

EXISTING CONDITIONS



The Bronx River Greenway

When complete, the Bronx River Greenway will be a twenty-three-mile-long ribbon of green with a multi-use path that will extend along the full length of the river in Westchester County and the Bronx. Approximately fifteen miles of the greenway are now in place. The Bronx River Alliance is coordinating the completion of the eight miles of greenway in the Bronx, and is working with partners in Westchester County to make a full connection with the Westchester portion of the greenway. The restoration and development of the Bronx River Greenway will be a major achievement in reclaiming the waterfront and improving the quality of life for Bronx residents.

The Bronx River Greenway is also a part of the larger New York City Greenway system. When completed, New York City's greenway will consist of 633 acres of parkland, of which thirty-four acres are recently acquired. More than \$120 million has been committed for greenway projects by local, state and federal sources. The first groundbreakings for these projects came in 2004. In the Bronx, recently completed projects include Muskrat Cove and the restoration of the Bronx River Forest in the north, and the Concrete Plant Park and Hunts Point Riverside Park in the South Bronx.

Large portions of the greenway, particularly in the North Bronx, already exist and just need to be rehabilitated. In the South Bronx, completion of the greenway involves the development of new open space and parkland at sites which include an abandoned concrete plant, a reclaimed street end, and a long-neglected stretch of land across the river from Starlight Park.

The Bronx River Alliance's community focus ensures that Bronx residents join with designers and agency representatives on equal ground to decide how parks will be designed and how projects will be implemented. The development of the Shoelace Park Master Plan reflects this emphasis on broad inclusion and community participation.

Shoelace Park is a major neighborhood resource for Community District 12 with 47 acres of open space and access to the Bronx River.

Community Overview

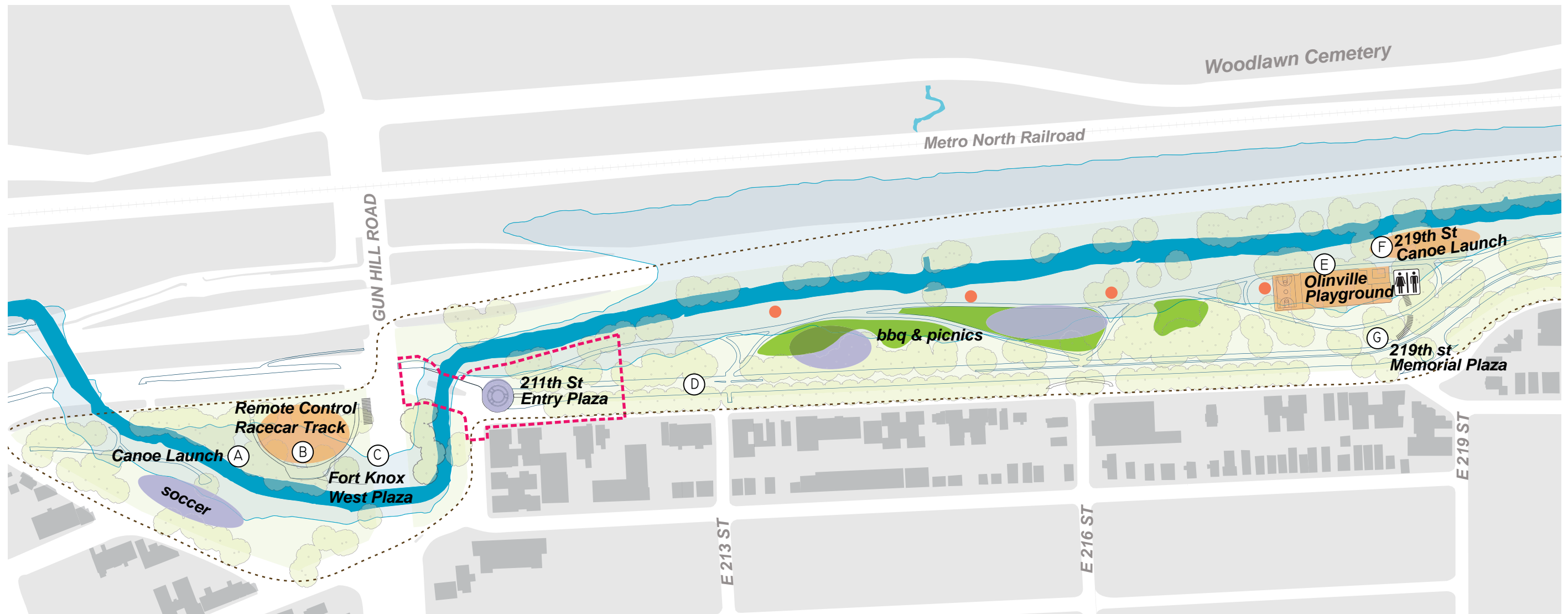
The Olinville, Williamsbridge and Woodlawn neighborhoods surround Shoelace Park and all are located in the western sector of Bronx Community District 12 (CD12). The district is a 5.5 square mile planning area which shares its northern border with Westchester County. The district's total population in 2000 was nearly 150,000, a 15% increase following the 1990 census. The CD 12 offices are located not far from the park and were the site of the master plan's two community design charrettes.

