

An aerial photograph of New York City at sunset. The sun is low on the left, casting a golden glow over the city and the water. The Manhattan skyline is prominent in the center, with numerous skyscrapers. The Hudson River is visible on the left, and the East River is on the right. The city extends into the distance, with a dense grid of buildings.

NEW YORK CITY COMPREHENSIVE WATERFRONT PLAN

Virtual Public Workshops

Fall 2020

Agenda

- 1) Introduction to the NYC Comprehensive Waterfront Plan Framework (20 min)
- 2) Q&A (5 min)
- 3) Moderated Small-group Discussion (45 min)
- 4) Share Back and Next Steps (15 min)

What is the Comprehensive Waterfront Plan?



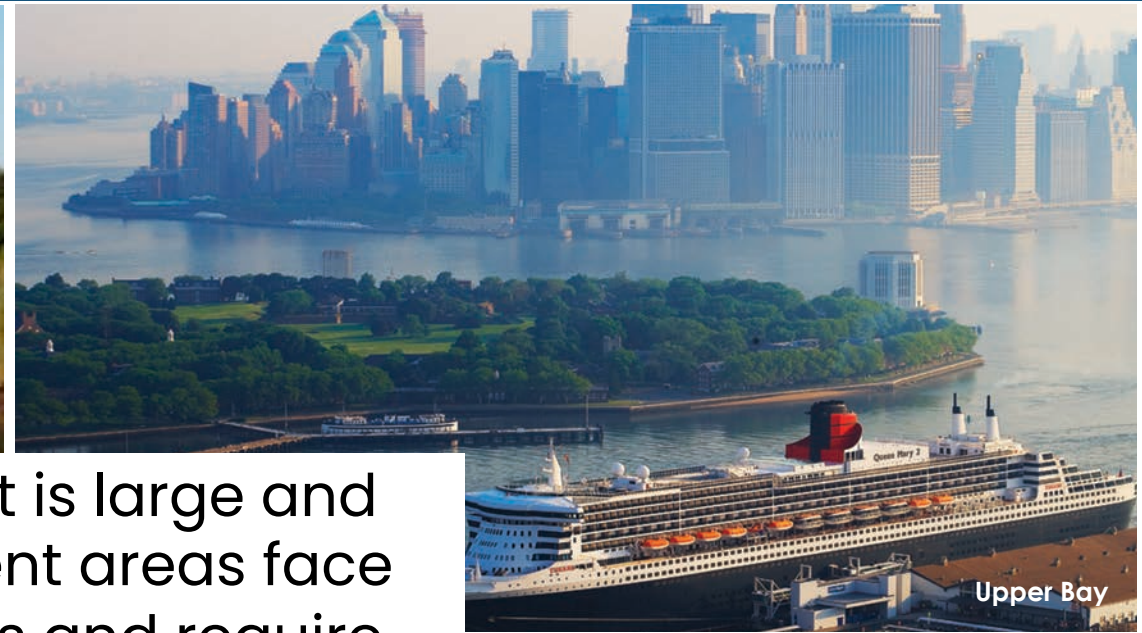
With 520 miles of waterfront, New York City is a coastal city.



What is the Comprehensive Waterfront Plan?

