

EUROPEAN MASTER IN POLICY AND PLANNING FOR CITIES,
ENVIRONMENTS AND LANDSCAPE
(PPCEL)

URBAN RESILIENCE IN THE POST-COVID CITY
The case of New York

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1.

City reaction from the Covid-19 pandemic

New York City

Area of study

Corona Neighborhood

Total population:
54,453

Covering an area of 1.873
km², the neighborhood
had a population density
of 30,800 inhabitants per
km².



Socio-economic background

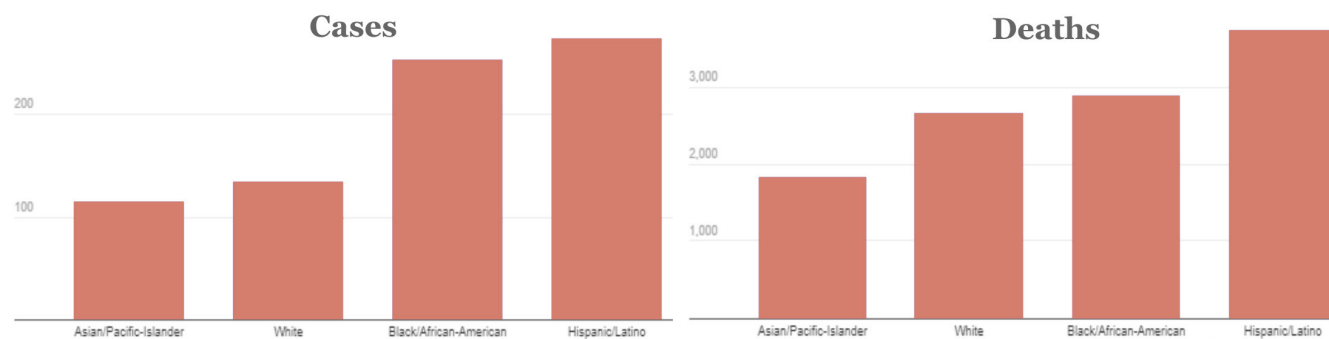
Among the most widespread districts of NYC, Queens recorded the highest percentage of infections in the whole of the Big Apple in the first phase of the coronavirus pandemic. The evident interweaving between the racial question and social disparities emerges.

“Using Census Reporter, I compared the racial makeup of postal codes with the highest and lowest coronavirus rates per thousand people in New York. Queens postcode 11370 has the highest rate of confirmed infections in the city, with 12 cases per thousand people, and includes neighborhoods as follows: Latinos (37%), whites (25%), Asians (22%) and blacks (14%) (Ibram X. Kendi, director of the Antiracist Research and Policy Center at American University).

Trying to find an answer to this phenomenon, it was hypothesized that the poorest people, due to their poverty, have more chronic untreated health problems than the richest individuals (as it has been observed also in Italy the virus affects more people with previous illnesses). Additionally, many African Americans and Latin Americans perform high-risk public jobs that can more easily expose them to the disease. Scott M. Stringer, the city’s city comptroller confirmed that 75 percent of frontline workers in the city - food departments, bus and train operators, janitors and childcare staff - are from ethnic minorities. In addition, more than 60% of cleaners in the city are Latinos.

Observed causes for a higher incidence of Covid-19 cases in NYC:

1. Poverty
2. Race/ethnicity
3. High population density
4. Lack of public spaces
5. Lack of healthcare



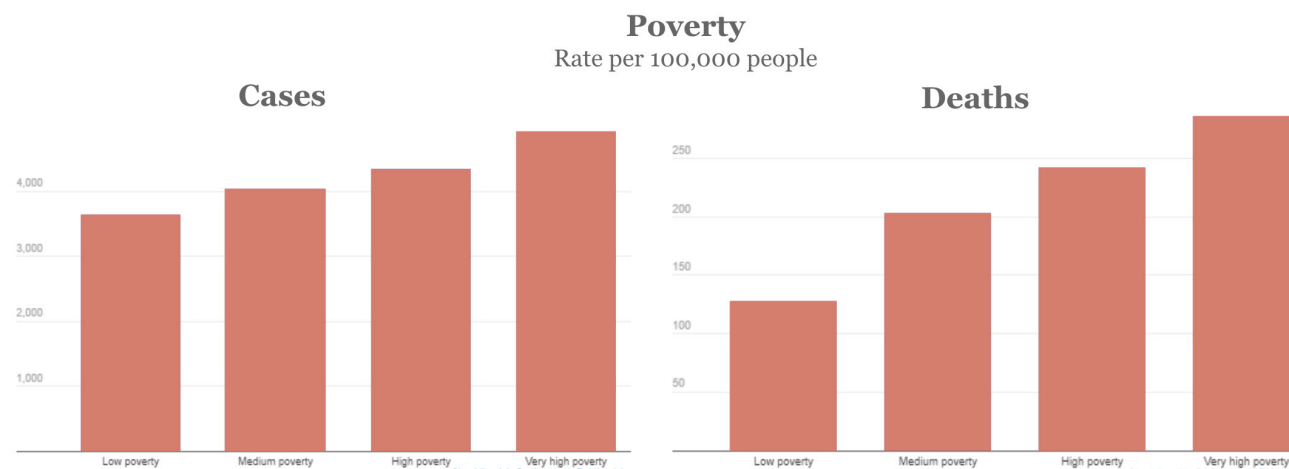
Neighborhood poverty is the percent of a ZIP code's population living below the Federal Poverty Level:

Low poverty: <10%

Medium poverty: 10% - 19.9%

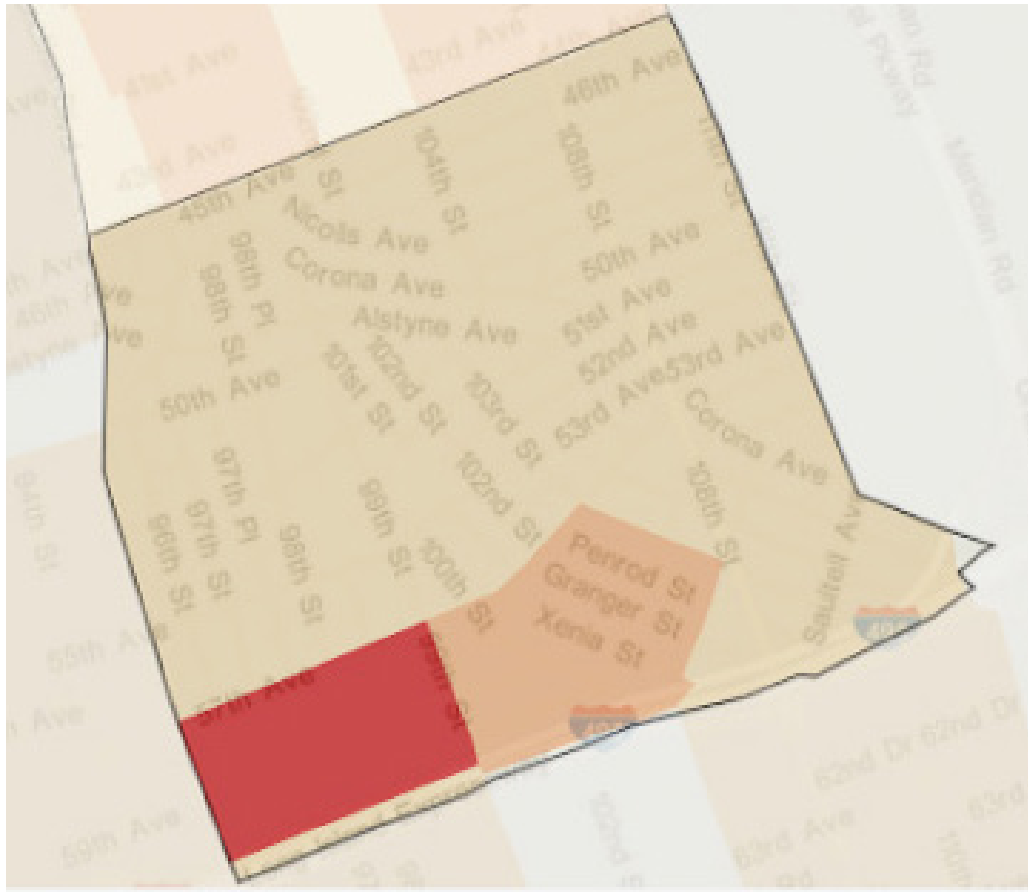
High poverty: 20% - 29.9%

Very high poverty: >30%



A horizontal bar chart showing the number of people in the population aged 15 and over, categorized by gender and age group. The x-axis represents the number of people, with major ticks at 0, 2,800, 5,700, 8,500, 11,400, and 14,300. The y-axis lists age groups: 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80-84, 85-89, 90-94, and 95-99. The bars are color-coded by gender: light green for men and light orange for women. The chart shows that the population is largest in the 20-24 age group for both genders, with women having a slightly larger population than men in this group. The population decreases significantly for older age groups, particularly for women in the 80-84 and 85-89 age groups.

Age Group	Men	Women
15-19	1,400	1,400
20-24	2,800	2,800
25-29	1,400	1,400
30-34	1,400	1,400
35-39	1,400	1,400
40-44	1,400	1,400
45-49	1,400	1,400
50-54	1,400	1,400
55-59	1,400	1,400
60-64	1,400	1,400
65-69	1,400	1,400
70-74	1,400	1,400
75-79	1,400	1,400
80-84	1,400	1,400
85-89	1,400	1,400
90-94	1,400	1,400
95-99	1,400	1,400



Donut chart showing the distribution of respondents by race/ethnicity:

- White: 72.0%
- Hispanic: 11.2%
- Black: 11.5%
- Asian: 4.4%
- Other: 1%

Median household income in 2016:

Median rent in 2016:

Median age:

Average household size:

Percentage of family households:

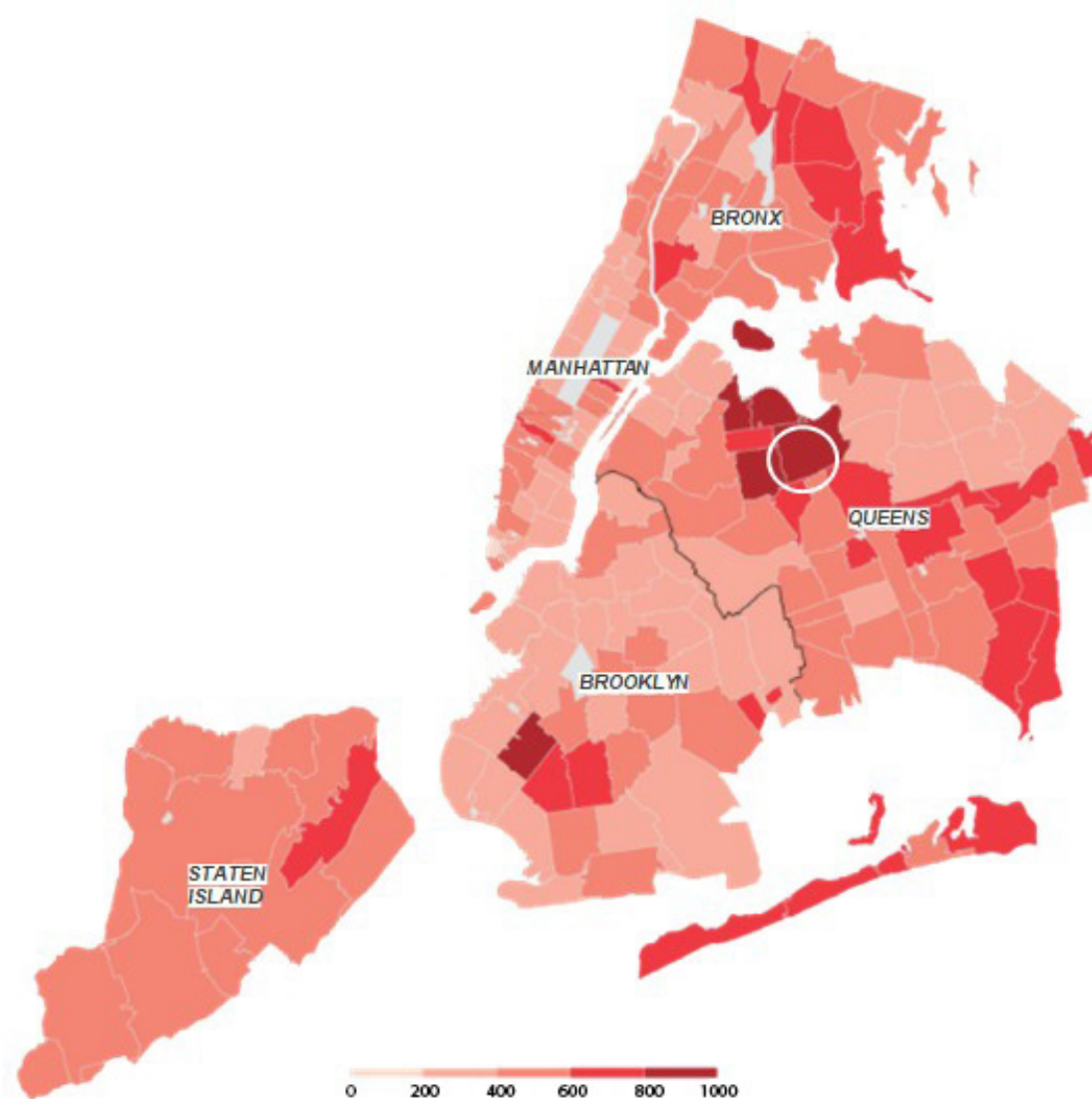
Percentage of people that speak English not well or not at all:

Percentage of foreign born residents:

Here: 57.4%
New York: 23.0%

Number of positive COVID-19 tests

(Source: NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene)

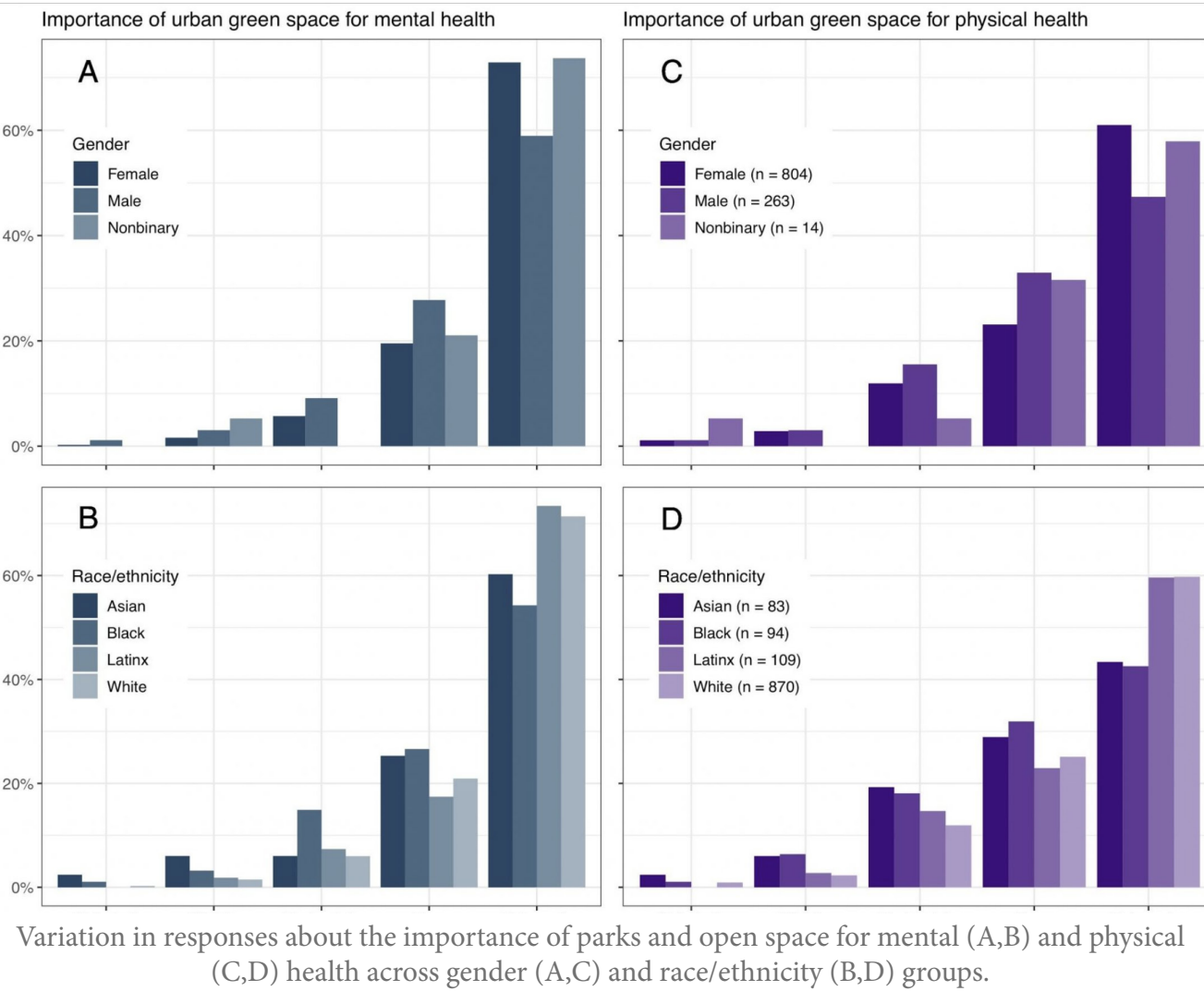


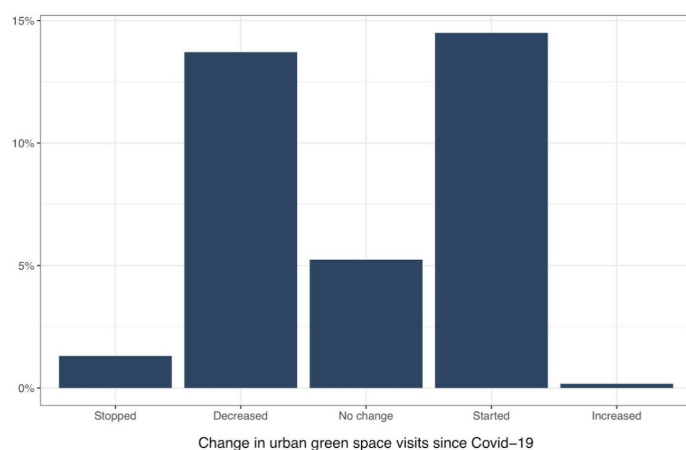
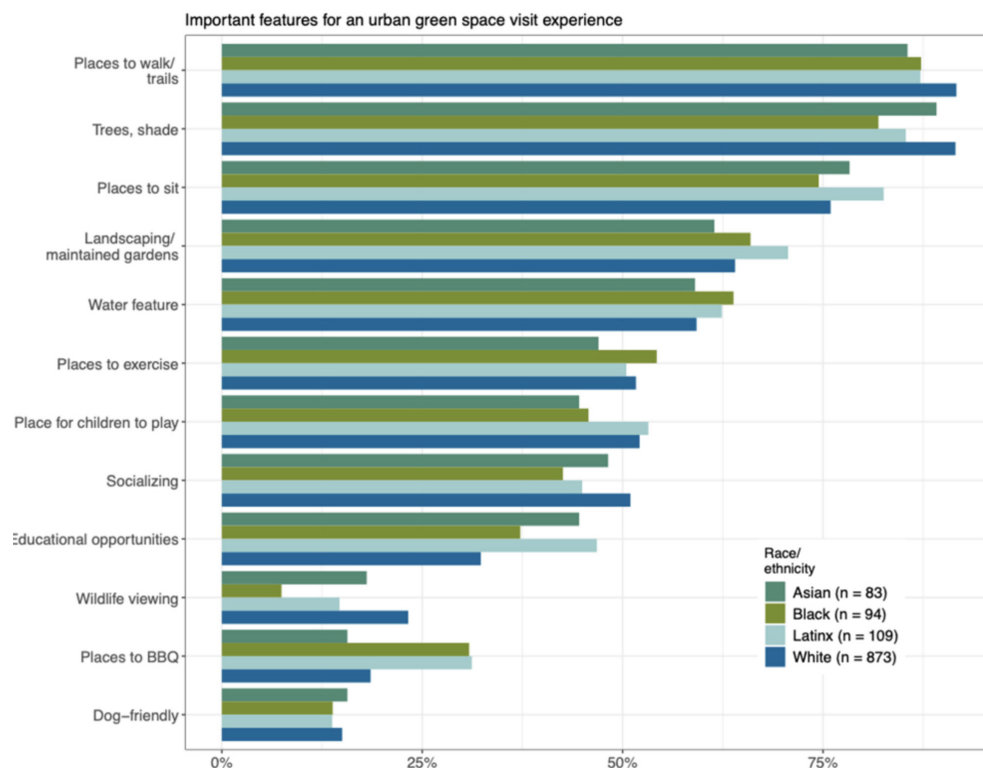
Density and public spaces

The importance of public space in a city is relevant in a critical condition such as this pandemic. The presence of public spaces is necessary for human well-being. Having access to parks, playgrounds, green areas, etc. improves mental and physical health.

