

### SECTION 3: WEST FARMS TO SOUNDVIEW PARK – 4 miles

#### West Farms

**Getting there by subway:** #2&5 to West Farms Square/East Tremont Avenue. Walk north on Boston Road to 180th Street.

**By bus:** Bx9, Bx36 & Q44 to Boston Road and 180th Street.

From River Park turn left onto 180th Street. Turn right onto the paved pathway on the west side of the river behind the Lambert House complex. (If the gate at 180th Street is closed, walk south on Boston Road from River Park and turn left onto 179th Street to the river.) You will see the tire-reinforced streambank, an erosion control project led by Bronx River Restoration in the 1970s. At the end of the path is the Bronx River Art Center and Gallery. The Arts Center has regular gallery exhibits of local artists' work and hosts free classes for the community. Gallery hours are Monday thru Friday, 3 – 6:30pm and Saturday, 12 – 5pm. There is a restroom in the gallery.

Across East Tremont Avenue is Drew Gardens, which directly abuts the Lorraine Hansberry Elementary School. Drew Gardens marks the brackish (part fresh, part salt water) section of the river. Use the crosswalk at Boston Road and East Tremont. The gate is often locked to protect the garden from vandalism, but special arrangements can be made to access the area by calling 718.542.8333 x11.

#### Starlight Park

From Drew Gardens walk west and turn left on Boston Road. Walk up the steep hill along the elevated train line. Once you reach the top of the hill, you will cross over the Cross Bronx Expressway. Take the first left after the expressway onto Boone Ave (which is mislabeled as the Cross Bronx Expressway!). Go down a slight hill behind the shopping center until you reach 174th Street. Take a left onto 174th Street, which will take you on a blue bridge. Here you can take in a view of Starlight Park south of the bridge. Starlight Park is named after a nearby amusement park that was located along the east side of the river between World War I and II. The park is currently being reconstructed to include a boathouse, an access point to the river, ballfields and a comfort station.

The greenway will travel on the east side of the river with two pedestrian bridges linking it to Starlight Park. Starlight Park marks the northern most section of the river's tidal reach. From the 174th Street bridge, turn right onto Bronx River Avenue and walk 0.75 miles south to Westchester Avenue.

#### Concrete Plant Park UNDER DEVELOPMENT UNTIL 2007.

**Getting there by subway:** #6 to Whitlock Avenue. Walk north to Westchester Avenue, turn right and right again into the Concrete Plant Park.

**By bus:** Bx4, Bx27 to Westchester Avenue.

To view the Concrete Plant Park, turn right on the south side of Westchester Avenue and go up on the bridge over the river. The entrance is on the left across the river. A former concrete factory, the site was abandoned in the late 1980s and acquired by the Department of Parks & Recreation in 2000. The park design includes large grassy areas, a waterfront promenade, access to the river and a canoe/kayak launch. It will retain a few of the historic silos as a reminder of what once stood here. On the slope on the west bank of the river, note a successful salt marsh restoration project.

Return to Bronx River Avenue and walk south. Cross under the Bruckner Expressway and continue south to Story Avenue, or visit Hunts Point Riverside Park first, returning to Bronx River Avenue.

#### Hunts Point Riverside Park (1.5 mi.) UNDER DEVELOPMENT AND SCHEDULED TO OPEN IN THE SUMMER OF 2006.

**Getting there by subway:** #6 to Hunts Point Avenue. Walk east under the Bruckner Expressway onto Hunts Point Avenue. Turn left at Lafayette Avenue and walk five blocks east to the River. **By bus:** Bx6 to Hunts Point Avenue and Lafayette Street. Walk to the river.

From Bronx River Avenue, turn right on the south side of Bruckner Boulevard and walk over the river. Turn left onto Edgewater Road. Walk south on Edgewater Road to Lafayette Avenue and turn left into Hunts Point Riverside Park. Valencia Bakery, considered one of the best in the city, is across Edgewater Road. Community residents transformed the site from a dead end street strewn with cars, tires, and garbage into a community park, creating the first public access to the river south of Westchester Avenue in over 60 years. Before construction began, the park was used on a daily basis by local residents and youth programs for fishing, boating, and enjoyment of this slice of nature. Reconstruction will include a floating dock, spray showers and an amphitheater.

#### Soundview Park

**Getting there by subway:** #6 subway to Morrison and Soundview Avenues. Walk south on Morrison (0.75 mi.) to Lafayette Avenue. **By bus:** Bx5 to Story Ave. and Morrison. Walk south to Lafayette.

To reach the final stop on the tour, turn left onto Story Avenue, right onto Colgate Avenue and left onto Lafayette Avenue, which runs along the north end of Soundview Park. Follow Lafayette to the entrance of the official greenway path at Morrison Avenue and into Soundview Park.

Walk along the one mile official greenway path as it winds its way through the southern perimeter of Soundview Park. A sitting area along the path offers a breathtaking view of the Manhattan skyline. Approximately 500 feet from the end of the pathway at O'Brien and Leland Avenues, you'll see a dirt path to your right that extends onto a jetty. Walk to the tip of the jetty and capture an expansive view of the confluence of the Bronx River and East River.

From O'Brien and Leland entrance/exit to public transportation **by bus:** Bx27, Bx39 at Gildersleeve and Soundview Avenues. Take Bx27 to #6 subway at Morrison Avenue or Bx39 to #6 subway at Westchester Square.