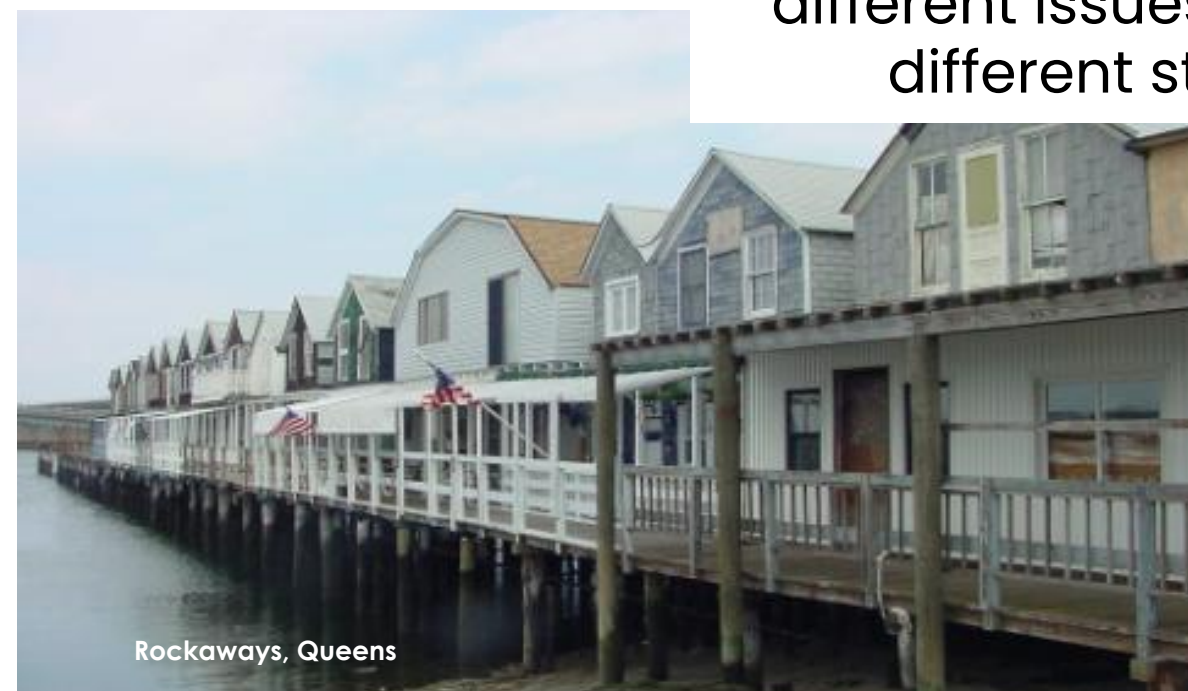


Alley Pond Creek, Queens



Upper Bay

The waterfront is large and diverse. Different areas face different issues and require different strategies.



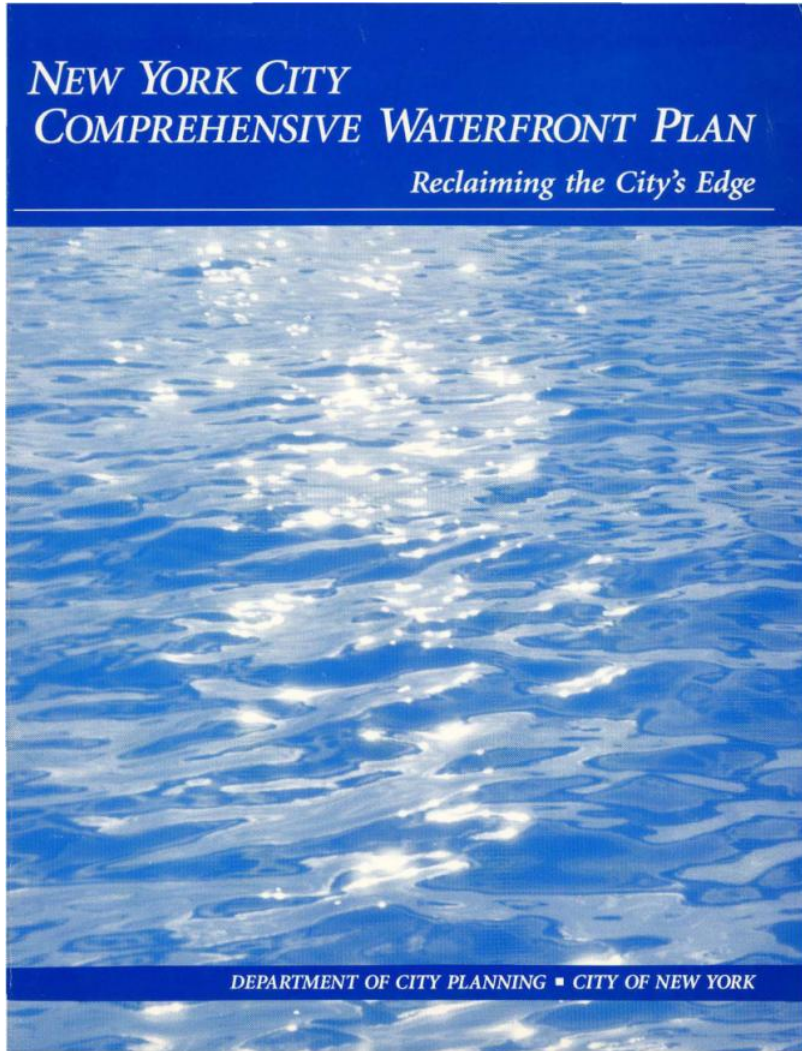
Rockaways, Queens



Williamsburg, Brooklyn

What is the Comprehensive Waterfront Plan?

