



# HART ISLAND MASTER PLAN

Hart Island located  
in the Borough of the Bronx.

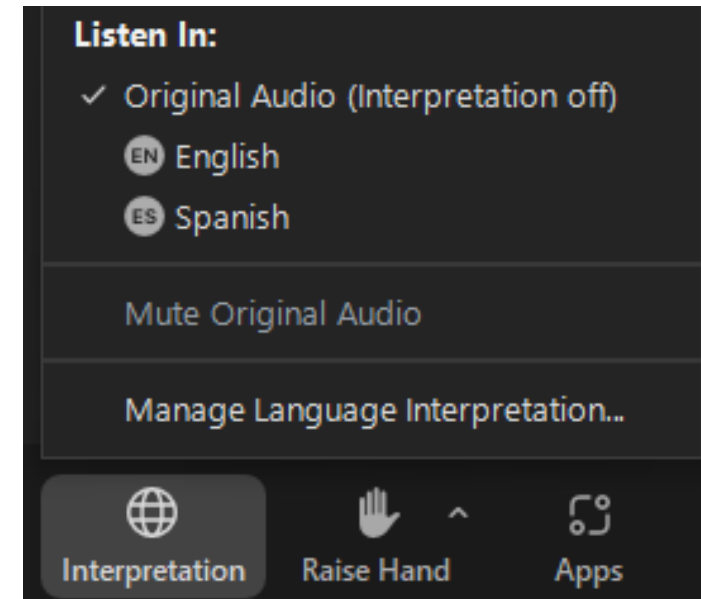
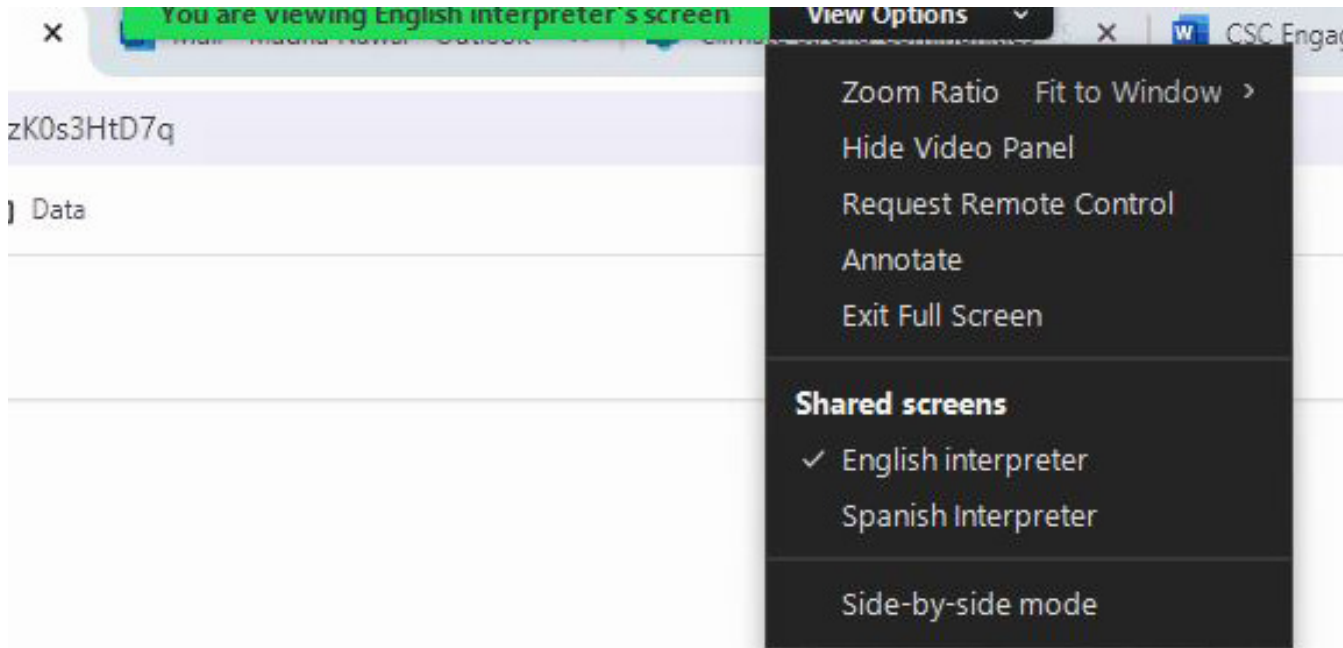
Public Workshop  
June 18, 2024

