

Willets Point

Community Workshop



Willets Point Community Workshop

Presentation Goals

To get input from residents and concerned citizens on the principles that should guide the redevelopment of Willets Point, in order to develop a proposal that embodies the communities' vision.



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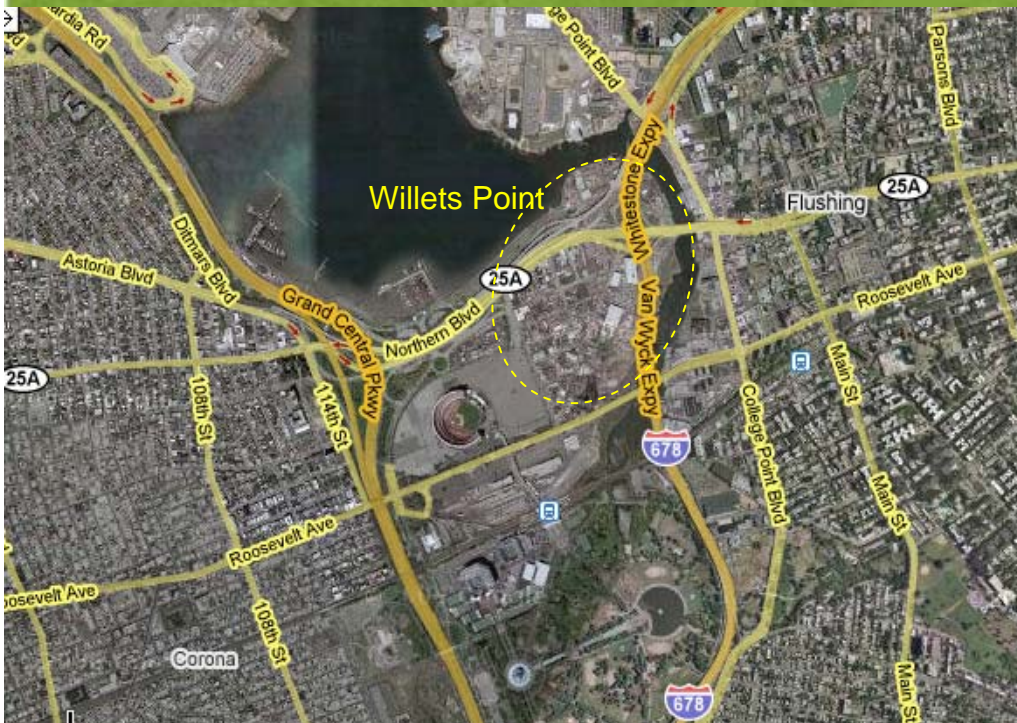
Presentation Overview

