

A **GREATER ROCKAWAY: WATERFRONT VISION PLAN** resulted from a community visioning process, which included three listening sessions held throughout the Rockaways, as well as two planning workshops.

Professional planning services were provided by Jonathan Rose Companies.

A Greater Rockaway: Waterfront Vision Plan is sponsored by:

Rockaway Waterfront Alliance (RWA) is a community-based organization dedicated to revitalizing the Rockaway Peninsula as the city's longest and most beautiful beachfront. As an environmental organization, RWA uses the wetlands and dunes of the Rockaways as an environmental education resource to teach school children and members of the local community how to be effective partners with city government in achieving an ecologically healthy waterfront, inland parks, and better maintained beaches for all residents of Rockaways neighborhoods and other New York City citizens.

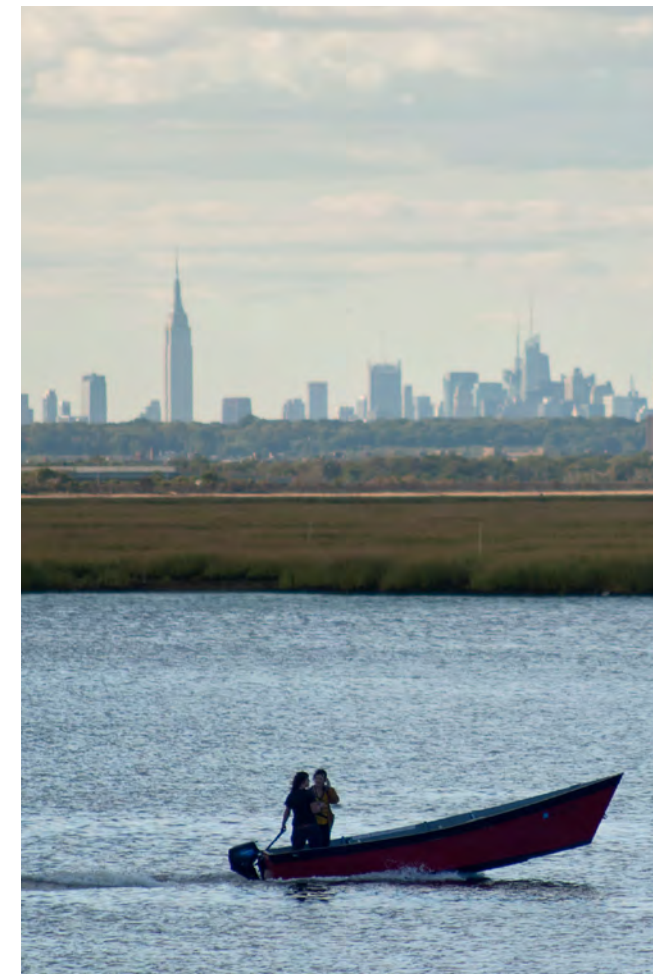
For more information about RWA, visit www.rwalliance.org

The Trust for Public Land is a national organization conserving land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come.

For more information about Trust for Public Land, visit www.tpl.org

Generous support for this vision was provided by Capital One Bank, Fund for the City of New York, The J.M. Kaplan Fund, The New York Community Trust and Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