NYC Parks  
Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects and Planners

Parks

# ZOOM TIPS / CONSEJOS DE ZOOM

## For language accommodations: (Para adaptaciones de idioma:)



At the top of your screen you can select “View Options” to choose which presentation you would like to view.

**(Michael Haggerty: English; Tahra Khanuja: Spanish)**

*En la parte superior de la pantalla, puede seleccionar “Opciones de visualización” para elegir qué presentación desea ver.*

***(Michael Haggerty: Inglés; Tahra Khanuja: Español)***

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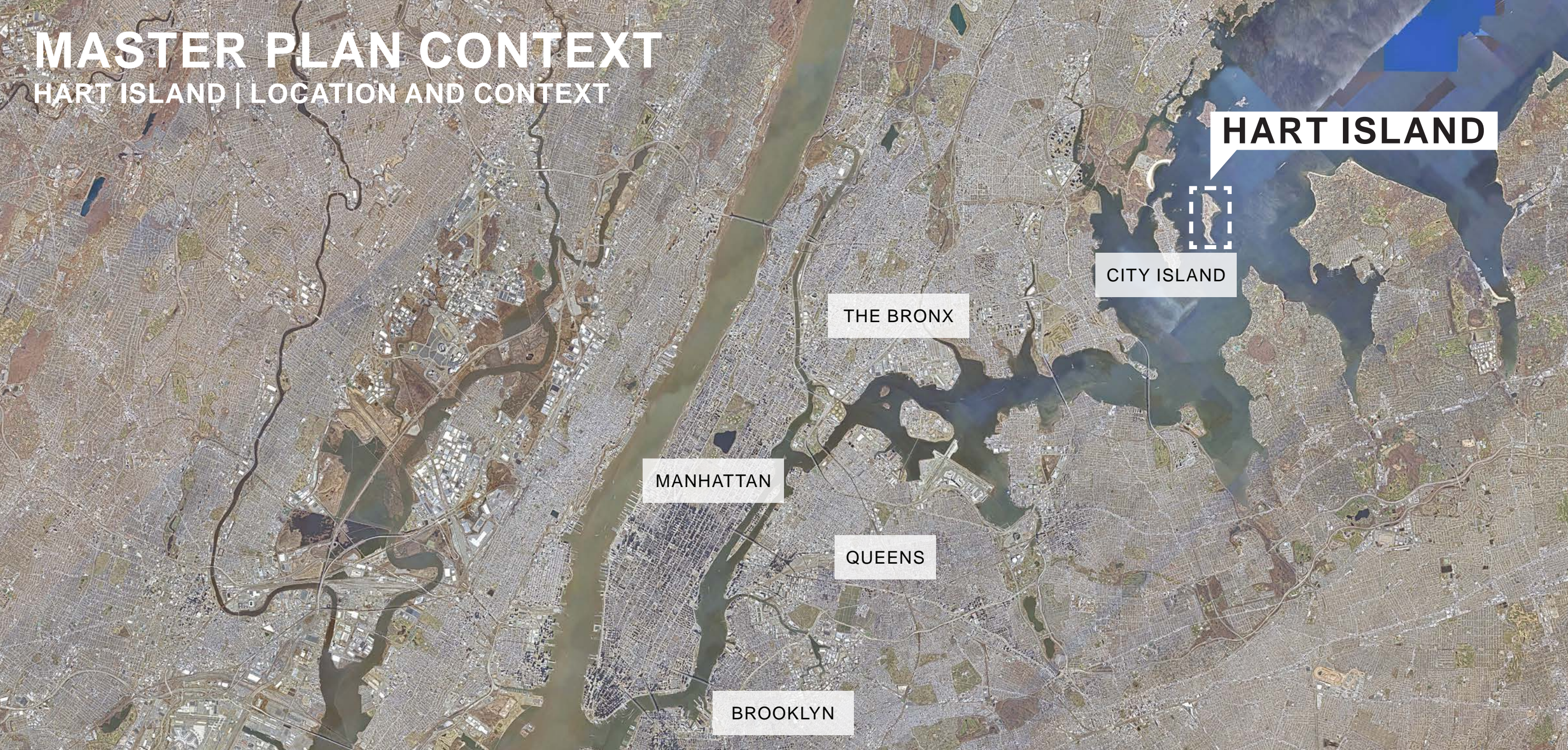
# AGENDA

