






# Mapping for Participatory Preservation:

Analyzing Historic Façade Fabric and Collaborative Preservation  
Opportunities in Red Hook

# Methodology

## 01

DATA COLLECTION AND  
PREPROCESSING

 <u>Rising Water + Environmental Threats</u>	Rising Water, Heat-intense areas, Permeability, Trees Canopy Coverage, Basement Flooding: How will these factors affect Preservation+Adaptive Re-use Opportunities
<u>Transportation and Walkability</u>	Proximity to possible historic zones: Transportation buffer-zones 
<u>Participatory Preservation Opportunities</u>	People as infrastructure 

Historically a Working  
Waterfront



Amorphic Robotic Church:  
Formerly a Norwegian Seamen  
Church



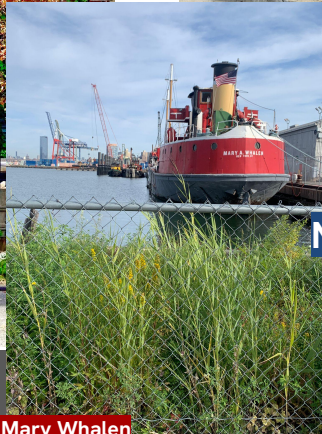
Industrial Past

Le Comte and Co Inc, Former  
Factory and Warehouse



Lidgerwood Factory Edifice

Nautical Heritage



The Mary Whalen



Mementos on timber across  
Valentino Pier



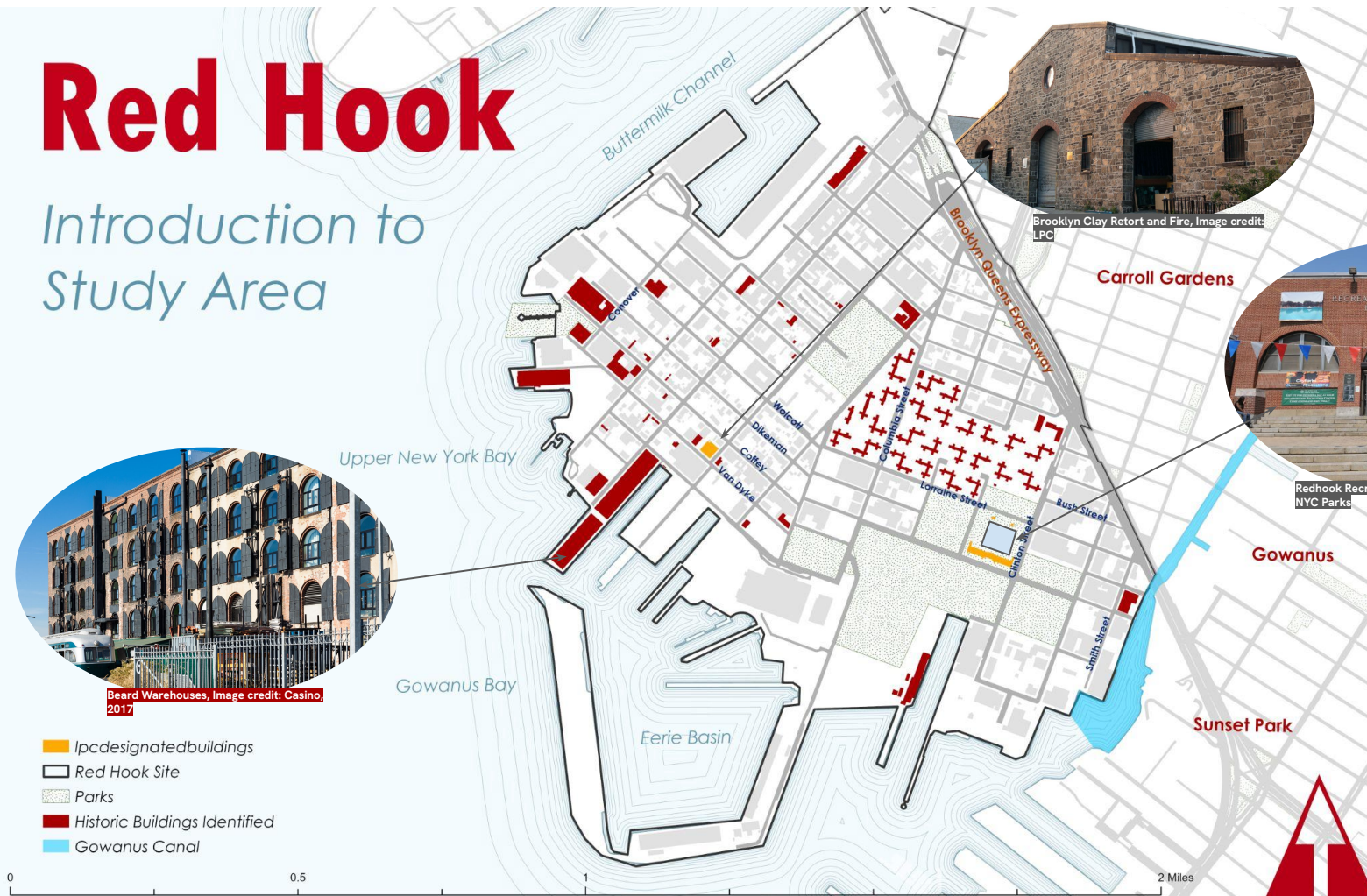
# Red Hook

## Introduction to Study Area



Beard Warehouses, Image credit: Casino, 2017

-  Ipcdesignatedbuildings
-  Red Hook Site
-  Parks
-  Historic Buildings Identified
-  Gowanus Canal



Brooklyn Clay Retort and Fire, Image credit: LPC



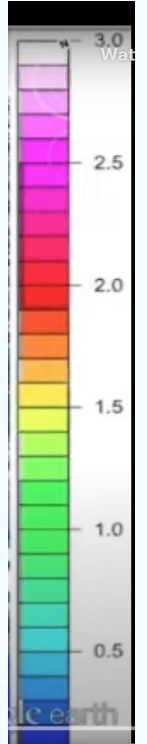
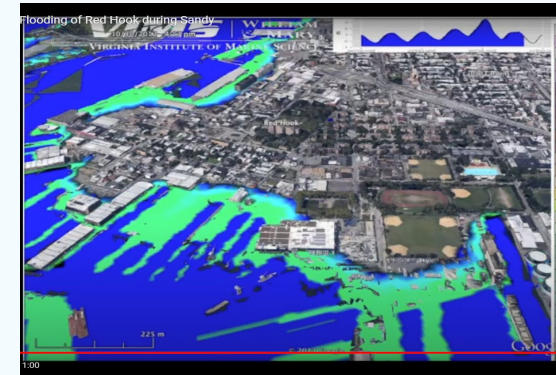
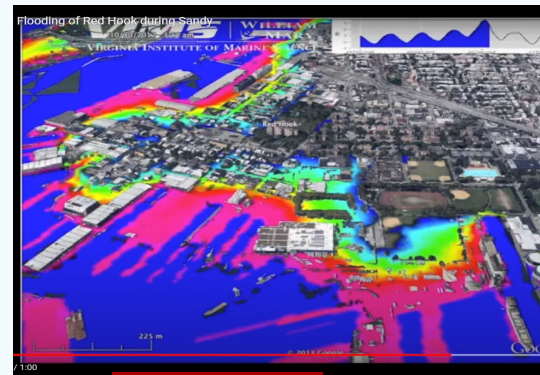
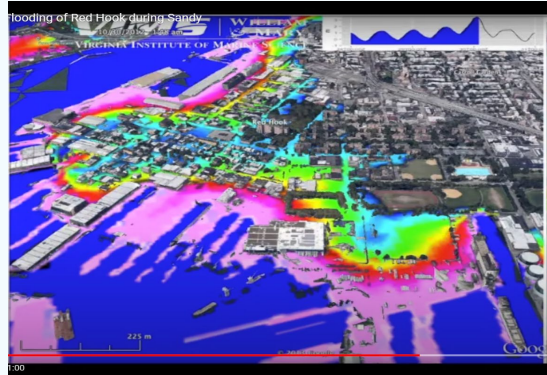
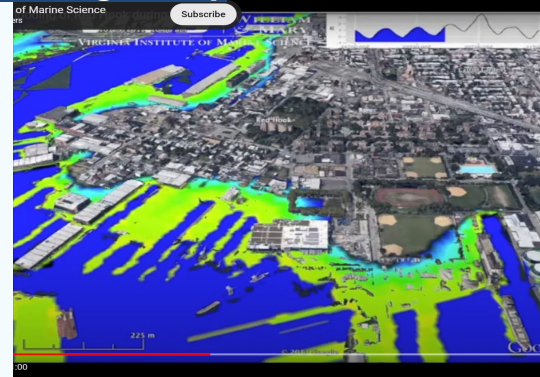
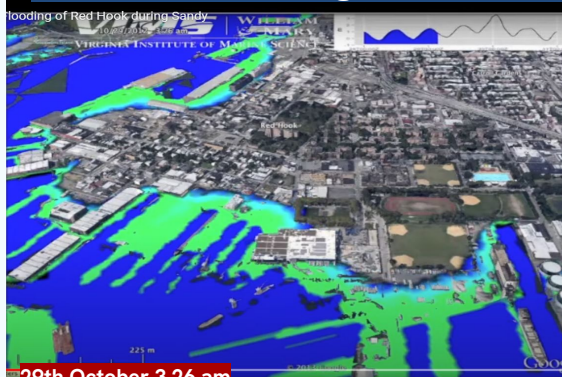
Redhook Recreation Center, Image credit: NYC Parks