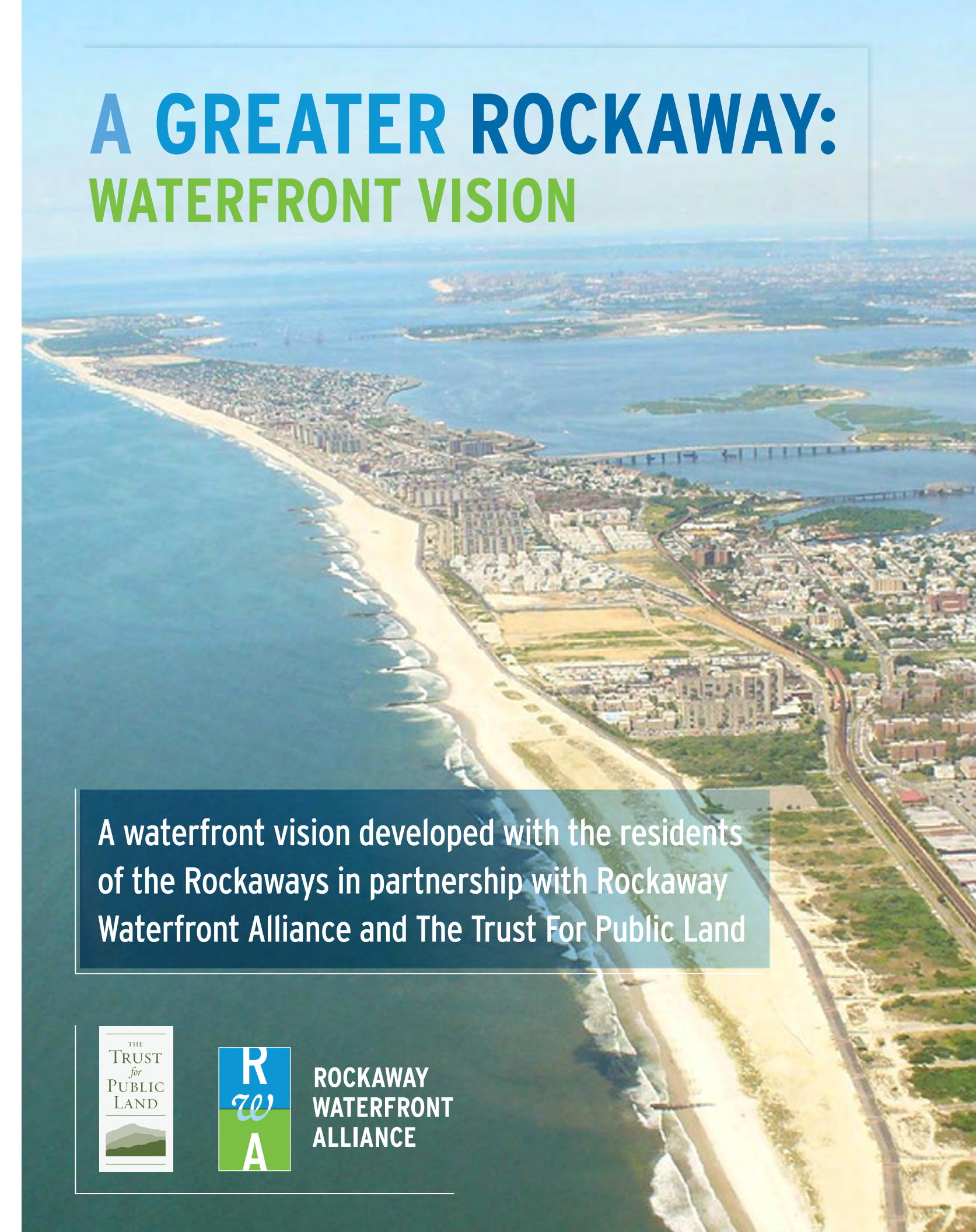
A RICH HISTORY *and* a BRIGHT FUTURE WITHIN THE NEW YORK CITY LANDSCAPE



Since the early 1900's, the Rockaways have always been an accessible waterfront destination for New Yorkers.



Going forward, we have an opportunity to redefine and reintroduce New Yorkers to a Greater Rockaway.



A GREATER ROCKAWAY: WATERFRONT VISION

A waterfront vision developed with the residents of the Rockaways in partnership with Rockaway Waterfront Alliance and The Trust For Public Land



ROCKAWAY WATERFRONT ALLIANCE

For more information about Rockaway Waterfront Alliance or The Trust for Public Land, visit us at:

www.rwalliance.org

www.tpl.org



WHY HERE?



WHAT WE DID



The Neighborhoods

On a peninsula in New York City's borough of Queens, the Rockaways is home to nearly 130,000 residents from a diverse set of backgrounds, cultures and income levels. Accessible to NYC and Long Island via subway, rail, and roads, the Rockaways provide the unique opportunity to live in the city, adjacent to both the beach and the bay. The neighborhoods running from west to east include Breezy Point, Roxbury, Neponsit, Belle Harbor, Rockaway Park, Rockaway Beach, Seaside, Arverne, Somerville, Edgemere, Bayswater, and Far Rockaway.

The Need

Although the Rockaways is bounded on both sides by water, residents often feel cut off from this valuable community resource. While the beach is physically accessible across the majority of the peninsula, the opposite is true of the Jamaica Bay side of the peninsula, where much of the waterfront is physically blocked off to the community. In addition to waterfront access issues, many residents are concerned about climate change and other environmental issues, safety/emergency preparedness, mosquitoes, and general maintenance of the Rockaways' shoreline.

