

Workshop Summary Notes

As part of the NYC Department of City Planning (DCP) **NYC Comprehensive Waterfront Plan Public Workshops**, DCP hosted a meeting focused on **Staten Island: South + East Shore**. There were more than 10 attendees at this meeting.

The workshop kicked off with a presentation by Michael Marrella, Director of Waterfront and Open Space Division at DCP, to introduce the preliminary issues and goals that the next plan will address. The group then discussed their thoughts for the future of the waterfront. The main questions asked were: Which of the goals resonate the most with you? Which ones can we improve? What is missing?

Breakout Discussion Highlights:

The conversation focused on resilience and climate change, water quality and natural resources, and public access. Participants discussed projects that have advanced since Hurricane Sandy to help protect Staten Island such as the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) East Shore line of protection, and the Tottenville living breakwaters, and how robust community engagement is necessary to plan and implement these projects. The importance of planning for flood recovery, rather than focusing only on flood protection, was also raised. There was an interest in protecting wetlands and other natural resources, ensuring permeable surfaces are not reduced, and limiting development on these types of sites. In terms of water quality, participants were interested in how the perception of how clean local waterbodies are (for swimming or other forms of recreation) can affect the public's interest in recreation, restoration or stewardship opportunities. Participants highlighted the improvement of water quality in NYC and discussed how to encourage residents to enjoy their local waterbodies.

Additional comments included:

- How can engagement be improved? Community engagement helps to increase the legitimacy of plans and programs, and a variety of engagement mechanisms should be used as part of this process.
- It is important to have robust educational programs for students and community members to better understand the challenges and opportunities related to coastal resilience and water quality improvements. These types of programs can also help to foster a stronger waterfront identity and stewardship as residents of a coastal city.
- In parts of Staten Island, with primarily industrial uses, there is a need to elevate the importance of cleaning up historic contamination along the shoreline and debris in the water (shipyard graveyard for example).