

Improving Coastal Restoration Via Shoreline Processes & Management Training

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) equips stakeholders, agency representatives and engineers with a variety of tools that help to improve their coastal restoration efforts, from educating on the challenges faced with nature-based shoreline techniques and designing a decision-making framework for nature-based features, to providing methods on how to approach restoration design for shorelines and coastal habitats, as well as overviews of federal state and regional permitting processes.

In May 2017, NYSG implemented a two-day Great Lakes shoreline workshop in Buffalo. The first day included presentations on diverse topics, including those named above. The second day included site visits to five different habitat restoration projects along Lake Erie, and the Niagara and Buffalo Rivers.

Participants gained an understanding of coastal processes and various types of shoreline management techniques and approaches that may impact, and be applicable to, New York's Great Lakes region and its connecting channels and shorelines. They also gained an understanding of nature-based shoreline management and how this innovative strategy might be used to protect coastal areas in a more sustainable manner.

Approximately 50 participants represented staff from municipalities, agencies, non-governmental organizations, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, environmental consulting firms, academia, and graduate students. Evaluation responses unanimously indicated that the workshop improved overall understanding about shoreline processes, management techniques and participant knowledge about tools, resources and permitting processes related to NY's Great Lakes, connecting channels and shorelines. All (100%) of those surveyed indicated they will use the information provided at the workshop to guide and influence future decisions or actions.

Workshop participants appreciated the diversity of presentations, mix of presenters, and networking opportunities provided. Evaluation responses included such comments as *"applicable to someone new to the*



Participants in a NYSG-led nature-based shoreline workshop visited project areas on Grand Island (top) and along the Buffalo River. Photos: Helen Domske, NYSG

field and seasoned professionals" and "I appreciated the case studies that included examples of where projects were implemented and what was learned."

Partners:

- US Army Corps of Engineers
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- NYS Department of State
- Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is Healthy New York Coastal Ecosystems

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