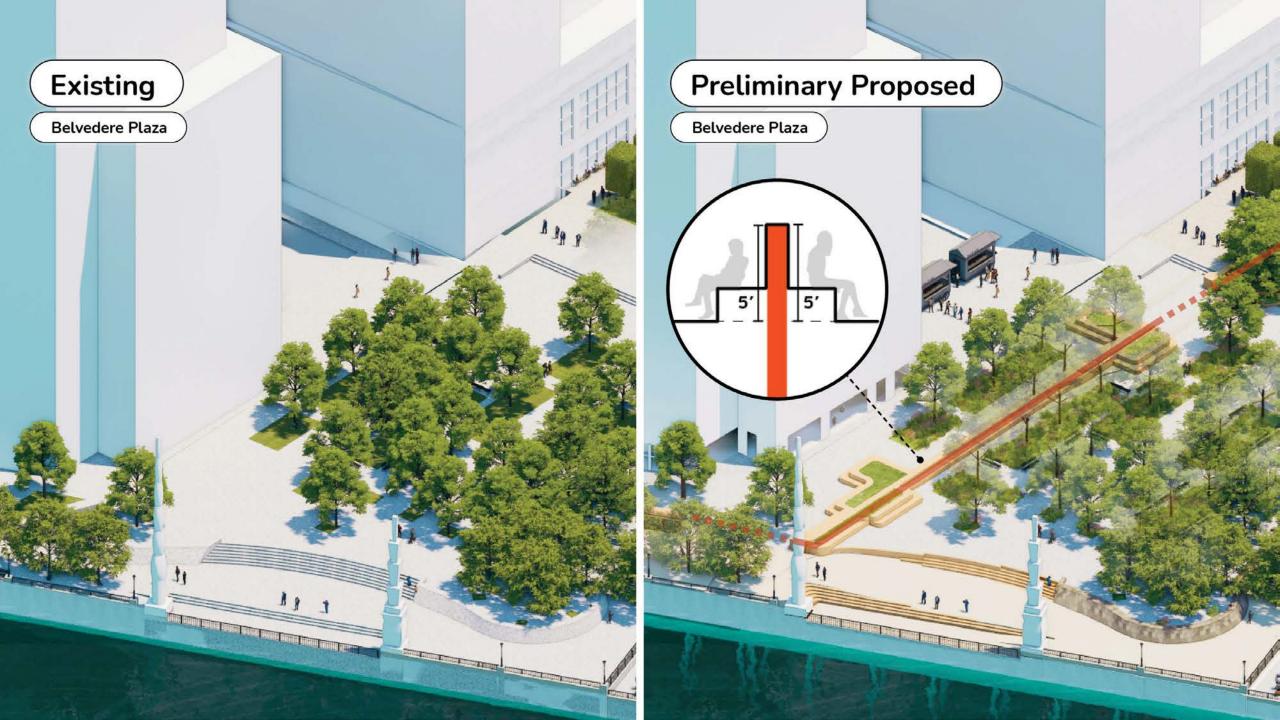
- Agree with design team that this option is much preferred to a wall at the outside of the marina.
- The comment in the open house from the crowd was whether this was even really an alternative and that this reach needed a more legitimate alternative. This component of the presentation also elicited community outcry.