Pratt  
GCPE

Pratt  
HP



# Stormtide Flooding of Red Hook during Sandy







gettyimages®

Credit: New York Daily News

### *Hurricane Sandy*

*A man tries to ride his bike through flood waters on Van Brunt Street in Red Hook Brooklyn Monday morning as Hurricane Sandy slowly makes her way to New York City, October 29th, 2012. (Photo By: Craig Warga/NY Daily News via Getty Images)*



# Rising Water: Risk

Historic Shoreline x 2050 Projected  
500 year Floodplain

4.

**preservation research  
methodologies: How does the past  
inform current urban problems?**

- Ipccdesignatedbuildings
- Red Hook Site
- Parks
- Historic Buildings Identified
- Historic Shoreline
- Gowanus Canal
- 2050 Projected 500 year Floodplain



Historic Shoreline provided by U.S Geological Survey

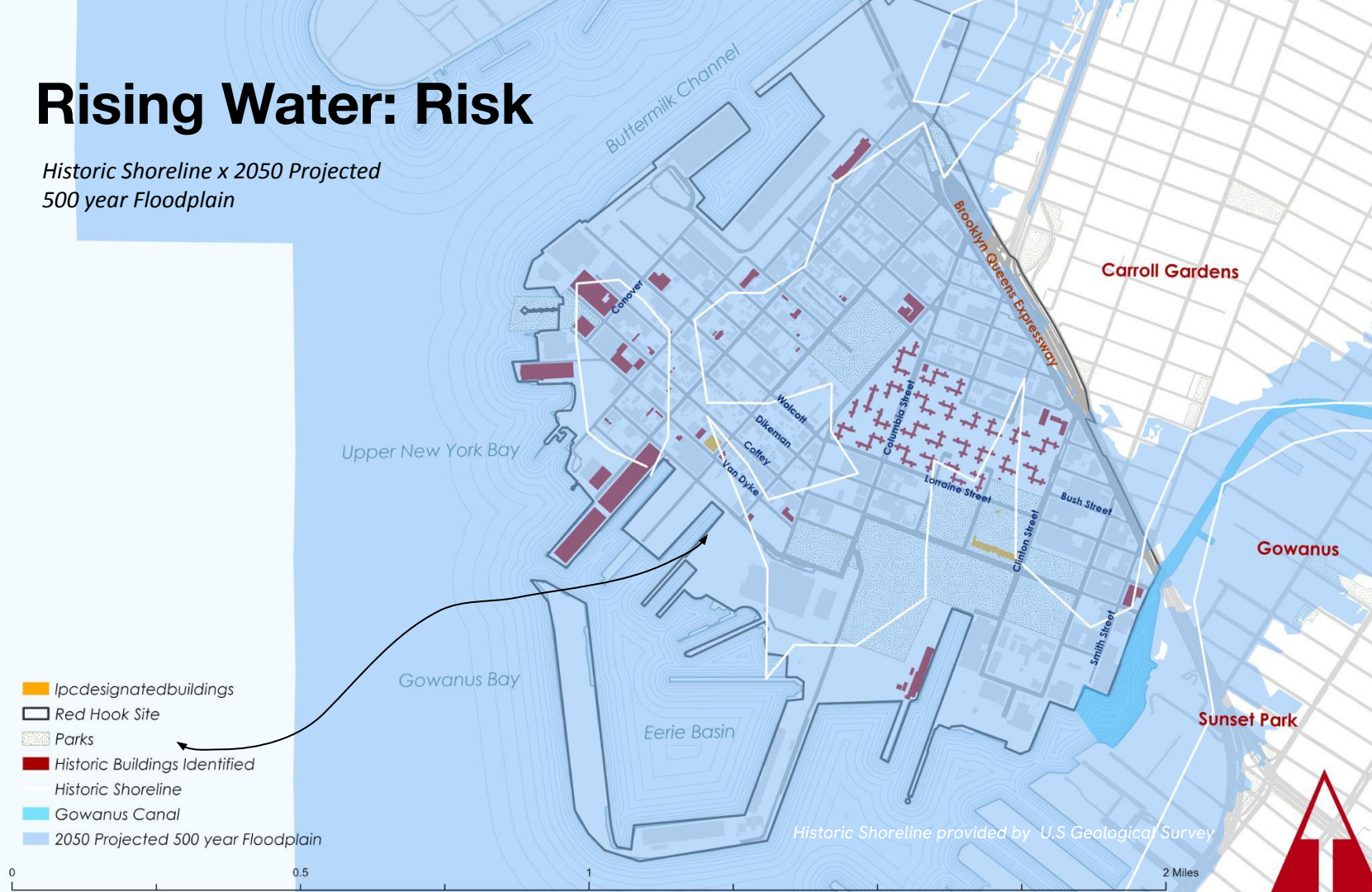
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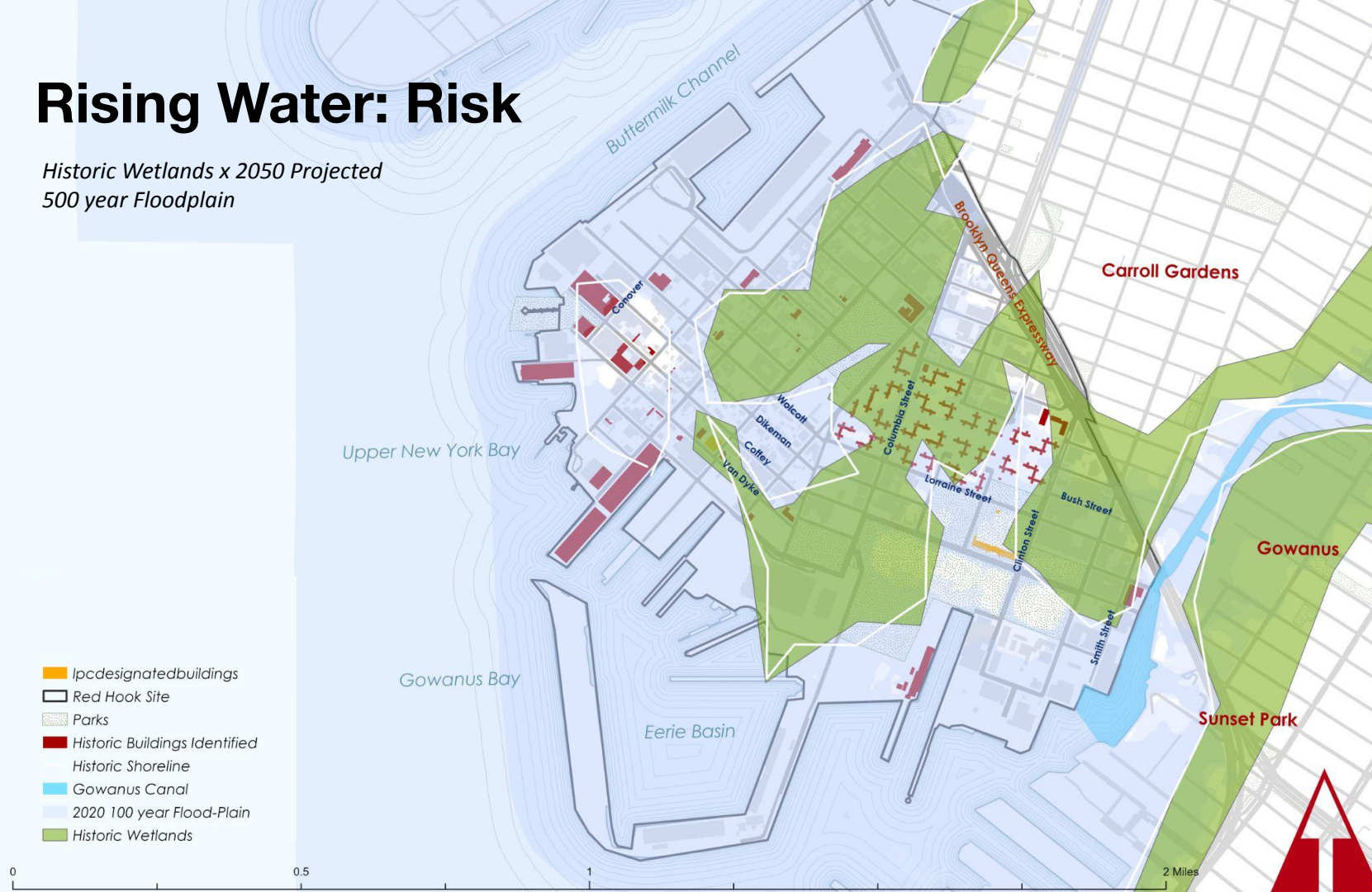
# Rising Water: Risk

