

## THE SUPERBLOCK STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

# OPEN SPACE ENHANCEMENTS REPORT

*The Superblock Stewardship Advisory Committee (SSAC) was established in 2014 to provide advice to the University on quality-of-life issues on both blocks before, during, and after construction of the new multi-use building at 181 Mercer Street. The Committee is composed of over a dozen representative faculty members, students, and residents consulting with University leadership on a bi-weekly basis. Stewardship is the SSAC's core principle, and it is guided by the belief that the superblocks should be better places in which to live: better in terms of their physical environment and better in terms of the relationship between NYU and the community. With the SSAC's input and counsel, NYU has proposed and supported a number of open space enhancements around the superblocks.*

### Completed Superblock Enhancements

- Work on the Bleecker Street Landscape was completed in April 2016. The Bleecker Street project included the installation of new pavement, the removal of old chain-link fencing, installation of new, lower fencing, and landscaping within the planting beds. The project also included tree pruning. NYU worked with the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Transportation to enhance these spaces.
- Work on the replacement dog run operated by the Mercer-Houston Dog Run Association was completed in January 2016. This project included the installation of new pavement, sub-surface fountain mechanics, and design features including an equipment shed, LED lighting, and a semicircular bench. More information about the run can be found at [mercerhoustondogrun.org](http://mercerhoustondogrun.org). NYU will reimburse faculty housing residents for membership fees for this and other private dog runs if residents submit proof of payment to Cushman & Wakefield (NYU's lease administrator) located on the ground level of 2WSV.
- The Fiorello LaGuardia Park project included sub-terrain leveling and installation of new paving surfaces, the removal, repainting, and installation of existing wicket fencing, landscaping within planting beds, and design features including benches within the east-west paths and around the LaGuardia statue, now framed with a spotlight. Dead and diseased trees were pruned and small ornamental trees were added. NYU worked with the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Transportation to enhance this space.

- NYU Public Safety removed several non-operational call boxes near Key Park and on the south side of West 3rd Street between LaGuardia Place and Mercer Street.
- NYU Landscaping supervised the planting of three Kwanzan cherry trees along the southern perimeter of 3 and 4 Washington Square Village in April 2016.
- NYU Landscaping supervised the annual summer tree pruning and sod planting around the superblocks. Areas included in the sod program were the Oak Grove, the Bust of Sylvette traffic island, the lawn behind the Bareburger retail space, and the urban farm plot on Houston Street.

### Future Superblock Enhancements

There are a series of further enhancements in the works. They include:

- Digital screens to broadcast news and updates in all lobbies of the Washington Square Village and Silver Towers buildings
- New fencing around the Bareburger lawn and a trellis to screen the retail spaces, creating a discrete space for residents to reserve for multiple uses
- New fencing and enhanced plantings around Key Park
- NYU Public Safety plans to install new, up-to-date call boxes on the superblocks
- Dog-friendly usage areas on the north block
- Signage designating open space usage



Seating at Fiorello LaGuardia Park



West-facing view of Bleecker Street Landscape



Rendering of the dog run operated by the Mercer-Houston Dog Run Association