

# **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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#### **COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Pomonok Houses Resident Association (RA)

Pomonok Houses Resident Green Committee (RGC)

**Queens Community House (QCH)** 

KaBOOM!

**Queens Herald Church** 

**Queens Youthbuild Program** 

### **AGENCY PARTNERS**

**New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA)** 

The Fund For Public Housing

New York City Department of Parks and Recreation (NYC Parks)

New York Police Department (NYPD)

- Police Service Area 9 (PSA 9)
- 107<sup>th</sup> Precinct

### **FUNDING**

**Deutsche Bank** 

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# INTRODUCTION

The Connected Communities Initiative is NYCHA's strategy to improve physical and social connections among residents within NYCHA developments, and between the NYCHA community and surrounding neighborhoods in New York City.



Connected Communities grows out of the Authority's plan to preserve and protect public housing for current residents and future generations of New Yorkers.

NYCHA's primary goals are to provide all residents with safe, clean and connected communities. The Connected Communities Initiative supports these goals by linking NYCHA residents to resources in their neighborhoods through fostered partnerships with different organizations.

#### WHY IS THE CONNECTED COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE SO IMPORTANT?

NYCHA provides housing to 1 in 15 New Yorkers. Most NYCHA developments have been planned and designed to be physically insulated from their surrounding neighborhoods. Studies show that this physical isolation contributes to the socio-economic disparities and social isolation many residents face¹. Surrounding communities are likewise disconnected from the rich historical, cultural and human capital that exists in every single NYCHA campus.

Additionally, public housing has a tremendous physical asset in the existing open space on many campuses - something quite scarce in New York City. NYCHA developments collectively comprise over 2,400 acres of land in New York City or an area three times the size of Central Park. Strategic changes to the way NYCHA grounds are designed, programmed and accessed provide a tremendous opportunity to both address issues of isolation and create high-quality common spaces.

The Connected Communities Initiative commits NYCHA to holistically address these issues by working with residents to consider how the outdoor spaces in their housing developments should be enhanced, improved and designed. The goal is to create more spaces for positive interaction and collaboration and improve residents' overall quality of life.

Article References:

<sup>1</sup>Spence, Lewis "Rethinking the Social Role of Public Housing" Housing Policy Debate, Vol 4 Issue 3, 1993



To address these issues, NYCHA is collaborating with internal and external partners to:

- 1 Analyze how NYCHA overall is changing operationally and physically
- Develop strategies for creating spatial connections within communal spaces and the surrounding neighborhood
- 3 Implement physical improvements to outdoor spaces
- 4 Support new or existing programs that foster relationships and connect residents to resources
- Form partnerships to ensure the long-term sustainability and success of implemented projects

#### POMONOK HOUSES PILOT PROJECT

As one of NYCHA's campuses that has a highly active resident organization and an engaged body of residents, Pomonok Houses was an optimal site to be one of the first pilot sites to test and implement the Connected Communities Initiative.

Through consultation with NYCHA leadership, Pomonok Houses' Resident Association, the Resident Green Committee, PSA 9 and the 107th precinct, Hester Street designed and implemented a collaborative and resident-centered engagement process that included residents at every stage, from identifying needs and priorities and selecting sites, to analyzing feasibility and creating an implementation plan.

#### **EVALUATION AND IMPACT**

This process informed the action plan and recommendations for immediate and future implementation of the Connected Communities Initiative at Pomonok Houses in particular, and across future sites in New York City.

In preparation for this roll-out, NYCHA is concurrently created a Strategic Plan and Evaluation Framework that builds on the findings from the Pomonok Houses pilot to ensure the measurable impact of the of the Connected Communities Initiative.

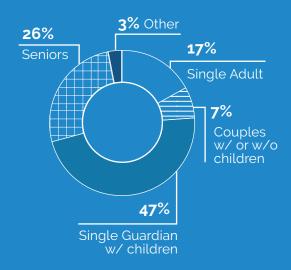
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# **ABOUT POMONOK HOUSES**

Pomonok Houses is located in Central Queens, south of Flushing, and is bordered by CUNY's Queens College to the West and the Long Island Expressway to the North. Situated in a low density auto-oriented neighborhood, Pomonok has a network of 5 bus lines that connect to train stations 30 minutes away. This two block campus has 4,292 residents, the 10th most populous out of NYCHA's 323 developments, and has a more diverse racial make up of residents than other NYCHA developments (where approximately 90% of residents are identified as Black or Latinx).

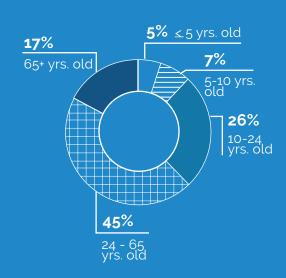
Pomonok Houses, NYCHA's second largest development by area, is unique since most of its open spaces are not gated, giving the campus a more inviting feel and providing residents the opportunity to use their open spaces more freely.

### **HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION**

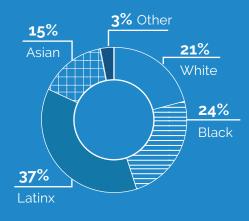




## **AGE DISTRIBUTION**

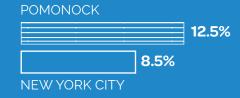


#### **RACE + ETHNICITY**



Source: NYCHA Developments Online Portal https://my.nycha.info/DevPortal/Portal/DevelopmentData

#### **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**



### **MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME**





# **PROCESS**

To achieve the goals of creating a safer, healthier and more connected campus, the community engagement process was grounded in the knowledge and wisdom of long-term residents and community leaders.

#### **OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE**

Hester Street structured the community engagement process in 3 phases - Engagement, Participatory Design and Implementation - to ensure that residents were meaningfully included in the identification, design and development of the potential projects to be implemented.

#### **ENGAGEMENT PRINCIPLES**

Hester Street's community engagement strategy for engaging residents at Pomonok Houses was guided by the following principles to ensure that the process would result in clear recommendations from residents regarding project ideas and features.

## **Civic Participation**

Meaningfully engage the community to ensure intervention ideas address community-identified wants and needs

### Communication

Share data, maps and plans that inform stakeholders about potential design interventions and upcoming projects

#### **Interactive and Innovative**

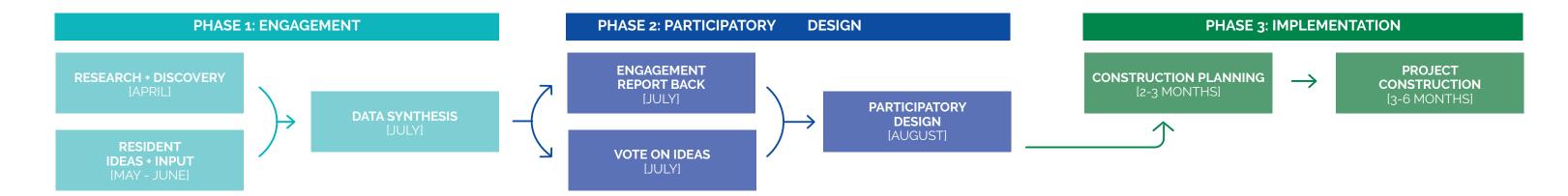
Create adaptable and accessible engagement tools to share information and gather input from all residents regardless of age or background

## **Partnerships**

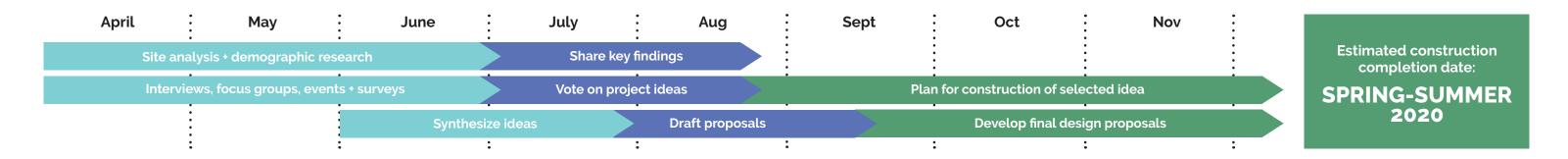
Strengthen relationships between resident groups, community-based organizations and NYCHA leadership

#### **Concrete Benefits**

Ensure that resident ideas are implemented and result in actual change by grounding long-term project feasibility while also pushing for short-term changes - "quick wins" - throughout the process.



### **TIMELINE**



# **ENGAGEMENT METHODS**

From April to October, we engaged Pomonok residents and stakeholders in a variety of ways - from tabling and workshops at existing events, to interviews, surveys and the creation of a scale model of the campus. The activities were used to draw out residents' ideas, input and concerns. It began with general thoughts about Pomonok's open spaces and how they felt about their campus, what they liked, disliked and frequently encountered as residents. Based on the input, the activities began honing in on specific physical interventions, locations, and opportunities for projects. After several iterations, residents prioritized the projects they felt would address their concerns and voted to make it a reality.