- **Master Plan Context (10 min.)**
- **Hart Island Today (20 min.)**
- **Cemetery Precedents (10 min.)**
- **Discussion (45 min.)**
- **Next Steps (5 min.)**



# MASTER PLAN CONTEXT

## HART ISLAND | LOCATION AND CONTEXT



**HART ISLAND**



CITY ISLAND

THE BRONX

MANHATTAN

QUEENS

BROOKLYN



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# MASTER PLAN CONTEXT

## SITE MAP



- 1 20TH CENTURY AIDS BURIALS
- 2 STORAGE SHED
- 3 CHAPEL
- 4 CURRENT BURIAL PLOT
- 5 STONE WALL
- 6 GAZEBO
- 7 FERRY DOCK
- 8 CURRENT INFANT BURIAL PLOT
- 9 M&O COMPOUND
- 10 CIVIL WAR MONUMENT
- 11 EPISCOPAL CROSS MONUMENT
- 12 MERCURY SCHOOL SHIP MEMORIAL
- 13 PEACE MONUMENT
- 14 MISSILE SILOS



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# MASTER PLAN CONTEXT

## SITE JURISDICTION

- NYC City Council Local Law 210 of 2019 transferred jurisdiction to NYC Parks.
- Hart Island was under the jurisdiction of New York City Department of Correction until 2021.
- NYC Parks manages open spaces throughout the city. At Hart Island, NYC Parks provides public access to the loved ones of those buried on the island, and to the general public through guided tours.
- New York City Human Resources Administration (HRA) is responsible for site maintenance and burial operations.
- NYC Department of Transportation operates the ferry between City Island and Hart Island.



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# MASTER PLAN CONTEXT

## NYC PARKS OPEN SPACES

NYC Parks operates, maintains, programs, and provides public safety at a variety of open spaces in New York City:

- Parks
- Playgrounds
- Beaches
- Greenstreets
- Community gardens
- Natural and Forever Wild areas
- Cemeteries



Pelham Bay Park, Bronx



Pelham Bay Park, Bronx



JJ Byrne Playground, Brooklyn



Orchard Beach, Bronx



Greenstreet, Manhattan



Central Bainbridge Street Community Garden, Brooklyn



Hunter Island Marine Sanctuary, Bronx



Prospect Cemetery, Bronx



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# MASTER PLAN CONTEXT

## NYC PARKS + PROGRAMS NEAR HART ISLAND

- Hart Island is near several large city parks including Pelham Bay Park, Ferry Point Park and Pugsley Creek Park.

### LEGEND

- |   |                         |   |                  |
|---|-------------------------|---|------------------|
|    | NYC PARKS<br>OPEN SPACE |   |                  |
|  | BASKETBALL              |  | HIKING           |
|  | BEACH                   |  | HORSEBACK RIDING |
|  | CYCLING                 |  | KAYAK LAUNCH     |
|  | DOG RUN                 |  | PLAYGROUND       |
|  | FOOTBALL                |  | SOCCER           |
|  | GOLF                    |  | TENNIS           |



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# MASTER PLAN CONTEXT

## NYC PARKS CEMETERIES



West Farms Soldiers Cemetery, Bronx



Joseph Rodman Drake Park & Enslaved African Burial Ground, Queens



Remsen Family Cemetery, Queens



Cornell Burial Ground, Queens



The Olde Towne Of Flushing Burial Ground, Queens



Old Gravesend Cemetery, Brooklyn

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## SCHEDULE



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# HART ISLAND MASTER PLAN

## PROJECT SCOPE



### VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Improve infrastructure and amenities for visitors.



### RESILIENCE

Address climate change and shoreline erosion.



