The Waterfront

The East River shoreline in Queens is one of the few waterfronts that remains largely undeveloped. Historically, residents of Astoria and Long Island City have been cut off from the waterfront by manufacturing and utilities—with much of New York City's electricity being cut off from their local waterfront by manufacturing, industry and utilities—with much of New York City's electricity infrastructure along the waterfront. This has led to a lack of access to the waterfront for many residents. However, in recent years, there has been a push to improve public access to the waterfront, with the goal of creating a 21st-century waterfront that is accessible to all.

The Process

The process included a community visioning and planning workshop where residents were invited to share their ideas and priorities for the waterfront. The workshop was facilitated by Green Shores NYC and The Trust for Public Land, two organizations with expertise in planning and sustainability.

The Plan

The plan includes several recommendations to improve access to the waterfront, including the creation of a continuous, landscaped, and accessible waterfront greenway. This greenway will provide green space, recreational activities, and opportunities for education and advocacy. The greenway will also include opportunities for community involvement, with residents invited to participate in the planning and implementation of the greenway.

The Future

The future of the waterfront in Queens is bright, with a new plan in place to improve access and green space. The community is working together to ensure that the waterfront is a place where everyone can enjoy the outdoors and participate in the community. The plan represents a significant step towards creating a 21st-century waterfront that is accessible to all.
Transfer the shoreline of Luyster Creek along the end of 19th Avenue from the New York City Department of Transportation to the Department of Parks and Recreation in order to provide green space and waterfront access to Upper Ditmars. Create public viewing areas, safe water access, boat storage and launch facilities.

Make the Astoria Park Shoreline more inviting for pedestrians, with a wider, well-landscaped esplanade. Explore traffic calming measures to ensure a safer and more enjoyable waterfront experience for all users.

Restore waterfront access in Queensbridge Park by repairing the seawall. Create natural wetlands and an attractive esplanade with space for relaxing, fishing and enjoying the magnificent view.

Improve connections between the waterfront communities of Hunters Point, Queens, and Greenpoint, Brooklyn, by making the Pulaski Bridge safer and more accessible for pedestrians and cyclists. Reconfigure the entrance/exit ramps, expand the pedestrian/bike lane and improve bridge signage.

Transfer the city-owned pier in Hallets Cove to the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation and renovate it to provide spaces for relaxing, fishing, and enjoying the view; boat storage, and boat launch access.

Improve waterfront access along the Two Coves Corridor, linking Hallets Cove, the Astoria Houses Esplanade, Whitey Ford Field and Pot Cove. Ensure that any new residential development provides attractive and continuous access.

Use modest design interventions to create an uninterrupted stretch of continuous waterfront linking Rainey Park, the Costco Esplanade, Socrates Sculpture Park and Hallets Cove.