## **Campus Walks**

Understanding the campus areas, physical conditions of its spaces and potential lighting opportunities

(3/26)

Project Team + Pomonok Resident Association

(8/13)

Campus condition walk (9/17)

Lighting Assessment Site

### **Tabling Events**

Sharing project information and brief information gathering on the campus

> (4/12)**Talent Show**

(6/29)Resident Green Cmte. Event

## **Interviews**

Understanding key players in the areas and the issues they tackle for potential partnerships

Resident Association

Community Coordinator

Queens Community House

Public School 201 Parent Teacher Association

> NYPD **NYC Parks**

## **Resident Workshops**

Hour long deep dive into Pomonok's open spaces and what residents want from their campus

(4/25)

RA General Meeting

(6/13)Senior Focus Group

(6/19)Resident Green Cmte Mtg.

(9/26)

RA General Meeting

40+

# **Completed Surveys**

For those who could not attend workshops, surveys were distributed to gather input

(4/30) - (7/30)

Shared online and in-person at all events

Walking throughout the campus at night to identify dark and unsafe areas

(6/27)

RA, and Police Service Area 9 (PSA 9) Neighborhood Coordination Officers (NCOs)

# Safety Audit Walk

Campus Safety Audit with Project Team, Pomonok

# **Restoration Day**

Beautifying high foot traffic areas with a paintbrush, clippers and brooms

(8/24)

In partnership with Pomonok Resident Association

# **Project Voting Day**

Engaging residents in the campus's largest event to get maximum input on potential projects

(7/27)

Tabling activity at Pomonok Houses Family Day

**OVER 200 RESIDENTS ENGAGED!** 

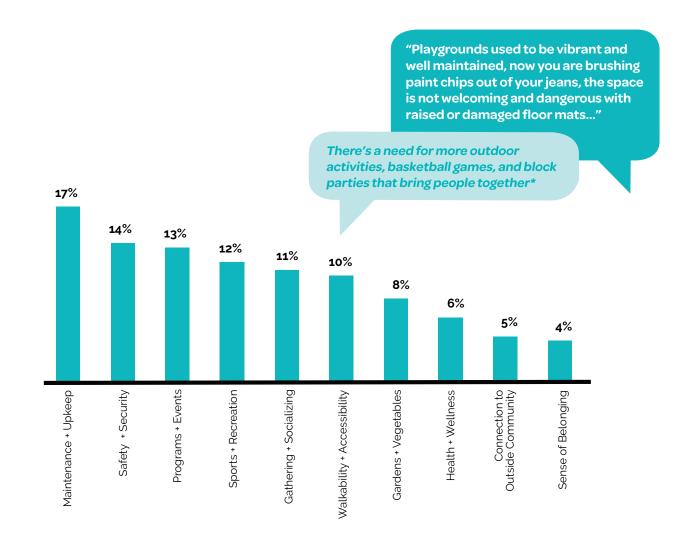


# WHAT WE HEARD

The engagement strategy aimed to understand residents' general concerns and needs, generate ideas for projects that could address these needs, and identify key locations where these issues were most present and/or where project ideas could be implemented.

#### **KEYTHEMES**

Ideas from conversations with Pomonok residents were grouped into 10 key themes that represent their general concerns and needs regarding open space in the campus. Participants voted on which of these themes are most important to them, gave input on why they are important, and used them as a starting point to come up with project ideas that could be implemented on the campus. The 10 different themes are outlined below in the order in which they were prioritized by the community.



# **PHYSICAL FEATURES**

# Maintenance and Upkeep



The condition of benches, sidewalks, playgrounds or planted areas; the level of wear and tear of outdoor furniture and streetscapes

# **Gardens and Vegetation**



Planted areas within the campus - this could be community gardens, flower beds, bushes, lawns and trees

# **PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY**

## **Safety and Security**



Perception of safety – including interaction with the police, local street lighting, and amount of local crime

"Lighting! Safety! Security"

# **Programs and Events**



Events that happen within the campus or community that expose residents of all ages to art, culture or other activities

# Gathering and socializing



Areas that allow people to gather with friends and family, both formally and informally

"We need social spaces such as, grills, lighting, and seating..."

### "I enjoy walking around the campus."

## **Sports and Recreation**



Areas in the neighborhood for play, sports, gathering and meeting others doing similar activities

# **Walkability and Accessibility**



The physical accessibility of buildings, streets and sidewalks, and public spaces in Pomonok

"Benches are not accessible for seniors, and there is no bench that has a fresh coat of paint."

## **Health and Wellness**



Environment that promotes healthy living, encouraging opportunities to play, be active, relax, and self reflect

# **Connection to Outside Community**



Connection and interactions between the NYCHA campus and the surrounding neighborhood

> Organize college tours to strengthen connection to Queens College\*

# Sense of Belonging



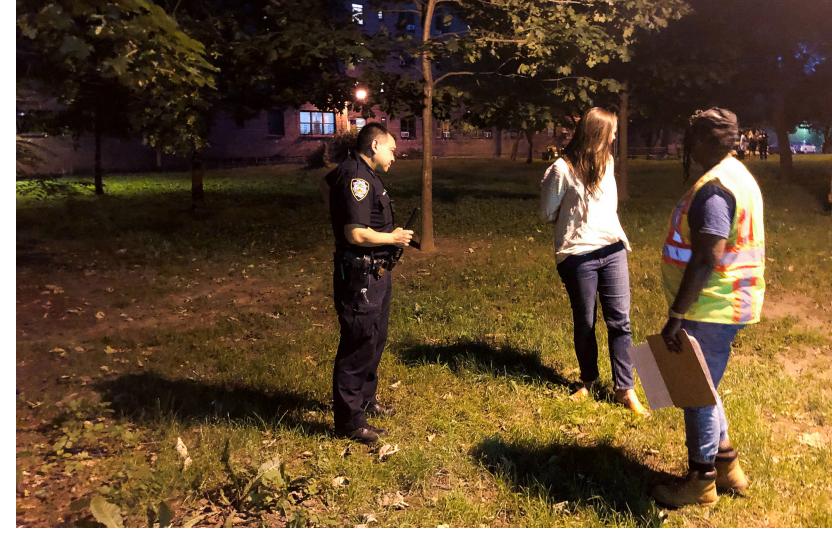
Connection to culture, history, and identity at Pomonok, and accessibility to amenities that are relevant to personal identity or culture

\*Text in italics is paraphrased, not directly quoted.

#### **KEY LOCATIONS**

Throughout our engagement, residents spoke about area-specific and campus-wide challenges within Pomonok. Together they identified problems in and around the campus, along with possible solutions to address these issues.





#### **SAFETY AUDIT WALK**

In late June, Hester Street joined NYCHA's Resident Association, Pomonok residents and PSAg's Neighborhood Coordination Officers in a campus walkthrough to identify areas where residents felt unsafe at night. The Circle, The Jungle and the northern portion of the campus were identified as unsafe hot spots that needed safety improvements.

#### **Key Safety Concerns**

- Poor Quality of Light
- Limited Sight Lines + Visibility
- Insufficient Signage + Wayfinding
- Physical Isolation
- Poor Maintenance

#### **Unsafe Hot Spots**

- North East Corner
- The Jungle
- The Circle

#### **Intervention Location**

The Jungle was identified as an immediate priority for intervention and selected as the main focus area for Restoration Day.

See P. 11 for more on Restoration Day

The final proposed interventions built on these safety concerns to ensure that each space will be durable, low maintenance and incorporate design elements that address lighting, visibility and wayfinding.

#### **MOST POPULAR PROJECT IDEAS**

Following the first phase of major engagement activities, participant feedback and neighborhood research was synthesized into 9 project types that addressed the key themes that emerged across the engagement process.

The final list of project types eliminated any projects that were already planned for implementation in the upcoming year(s). For example, given that the construction of an Adult Workout Area is already planned for 2020, this project was eliminated from the final list of project types.

During the Pomonok Houses Family Day, the final list of project types was shared with the community to ensure they were vetted by a diverse group of Pomonok residents.

Throughout the day, residents voted for their top 3 project ideas and shared feedback on whether the proposed projects addressed their needs. Residents also shared their thoughts on any project components they felt were missing or needed to be changed in each of the project ideas

The voting process helped narrow the field of projects and helped prioritize the projects that were most important to the greatest number of residents engaged. The list below describes each one of the projects and specifies how they address community needs.

The top 3 ideas that are being advanced for the Action Plan are: the Splash Pad, the Basketball Upgrade and the Designated BBQ Area.

