

RESILIENT NEIGHBORHOODS GOALS

Following Hurricane Sandy, the City has developed a detailed action plan for recovery from the storm and the long-term resilience of New York City's coastal communities, buildings, and infrastructure. As part of this effort, the Department of City Planning (DCP) is undertaking the Resilient Neighborhoods initiative in 10 neighborhoods across all five boroughs. The studies will consider the unique character of each community and the specific issues and opportunities each faces, while guided by a set of common goals:




- 1 Reduce risks from natural hazards such as flooding and coastal storms.**
Enable buildings and infrastructure to withstand flooding and other hazards while minimizing disruption to residents and businesses.
- 2 Foster economically and socially vibrant communities that are able to adapt to changing conditions.**
Support the continuing vitality of neighborhoods, considering both short-term needs and long-term challenges.
- 3 Coordinate land use planning with rebuilding activities and infrastructure investment.**
Identify practical strategies to address neighborhood needs and constraints.

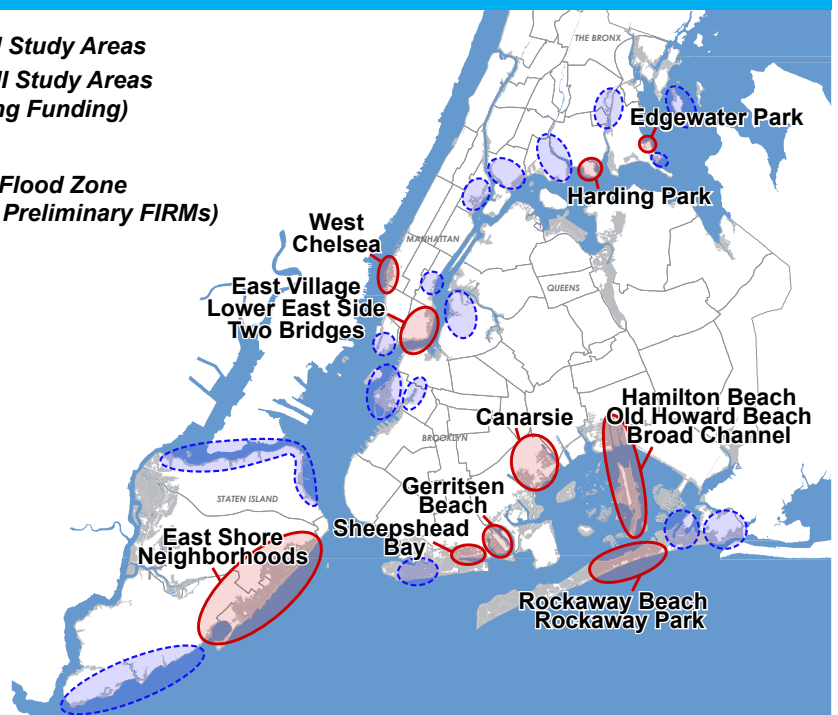
Over the next two years, DCP, in partnership with affected communities, will develop neighborhood frameworks for Sandy recovery and long-term resilience. Studies will identify potential changes to zoning and land use, as well as opportunities for housing, open space, economic development, public facilities, infrastructure, or other improvements. The nature of recommendations for each neighborhood will vary based on the needs and priorities for each area. Each Resilient Neighborhoods study will include a robust public outreach process with DCP working closely with local communities to identify issues, set objectives, and shape and review recommendations.

STUDY AREAS

Resilient Neighborhoods focuses on areas in all five boroughs that present specific local land use, zoning, and resilience issues that cannot be addressed fully by citywide zoning changes.

Phase I projects are located in areas where heavy damage occurred during Sandy or substantial flood risk exists.

-  **Phase I Study Areas**
-  **Phase II Study Areas (Pending Funding)**
-  **100-yr Flood Zone (FEMA Preliminary FIRMs)**



RN**MN**

EAST VILLAGE, LOWER EAST SIDE, & TWO BRIDGES

As part of the Resilient Neighborhoods initiative, the Department of City Planning is working with the communities of the East Village, Lower East Side, and Two Bridges to collaboratively identify changes to zoning and land use to address specific local conditions not addressed by the citywide Flood Resilience Zoning Text Amendment, and other citywide resiliency efforts. These neighborhoods were selected for this study not only because they were among the city's hardest-hit neighborhoods during Hurricane Sandy, but also because of the unique concentration of multi-family affordable housing developments.



What defines the neighborhood?

The East Village, Lower East Side, and Two Bridges study area is located in Manhattan Community District 3 and encompasses approximately **54 blocks** that **span 2.2 miles of the East River** from 14th Street to the Brooklyn Bridge. Nearly **70,000 residents** live in over **26,000 dwelling units** within **700 buildings** throughout the area.

Approximately **70% of the dwelling units within the study area provide affordable housing** for local residents, and are housed primarily in either tower-in-the-park developments or mid-rise tenement-style buildings.

Approximately **42% of the lots** in the study area contain **multi-family residential developments**. There are also a significant number of **mixed-use** residential and commercial developments—accounting for nearly **25% of buildings** within the study area. These mixed-use buildings are located primarily on Avenues B, C, and D in the East Village, and on Madison, Monroe, and Catherine Streets in Two Bridges.

What type of flood risk exists?

A significant amount of the land that lines Manhattan's coast was created by man-made fill, which expanded the coastline and allowed for the current built environment. This foundation makes the ground lower lying than the adjacent original land mass, which results in increased vulnerability to coastal storms and flooding.

Hurricane Sandy demonstrated the risk associated with this low-lying elevation, impacting a larger area than was previously thought to be vulnerable to coastal flooding. These increases include:

- **28% in number of blocks in the flood zone;**
- **131% of the number of buildings; and**
- **27% of dwelling units**

In addition to including new areas to the 100-year flood zone, the new Federal flood maps also have generally higher base flood elevations, ranging from approximately 11 to 13 feet, or 2 to 6 feet above ground level. Buildings within the flood zone are subject to building code requirements for flood-resistant construction and federal requirements for flood insurance, which may affect both residents and business owners.

What are the challenges to resiliency?

The high concentration of multi-family buildings - many of which are affordable - presents challenges, in addition to those facing local retail. This study will explore retrofitting options, identify the necessary zoning modifications to support these retrofits, and bring light to associated insurance implications.

How are we working with communities?

The Department is working with CB3 and local organizations to identify local strategies to facilitate resiliency in the neighborhood.

For more information contact:

ResilientManhattan_DL@planning.nyc.gov