

Flood Resilience Zoning Text Update

Bronx Community Board 9

Land, Zoning, Planning & Economic Development
Committee

May 8th, 2017



Hurricane Sandy



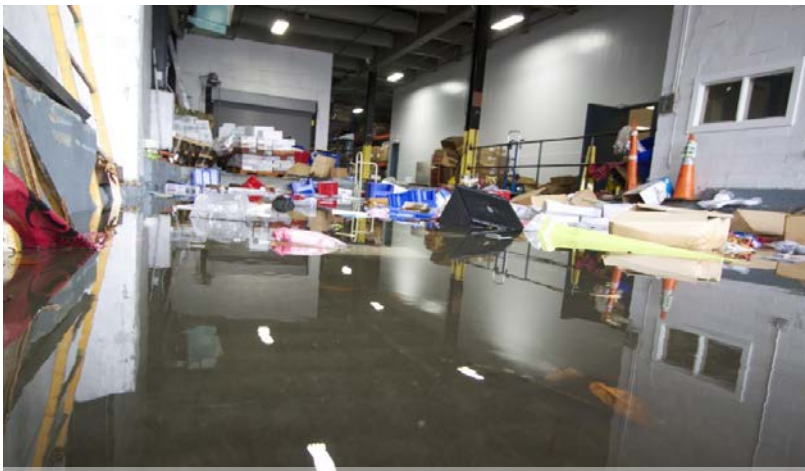
Port Morris

Source: dna.info



Harding Park

Source: Bronx Ink



Hunts Point

Source: Bronx Ink

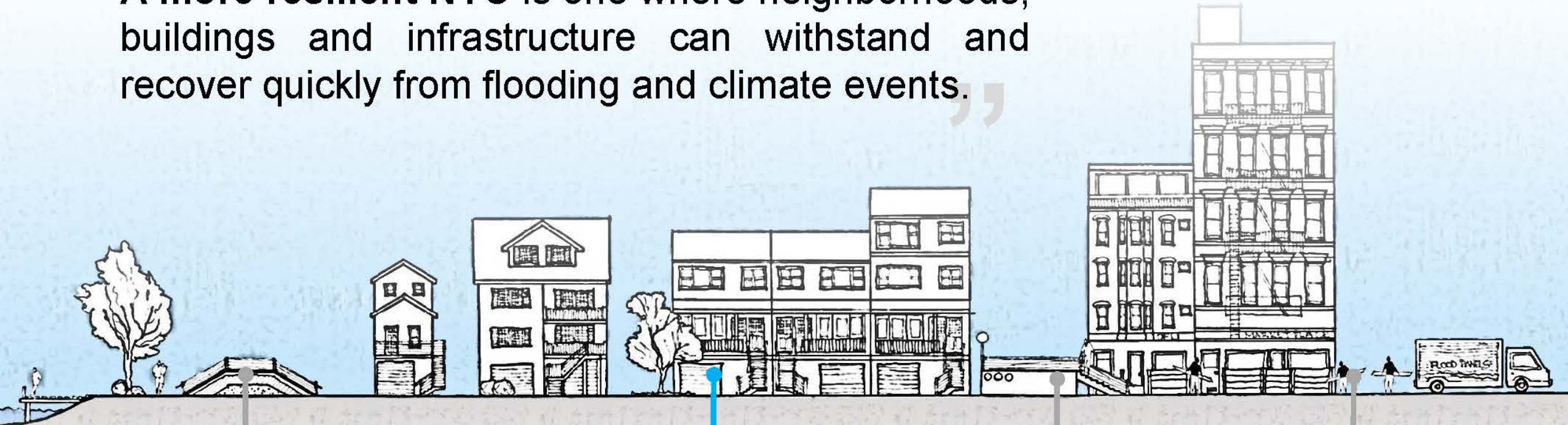


Locust Point

Source: Daily News

#ONENYC

“A more resilient NYC is one where neighborhoods, buildings and infrastructure can withstand and recover quickly from flooding and climate events.”



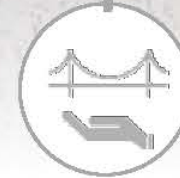
Coastal defenses

are strengthened as first line of defense against flooding and sea level rise



Buildings

are designed to withstand and recover from flooding



Infrastructure

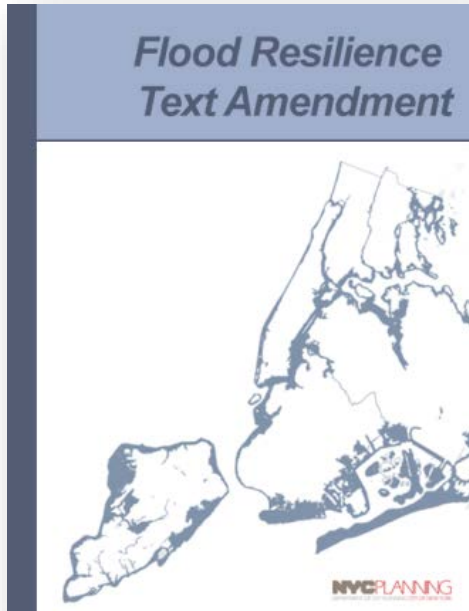
is protected from climate hazards



Residents and businesses

are prepared

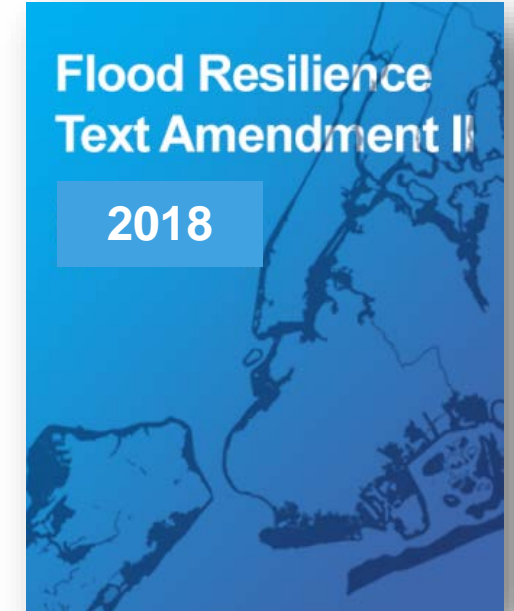
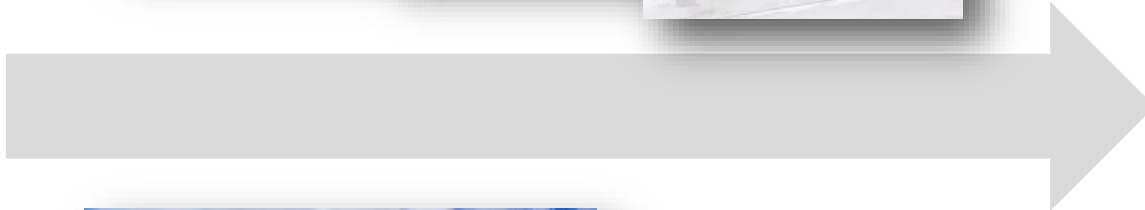
Flood Resilience Zoning Projects at DCP



2013

“Flood Text”

initial temporary regulations
to facilitate recovery



2018

“Flood Text Update”
improve upon, and make
permanent, the Flood Text



DCP Resilient Neighborhoods Outreach Summary



Late 2013

Kick off of Harding Park and Edgewater Park studies

Early 2014

Engagement of leadership in Harding and Edgewater park and identification of neighborhood-scale challenges

August 2014

DCP coordinates interagency workshops with DCP and the Mayor's Office of Resiliency and Recovery

October 2015
Summary reports are released

Ongoing

DCP coordinates with Edgewater Park and Harding Park stakeholders and leadership to advance resiliency measures on private and public levels

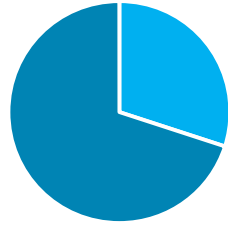
Citywide Flood Risk

NYC's flood risk is high and it will only continue to increase.