*Historic Shoreline x 2050 Projected  
500 year Floodplain*



# Rising Water: Risk

Historic Wetlands x 2050 Projected  
500 year Floodplain





# Rising Water: Risk

*Historic Wetlands x 2050 Projected  
500 year Floodplain*

- lpcdesignatedbuildings
- Red Hook Site
- Parks
- Historic Buildings Identified
- Historic Shoreline
- Gowanus Canal
- 2020 100 year Flood-Plain
- Historic Wetlands



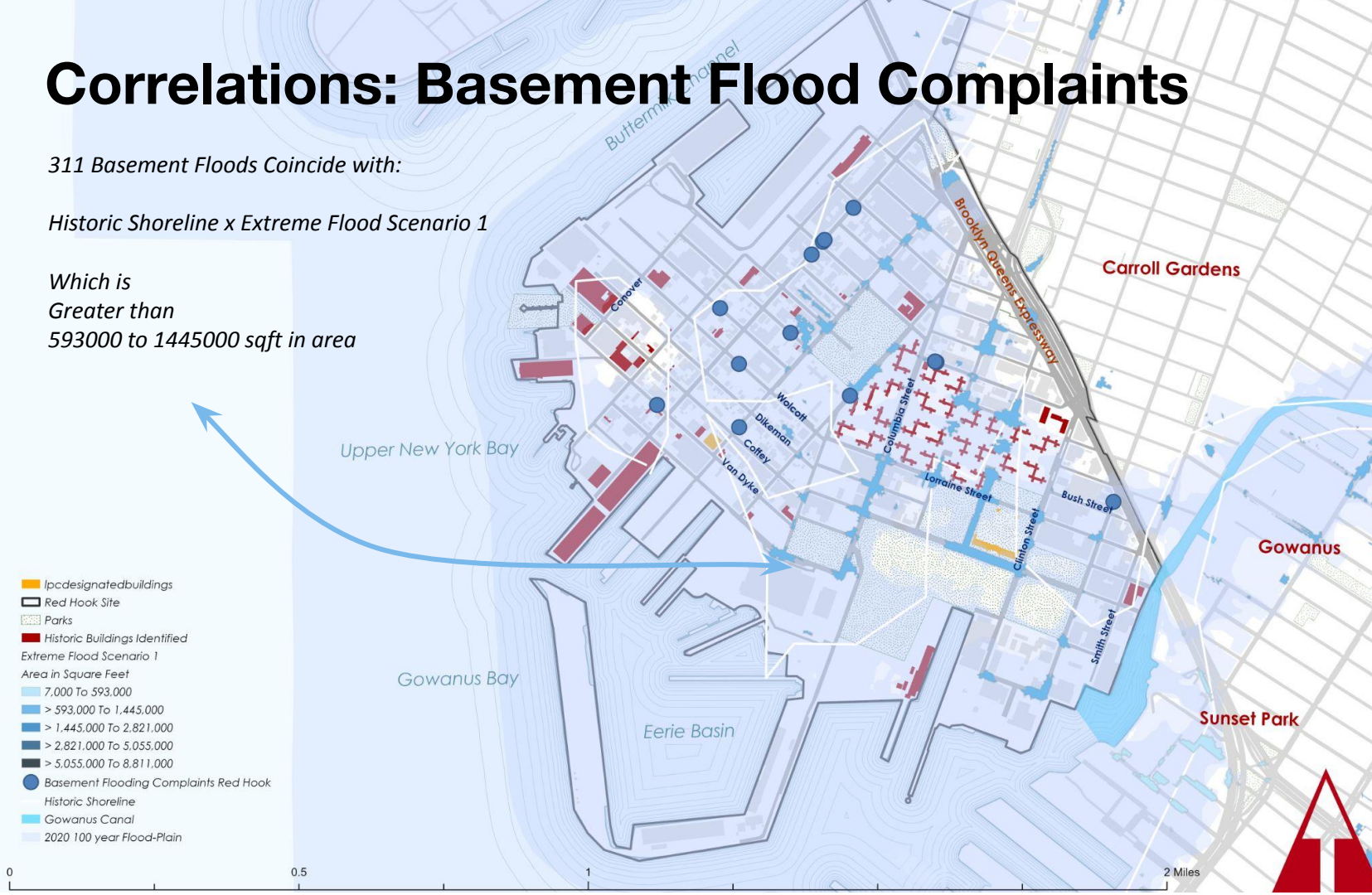


# Correlations: Basement Flood Complaints

311 Basement Floods Coincide with:

Historic Shoreline x Extreme Flood Scenario 1

Which is  
Greater than  
593000 to 1445000 sqft in area



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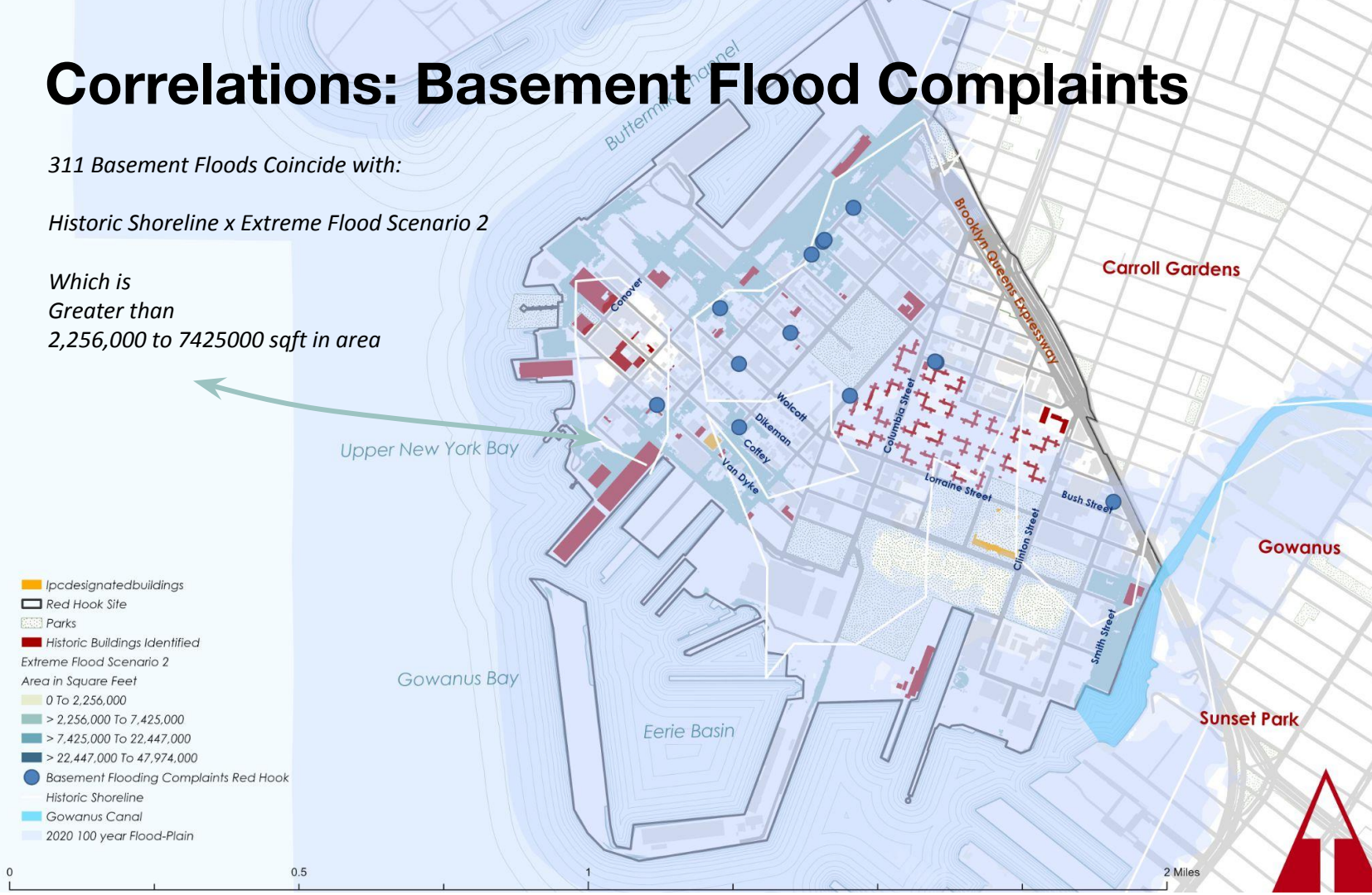
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# Correlations: Basement Flood Complaints

