



New York Sea Grant (NYSG) is a collaborative program of the State University of New York, Cornell University, and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration).

With 3,400 miles of coastlines, New York is the only U.S. state bordering both the Great Lakes and the Atlantic Ocean. More than 85% of NY's population lives in a coastal region.



NYSG provides research, education, and extension services enhancing coastal community economic vitality, environmental sustainability, and citizen awareness of NY's marine and Great Lakes resources.

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Community Flood Forum Highlights

New York City Residents' Flood Stories and Solutions

New York Sea Grant hosted a second public event providing opportunities for local community members to share flooding stories, solutions, and resources.

Urban flooding from higher than normal tides, precipitation, or compound causes has been increasing in New York City and affects many aspects of residents' daily lives. For more than six years, New York Sea Grant has been working with communities in the Jamaica Bay watershed to understand this issue. Through the Community Flood Fellowship Program's structured workshops with community leaders across Jamaica Bay, New York Sea Grant has identified the need for opportunities for residents to access trustworthy information and learn from each other about how best to leverage this information towards flood resilience.



Participants in the 2025 Community Flood Forum shared their experiences and ideas in small groups.

Photo: Paola Garcia

In June 2025, New York Sea Grant worked with the 2025 cohort of New York Sea Grant Community Flood Fellows to organize a public Community Flood Forum and flood resource fair at the Idlewild Environmental Science Education Center in partnership with the Eastern Queens Alliance and the Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay. This second Community Flood Forum included Flood Fellows' presentations, an arts-based intervention and storytelling activity, and resources from seven organizations offering neighborhood tools for flood resilience (Center for New York City Neighborhoods, FloodNet NYC, New York City Emergency Management, New York City Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice, New York State Homes and Community Renewal, Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay, and the Waterfront Alliance). More than forty attendees learned directly from their neighbors, told their own flooding impact stories, and shared proposals for working together to address increasing flood risk in their communities.

Forum attendees represented neighborhoods including Edgemere, Far Rockaway, Hamilton Beach (Queens), Rosedale, Sheepshead Bay (Brooklyn), and Springfield Gardens. Survey results indicated participants gained knowledge that they will act on in future flood resilience work. Several attendees later independently reported sharing what they learned at the event to educate neighbors or elected officials.

Project Partners:

- Eastern Queens Alliance
- Olive Toran, artist and guest facilitator
- Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay