

Waterfront Action Agenda

Transforming New York City's Waterfront



 **WAVES**
Waterfront Vision & Enhancement Strategy



City of New York

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor

NEW YORK CITY'S WATERFRONT ACTION AGENDA

The Waterfront Action Agenda is the three year implementation component of Vision 2020: New York City Comprehensive Waterfront Plan. The Action Agenda establishes a set of actions for realizing our waterfront and waterways as a world-class destination, a globally competitive port, and a rich and vital natural resource that draws all New Yorkers to its edge and onto the water.

The Action Agenda includes 130 specific, high-priority projects that demonstrate the City's commitment to investing in the transformation of the waterfront. The Action Agenda organizes each project under one of the eight goals of Vision 2020, identifies the City agency leading its implementation, and lists the date by which the project will be undertaken.

The Action Agenda was developed in partnership with City agencies and reflects the input of hundreds of citizens and governmental partners. Under the advisement of the Waterfront Management Advisory Board, the City will track progress through regular updates and an annual progress report.



GOAL: Expand Public Access

Expand and improve existing waterfront parks by investing over \$200 million

- Bronx**
- Orchard Beach: Replenish with clean sand, and expand the South Jetty to reduce further beach erosion. (DPR, 2011)
 - Soundview Park: Reconstruct playground, athletic courts, and build a new comfort station. (DPR, 2013)
- Brooklyn**
- Brooklyn Bridge Park: Complete improvements, including Squibb Park pedestrian bridge, upland recreation areas between Piers 1-6, and active recreation areas on Pier 5. (BBP, 2013)
 - Coney Island: Complete new 2.2-acre Steeplechase Plaza, including performance space, public art, water features, and retail. (EDC, 2012)
- Manhattan**
- Fort Washington Park: Construct pedestrian bridge and multi-use path. (DPR, 2013)
 - Governors Island: Commence parkland and open space development, including restoration of historic open spaces and improvements to all gateway dock facilities. (TGI, 2012)
 - Hudson River Park: Construct an upland esplanade in Tribeca, reconstruct the bulkhead between 39th and 43rd streets, and reconstruct Pier 97 at 57th Street. (HRPT, 2013)
- Queens**
- Long Island City: Complete design and reconstruction of the public access pier at 44th Drive in the Anable Basin. (DCAS, 2013)
 - Rockaway Beach Park: Construct new sports field, athletic courts, playgrounds, skate park, picnic area, performance space, lawns, and landscaping. (DPR, 2013)
- Staten Island**
- Oceanbreeze Park: Complete new regional athletic facility and indoor horse-riding arena. (DPR, 2013)

Develop or acquire over 50 acres of new waterfront parks by investing \$40 million

- Bronx**
- Throgs Neck: Complete new 9.5-acre Community Park at Ferry Point Park. (DPR, 2013)
- Brooklyn**
- DUMBO: Re-open the 5.3-acre Empire Fulton Ferry Park with “Jane’s Carousel” installed in new all-weather pavilion, and improve landscaping and public amenities. (BBP, 2011)
 - Greenpoint: Construct 1.5-acre Transmitter Park, including a playground, small pier, benches, and trees. (EDC, 2012)
 - Sunset Park: Complete ball-field, multi-use path, comfort station, and landscaping of 22-acre Bush Terminal Piers Park. (EDC, 2012)
 - Williamsburg: Continue the phased acquisition, remediation, and development of the new Bushwick Inlet Park. (DPR, 2013)
- Queens**
- Long Island City: Complete construction of a new 5-acre waterfront park at Hunter’s Point South, featuring a dog run, comfort stations, concession, playground, basketball courts, green stormwater infrastructure, and public ferry access. (EDC, 2013)
- Staten Island**
- Fresh Kills: Develop the first public access areas overlooking Main Creek. (DPR, 2013)