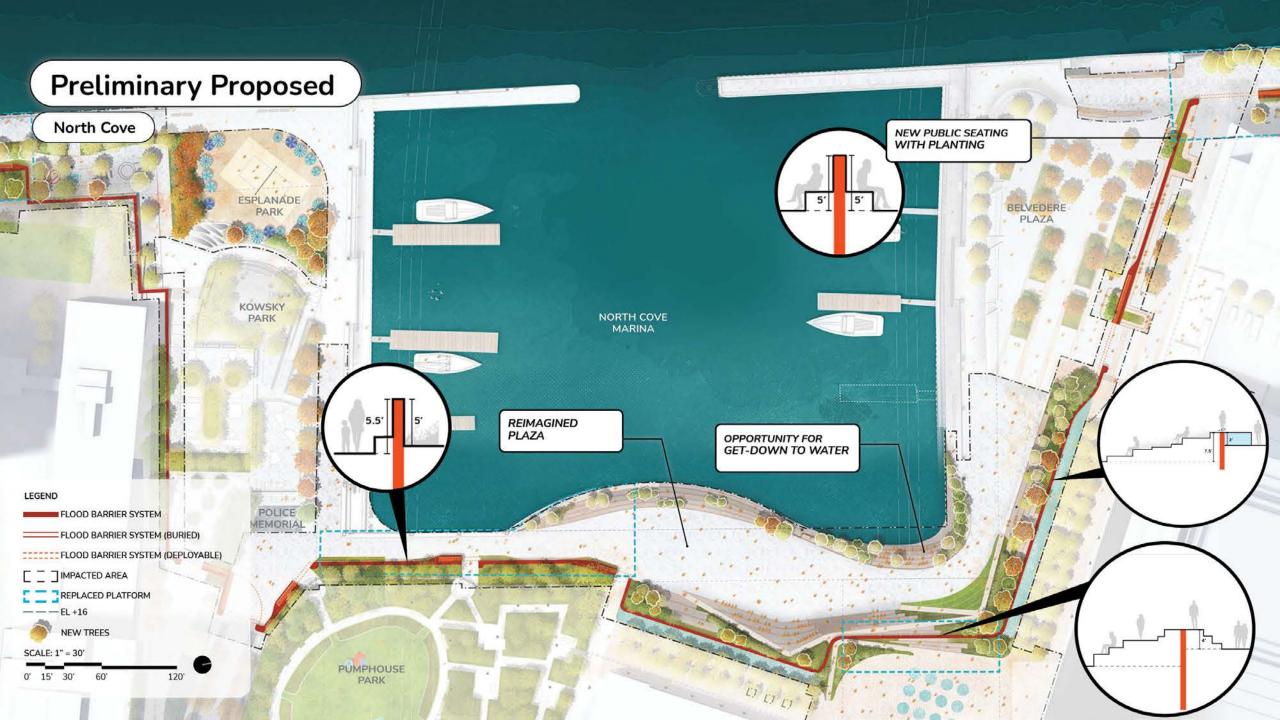












WRAP UP & OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS



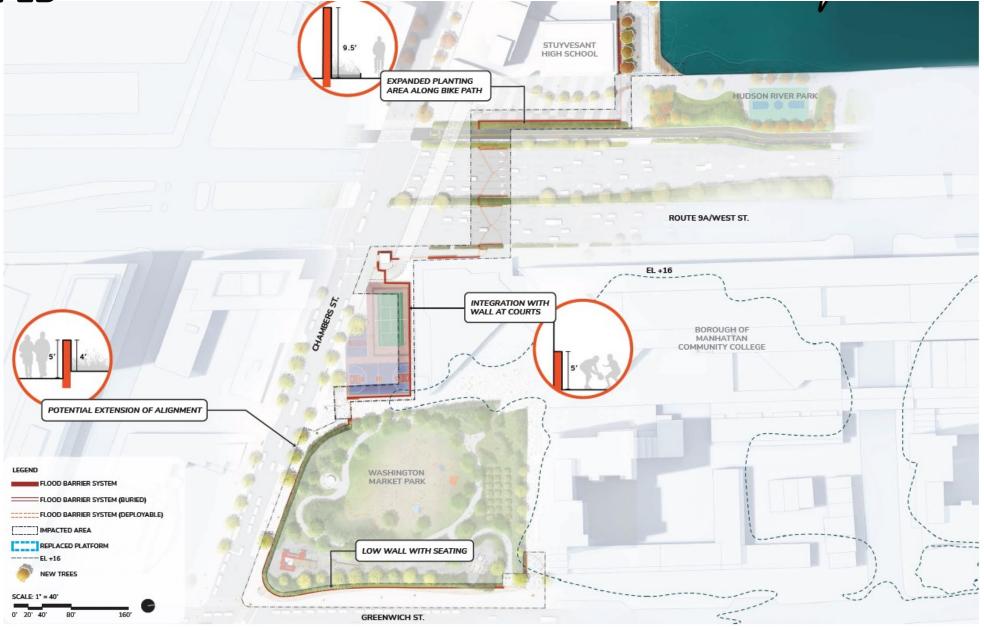


APPENDIX

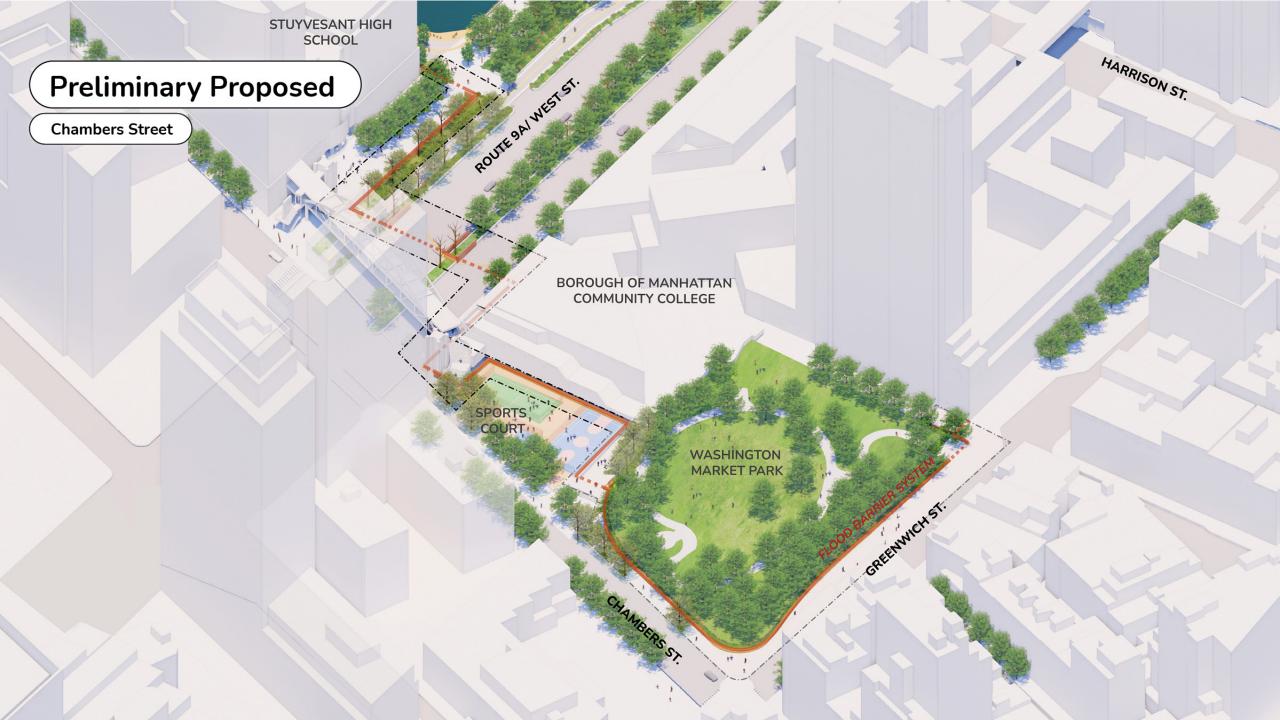


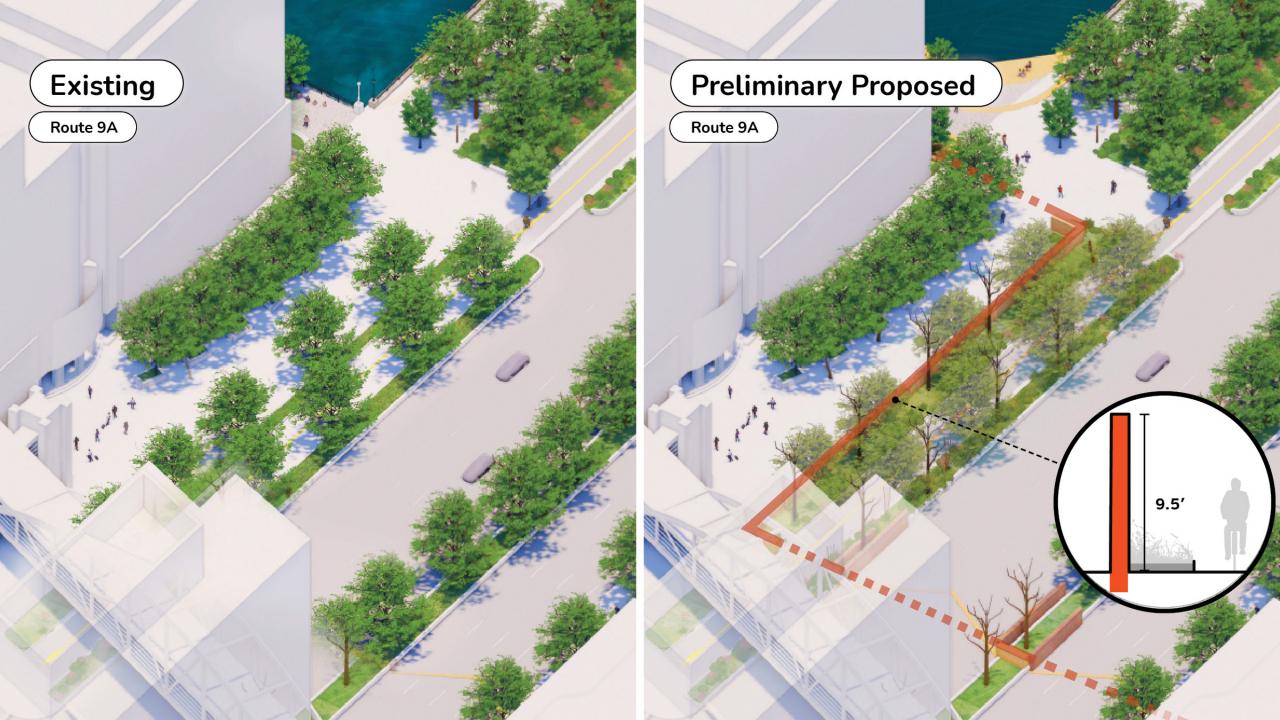


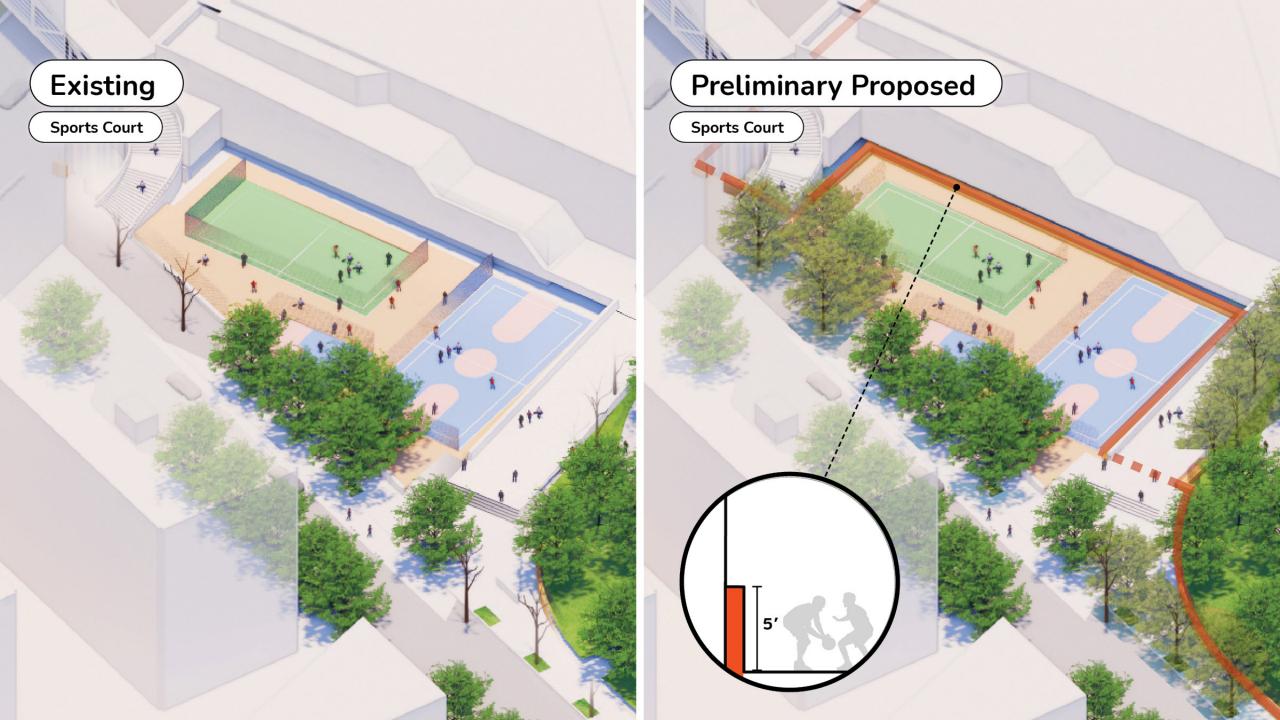
REACH 1B





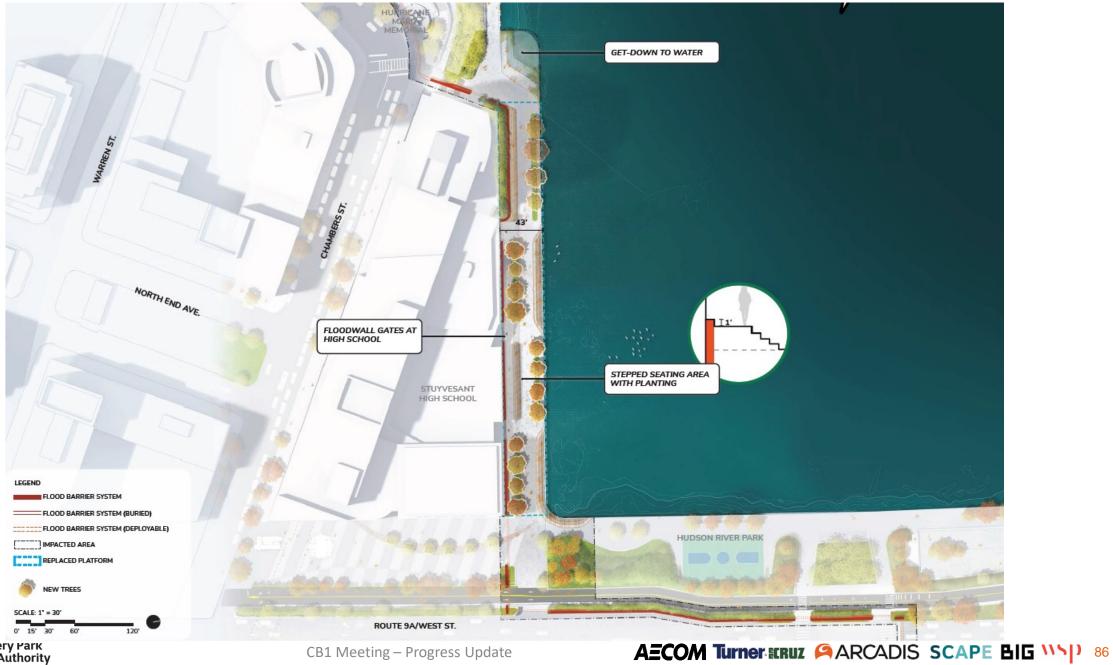








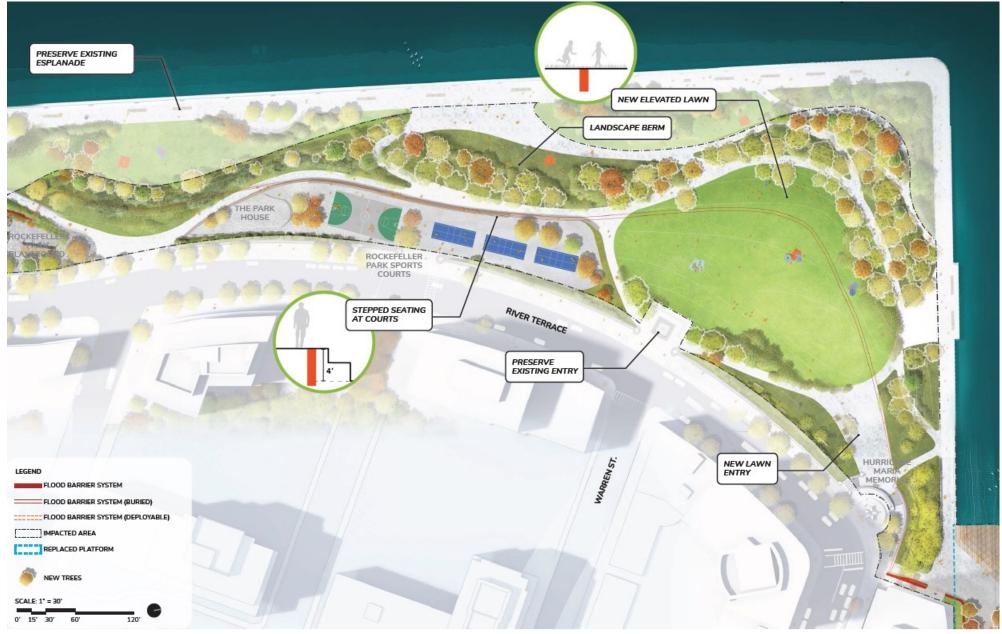
REACH 2A



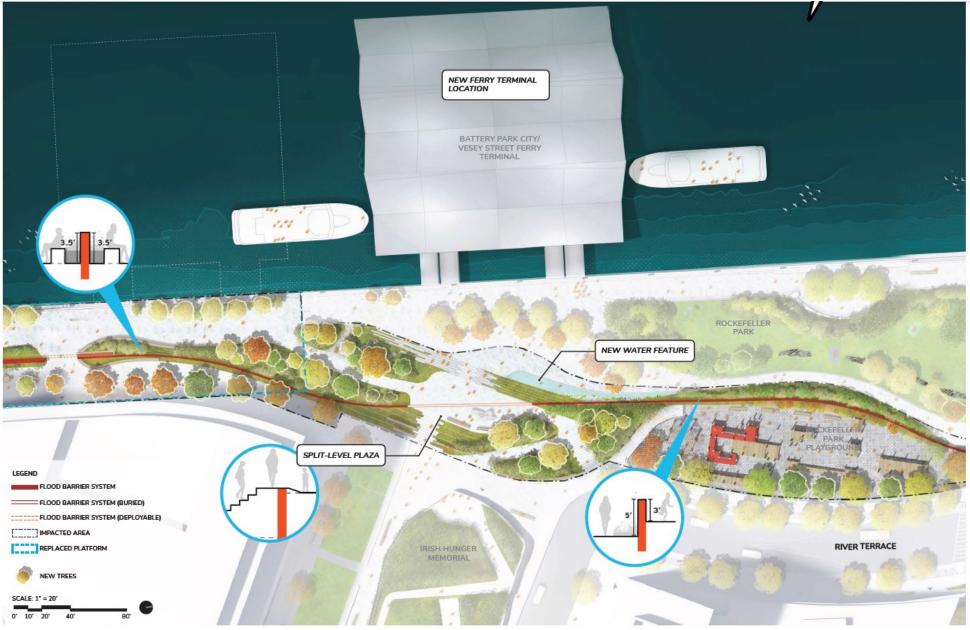
REACH 6B



REACH 3B



REACH 4A



REACH 5B