The park's location along the eastern edge of the river-parkway corridor creates a nearby neighborhood that parallels the eastern boundaries of the one-and-half mile long linear park. To create a snapshot of the local community, the team reviewed demographic data from the six contiguous census tracts along this eastern border (tracts 420, 408, 394, 392, 378 and 376). Information was gained from documents prepared by New York City Department of City Planning (Dec 2005, Dec. 2008). Of the approximately 19,000 people who live in these blocks, nearly 30% are under eighteen years of age. The highest population tracts are those located between 220th and 229th Streets. The tract which had the highest percentage of growth between 1990 and 2000 was in the north, between 229th and 234th Streets.

The district as a whole is ethnically diverse. Approximately 55,500 (37%) of the population are foreign born and 74% of this group are of Caribbean, non-hispanic origin with the highest representation from Jamaica.

The largest institutional neighbor is the North Division of the Montefiore Medical Center located at 233rd Street and Bronx Boulevard. Representatives from the hospital and local schools were active participants in the planning and design process.





A. Fort Knox West Boat Launch



B. Remote Control Car Track



C. Waterfront Plaza at Fort Knox West



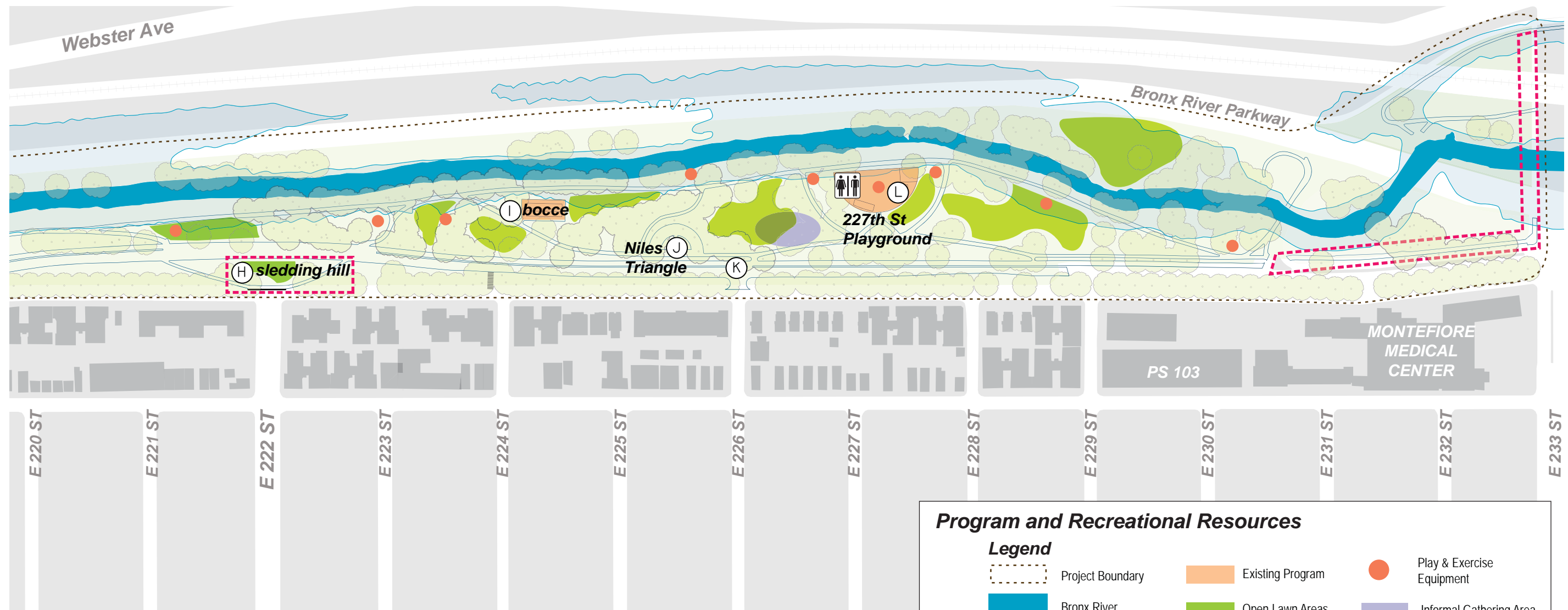
D. Bronx River Greenway Multi-use Path at Historic Parkway



E. Olinville Playground at 219th Street



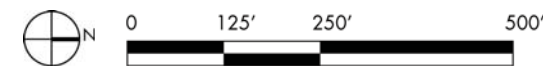
F. 219th Street Boat Launch



Program and Recreational Resources

Legend

Project Boundary	Existing Program	Play & Exercise Equipment
Bronx River	Open Lawn Areas	Informal Gathering Area
100 Yr. Floodline	Restroom	Capitol Improvement Projects



G. Memorial Plaza at 219th Street Entry



H. Sledding at Hillside at 222nd Street Entrance



I. Bocce Courts



J. Niles Triangle



K. Informal Picnicking at Pastoral Lawn Area



L. 227th Street Playground