



Summary of Survey Results Summer 2016

Introduction

Bridging Gowanus was a community planning process to shape a sustainable, livable, and inclusive future for the Gowanus neighborhood – in the face of ongoing change, the Superfund cleanup, and real estate pressure. From 2013 to 2015, over 300 people took part in more than 20 large- and small-group meetings to explore local issues and develop recommendations.

In the summer of 2016, we asked community members to prioritize among six broad goals and 39 recommendations – which included ideas for public investments, land use regulations, zoning designations, and programs. Starting in the fall of 2016, the community will begin working with the NYC Department of City Planning (DCP) and other government agencies to develop a planning and land use framework for the Gowanus neighborhood, through DCP's "PLACES" study process.

Getting Gowanus right will take a different way of doing things. Inaction will not preserve what makes Gowanus unique today. But new growth must genuinely advance the community's goals.

Weighing In

Bridging Gowanus included long-time and newer homeowners, tenants, NYCHA residents, small business owners, environmental activists, artists, affordable housing advocates, and many more community members. Between early August and mid-September, hundreds expressed their priorities for our shared future: over 500 people responded to an online survey and over 200 people participated in-person at one of four "open house" events at locations throughout the neighborhood: The Bell House, the Fifth Avenue Committee, Gowanus Coworkrs, and the Gowanus Canal Conservancy's Hall of Gowanus.

What We Heard

Online Survey

The online survey asked community members to prioritize among the six overarching goals that emerged from the **Bridging Gowanus** community planning process. Below you'll find the goals listed in order of priority. The top vote getter was selected by 67% of all respondents:

- Invest in our parks, schools, transit and waterfront
- A sustainable, resilient, environmentally healthy community
- Keep Gowanus creative and mixed-use
- Preserve and create affordable housing for an inclusive community
- Secure a pathway for responsible growth
- Strengthen the manufacturing sector and create good jobs



Online Survey (continued)

The online survey also asked community members to prioritize among the 39 recommendations that were developed to achieve the **Bridging Gowanus** goals. Below are the top vote getters:

- The comprehensive cleanup of the Gowanus Canal emerged as the prevailing recommendation, selected by 84% of respondents. It was followed closely by mitigating on-street flooding and sewer back-ups. Both received over 400 total votes.
- Making overdue investments in Gowanus Houses, Wyckoff Gardens, and Warren Houses was a high priority, in order to address sewer back-ups and broken elevators. This recommendation received 374 total votes and was selected by 70% of all respondents.
- The recommendation to improve public transit and walking within Gowanus, including restoring the B71 bus, received 310 total votes and was selected by 61% of all respondents.
- There was also strong interest in “Keeping Gowanus Creative and Mixed Use,” with three of the six recommendations to achieve this goal having received over 265 total votes each.

In-Person Participation

- As in the online survey, the comprehensive cleanup of the Gowanus Canal was the most popular recommendation (136 votes). During in-person events, this recommendation was coupled with improving resiliency in the face of climate change (123 votes).
- Recommendations to “preserve and create affordable housing for an inclusive community” were top vote getters at in-person events: stronger tenants protections against harassment and displacement (97 votes); ensuring affordable retail is available to low-income residents (89 votes); and making overdue investments in the NYCHA developments in Gowanus (83 votes).
- “Keeping Gowanus Creative and Mixed Use” was again a high priority, with a focus on a “mandatory mixed-use” zoning model (84 votes).
- There was strong interest in exploring an increase in density for manufacturing and industrial businesses, in order to strengthen the manufacturing sector and create good jobs (79 votes).

