

Kingston Tidal Waterfront Flooding Task Force Recommendations

The Task Force developed 24 general recommendations for the City, listed below. A series of site-specific recommendations for shoreline neighborhoods were also developed. A complete list of both can be found in the full report. The final recommendations of the Task Force were endorsed by 17 members of the Task Force. Some of the recommendations can be implemented immediately; others call for further study to investigate complex policy issues. Both the Planning Team and the Task Force hope that their work will inspire Kingston to consider flood resiliency in all of its decision making and to continue the dialogue on this important issue.

City Operations, Funding and Decision Making

Near-term Actions

1. Adopt the sea-level rise and flood projections recommended by New York State and the Kingston Waterfront Flooding Task Force for planning purposes.
2. Incorporate these 24 findings and recommendations from the Kingston Waterfront Flooding Task Force into other City and regional plans.

Long-term Actions

3. Develop a Kingston Waterfront Long-term Resiliency Plan.
4. Reduce Kingston's greenhouse gas emissions and contribution to sea level rise and other climate impacts through the implementation of Kingston's Climate Action Plan, green infrastructure and green architecture.
5. Ensure that all relevant City staff and elected and appointed officials are fully trained in and expected to incorporate impacts of flooding and sea-level rise into their daily work.

Resilient Structures

Near-term Actions

6. Ensure that zoning designations in the Kingston 2025 Comprehensive Plan consider increasing risk and vulnerability from flooding and sea-level rise.
7. Require that proposals for new development of any kind in the Flood Hazard Overlay District take flood risk into account.
8. Reduce stormwater, upland flooding and combined sewer overflows through green infrastructure and best stormwater management practices.

Long-term Actions

9. Research, evaluate and implement changes to City building and zoning codes that will increase resiliency and are cost-effective and socially equitable.
10. Study the feasibility of using policy, zoning and building codes to achieve creative, water-dependent and water-enhanced uses that are resilient, including elevated, amphibious, or floating structures, wharves, berms and elevated rights of way.

11. Evaluate the use of natural buffers and green shoreline infrastructure to reduce flood risk and erosion and conserve natural resource functions.

12. Ensure that local street networks, utilities and other infrastructure function and remain connected as the City implements adaptation strategies to sea-level rise.

13. Research and evaluate land-use tools and financing mechanisms or incentives to facilitate flood adaptation in the waterfront.

Promoting a Waterfront Economy and Economic Revitalization

Long-term Actions

14. Ensure opportunities exist for open space and recreation over the long term.

15. Consider future flood hazards in economic development planning.

16. Develop a plan to mitigate both near- and long- term risk to the wastewater treatment facility.

Community Collaboration and Public Outreach

Near-term Actions

17. Host an informational public meeting with FEMA.

18. Conduct public outreach to property owners, tenants and prospective buyers in the Flood Hazard Overlay District.

19. Encourage and assist community-based organizations in their efforts to communicate the risks of flooding and potential adaptation solutions to vulnerable or non-English speaking populations.

20. Collaborate with other waterfront communities and county and state government to plan for coastal hazards like sea-level rise and storm surge.

Emergency Management

Near-term Actions

21. Revise emergency management planning documents.

22. Employ new tools to improve real time emergency management planning.

23. Ensure safe access and evacuation along the waterfront during regular flood events.

Long-term Actions

24. Develop a process to map and track repetitive storm damage.

Final report and other materials from the Task Force available at:

<http://kingstoncac.org/index.php/initiatives/tidal-waterfront-flooding-task-force>