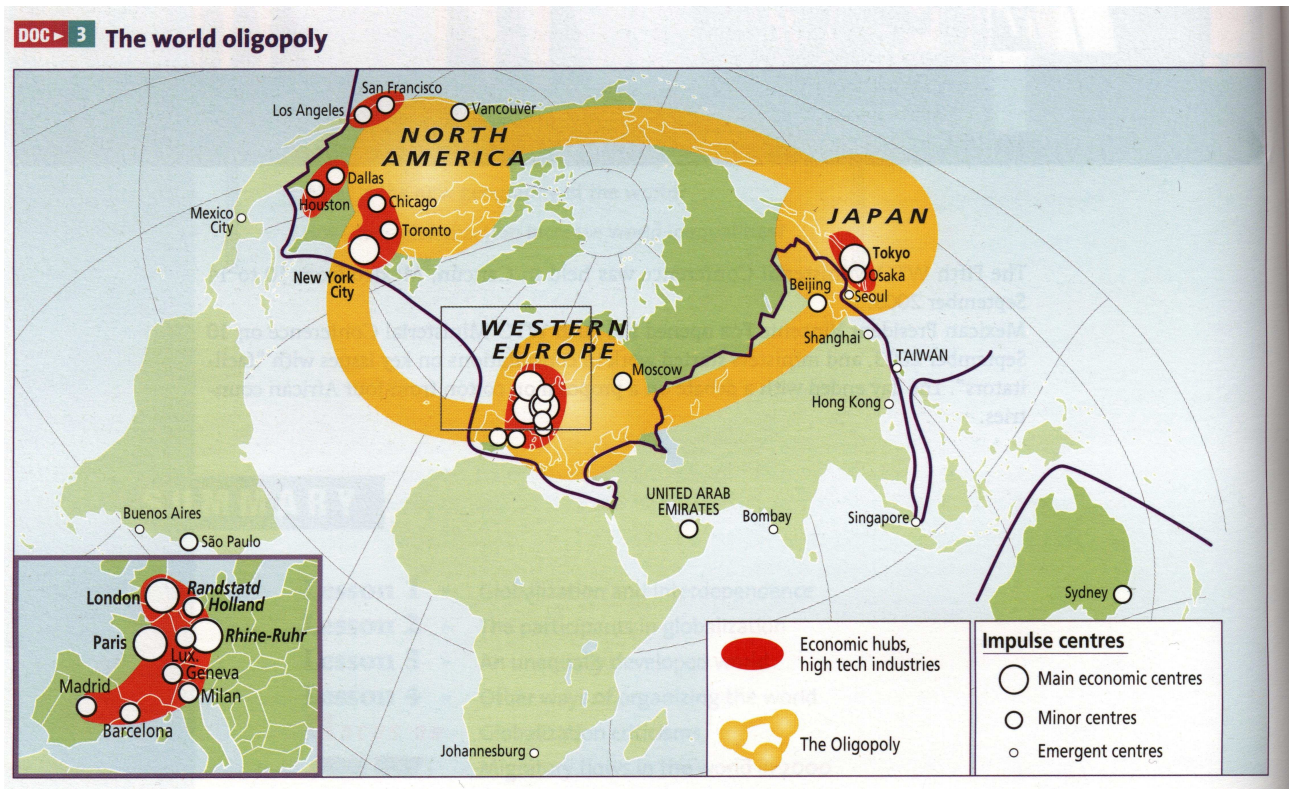


## Criteria to define a global city: the case of New York



The world oligopoly is made of global cities, defined by scholar Saskia Sassen:

« The organizational side of the global economy materializes in a worldwide grid<sup>1</sup> of strategic places, uppermost<sup>2</sup> among which are major international business and financial centers. We can think of this global grid as constituting a new economic geography of centrality, one that cuts across national boundaries and increasingly across the old North-South divide. It has emerged as a transnational space for the formation of new claims by global capital but also by other types of actors. The most powerful of these new geographies of centrality at the inter-urban level bind<sup>3</sup> the major international financial and business centers: New York, London, Tokyo, Paris, Frankfurt, Zurich, Amsterdam, Los Angeles, Sydney, Hong Kong, among others. But this geography now also includes cities such as Sao Paulo, Shanghai, Bangkok, Taipei, and Mexico City. The intensity of transactions among these cities, particularly through the financial markets, transactions in services, and investment, has increased sharply<sup>4</sup>, and so have the orders of magnitude involved. [...] The space constituted by the worldwide grid of global cities, a space with new economic and political potentialities, is perhaps one of the most strategic spaces for the formation of transnational identities and communities. This is a space that is both place-centred in that it is embedded in particular and strategic cities, and trans-territorial because it connects sites that are not geographically proximate yet are intensely linked to each other. It is not only the transmigration of capital that takes place in this global grid but also that of people, both rich—i.e., the new transnational professional workforce—and poor— i.e., most migrant workers; and it is a space for the transmigration of cultural forms, for the reterritorialisation of ‘local’ subcultures. [...] Global cities and the new strategic geographies that connect them and bypass national states can be seen as constituting part of the infrastructure for global civil society. »

Saskia Sassen, *Global civil society*, Chapter 9: global cities and diasporic networks: microsities in global civil society, Oxford University press, 2002.

