Roberto Clemente State Park
Revitalization Plan

Public Information Meeting
June 19, 2014
Meeting Agenda

- Park Overview
- State Parks Goals & Priorities
- Overview of the Plans
- Break Session – Viewing of Plans
- Public Comment
- Next Steps
Park Overview - History

- 1973 – Opened as Harlem River Park
- 1974 – Renamed Roberto Clemente State Park
- 2006 – Public Meeting to discuss Park Masterplan
- 2008 - Rehabilitation of the aquatics facility and basketball courts, building of green roof for gym
- 2013 – Opening of new playground
- 2014 – Rehabilitation of baseball field, building heating
Park Overview - Facilities

- 1 million+ visitors per year
- 25-acre, ¾ mile long waterfront park along Harlem River
- Facilities include
  - Multi-purpose recreation building
  - Olympic-size pool complex with water play areas
  - Ball fields with night lighting
  - Basketball courts
  - Picnic areas
  - Playground
  - Waterfront esplanade
OPRHP Goals & Priorities

- Keep state parks and historic sites open, safe, affordable, and accessible.

- Increase, deepen, and improve the visitor experience.

- Fix aging infrastructure; convert and transform the Park System with aesthetically compelling, energy and operationally efficient, and “built to last” facilities.
OPRHP Goals: Plan for Park

- Build an understanding of the issues
- Revitalize the Park in a thoughtful manner
- Better meet the needs of the Park’s patrons
Waterfront Overview

- 3,700 linear feet (0.7 miles) of waterfront
  - 2,000 linear feet of bulkhead
  - 1,700 linear feet of rip rap/revetment
- However, Park is not oriented toward the water
- Trees and fences block view of water in many places
Superstorm Sandy

- 3 feet of water throughout Park
- 13” of water inside the building
- Damage to bulkhead and electrical infrastructure
- Erosion of northern shoreline of Park
Superstorm Sandy
Upper Plaza
Upper Plaza - Aerial
Upper Plaza

- Absence of entry presence
- Lack of park aesthetic / identity / character
- Predominance of hard landscaping elements
- Structural Issues below
Upper Plaza

- Transitions
Upper Plaza

- Structural damage
BULKHEAD
Esplanade
Tidal Pool
Lower Plaza
Bulkhead Rehabilitation

- **Goals**
  - Protect adjacent uses - Park, housing, school, and Metro-North lines
  - Provide flood protection and storm resilience
  - Improve Park’s connection to water
  - Enhance programming in spaces adjacent to waterfront
  - Create environmental education opportunities
  - Allow bikes
Esplanade - Existing
Esplanade - Proposed

Overlook

Rain Garden

Performance Area
Esplanade
Existing Conditions- Near Rain Garden
Esplanade
Rain Garden Section
Esplanade

Existing Conditions – Overlook Area
Esplanade
Overlook
Esplanade
Overlook
Esplanade
Existing – Performance Area
Esplanade
Future Performance Area
Lower Plaza - Existing

- Oversized and underutilized plaza with 600 linear feet of waterfront
Lower Plaza - Existing

- Too much asphalt
- Very underutilized – aside from BBQ areas it is often empty
- Central plaza is too big for performances held at the park
- Not much to do in most of the plaza when there is no performance
- No connection to the river
Activate the Lower Plaza with better mix of activities

Incorporate an “Intertidal Area” into the area adjacent to the River

Rehabilitate and expand very successful existing barbeque areas

Create enhanced performance space

Continue bike path through the Plaza in a safe manner

Reduce impervious surfaces

Capture stormwater for use in the Intertidal Area

Preserve views from the Upper Plaza to the Intertidal Area and Harlem River
Lower Plaza - Proposed
Lower Plaza - Proposed
Intertidal Area - Proposed

PATRON EXPERIENCE
- Invite Harlem River into Park in a safe and controlled manner
- Create habitat for marine and terrestrial species
- Establish a different experience within the Lower Plaza
- Experience area on elevated and getdown platforms
- Provide environmental educational opportunities
**Intertidal Area - Proposed**

**GREEN SHORELINE INFRASTRUCTURE**

- Flood protection for the Park
- Storm resiliency
- Stormwater capture from Lower Plaza is used to flush the Intertidal Area
Lower Plaza/Intertidal Area
Lower Plaza/Intertidal Area
Section – West/East
Lower Plaza & Tidal Pool
Bird’s Eye View
North Shoreline & Ball Fields
Shoreline Picnic Area

Multipurpose Field North End

Shoreline & Fields - Existing

Shoreline

Picnic Area

Multipurpose Field

North End
- Stabilize shoreline
- Open up the views to the river
- Maximize area for athletic fields and programming
- Create quality passive spaces for patrons
- Continue shared waterfront path north
South End
Create new activity – boat house, bike park, etc.

Relocate soccer program

Accommodate dog owners

Improve landscaping
Project Timelines
Project Timelines (estimated)

- **Upper Plaza**
  - Construction: Fall 2014 – Summer 2015

- **Bulkhead/Esplanade/Intertidal Area**

- **Lower Plaza**
  - Construction: 2015

- **North Shoreline**
  - Construction: 2015

- **South End**
  - Construction: TBD
Public Comment
Public Input

- ALL ideas / suggestions are welcome
- Questions to help define or understand input are OK
- Written statements will be accepted
Public Input

- Listen to understand
- Respect each others’ viewpoints
- Be fair with time
- Be concise
- Minimize “side bar” conversations
Public Input: Timeline

- Comments Due – July 3, 2014
- Meeting Summary – July 25, 2014
Thank You!

- Written Comments to: RobertoClemente.Plan@parks.ny.gov
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- Due by: Thursday, July 3, 2014
- For more information: www.nysparks.com