311 Basement Floods Coincide with:

Historic Shoreline x Extreme Flood Scenario 2

Which is  
Greater than  
2,256,000 to 7425000 sqft in area



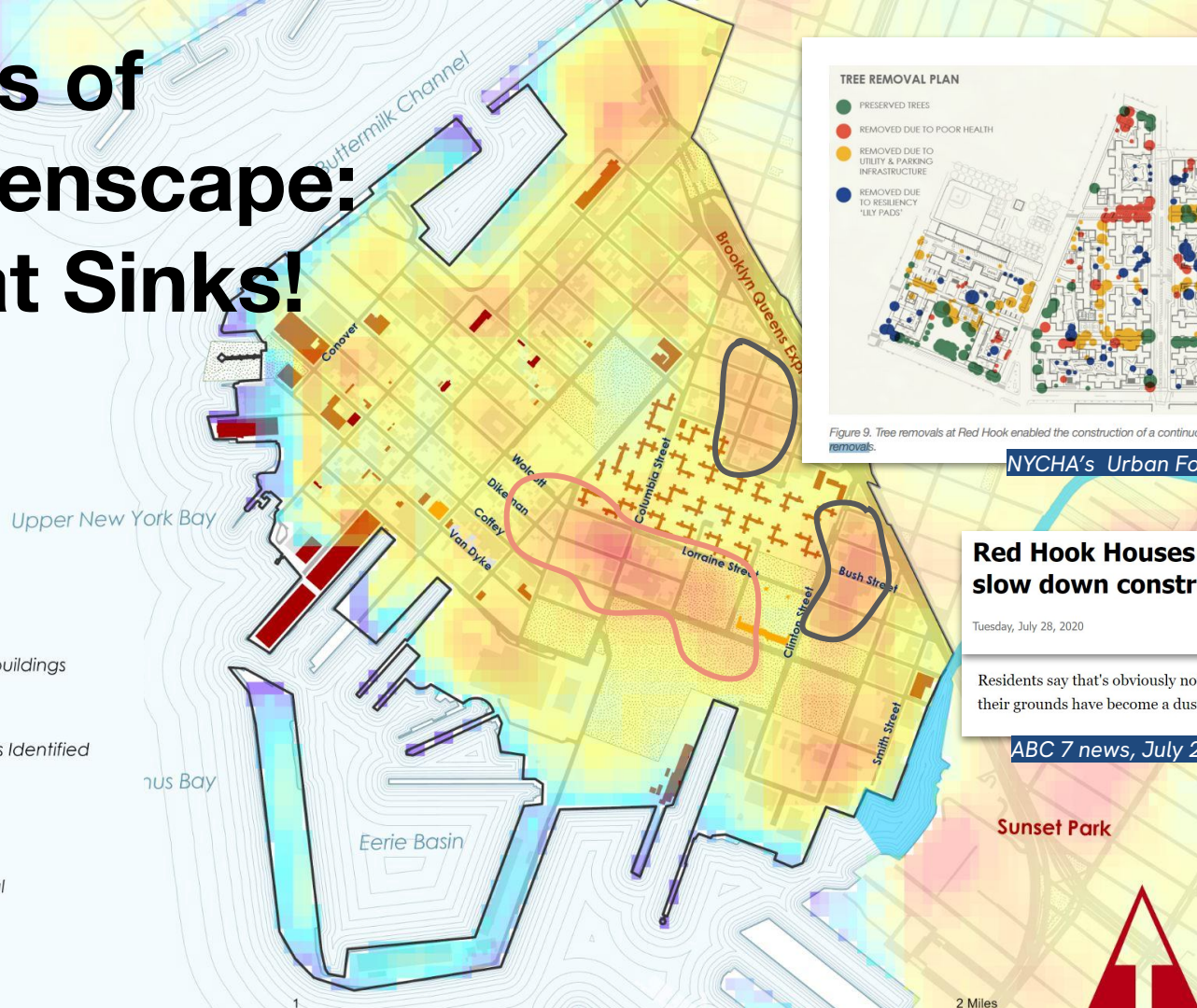
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HP

Pratt  
GCPE



# Loss of Greenscape: Heat Sinks!

■ Ipcdesignatedbuildings  
 Red Hook Site  
 Parks  
■ Historic Buildings Identified  
 Mean Temperature  
 Value  
■ 99.3336  
■ 38.66  
■ Gowanus Canal



## TREE REMOVAL PLAN

- PRESERVED TREES
- REMOVED DUE TO POOR HEALTH
- REMOVED DUE TO UTILITY & PARKING INFRASTRUCTURE
- REMOVED DUE TO RESILIENCY 'LULY PADS'



Figure 9. Tree removals at Red Hook enabled the construction of a continuous, passive flood protection system but required extensive tree removals.

NYCHA's Urban Forest Publication October 2021

## Red Hook Houses residents demand NYCHA slow down construction project

Tuesday, July 28, 2020



Residents say that's obviously not good enough. Roughly 450 trees were removed, and their grounds have become a dust bowl.