### ECOLOGY

Manage tree canopy, wetlands, and island habitat.



### OPERATIONS

Enhance island maintenance and safety.



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# VISITOR EXPERIENCE

## CURRENT USES

Visitors to Hart Island today include:

- **Gravesite Visitors:** One Saturday and one Sunday visit each month; up to 35 guests per visit and two groups per day for a total of 70 guests per day.
- **Urban Park Ranger Tours:** 1 tour offered every other Tuesday; up to 30 individuals per tour.
- **General cemetery operations:** Between 5 and 10 staff on the island Tuesday through Sunday.





# VISITOR EXPERIENCE

## HISTORY



USCT Union Soldiers



Hart Island, 1898



Hart Island burial plot 1890 (photo by Jacob Riis)



Early-1980s burials of AIDS patients



Greenhouse Boys Reformatory, 1913



Mercury School Ship Classroom ship illustration for vicious youths 1869



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# VISITOR EXPERIENCE

## TRANSPORTATION

- Hart Island is accessible via a ferry from City Island.
- The ferry is accessible by public transit via the 6 train and connecting to the BX29 bus.

### LEGEND

- SUBWAY
- BUS ROUTE



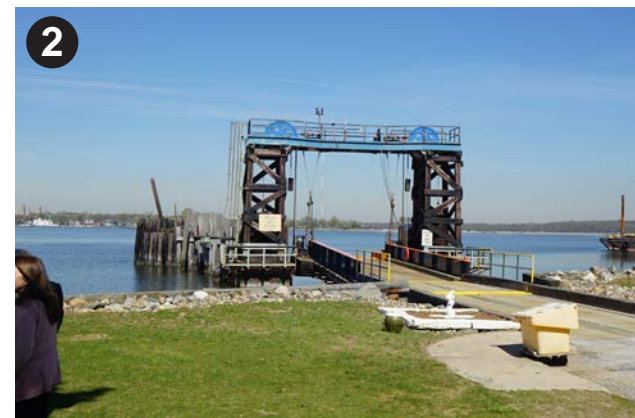


# VISITOR EXPERIENCE

## FERRY



1. Entrance to City Island ferry dock
2. Ferry terminal on Hart Island
3. Ferry docking on Hart Island



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# VISITOR EXPERIENCE MEMORIALS



