

3.2 SOCIOECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC CONDITIONS

The *CEQR Technical Manual* indicates that a detailed socioeconomic analysis is appropriate if the proposed action is expected to result in substantial socioeconomic changes within the impact area. Such changes would occur if the action had any one of the following results:

- A direct displacement of residential populations changing the socioeconomic profile of a neighborhood;
- Directly displace a substantial number of businesses or employees;
- Create substantial new development (200 units residential, 200,000 SF commercial space);
- Affect real estate market over a large area; or
- Adversely affect economic conditions of a specific industry.

3.2.1 Existing Conditions

The project site is located in Brooklyn Community District (CD) 6. Information from the U.S. Census Bureau (2000 and 1990, as stated in the 2009 *Community District Needs* report) was used to describe the existing demographic conditions in CD 6, which includes the neighborhoods of Park Slope, Gowanus, Red Hook, Carroll Gardens and Cobble Hill (Figure 6). A 500-foot radius from the project site was selected in order to describe existing demographic conditions, based on census tract data, in the more immediate area of the proposed project. The project site is located within Census Tract 129.01, a mixed residential and commercial area. The 500-foot radius from the project site also extends into portions of Census Tracts 39 and 127 (both largely industrial), and 131; however, less than half of these census tracts fall within the 500-foot radius and therefore they are not included in the description of existing demographic conditions. Therefore, Census data for Census Tract 129.01 was used to describe existing demographic conditions in the project area (see Figure 7).

The 2000 Census reports that the population within CD 6 was 104,054, a 1.3-percent increase from 1990, indicating significantly less population growth than the borough of Brooklyn and New York City overall, which increased by 7.2 percent and 9.4 percent, respectively, during the same time period. Within the study area, the population grew by 4.4 percent, from 2,144 in 1990 to 2,239 in 2000.

Approximately 54.9 percent of the community district population is of White Non-Hispanic descent, as of 2000, compared to 34.7 percent in Brooklyn and 35 percent in New York City overall. About 13.5 percent of the population is Black or African American, and about 4.4 percent of the population is Asian or Pacific Islander. Those of Hispanic origin comprise 23.4 percent of the population within CD 6, compared to 19.8 percent of the population of Brooklyn and 27 percent of the population in New York City.

According to the 2000 Census, Census Tract 129.01 has a total population of 2,239 with approximately 35.3 percent White, 5.3 percent Asian, 33 percent Hispanic (all races), and 22 percent African American. The median age for the tract is 32.4 years of age, and 26.6 percent of the population is foreign-born. The median household income and median family income are \$47,500 and \$48,952, respectively. Housing occupancy trends within the census tract show 74.4 percent of residential units as renter-occupied and 25.6 percent as owner-occupied.

