

# Plan B: Growing infrastructure

## **Bicycle Networks and New Manufacturing**

Plan B: GROWING INFRASTRUCTURE is an urban design approach based on re-thinking the role of industry and manufacturing in New York City, and in Red Hook in particular. Existing industrial spaces in Red Hook would be adjusted into manufacturing 'plug-in' wetlands, which would in turn be installed along the new network of bicycle paths. The wetlands will provide a barrier between bikers and vehicular traffic and perform as a first step filtration system for storm water runoff, alleviating the pressure on the city's sewage system.

The bike path network is composed of 3 different layers. The RED LOOP is formed along the Streets Van Brunt and Columbia, closing the loop by bridging over the sides of the famous Red Hook piers. The RED LOOP is primarily recreational, introducing the industry as part of the biking experience. The second layer of the network is the BLUE NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTOR, tying together the different neighborhoods of South Brooklyn. This network will provide access to the Bike Loft and to other subway stations, NY water taxi piers and different city parks including Prospect Park and Carroll Gardens. A third network is composed of additional bike paths, forming in a more "organic" manner, upon request of street neighbors. The projected BROOKLYN WATERFRONT GREENWAY intersects with the different networks and offers a scenic, continuous experience.

## **The Loft Ramp**

The bike loft design was conceived as a ramp that would connect the street level and the 9<sup>th</sup> and Smith train platform. Bikers are able to lock their bikes and proceed directly to the subway platform. The Ramp provides 120 bike parking spaces and lockers, as well as flexible space for multiple programs such as a Community Supported Agriculture distribution center, arts and culture, and bike related workshops and activities.

## **Friends of the Ramp: a funding strategy**

Funding of the loft construction and maintenance will be achieved through a coalition of community organizations and government agencies named "Friends of the Ramp". Initial funding of construction costs will be acquired through federal and state tax credits, to be sold in the private market. To complete the funding for the construction "Friends of the Ramp" will lease commercial space available in the loft. The loft offers 120 bike spaces and lockers which can be rented on a daily basis, providing part of the operation costs. To secure the rest of the operational cost "Friends of the Ramp" will designate the central part of the ramp for community-oriented cultural programs for which the National Endowment for the Arts offers a variety of grants. Finally by proposing a LEED certified building design "Friends of the Ramp" will be eligible for additional grants and tax credits awarded by the US Council of Green Buildings.

Tying together existing urban systems and charging them with new responsibilities, industry, recreation, ecology and transportation can begin to perform supporting roles in designing the city's **GROWING INFRASTRUCTURE**.