



Waterfront

INITIATIVES **Housing and Neighborhoods** • Develop new neighborhoods on underutilized sites • Create new units in existing neighborhoods | **Parks and Public Space** • Create and upgrade flagship parks • Convert former landfills into public space and parkland • Increase opportunities for water-based recreation • Improve collaboration between City, state, and federal partners • Create a network of green corridors • Conserve natural areas • Support and encourage stewardship • Incorporate sustainability through the design and maintenance of all public space | **Brownfields** • Increase participation in the NYC Brownfield Cleanup Program by partnering with lenders and insurers • Enable the identification, cleanup and redevelopment of brownfields | **Waterways** • Upgrade wastewater treatment plants to achieve secondary treatment standards • Upgrade treatment plants to reduce nitrogen discharges • Complete cost-effective grey infrastructure projects to reduce CSOs and improve water quality • Expand the sewer network • Optimize the existing sewer system • Expand the Bluebelt program • Build public green infrastructure projects • Engage and enlist communities in sustainable stormwater management • Modify codes to increase the capture of stormwater • Provide incentives for green infrastructure • Actively participate in waterway clean-up efforts • Enhance wetlands protection • Restore and create wetlands • Improve wetlands mitigation • Improve habitat for aquatic species | **Transportation** • Expand and improve ferry service • Improve freight movement | **Air Quality** • Retrofit ferries and promote the use of cleaner fuels • Work with the Port Authority to implement the Clean Air Strategy | **Solid Waste** • Reduce the impact of the waste system on communities | **Climate Change** • Regularly assess climate change projections • Partner with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to regularly update Flood Insurance Rate Maps • Develop tools to measure New York City's current and future climate exposure • Update regulations to increase the resilience of buildings • Work with the insurance industry to develop strategies to encourage the use of flood protections in buildings • Protect New York City's critical infrastructure • Identify and evaluate citywide coastal protective measures • Integrate climate change projections into emergency management and preparedness • Work with communities to increase their climate resilience

New York is a waterfront city. Four of our five boroughs are on islands, and the fifth is a peninsula. That translates into 520 miles of shoreline, which is more than Seattle, San Francisco, Chicago, and Portland have combined. Our water's edge is home to a maritime industry that supports 31,000 jobs and generates \$1.3 billion in tax revenue. It is the location for critical infrastructure such as power plants, airports, and wastewater treatment plants. Our shoreline includes a diverse mix of commercial and residential developments, natural habitats for hundreds of species of birds and fish, and 220 miles of public space.

Our waterfront is an invaluable asset, but for decades New Yorkers have had access to too little of it. Recently, we have engaged in a wide-ranging effort to reclaim our waterfront. We have opened access to miles of shoreline that had been closed to the public, developed new parks in all five boroughs, built thousands of units of new housing, created new maritime jobs, and cleaned our waterways. To continue this revitalization, we released *Vision 2020: New York City Comprehensive Waterfront Plan* in 2011 to establish a long-range vision for the entire shoreline. Vision 2020 built on the initiatives first presented in PlaNYC in 2007. In turn, this update of PlaNYC builds on *Vision 2020*.



We will enhance areas along the water and increase access to the water itself. By reducing Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), decreasing nitrogen discharges, removing contaminated sediments, and restoring wetlands, we will strengthen our coastal ecosystems and provide more opportunities to use our waterways not only for people but for blue heron and bass as well. We will also transform underutilized areas along the water into destination parks in all five boroughs, including Brooklyn Bridge Park, Governors Island, Soundview Park, Rockaway Beach Park, and Freshkills Park.

We will continue to enliven the waterfront with a range of attractive uses. We will build new residential neighborhoods at Hunter's Point South and Willets Point. We will explore zoning changes for under-utilized areas to create opportunities for more productive uses. Development along our shores can help meet the need for housing and other services for a growing population as well as provide jobs, generate tax revenues, and bring more people to the water. To make more underutilized land available for redevelopment, we will implement programs to ensure a more effective process for cleaning up contaminated land.

Our waterways will remain increasingly important blue highways for moving goods and people. An increase in waterborne transportation will relieve the burden on our streets and transit system. Ferry service on the East River will give more people a sustainable transportation alternative, while increasing tug-and-barge use to move solid waste out of the city will improve air quality and reduce congestion by taking trucks off the road. We will achieve cleaner air for waterfront communities by increasing the use of cleaner fuels in maritime vessels and reducing emissions from the ships, trains, and trucks that use our ports.

We will assess and respond to the impacts that sea level rise, storm surge, and increased precipitation levels will have on our coastal areas. By developing tools to measure New York City's current and future climate risks, we will make more informed decisions in terms of how we design and adapt critical pieces of coastal infrastructure and other elements of our built environment.

Our effort to revitalize New York City's waterfront extends beyond the initiatives in PlaNYC. *Vision 2020* seeks not only to create new residential areas and parks where opportunities exist but also to maintain a vibrant working waterfront where water-dependent industries can grow and thrive. We are developing waterfront infrastructure to enable the expansion of critical economic activities such as port commerce and shipping.

Our waterfront is a crucial component of our physical, economic, and social fabric. We will revitalize our city's edge to reconnect New Yorkers and visitors to the water and reclaim New York City's standing as a premier waterfront city. With smart and sensitive planning, we will create a waterfront that will be cherished for generations to come.