In cities like NYC people do not have access to private open spaces as courtyards or balconies, so the city becomes an extension of their domestic space.

Among the most common problems concerning public spaces are: inaccessibility (due to an excessive distance from one's place of residence), management (sometimes ignored by administrations and citizens), design etc.





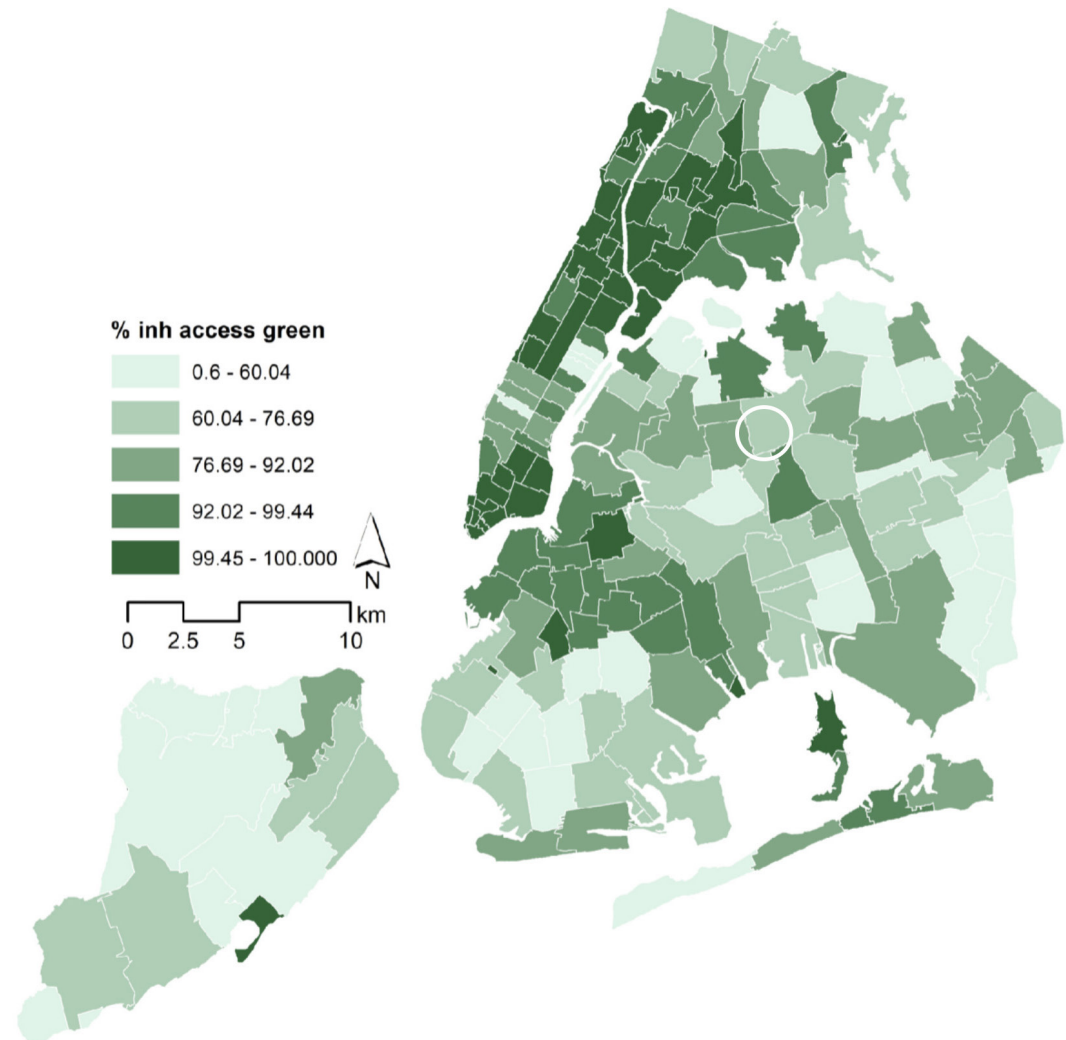
Distribution of responses to the question: "How has your participation in [visiting parks or open space] changed since the start of the COVID-19 crisis?"