100 year (1% annual chance) floodplain	2015 PFIRMS	2050s Projected FIRMS
Residents	400,000	808,900
Buildings	71,500	118,000

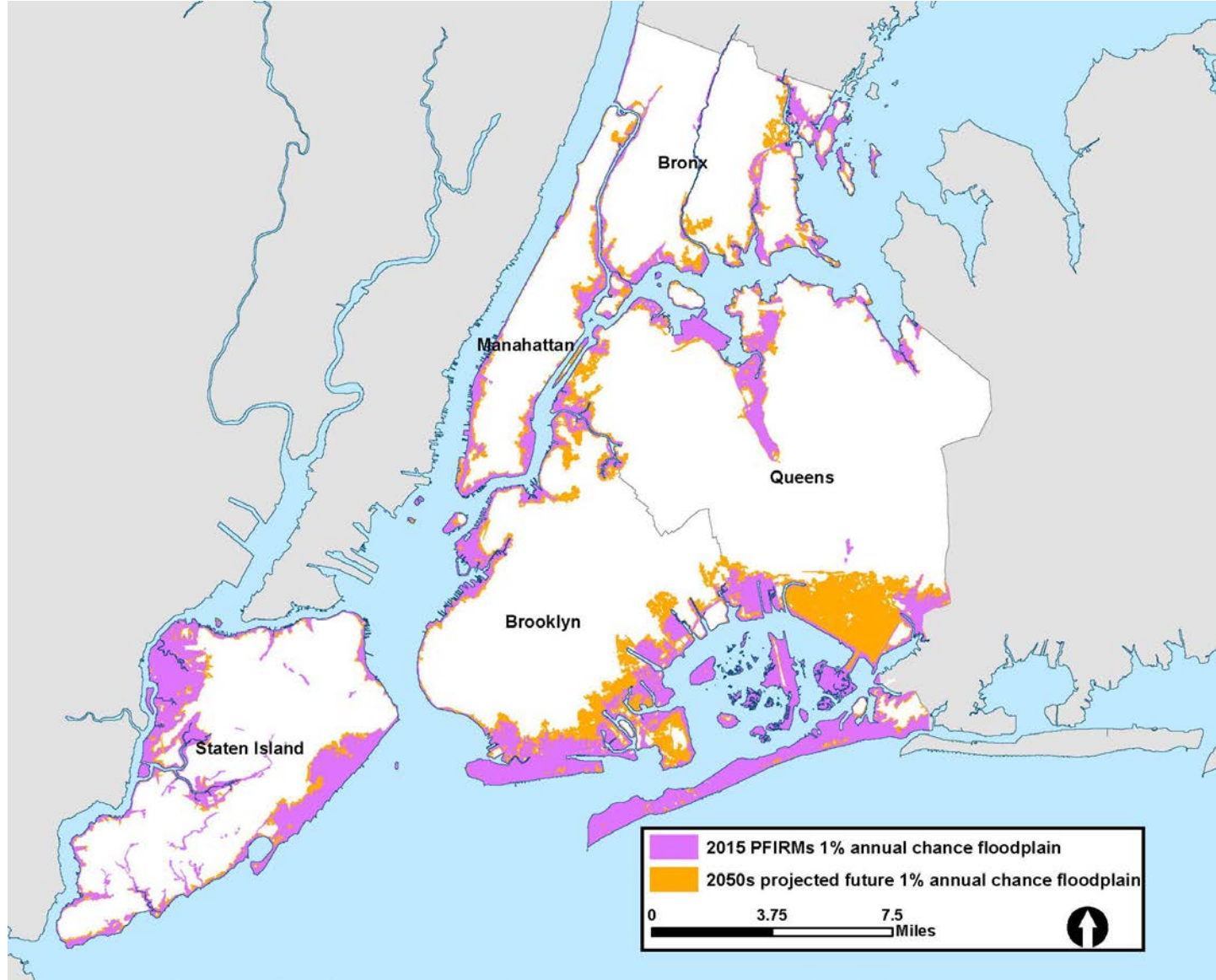


Buildings:
 80% 1-4 units
 7% 5+ units
 13% nonresidential



Residential Units:
 30% 1-4 units
 70% 5+ units

50 of 59 Community Boards
 45 of 51 Council Districts

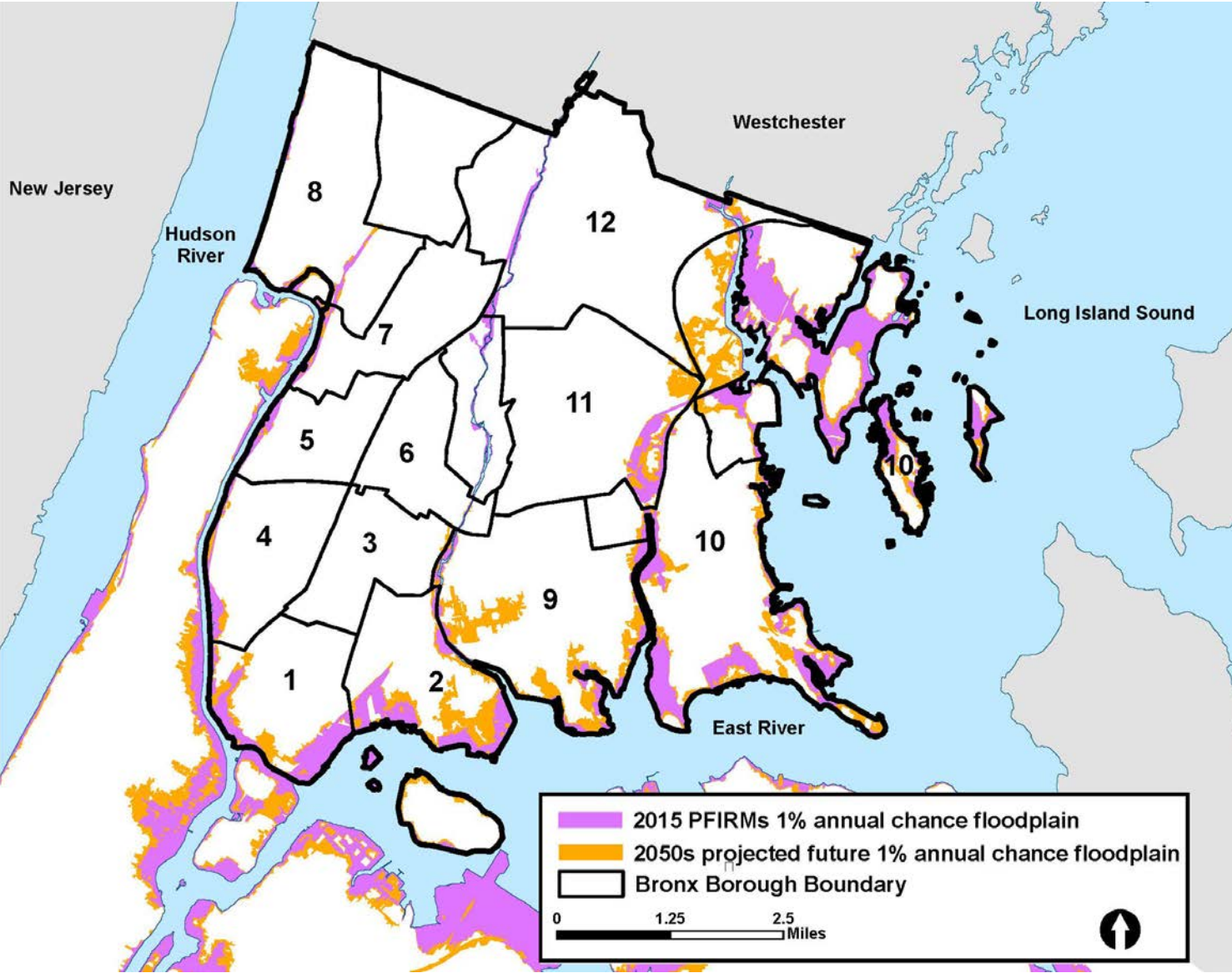


Map analysis based on Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (PFIRMS)
 Future flood zone impacts based on NPCC2 90th percentile sea level rise projections

Bronx Flood Risk

A significant portion of the Bronx's critical infrastructure and institutions, building stock, and population is located in the 100 year floodplain.

