78th Street Summer Sundays is a proposal by JHGreen, Jackson Heights Beautification Group/Friends of Travers Park, and the Western Jackson Heights Alliance. This proposal was developed through a series of meetings with Department of Transportation to address the lack of public space in Jackson Heights.

78th Street Summer Sundays is a proposal to temporarily close 78th Street to automobile traffic and, in turn, enhance Travers Park, provide better access to and more space for the local Greenmarket, and strengthen neighborhood cohesion by providing more space for families and friends to gather.
JACKSON HEIGHTS

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP

Existing park land, including Travers Park and playground.

34th Avenue.

Local schools, including Rainbowland Nursery School, Garden School, and IS145

Northern Boulevard.

Residential areas

EXISTING STREETSCAPE:

Northern Blvd.

78th Street.

7th Street

3rd Street

8th Street

34th Avenue

78th Street summer Sundays Project 1/5
WHAT'S GREAT ABOUT 78TH STREET?
1. Travers Park is a popular gathering place.
2. Year-round, playground is filled with children.
3. Many neighbors live within walking distance.
4. 34th Ave. provides cycling access to the park.
5. The Greenmarket offers fresh, local vegetables on Sundays.
6. There are diverse restaurants and retail opportunities nearby.

WHERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPROVEMENT?
1. Neighbors lack public spaces to gather.
2. Park and playground is routinely overcrowded, that there is often not enough room for all users.
3. Greenmarket lacks enough space to accommodate crowds and vendors. 34th Avenue sidewalk is impassable on Green Market days.
4. Neighborhood-wide, the pedestrian environment is poor. A disproportionate amount of public space is consumed by automobiles.
5. Car dealership is too close to children’s play area. Possible dangerous exhaust and fumes from cars.
6. The bike lanes on 34th Street do not provide cyclists protection from speeding automobile traffic.
2 PROPOSALS FOR A BETTER NEIGHBORHOOD

1. 78TH ST. SUMMER SUNDAYS PROJECT
Dedicate Sundays throughout the months of June, July and August to the pedestrians of Jackson Heights. On these Sundays, close 78th St., between 34th Ave and Northern Blvd. to automobile traffic and provide much needed room for kids playing, families strolling and Greenmarket shoppers.

2. TRANSFER THE GREEN MARKET
The existing Sunday Green Market (now located along the sidewalk of 34th Ave.) is so popular, that it is frequently overcrowded. Transferred to 78th St., the Green Market will have more opportunity for expansion and shoppers will have a more pleasant experience.
78th Street is an ideal location for a neighborhood walking street. Perfectly situated next to the already crowded Travers Park, 78th Street is a natural location for park activities to overflow. Neighbors will be free to safely walk, play, relax, roller blade and ride a bike.

The street would ideally be closed to automobile traffic from 8am-7pm on Sundays throughout the months of June, July and August. Initially, street closures would need to be facilitated by the New York City Police Department, but responsibilities could eventually be transferred to the Friends of Travers Park or the Green Market.

Pedestrians, bikers, skaters...enjoying the simple pleasures of a pedestrian street.

Example of a successful street: A busy Parisian pedestrian street closed by retractable bollards.
TRANSFER THE GREEN MARKET

The Sunday Green Market on 34th Ave is thriving. On Sunday mornings, residents flock to the market for an unbeatable selection of local and fresh vegetables. In recent years, however, the market has become so popular that it is often crowded and uncomfortable and there is little room for expansion and new vendors. Some local residents have actually come to avoid the market because it blocks the sidewalk on 34th Ave.

If 78th Street were opened to pedestrians, this would be an ideal location for the Green Market. Vendors could be lined up along the west side of 78th Street, allowing for free flow of pedestrian traffic, socializing and shopping. A 78th Street location would also make the Green Market more accessible by senior citizens and the disabled. Parking on 34th Avenue between 77th / 78th Street can be restored.

Example of a successfull market: Union Square Farmer’s Market in Manhattan.

Example of how the vendors could be installed.