

Managing Erosion on Great Lakes Residential Shorelines

After widespread flooding along the southern shore of Lake Ontario in 2017, shoreline properties and structures were at risk of extensive destruction from high water and powerful waves. In 2018, New York Sea Grant (NYSG) designed a workshop to educate shoreline property owners on sustainable and innovative shoreline protection options.

In June 2018, NYSG presented a workshop that provided Lake Ontario shoreline property owners with an array of shoreline protection options as well as covering the permitting process associated with these types of projects and offering guidance on selecting and working with shoreline contractors.

The workshop attracted 35 property owners and managers from Oswego, Wayne and Cayuga counties to the four-hour learning opportunity. Participants welcomed guidance on working within the local shoreline geology and Lake Ontario climate, how to select and work with shoreline contractors, and New York State permitting processes.

The workshop design and selected speakers — from the Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and New York State Department of State (DOS) — were met with a positive response from attendees who provided NYSG with feedback on interest in future similar workshops.

NYSG continues to advance productive working relationships with the DEC, DOS, and county Soil & Water Conservation Districts to provide guidance to property owners on managing their shoreline for erosion and flooding resilience.



Lake Ontario property owners and managers learn about sustainable shoreline protection at this NYSG-initiated workshop.

Photo: NYSG/Mary Austerman

The June 2018 workshop served as an introduction for the new NYSG Great Lakes Coastal Processes and Hazards Specialist to communities along the southern Lake Ontario shoreline and as a kick starter for creating awareness and use of natural and nature-based shoreline establishment in the Great Lakes.

Partners:

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- New York State Department of State
- Oswego County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Wayne County Soil & Water Conservation District

The Sea Grant Focus Area for this project is New York Resilient Communities & Economies

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