1. Civil War memorial
2. Peace monument
3. Mercury Ship memorial



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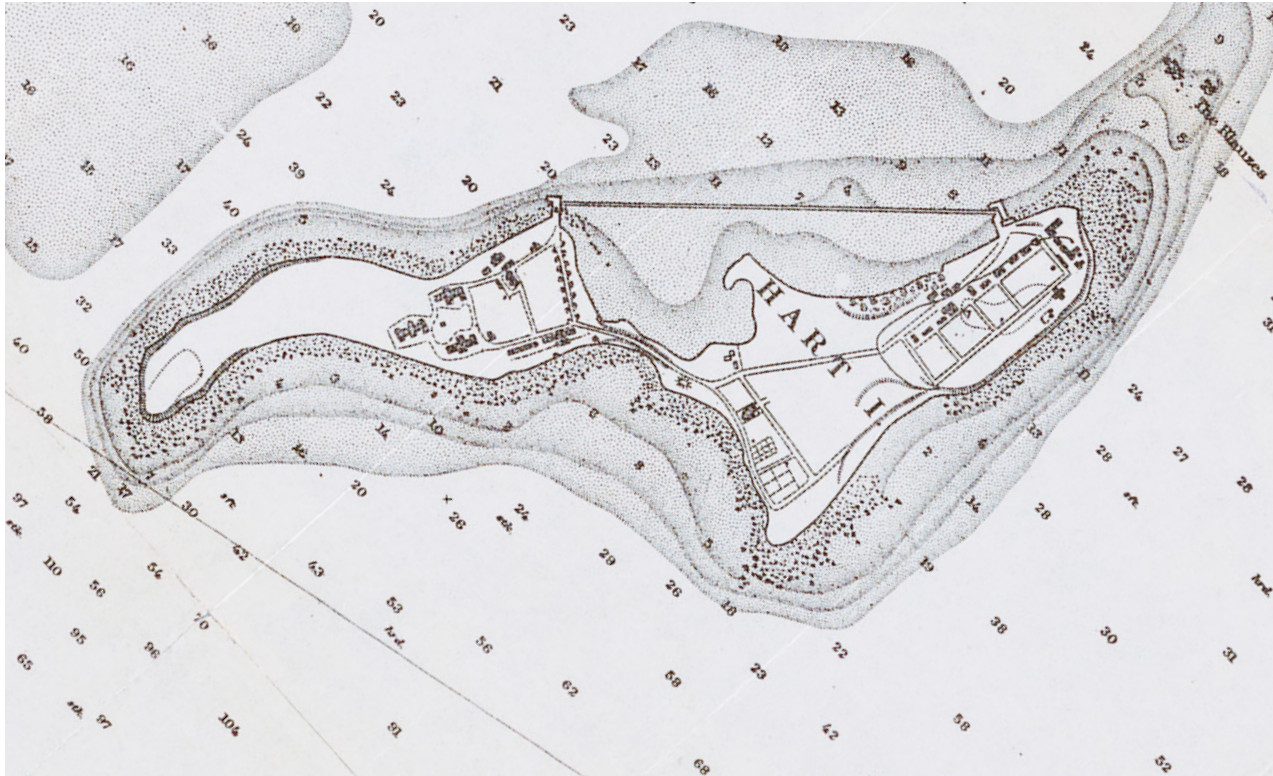
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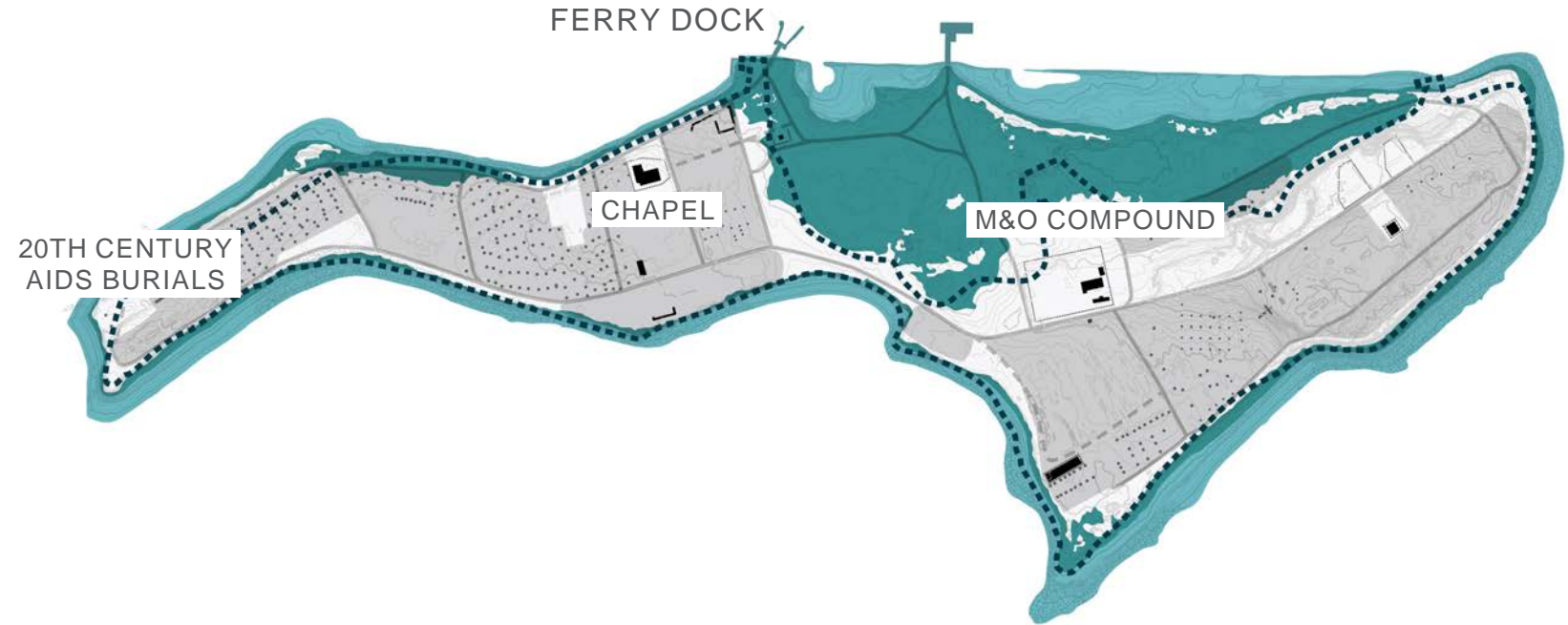
# RESILIENCE HISTORIC SHORELINE