Develop waterfront Greenways and esplanades by investing over \$120 million

- Bronx**
- South Bronx: Complete improvements to the South Bronx Greenway. (EDC, 2012)
 - Complete Bronx River Greenway improvements. (DPR, 2013)
- Brooklyn**
- Brooklyn Bridge Park: Develop Brooklyn Bridge Park Greenway, linking the Columbia Street Greenway to DUMBO. (DOT/BBP, 2012)
 - Brooklyn Navy Yard: Complete redesign of Flushing Avenue between Williamsburg Street West and Navy Street. (DOT, 2013)
 - Red Hook: Build a multi-use path to connect Atlantic Basin to the Brooklyn waterfront greenway. (DOT, 2011)
 - Sunset Park: Complete study of bicycle and pedestrian connection from Hamilton Avenue Bridge to 2nd Avenue and Sunset Park path. (DOT, 2011)
 - Release Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway Master Plan, guiding creation of a 14-mile, multi-use waterfront path between Newtown Creek and the Shore Parkway Greenway. (DOT, 2011)

[Expand Public Access](#) continued >

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ARRA: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

BBP: Brooklyn Bridge Park

BNYDC: Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation

BPCA: Battery Park City Authority

CSOs: Combined Sewer Overflows

DCA: Department of Cultural Affairs

DCAS: Department of City Administrative Services

DCP: Department of City Planning

DEP: Department of Environmental Protection

DDC: Department of Design and Construction

DOB: Department of Buildings

DOE: Department of Education

DOHMH: Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

DOT: Department of Transportation

DPR: Department of Parks & Recreation

EDC: New York City Economic Development Corporation

HPD: Department of Housing Preservation and Development

HRPT: Hudson River Park Trust

NYCHA: New York City Housing Authority

NYPD: New York City Police Department

OEM: Office of Emergency Management

OER: Office of Environmental Remediation

OMB: Office of Management and Budget

SBS: Department of Small Business Services

SCA: School Construction Authority

SLOSH: Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes

SMIA: Significant Maritime and Industrial Areas

SUNY: State University of New York

TGI: Trust for Governors Island

Manhattan

- Lower Manhattan: Complete construction of 8.5 acres of East River Esplanade South between Battery Maritime Building and Pier 35, including Pier 15, to feature water uses, educational uses, and café. (EDC, 2012)
- Randall's Island: Complete waterfront pathways, including the Bronx Shore pathway, comfort stations, and seawall repairs. (EDC, 2013)
- Sherman Creek: Complete the Sherman Creek Waterfront Esplanade Master Plan to reclaim the Harlem River waterfront from Sherman Creek Inlet to W. 208th St. (EDC, 2011)
- Washington Heights: Restore the High Bridge over the Harlem River, and restore access paths within Highbridge Park to improve connectivity between Northern Manhattan and the Bronx. (DPR, 2011)
- Complete Manhattan Waterfront Greenway improvements, including Battery Bikeway, Dyckman Ramp, and a segment of the Lighthouse Link. (DPR, 2013)

Staten Island

- Fresh Kills: Construct portions of the new Greenway. (DPR, 2013)
- Stapleton: Begin construction of 6-acre waterfront esplanade. (EDC, 2011)

GOAL: Enliven the Waterfront

Catalyze over \$150 million in public and private investment for waterfront development projects

Brooklyn

- Brooklyn Army Terminal: Commence first phase of a commercial life sciences and technology center, and support workforce development and training programs, creating 1,000 jobs. (SUNY Downstate/EDC, 2012)
- Brooklyn Bridge Park: Issue RFP for adaptive re-use use of Empire Stores. (BBP, 2011)
- Brooklyn Bridge Park: Finalize agreement for community and cultural uses at Tobacco Warehouse. (BBP, 2012)
- Brooklyn Navy Yard: Issue RFP to privatize the 6-acre DCAS Auction lot to allow for redevelopment. (DCAS/BNYDC, 2013)
- Brooklyn Navy Yard: Begin public review and plan for the redevelopment of the 6-acre Admirals Row site, which will create approximately 500 industrial and retail jobs. (BNYDC, 2011)
- Brooklyn Navy Yard: Expand Steiner Studios to create a new studio and ancillary entertainment and media space, which will create 1,200 jobs. (BNYDC, 2013)
- Brooklyn Navy Yard: Begin construction on Green Manufacturing Center. (BNYDC, 2013).
- Coney Island: Complete development of 6.5-acre amusement park in historic Coney Island Amusement Area. (EDC, 2012)
- Mill Basin: Complete property transfer for commercial development with associated waterfront open space and permanent protection of Four Sparrows Marsh along Flatbush Ave. (EDC, 2011)
- Sunset Park: Issue RFP for the lease and development of an approximately 130,000-square-foot property at the Bush Terminal Complex, creating approximately 100 industrial jobs. (EDC, 2011)
- Williamsburg: Commence redevelopment of the Domino Sugar factory, including 30% affordable housing units, commercial space, community facility, and publicly-accessible waterfront open space. (HPD, 2013)