# 1. Splash Pad



# Suggested Location: Playground near basketball court

- Convert an existing underused playground into a water splash pad area
- Restore existing equipment
- Add new sprinkler system
- Fix or add lighting around the splash pad

Implementation cost		\$	\$	\$	
Construction timeline	1 year	•	0	0	4 mths
Ease of maintenance	hard	•	0	0	easy
Improves mobility and accessibility	a little	•	0	0	a lot
Improves safety	a little	•	•	0	a lot
Encourages social connections	a little	•	•	•	a lot
Promotes health and wellness	a little				a lot

### 2. Creative Lighting



# Suggested Locations: The Jungle, The Circle, northern boundary

- On multiple key locations, incorporate new lighting and fix existing
- Use different technologies: solar, LED light bulbs, motion sensors, etc.
- Design for a friendly ambiance: floor lighting, landscape lighting, indirect lighting, etc.

Implementation cost		\$	\$	\$	
Construction timeline	1 year		0	0	4 mths
Ease of maintenance	hard	•	0	0	easy
Improves mobility and accessibility	a little	•	•		a lot
Improves safety	a little	•	•	•	a lot
Encourages social connections	a little	•	•	0	a lot
Promotes health and wellness	a little			0	a lot

#### 3. Maintenance And Upkeep Structures



#### **Suggested location: Everywhere!**

- Throughout the campus install elements that allow and encourage cleaning and upkeep
- Add more and larger trashcans
- Add recycling bins and doggie stations
- Improve existing compost bins
- Add signage that encourages people to clean up

Promotes health and wellness	a little			•	a lot
Encourages social connections	a little	•	0	0	a lot
Improves safety	a little	•	•	0	a lot
Improves mobility and accessibility	a little	•	0	0	a lot
Ease of maintenance	hard	•		•	easy
Construction timeline	1 year	•	•	•	4 mths
Implementation cost		\$	\$	\$	

# 4. Basketball Court Upgrade



#### **Location: Basketball court**

- Restore pavement and add/replace/ restore basketball hoops
- Incorporate simple seating for spectators and other gatherings
- Fix or add surrounding lighting
- Beautify the surrounding area through painting and gardening

Implementation cost		\$	\$	\$	
Construction timeline	1 year	•	0	0	4 mths
Ease of maintenance	hard	•	•	0	easy
Improves mobility and accessibility	a little		0	0	a lot
Improves safety	a little	•	•	0	a lot
Encourages social connections	a little	•			a lot
Promotes health and wellness	a little	•		•	a lot

### 5. Designated BBQ Area



#### **Suggested Location: Flagpole**

- Create a designated barbecue area with new BBQ pits
- Restore or add benches and tables around the area
- Build a small shaded structure
- Fix or add lighting around the area
- Beautify the surrounding area through painting and gardening

Implementation cost		\$	\$	\$	
Construction timeline	1 year	•	•	•	4 mths
Ease of maintenance	hard	•	•	0	easy
mproves mobility and accessibility	a little	•	0	0	a lot
Improves safety	a little	•	0	0	a lot
Encourages social connections	a little	•		•	a lot
Promotes health and wellness	a little	•	0	0	a lot

## 6. Enhanced Seating Areas



### **Suggested Locations: TBD**

- On multiple key locations throughout the campus, restore and replace benches
- Incorporate new/different type of seating
- Fix or add lighting around the seating areas
- Beautify the surrounding areas through painting and gardening

	Promotes health and wellness	a little			0	a lot
	Encourages social connections	a little		•	•	a lot
	Improves safety	a little	•	•	0	a lot
Imp	proves mobility and accessibility	a little	•	•	•	a lot
	Ease of maintenance	hard			0	easy
	Construction timeline	1 year	•	•	•	4 mths
	Implementation cost		\$	S	Ś	

### 7. Workout Trail



### **Suggested Location: The Jungle**

- Build a paved ADA accessible trail
- specifically designated for workout

   Fix or add lighting around the trail
- Beautify the surrounding area through painting and gardening
- Improve safety through trimming/ removing bushes and ensuring visibility

Promotes health and wellness	a little	•			a lot
Encourages social connections	a little	•	•	0	a lot
Improves safety	a little	•	•		a lot
Improves mobility and accessibility	a little	•			a lot
Ease of maintenance	hard			0	easy
Construction timeline	1 year	•	•	0	4 mths
Implementation cost		\$	\$	\$	

# 8. Upgraded Playground



### **Suggested location: TBD**

- Restore one existing playground
- Paint and fix existing equipmentRestore/replace paving
- Adding swing set, sand box and/or other simple equipment

Promotes health and wellness	a little	•			a lot
Encourages social connections	a little	•			a lot
Improves safety	a little	•	•	0	a lot
Improves mobility and accessibility	a little	•	•	0	a lot
Ease of maintenance	hard			0	easy
Construction timeline	1 year	•	•	•	4 mths
Implementation cost		\$	\$	\$	

## 9. Mini Skate Park



### **Suggested Location: Playground** east of Community Center

- Build small skate ramps and install skate park equipment in an underused area
- Restore paving
- Fix or add lighting around the skate
- Beautify the surrounding area through painting and gardening

Promotes health and wellness	a little				a lot
Encourages social connections	a little	•	•	•	a lot
Improves safety	a little	•	0	0	a lot
Improves mobility and accessibility	a little	•	0	0	a lot
Ease of maintenance	hard	•	0	0	easy
Construction timeline	1 year	•	0	0	4 mths
Implementation cost		\$	\$	\$	



# **ACTION PLAN**

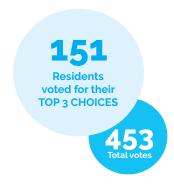
The engagement process resulted in a selection of resident identified projects that could be implemented in the campus to address community needs. Through a participatory process, 3 of these projects were chosen for immediate implementation. The others make up part of an action plan for the future.

# **IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS**

More than 150 residents voted and provided input on what they most wanted to see at the Pomonok Houses. Feedback was collected at Family Day on July 27, 2019 and through an online platform through August 3, 2019. The 5 most popular ideas were: Splash Pad, Creative Lighting, Maintenance and Upkeep Structures, Basketball Court and BBQ Area. The Splash Pad, the Basketball Court and the BBQ Area were chosen for immediate implementation, incorporating creative lighting strategies and maintenance and upkeep structures, and hence addressing all top resident 5 ideas in three projects.

The following pages provide conceptual layouts and designs for each of the community-identified projects, connect the project components to community needs, as well as identify opportunities to further solicit community input.

#### **TOTAL VOTES**



#### **PROJECTS WITH MOST VOTES**



**INCLUDED IN ALL PROJECTS** 

CREATIVE LIGHTING
[56 VOTES]

MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP STRUCTURES [55 VOTES]

#### PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

Fall 2019 Spring 2020 Summer 2020
Participatory Design and Procurement Construction









# **SPLASH PAD**

# **Key Features:**

- Interactive water sprinkler system
- Non-slip color coating
- New seating
- Creative lighting fixtures
- Signage
- Trash and recycling bins

# FURTHER RESIDENT INPUT AND ENGAGEMENT

- Seating options and placement
- Non-slip coating colors and design
- Type of sprinklers
- Lighting design
- Participation in assembling furniture

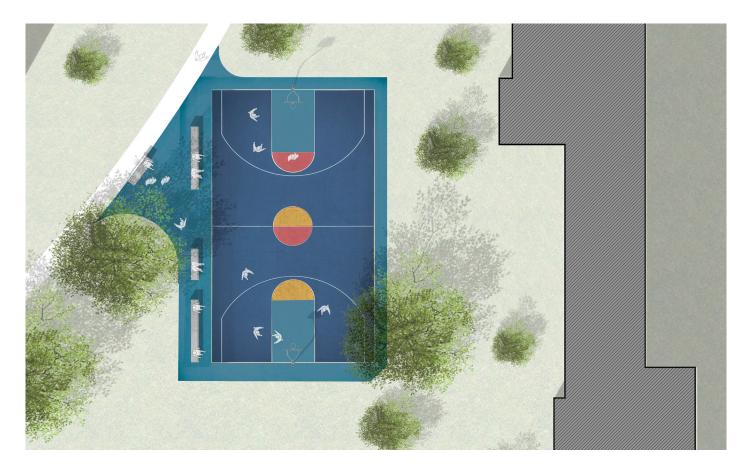
# **Top Community Needs Addressed:**

- Sports and Recreation: the project rehabilitates one of the many play areas in Pomonok that are currently in poor condition, creating a new safe space for kids to play.
- Gathering and Socializing: located at the heart of the campus, the newly renovated splash pad will provide accessible seating and be a main gathering area for kids to play.
- Safety and Security: new light fixtures will allow for this space to remain active at different times of the day and help improve the sense of safety among residents.
- Maintenance and Upkeep: durable and low-maintenance furniture and new trash and recycling bins will ensure longevity and encourage upkeep.