1. Willets Point Today
2. Bloomberg Administration Redevelopment Plan
3. Community Response
4. Timeline

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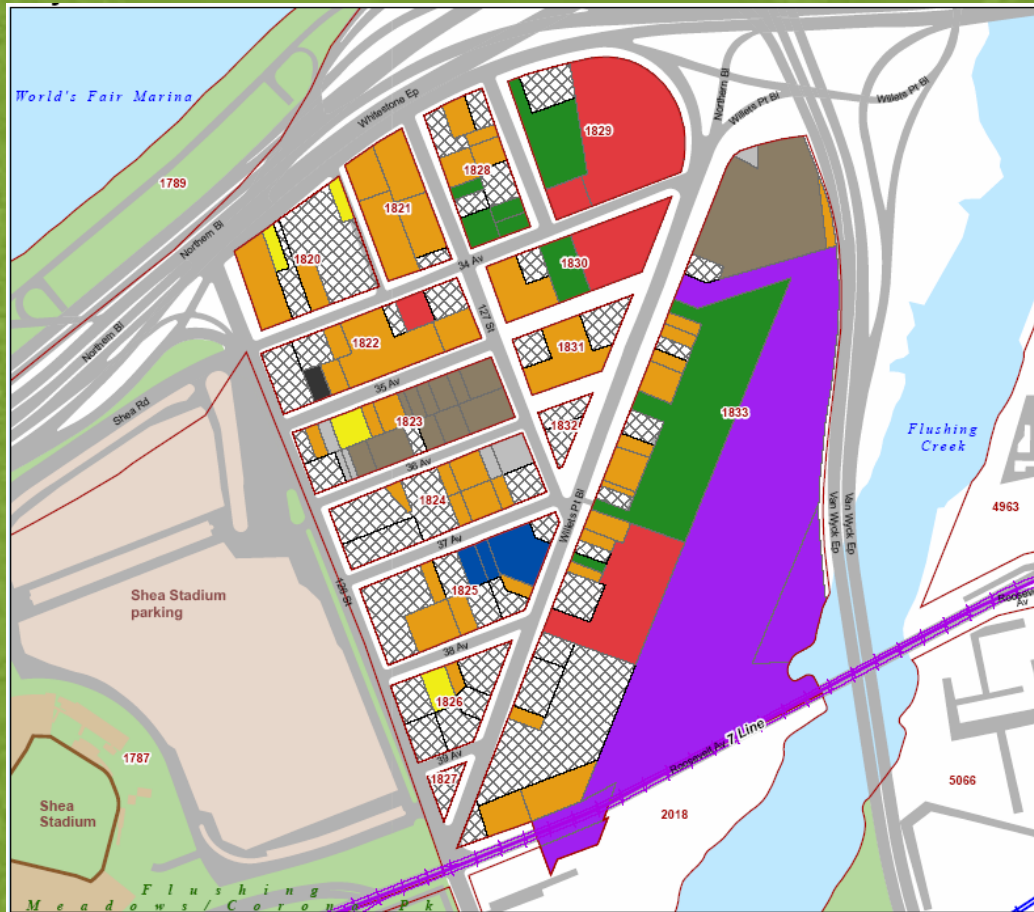
Wilets Point Today

- Located between Flushing, Corona/East Elmhurst, Flushing Bay/College Point, Flushing Meadows Park
- 61-acre industrial area between two major highways and in the vicinity of La Guardia Airport
- Home to approximately 250 businesses providing 1,300 jobs



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Existing Land Uses



Major land use types

-  Mixed use
-  Auto-related use
-  Construction Supplies
-  Distribution
-  Manufacturing
-  Other / miscellaneous
-  Parking facilities
-  Transportation/utilities
-  Vacant
-  Waste management

Willets Point Land Use Study, Angotti & Romalewski, 2006

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Existing Land Uses



Images from Angotti 2006 & Richard Pery 2004 (NYT)

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Bloomberg Administration Redevelopment Plan

Transform Willets Point into a mixed-use “regional destination” and NYC’s “next great neighborhood.”

Stated goals:

1. Improve environmental conditions
2. Provide affordable and market-rate housing
3. Transform the area into an “enlivened” destination
4. Improve connections to surrounding neighborhoods
5. Generate a mix of activities during the day and throughout the year