<i>What is your connection to Gowanus?</i>	Online Survey	In-Person
Total Respondents	542	211
Respondents who indicated one or more connections to Gowanus	480	165
“I live in Gowanus”	180	52
“I work in Gowanus”	85	51
“I volunteer in Gowanus”	51	23
“I visit Gowanus”	239	61
Other	106	39

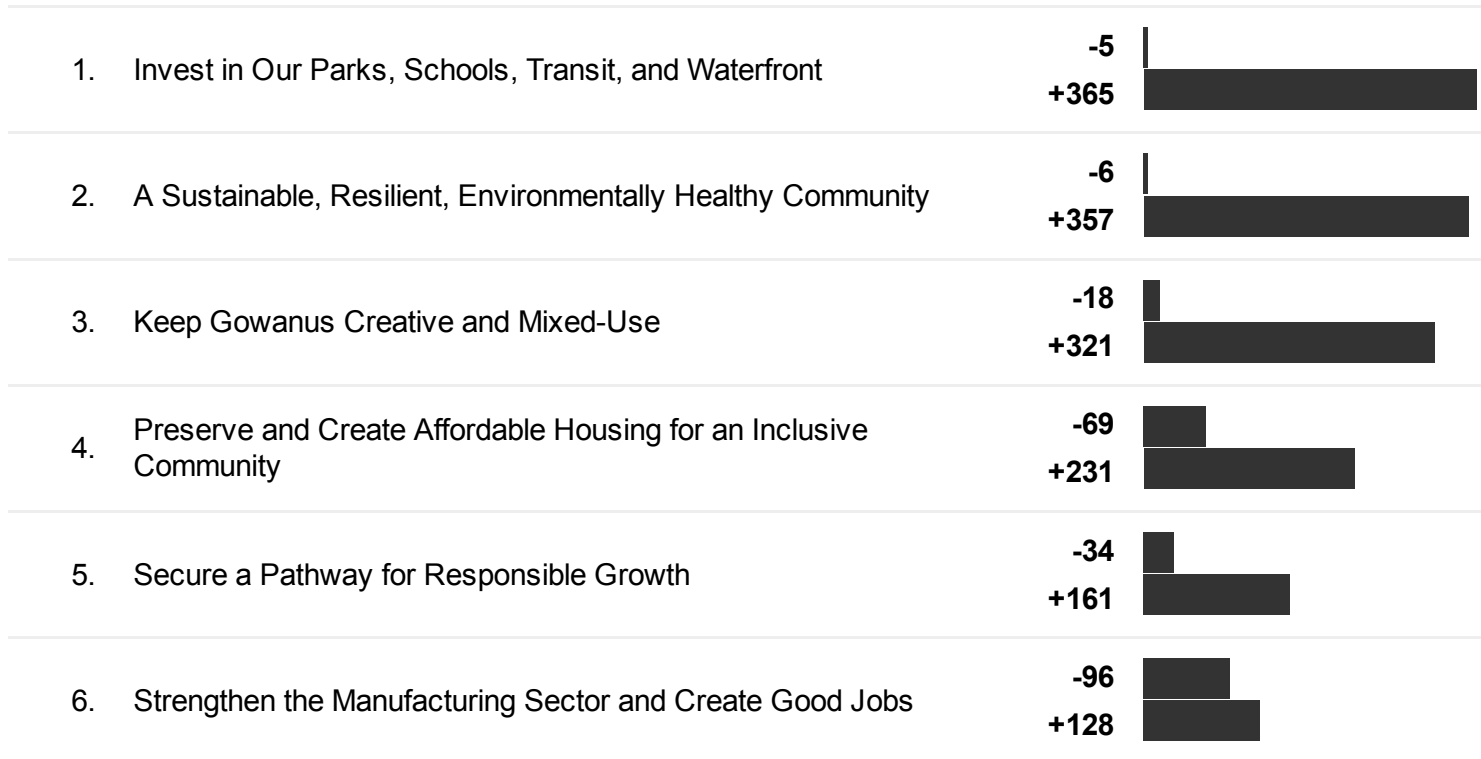
Next Steps

The work we’ve done together through Bridging Gowanus has laid a strong foundation for thoughtful, community-led planning and strong public action to shape our shared future. We won’t always agree – but we will do better by including everyone’s voices.

Poll results

Bridging Gowanus – Online Survey

Our Overarching Goals



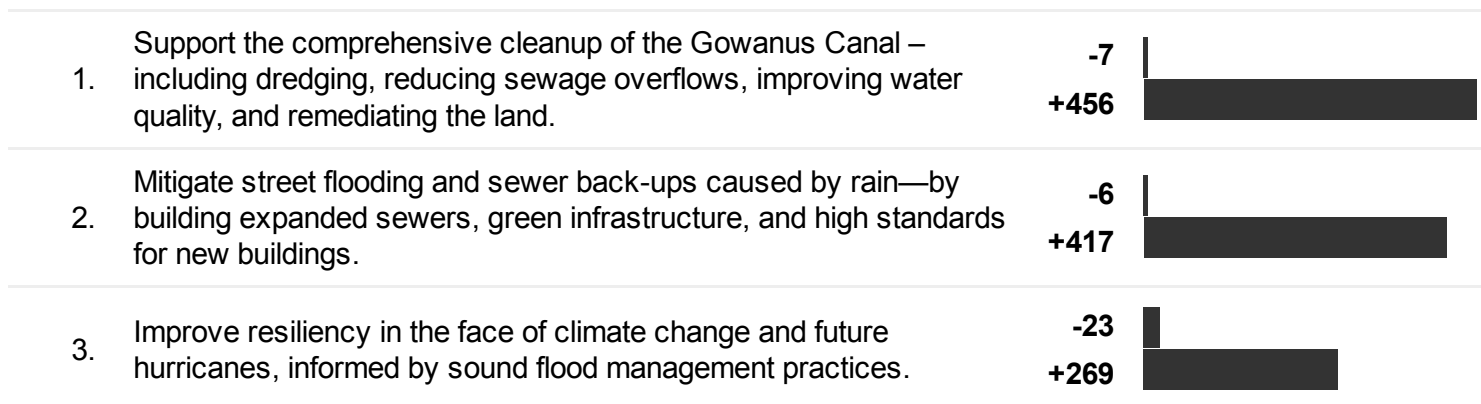
Organized by: Bridging Gowanus

Poll duration: 7/20/16 12:00 PM - 9/15/16 12:00 PM

Satisfaction index: 67% (Percentage of voters who voted for the overall winning option)

Voted: 542

A Sustainable, Resilient, Environmentally Healthy Community



4.	Plan for a “model green neighborhood” moving forward, with heightened local sustainability standards and incentives for new development.	-79 +215	
5.	Study, monitor, and improve air quality by reducing emissions from local truck traffic and bus fleets that traverse the Gowanus neighborhood.	-74 +165	

Organized by: Bridging Gowanus

Poll duration: 7/20/16 12:00 PM - 9/15/16 12:00 PM

Satisfaction index: 84% (Percentage of voters who voted for the overall winning option)

Voted: 542

Invest in Our Schools, Parks, Transit, and Waterfront

1.	Improve public transit and walking within Gowanus — restore the B71, upgrade subway stations, add new bike and pedestrian infrastructure.	-20 +330	
2.	Build new public school seats to address current crowding and new demand. Make sure schools are integrated and serve as community hubs.	-34 +311	
3.	Create a “Gowanus Greenscape,” a network of paths and nodes to connect new and existing open spaces, street-ends, and the waterfront.	-25 +283	
4.	Make overdue upgrades to existing neighborhood parks: Thomas Greene Playground and Douglas-Degraw Pool, Ennis Playground, and St. Mary’s Playground.	-26 +227	
5.	Formulate a waterfront public access plan for the Gowanus Canal that includes upgrading bulkheads and promoting maritime movement of people and goods.	-44 +197	
6.	Create new open spaces in Gowanus — at the Salt Lot, “Under-the-Tracks,” and around the Pumping Station and northern CSO tank.	-38 +181	








Organized by: Bridging Gowanus

Poll duration: 7/20/16 12:00 PM - 9/15/16 12:00 PM


Satisfaction index: 61% (Percentage of voters who voted for the overall winning option)


Voted: 542

Strengthen the Manufacturing Sector and Create Good Jobs.

1.	Workforce development partnership to connect residents to good jobs in growing Gowanus sectors: manufacturing, environmental remediation, arts, and construction	-9 +264	
2.	Improve and invest in critical business infrastructure, from broadband internet to flood mitigation to loading zones.	-7 +259	
3.	Support models that enable businesses to achieve real-estate stability, including non-profit “steward” ownership and preservation of multi-tenant buildings.	-12 +234	
4.	Strengthen industrial land use protections in the Gowanus “Industrial Business Zone” (IBZ) by restricting non-industrial uses, like hotels and mini-storage.	-59 +273	
5.	Foster and support the emerging “materials re-use” business cluster, as part of the City’s goal of sending zero waste to landfills by 2030.	-17 +228	
6.	Consider creation of an Industrial Business Improvement District, or “iBID,” to retain businesses, provide services, and increase competitiveness.	-33 +123	
7.	Explore an increase in allowable density for manufacturing and industrial businesses, enabling property-owners to expand their buildings.	-131 +77	




 **Organized by:** Bridging Gowanus




 **Poll duration:** 7/20/16 12:00 PM - 9/15/16 12:00 PM

 **Satisfaction index:** 49% (Percentage of voters who voted for the overall winning option)

 **Voted:** 542


Keep Gowanus Creative and Mixed-Use

1.	A “mandatory mixed-use” zoning model that requires new residential development (outside the IBZ) to be balanced with light industry, arts, and not-for-profits.	-34 +311	
2.	Strengthen the strong arts and cultural community with ongoing program support, access to public & private spaces, and explore potential for live-work spaces.	-14 +290	
3.	Incentives for non-profit “steward” organizations to own and manage affordable “maker” spaces, focused on retaining artists, light industry, and non-profits.	-18 +283	

4.	Develop a strategic preservation plan to landmark iconic buildings, interpret community history, and support preservation of surrounding neighborhoods.	-51 +239	
5.	Ensure compatibility between different uses with close attention to performance standards, noise-proofing, loading and traffic, and enforcement.	-33 +193	
6.	Work closely with the Powerhouse Workshop (in the "Bat Cave" on the Canal) to establish a major non-profit center dedicated to manufacturing and the arts.	-33 +163	








 **Organized by:** Bridging Gowanus

 **Poll duration:** 7/20/16 12:00 PM - 9/15/16 12:00 PM

 **Satisfaction index:** 57% (Percentage of voters who voted for the overall winning option)

 **Voted:** 542

Preserve and Create Affordable Housing for an Inclusive Community

1.	Make overdue investments in NYCHA's Gowanus Houses, Wyckoff Gardens, and 572 Warren Street developments – to address broken elevators, sewer backups, and more.	-7 +381	
2.	Apply mandatory inclusionary housing (MIH) wherever new residential development is allowed, to ensure a significant portion of new development is affordable.	-32 +251	
3.	Ensure affordable amenities and retail – especially a supermarket, as well as laundromat, and other essential services – are available to low-income residents.	-18 +222	
4.	Ensure “Next Generation NYCHA” development proposed for Wyckoff Gardens is integrated into the broader plan for Gowanus, to provide for necessary infrastructure	-14 +171	
5.	Where developers demolish rent-stabilized units, there should be relocation and (at least) one-for-one replacement of affordable units.	-28 +172	
6.	Provide stronger protections against harassment and displacement of existing low- and moderate-income tenants in privately-owned housing.	-22 +155	
7.	Advance the “Gowanus Green” development at Public Place, with a substantial majority of units affordable to a wide range of income and demographic groups.	-32 +162	




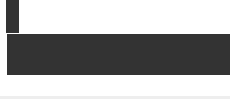




Organized by: Bridging Gowanus

Poll duration: 7/20/16 12:00 PM - 9/15/16 12:00 PM

Satisfaction index: 70% (Percentage of voters who voted for the overall winning option)