Although the use of public spaces such as parks or green areas in general appears to have increased during the pandemic, there are some fundamental requirements that these areas must possess in order to be used more.

A study has shown, for example, that the size of the parks, the overcrowding, the presence of adequate street furniture, the presence of services and staff, etc., play a fundamental role in the use of the park as a wall for citizens.

Access to green areas

According to the Trust for Public Land (TPL), almost all New Yorkers live within a 10-minute walk of a green space. Despite this, the rate of white residents is the highest among those people who tend to live near large parks. Conversely, low-income and black communities are more likely to lack access to quality green spaces and face divestment in local parks. Residents in Queens and Brooklyn have been observed to have less perceived park access, as well as receiving less of the desired features from urban green spaces.



Percentage of New York City inhabitants who have access to an urban green space within 400m. Map developed by Ahmed Mustafa.

Tactical Urbanism

Times Square is the first example of tactical urbanism applied to the city of New York, from a temporary and low-cost project it has become a permanent reality that has radically changed the image of the city.

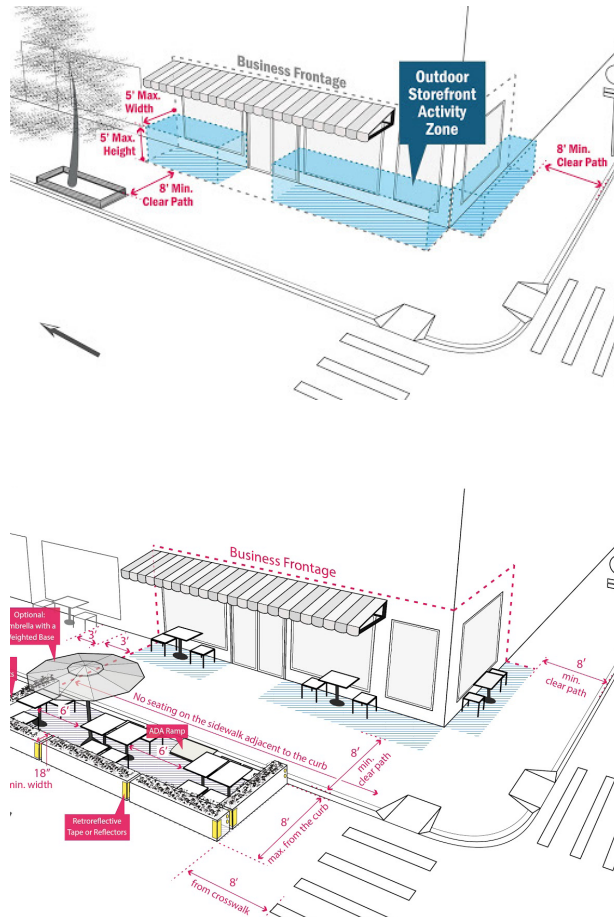
There are different forms of tactical urbanism: unregulated bottom-up actions, top-down actions decided by the municipal administration and by technicians or middle ground that see the support of local politics and the involvement of citizens and the territory.

Tactical urbanism makes it possible to carry out projects for modifying public spaces that are temporary, of an experimental nature and with a high communicative value.

The aim of Tactical Urbanism in NYC is protecting the pedestrians given the increase in the number of car accidents and bike injuries due to a lack of bike lanes and sidewalks.

The plan was installing new elements like plazas, pedestrian islands, bus and bike lanes, larger sidewalks... to increase pedestrian's security.

Tactical Urbanism: top-down actions

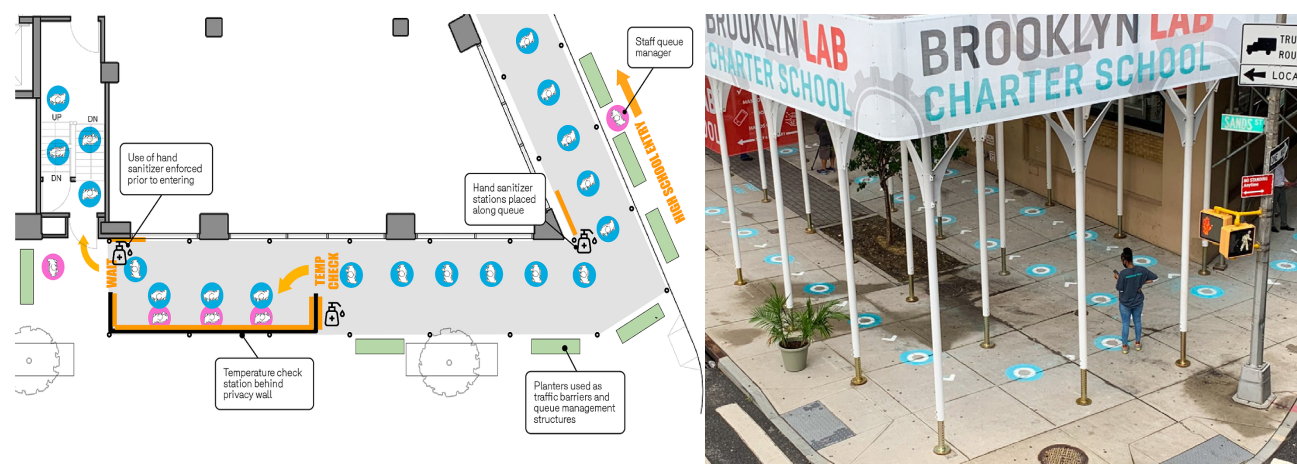


NYC announced that the popular Open Restaurants program will be made permanent. The restaurants will be permitted to use heating and enclosures, and expand seating to adjacent properties with neighbors' consent. Specific guidance is forthcoming. The City will work with the City Council to make the regulatory changes necessary to make the program permanent. The program also allows eligible businesses to conduct activity on sidewalks.



