



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
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Resilient New York
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Jamaica Bay Community Flood Fellowship Program

New York Sea Grant has launched a flood risk training and networking program in response to requests by Jamaica Bay community members.

High tide flooding affects many aspects of New York City residents' daily lives, including commutes, access to food and healthcare, and personal property (Campbell et al. 2021*). New York Sea Grant (NYSG) has heard from many community partners that they need support in accessing the educational resources and social and professional networks required to take informed action to address chronic flooding.

With funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 2024, NYSG collaborated with the Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay to develop and launch the first Jamaica Bay Community Flood Fellowship Program. This training and networking program convenes community leaders to help build coastal resilience in neighborhoods around Jamaica Bay. The Fellows include representatives of Brighton Beach, Canarsie, Coney Island, East Flatbush/Flatlands, Edgemere, Far Rockaway, New Hamilton Beach, and Sea Gate.

In the spring, NYSG held five convenings of the Fellowship Program, connecting 12 community leaders from neighborhoods across the Jamaica Bay watershed. Fellows learned about tools and resources to understand flood risk, prepare for flooding, and mitigate its effects, and developed resources, extension materials, and outreach activities to share these resources with their communities. This first Jamaica Bay Community Flood Fellowship Program culminated in a public forum at which the Fellows presented about flooding in their neighborhoods. In exit surveys after each convening, Flood Fellows indicated that the knowledge they gained was meaningful, and 100% stated they would incorporate the learning from this program into their community-based work.

The Jamaica Bay Community Flood Fellowship Program recognizes that Jamaica Bay residents understand their own communities best, and leverages their insight to identify pathways towards community-based coastal flood resilience.

Project Partners/Funders:

- Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay
- Funding: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

* Campbell, L. K., Cheng, H., Svendsen, E., Kochnow, D., Bunting-Howarth, K., & Wapnitsky, P. (2021). Living with water: Documenting lived experience and social-emotional impacts of chronic flooding for local adaptation planning. *Cities and the Environment (CATE)*, 14(1), 4.

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



New York Sea Grant convened five Jamaica Bay Community Flood Fellowship Program sessions to inaugurate this new program in 2024. Above, a session at Floyd Bennett Field. Photo: Kayla Walsh/NYSG