

VELO CITY  
KIT:CYCLE  
SYSTEM

## MISSION STATEMENT

Velo City's mission is to introduce youth from diverse, underserved communities to urban planning and design concepts, community involvement opportunities, and career options in architecture, landscape architecture, and urban planning and design. Through cycling, Velo City's participants will experience a safe, healthy, and sustainable way to explore the City's built environment and access its' open spaces.

## Bikesplorations

"Bikesplorations" is Velo City's summer pilot program that is based out of the East River Park. Youth from the neighborhood explore their community through the cycling-based planning education program. The bikes, NY400 Batavus orange bicycles generously donated by the Dutch government, have been made available to Velo City's participants by our fiscal sponsor, Recycle-A-Bicycle.

[www.velocity-rides.org](http://www.velocity-rides.org)



## RECYCLE-A-BICYCLE

Recycle-A-Bicycle is a community-based bike shop and non-profit organization that provides educational/ job training programs and encourages environmental stewardship and everyday bicycle use. Through programs such as Earn-A-Bike, Ride Club, Cycle Craft, and Summer Youth Employment Program, RAB is dedicated to the health and well-being of NYC youth.

[www.recycleabicycle.org](http://www.recycleabicycle.org)

## PARTNERSHIP FOR PARKS, CATALYST FOR WATERFRONT PARKS

Partnerships for Parks is an innovative joint program of City Parks Foundation and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation. Founded in 1995, they help New Yorkers work together to make neighborhood parks thrive. Ultimately, their work supports a culture of collaboration among people and government that recognizes that parks are vital centers of community life.

[www.partnershipforparks.org](http://www.partnershipforparks.org)



15TH ANNIVERSARY

## WANT TO GO FISHING? INTERESTED IN GARDENING?

The Lower East Side Ecology Centers offers catch and release fishing clinics. Among other environmental education programs as well as composting.

[www.lesecologycenter.org](http://www.lesecologycenter.org)

### MAP MAKERS

Co-ordinators: Naomi Doerner, Sameyls Lopez, Karyn Williams  
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Youth Participants: Jin Mei Chen, Xue Yun Gao, Alexis Gonzalez, Justine Griffiths, Wenbin Kuang, Hao Chuan Luo, Connor Quinn, Jian Qiang Zeng, Jay Zhang

Base map provided by the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

Explore East River Park is free, thanks to the support of Citizens Committee of New York and Partnership for Parks.  
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**Get Involved, Get Active**  
Catalyst: Reclaiming Our Waterfront Parks is a multi-year initiative of local parks stewardship, arts, and education programming. Renovations of the park, including those between the communities and partners, including those between the communities and municipal agencies. To learn more about this project, contact Catalyst Coordinator Karen Overton@CityParksFoundation.org or call (212) 442-0223

**History**  
The site of the park was first home to the Nechtanic Native Americans. During the time of Colonization the East River served as a hub for the shipping industry. As the city began to develop, the shipping industry moved to the deeper waters on the Hudson River and the shipping houses by factories and slaughter houses.  
The East River Park is a Robert Moses era park, built in 1939. Robert Moses was an urban planner who was responsible for changing the urban fabric of not only the Lower East Side but of all of New York City. The shoreline was extended into the water in order to provide much needed open space for the residents of the crowded conditions in the Lower East Side.  
There have been a number of improvements made to the park in the last twenty years such as a new promenade, repairing of the East River Greenway which runs throughout the park.

**Facilities**  
The park has a number of facilities for active recreation but there are a number of spots in the park that provide for large family gatherings or areas for quiet respite from the everyday hustle and bustle. You can find a place to relax in the shade or to look out onto the East River. It is your park to explore and discover what is going on.

**Facilities**  
Amphitheater  
BBQ area  
Baseball fields  
Basketball courts  
Fitness Area  
Football Fields  
Picnic Areas  
Playgrounds  
Running Track (400 meters)  
Spray Showers  
Soccer Fields  
Tennis Courts

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# Explore: East River Park

with  
Bikesplorations

Explore:  
**East River Park**  
 with BikeExplorations



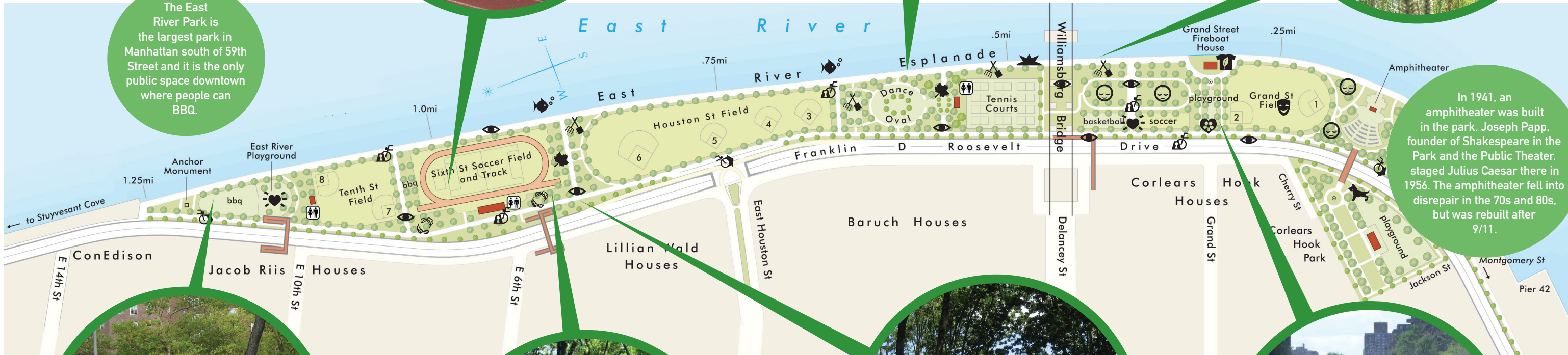
The East River Park has fantastic views of the Manhattan and Brooklyn Bridges as well as Brooklyn's changing waterfront.



The Lower East Side Ecology Center was founded in 1987. The organization offer community-based recycling and composting programs in New York City. The Ecology Center offers free public compost collection and education, electronic waste recycling, stewardship of public open space, and environmental education.



The East River Park is the largest park in Manhattan south of 59th Street and it is the only public space downtown where people can BBQ.



In 1941, an amphitheater was built in the park. Joseph Papp, founder of Shakespeare in the Park and the Public Theater, staged Julius Caesar there in 1956. The amphitheater fell into disrepair in the 70s and 80s, but was rebuilt after 9/11.



**LEGEND**

-  sunrises
-  East River Greenway
-  Butterfly Garden
-  Fall Colors
-  Fish Habitat Catch and release fishing
-  LES Ecology Center
-  Quiet Spot
-  views
-  Bike Parking
-  Eco Landscaping
-  Dog Run
-  Composting Site
-  Cultural Site
-  Lively Spot