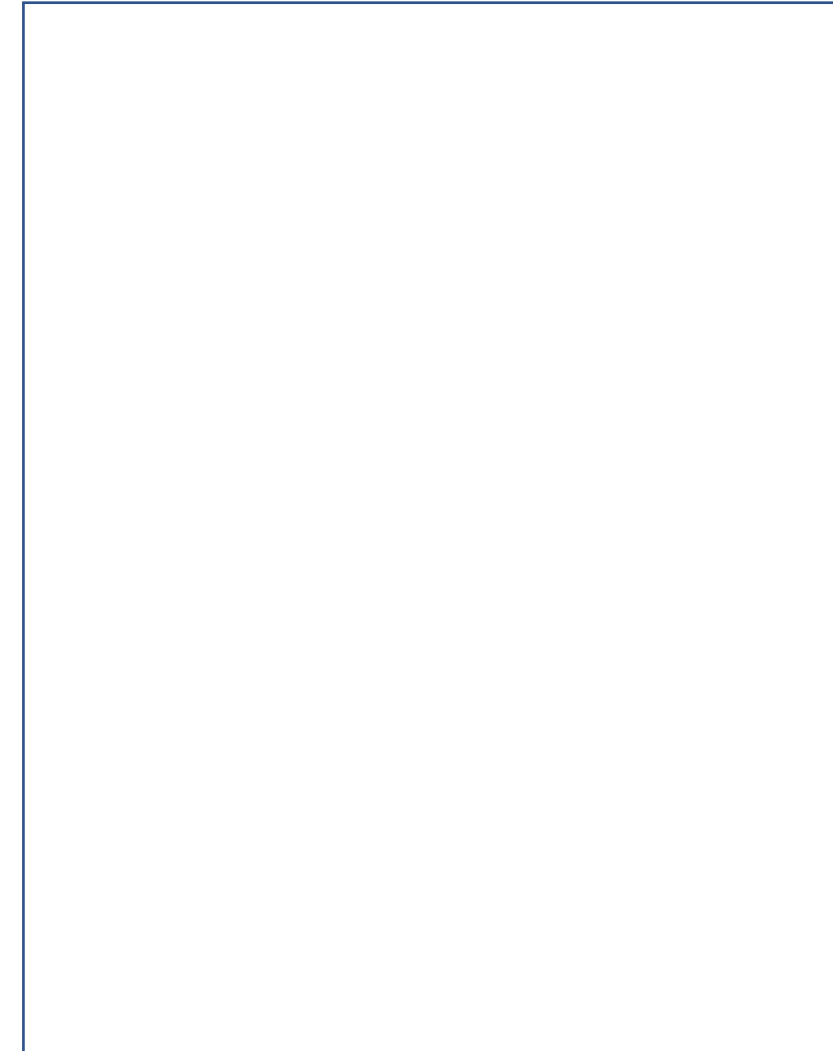
1992 CWP



2011 CWP



2020 CWP



Framework





Photo: [Julienne Schaer, NYC & Company](#)

The next plan will advance equitable strategies that mitigate the disproportionate effects of climate change on the most vulnerable communities.

This involves adapting shoreline and shoreline communities to climate hazards, including coastal flooding, increased precipitation, and higher temperatures.



Through the next plan, the City will prioritize working with lower income communities and communities of color to ensure their strong role in planning processes and projects.

- The effects of previous land use policies and disinvestment have left many shoreline communities, particularly in neighborhoods of color underserved by jobs, quality housing, open space, and other amenities.
- Safe waterfront access remains challenging in many locations for people with disabilities.



The next plan will recognize the link between the environment, equity, and the economy to maximize the health benefits of New York City's waterfront.

- The health of the city's waterways and the health of waterfront communities are interconnected.
- For example, restoring habitats and improving water quality doesn't just allow natural areas to flourish, it also creates opportunities for New Yorkers to connect with nature.



Photo: Daniel Avila, NYC Parks

The COVID-19 pandemic has necessitated dramatic shifts in how NYC Planning approaches public outreach and the issues addressed by the plan.