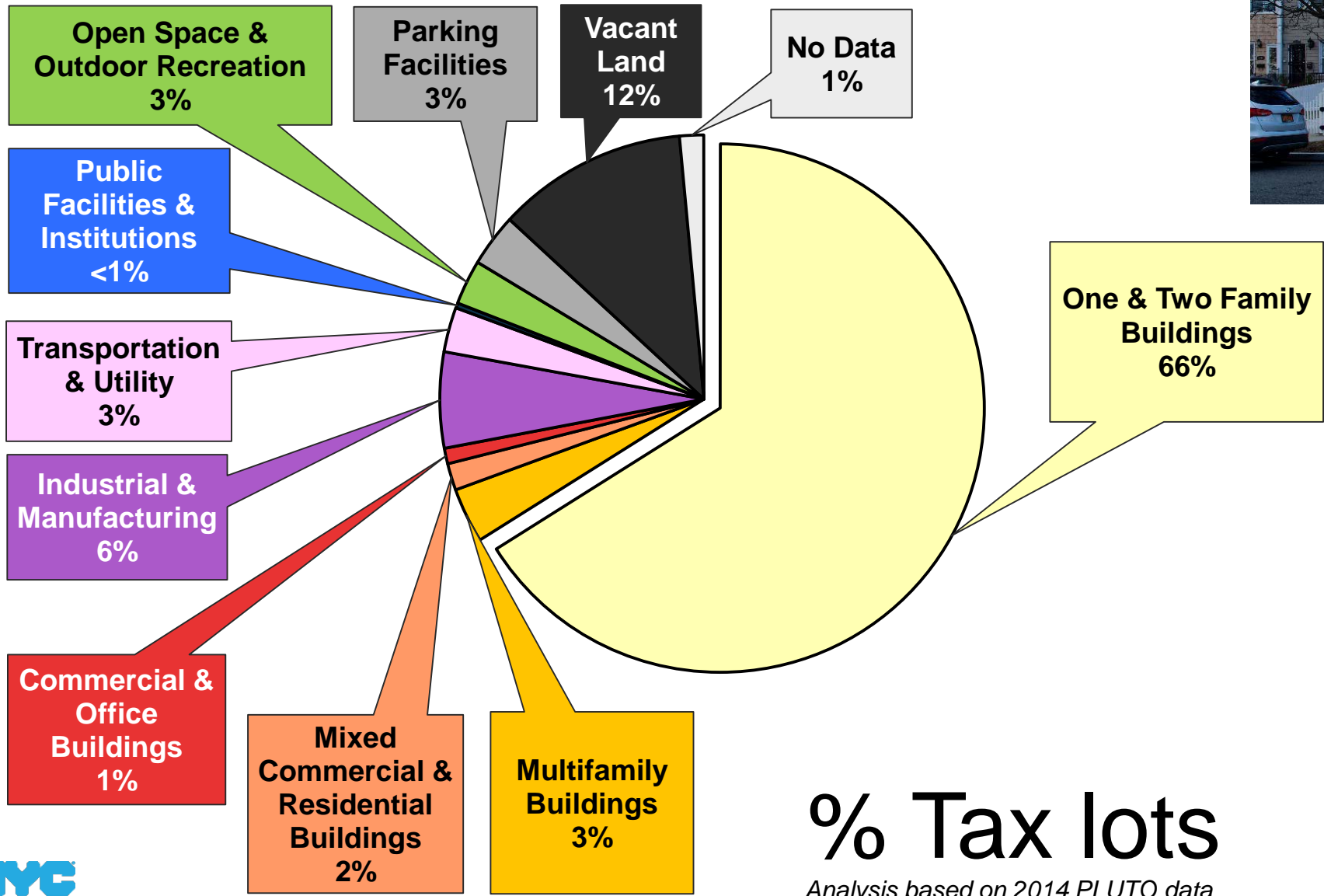
100 year (1% annual chance) floodplain	2015 PFIRMS	2050s Projected FIRMS
Residents	16,300	31,200
Buildings	4,500	8,200



Map analysis based on Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (PFIRMS)
 Future flood zone impacts based on NPCC2 90th percentile sea level rise projections