Corona Plaza is a recently renovated public space in the heart of Corona, Queens. For years, the once-grand Plaza was just a small one-block street riddled with parking and trash collection problems. After years of community pressure, the street was de-mapped and turned into a public plaza under the DOT's Plaza Program. Corona Plaza programming is supported by grants from The Kresge Foundation, Surdna Foundation, and Institute of Museum and Library Services. Additional support provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

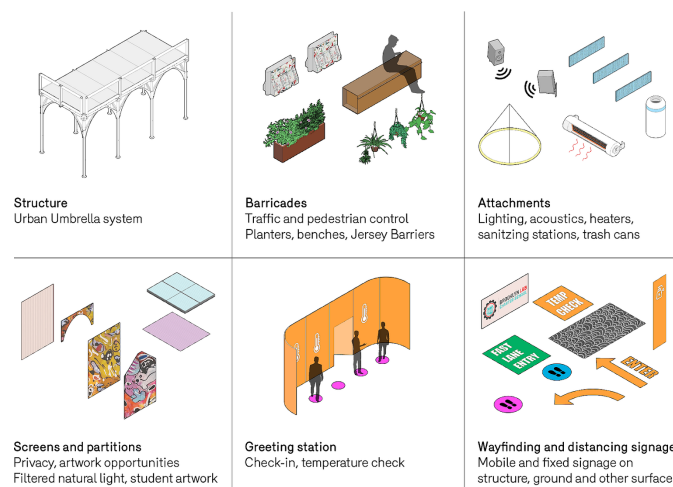
Tactical Urbanism: bottom-up actions



SITU Studio is an architectural practice creating spaces for institutional, corporate, civic and cultural clients.

Working with the Brooklyn Lab Charter School, they investigated the entry experience to address one of the most critical health needs: keeping students, teachers, parents and staff safe during the crowded start and finish of each day.

A new shelter at Brooklyn Laboratory Charter School, designed by WXY and SITU, can act as a provisional outdoor classroom. Staff could lead students in activities — calisthenics, or Spanish drills — as they wait their turn to enter



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources and Support

Sign In | Sign Up

Businesses and Workers

Consumers

Families

Finances

Food

Funerals and Burials

Health and Wellness

Immigrant Communities

Marriage

NYCHA Residents

Pets

Property Owners

Tenants

Volunteer, Donate, or Partner

Free food is available to all New Yorkers in need.

- **Emergency Food** sites can help you get food quickly.
- **Food Benefit Programs** can help you buy groceries.
- **Food Delivery** is available if you can't go outside, have no one who can help you get food, and can't afford delivery.

Emergency Food

You can pick up free meals or groceries at locations across the City.

Need more support? You can also sign up for public benefit programs, such as SNAP and Cash Assistance using [ACCESS HRA](#).

Grab and Go Community Meals

Any New Yorker can pick up free meals Monday to Friday between 3 PM and 5 PM at locations across the City. You don't need to register or show any ID or documents.

Multiple meals can be picked up at once. The meals are grab-and-go; no dining space is available.

Vegetarian and halal options are available at all sites. Kosher meals are also available at select locations.

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, select locations will be open on Friday, November 27 from 12 PM to 3 PM.

[Find community meal locations.](#)

[View sites that offer kosher and halal meals.](#)

Food Pantries and Soup Kitchens

You can pick up food packages at a food pantry or get a meal at a soup kitchen.

Use [Site Finder](#) to search for a Food Provider. You should call first to confirm their hours before visiting.

Food Benefit Programs

You can get help paying for groceries by enrolling in a food assistance program.

HELP NOW NYC

Give Help | Get Help

I want to help

Find out how you can help New Yorkers affected by COVID-19.

Give Help

I need help

Find out how you or your organization can receive COVID-19-related assistance.

Get Help

NYC United Against Coronavirus

nyc_covid_mutualaid

2,888 publicaciones 13,8k seguidores 836 seguidos

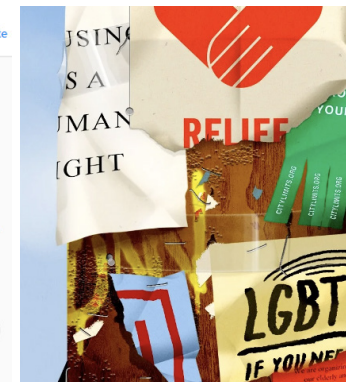
NYC United Against Covid

A project focused on providing resources and information to the people.

NYC@Coronavirus@gmail.com // go to our resources document in the link below.

docs.google.com/document/d/18WYGoVIUuXYc3QFN1RABnARZlwDG3aLQsnNok1t...

New Rapid ... Free Food ... Free tests Manhattan Bronx Students Hotlines



Solidarity amid Coronavirus and mutual

During the Coronavirus pandemic, in NYC, as well as in any city in the world, groups of volunteers were born to help the most disadvantaged during confinement. The NYC government itself has allowed voluntary activity through its website, but the commitment has also developed thanks to social platforms. The aid mainly consisted of aids for the provision of food, care for children, animals, etc.