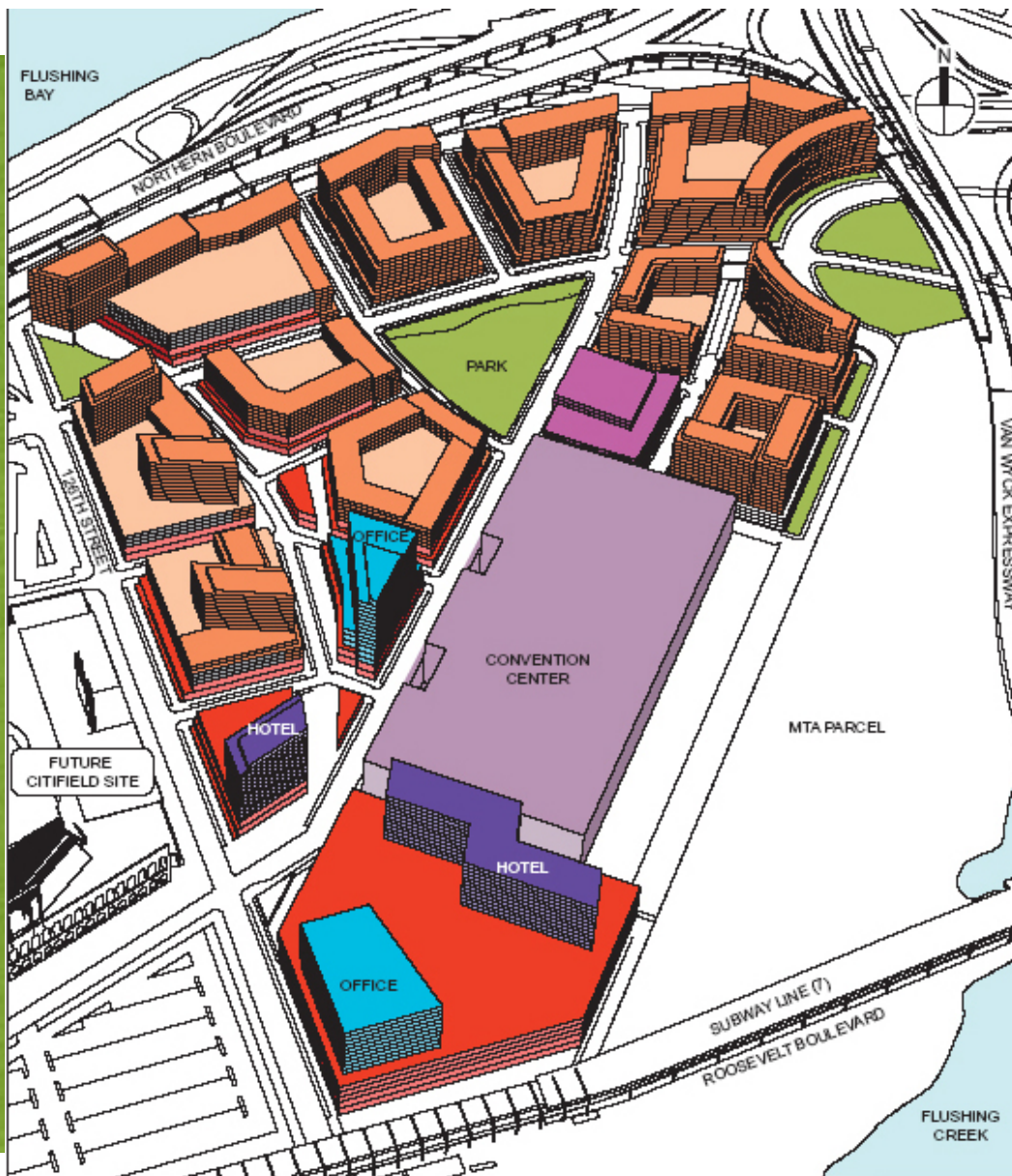
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Proposed Uses for Willets Point

Use	Size
Residential	5,500 units
Retail	1.7 million sq ft (incl. 2,700 seat movie theater)
Office	500,00 sq ft
Convention Center	400,00 sq ft
Hotel	700 rooms
K – 8 School	650 seats
Community & Cultural Uses	150,000 sq ft
Open Space	8 acres

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Illustrative Bulk Diagram

Proposed Land Uses

- Retail
- Office
- Housing
- Residential Rooftop Courtyard
- Hotel
- Open Space (Not including paved sidewalks/plazas)
- Convention Center
- Primary School, Community/ Cultural Use

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Will the City's plan achieve its goals?

Plan Objectives	Concerns
Improve environmental conditions	???
Provide affordable and market-rate housing	No mention of how much affordable, or affordable to whom.
Transform the area into an "enlivened" destination	Mixed-use, convention center, mall What type of destination?
Improve connections to surrounding neighborhoods	???
Generate a mix of activities during the day and the throughout the year	Mixed-use, convention center, mall

... and are they the right goals?

An aerial photograph of the Willets Point area in Queens, New York, showing a mix of industrial, commercial, and residential development. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter.