Bronx Flood Risk

Land use + Common Building Typologies

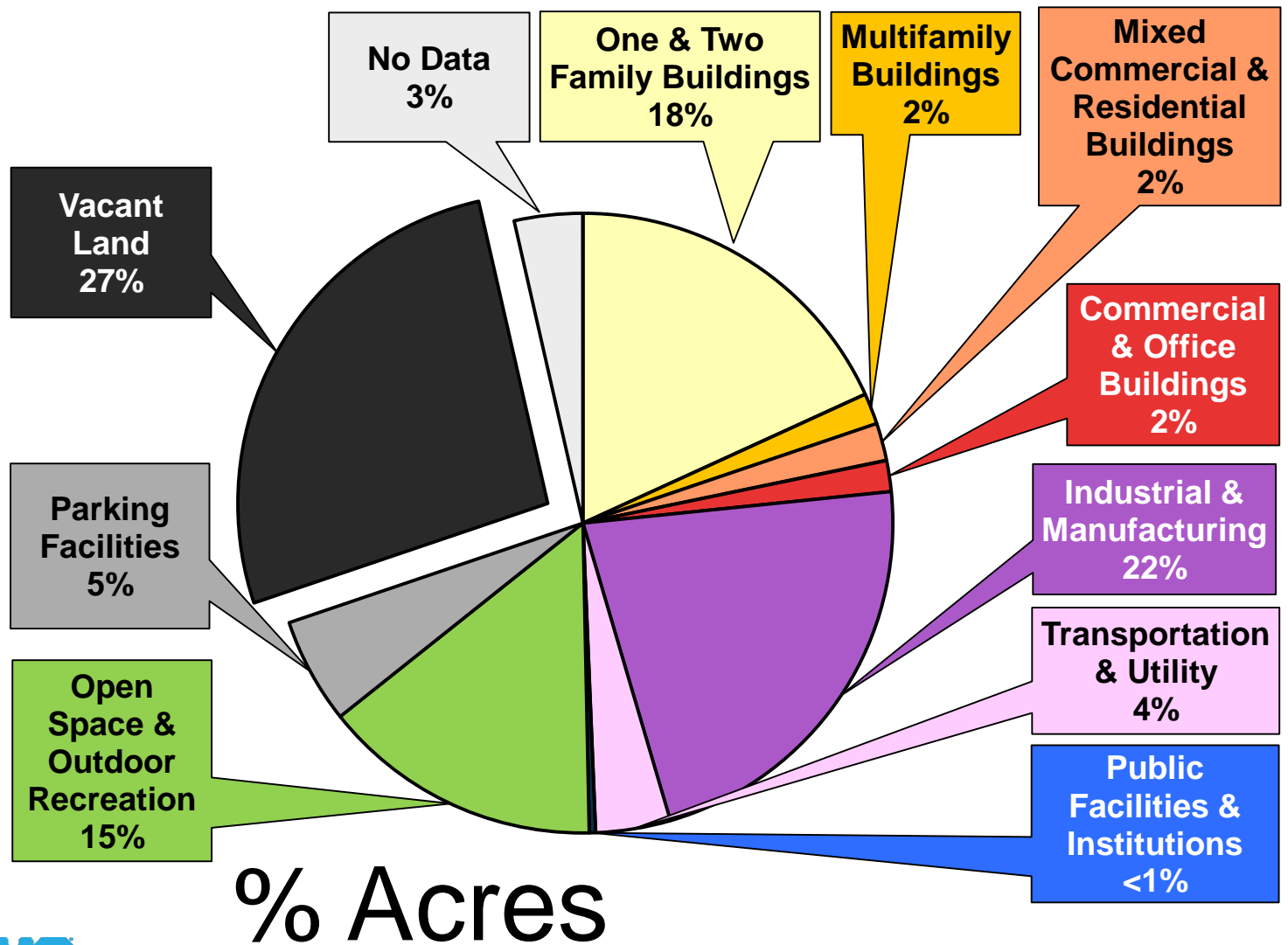


% Tax lots

Analysis based on 2014 PLUTO data

Bronx Flood Risk

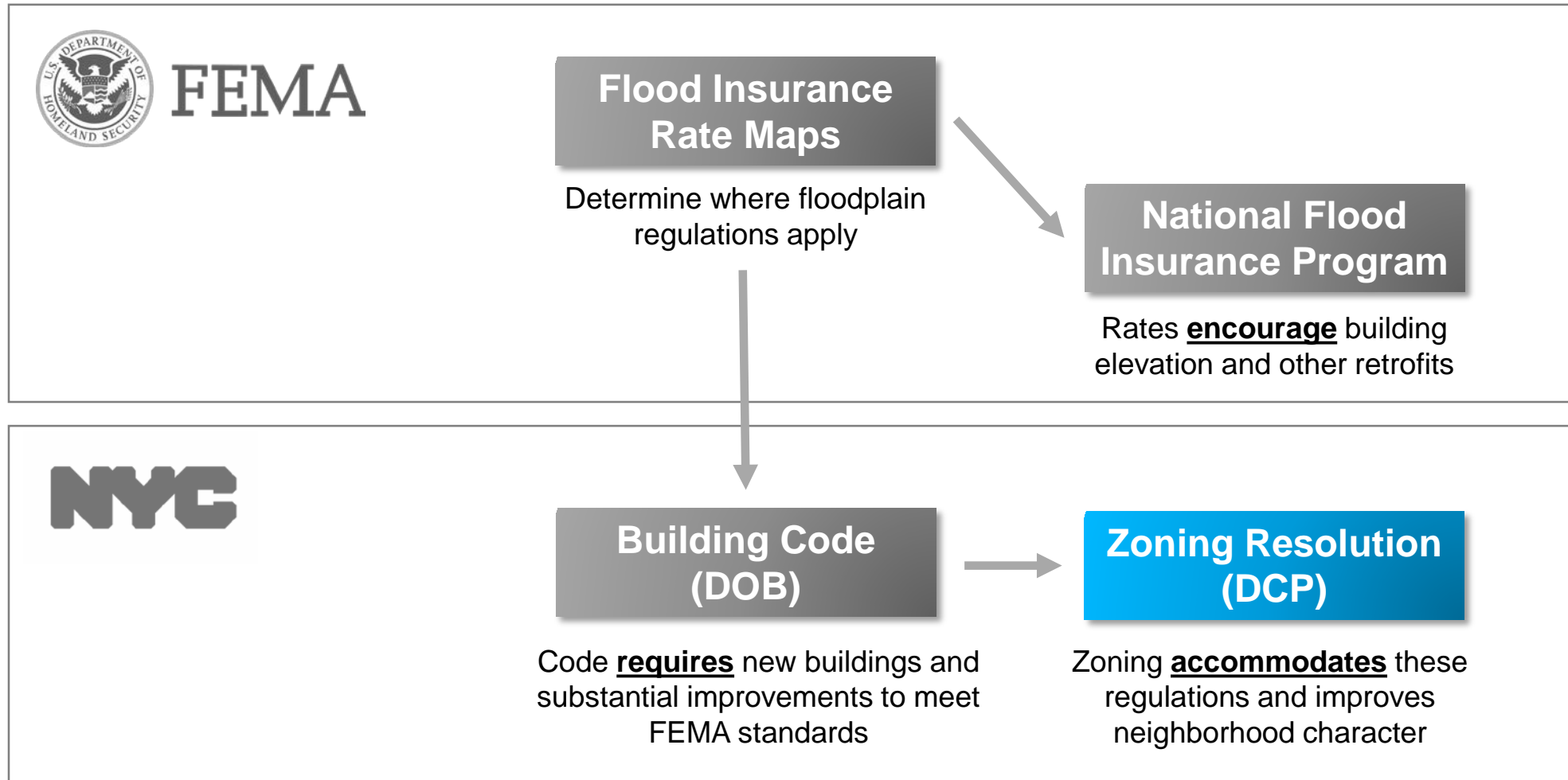
Land use + Common Building Typologies



Analysis based on 2014 PLUTO data



How are buildings in the floodplain regulated?