## 1920S HISTORIC SHORELINE









Source: Fishing Map of City Island Waters, by Knowlson & Muller Publishers in 1920

## HISTORIC SHORELINE & FUTURE HIGH TIDE



### LEGEND

-  2050 HIGH TIDE
-  1920 SHORELINE
-  ROADS
-  2100 HIGH TIDE
-  CURRENT / FUTURE BURIAL AREAS
-  BUILDING / MONUMENT



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# RESILIENCE

## SHORELINE CONDITIONS



- 1. Southwest shoreline
- 2. Northwest shoreline
- 3. Northeast shoreline



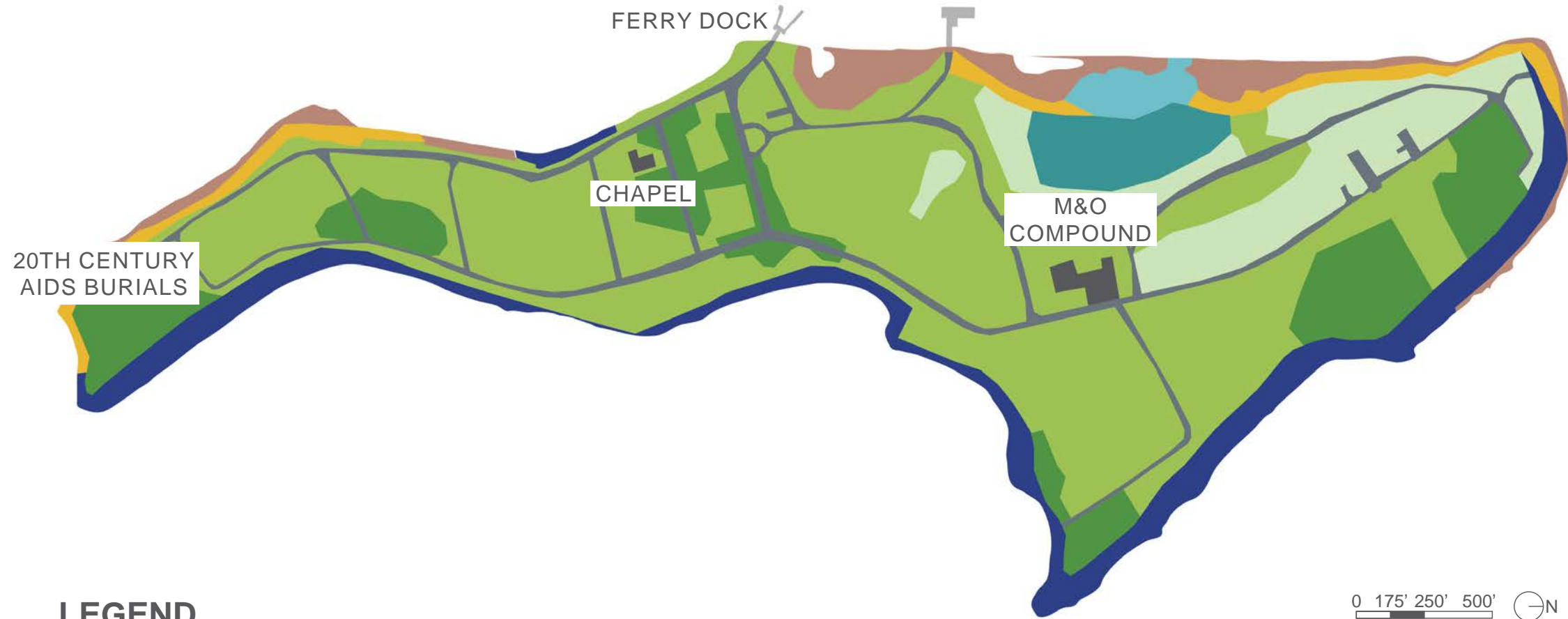
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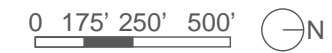
# ECOLOGY

## ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES



### LEGEND

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
|  HIGH SALT MARSH                     |  MARINE INTERTIDAL MUDFLATS       |  MOWED LAWN WITH TREES           |  UNPAVED ROAD / PATH |
|  FLOODPLAIN FOREST                   |  MARINE RIPRAP / ARTIFICIAL SHORE |  RURAL STRUCTURE EXTERIOR        |   |
|  MARINE INTERTIDAL GRAVEL/SAND BEACH |  MOWED LAWN                       |  SUCCESSIONAL SOUTHERN HARDWOODS |   |



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# ECOLOGY

## ECOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES



1. Floodplain forest
2. Marine intertidal gravel/sand beach
3. Mowed lawn
4. Marine intertidal mudflats
5. Successional southern hardwoods
6. Mowed lawn with trees



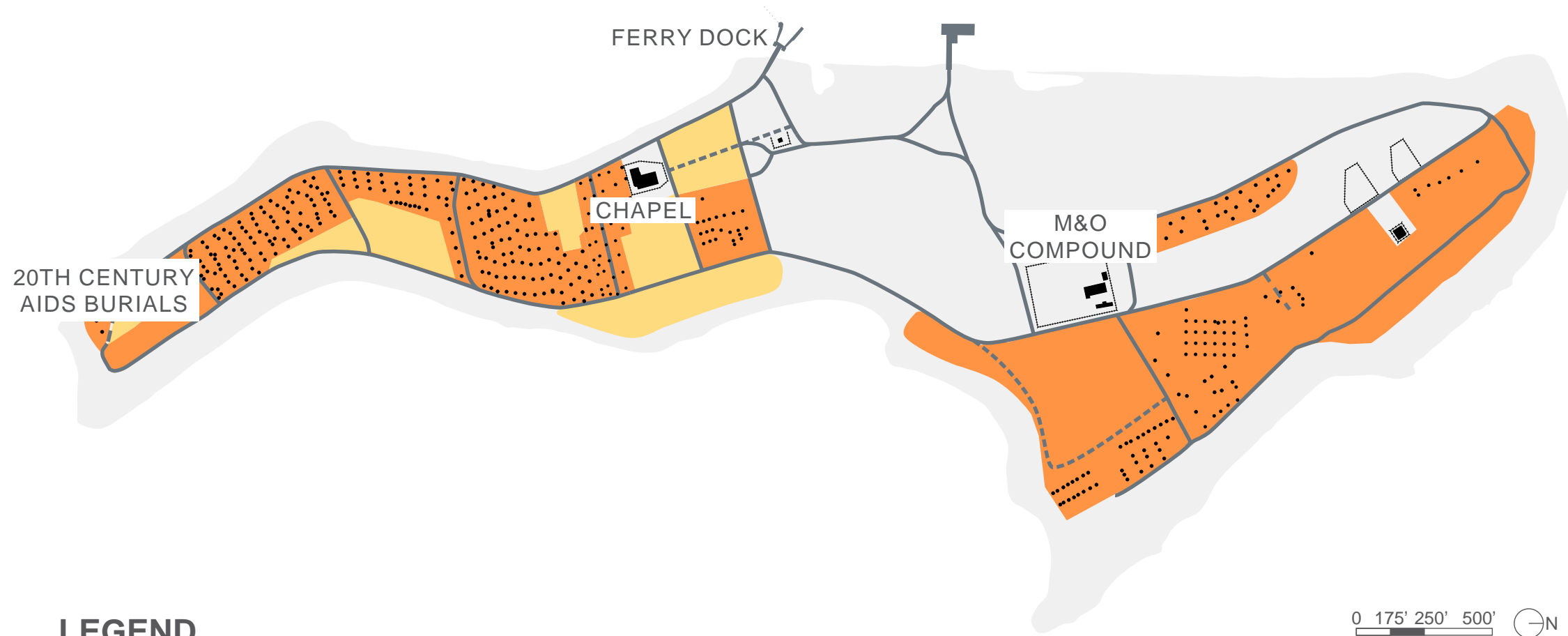
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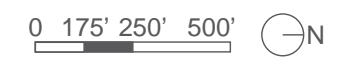
# OPERATIONS