ABC 7 news, July 2020

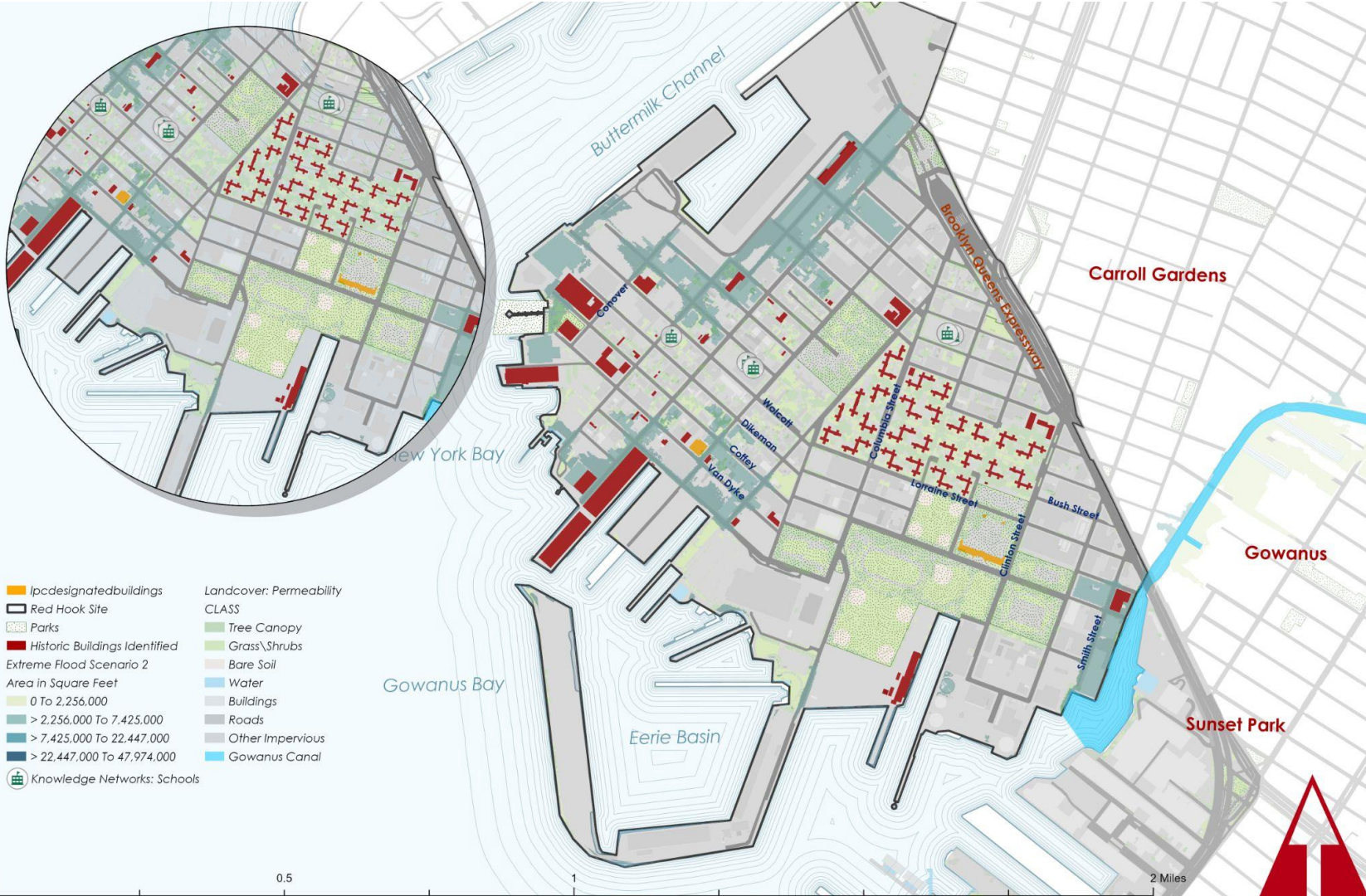
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# Loss of Greenscape: Heat Sinks!







# 5 Years After Sandy: Vulnerable Red Hook Is Booming, Right at the Water's Edge

This growing Brooklyn neighborhood, flooded during Superstorm Sandy, is now confronting the threat of future storms and sea level rise.

By Bryan Walsh for The Bridge  
October 26, 2017

## A Commitment to the Waterfront

In the aftermath of Sandy, Mayor Bloomberg made it clear that, whatever the city would do to strengthen its defense, it would not pull back from the water.

"We cannot and will not abandon our waterfront," he said. "It's one of our greatest assets. We must protect it, not retreat from it." And that, ultimately, is what the city has tried to do, in fits and starts, in the five years since Sandy. So has the construction sector—many of the new condos and other developments being built along New York's waterfront, including in Red Hook, will have their own protections against rising seas and floods. ?!!

"We're living in a world in which technology has changed how construction can happen," says Carlo Scissura, the president of the New York Building Congress. "We can do things the right way."

Commitment  
to the  
Waterfront?



A drone's-eye view of the Red Hook area of Brooklyn. Credit: Lucas McGowen via The Bridge

But as the years have passed, some of the momentum around the most ambitious efforts has been lost. Take the biggest project to come out of Sandy: the Big U.



The Big U project is being designed to expand parks along the waterfront to help buffer low-lying areas of Manhattan from storm surges. Credit: Rebuild by Design

By and for WHOM?

Existing buildings, even decades-old brownstones, can be renovated in ways that make them less vulnerable to frequent floods, by moving boilers and electrical equipment above flood levels. (New or "substantially



2.

Historic preservation strategies can be used to address the impacts of climate change.

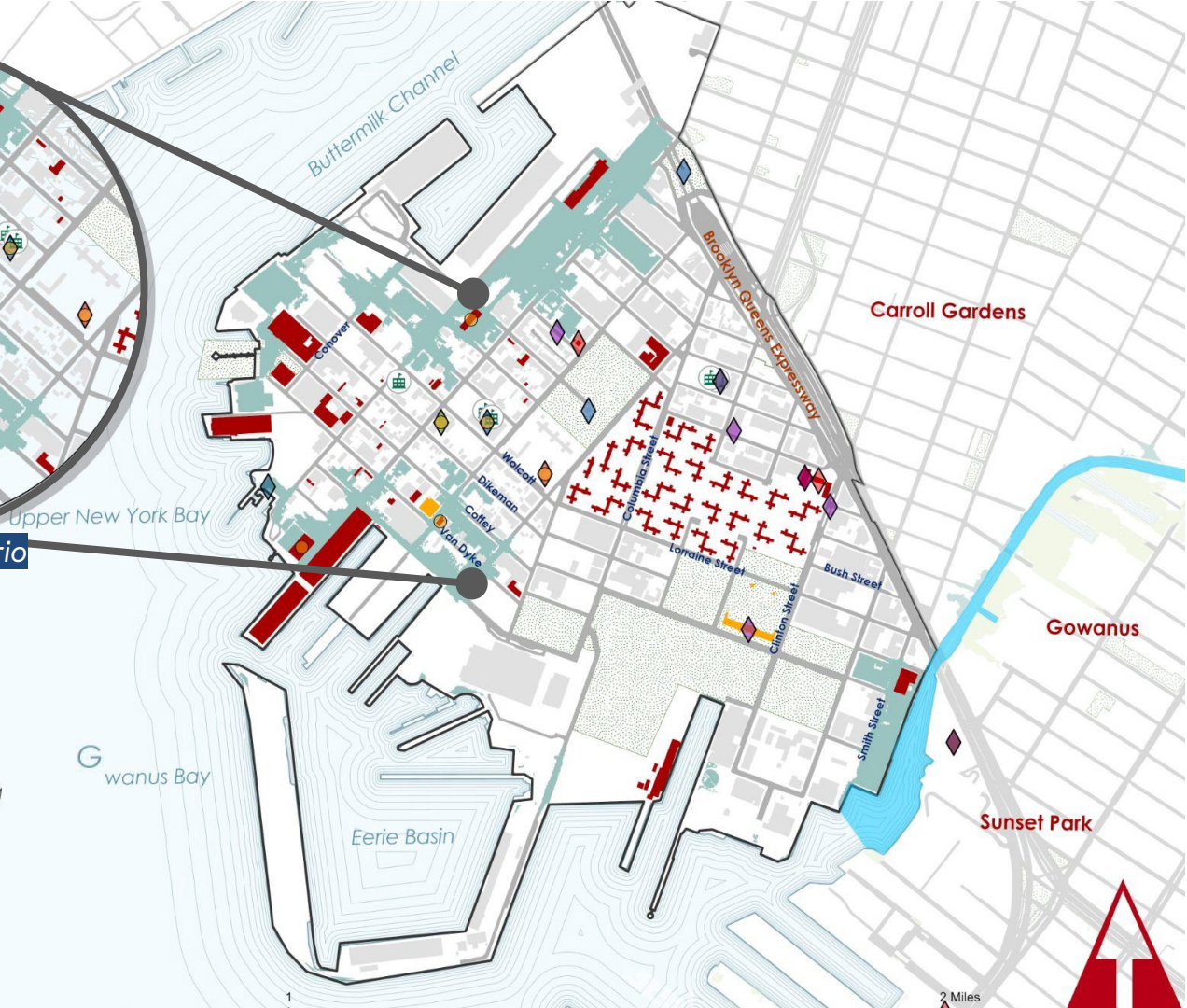
## Opportunities for Participatory Preservation?