Images represent schematic visualizations. Design will be refined in the participatory design phase to incorporate resident input and adjust to budgetary needs.







# **BASKETBALL COURT**

## **Key Features:**

- Demolition and repaving of existing court
- Colored athletic coating
- New basketball hoops
- Sports lighting
- New seating
- Signage
- Trash and recycling bins

# FURTHER RESIDENT INPUT AND ENGAGEMENT

- Seating options and placement
- Athletic surfacing colors and design
- Incorporating other sports
- Lighting design
- Participation in installing furniture and hoops

# **Top Community Needs Addressed:**

- Sports and Recreation: the project rehabilitates what was once a much used basketball court that over the years has fallen into disrepair.
- Health and Wellness: the newly renovated basketball court will encourage residents to come together and remain active.
- Programs and Events: the space will provide the opportunity for residents, management staff, the Resident Association and others to organize sports tournaments and activities.
- Safety and Security: safety will improve with new lighting fixtures in an area that is currently poorly lit.
- Maintenance and Upkeep: new furniture will be durable and low-maintenance. Additionally, signage and new trash and recycling bins will encourage upkeep.

Images represent schematic visualizations. Design will be refined in the participatory design phase to incorporate resident input and adjust to budgetary needs.







# **BBQ AREA**

# **Key Features:**

- Paving repairs and floor mural
- New BBQ grills
- New seating, tables and shading
- Creative lighting fixtures
- Landscape and gardening improvements
- Signage
- Trash and recycling bins

# FURTHER RESIDENT INPUT AND ENGAGEMENT

- Furniture options, placement and installation
- Floor mural design and painting
- Incorporating other sports
- Lighting design
- Landscape design and planting

# **Top Community Needs Addressed:**

- Gathering and Socializing: the designated BBQ area with various seating options will allow neighbors and families to come together for celebrations or family gatherings.
- Programs and Events: the space will provide the opportunity for organized events.
- Sense of Belonging: Resident participation in design, painting and landscaping will ensure that the space feels welcoming and responds to resident culture.
- Safety and Security: increased foot traffic and new lighting fixtures will allow more people to look out for each others' safety.
- Maintenance and Upkeep: new furniture will be durable and low-maintenance. Additionally, signage and new trash and recycling bins will encourage upkeep.

Images represent schematic visualizations. Design will be refined in the participatory design phase to incorporate resident input and adjust to budgetary needs.

# PROCESS AND DESIGN GUIDELINES

The following process and design guidelines were developed for the 3 selected projects, but are applicable for all future outdoor projects at the Pomonok Houses and other NYCHA developments. They synthesize feedback receive from hundreds of residents, as well as research, observations and analysis of the conditions at Pomonok Houses and other NYCHA campuses.

#### **COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION**

Shape the process and develop the design by engaging residents, making sure to:

- Involve residents / partner with community in the design, build, implementation and upkeep
- Understand what their needs, desires, concerns and priorities are so the project can respond to them thoughtfully
- Get meaningful feedback and input on elements such as:
  - Type of project, use and programing
  - Location of the project
  - Look and appearance of furniture and finishes
  - Type of equipment and ways it will be used
- Ask for feedback on elements that are actionable and within project scope and budget
- Talk to different populations/demographics
- Go to where people are! Participate in existing events; using resident channels of communication to reach a larger pool of people and avoid engagement fatigue
- Always report findings back to residents and talk about next steps

#### **SITE ANALYSIS**

For determining use and developing design, the process should:

- Understand how the space is currently used and build on what is already there, improving existing activities, programs and dynamics, not erasing them
- Acknowledge and honor history and collective memory associated with the space
- Survey surrounding context to fill in geographic and programmatic gaps ensuring equitable distribution of outdoor interventions, programs and amenities
- Be mindful of surrounding nature and incorporate thoughtful landscape improvements that respond sustainably to the ecosystem
- Consider each intervention as an improvement to the area, seamlessly integrating to its immediate surroundings
- Understand how the space functions at different hour of the day and during different times of the year
- Appreciate both planned/programmed and unplanned/informal activities
- Consider safety concerns/perceived safety of site

and surrounding landscape

- Identify/create visual and physical connections between site and surrounding neighborhood
- Identify public vs private areas
- Consider site access points/entryways

#### **USE AND PERCEPTION**

Built project should:

- Be accessible for all ages, races, physical / mental abilities, etc
- Be inclusive of different identities, groups and personalities
- Be inclusive of residents/non-residents and pets
- Foster sense of ownership and pride
- Reflect resident and neighborhood culture not NYCHA's institutional image
- Foster healthy living (mind and body) through:
  - Physical activity and exercise for all ages and abilities
  - Social interactions for small and large groups
  - Individual reflection
- Catalyze community building by enabling and encouraging:
  - Intergenerational + group specific interactions
  - People to come together in a safe space
  - Group activities, events and programing
- Be flexible so it can be used by different people, performing different activities at different times of day and different seasons
- · Be welcoming, playful and colorful!

#### **PRACTICALITIES**

Built project should:

- Be safe to use for all and incorporate safety and security design strategies to improve overall safety in the area
- Include durable, low maintenance furniture that can be easily replaced or repaired if broken
- Incorporate lighting considerations that promote safety and enable use at multiple hours
- Include maintenance and upkeep structures such as trash and recycle bins and visible instructions of how to care for the space
- Include signage and way-finding
- Use sustainability and resiliency design strategies such as features that efficiently and sustainably use water, power, etc.





# **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE**

The following recommendations - generated through community input - are intended to inform the implementation of projects that are not currently funded. They are intended to serve as a reference and advocacy document for residents, community partners and NYCHA.



## **Maintenance and Upkeep**

- Add pest proof trashcans throughout campus, specifically in BBQ areas, playgrounds and sitting areas
- Add "Do not litter signs" and general rules about upkeep throughout campus
- Incorporate campus wide doggy bag stations and signage to pick up after their pets



# Safety and Security

- Focus safety and security measure in community identified "safety hotspots": The Jungle, The Circle, North Boundary (see map on pg. 14)
- Increase lighting on main pathways, in areas where people gather (play spaces, sitting areas, spaces with limited visibility), and in community identified "unsafe hot-spots"
- Remove bushes + foliage in resident identified "unsafe hot-spots" for more visibility
- Increase police presence



### **Programs and Events**

- Create more programs to establish Queens Community House as a community hub (Block parties, Tai-Chi, dance lessons, farmers market, gardening)
- Increase advertising for events at the community center to get better turn-out or take them outdoors for increased visibility
- Increase curb appeal to attract residents inside the Community Center



### **Sports and Recreation**

- Repair + update existing play equipment and add more diverse types of equipment (Outdoor track, swing set, splash pad, tables tennis, adult exercise machines etc.)
- Include designated adult playground area for seniors and adults to exercise
- Include shaded and seating areas near playgrounds for adults to gather while kids are playing



## **Gathering and Socializing**

- Repair and repaint existing benches or replace for more durable, low maintenance furniture
- Prioritize areas where senior gather, ensuring benches and tables are accessible and meet proper sitting height
- Rearrange seating layouts to encourage conversation and social gatherings



## **Walkability and Accessibility**

- Make walkways and ramps accessible to those who can't take the stairs
- Add crosswalks on internal roads and on Jewel Av. for pedestrian safety
- Repair pathways to make accessible for seniors and wheelchairs



## **Gardens and Vegetation**

- Add flowers + herbs to beautify space and deter pests
- Create rules for garden upkeep
- Repair and upkeep Resident Green Committee compost bins



## **Health and Wellness**

- Encourage sports and workout through play and athletic equipment and community tournaments and activities
- Partner with Thrive NYC to implement Mental Health strategies in the campus
- Encourage healthy eating through, educational campaigns, farmers markets and support for community gardens and the Resident Green Committee



### **Connection to Outside Community**

- Allocate designated space for visitor parking
- Include maps and way-finding around campus for pedestrians and cars
- Partner with Queens College to start educational tours, programing and events
- (career workshops, dance classes, young adult programs)
- Partner with Queens Library to establish a book drop off/pick up area for residents to find new reads



### **Sense of Belonging**

- Brighten the space with more color and improved creative lighting strategies
- Increase campus upkeep and engage residents in volunteer brigades to build community responsibility, sense of belonging and Pomonok pride
- Host more community building events (Sports tournaments, outside performances and field trips)



# **NEXT STEPS AND ACTION ITEMS**

The following are recommended immediate next steps for moving the project forward towards a successful implementation.