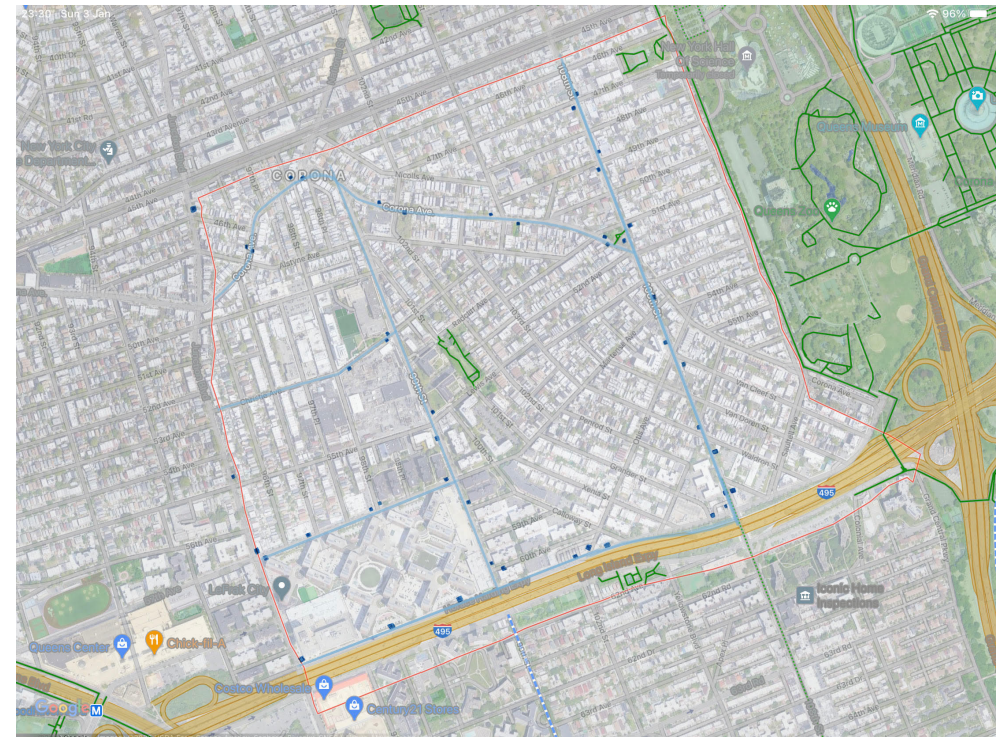
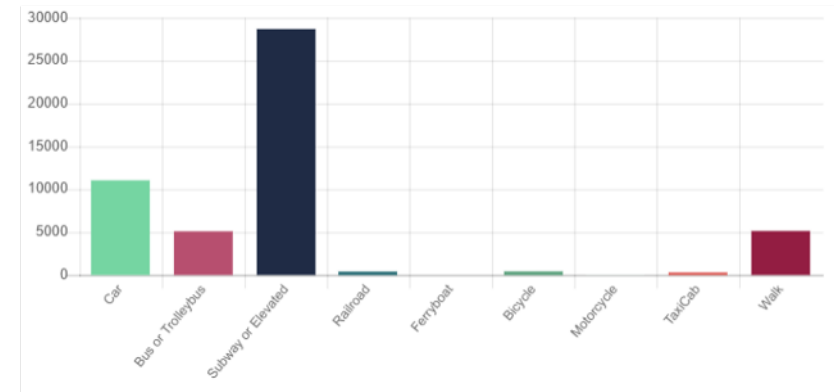
2.

City governance in the post-covid-19 new era

Means of transport of Corona to work

The preferred means of travel by the population are the use of private cars or public transport to the detriment of slow mobility, a factor due to the absence of a cycle path

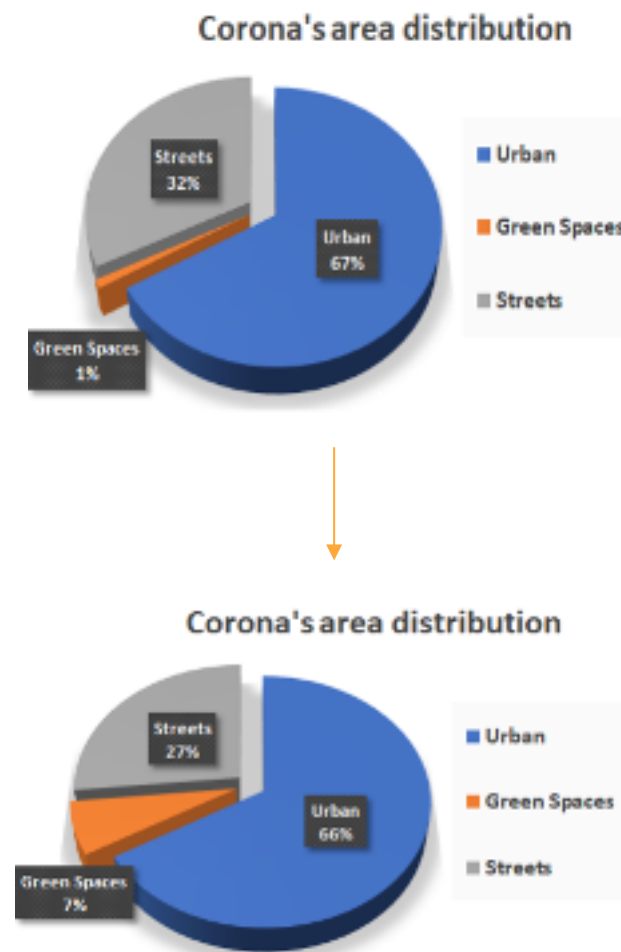
This factor was in turn decisive for the spread of the virus in the neighborhood since, as can be seen from the graph, the use of public transport is one of the privileged by the workers of the neighborhood and it is known that the use of public transport unsecured public places exposes to a high risk of contagion as well as closed spaces.



Route of the bus lines that pass through the neighborhood

The strategy

Our strategy is to modify Corona's area distribution so that the quality of life in the neighborhood improves. This would be by creating The Green Path additionally we'll add street elements such as planters, benches and if the street sidewalk allows it some tables. To encourage the use of more sustainable mobility than the use of a private car we add a bike lane that runs through the entire neighborhood. The improvement of the pedestrian areas is also foreseen.



Objectives and Actions

Short Term

Long Term

Create green spaces

Connecting the streets with a green infrastructure (Creating a Green Path)

Adding more trees to the streets

Green, healthy, sustainable city

Reduce the space for cars to generate a more active mobility

Establish bike lanes and pedestrian areas

Equally shared public space

Adapting the public space to health security requirements

Add benches and static tables with stools within 1.5m of distance

Leave spaces for outdoors businesses like pop up cafes, food trucks, etc

Less indoor activities, more outdoor activities

Better habitability

Making residential complexes

Rearranging blocks making bigger unit buildings

1. The Green Path

Linking smaller parks with larger parks, NYCHA open spaces, waterfront hubs, community gardens, open and cool streets, and natural areas through a network of urban ecological infrastructure could begin to address issues of uneven perceived access



Before

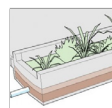


After



2. Improving of pedestrian areas

Widening the sidewalks in a pandemic period like this makes public space more usable; protect the safety of the cityzens, especially the weakest categories such a children and old people.



