



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:**

**Healthy New York
Coastal Ecosystems**

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Natural and Nature-Based Shoreline Features in New York

NYSG is identifying and filling knowledge gaps surrounding natural and nature-based features in New York State to inform and advance resilient shoreline practices.

Utilization of natural and nature-based features (NNBF) is a novel approach for shoreline management in New York State (NYS), but gaps remain in both knowledge and practice. Shoreline decision-makers often lack the necessary information on NNBF suitability and performance, particularly in the diverse marine, riverine, and freshwater coastal environments of the state. More work is required to identify critical needs to advance the use of NNBF to develop socially, ecologically, and structurally resilient shoreline practices in New York State (NYS).

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) is addressing the need for NNBF data sharing and outreach through forums, workshops, and communication products that connect diverse end-users with relevant expertise. Throughout 2024, NYSG convened multiple stakeholders from organizations representing state agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and shoreline contractors to identify NNBF-related knowledge gaps and data needs. Virtual forums provided case studies of baseline conditions, success rates, and socio-cultural benefits of NNBF. In April, more than 100 practitioners convened at four locations connected virtually across the state to highlight NNBF projects.

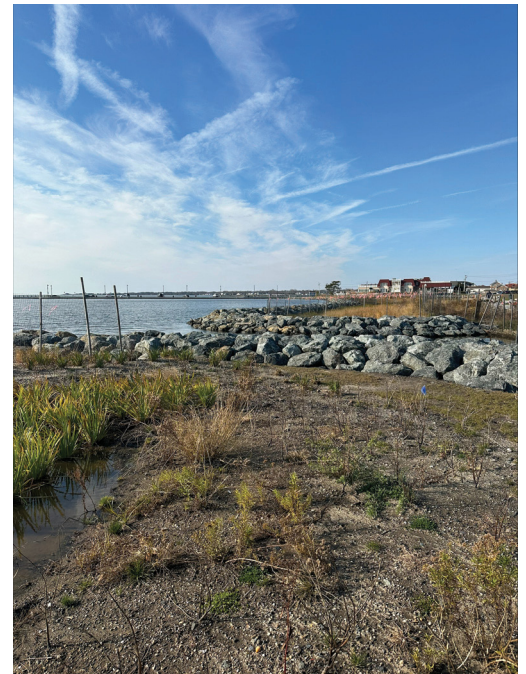
More than 95 percent of the participants in NYSG NNBF events in 2024 reported that they will use the knowledge gained. More than 80 percent stated that they would change the way they assess their NNBF projects.

NYSG is working with NNBF practitioners to meet the goal of informing and influencing shoreline planning, design, and management in NYS by providing research and case studies from across the U.S. This collaboration is gathering, developing, and sharing information that will advance the utilization of NNBF throughout NYS. Learn more at <https://srijb.org/nature-based-solutions/>.

Project Partners/Funders:

- Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay
- Funding: U.S. Coastal Research Program

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



*The Patchogue living shoreline is one of the NNBF projects highlighted at a NYS symposium.
Photo: Kathleen Fallon/NYSG.*