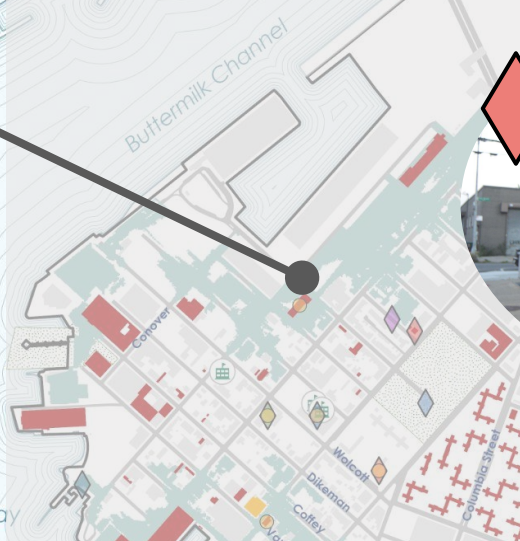




## Opportunity Zone 1 Higher Impact in Extreme Flooding Scenario







**Scrapmetal Processing/  
Re-Use**



**Repairs/ Makers/ Maintenance**



**Visual Arts: Adaptive Re-Use**

- Ipcdesignatedbuildings
- Red Hook Site
- Parks
- Historic Buildings Identified
- Extreme Flood Scenario 2
- Area in Square Feet
- 0 To 2,256,000
- > 2,256,000 To 7,425,000
- > 7,425,000 To 22,447,000
- > 22,447,000 To 47,974,000
- Knowledge Networks: Schools
- Gowanus Canal
- Community Centers
- Material Supplies
- Museums
- Visual Arts
- Scrap Metal Processing
- Recreation Sites
- Youth Centers
- cultural institutions



## Opportunity Zone 2

Ipcdesignatedbuildings

Red Hook Site

Parks

Historic Buildings Identified

Extreme Flood Scenario 2

Area in Square Feet

0 To 2,256,000

> 2,256,000 To 7,425,000

> 7,425,000 To 22,447,000

> 22,447,000 To 47,974,000

Knowledge Networks: Schools

Gowanus Canal

Community Centers

Material Supplies

Museums

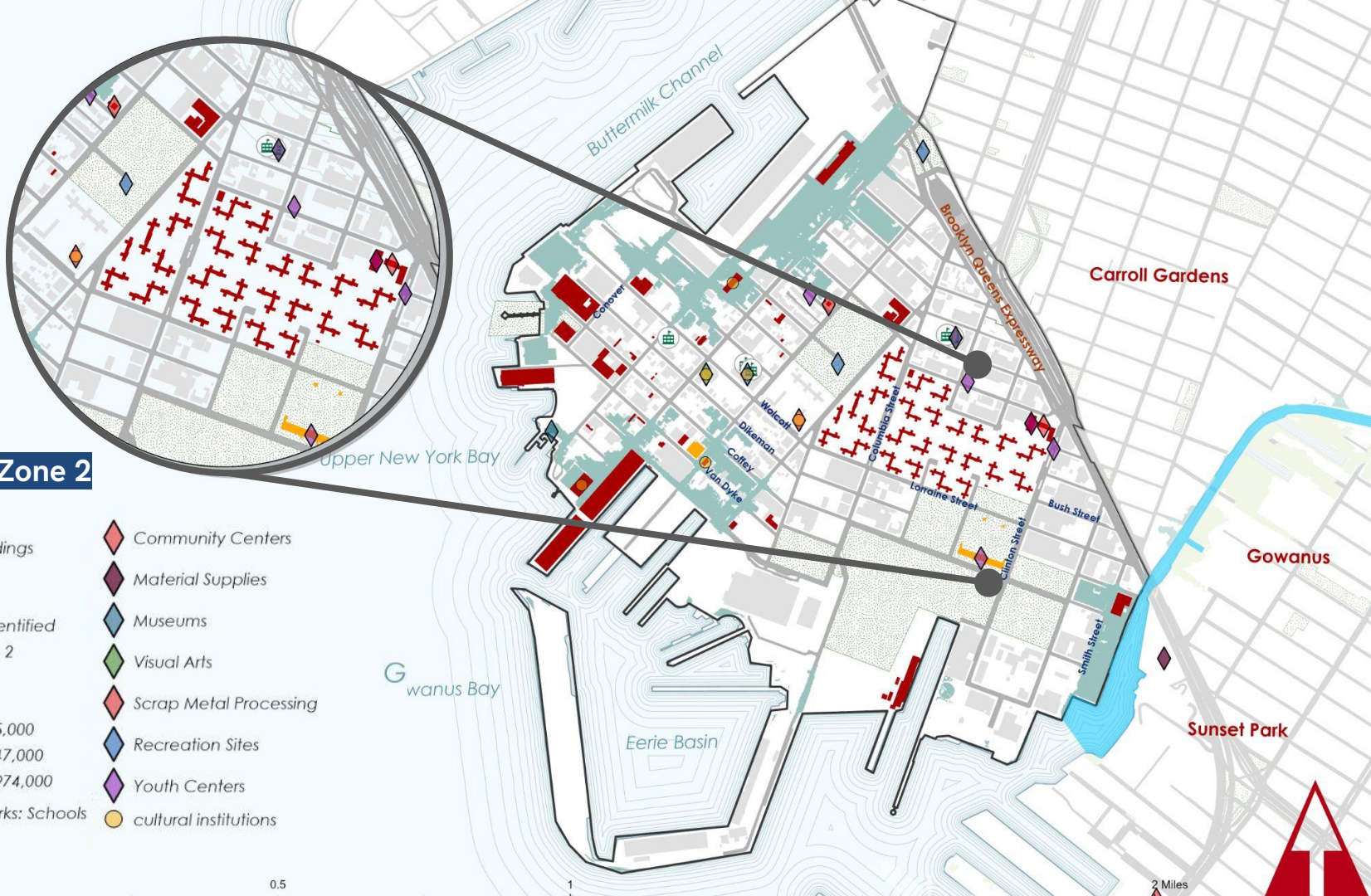
Visual Arts

Scrap Metal Processing

Recreation Sites

Youth Centers

cultural institutions



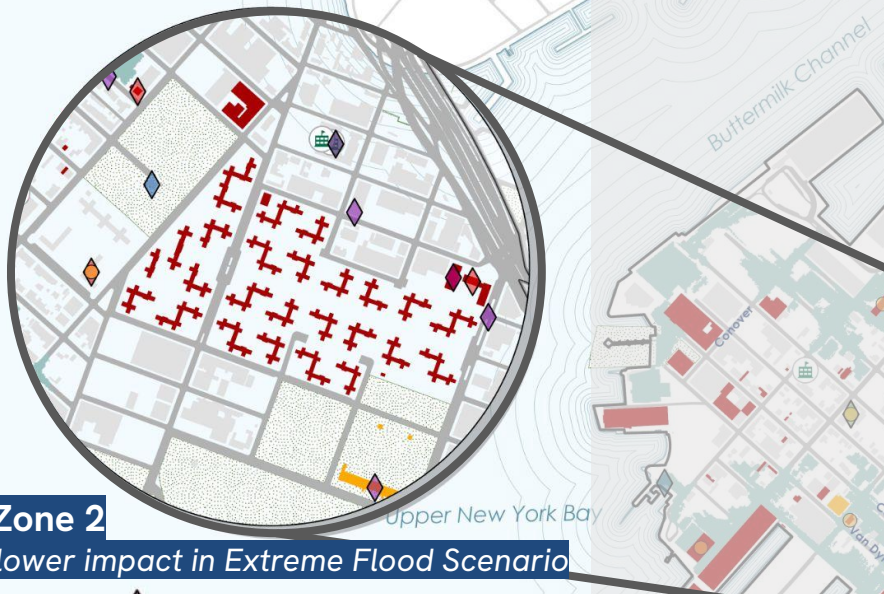


## The Red Hook Houses: Housing Brooklynites During the Great Depression

When NYCHA was founded in 1934, one of their first proposals for Brooklyn was a housing project in Red Hook.



