

## Post-Flood Recovery Visioning: Sodus Point, NY

Research has long shown that, in the absence of some larger vision for the future, residents of communities recovering from a hazard event such as severe flooding have an operative idea of their rebuilt community—almost invariably it resembles the community they already knew.

The record-high Lake Ontario water event in 2017 hit the Village of Sodus Point (Wayne County, N.Y.) hard. Water overran shoreline and breakwalls causing persistent inundation to waterfront homes and businesses, and flooding streets.

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) and the Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council (G/FLRPC) established and piloted a visioning process to help communities improve their resiliency to future flooding events. This process, designed to be transferable to other communities, included implementing a self-assessment checklist and hosting a public engagement workshop. The workshop was held in the Village of Sodus Point.

A self-assessment checklist identifying flooding vulnerabilities served to inform participants in the Post-Flood Recovery Building Workshop (organized by NYSG and G/FLRPC) held in October 2018.

The workshop was attended by a mix of local residents, Village staff, Village and County department representatives, and topical experts with state and federal agencies, organizations, and academia. Breakout groups identified the local features/assets/procedures that were impacted and prioritized actions to improve their functionality in the face of future flooding events.

NYSG and G/FLRPC presented the workshop findings to the Village Board and during 2019 will design rough project concepts with potential funding sources.



*Above: Post-flood recovery visioning workshop breakout session; upper right: prioritizing suggested actions. Photos: GLRPC/Jayme Thomann*

### Partner:

Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council

### Funding:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Community Climate Adaptation Initiative; through funds provided by the Environmental Protection Fund under the authority of the New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Act and by agreement with NYSG, G/FLRPC received a New York Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program grant

***“Going forward,  
we will review the workshop recommendations  
for actions we can take to put us in  
a much better position to deal with future events”  
— Sodus Point Mayor Dave McDowell***

### ***The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is New York Resilient Communities and Economies***

New York Sea Grant is a joint program of Cornell University, the State University of New York, and NOAA.

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