FIGURE 6: COMMUNITY DISTRICT 6

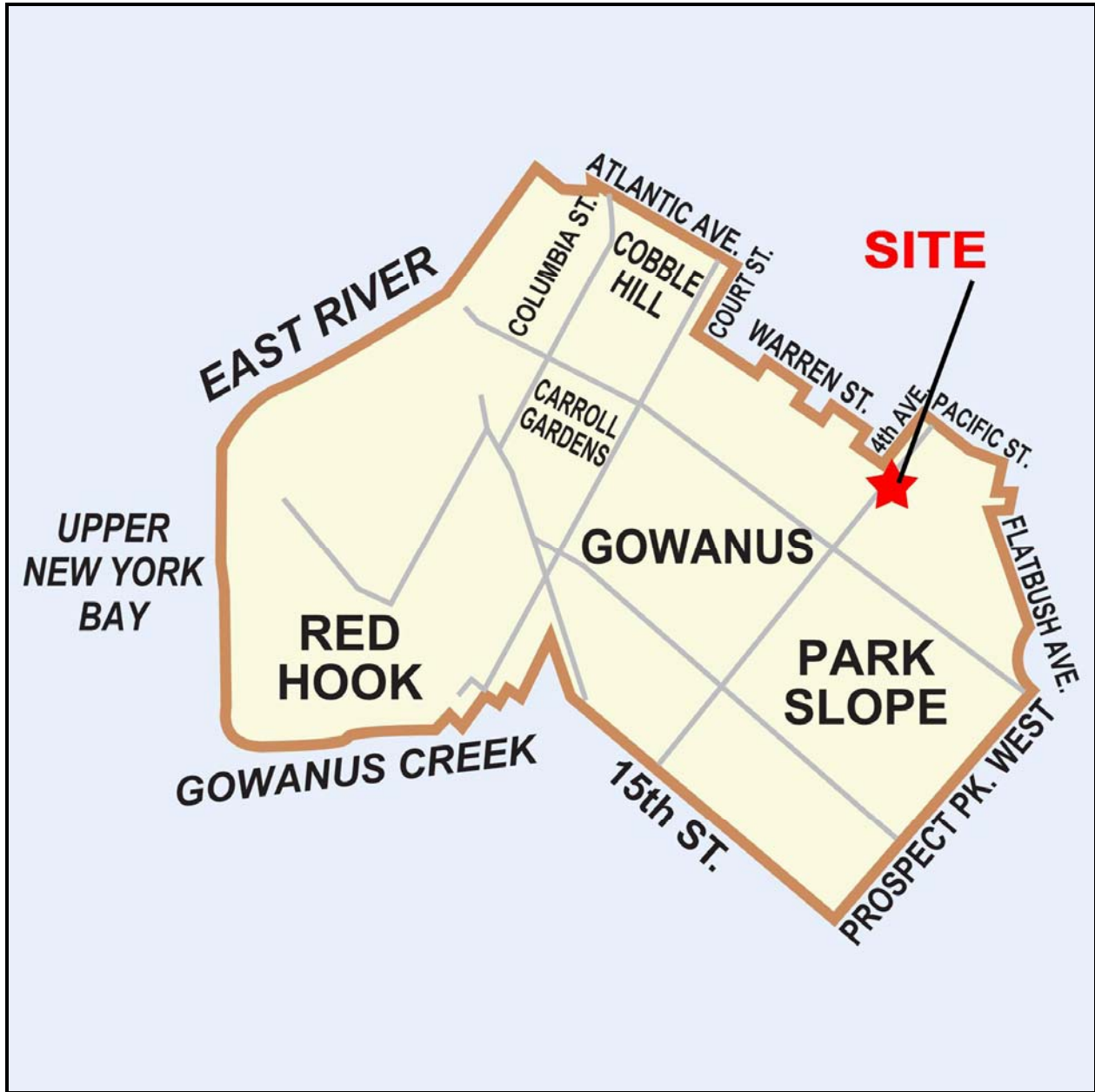
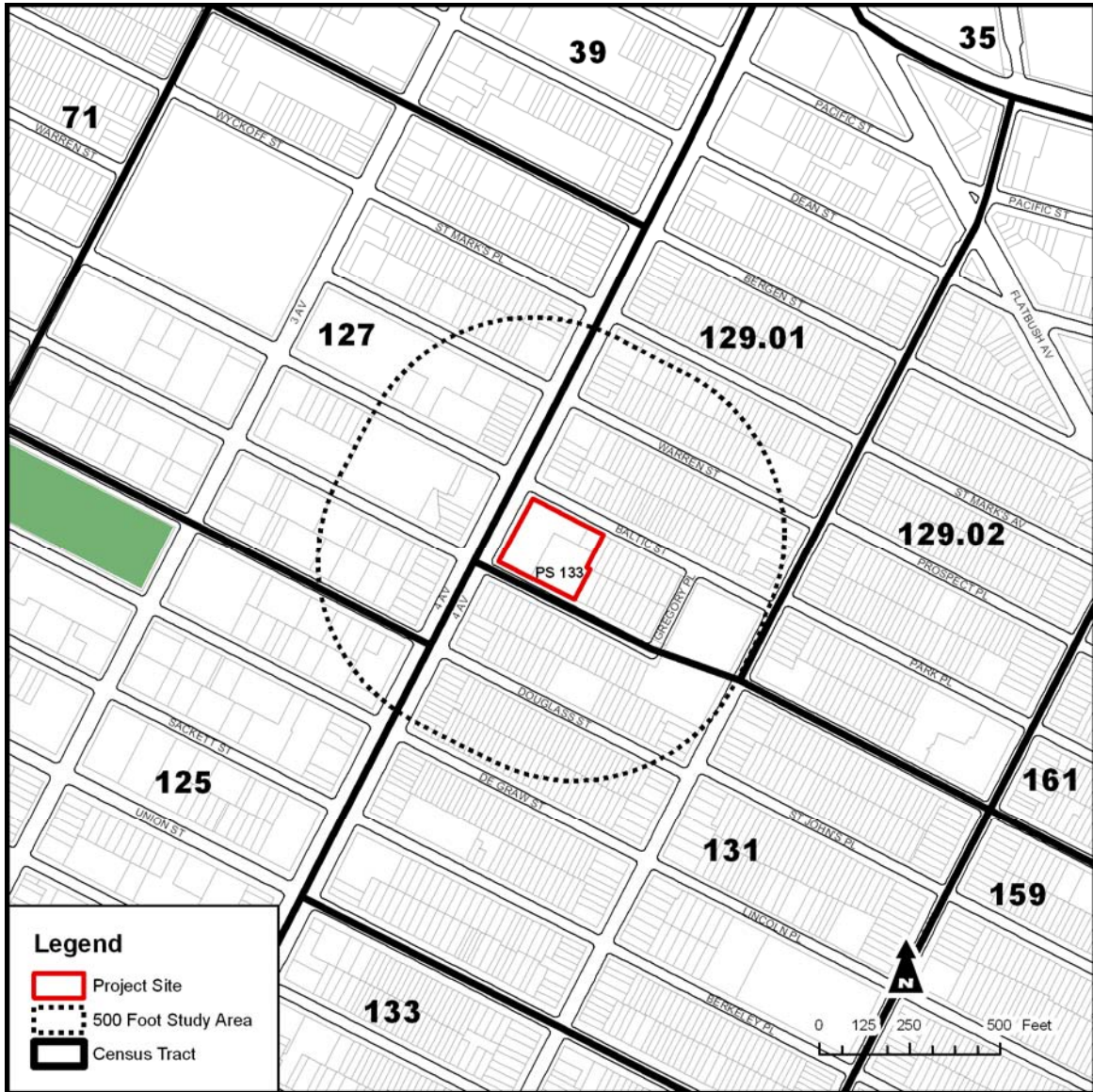


FIGURE 7: CENSUS TRACTS



3.2.2 Future No-Action Conditions

Under Future No-Action Conditions, the proposed new school facility would not be built and the existing PS 133 elementary school would remain on the site. Within the study area, a modest amount of new development would occur, as the two residential developments currently under construction on the west side of Fourth Avenue would be completed. These new developments would increase the study area's residential population but would not be expected to cause a significant change in the area's socioeconomic conditions or demographic composition.

3.2.3 Potential Impacts of the Project

The proposed project would not result in substantial socioeconomic changes in the study area. The proposed project would entail construction of one 960-seat Pre-K through Fifth grade public elementary school facility that would accommodate two school organizations. The proposed project would introduce approximately 54 additional faculty and staff. These additional faculty and staff members would potentially support local retail establishments near the project site, and thereby have a marginally positive effect on the local economy. The building would replace the existing PS 133 elementary school with a more modern, upgraded facility and provide additional capacity for the proposed CSD 15 elementary school organization. The proposed project would not directly displace any residents or businesses nor would it introduce a new residential population that could indirectly affect socioeconomic conditions in the area. Furthermore, the proposed project would not affect conditions in the real estate market, as the site would continue to serve as a school and there would be no change in land use conditions. For these reasons, the proposed project would not result in significant adverse impacts to socioeconomic and demographic conditions.