Flood resilient construction

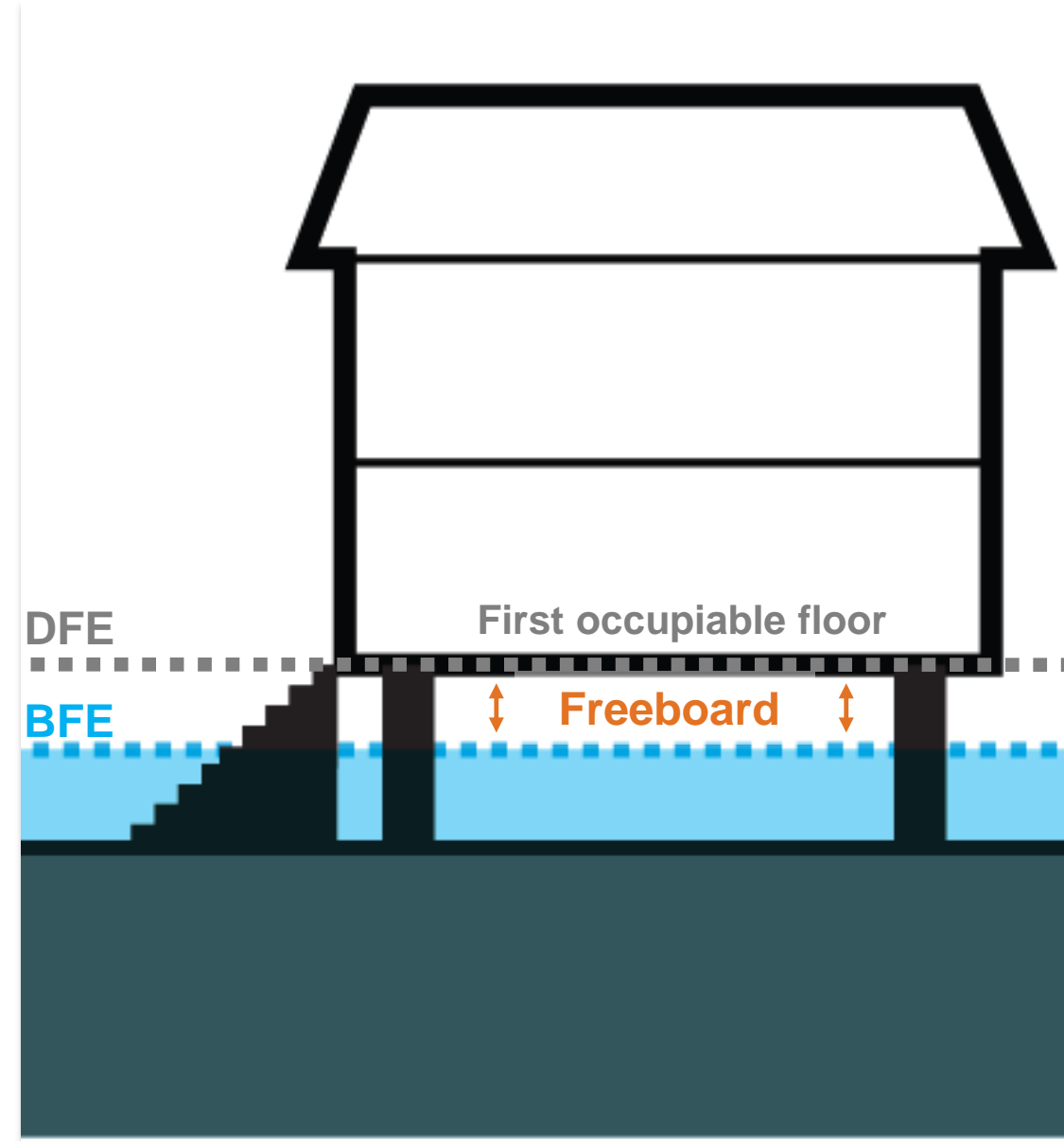
Terms

A building's **Base Flood Elevation (BFE)** and **Design Flood Elevation (DFE)** affect the regulatory and building code requirements and may have an impact on flood insurance premiums.

The expected height of flooding from the 1% annual chance flood for each flood zone, is known as the **Base Flood Elevation (BFE)**.

The **Design Flood Elevation (DFE)** is the height of the lowest inhabited floor.

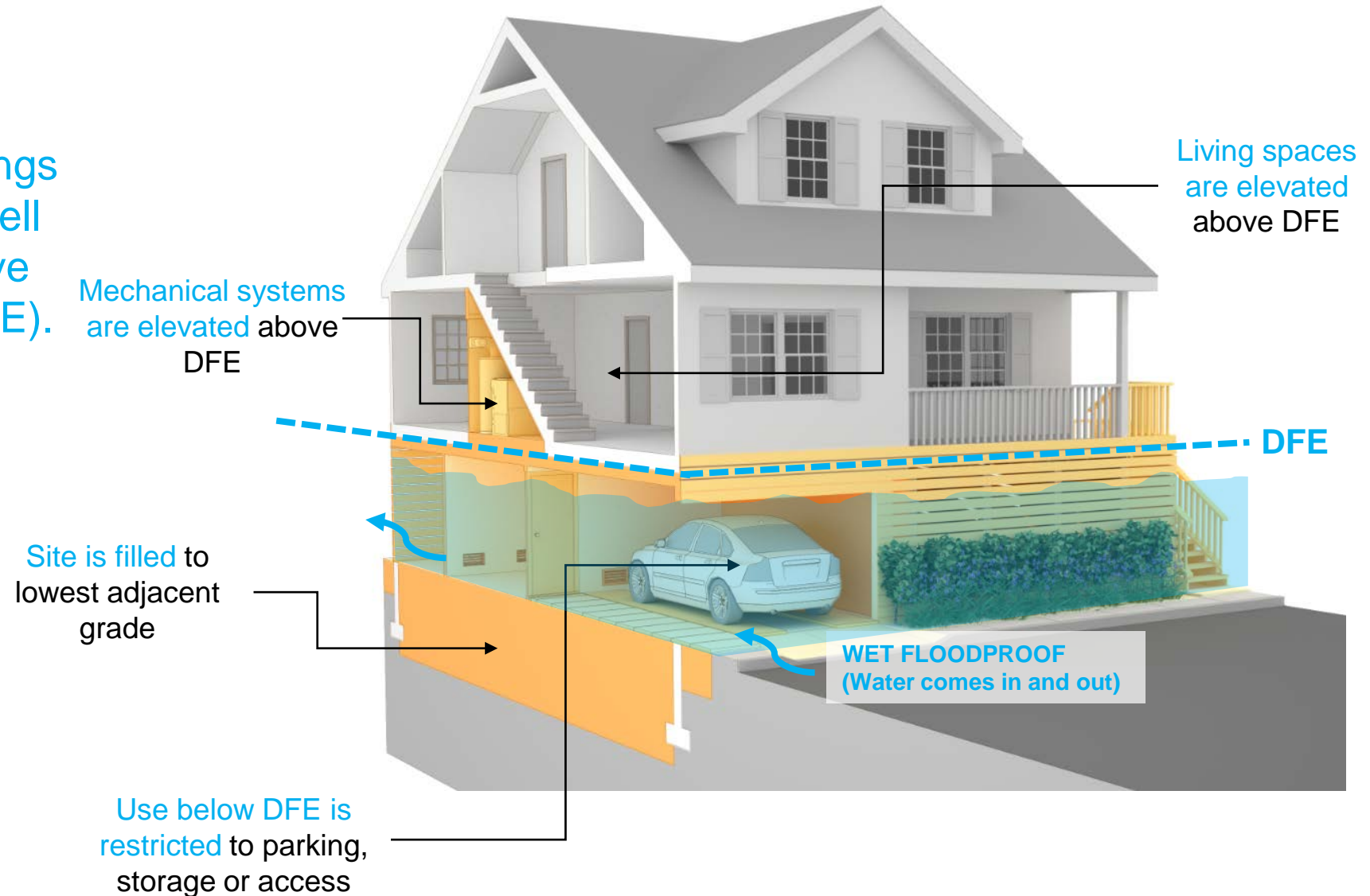
Additional height between the BFE and the DFE is known as **freeboard**.



Flood resilient construction

Required by DOB

Flood resilient construction standards require certain buildings to elevate the lowest floor, as well as mechanical equipment, above the Design Flood Elevation (DFE).