**Red Hook Houses, Brownstoner article, Suzanne Spellen**



## Opportunity Zone 2 Comparatively lower impact in Extreme Flood Scenario

- Ipcdesignatedbuildings
- Red Hook Site
- Parks
- Historic Buildings Identified
- Extreme Flood Scenario 2
- Area in Square Feet
- 0 To 2,256,000
- > 2,256,000 To 7,425,000
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New York City Housing Authority Red Hook Houses – Sandy Resiliency & Renewal Program



**KPF Architects, visualisation 2016, not implemented**

## Hurricane Recovery Fails the Financially Vulnerable

*Based on a decade of data from Hurricane Sandy, two New York City planners explore the inequities of disaster mitigation and recovery — and what needs to change to prevent climate gentrification.*

**APA, 2022 Article**



Here's a hard truth: no one really knows how to adapt to the coming climate-related floods.

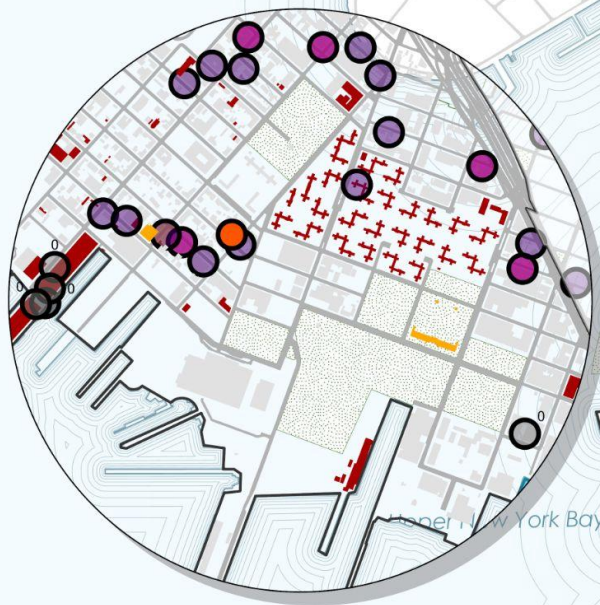
So much of urban planning, or any kind of planning, is built on the past. But as climate change accelerates, the past no longer provides an accurate map to the future—even a past event as recent as Sandy.

"The solutions of the past won't protect us from the future," Ovink warns. To survive a wetter and warmer tomorrow, neighborhoods like Red Hook will need to be creative and flexible, and they'll need help from the city and the federal government. But most of all, they'll need to depend on themselves.

# 3.

Identify **points of convergence** between **historic preservation**, **cultural landscape conservation** and **natural environment conservation**.





- Ipcdesignatedbuildings
- Red Hook Site
- Parks
- Historic Buildings Identified
- Architects
- Workshop
- Repair
- Construction
- manufacturing
- Gowanus Canal

