

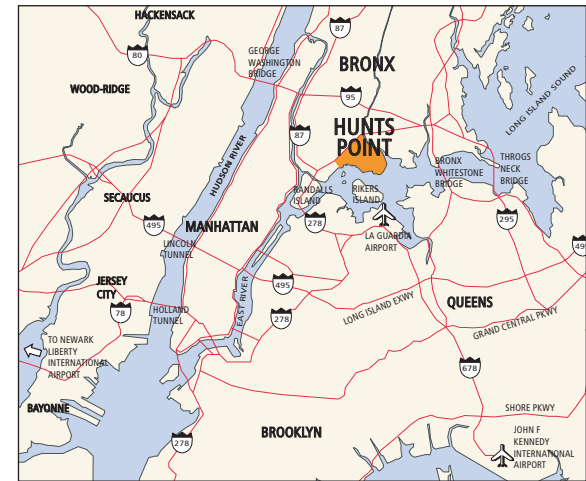
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AREA CONTEXT

REGIONAL & LOCAL CONTEXT

Hunts Point is located at the confluence of the Bronx River, the East River and the Long Island Sound. Surrounded by water on three sides, the fourth side is bounded by the Bruckner Expressway and the CSX/Amtrak rail corridor. The Bruckner Expressway connects Hunts Point to Interstate-95, the Northeast, the Midwest and the ports of New York and New Jersey.

The Hunts Point peninsula has an area of approximately 690 acres, nearly half of which is occupied by the 329-acre Food Distribution Center. The Food Distribution Center feeds the New York region: fifteen million people in the region consume food distributed through the markets each day. The remainder of the peninsula comprises an industrial neighborhood where a diverse mix of food, manufacturing, construction, utility, municipal, auto-related and waste-related uses coexist. The northwestern portion of the peninsula contains a solid residential community, now home to roughly 12,000 residents.



Regional Context



Local Context



Corpus Christi Monastery



New Haven Line, Hunts Point Railroad Station



Steam boat in Port Morris



Joseph Rodman Drake Cemetery

AREA BACKGROUND

Fifty years ago, Hunts Point was known as "Little Pittsburgh," home to many steel mills and a solid base of jobs that employed the local community. Working-class families from all over the City moved to this stable community. The community was known for its pop culture of Mambo with clubs like the Hunts Point Palace on Southern Boulevard featuring artists such as Tito Puente.

In the 1960s, the steel companies started leaving Hunts Point and the manufacturing jobs started disappearing. In 1967, Mayor John Lindsay had a bold plan for creating a food distribution center on the marshes and beaches of Hunts Point. The vision was tremendous—replace the ebbing manufacturing jobs with a new industry. The vision included state-of-the-art facilities for meat, produce and fish wholesalers. The location was convenient for goods to travel in and out by all types of transportation—rail, highway and water. By locating all of New York City's food markets in one full-service hub, retailers could conveniently purchase everything that they needed in one location.

In some respects, this vision has been realized. In the 1970s the Hunts Point Cooperative (meat) Market and Hunts Point Terminal (produce) Market were built. Over the years, many food distribution companies have come to join the market, including A.L. Bazzini Nut Company, A&P, Krasdale Foods, Sultana Foods and, most recently, Citarella. With more than 115 produce, meat and poultry wholesalers, the businesses in the markets generate aggregate revenues of over \$3 billion annually. The Hunts Point Terminal Market alone provides over 2.7 billion pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables annually. Today, the City is quickly building the newest addition to the Food Distribution Center: the Fulton Fish Market at Hunts Point. The fish market will add \$1 billion of annual economic activity to the Hunts Point peninsula and about 600 permanent jobs to the Bronx.

In other respects, Mayor Lindsay's vision has yet to be fully realized. The plans to use the waterfront as a working waterfront never materialized, rail freight diminished as a mode for transporting food, and truck traffic increased dramatically. Impacts from the highways and the local environment continue to raise health concerns for the community; 25 out of every 1,000 children in the Hunts Point area have been hospitalized for asthma. Unemployment in the Hunts Point area is the highest in New York City. Nearly 50 acres on the peninsula are vacant or potentially environmentally contaminated. Implementing the 1960s vision in today's world presents us with real challenges: (1) how to build a globally competitive infrastructure for the businesses, and (2) how to build an environment in which residents are healthy, thriving neighbors of the markets and businesses.

SNAPSHOTS OF HUNTS POINT



New housing on Bryant Avenue



Residential area on Lafayette Avenue, looking toward the Bronx River and Soundview Park



Under the Bruckner Expressway at Hunts Point Avenue and Southern Boulevard



Hunts Point building footprints and streets



Local workforce



Produce display



Local industry



The Point Community Development Corporation



Community rebuilding at Riverside Park