



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

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



New York Sea Grant regional offices provide innovative research, technical assistance, and outreach on such issues as water quality, coastal resilience, marine & freshwater fisheries, invasive species, algal blooms, aquaculture & seafood, coastal literacy, and shoreline community development.

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**NYSG Focus Area
for this project summary:**
**Resilient New York
Communities & Economies**

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Wayne County Shoreline Steering Committee: Building Coastal Resilience and Economic Opportunity

This initiative provides environmental, economic, and community benefits in Wayne County and serves as a model for regional collaboration.

Wayne County's Lake Ontario shoreline faces urgent challenges including from erosion, flooding, and fluctuating water levels, all increasing under climate change and endangering infrastructure, ecosystems, and local economies. These issues highlight the need for coordinated, proactive solutions to secure long-term resilience and economic vitality.

Coordinated by New York Sea Grant, the Wayne County Shoreline Steering Committee unites municipal leaders, economic development professionals, and environmental stakeholders to strategically plan ways for continued enhancement of coastal resilience.

The group has engaged with national efforts such as the Great Lakes Cities Initiative and the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) to provide technical assistance related to data creation and access and tool development.

This work is a foundational part of the envisioned New York Great Lakes Coastal Resilience Network, with pilot expansion planned for Jefferson and St. Lawrence counties in 2025.

Key accomplishments by the committee include flood resilience and shoreline stabilization in Sodus Point and across the bays. Stakeholder workshops, public events and one-on-one consultations have reached hundreds of participants, fostering skills in resilience planning and project implementation. This initiative enhances local economies and ecosystems and sets the stage for regional collaboration to address shared challenges.

The Wayne County Shoreline Steering Committee demonstrates how strategic locally-driven efforts can deliver significant environmental and economic outcomes while inspiring broader regional resilience initiatives.

Project Partners*:

- Village of Sodus Point
- Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District

** Initiated the Wayne County Shoreline Steering Committee with NYSG; the Committee has members too numerous to mention here.*



The mayor of Sodus Point educates people about the recent stormwater system upgrades, including this pump station, and other protective measures such as green infrastructure, a sand dune, and flood wall.
Photo: Mary Austerman/NYSG

New York Sea Grant: Bringing Science to the Shore Since 1971