- 1 Hire contractors, subcontractors and all other necessary consultants
- 2 Close-out engagement phase and kick-off implementation phase with residents by reporting back engagement findings, introducing them to the implementation team (design team, contractors, etc.) and sharing a preliminary construction timeline and scope
- Building on the design concepts and resident priorities outlined in the engagement phase, work with contractors to develop designs that meet budgetary, technical and regulatory requirements
- 4 Identify elements in the design where residents could be engaged (see pg. 22 27):
  - Elements for resident input such as furniture selection, furniture location, colors, finishes, etc.
  - Elements that could be implemented by volunteers in a community build day such as gardens and landscaping, murals, painting, furniture assembly and installation, etc.
- Present an update to residents to gather feedback on design elements mentioned above and gauge interest in volunteer community build days
- 6 Finalize drawings incorporating resident feedback and plan for volunteer community build days
- 7 Process permits necessary to begin construction
- 8 Present final design and construction timeline to residents
- 9 Begin construction
- Program opening activities to activate the spaces, i.e. community potluck, basketball tournament, etc.
- Monitor use of space and gather community feedback to evaluate project process and outcomes
- Continue to advocate for built projects and programs identified by residents through this process

Pomonok residents provided tangible and meaningful input to ensure that future improvements to the Pomonok Campus are durable, usable and informed by community needs. The process, lessons learned and guidelines provide a Roadmap for Implementation at Pomonok, as well as a blueprint for furthering community driven decision making in other NYCHA developments and beyond.



# **APPENDIX**

# **PROJECT SHEETS**

Project ideas posters presented at Family Day for voting

# **DATA SHEET**

Spreadsheet containing all feedback received during engagement process

# **SURVEYS**

Surveys used for gathering input

## **ENGAGEMENT BOARDS**

Engagement boards used for gathering input and reporting back on findings

# **BASKETBALL COURT UPGRADE**

- Restore pavement and add/replace/restore basketball hoops
- Incorporate simple seating for spectators and other gatherings
- Fix or add surrounding lighting
- Beautify the surrounding area through painting and gardening

**Location:**basketball
court









Promotes health and wellness	a little	•	•	•	a lot
Encourages social connections	a little	•	•	•	a lot
Improves safety	a little	•	•	0	a lot
Improves mobility and accessibility	a little	•	0	0	a lot
Ease of maintenance	hard	•	•	0	easy
Construction timeline	1 year	•	0	0	4 mths
Implementation cost		\$	\$	\$	

PROJECT SHEETS PROJECT SHEETS

# **WORKOUT TRAIL**

- Build a paved ADA accessible trail specifically designated for workout
- Improve safety through trimming/removing bushes and ensuring visibility
- Fix or add lighting around the trail
- Beautify the surrounding area through painting and gardening



**Suggested** 

**Location:** 





Promotes health and wellness	a little	•	•	o a lot
Encourages social connections	a little	•	•	O a lot
Improves safety	a little	•		a lot
Improves mobility and accessibility	a little	•	•	o a lot
Ease of maintenance	hard	•		O easy
Construction timeline	1 year	•		O 4 mths
Implementation cost		\$	\$	\$

# **MINI SKATE PARK**

- Build small skate ramps and install skate park equipment in an underused area
- Restore paving
- Fix or add lighting around the skate park
- Beautify the surrounding area through painting and gardening

Suggested
Location:
Playground east of









Promotes health and wellness	a little	•	•	<ul><li>a lot</li></ul>
Encourages social connections	a little	•	•	o a lot
Improves safety	a little	•	0	O a lot
Improves mobility and accessibility	a little	•	O	O a lot
Ease of maintenance	hard	•	0	O easy
Construction timeline	1 year	•	O	O 4 mths
Implementation cost		\$	\$	\$

**PROJECT SHEETS PROJECT SHEETS** 

# **SPLASH PAD**

Suggested Location: basketball court









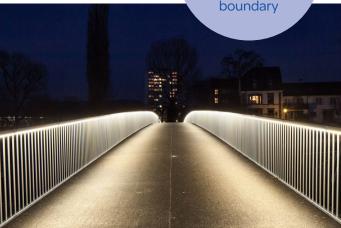
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Improves safety	a little	•		0	
Improves mobility and accessibility	a little	•	0	0	
Ease of maintenance	hard	•	0	0	easy
Construction timeline		•	0	0	4 mths
Implementation cost		\$	\$	\$	

# **CREATIVE LIGHTING**

- On multiple key locations, incorporate new lighting and fix existing
  Use different technologies: solar, LED light bulbs, motion sensors, etc.
- Design for a friendly ambiance: floor lighting, landscape lighting, indirect lighting, etc.

Suggested Location: The Jungle, The Circle, northern boundary









Promotes health and wellness	a little	•	•	0	a lot
Encourages social connections	a little	•	•	0	a lot
Improves safety	a little	•	•	•	a lot
Improves mobility and accessibility	a little	•	•	•	a lot
Ease of maintenance	hard	•	•	0	easy
Construction timeline	1 year	•	•	0	4 mths
Implementation cost		\$	\$	\$	

PROJECT SHEETS PROJECT SHEETS

# **ENHANCED SEATING AREAS**

- On multiple key locations throughout the campus, restore and replace benches
- Incorporate new/different type of seating
- Fix or add lighting around the seating areas
- Beautify the surrounding areas through painting and gardening

Suggested Location:









Promotes health and wellness	a little		•	O a lot
Encourages social connections	a little	•	•	a lot
Improves safety	a little	•	•	O a lot
Improves mobility and accessibility	a little	•	•	<ul><li>a lot</li></ul>
Ease of maintenance	hard	•	•	O easy
Construction timeline	1 year	•	•	4 mths
Implementation cost		\$	\$	<u> </u>

# DESIGNATED BBQ AREA

- Create a designated barbecue area with new BBQ pits
- Restore or add benches and tables around the area
- Build a small shaded structure
- Fix or add lighting around the area
- Beautify the surrounding area through painting and gardening

Suggested Location: Flagpole









Promotes health and wellness	a little		0	0	a lot
Encourages social connections	a little		•		a lot
Improves safety	a little		0	O	a lot
Improves mobility and accessibility	a little	•	O	0	a lot
Ease of maintenance	hard	•		0	easy
Implementation timeline		•		•	4 mths
Implementation cost		\$	\$	\$	

PROJECT SHEETS PROJECT SHEETS

# **UPGRADED PLAYGROUND**

- Restore one existing playground
- Paint and fix existing equipment
- Restore/replace paving
- Adding swing set, sand box and/or other simple equipment

Suggested Location:









			o a lot
Encourages social connections			
		•	
	•		
			4 mths
	\$	\$	

# **CLEANING + UPKEEP STRUCTURES**

- Install elements that allow and encourage cleaning and upkeep
- Add more and larger trashcans
- Add recycling bins and doggie stations
- Improve existing compost bins
- Add signage that encourages people to clean up

**Location:** Everywhere!











Promotes health and wellness	a little	•	•	•	a lot
Encourages social connections	a little	•	0	0	a lot
Improves safety	a little			0	a lot
Improves mobility and accessibility	a little	•	0	0	a lot
Ease of maintenance	hard				easy
Construction timeline	1 year				4 mths
Implementation cost		\$	\$	\$	

MASTER LIST OF IDEAS				
Issues/Idea (transcribed comments from participants)	Idea/Solution	Rules and Regulations	Connection to Outside Community	Safety and Security
Lighting all over	Lighting			1
more lighting in between buildings Lighting so kis can stay out playing until late kids make trouble here	lighting Lighting	1		1 1 1
better maintenance. more colorful. upkeep grass Flagpole looks worn down. the scenery could be better.	General Upkeep			
flowers or garden area  Dislike rubber tires in garden areas "hate"  Zipline. New Pavement. New Furniture. More plants As much as I love the community center needs renovations	General Upkeep, Plants gardens Playgrounds			
(interior)	community center repairs			
Education	Education			
Barrels in playground used to amplify music for events	Playgrounds			
Aftershools and Senior programs, food programs, farmers	Dragrama			
market Garbage cans are needed	Programs trashcans			
Repaint basketball court	Basketball			
Powerwash playgrounds	General Upkeep			
Gounds need many people and maintenance staff to	Сопогат оркоор			
upkeep	General Upkeep			
Ground needs improvement. but appreciated	Playgrounds			
liek biking around playground	biking			
Gymnastics spot	Gymnastics			
would make no changes, quite park surroundings	keep park quiet			
should be a park. jumping jacks, trampoline, gymnastics	playgound			
park is run down. add swing set, benches, workout area add swingset and track track	playground playground, sports sports			
Add workout equipment. pull up bars	sports			
BBQ. Good views	BBQ			
Grills	BBQ			
It would be amazing of there were more stores in the neighborhood that catered to the "environment we live in"				
variety in stores, variety in food places, etc	businesses			
add gymnastics equipment	gymnastics			
parking is too expensive	Parking			
more parking on Parsons near bowling alley  More Play Equipment similar to Kaboom	parking Playground			
better play equipment	Playgrounds			
Sprinklers and improvement to existing park	Sprinklers, Playgrounds			
hangout location. used to be hundreds of people here	optoro, r taygroundo			
boring playground				
"There was pee in the elevator after I had just cleaned it.				
Need cameras in the elevator and at every other floor"	Cameras			1