Manhattan

- Battery Park: Complete renovation and restoration at historic Pier A for public use. (BPCA, 2011)
- Lower Manhattan: Develop hotel, restaurant, catering, and community use at Battery Maritime Building. (EDC, 2011)
- Stuyvesant Cove: Invest through in-kind contributions in Solar One, the City's first solar-powered Green Energy, Arts, and Education Center, for maintenance and operations of the adjacent park. (EDC, 2013)

Queens

- Edgemere: Continue development of the Urban Renewal Area, adding an additional 434 homes, 5.5 acres of parkland, 4 acres of restored wetlands, and infrastructure and pedestrian improvements to the existing 307 housing-unit development. (HPD/DPR/DDC, 2013)
- Hunter's Point South: Commence construction of 900-1,000 new housing units, and complete construction of schools, roadways, sidewalks, street trees, and infrastructure. (HPD/SCA/EDC, 2013)
- Rockaways: Transform vacant lot at the Beach 80th Street Marina into a public waterfront esplanade, including docks, piers, a kayak launch, and a retail facility/catering hall. (EDC, 2011)
- Rockaways: Complete construction of next phase of Arverne by the Sea: the Dunes, a 270 two-family home development, and a new YMCA recreation center. (HPD, 2011)

Staten Island

- Stapleton: Begin mixed-use development agreement of 7-acre New Stapleton Waterfront site. (EDC, 2011)
- St. George: Execute development agreement for residential, retail, and open space at the 24-acre, former Coast Guard site. (EDC, 2011)

Promote historic maritime resources for educational and economic development

- Create uniform landing protocol and application for City-owned properties to facilitate docking of historic vessels. (Mayor's Office, 2012)
- Seek partnerships and funding to conduct citywide study of historic resources on the waterfront. (DCP, 2013)
- Brooklyn Navy Yard: Open exhibition and visitors center. (BNYDC, 2011)

Promote water dependent uses on the waterfront

- Revise zoning to encourage redevelopment and reuse of vacant or underutilized waterfront sites by allowing greater flexibility to achieve certain goals, such as brownfield clean-up, adaptive reuse of outmoded buildings, expansion of maritime uses, and provision of in-water infrastructure. (DCP, 2013)
- Sunset Park: Relocate NYPD tow pound facility to revitalize maritime-related activities in South Brooklyn Marine Terminal. (EDC, 2012)

Promote cultural programming activities on the waterfront

- Conduct education programming for children, including movie screenings and music, dance, and arts events throughout the five boroughs. (DCA, 2011)

GOAL: Support the Working Waterfront

Encourage the expansion of container shipping

Brooklyn

- Red Hook: Market the Container Terminal as a distribution hub for containerized cargo destined for East of Hudson businesses. (EDC, 2011)
- Sunset Park: Coordinate with the Port Authority on its Cross Harbor Freight Movement Environmental Impact Statement to ensure that transportation improvement alternatives fully account for expansion of container shipping. (EDC, 2012)

Staten Island

- New York Container Terminal: Complete environmental review for expanding container handling capacity, which will create approximately 300 jobs upon completion. (EDC, 2012)