Flood resilient construction Required by DOB

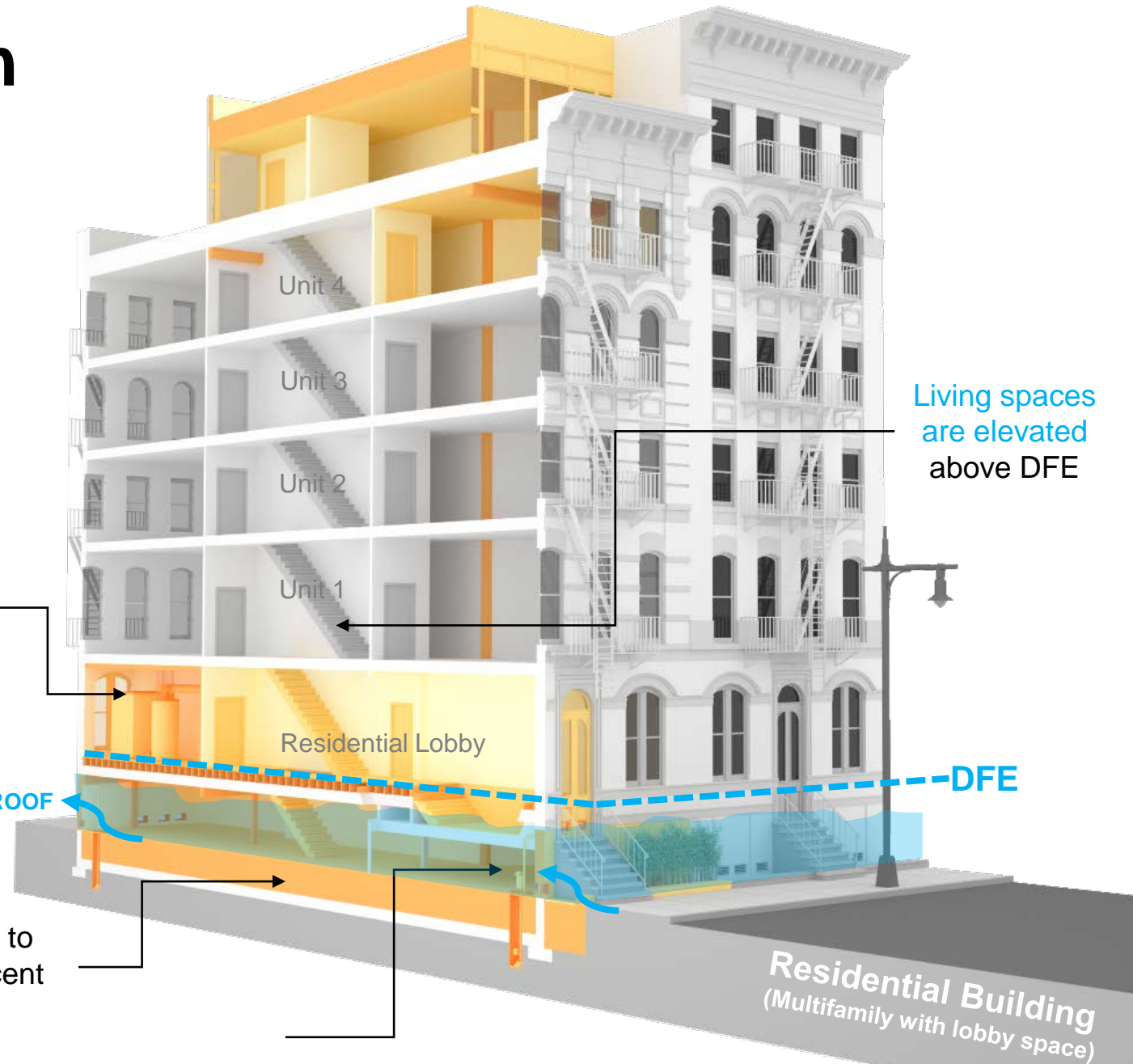
Flood resilient construction standards require certain buildings to elevate the lowest floor, as well as mechanical equipment, above the Design Flood Elevation (DFE).

Mechanical systems are elevated above DFE

Living spaces are elevated above DFE

WET-FLOODPROOF

Site is filled to lowest adjacent grade



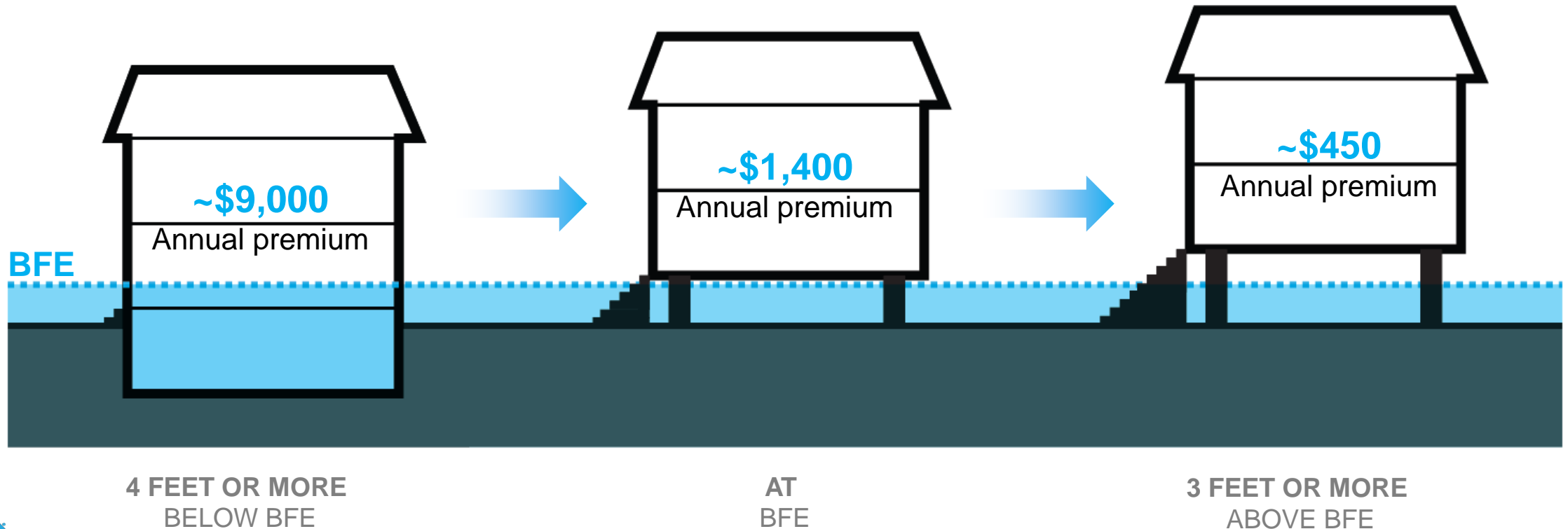
Residential Building
(Multifamily with lobby space)

Flood insurance rates

Set by FEMA

Raising or retrofitting your building or home will reduce costs

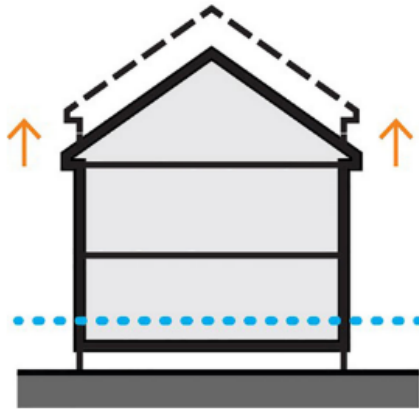
FEMA's flood insurance premiums are lowest when the lowest inhabited floor (any area not used solely for storage, access or parking) is elevated above the **Base Flood Elevation (BFE)**.



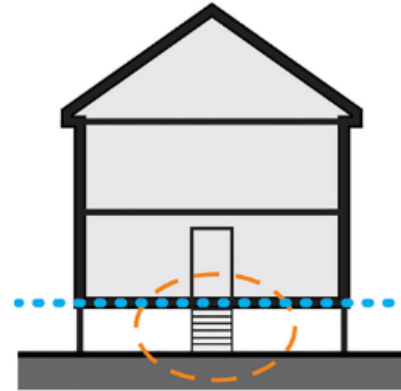
2013 Citywide Flood Text

Amended zoning in six key areas

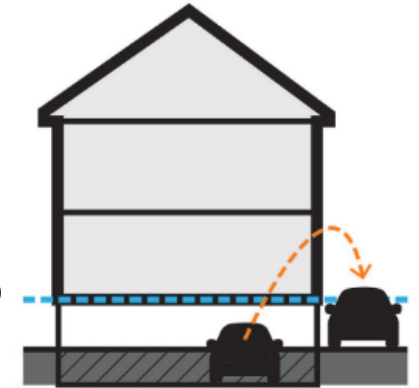
1
Height
Measured from
flood elevation



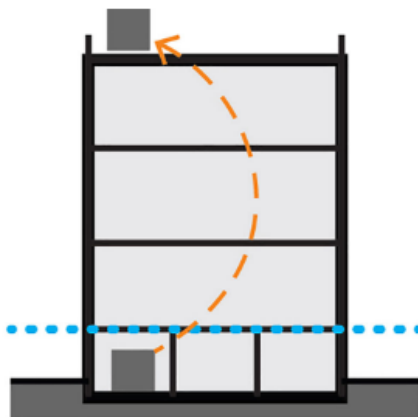
2
Access
Flexibility for
stairs, ramps, lifts