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"There need to be strict Party RulesNeighborhs want to				
see whats going on and it would get busy. People can throw	,			
bottles of water. I would rather go to Kissena Park	Clear Rules/Guidlines for using spaces	1		1
Designated BBQ areas need to be away from trees	BBQ			1
	Cameras			1
"We need cameras on the roof, I work nights and I hear				
children on the roofs"	Cameras			1
Need for crosswalk improvements, could help slow down				
speeding cars within the campus	Crosswalk			1
"Can it be a gated community for parking, safety, and young				
people tresspassing?"	Gated Community			1
Keep doors locked	Interior			1
Make it fun. "michael jackson floor lights that light up when				
you step on them"	Lighting			1
you stop on them	Lighting			1
	Lighting			1
Darker area, it could use more lighting	Lighting			1
Barrior area, it sould assimilier lighting				
I'm on the top floor, I have to look around to be safe. Need				
lighting, or flood lighting, or sensor lights for safety"	Lighting			1
Darker area, could use lighting	Lighting			1
"Nobody likes this area, too far. Always robbery between 2				1
buildings. They put lighting but still unsafe"	Lighting + Safety			1
Signage for cars. They always go the wrong way. Not sure	Lighting + Salety			!
signage will stop them from doing it though.	Signage	1		1
A lot of the problems are because of the dark tree areas	Trim trees	1		1
A lot of the problems are because of the dark free areas	Bird Houses			- 1
Herbs and spices garden. spices will keep rodents away	Garden			
Trim bushes and add lighting	Lighting + General upkeep			
"Planting Areathere is a fenced area, with a tree. Need	Lighting i General upkeep			
Housing to clean up leaves for pests"	Planting Area			
Trousing to clean up leaves for pests	Planting Area + Clear Rules/Guidlines			
"I would like planting space, but with rules to clean"	for using spaces	1		
I would like planting space, but with rules to clean	BBQ	1	1	
Community Center for teenagers with supervised sports,	BBQ		Į.	
programs, events, education, etc.	Community Center			
programs, events, education, etc.	Community Center			
	Programming at the Community Center			
Garbage cans to prevent peststhey should be located next				
to benches	Garbage Cans			
Benches/playgrounds have peeling paint, and weeds in safe				
mats	General Upkeep			
"Benches are not accessible for seniors, and there is no	Оепегаг Оркеер			
bench that has a fresh coat of paint."	Accessible Seating for Seniors			
"I support the BBQ pit, but how big is the BBQ, and how is it	Ÿ			
being controlled?" (clean up)	BBQ	1		
"Rules and Fines for tenants to maintain space. Fix the	סטע	1		
buildings first then the grounds"	Clear Rules/Guidlines for using spaces	1		
No recepticles in gathering spaces	Garbage cans	1		
Garbage is overflowing and bins are full	Garbage cans			
"We need more places for garbage, and signs to clean up	Carbage caris			
after yourself"	Garbage Cans + signage	1		
Need signs, trash cans, and bags		1		
	Garbage cans, signage, and bags			
improve area around kaboom playground. The pavement	Conoral unkaca			
was "blacktopped" sut still needs work	General Unkeep			
"Clean the outside of the doors"	General Upkeep			

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"I have to clean my building the tiles are lesse and usefa"	Canaral Hakaan			
"I have to clean my building, the tiles are loose and usafe"	General Upkeep			
We have compactors inside the buildings, near exits, yet	Conord unknow			
people toss their trash outside	General upkeep			
Electchester has a real community, they are better				
maintained and people respect the spaces	General upkeep			
People do not care about the space, they throw trash				
inside, outside. I often clean the hallway when people are				
visiting.	General Upkeep			
"I sweep the building whenever my family comes over				
because I'm embarassed"	Interior			
"I dont go outside, the grounds are nasty. You need to take				
care of tenants"	N/A			
Fix park and playground	Park/Playground			
When the Kaboom Park open, it was very nice, howver,				
people pulled out the protective strips and it was never				
repaired.	Playgrounds			
The new park we have cost money, yet residents are now				
using it as dumping ground	Playgrounds/Parks + Upkeep			
Playgrounds use to be vibrant and well maintained, now you				
are bushing paint chips out of your jeans, the space is not				
welcoming and dangerous (raised or damaged floor mats),				
restore or upgrade	Playgrounds/Parks + Upkeep			
"We need better recycling for compactors"	Recycling			
Cracked concrete, only 2 benches have been				
repaired/painted since my time here ( been there for 40+yrs				
	Sitting Areas, Sidewalk improvements			
Repair ground, and fencing, unsure if there is a sprinkler	Splash pad + Fencing removal +			
there but it would be good to make it into a splash pool.	General Upkeep			
Trashcans everywhere	Trashcans			
Fix basketball court	Basketball			
Repair Basketball Court, although people use to play there				
until 2AM or so which disturbed some neighbors	Basketball			
	Quiet Space			
"Skate park and basketbvall go hand-in-hand"	Skate Park			
"The access to transport is convenientyou can wal outside				
to take the bus"	N/A		1	
Directions. Maps at every entry. People never know where				
to go.	Signage	1	1	
Hard to get to top of hill in a wheelchair. Very steep!	Accesible paths			
"There is no space that is welcoming, I feel sorry for seniors				
sitting on benches waiting for access-a-ride."	Accessible Seating for Seniors			
	BBQ			
"A lot of people BBQ there now"	BBQ			
	BBQ			
"if your having a party, people ask too many questions"	Clear Rules/Guidlines for using spaces	1		
Dog park for people with pets	Dog Park			
There is no flag here i think, consider reorienting benches				
once fixed	General upkeep + Seating			
Underutilized Playground	N/A			
Local Union 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical				
workers, mentioned they bring in money to the				
neighborhood? (CM)	N/A			
"I dont go into the back of other buildings"	N/A			
Issues with smoke	N/A			
I've lived here 52 years, and its the same set up, nothing				
has changed	N/A			
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"I like peace and quiet next to the park at kissena"	Quiet space			
"there's no seating, its just parking"	Seating			
Seating + Seating Arrangements	Seating			
	Shaded area			
make at a different level so skaters dont run into people				
walking around	Skate Park			
"every park should have sprinklers or splash pad"	Splash pad			
a running track but perhaps the basketball court area is not				
big enough	Track			
Walkaway at RGC garden needs to be fixed because older				
residents and people on wheelchairs cant access	Garden + Accesibility + Walkway			
residents and people on wheelenans eart access	Carden - Accesibility - Walkway			
When repairs were being done around campus, debri was				
never picked up making it difficult for senoirs to navigate	accesibility	1		1
		I		1
playground pad replacement	playground			•
Too much dog poop, we should demolish unused parks	playground	4		1
Information on insurance, health	education	1		1
Need somewhere for kids to play out without adults				
smoking pot, dog poop or profanity	safety	1		1
I enjoy walking around campus				1
Senoirs can watch over kids while parents go to college	education			1
it gets dark in campus	lighting			1
Have dedicated areas in playgrounds for adults children +				
seniors				
"Adults/teens smoke near the playgrounds, makes it				
unwelcoming	Playgrounds	1		1
Have BBQ pits somewhere thats not congested with kids	safety	1		1
Pomonok is very safe compared to other campuses	Safety			1
At community center, some of teen programs runs up to	,			
11pm, their is concern for their safety heading home	safety			1
Tons of mosquitos in the park	Playgrounds			
Excercise classes, nutrional education, Zumba	education			
College tours + connection to queens college	Education		1	
Field trips to other assets . role models, mentors	education		- 1	
Music, painiting, photography classes	education			
music, painting, photography classes	eddeation			
Acess to education programs, specifically for teen moms	programing + education			
educational programs for all ages, both inside + outside the				
campus \	programing + education			
Gap in programing for 12- 18 yr olds, include b-ball, jump	an auto I, manuactions			
roap, biking	sports + recreation			
more space for table tennis	sports + recreation			
Pomonock have forotten our youth, there's senior prgramin	9			
and we like it, but our life is almost over and they have				
theirs ahead of them with almost no support	youth progamming			
Doggie bag stations throughout the campus	upkeep			
There is no visitor's parkinglot or loading area for residents			14	1
There is no visitor's parkinglot or loading area for residents to unpack groceries or have elderly family visit	accesibility	1	1	
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ali piaygroulius reuorie	i iaygiourius			
all playgrounds redone	Playgrounds			
flagpole to be a designated BBQ area Cleaness and lighting, change the playground	BBQ, Lighting, lighting, General Upkeep, Playgrounds			
Social spaes such as grills, lighting, amd seating. The	PPO Lighting			
BBQ Pits,	BBQ			
senior and ADA accessibility,	Accesibility			
workout areas,	Workout Areas			
Trashcans would help miprove community responsibility	Trashcans			
Garbage receptales especially where there are benches.	Trashcans			
bbenches and sitting area need upgrade	Seating			
Upkeep	General Upkeep			
Cleanliness,	General Upkeep			
keep grounds clean	General Upkeep	1		
Where do we put the recycling garbage?	Trashcans	1		
basketball court needs upgrade.	Basketball			
Outside activity, basketball games, block party	Programs and Events, Basketball			
Block Party	Programs and Events			
I would like to see more flowers or plants	Plants			
Garden and Sitting Area upgrade.	General upkeep			
garden outside of all the builings.	Gardens			
Flowers	Plants			
Grass and shrubs cared for	General Upkeep			
Cleanliness, cut grass,	General Upkeep			
Grass deeds to be done	General Upkeep			
maintenance and upkeep grass maintenance and cleanlines				
chaneg the parks to make them safer for the kids	Playgrounds			1
Good Lighting and more space for seniors	Lighting, Space for Seniors			1
The lighting could b much better	Lighting			1
Lighting	Lighting			1
Better Lighting,	Lighting			1
Lighting! Safety! Security.	Lighting			1
Parkinglot needs to be gated.	Parking lot		1	1
light working.	Lighting			1
new playground for the kids	Playground			
Playground	Playground			
sports tournaments	sports events			
playgrounds, basketball court,	Sports and recreation			
sitting areas - need new benches	New benches			
grounds upkeep	General upkeep			
dog control	General Upkeep	1		
more staff to upkeep the grounds	General upkeep			
more clean	general upkeep			
The bench areras are not cleaned regularly	general upkeep			
block events at the community center sports and crafts	sports and crafts			
more activities	Programing + Events programing and events			
nmusic activities and activities for kids	Mucis Activities for kids			
festivals	Events			
career workshops	Career workshops			