Bulb-outs



Pedestrian Crossings



Wayfinding



Before



After



3. Improve the bike lane

Entice people to choose an ecological way to move in the city, such as slow mobility to reduce pollution and improve health

In cities like New York, which was hard-hit by the impacts of the pandemic early on, reports of increased park use in some areas signaled a radical shift in mobility and demand for services as communities across the region adapted to new social distancing policies and mandates.



Actions	Indicators
Dedicating spaces for outdoor businesses like pop up coffee shops, food trucks, etc	Areas and locations of the new created open spaces
Adding benches and static tables with tools within 1.5m of distance	number of benches and distance measurement (benches and equipments)
Creating a Green Path	length and width of the green path
Adding of more trees and planters in the streets	number and location of the plants to install
Establishing new bike lanes	Length of the lanes and location measuring bike injuries

Instruments

DCP's Urban Design team works with other City agencies to promote good urban design for all New Yorkers. The Connected Communities Guidebook is a collaboration between DCP and the NYC Housing Authority (NYCHA).

The guidebook offers urban design tools and ideas to help improve open space at NYCHA campuses across the city. Anyone can use it to support better quality of life for all NYCHA residents.

Who Should Read This?

The Connected Communities Guidebook is a valuable resource for all NYCHA's stakeholders: NYCHA residents, Community-Based Organizations, Public Agencies, Private Development teams, NYCHA staff. The Connected Communities Guidebook is divided into four main chapters that broadly reflect the role that NYCHA communities play in the city, the past and current conditions of its form and financing, and how these come together to preserve public housing in New York City.

3.

Opportunities for urban revival in the post -covid-19 new era

Vegetables gardens

Local food security: even on a very small scale, the inhabitants will be able to grow their own fruits and vegetables. This can help them, more or less, to ensure their needs in case of extreme situations.

Greener areas: apart from its functional side in terms of air purification, the vegetable gardens will add aesthetic value to the neighborhoods.

Increasing soil permeability by reducing the cemented space: the soil will be more permeable and will then be able to absorb the excess precipitation in extreme cases of climate change.



In Corona, the houses have a lot of unused cemented space that can be turned into vegetables gardens in which a drip irrigation system can be used. The water required for the irrigation can be collected from the roofs (rainwater harvesting).

Open air study/work

Multifunctionality: these spaces can be used to study or to work or to seek general information by inhabitants who do not have access to the internet.

More job offers: since these spaces require regular maintenance, there will be more work opportunities.

The open air study/work spaces can be implanted all along the green path or on the green roofs. They can be provided with an adequate equipment like computers and a Wifi connection especially in the poor neighborhoods. The material used can be simple and ecological (benches, plants, wood chairs...).

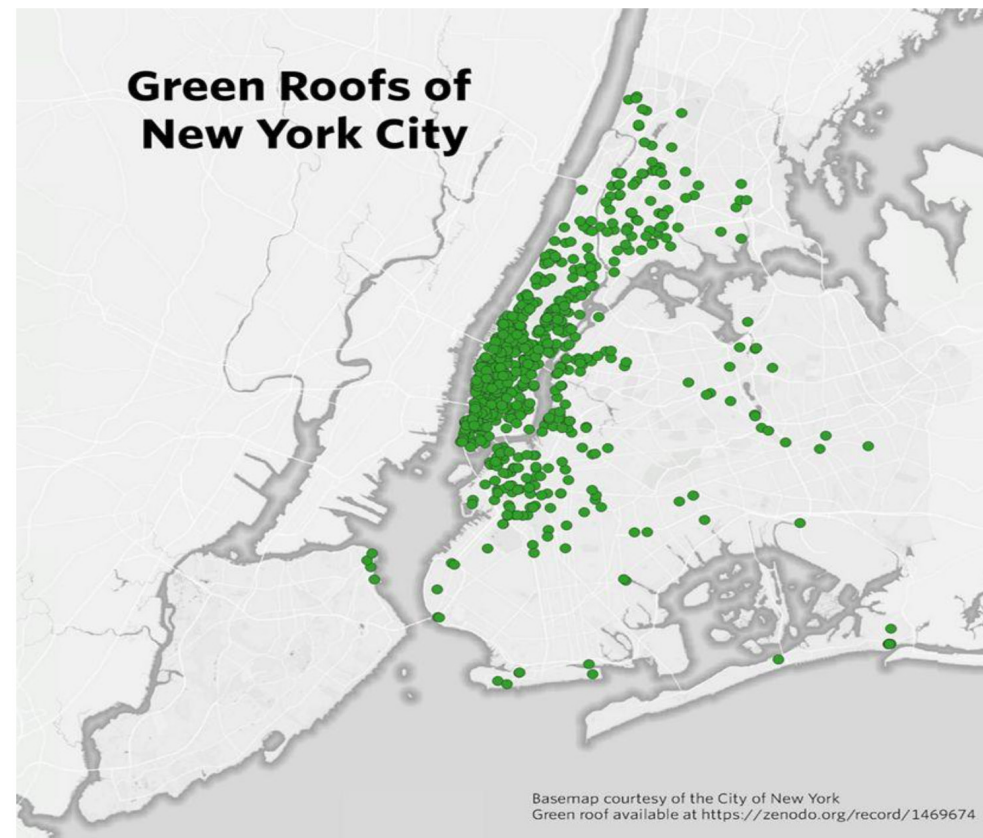


Green-roofs

Reduction of air pollution: thanks to their purifying effect, they will be able to reduce air pollution rates and improve its quality. Which will further reduce respiratory illnesses linked to air pollution.

Decrease in the effect of urban heat islands: this can be used to regulate the urban microclimate and fight against the impact of climate change.

Multifunctionality: these spaces can be cultivated as they can be entertainment spaces (playground, gym, open-air cinema ...).



In New York City there is already a green roof project but it is only covering Manhattan and few other zones. The idea is to install more green roofs all over the city especially in the most vulnerable zones like Queens.