



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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NYSG Focus Area for this project:
Resilient New York Communities and Economies
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Sustainable and Resilient Communities Program Expands to New York City

Needs assessment by New York Sea Grant identifies gaps in resilience planning and barriers to implementing resilience projects in Bronx/Queens communities.

Bronx and Queens communities are on the frontlines of a changing environment, facing impacts such as coastal flooding, extreme rainfall, and extreme heat. In 2025, the Long Island Sound Partnership's Sustainable and Resilient Communities program expanded to New York City to help address these challenges.

The first task of New York Sea Grant's New York City Sustainable and Resilient Communities Extension Professional was a needs assessment focused on the barriers to resilience planning in the Bronx and Queens. Core tasks included an inventory of relevant resilience planning efforts and programs in New York City, identification of targets of the assessment and implementation partners, and conversations with stakeholders to gather information on environmental challenges.

In 2025, forty-six meetings were held with a variety of stakeholders, including nonprofit organizations, community groups, and city agencies. These meetings provided opportunities to build relationships, understand community priorities, and grow the Sustainable and Resilient Communities network in New York City.

Preliminary findings suggest a need for additional coordination between local communities and City agencies, support for community engagement around resilience planning and projects (including large-scale citywide and regional initiatives), technical assistance on permitting and grant requirements, and recognition of existing resilience planning efforts by Bronx- and Queens-based community organizations. Ultimately, the assessment findings will help shape future Sustainable and Resilient Communities programming in New York City and forge new partnerships with relevant Long Island Sound stakeholders.

Project Partner:

- Long Island Sound Partnership



A Sustainable and Resilient Communities needs assessment visit was made to Big Rock Wetland Restoration Project in Douglaston, Queens, with Douglas Manor Environmental Organization. Photo: Sarah Schaefer-Brown/ New York Sea Grant