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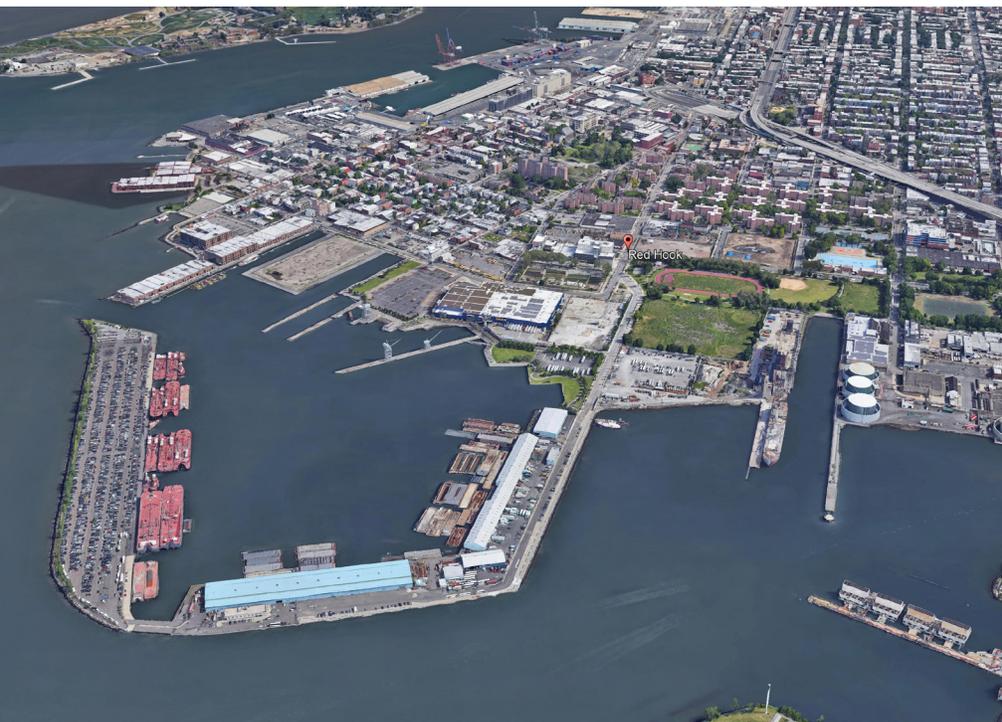
A resilient system is integrated.
In other words, it relies on broad consultation and communication.
Are there **urban scales** that yield to better integration?

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Recent shock-heavy events in the US have proven that grassroots, local networks play a key role in times of recovery, mainly because they provide trusted communication channels that other networks do not. In Minneapolis, where I recently helped lead their resilience strategy, local non-profits played a huge role in addressing a major homeless encampment of 2018 – city and regional leaders were quick to leverage their support.

These networks must be in place prior to emergencies arising. An example of this during this pandemic has been the use of the Nextdoor app. People have used it to locate resources, offer help, confirm news, and implement social norms like social distancing. It's easy to avoid statewide mandates. But it is more difficult to ignore your neighbor's pleas.

These networks have a strong correlation to scale. In the world of resilience planning, the concept of resilient districts is forming. Urban designers are moving past regional and city-wide strategies into resilient district planning – an example of this is Resilient Red Hook, a project I have recently worked on. The district scale is not new to city planning, we already work on health districts, innovation districts, and TODs to name a few. But to define this scale from the perspective of social cohesion, leadership and governance may be something this pandemic can help our cities think through.



The district scale is bigger than the neighborhood scale and it often includes services like grocery stores, large parks, and clinics. To think of this scale as an integration of multiple neighborhoods with local voice and power is intriguing. One of the things that has been interesting in the response to this virus is the impact governors have had because they operate above many administrative boundaries. In dealing with pandemics, where a lot of the risk mitigation comes from social behavior, statewide strategies can remain abstract if not adopted locally by our communities. Can districts help in closing that gap?

Red Hook, Brooklyn
Source: Google Earth