## BURIAL OPERATIONS



### LEGEND

- CURRENT BURIAL AREA
- FUTURE BURIAL AREA
- BURIAL MARKER



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# OPERATIONS

## GRAVESITES



1. 20th century AIDS burials
2. Burial area



# PRECEDENTS

## WOODLAWN CEMETERY, BRONX



- **Access:** Open 8:30am - 4:30pm, walking permitted on designated roads/paths only
- **Offerings:** Artificial flowers are permitted. Metal and glass flower vases and vigil lights are prohibited.
- **Permitted Activities:** Walking, bird watching, dogs, and enjoying peaceful solitude are encouraged.
- **Prohibited Activities:** Driving instruction, bicycling, motorcycling, jogging, and sledding are prohibited.
- **Photography:** Permits are required for any photos or videos for personal use.



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# PRECEDENTS

## GREENWOOD CEMETERY, BROOKLYN



- **Access:** Four entrances with varying schedules for pedestrian and vehicle access. Walking is permitted only on roads, paths, and grass.
- **Offerings:** Plastic, glass, metal, and any non-biodegradable items are not permitted.
- **Prohibited Activities:** Jogging, biking, game-playing, picnicking, tree climbing, feeding wildlife, and picking flowers is prohibited. Pets aside from service animals are prohibited.
- **Photography:** Photos for personal use are encouraged. Professional photography is permitted only with written consent.



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# PRECEDENTS

## ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY, VIRGINIA



- **Access:** Open daily from 8:00am to 5:00pm; with mandatory physical security screening and identification checks.
- **Offerings:** Fresh cut flowers may be placed on graves at any time. Artificial flowers permitted from October 10 through April 15. Glass objects and vigil lights are prohibited.
- **Prohibited Activities:** Running, biking, climbing, picnicking, and sports are prohibited. Outside food and beverages besides water are prohibited. Pets aside from service animals are prohibited.
- **Photography:** Photography is permitted; refrain from photographing visitors without consent.



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# **BREAKOUT ROOM DISCUSSIONS**

**Parks**



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Have you visited Hart Island?
  - What was the purpose of your visit?
  - Thinking back on your experience, what went well or could be improved?
- What features of the island do you appreciate or feel positively about?
- Are there any elements of Hart Island that you have concerns or feel negatively about?
- Imagine what the island looks like 10 years from now, what do you envision?



# NEXT STEPS

- The digital survey will remain open through July 2, 2024 for additional feedback. (<https://on.nyc.gov/Hart-Island-6-18-24>) Or leave a voicemail at 929-241-5054.
- Public Workshop #2 in Fall 2024.
- Final Master Plan in 2025.
- Meeting attendees will be added to the project's email list.
- Contact: [Hart.Island@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:Hart.Island@parks.nyc.gov) 212-360-3428
- For more information about visiting Hart Island, visit: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/hartisland/index.page>





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