Sustain economic development activity on the working waterfront by investing over \$170 million

- Develop maritime skills apprentice program in partnership with SUNY Maritime College (EDC/SBS, 2011)
- Assist the Urban Assembly New York Harbor School's efforts to have its Career and Technical Education program formally designated by the New York State Education Department's Board of Regents, which will secure ongoing funding for training the city's future maritime workforce. (DOE, 2011)
- Work with Brownfield Opportunity Area grant recipients, local communities, and elected officials in Significant Maritime and Industrial Areas (SMIA) to examine existing conditions and strategies for redevelopment, reuse, and remediation. (DCP/OER, 2013)
- Study zoning and other regulations regarding open industrial uses to better control environmental impacts, particularly the discharge of pollutants into the city's waterways, odor, and airborne dust and debris. (DCP, 2013)
- Revise Waterfront Revitalization Program to clarify SMIA purpose and intent, review procedures, and strengthen water-dependent uses. (DCP, 2012)
- Establish Task Force to focus on mooring tie-ups, "gray-water" discharge prohibition, Marine Highways, dredge material management, vessel repair capacity, and in-kind bulkhead replacement policies. (EDC, 2011)

Brooklyn

- 65th Street Rail Yard: Improve rail infrastructure to increase the use of cross harbor rail freight system by leveraging public and private investments. (EDC, 2013)
- Replace and lower Anchorage Channel Tap Water Siphons to facilitate deepening of the harbor shipping channel. (EDC/DEP, 2011)
- Brooklyn Navy Yard: Continue replacement of bulkheads and piers, and complete dredging to ensure long-term viability of maritime uses. (BNYDC, 2013)
- Red Hook: Provide additional berthing locations to commercial vessels along the north side of Atlantic Basin. (EDC, 2011)
- Sunset Park: Complete rehabilitation of South Brooklyn Marine Terminal to receive ships and barges, creating 400 new jobs. (EDC, 2012)

GOAL: Improve Water Quality

Implement \$180 million of green infrastructure projects that capture stormwater runoff and reduce combined sewer overflows (CSOs)

- Complete construction and monitor green infrastructure pilot projects that promote more efficient rainwater capture, including:
 - Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens: Monitor effectiveness of constructed "blue roof" pilot projects to minimize runoff impacts;
 - Brooklyn and Queens: Complete construction and install permeable pavement pilot projects at municipal parking lots;
 - Queens: Monitor stormwater-capture tree pits and street design pilot projects;
 - Queens: Transform the North and South Conduit Avenues median into a natural water filter and bio-retention area. (DEP, 2011)
- Capture the first inch of rainfall on 10% of impervious areas in combined sewer watersheds over 20 years by implementing green infrastructure in capital projects.

Invest \$650 million to build cost-effective gray infrastructure that captures and manages combined sewer overflows

- Launch comprehensive program to build on improvements to existing wastewater systems, including surveying and improving 136 miles of interceptor sewers; inspecting and repairing tide gates; and developing programs to prevent grease from obstructing sewers. (DEP, 2012)

Brooklyn

- Gowanus Canal, Brooklyn and Avenue V/Coney Island Creek, Brooklyn: Complete pump station and force main. (DEP, 2013)
- Gowanus Canal: Complete the upgrade and reactivation of the flushing tunnel from Buttermilk Channel. (DEP, 2013)
- Gowanus: Design and begin construction of the first phase of high-level storm sewers within a 48-acre drainage area to reduce CSOs in Gowanus Canal as well as street flooding and sewer backups in adjacent neighborhoods. (DEP, 2013)

Brooklyn/ Queens

- Paerdegat Basin, Brooklyn and Alley Creek, Queens: Complete new CSO storage facilities. (DEP, 2011)
- Participate in ongoing reviews of remedial investigation results and feasibility study for EPA's clean up of Gowanus Canal and Newtown Creek. (DEP, 2012)
- Newtown Creek: Design and construct aeration system in Lower English Kills to meet DEC water quality criteria. (DEP, 2013)
- Newtown Creek: Design and begin construction of separate sanitary and storm sewers within a 60-acre area of the drainage area. (DEP, 2013)