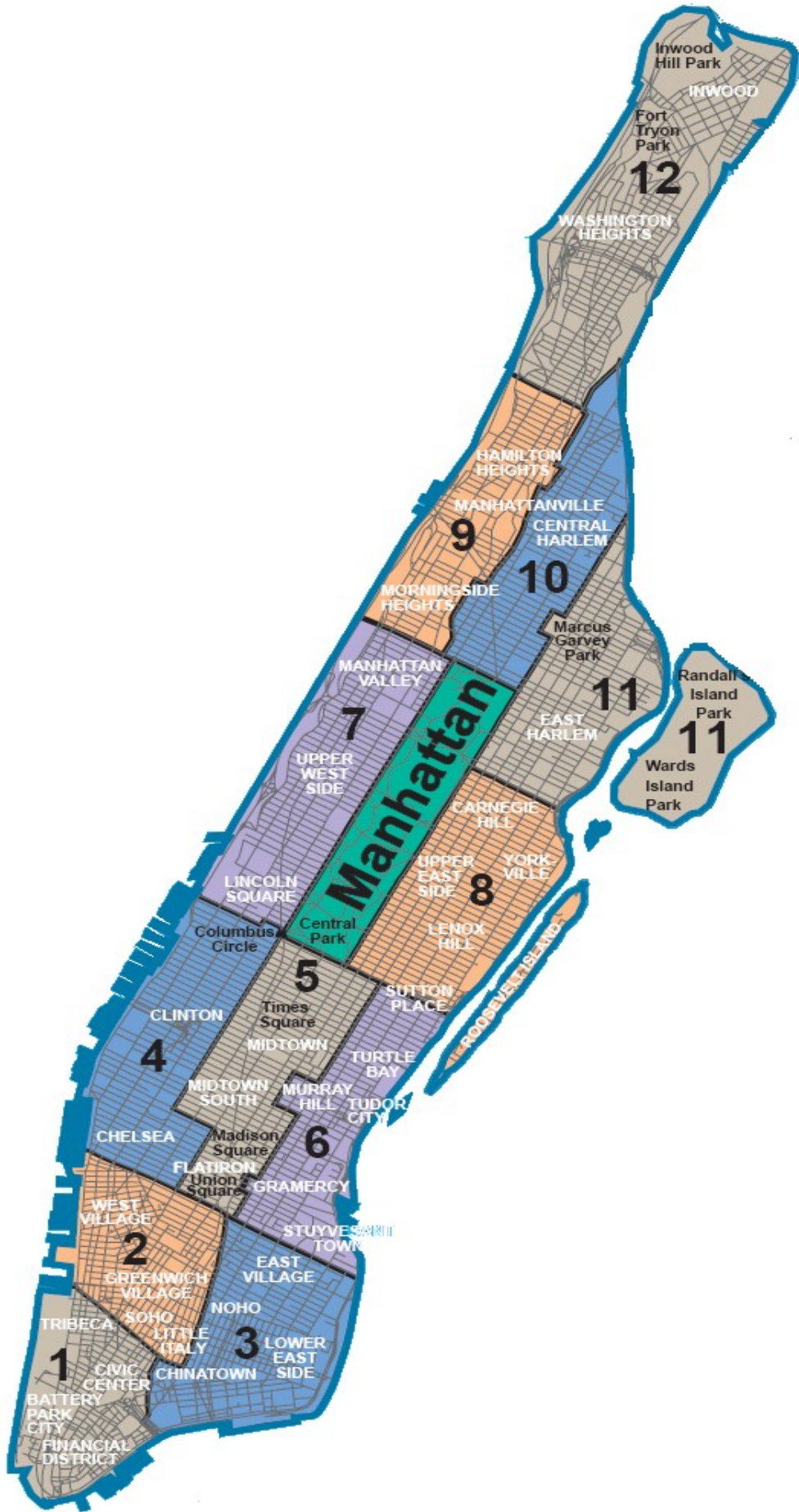
### Tool box

- 1 Grid : réseau
- 2 Uppermost : le plus haut
- 3 bind : lier
- 4 sharply : brutalement

Why is New York a global city ?

New York is made of 5 boroughs, themselves divided into neighborhoods:





**Manhattan**

12

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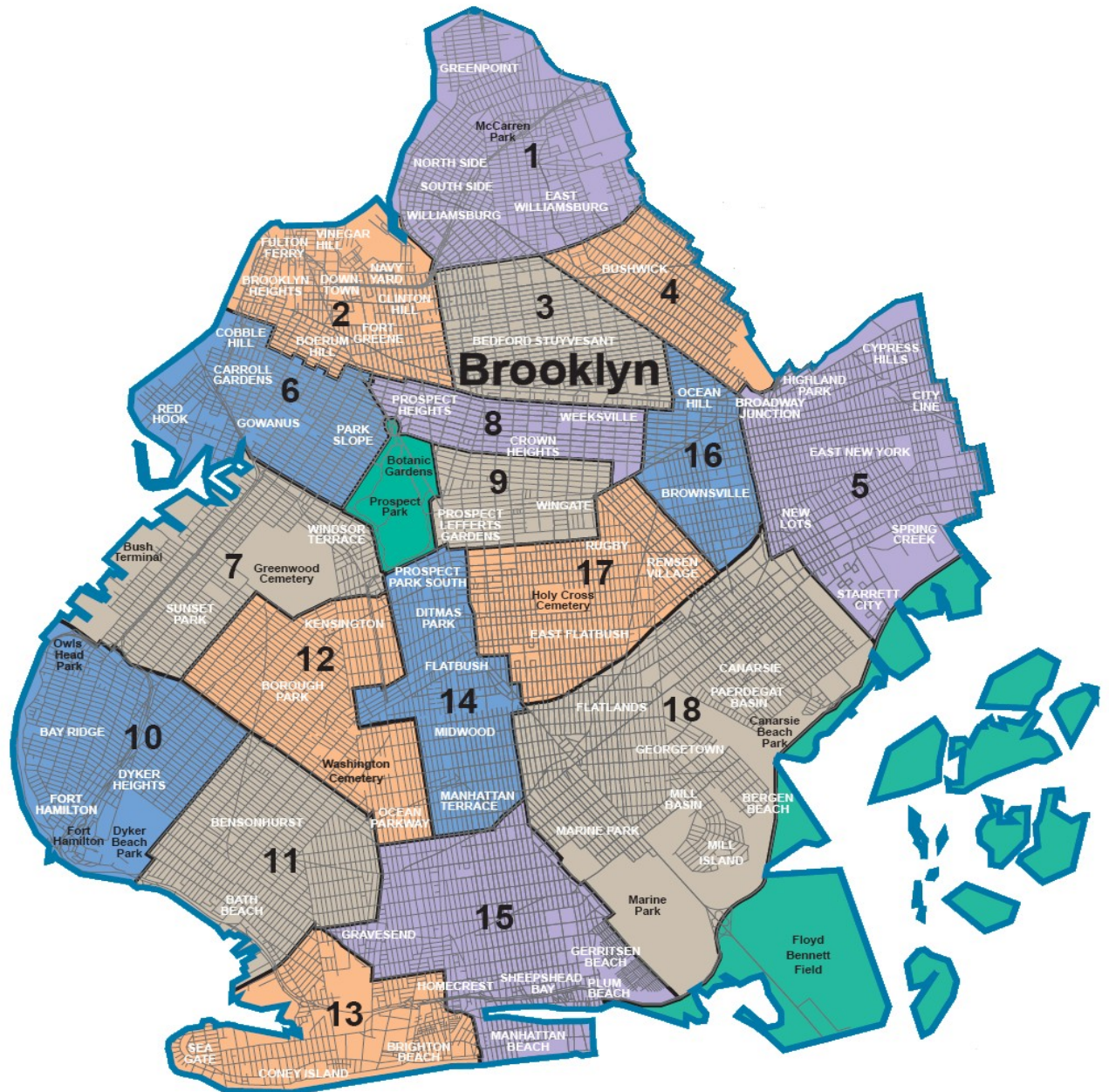
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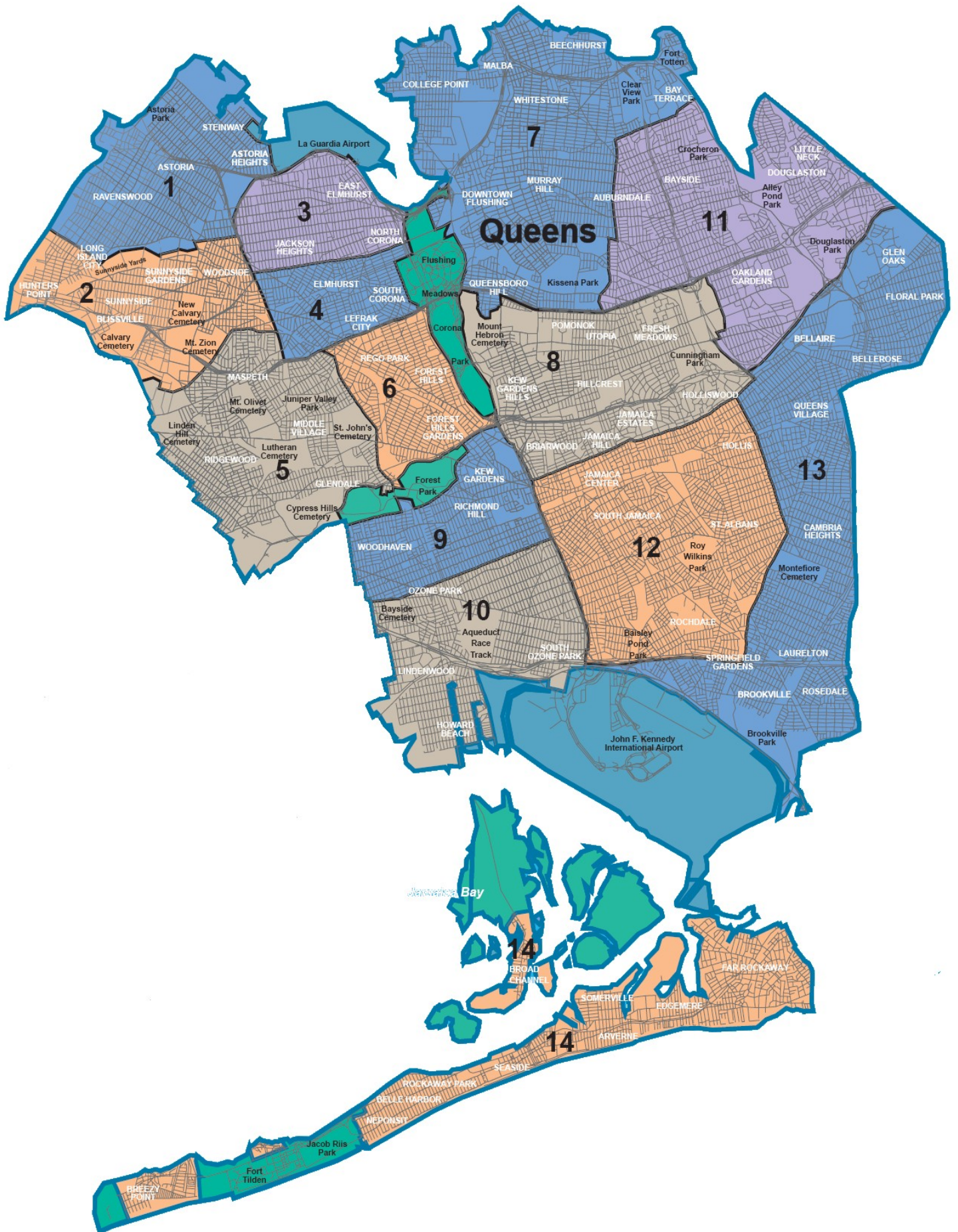
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