- It has highlighted the importance of access to open space for public health.
- It has laid bare deep and longstanding inequities in our society, demonstrating how inequity can be not just insidious, but lethal.
- The pandemic has dealt an unprecedented blow to the city's economy.

Draft Goals organized under Six Themes



Public Access



Water Quality / Natural Resources



The Working Waterfront



Ferries



Resilience & Climate Change



Economic Activity

Public Access



Photo: Daniel Avila, NYC Parks

Over the past decade, there have been remarkable strides in expanding public access to the waterfront in all five boroughs through a combination of public investment and harnessing private development. As successful as this expansion has been in number and quality of public spaces created, more can be done to connect communities to their waterfront.

Public Access Goals



Photo: Daniel Avila, NYC Parks

1. Further expand public access to the waterfront
2. Improve the design, maintenance, and programming of parks and waterfront public access areas
3. Promote the stewardship of public spaces on the waterfront
4. Promote opportunities to get onto and into the water

Water Quality & Natural Resources



Photo: Daniel Avila, NYC Parks

NYC's harbor is the cleanest it has been in over 100 years. However, a range of water quality issues remain, particularly in the city's most constrained waterways. Addressing these outstanding issues will require substantial new investments and innovative solutions.

Water Quality & Natural Resources Goals



Photo: Daniel Avila, NYC Parks

1. Make strategic investments to improve water quality
2. Raise awareness about water quality and restoration issues
3. Protect and enhance the natural waterfront

The Working Waterfront



Photo: NYC EDC

In the face of both new and familiar challenges—whether it be obtaining required permits or responding to national emergencies— we need to support and enhance the health of our working waterfront and the New Yorkers whose livelihoods depend on it.

There is an opportunity to transform how freight enters New York City. Moving more containerized cargo by ship and rail rather than by truck would alleviate air pollution, congestion on our roadways, improve efficiency, and create good-paying jobs in the process.

The Working Waterfront Goals



Photo: NYC EDC

1. Advocate for key maritime issues
2. Increase the visibility of the working waterfront and its importance to the city's economy
3. Invest in maritime and rail solutions to reduce our reliance on trucking



There are opportunities to build on investments in the waterfront to spur the preservation and creation of housing at all income levels, jobs, and open space across the five boroughs to promote a thriving and more inclusive waterfront for all New Yorkers.

New York City's shorelines and waterways will be conduits for green power, hosting green infrastructure and playing an instrumental role in mobilizing and building the green economy.

Economic Activity Goals



Photo: NYC EDC

1. Leverage investment in the waterfront to address the city's need for quality housing, jobs, and open space
2. Support major investments that spur economic activity throughout the city and region
3. Invest in green technologies and support emerging job opportunities



Photo: NYC EDC

Ferry services are an essential mode of transit in a city—and region—surrounded by water. Some communities are disproportionately underserved by NYC Ferry and other forms of waterborne transit.

New York City should continue to support the expansion of passenger ferry services where feasible and should explore opportunities to improve regional connections.

Ferries Goals



1. Support the expansion of ferry services
2. Strengthen connections between ferry stops, other forms of transportation, and adjacent communities



Photo: [Julienne Schaer, NYC & Company](#)

Adapting the waterfront to the effects of climate change is one of the greatest challenges we face as a city.

Sea level rise, flooding caused by extreme precipitation, and coastal storms affect different parts of the city in different ways.

Adapting to climate change means that as a city, we will have to make significant investments and difficult decisions, but this will also create new opportunities.

Resilience & Climate Change Goals



Photo: [Julienne Schaer, NYC & Company](#)

1. Invest in resilient coastal infrastructure
2. Develop maps and data based on climate projections to inform the building code, capital project planning, and strengthening essential infrastructure
3. Establish a resilient land use framework to reconcile growth and flood risk.
4. Increase community engagement in neighborhood adaptation planning efforts and decision making
5. Assist households and businesses in coastal neighborhoods to learn about flood risks and to take action
6. Rethink shoreline permitting processes to enable and encourage resilient design

Next Steps

Outreach & Process:

Virtual Public Workshops and Public Feedback

Plan Development:

Overall Timeline

Go to **waterfrontplan.nyc** to provide additional feedback

Questions?