Continue major upgrades at wastewater treatment plants by investing \$1.6 billion

- Jamaica Bay: Complete installation of nitrogen control technologies at wastewater treatment plants, reducing nitrogen by 50% over next 10 years. (DEP, 2013)
- Newtown Creek: Complete the majority of \$5B of upgrades to Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant to attain Clean Water Act Secondary Treatment Standards and expand wet weather capacity to 700 million gallons. (DEP, 2013)
- Tallman Island, Bowery Bay, Wards Island, and Hunts Point: Make improvements at wastewater treatment plants, reducing nitrogen discharge into the East River by approximately 40%. (DEP, 2013)

Enhance and improve drainage by acquiring new areas for Bluebelts and improving storm sewers in waterfront neighborhoods; an investment of \$140 million

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| Brooklyn | • Coney Island: Design and begin construction of the first phase of separate sanitary and storm sewer upgrades. (DEP, 2013) |
| Queens | • Willets Point: Break ground on sanitary sewers and outfall controls. (EDC, 2013) |
| Staten Island | • Mid-Island Bluebelt: Negotiate acquisition of 123 acres at New Creek, South Beach, and Oakwood Beach for Mid-Island Bluebelt, a natural drainage corridor that transports, stores, and filters stormwater. (DEP, 2011) |

GOAL: Restore the Natural Waterfront

Implement \$50 million in waterfront ecological restoration projects

- Seek to identify and dedicate funding for the Hudson Raritan Estuary by coordinating with Federal and State Harbor Partners. (Mayor's Office, 2013).
- Determine opportunities for large-scale oyster restoration efforts after evaluating the ecological and water quality effects of oyster planting pilot projects undertaken in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York/New Jersey Baykeeper, Hudson River Foundation, the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program, and the Urban Assembly New York Harbor School. (DEP, 2013)

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| Brooklyn | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fresh Creek: Pilot study of ribbed mussel beds, evaluating nutrient filtration and pollutants. (DEP, 2011)• Jamaica Bay: Implement marshland restoration projects, including sponsorship of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' restoration project at Yellow Bar Hassock. (DEP, 2013)• Marine Park: Restore White Island, including sand placement, shoreline stabilization, planting of marsh grasses, and invasive species removal. (DPR, 2013)• Paerdegat Basin: Create Ecology Park by restoring 12 acres of tidal wetland and 26 acres of adjacent upland habitat. (DEP, 2012) |
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| Bronx | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pugsley Creek Park: Complete restoration of tidal wetlands, including excavation work, sand placement, and planting salt marsh grasses. (DPR, 2012)• Soundview Park: Complete restoration of tidal wetlands, including excavation work, sand placement, and planting salt marsh grasses. (DPR, 2013) |
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| Queens | • Breezy Point Tip: Study the feasibility of planting 3,000 eelgrass plants; if successful, begin larger-scale planting. (DEP, 2011) |
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Increase protection of wetlands and shoreline habitat

- Staten Island: Complete transfer of 70-acre Arlington Marsh property to Parks Department. (DPR/SBS/EDC/DCAS, 2013)
- Complete transfer of at least 5 additional City-owned wetland properties to Parks Department (DPR/DCAS, 2012)
- Revise the Waterfront Revitalization Program to designate as sites of ecological importance: the Upper Bronx River, Arverne, Plumb Beach, southern portion of the Arthur Kill shoreline, portions of the Raritan Bay shoreline, Staten Island Greenbelt, and Staten Island South Shore Bluebelts. (DCP, 2012)
- Plumb Beach, Brooklyn: Complete a study to address long-term shoreline erosion-impacts, and potentially execute a project partnership agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. (DPR, 2012)
- Develop citywide strategy for protection and restoration of wetlands and coastal ecosystems. (Mayor's Office, 2012)