The Opportunity

Over the past several decades, a lack of development combined with land conservation efforts has provided sites on both the beach and bay sides of the peninsula with great potential for conversion to public parks. Creative new development proposals provide water access and natural resource protection. Also, the recent release of the NYC Planning Department's Vision 2020 indicates that public policy supports waterfront enhancement efforts. The time is now!

The Process

Since October 2010, residents from neighborhoods throughout the Rockaways have come together to discuss and develop their vision for a more connected, useable and beautiful waterfront. The primary goal of the process was to generate ideas that were big and small, implementable and visible. In an effort to provide multiple opportunities for community feedback, the process included three listening sessions and two planning workshops throughout the Rockaways.

The Outcomes

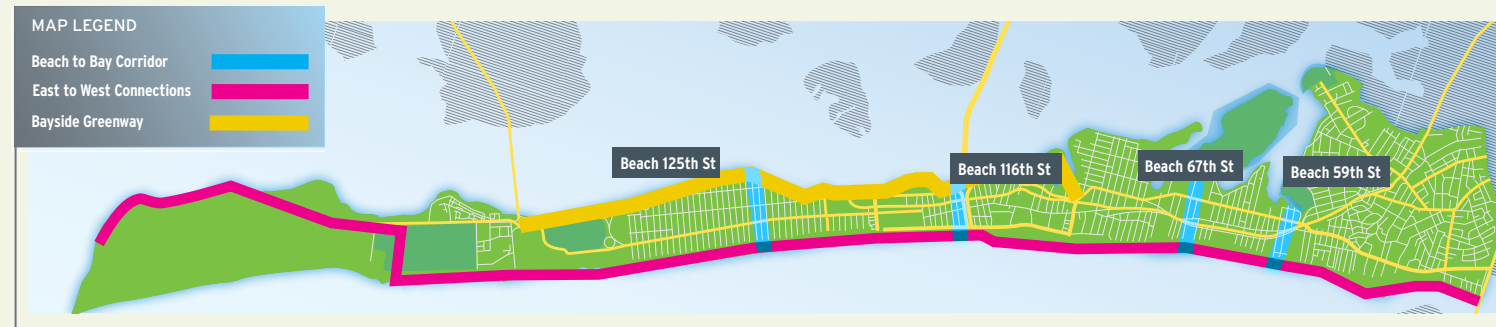
From the hundreds of ideas generated during the Brainstorming Sessions, participants narrowed down the field to a dozen key ideas. As you'll see in the next section, these ideas were diverse, ranging from constructing new boat launches to providing venues for concerts, performances, etc. Ultimately, these diverse ideas began to coalesce around two peninsula-wide themes:

1. Connect east to west via the boardwalk and a bayside greenway.
2. Connect the beach and bay via key corridors to facilitate cross-peninsula movement.

This is Only the Beginning. Get Involved!

This brochure summarizes the recommendations and place-based proposals developed during the planning process. Visit www.rwalliance.org for more information about the proposals and how to stay informed and get involved. These are your ideas, and in order to make them happen we need your help.

FROM IDEAS TO A VISION Throughout the course of our planning process, The Rockaway Community repeatedly expressed two broad themes: one is the desire to create a continuous, accessible link across the whole peninsula, and the other is to create several key accessible corridors that will encourage the use of both the beach and the bay.



Connecting East to West...



and Beach to Bay Corridors



Rockaway community members want a more connected peninsula with better east-west access for pedestrians, cyclists, subway riders, and drivers. Two strategies were proposed to achieve this goal: improve the boardwalk and create a bayside greenway and esplanade (particularly between Beach 98th Street and the Marine Parkway Bridge).

THE BOARDWALK The boardwalk is an existing east-west transportation asset that could be improved to promote this vision. Community members would like to see dilapidated portions of the boardwalk repaired, better signage erected, safety improvements made, and such beach amenities as bathrooms and showers installed. We believe that a more user-friendly and cohesive boardwalk will attract both residents and summer beachgoers by creating opportunities to explore the abundant natural, cultural and historic assets of the Rockaways.

BAYSIDE GREENWAY Another way to connect east and west is to create a pedestrian-friendly greenway along the bayside. East of the Crossbay Bridge (particularly from Beach 84th Street to the Nassau County border), the bay shoreline is punctuated by six inlets (known as "basins"), hampering continuous shore access. However, between the two bridges, the bay shore adjacent to Beach Channel Drive offers the long-term prospect of a continuous greenway with pedestrian access and amenities. There is strong community support for such long-term improvements as a ferry dock and water-related commercial enterprises at Beach 108th Street. In the short- to mid-term, shoreline stabilization could enhance waterfront access. City DOT and EDC are likely to make a major investment in seawall repair from Tribute Park at 116th Street west to 145th Street. Community members support a carefully conceived public process to design amenities and a continuous greenway along this stretch, which can be implemented along with the seawall repair. Ideally these enhancements will also extend to NPS land up to the Marine Parkway Bridge.

