

# Enhanced Environment and Climate Resilience

## Citywide Goals and Strategies

### **Goal 4.1: *Continue efforts to enhance and protect the City's natural environment.***

- ▶ **Strategy 4.1.1:** Continue to evaluate the City's critical infrastructure in the context of sea level rise.
- ▶ **Strategy 4.1.2:** Consider measures to fully integrate climate resilience and sustainability responsibilities and oversight into the City's regulatory process through a collaborative effort between City staff and grant managers/consultants.
- ▶ **Strategy 4.1.3:** Evaluate new tools and funding sources for storm water management.
- ▶ **Strategy 4.1.4:** Identify additional opportunities to increase permeability with policy changes, green infrastructure improvements, including greenspaces such as rain gardens, infiltration basins, tree plantings, and green roofs.
- ▶ **Strategy 4.1.5:** Ensure that new development in areas of repetitive flooding meet resilience requirements, including those set forth in the City's Zoning Code and the New York State Building Code.
- ▶ **Strategy 4.1.6:** Continue implementing the 2015 Tree Replanting Plan, and consider preparing an updated plan.
- ▶ **Strategy 4.1.7:** Continue to work with the State, County, and neighboring communities to enhance water conservation efforts and protect the Lloyd aquifer.
- ▶ **Strategy 4.1.8:** Continue to coordinate with interested groups to educate residents and business owners regarding the importance of water conservation in protecting the Lloyd aquifer water supply.
- ▶ **Strategy 4.1.9:** Continue the City's effort to remediate (in accordance with all applicable State and Federal regulations), identify possible redevelopment opportunities for Brownfield Opportunity Areas (BOA) and keep abreast of the ongoing cleanup at state superfund sites under private ownership.
- ▶ **Strategy 4.1.10:** Continue to identify open spaces that can serve as recreation areas, aid in storm water management and create additional environmental and community benefits.

## **Goal 4.2: Protect the City's built environment from the effects of Climate Change.**

- ▶ **Strategy 4.2.1:** Encourage the use of green building technology and resilient design guidelines for new development projects and retrofits by offering incentives (including streamlined approvals).
- ▶ **Strategy 4.2.2:** Continue to storm harden City infrastructure using standard practices and nature-based solutions,<sup>1</sup> to afford protection from extreme weather-driven impacts.
- ▶ **Strategy 4.2.3:** Update the City's Zoning Code to codify resilience measures, especially in areas of repetitive flooding, including:
  - Reviewing building regulations to ensure the latest guidance on building design and construction in areas of flooding is incorporated into the Zoning Code.
  - Limiting the area of impervious coverage for new and reconstructed buildings to just the building footprint.
  - Reducing required parking for non-residential uses.
  - Requiring green roofs, rain gardens, rainwater harvesting, and/or planter boxes.
  - Encouraging tree planting to establish/re-establish an urban tree canopy.
  - Retaining and processing storm water on project sites.
  - Incentivizing property owners to reduce impervious surfaces through removal of parking, driveways, and walkways or replacement with pervious pavement/pavers.
  - Removing or relocating nonconforming accessory structures.
  - Ensuring new buildings are constructed to withstand or adapt to flood events.
- ▶ **Strategy 4.2.4:** Continue to find opportunities to enhance drainage systems throughout the City but especially in the areas with the lowest elevations.

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<sup>1</sup> "Nature-Based Solutions." FEMA.gov. Accessed August 25, 2022. <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/nature-based-solutions#:~:text=Nature%2Dbased%20solutions%20are%20sustainable,Reduce%20flood%20risk>.

**Goal 4.3: Support residents and business owners in coping with Climate Change impacts.**

- ▶ **Strategy 4.3.1:** Continue to implement measures to maintain and possibly improve the City's CRS rating, thereby achieving additional flood insurance premium discounts for City of Long Beach residents.
- ▶ **Strategy 4.3.2:** Create marketing and educational campaigns to inform residents and business owners of inherent hazard risks and opportunities/mitigation strategies to offset those risks.
- ▶ **Strategy 4.3.3:** Continue to coordinate with local community organizations and institutions to support residents and businesses in preparing for extreme weather events and the effects of heat islands, especially as the West End has been shown (on the U.S. Geological Survey map) to be a prominent heat island in Nassau County.
- ▶ **Strategy 4.3.4:** Continue support of the City's Office of Emergency Management during extreme weather events (heat, cold, storm), by codifying emergency response plans and coordinating with neighboring communities and responsible agencies.
- ▶ **Strategy 4.3.5:** Continue to pursue programs that assist residents in protecting their homes from future storms through elevation and other measures.<sup>2</sup>
- ▶ **Strategy 4.3.6:** Continue to partner with public and private organizations to educate neighborhood and business organizations about the importance of incorporating resilience measures into their properties and day-to-day operations.
- ▶ **Strategy 4.3.7:** Continue to seek grants that support and promote education about effective permeability improvements.



▲ **Damage from Superstorm Sandy in Long Beach's West End, October 2012 (via NYRCR Long Beach Planning Committee)**

<sup>2</sup> Creating Resilience: A Planning Initiative, City of Long Beach, NY, Comprehensive Plan Update, 2018

# Next Steps

- ▶ Consider adopting land use tools and policies like climate resilient zoning ordinances and resilient design guidelines to help prepare the City for the long-term impacts of climate change.
- ▶ Identify and document general and project-specific opportunities to implement green building and green infrastructure practices in new construction and retrofits/renovations for both vertical and horizontal development.
- ▶ Work collaboratively with neighborhoods to assess opportunities for nature-based solutions that address coastal hazards.
- ▶ Pursue State and Federal funding for green infrastructure and nature-based project implementation.
- ▶ Prepare an approach to combat heat islands, including tree and vegetation planting, creating cool roofs, establishing neighborhood cooling centers, distributing education materials on health risks associated with intense heat.
- ▶ Continue to install new and update existing storm water management infrastructure.
- ▶ Increase coordination between experienced/trained City Office of Emergency Management staff and emergency service providers in emergency preparedness planning.
- ▶ Enhance communication and coordination with neighboring municipalities during extreme weather events (heat, cold, storm, etc.) and ensure facilities, and transportation to those facilities, are available short- and long-term for displaced residents.