Voted: 542

Secure a Pathway for Responsible Growth

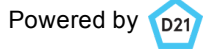
1.	Ensure that investments in sustainable infrastructure are guaranteed and codified upfront, prior to land use or zoning changes.	-8 +268	
2.	Pay thoughtful attention to building design to encourage integration with existing neighborhood aesthetic and contribute to a vibrant, compelling, livable area.	-16 +273	
3.	Require any new zone allowing residential development to be both "mandatory mixed-use" and "mandatory inclusionary zoning" (to require affordable housing).	-27 +271	
4.	Set high sustainability standards for new development.	-10 +185	
5.	Ensure ongoing community oversight to track progress, enforce rules, address concerns, and solve problems as they arise.	-5 +174	
6.	Set high standards for good, safe, quality jobs, with an emphasis on hiring local residents.	-22 +131	
7.	Strengthen the manufacturing protections for the Industrial Business Zone in Gowanus before any new residential development is allowed (outside the IBZ).	-48 +129	
8.	Establish a "construction compact" with public, private, and local stakeholders to pro-actively and aggressively address the headaches created by construction.	-36 +72	

Organized by: Bridging Gowanus

Poll duration: 7/20/16 12:00 PM - 9/15/16 12:00 PM

Satisfaction index: 49% (Percentage of voters who voted for the overall winning option)

Voted: 542



In-Person Survey Results

	<u>Open House 1:</u> The Bell House	<u>Open House 2:</u> The Fifth Avenue Committee	<u>Open House 3:</u> Gowanus Coworks	<u>Open House 4:</u> Gowanus Canal Conservancy's Hall of Gowanus	Totals
A Sustainable, Resilient, Environmentally Healthy Community					
1. Support the comprehensive cleanup of the Gowanus Canal – including dredging, reducing sewage overflows, improving water quality, and remediating the land.	48	39	13	36	136
2. Mitigate street flooding and sewer back-ups caused by rain—by building expanded sewers, green infrastructure, and high standards for new buildings.	24	15	7	18	64
3. Improve resiliency in the face of climate change and future hurricanes, informed by sound flood management practices.	22	80	9	12	123
4. Study, monitor, and improve air quality by reducing emissions from local truck traffic and bus fleets that traverse the Gowanus neighborhood.	9	8	3	3	23
5. Plan for a “model green neighborhood” moving forward, with heightened local sustainability standards and incentives for new development.	11	14	7	19	51
Invest in Our Schools, Parks, Transit, and Waterfront					
1. Build new public school seats to address current crowding and new demand. Make sure schools are integrated and serve as community hubs.	16	16	12	11	55
2. Make overdue upgrades to existing neighborhood parks: Thomas Greene Playground and Douglas-Degraw Pool, Ennis Playground, and St. Mary’s	23	10	6	8	47

In-Person Survey Results

Playground.					
3. Create new open spaces in Gowanus — at the Salt Lot, “Under-the-Tracks,” and around the Pumping Station and northern CSO tank.	30	7	6	10	53
4. Create a “Gowanus Greenscape,” a network of paths and nodes to connect new and existing open spaces, street-ends, and the waterfront.	21	11	7	34	73
5. Formulate a waterfront public access plan for the Gowanus Canal that includes upgrading bulkheads and promoting maritime movement of people and goods.	17	22	8	16	63
6. Improve public transit and walking within Gowanus — restore the B71, upgrade subway stations, add new bike and pedestrian infrastructure.	19	15	12	14	60
Strengthen the Manufacturing Sector and Create Good Jobs.					
1. Strengthen industrial land use protections in the Gowanus “Industrial Business Zone” (IBZ) by restricting non-industrial uses, like hotels and mini-storage.	13	8	6	22	49
2. Improve and invest in critical business infrastructure, from broadband internet to flood mitigation to loading zones.	17	3	6	19	45
3. Support models that enable businesses to achieve real-estate stability, including non-profit “steward” ownership and preservation of multi-tenant buildings.	10	2	5	6	23
4. Explore an increase in allowable density for manufacturing and industrial businesses, enabling property-owners to expand their buildings.	9	8	6	56	79

