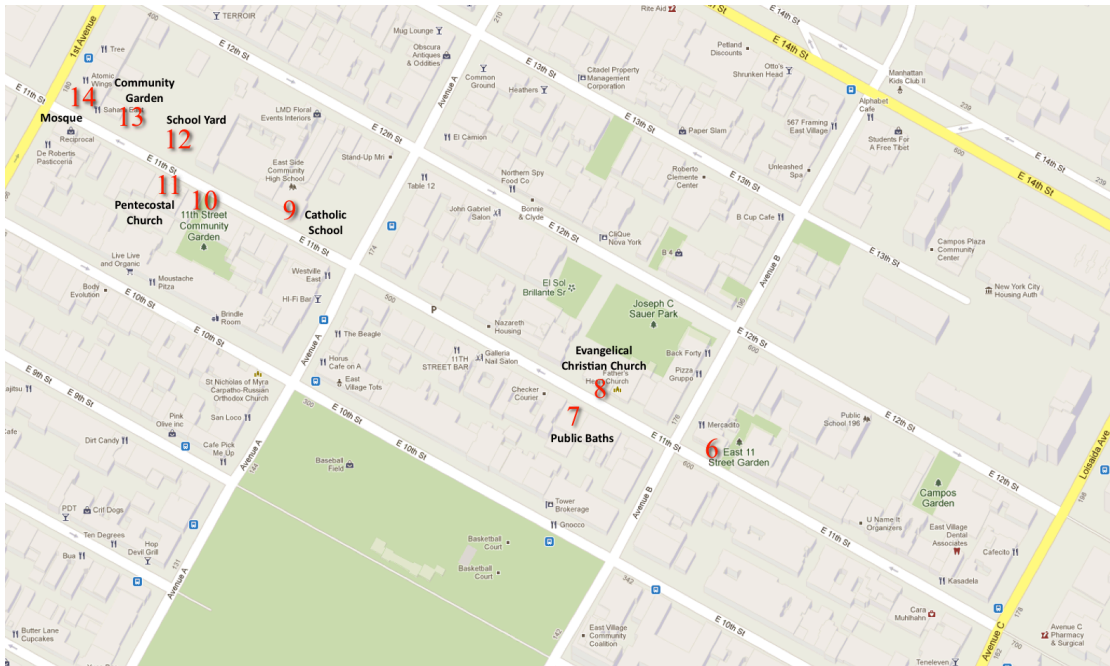


Scattered Edens (Avenue C to 1st)



The word “Paradise” comes from the Old Iranian word “pairidaeza,” which originally meant “walled enclosure” though over the centuries, has come also to refer to a “garden.” Between Avenues C and A lie a trio of quaint, verdant and tranquil community gardens. Alongside these gardens are a number of community places of worship representing Christianity and Islam; as well as a couple of community facilities including a junior high school and an old public bath. This makes for a surprising number of scattered Edens, or pairidaezas in the area – enclosed sanctuaries where one can seek solace and communally grieve for Paradise Lost.

This atmosphere of community and piety is hardly surprising since the population in this area used to be largely Hispanics of Puerto Rican descent, who are also known as “Nuyoricans” – “New York” plus “Puerto Rico”. Avenue C is not Avenue C here, but Loaisida Avenue, “Loaisida” being Nuyoric for Lower East Side, which historically, this area belonged to, but no longer does today.

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6 – *East 11th Street Garden*, the first of the three gardens.



7 – *The Free Public Baths of New York City*: once a literal oasis, now apparently a photography studio.



8 - *Father's Heart Ministry Center* (1868), once Russian Baptist, but now Evangelical.



9 – Mary, Help of Christians, the official Patron Saint of New York. The Building, a Catholic School, was built in 1925.



10 – 11th Street Community Garden, the second of the three gardens.



11 – No. 418: *Christian Assembly Pentecostal Church.*



12 – The basketball Court of the *Eastside Community Junior High School.*



13 – *LES Park* - A former bus depot transformed into a community garden by the East Side Community JHS 60 alumni; the third garden.



14 – The *Lower Manhattan Mosque*, founded in 1976. Also houses the Islamic Council of America. It has adorned with a single minaret in the Persian style.