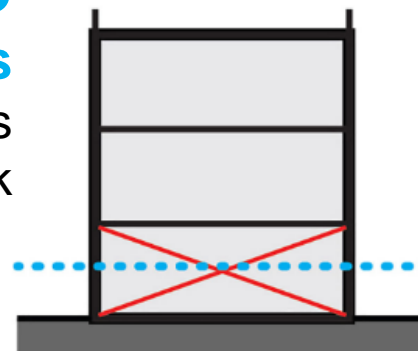
3
Parking
Flexibility to
relocate parking



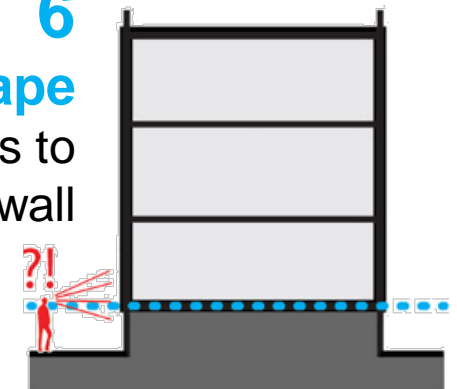
4
Systems
Flexibility to
relocate/elevate



5
Ground Floors
Account for costs
of new flood risk



6
Streetscape
Require features to
mitigate blank wall



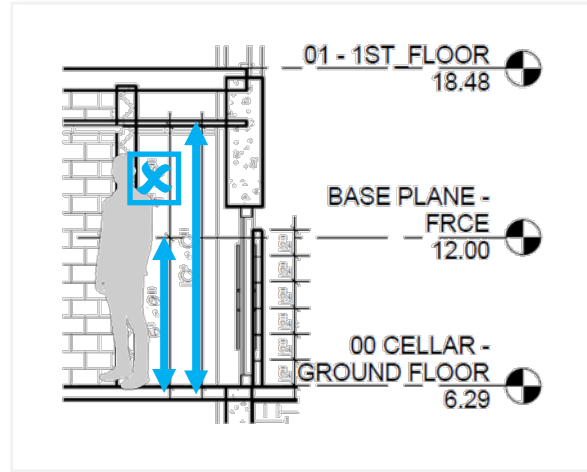
Flood Text Update

Need for a new citywide text amendment



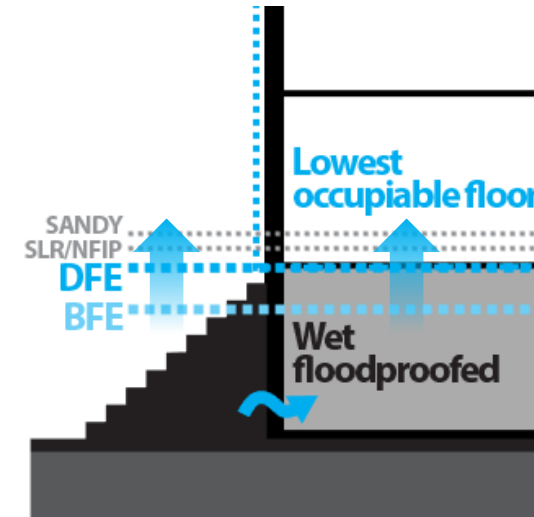
1

Make the provisions of the current, temporary 2013 Flood Text **permanent**



2

Fix and improve provisions based on studies, lessons learned, and outreach



3

Begin to **promote** new development + proactive retrofitting to high resiliency standards

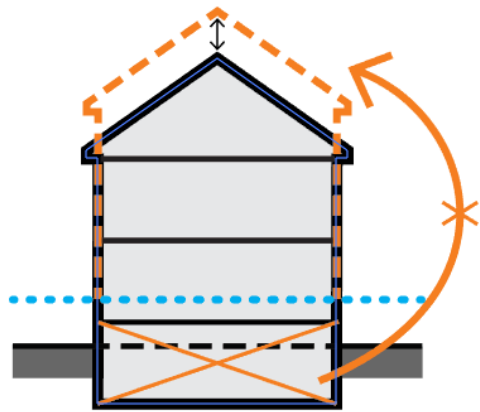
Flood Text Update

Fix and improve provisions based on lessons learned

1

Height

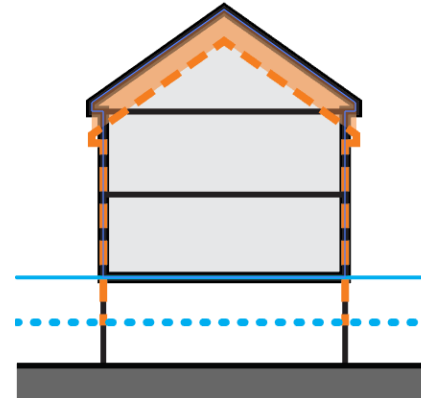
Homeowners may face the loss of subgrade spaces when retrofitting



2

Height

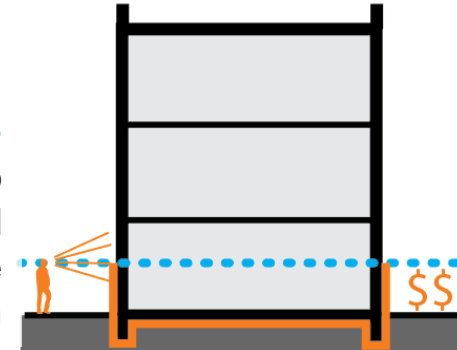
Property owners may want to address future risk by over-elevating



3

Ground Floors

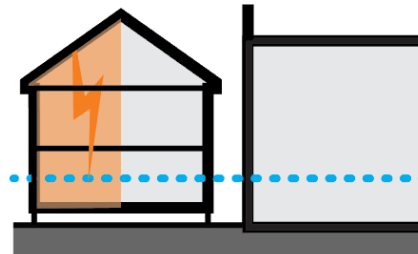
Current incentives to keep active ground floors may not be enough



4

Homes in M Districts

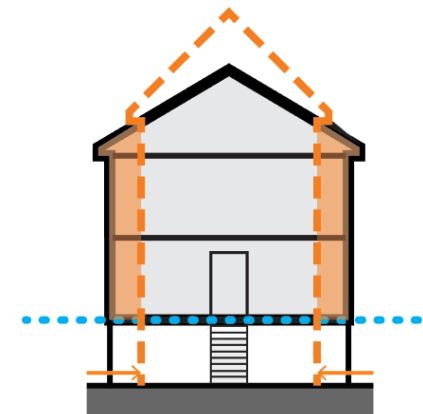
Existing homes in M. Districts, if damaged, may not be able to rebuild



5

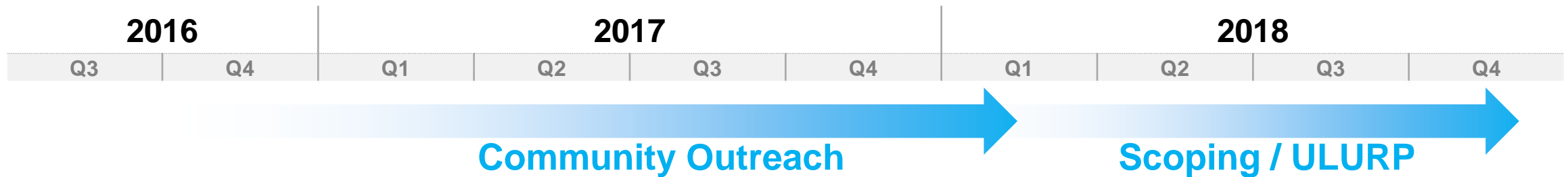
Old Homes on Small Lots

Old bungalow homes on small lots may need more flexibility to rebuild in the future