In-Person Survey Results

5. Consider creation of an Industrial Business Improvement District, or “iBID,” to retain businesses, provide services, and increase competitiveness.	6	3	4	11	24
6. Foster and support the emerging “materials re-use” business cluster, as part of the City’s goal of sending zero waste to landfills by 2030.	5	5	1	4	15
7. Workforce development partnership to connect residents to good jobs in growing Gowanus sectors: manufacturing, environmental remediation, arts, and construction	9	14	2	15	40
Keep Gowanus Creative and Mixed-Use					
1. A “mandatory mixed-use” zoning model that requires new residential development (outside the IBZ) to be balanced with light industry, arts, and not-for-profits.	39	7	6	32	84
2. Incentives for non-profit “steward” organizations to own and manage affordable “maker” spaces, focused on retaining artists, light industry, and non-profits.	19	5	3	12	39
3. Ensure compatibility between different uses with close attention to performance standards, noise-proofing, loading and traffic, and enforcement.	4	3	2	4	13
4. Strengthen the strong arts and cultural community with ongoing program support, access to public & private spaces, and explore potential for live-work spaces.	18	16	6	24	64
5. Work closely with the Powerhouse Workshop (in the "Bat Cave" on the Canal) to establish a major non-profit center dedicated to manufacturing and the arts.	12	11	4	14	41

In-Person Survey Results

6. Develop a strategic preservation plan to landmark iconic buildings, interpret community history, and support preservation of surrounding neighborhoods.	6	19	4	9	38
Preserve and Create Affordable Housing for an Inclusive Community					
1. Make overdue investments in NYCHA’s Gowanus Houses, Wyckoff Gardens, and 572 Warren Street developments – to address broken elevators, sewer backups, and more.	34	22	6	21	83
2. Ensure “Next Generation NYCHA” development proposed for Wyckoff Gardens is integrated into the broader plan for Gowanus, to provide for necessary infrastructure	6	19	4	13	42
3. Apply mandatory inclusionary housing (MIH) wherever new residential development is allowed, to ensure a significant portion of new development is affordable.	11	16	5	17	49
4. Advance the “Gowanus Green” development at Public Place, with a substantial majority of units affordable to a wide range of income and demographic groups.	11	21	2	11	45
5. Provide stronger protections against harassment and displacement of existing low- and moderate-income tenants in privately-owned housing.	14	76	1	6	97
6. Where developers demolish rent-stabilized units, there should be relocation and (at least) one-for-one replacement of affordable units.	7	55	1	9	72

In-Person Survey Results

7. Ensure affordable amenities and retail – especially a supermarket, as well as laundromat, and other essential services – are available to low-income residents.	10	54	9	16	89
Secure a Pathway for Responsible Growth					
1. Ensure that investments in sustainable infrastructure are guaranteed and codified upfront, prior to land use or zoning changes.	5	16	1	13	35
2. Strengthen the manufacturing protections for the Industrial Business Zone in Gowanus before any new residential development is allowed (outside the IBZ).	19	6	2	12	39
3. Require any new zone allowing residential development to be both “mandatory mixed-use” and “mandatory inclusionary zoning” (to require affordable housing).	9	6	2	4	21
4. Pay thoughtful attention to building design to encourage integration with existing neighborhood aesthetic and contribute to a vibrant, compelling, livable area.	20	12	6	16	54
5. Set high sustainability standards for new development.	4	0	1	6	11
6. Set high standards for good, safe, quality jobs, with an emphasis on hiring local residents.	16	13	3	6	38
7. Establish a “construction compact” with public, private, and local stakeholders to pro-actively and aggressively address the headaches created by construction.	2	7	3	2	14
8. Ensure ongoing community oversight to track progress, enforce rules, address concerns, and solve problems as they arise.	6	5	2	1	14

In-Person Survey Results