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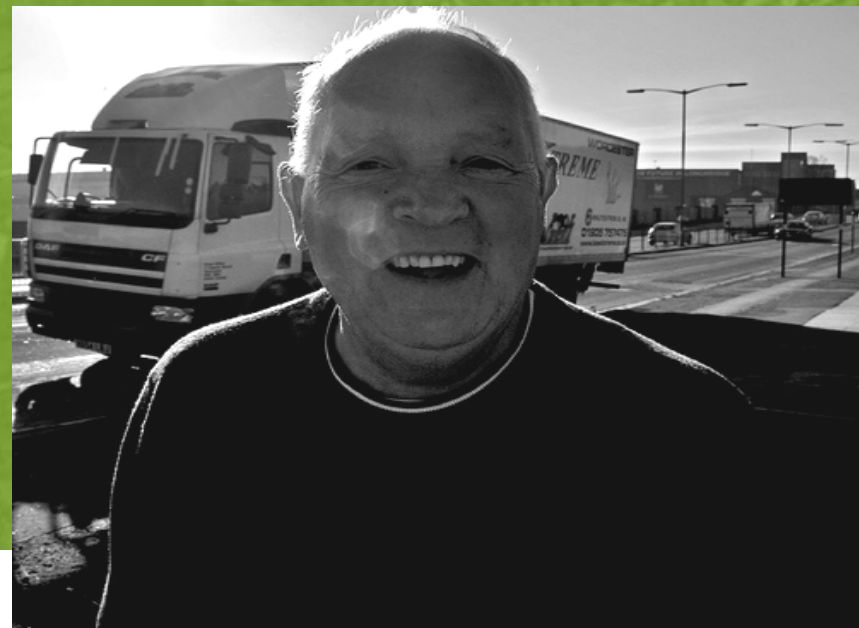
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**What type of development do
we want for Willets Point?**

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Our Redevelopment Principles

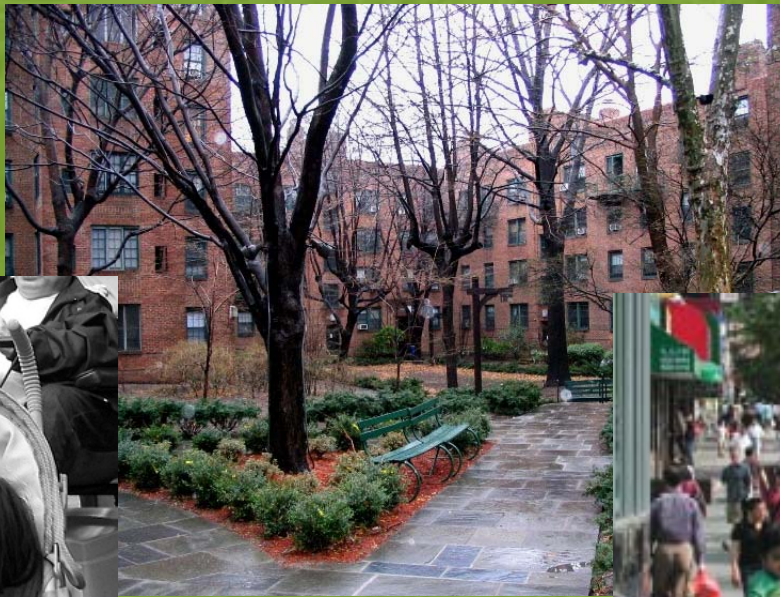
- **Do right by existing businesses and workers.**
 - ☐ Could/should existing businesses be incorporated into the development plans?
 - ☐ Provide fair compensation and good options to businesses forced to relocate.
 - ☐ Offer dislocated workers their choice of a job in the new development, or City-funded job training and placement elsewhere.



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- **Make most of the housing affordable to residents of surrounding neighborhoods.**

Require that most of the units in the Wilets Point Urban Renewal Area be affordable to the average Queens family, at a range of income levels.



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- **Guarantee living wage jobs with targeted local hiring**
for all jobs created on the project (construction, building service, tourism, convention center, office, subcontractors).



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- **Respect and connect surrounding neighborhoods.**
 - ❑ Improve connections between Willets Point, the surrounding neighborhoods (Corona, East Elmhurst, Flushing), and an improved Flushing River.
 - ❑ Make sure that the plan is informed by the character of neighboring communities.
 - ❑ Do not drain business from Downtown Flushing.



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- **Provide the necessary physical and social infrastructure.**
 - ❑ Ensure that development comes with the necessary schools, child care, senior, and community centers – for Willets Point and surrounding neighborhoods.
 - ❑ Sewers, transportation, and parking to meet existing and future needs.
 - ❑ More than one 650 seat school will be needed.



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Willets Point Timeline Uniform Land Use Review Procedure (ULURP)



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Let's take action!!!

We are here to discuss these principles and see how can we participate and affect the changes that might take place in Willets Point.



An aerial photograph of the Willets Point area in Queens, New York, showing a mix of industrial, commercial, and residential development. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter.

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Thank You!