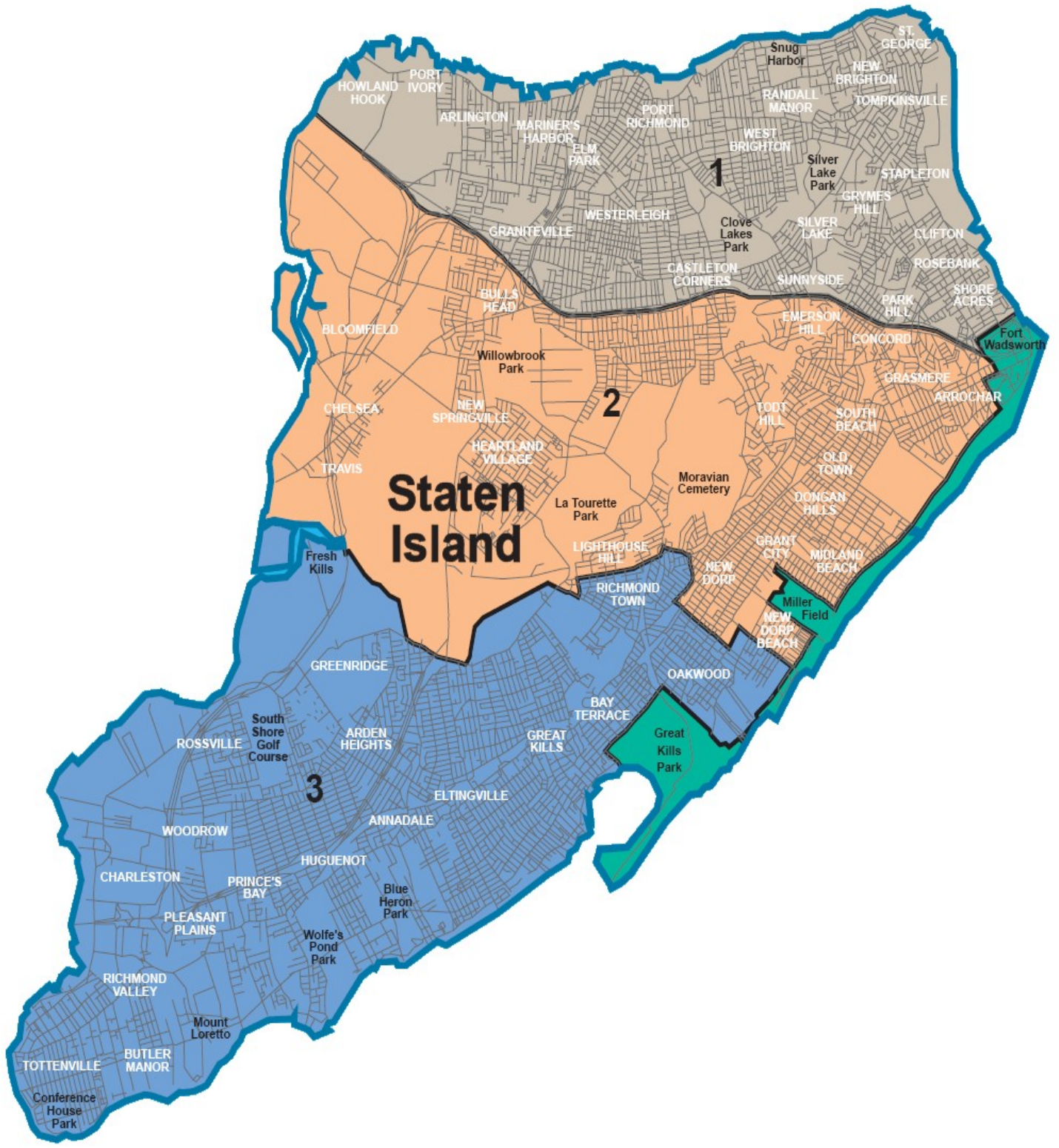
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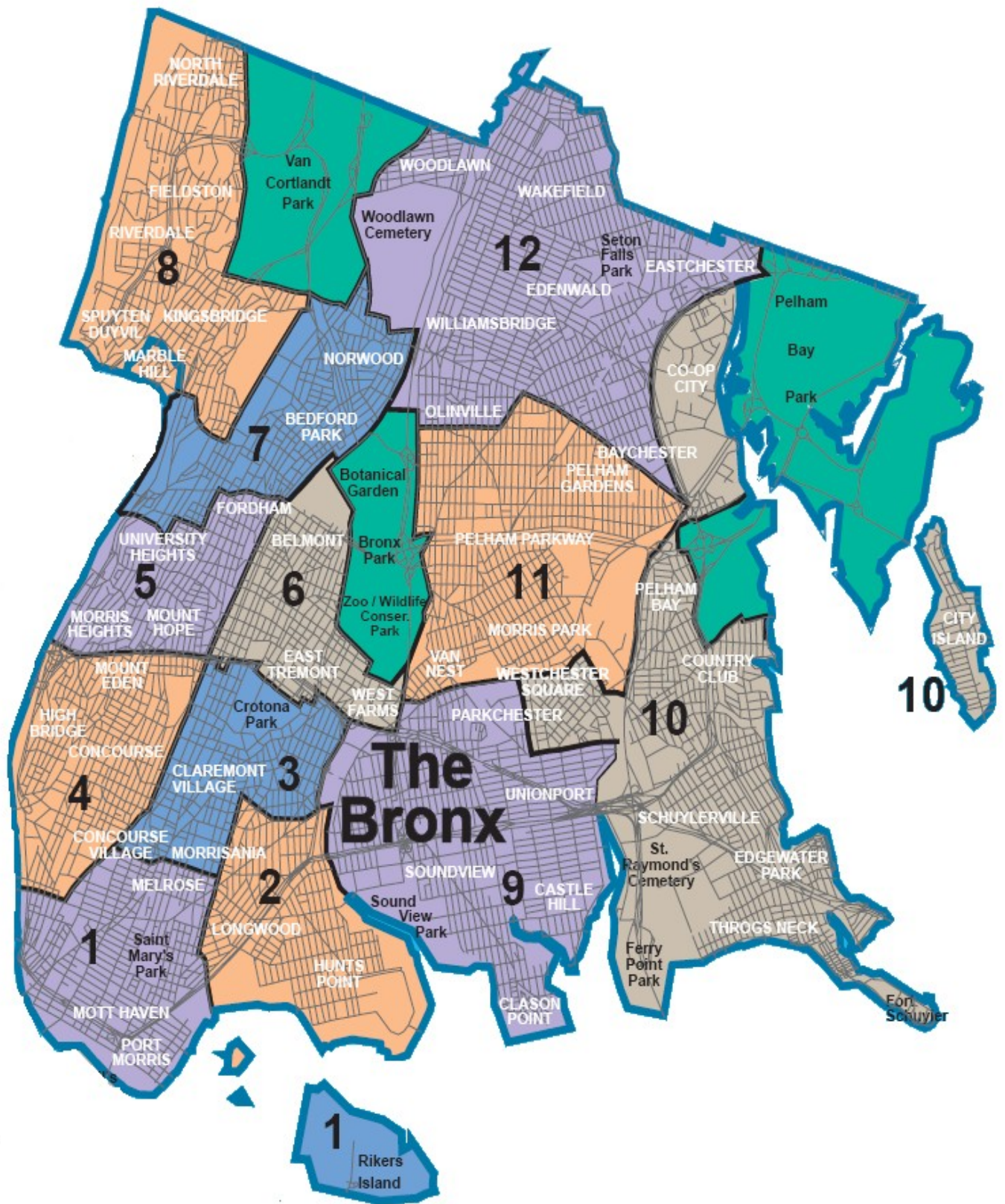


# Staten Island

1

2

3



Manhattan, New York City, features some of the world's most iconic landmarks and tourist attractions. It is home to the United Nations and has some of the tallest buildings on the planet.

Country: United States  
 State: New York (Borough of New York City)  
 Population: 1,629,054  
 Land Area: 59.5 km<sup>2</sup>

# Manhattan