Flood Text Update Outreach

DCP has planned a robust public engagement process:



As part of this outreach process, DCP will:

- **Partner with stakeholders** to educate and promote awareness of flood risk and resiliency issues
- **Explain how zoning tools** relate to resiliency
- **Explore unique neighborhood issues** through in-depth public presentations and workshops
- Develop a proposal through an **iterative process** that is shaped by feedback

* Schedule is tentative and subject to change

Outreach Resources



NYC Flood Hazard Mapper

www.nyc.gov/floodhazardmapper

Info briefs on Flood Resilience Zoning, Flood Risk, Flood Resilient Construction, and Flood Insurance

www.nyc.gov/resilientneighborhoods

NYC PLANNING Info Brief Flood Insurance

Flood insurance covers damages to property or personal contents from flooding caused by excessive rainfall, tidal flooding, or wind-driven storm surges. Changes to flood maps and reforms to the National Flood Insurance Program will lead to increases in flood insurance rates over time. In addition to flood resilient construction, insurance is another strategy for reducing flood risk.

Why is Flood Insurance Important?

- Floods can cause significant damage to your most valuable asset: your business.
- Even properties far from the coast are at risk of flooding.
- Homeowner and property insurance do not cover damage by flooding. You need a separate policy.
- Federal assistance is not guaranteed in the event of a flood.
- Many property owners are required by federal law to purchase and maintain flood insurance if the property is located in a federal risk flood zone of the 2007 FIRM (see map to the right), has a federally backed mortgage, or has received federal disaster assistance.

How Much Flood Insurance Must a Homeowner Purchase?

Properties with a federally backed mortgage in a high-risk flood zone and those that have received federal disaster assistance must maintain flood insurance up to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) limits, or the outstanding mortgage balance, whichever is lower. Failure to do so may require mortgage servicers to purchase a private mortgage insurance policy for the property—possibly at a higher price on the cost through monthly mortgage payments. Homeowners without a federally backed mortgage or outside a high-risk flood zone may carry up to the maximum policy limit with additional contents coverage up to \$100,000 for owners or renters. Co-ops, multifamily buildings and business properties may be covered up to \$500,000. Business and tenants can also purchase up to \$100,000 in contents coverage.

NYC Planning | November 2016

NYC PLANNING Info Brief Flood Risk in NYC

New York City is highly vulnerable to flooding from coastal storms due to its intensively used waterfront and its extensive coastal geography. Floods have the potential to destroy homes and businesses, impair infrastructure, and threaten human safety. With climate change and sea level rise, these risks are expected to increase in the future, but will most adversely affect low-lying neighborhoods.

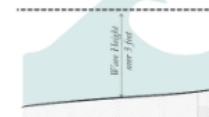
Flood Risks

Hurricanes, tropical storms, nor'easters, intense rain storms, and even extreme tides are the primary causes of flooding in NYC.

For building code, zoning, and planning purposes, flood risk in NYC is regulated by FEMA's 2015 Preliminary Flood Risk Rate Maps (PFIRMs).

- PFIRMs show the extent to which waters are expected to rise during a storm event that has a 1% annual chance of occurring. This height is denoted as Flood Elevation (FE) on the maps.
- The 1% annual chance floodplain, sometimes referred to as the 100-year floodplain, is the area that is expected to be flooded once every 100 years. In the 1% annual chance floodplain, there is a 26% chance over the life of a 30-year mortgage that a property will be flooded.

For flood insurance purposes, the 1% annual chance floodplain with a federally backed mortgage are mandated by law to purchase flood insurance.



The 1% annual chance floodplain is divided into different degrees of flood risk: V and Coastal Flood Risk. The maps show the areas that have a lower annual chance of flooding.

NYC Planning | November 2016

NYC PLANNING Flood Resilience Zoning

www.nyc.gov/resilientneighborhoods

City Planning is working with communities throughout the floodplain to identify zoning and land use strategies to reduce flood risks and support the city's vitality and resiliency through long-term adaptive planning. The Flood Resilience Zoning Text is one part of a wide range of efforts by the City to recover from Hurricane Sandy, promote rebuilding, and increase the city's resilience to climate-related events.

Overview

The Flood Text enables and encourages resilient building construction through designated floodplains.

The Flood Text modified zoning to regulate building construction through the reconstruction of storm-damaged buildings by enabling new and existing buildings with new, higher flood elevations issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and to comply with new requirements of the New York City Building Code.

It also introduced regulations to mitigate negative effects of flood resilient construction on the public realm. The text was adopted on a temporary, emergency basis. The future update of this text, guided by public input, will aim to make the text permanent and incorporate lessons learned during the rebuilding process.

Where is the Flood Text Applicable?

The Flood Text is available to buildings located entirely or partially within the 1% annual chance floodplain.

These rules can be found in Article 24 of the Zoning Resolution and, if utilized, require the building to fully comply with resilient construction standards found in the New York City Building Code. Some provisions, such as elevation certification, are available to all buildings in the floodplain, even if not fully compliant with Appendix G.

For more information about the Flood Resilience Zoning Text, visit www.nyc.gov/resilientneighborhoods.

*Per the more restrictive of the 2007 FIRMs or PFIRMs.

NYC Planning | March 2017 | Flood Resilient Construction

NYC PLANNING Info Brief Flood Resilient Construction

Flood resilient construction reduces potential damages from flooding and can lower flood insurance premiums. New buildings in the floodplain are required to meet flood resilient standards. Existing buildings can reduce their risk by retrofitting or rebuilding to meet these standards, or can take partial, short-term measures to address safety concerns.

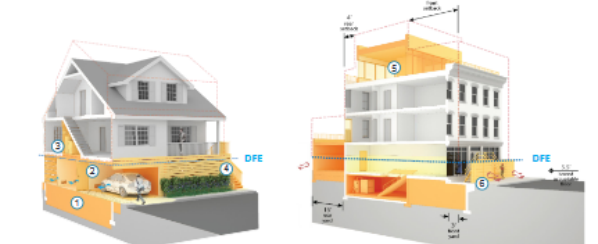
Overview

There is a wide range of accepted flood resilient construction practices for buildings to better withstand floods and reoccupy more quickly following a storm. These include:

- Elevating the lowest floor.
- Elevating mechanical equipment such as electrical, heating, and plumbing equipment.
- Wet floodproofing by utilizing water resistant building materials and limiting uses below the Design Flood Elevation (DFE) to parking, building access, and minor storage. This allows water to move in and out of uninhabited, lower portions of the building with minimal damage.
- Dry floodproofing sealing the building's exterior to flood waters and using removable barriers at all entrances below the expected level of flooding in mixed-use and non-residential buildings.

Examples of Flood Resilient Construction

Visit www.nyc.gov/resilientneighborhoods to see more examples in the Retrofitting for Flood Risk report.



- 1 Site is filled to the lowest adjacent grade
- 2 Space below the DFE is for parking, building access or minor storage
- 3 Mechanical systems are above the DFE
- 4 Plants and stair turns improve the look of the building from the street
- 5 Rooftop addition replaces lost below grade space
- 6 Commercial space is dry floodproofed with removable barriers

Thank you!

For more information, and to stay involved, email
resilientneighborhoods@planning.nyc.gov
ccamilleri@planning.nyc.gov