Gowanus Bay

Eerie Basin

Buttermilk Channel

Brooklyn Queens Expressway

Carroll Gardens

Gowanus

Sunset Park

0

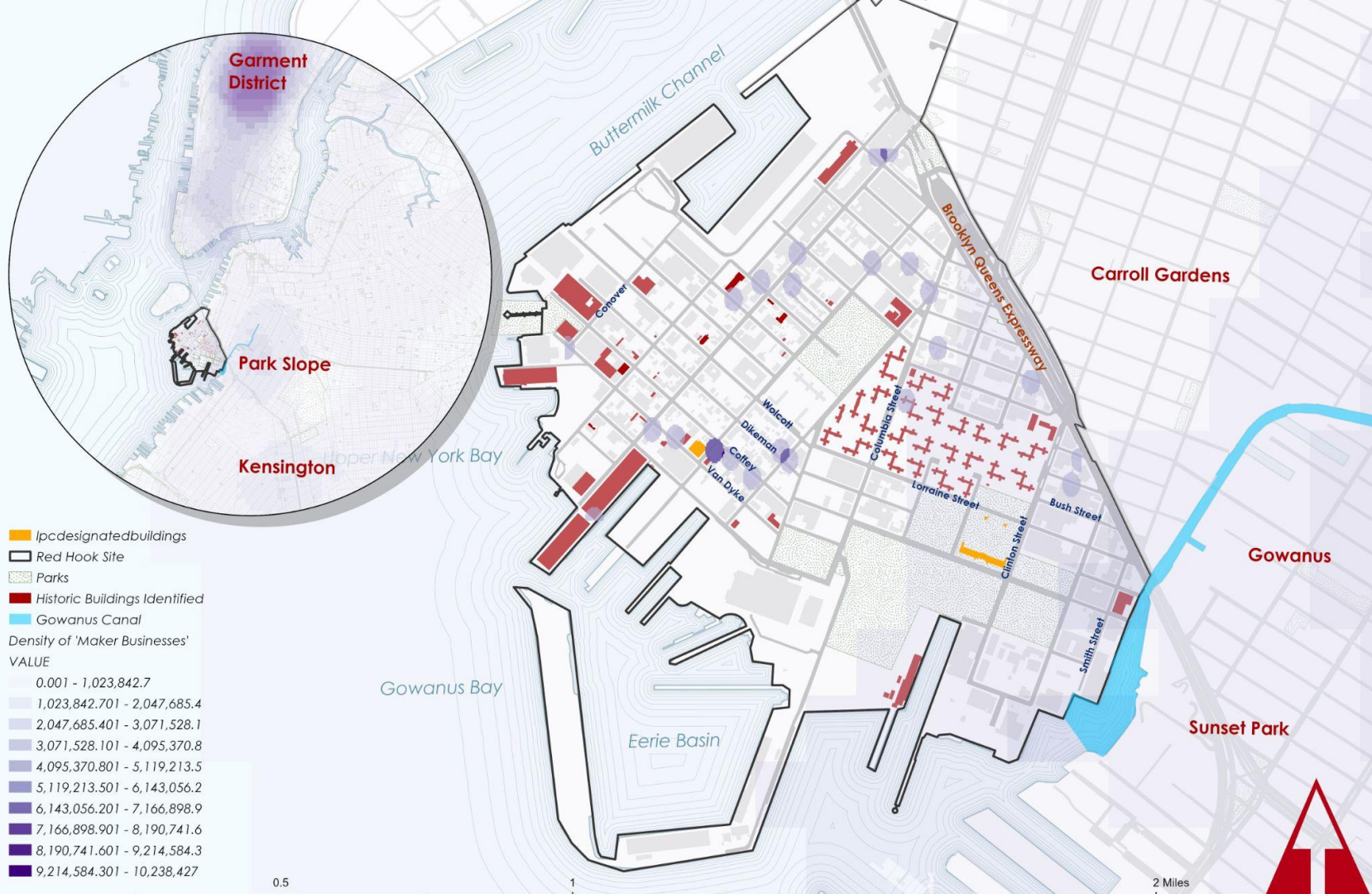
0.5

1

2 Miles







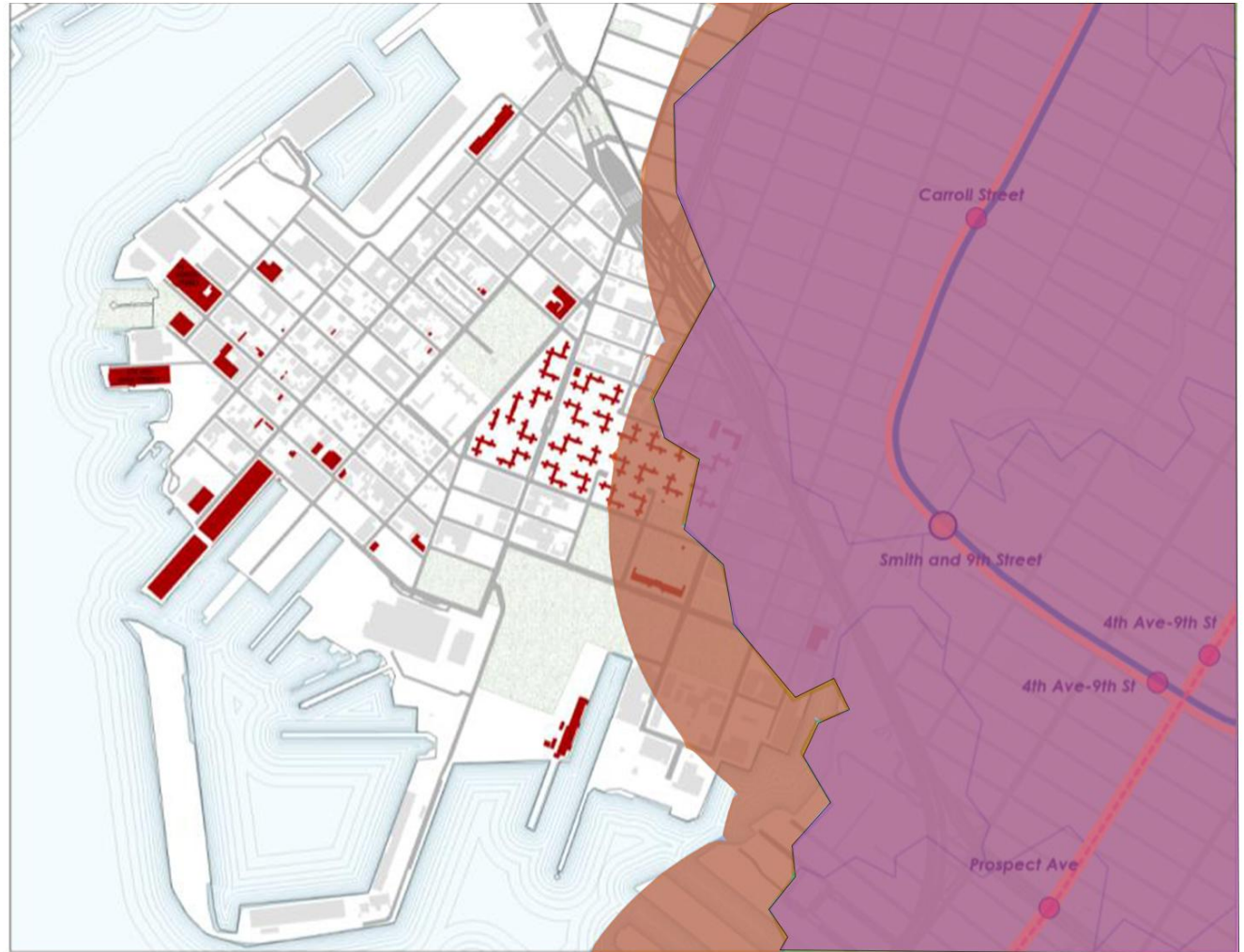


# Red Hook

## Assessing Participatory Preservation: Opportunities

## Walkability/ Subways

- Red Hook Site
- Parks
- Red Hook Buildings
- Historic Buildings Identified
- Subway Stations
- Smith and 9th Street Station
- SubwayRoutes2017
- F Line
- G Line
- D Line
- N Line
- Walksheds
- Cutoff
- 0.5 Cutoff Range: 0 - 0.5
- SubwayStations\_Half a Mile Buffer

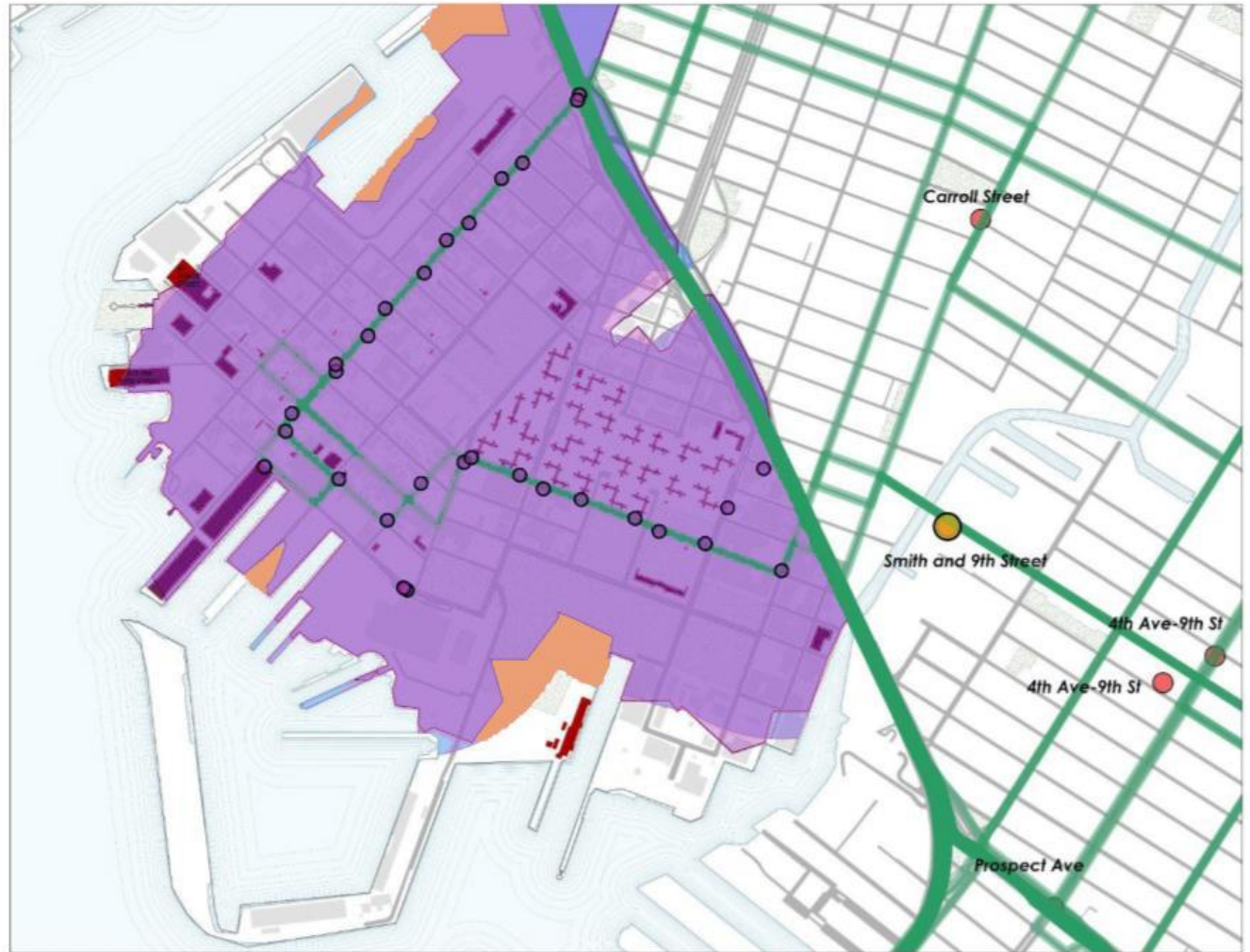


# Red Hook

## Assessing Participatory Preservation: Opportunities

### Walkability/ Bus

- Red Hook Site
- Parks
- Red Hook Buildings
- Historic Buildings Identified
- Subway Stations
- Bus Routes
- Smith and 9th Street Station
- Bus Stops
- Walkability Difference Bus





Coffey St

Coffey St

## Prioritizing Street Fronts for Participatory Preservation

Richards St



Van Dyke St

Van Dyke St

# 1 + 4

methodology to  
assess **possibilities** of  
**unconventional**  
**adaptive re-use**

learning from the past



points of convergence +

envision possibilities for historic  
preservation x environmental conservation

## 2

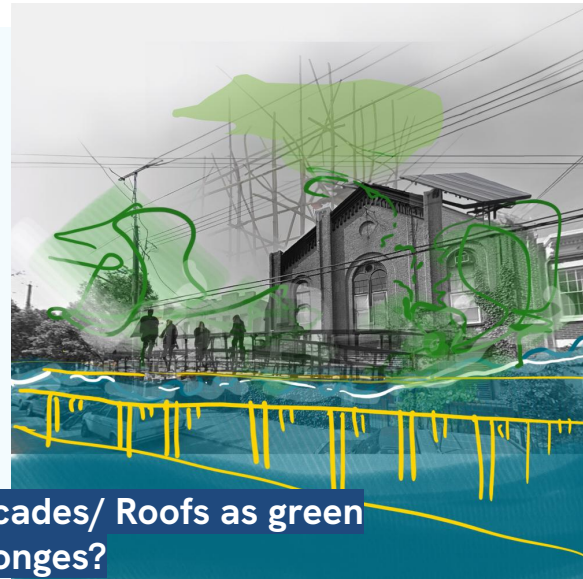
## 3



A 'shack' from tin-city

*A shack near Columbia Street in 1933. Photo by P.L. Sperr via New York Public Library:*

*One wonders at the potential of looking at these vernacular self-built structure and the use of a 'greenwall' well before the new-fangled notions of 'green infrastructure' existed.*



Facades/ Roofs as green  
sponges?