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SURVEYS

# POMONOK HOUSES

# A CONNECTED COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

PILOT PROJECT



<b>1.</b> How often do you un Houses? (Select one)	se the outdoor spaces at	Pomonok		or others typically unok? (Select all that	
	☐ A few times a year ☐ Other		Weekday ☐ Morning Weekend	☐ Afternoon	☐ Evening
			☐ Morning	☐ Afternoon	☐ Evening
<b>3.</b> Who do you often s spaces? (Select all that	see using Pomonok's outo at apply)	door		ractivities do you or Pomonok? (Select a	
☐ Children☐ Teens	<ul><li>☐ Families</li><li>☐ Adults</li><li>☐ Seniors</li></ul>		□ Sports/Exer □ Playing □ Sitting/Relax □ Events/Activ	☐ Socia king meml	ng/Gardening lizing with family bers/neighbors
<b>3B.</b> Who do you see e	excluded from these spac	es?			
<b>5.</b> Describe what mak Pomonok welcoming?	es the existing outdoor s <sub>l</sub> ?	paces in	<b>6.</b> Describe what unwelcoming?	t makes outdoor sp	aces in Pomonok
7. What are your top 3 (Select 3)	<b>3</b> priorities to make more	: inclusive outdoor sp	aces at Pomonok′	?	
<ul><li>□ Program + Events</li><li>□ Gathering + Socia</li></ul>		<ul><li>□ Walkability + Ac</li><li>□ Maintenance +</li></ul>		<ul><li>Sense of Belon</li><li>Connection to</li></ul>	
☐ Sports + Recreati	on	☐ Safety + Securi	ty	community	
☐ Gardens vegetab	les + plantings	☐ Health + Wellne	ess	Other	
8. What programs, use	es, activity, or quality wou	uld make you use Por	nonok's outdoor s	spaces more often?	
9. If you could change	e or improve ONE outdoo	r space on the Pomo	nok Campus what	: would it be? Why?	

\*\* PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR TENANT ASSOCIATION \*\*

at 67-10 PARSONS BOULEVARD

Include your email or phone number for a chance to win prizes

# POMONOK HOUSES A CONNECTED COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE



#### TELL US MORE ABOUT YOURSELF! (OPTIONAL)

<b>1.</b> Do y	ou live	in Pom	onok?					•			lse in	your ho	usehold,	
☐ Ye	S		No					ving with Yes	Ta disa	•				
<b>1b.</b> If s	o, What	is your	·buildir	ng numb	oer (Cir	cle one	)							
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## \*\* PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR TENANT ASSOCIATION \*\*

at 67-10 PARSONS BOULEVARD

Include your email or phone number for a chance to win prizes

#### **SURVEYS**

						SURVEY				
		Are their positive cultural or social activities occuring?	Do you feel isolated?	How many people are likely to be around? In the early morning During the day Late at night	Is it easy to predict when people will be around?	Are there organizations or groups who are concerned about this area and its pepole?	How do these groups make you feel more or less comfortable?	What improvements would you like to see?	Who do you feel should make those improvements?	What role, skills or resources could you contribute to help make improvements?
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**POMONOK HOUSES** 

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	Location #1:	Location #2:	Location #3:	Location #4:
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Signage
Signage (Bldg #s, Streets)
Wayfinding + maps
Emergency signage
Wheelchair signage
Exit signage Maintenance
Quality of maintenance
Cleanliness
Vandalism
Infrastructure conditions
Quality of repairs Sightlines
Visibility
Alternative routes
Lack of places to hide
Ability to see people Lighting
Amount of lighting
Quality of lighting
Consistency of lighting Isolation
Patrol access
Frequency of patrol
Ability to hear people Scale of 1-5 how w rank the following: (1= very poor; 5 = very g List 5 words that d your overall feelin space. 2 2 2 2 ωωω 4444 444 4444 222 2222 2 2 2 2 2 2222 2222 2 2 ហហហ

**SURVEYS** 

#### **ENGAGEMENT BOARDS**



#### IDENTIFYING CHALLENGES + OPPORTUNITIES IN POMONOKS OUTDOOR SPACES

Place 3 dots on the topics you feel most passionate about and that you would like to see addressed in this project.

PHYSICAL

### PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY



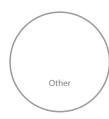
onnection to Outside























#### **TELL US MORE!**

WHAT CAN BE IMPROVED?

#### **ENGAGEMENT BOARDS**

# POMONOK HOUSES

## MAPPING IDEAS AT POMONOK

Place a dot on the map to identify specific areas/sites in Pomonok affected by the issues discussed in the previous activity. As a group, brainstorm ideas of outdoor space interventions that could address those issues. Place your idea on the map using the materials provided.

## NOTES



ENGAGEMENT BOARDS ENGAGEMENT BOARDS

# **NYCHA: CONNECTED COMMUNITIES**

1/ What is NYCHA's Connected Communities Initiative?

#### **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

The Connected Communities Initiative is NYCHA's urban design strategy for creating safe, clean and connected campuses by improving open outdoor spaces. The end goal of the project is to implement design ideas that respond to resident-identified needs and priorities.

#### **OVERALL PROCESS**

The project is structured in 3 phases to make sure the process is led by Pomonok residents. Your feedback will directly impact the which idea is selected and the look and feel of the final proposal!





#### **TYPES OF ENGAGEMENT**

Over the past 4 months Pomonok residents and community members have been engaged through campus walks, tabling events, interviews, surveys and interactive activities. Through this process residents and community members shared over 200+ ideas to improve the outdoor spaces at Pomonok Houses!



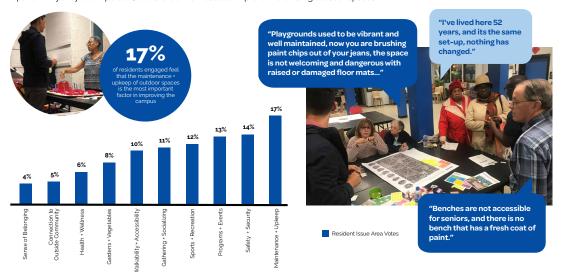
HESTER ST

# **NYCHA: CONNECTED COMMUNITIES**

2/ How do you feel about the outdoor spaces at Pomonok Houses?

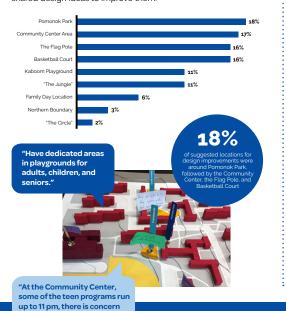
#### **KEYTHEMES**

Ideas from conversations with Pomonok residents were grouped into 10 key themes: Connection to outside community, safety and security, sense of belonging, health and wellness, programs and events, gathering and socializing, walkability and accessibility, maintenance and upkeep, sports and recreation, and gardens and vegetables. Residents voted on which of these themes are most important to them, gave input on why they are important, and shared their ideas to improve the existing outdoor spaces.



#### KEYLOCATIONS

Using various mapping activities, Pomonok residents identified 9 locations around the campus that are most important to them, and shared design ideas to improve them.



HESTER ST

#### **KEY IDEAS**

The key ideas residents came up with fit into the categories listed below. General upkeep and repairs came up most frequently, followed by sports/recreation and playgrounds/splash pads.



# **NYCHA: CONNECTED COMMUNITIES**

3/ Site specific ideas and recommendations

#### **WHAT WE HEARD!**

Throughout our engagement, residents spoke about area specific and campus wide challenges within Pomonok. Together they identified problems in and around the campus with possible solutions to address these issues.

 $We \, categorized \, these \, engagement$ findings into overall campus themes and site specific recommendations.

#### CAMPUS-WIDE THEMES

#### GATHERING + SITTING AREAS

- · Repair and repaint existing benches
- Prioritize areas where senior gather, ensuring they meet proper sitting height
- Arrange seating layouts for more conversations

#### LIGHTING + SAFFTY

Increase lighting on main pathways and in areas where people gather for increased accessibility + safety (play spaces, sitting areas, spaces with limited visibility)

#### UPKEEP + MAINTENANCE

- · Add pest proof trashcans throughout campus, specifically in BBQ areas, playgrounds and sitting areas
- Add "Do not litter signs" and general rules about upkeep throughout campus
- Incorporate campus wide doggy bag stations and signage to pick up after their pets
- Increase campus upkeep and incorporate residents to build community responsibilit

#### SPORTS + PLAY AREAS

- · Repair + update existing play equipment
- Include designated adult playground area for seniors and adults to exercise
- Add more diverse types of equipment (Outdoor track, swing set, splash pad, tables tennis, adult exercise machines etc.) · Host more community building events
- (Sports tournaments, outside performances, and field trips)

#### CONNECTIVITY TO OUTSIDE

- · Allocate designated space for visitor parking
- Include maps and wayfinding around campus for pedestrians and cars Partner with Queens College to start
- educational tours, programing and events (career workshops, dance classes, young adult programs)
- · Establish a book drop off/pick up area for



HESTER ST

# **NYCHA: CONNECTED COMMUNITIES**

4/ Vote for one of the following ideas to be implemented at Pomonok Houses!

Each person gets comment on all the

All project ideas came from conversations and activities with residents of Pomonok Houses and the surrounding community. Through voting, one idea will be selected, further developed and finally built in the Pomonok campus. The project descriptions below are preliminary and the selected project will be shaped in an upcoming phase by budget and feasibility, and through a

#### 1. BASKETBALL COURT UPGRADE



- Incorporate simple seating for
- spectators and other gatherings
  Fix or add surrounding lighting
  Beautify the surrounding area through painting and gardening

Promotes health and wellness	a little	•	•	•	alot
Encourages social connections	a little	•	•	•	alot
Improves safety	a little	•	•	0	alot
Improves mobility and accessibility	a little	•	0	0	alot
Ease of maintenance	hard	•	•	0	easy
Construction timeline	1 year	•	0	0	4 mths
Implementation cost		Ś	Ś	Ś	

#### 2. WORKOUTTRAIL



- Build a paved ADA access specifically designated for workou Fix or add lighting around the trail · Beautify the surrounding area
- through painting and gardening Improve safety through trimming

Promotes health and wellness	alittle	•	•	•	alot
Encourages social connections	alittle	•	•	0	alot
Improves safety	alittle	•	•	•	alot
Improves mobility and accessibility	alittle	•	•	•	alot
Ease of maintenance	hard	•	•	0	easy
Construction timeline	1 year	•	•	0	4 mths
Implementation cost				۵	

#### 3. MINI SKATE PARK



- Beautify the surrounding area through painting and gardening

Promotes health and wellness	a little	•	•	•	alot
Encourages social connections	alittle	•	•	•	a lot
Improves safety	alittle	•	0	0	alot
Improves mobility and accessibility	alittle	•	0	0	a lot
Ease of maintenance	hard	•	0	0	easy
Construction timeline	1 year	•	0	0	4 mths
Implementation cost					

#### 4. SPLASH PAD



1 year	•	0	O	4 mths
	_		_	
hard	•	0	0	easy
a little	•	0	0	alot
a little	•	•	0	alot
a little	•	•	•	alot
a little	•	•	•	alot
	a little a little a little	a little  a little  a little  a little	a little • • • a little • • • a little • • •	a little

### **5. CREATIVE LIGHTING**



- LED lightbulbs, motion sensors, etc.
- lighting, landscape lighting, indirect

Promotes health and wellness	alittle	•	•	0	alot
Encourages social connections	alittle	•	•	0	alot
Improves safety	alittle	•	•	•	alot
Improves mobility and accessibility	alittle	•	•	•	alot
Ease of maintenance	hard	•	0	0	easy
Construction timeline	1 year	•	0	0	4 mths
Implementation cost		\$	\$	\$	

### **6. ENHANCED SEATING AREAS**



- throughout the campus, restore
- seating Fix or add lighting around the through painting and gardening
- alittle O alot

#### 7. DESIGNATED BBQ AREA



- Create a designated barbecue area with new BBQ pits Restore or add benches and table
- Build a small shaded structure Fix or add lighting around the area Beautify the surrounding area

Promotes health and wellness	a little	•	0	0	alot
Encourages social connections	a little	•	•	•	alot
Improves safety	a little	•	0	0	alot
Improves mobility and accessibility	a little	•	0	0	alot
Ease of maintenance	hard	•	•	0	easy
Construction timeline	1 year	•	•	•	4 mths
Implementation cost		\$	\$	\$	

#### 8. UPGRADED PLAYGROUND



Paint and fix existing equipm

Promotes health and wellness	alittle	•	•	•	alot
Encourages social connections	alittle	•	•	•	alot
Improves safety	alittle	•	•	0	alot
Improves mobility and accessibility	alittle	•	•	0	alot
Ease of maintenance	hard	•	•	0	easy
Construction timeline	1 year	•	•	•	4 mths
Implementation cost		\$	\$	8	

#### 9. CLEANING AND UPKEEP STRUCTURES



- Throughout the campus install elements that allow and encourage

Promotes health and wellness	alittle	•	•	•	alot
Encourages social connections	alittle	•	0	0	alot
Improves safety	a little	•	•	0	alot
Improves mobility and accessibility	a little	•	0	0	alot
Ease of maintenance	hard	•	•	•	easy
Construction timeline	1 year	•	•	•	4 mths
Implementation cost		\$	8	8	

10. ADULT WORKOUT AREA: Popular idea that is not included in this project because the construction of a new adult workout area in the Pomonok campus is planned for 2020!

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# **NYCHA: CONNECTED COMMUNITIES**

**Potential Projects for Implementation** 

#### WHAT WE HEARD

More than 150 Residents provided input on what they most wanted to see at the Pomonok Houses. Feedback was collected at Family Day on July 27th, 2019 and through an online platform through August 3, 2019. The most popular ideas were: Splash Pad, Creative Lighting, Maintenance and Upkeep Structures, Basketball Court and BBQ Area. Since creative lighting and maintenance can be incorporated into all ideas, the top 3 project areas for implementation are splash pad, basketball court and BBQ area.

#### **TOTAL VOTES**



#### **PROJECTS WITH MOST VOTES**

**SPLASH PAD** [100 VOTES]

**BASKETBALL COURT** [53 VOTES]

> **BBQ AREA** [44 VOTES]

#### INCLUDED IN ALL PROJECTS

CREATIVE LIGHTING [56 VOTES]

MAINTENANCE AND **UPKEEP STRUCTURES** [55 VOTES]

#### **PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE**

Fall 2019	Spring 2020	Summer 2020
Participatory Design and Procurement	Construction	
•	•	•

#### **SPLASH PAD AREA**





#### **KEY FEATURES**

- 1. Install interactive sprinkler system
- 2. Repave with non-slip coating
- 3. Install new seating
- 4. Install new creative lighting

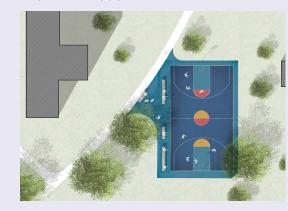


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#### **BASKETBALL COURT AREA**





**KEY FEATURES** 

- 1. Demolish and repave existing court
- 2. Resurface with colored athletic coating
- 3. Install new basketball hoops
- 4. Install sports lighting
- 5. Install new seating



#### **BBQ AREA**





- Repair and resurface existing paving
   Install BBQ grills
- 3. Install new seating and tables
- 4. Install creative lighting
- 5. Improve landscaping/gardening





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