GOAL: Enhance the Blue Network

Expand and improve NYC Water Trail

- Create design guidelines for replicating best human-powered boat launch types and features. (DPR, 2013)
- Develop more detailed human health protection advisories to keep boaters safe from environmental and physical threats. (DEP/DOHMH/DPR, 2013)

Bronx

- Hunts Point: Complete expansion of launch platform for canoes and small boats for floating dock at Hunts Point-Riverside Park. (DPR, 2013)

Manhattan

- Manhattanville: Activate West Harlem Piers Park's excursion boat pier and ferry barge. (EDC, 2011)
- Inwood: Complete repair and replacement of floating docks, and construct restaurant, snack bar, and restrooms at Dyckman Street Marina. (DPR, 2012)

Pilot inter-borough commuter ferry service

- Test feasibility of commuter ferry service on the East River connecting Brooklyn and Queens with Manhattan. (EDC, 2011)
- Coney Island: Complete Coney Island Ferry Study to determine feasibility of ferry service. (EDC, 2011)
- St. George and Whitehall ferry terminals: Develop recommendations for an enhanced docking system for the Staten Island Ferry fender racks. (DOT, 2012)
- Murray Hill: Construct E. 35th Street ferry landing that provides sheltered waiting area, ticketing, and pedestrian amenities. (EDC, 2012)

Enhance monitoring and improve public awareness of water quality standards, current conditions, and suitable uses

- Install new CSO outfall signs, enhance CSO website notification, and increase water quality sampling sites. (DEP, 2011)
- Develop comprehensive water use, navigation, and access policy. (Mayor's Office/ DEP/DOHMH/DPR/DCP/EDC, 2012)
- Identify opportunities to increase public awareness and stewardship of specific waterfront reaches, modeling successful public/private partnerships and working with the Partnerships for Parks Catalyst Program to link new conservation, protection, or enhancement efforts with existing organizations and programs. (DPR 2012)

Complete the update of NYC Waterborne Emergency Evacuation Plan

- Develop procedures to coordinate real-time support for maritime evacuation including ferry routes and landings, crowd control, enhanced mass transit service, and public information. (OEM, 2011)
- Support waterfront infrastructure projects that increase capability for emergency evacuations and disaster logistics. (OEM, 2011)

GOAL: Improve Governmental Oversight

Reform governmental regulation of the waterfront and waterways

- Establish In-Water Permitting Task Force to focus on developing permitting guidance documents, written mitigation policies and standards, a "one-stop-shop" for in-water permitting, and a training program for applicants. (EDC, 2011)
- Establish In-Water Design Guidelines Task Force to focus on design and construction practices and develop guidelines that minimize environmental impact, ensure structural resiliency of in-water structures, and accommodate vessel tie-up. (EDC, 2011)
- Develop wetlands mitigation bank and/or in-lieu fee program to promote more effective mitigation projects. (Mayor's Office, 2012)

GOAL: Increase Climate Resilience

Increase the City's resilience to climate change and rising sea levels

- Establish a strategic planning process for climate resilience by updating PlaNYC. (Mayor's Office, 2011)
- Partner with FEMA to develop more accurate consideration of current flooding risks, utilizing more accurate data in remapping to update FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps. (Mayor's Office, 2012)
- Study urban design implications of enhanced flood protection, and explore zoning and building code changes to promote freeboard. (DCP, 2012)
- Support coastal communities' efforts to undertake local resilience planning, and improve the dissemination of publicly-available data on the locations of hazardous material storage. (Mayor's Office, 2012)
- Study best practices for increasing resilience to coastal flooding and storm surge. (DCP, 2012)
- Revise NYC's Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan to reflect new information, such as updated Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) data, and regulatory and policy changes. (OEM, 2013+)
- Revise NYC coastal storm evacuation zone maps based on updated SLOSH data to identify vulnerable populations. (OEM, 2013)



The New York City Economic Development Corporation created the Waterfront Action Agenda in collaboration with the Mayor's Office, Department of City Planning, Department of Parks & Recreation, Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Emergency Management, and Department of Housing Preservation and Development.



New York City Economic Development Corporation

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