

Residents of NYCHA Woodside React to 2024 Rating

Each year the inspection ratings are shared out for housing units in New York City by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Planning. NYCHA Woodside Houses obtained the second highest rating of any unit out of all the boroughs, and this revelation has some residents shocked.

BY JADA SIMON

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Woodside Houses in Queens is one of the top-rated city-run developments in the five boroughs for health and safety, according to a 2023 inspection done by the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). The news came with mixed reviews from its residents.

NYCHA oversees 177,569 units throughout New York City. Since TK, the federal government has done annual inspections of NYCHA buildings, checking apartments and grounds for cleanliness.

This year Woodside Houses received an NSPIRE score of 90, the second highest score of any unit NYCHA residency out of all the five boroughs. NSPIRE, National Standards for the Physical Inspection of Real Estate, is a score used to determine the health and safety of housing units. This is the first time in 20 years that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Planning (H.U.D.) has updated its standards.

The score came as a shock to some residents who believe there is still a lot to be done such as getting rid of water damage, as well as changing tiling and flooring they've been waiting years to see fixed.

"It's probably a claim, because there's been times my building has flooded because of construction and literally my side of the building we all had wall damage in the bathroom because of water and it took them probably like three months and that was just wet, molded," said George Velazquez, a 30-year old freelance photographer, who was lived there for 15 years. "Those kind of living conditions to have to wait three months, that's kind of not good, but they're probably slower with those kind of ticket requests."

To fix the flooding issue, construction was done on the affected buildings. As a result, rodents began to appear.

"Because of construction, there were a lot of rodents and rats," Velazquez said. "Some of the buildings actually got flooded on the roof because of construction, and after they fixed everything and took down the construction, the neighborhood got cleaner, rats started going away."

The rats are not the only critters around. Regina Fred, a 72-year-old resident of Woodside Houses said that not only are there rats but she has also seen roaches in the garbage bins.

Garbage has become a big issue for Woodside Houses. Velazquez said that trash bags used to reside right in front of many of the buildings within the complex and that even though this has changed the direction of the garbage has just changed.

"There's definitely an overflow recently, but ever since they created the garbage stations it's helped closer to the buildings but its kind of just gets pushed away to a certain sector," the 30-year-old said.

While some residents may not agree with the score, the changes don't go unnoticed.

“They try to clean up the grounds a little more,” said the 30-year-old freelance photographer, who’s lived there 15 years. “I noticed that they changed up a lot of the Woodside signs, so I guess they’re trying to make it more presentable.”

Maria Smith on the other hand disagrees. She says that NYCHA keeps the development clean but the people don’t.

“Some people they like to mess, I’m not blaming NYCHA because they come and pick up the garbage, and they have a place where they put the garbage, and the people don’t put the garbage where they belong,” said Smith, a 73-year-old resident and retired home health aide. “I’m not blaming NYCHA for that. I’m blaming the people.”



The entrance of NYCHA Woodside Houses. Photo by Jada Simon



Maria Smith is a 73-year-old resident of Woodside Houses and retired home health aide. Photo by Jada Simon.



George Velazquez, 30, is a resident of Woodside Houses as well as a freelance photographer. Photo by Jada Simon.



Some of the buildings have garbage right on the sides of them. Though the garbage is no longer directly in front of the entrances, as Velazquez said the garbage is still there, it's just been pushed in a different direction. Photo by Jada Simon



There is a section where some of the residents dump garbage and it is starting to stack up.
Photo by Jada Simon



There are a few sets of bins like these throughout the complex but some residents are not using them resulting in garbage piles in multiple different areas. Photo by Jada Simon

Social Media Post: This year NYCHA's inspection scores have increased significantly, with Woodside Houses receiving a score of 90, the second highest score of any NYCHA residence out of all the five boroughs. Residents of NYCHA Woodside gave mixed reviews about the score.