BEACH TO BAY CORRIDORS In addition to better connecting the east to the west, community members have a strong desire to create stronger connections between the beach-side and the bayside. The Rockaways' bayside offers opportunities for water access and active and passive recreation, and it contains a significant number of wetlands and shoreline parcels that are protected for habitat preservation. Therefore, enhancing key north-to-south corridors is a first step toward realizing the vision of a more accessible Jamaica Bay waterfront. Several north-to-south corridors have been identified as potential beach-to-bay routes. A variety of streetscape improvements would both enliven and beautify the corridors and encourage safe multi-modal travel between the beach and the bay. Boat launch access on the bay side and concessions kiosks on the beach side will be installed at the street ends to create beach and bayside destinations for each corridor. By focusing resources on these key corridors, we can create pleasant environments that encourage traffic flow toward points of interest along the beach and the bay.

1 Boat Launch and Storage Network



Create an interconnected network of new facilities for recreational boats to access the water along the bay. Potential sites include Riis Landing, Beach 104th, Beach 80th, and BCHS Boat Launch.

2 Provide Water-based Transportation



Provide water-based transportation to key destinations. Ideas include creating a ferry advocate task force, consulting past ferry studies, investigating potential hurdles such as regulations, and identifying key ferry routes.

3 Improve the Bayside Edge



Improve the bayside edge of the peninsula for visual and recreational access from Beach 98th Street to the Marine Parkway Bridge. Potential projects: repair the sea wall, provide more access to the water for fishing and other recreational pursuits.

4 Create a Bayside Greenway



Examine the potential for creating a continuous greenway along the bay. Ideas include connecting with the existing Jamaica Bay Greenway Plan, identifying a pilot site such as between the two bridges, and adding plantings and seating for pedestrians.

5 Enhance The Boardwalk Experience



Improve the boardwalk by repairing dilapidated portions and connecting gaps, bringing in more concessions, and installing showers and bathrooms.

6 Develop a Waterfront Identity



Promote the vision of a unified Rockaway waterfront through the use of branding and promotional strategies. Ideas include adding a greenway boardwalk map, enforcing furniture and signage standards, and presenting greenway activities and events.

7 Improve Pedestrian and Biking Thruways



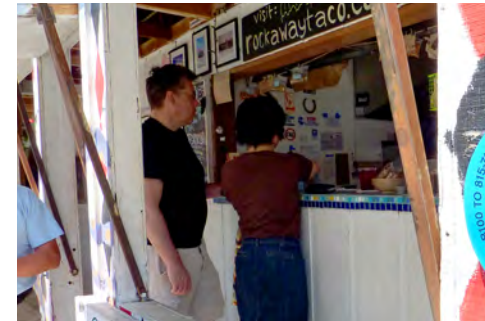
Encourage pedestrian and bike use of the beach-to-bay corridors. Possible improvements include lighting, paving, crosswalks, traffic calming, and bike lanes.

8 Enhance Recreational Waterfront Activities



Accommodate the growing demand for surf beaches by adding more designated surf beaches, surf competitions, and surf shops.

9 Provide Amenities, Concessions for Visitors



Provide amenities to accommodate beachgoers and improve community quality of life. Ideas include vending carts, cafes, barbecue and picnic areas, and green markets.

10 Green Local Streets and Common Areas



Install plantings along the corridors to provide environmental, storm water management, and aesthetic benefits. Potential enhancements include native plant species, flowers, and bioswales.

11 Integrate Programming to Underutilized Spaces



Explore programmatic strategies to enliven underutilized spaces. Ideas include street festivals, street furniture, pop-up shops, and NYC Summer Streets.

12 Provide a Safe and Accessible Waterfront



Provide a safe and accessible environment for locals and visitors along the beach/boardwalk as well as a comprehensive plan for storm warnings, emergency preparedness, and evacuation procedures. Ideas include extended lifeguard hours and expanded lifeguard coverage, clarification from the Parks Department regarding beach access when lifeguards are off duty, bike police, and lighting.

YOUR IDEAS

These are the top 12 ideas that emerged from the planning process, ranked in order of importance by community members.

