



Living with the Bay Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

BACKGROUND

What is Rebuild by Design?

Rebuild by Design began as a design competition created by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in response to Hurricane Sandy's impact on the eastern U.S. in 2012. It helps communities connect design, funding, and implementation strategies to ensure a more resilient future, marshaling the talent of the world to answer a region's greatest needs. Using an innovative design competition process, the post-Hurricane Sandy Rebuild by Design is generating implementable solutions for a more resilient region.

What is Living with the Bay?

Rebuild by Design resulted in 10 designs, with seven currently in the process of being implemented in the northeast United States, including Living with the Bay, in central Nassau County. The four winning application principles for Living with the Bay include:

- Flood defense
- Ecological restoration
- Access and urban quality
- Social resiliency

What is Living with the Bay trying to accomplish?

The primary objective of Living with the Bay is to reduce the risk of flooding and flood damage. Flooding can be caused by heavy rainfalls, storm surges, or sea level rise. Additional objectives include improving the environment through ecological restoration, increasing access to nature, and enhancing social resiliency through public education.

How do you fix flooding?

Addressing various flooding problems require a suite of potential solutions based on existing conditions and environmental considerations. The most basic concept includes adding or improving stormwater inlets to better collect the storm water at the surface, and increasing underground pipe capacities to minimize storm surge from overburdening pipes downstream.

How do you improve water quality?

The typical focus of improving water quality is improving water clarity and/or reducing pollutants in storm water runoff and keeping or restoring natural runoff filtering processes to protect drinking water supplies. A variety of means and methods can accomplish this, such as using retention basins to capture and infiltrate runoff, adding green infrastructure elements that absorb nutrients with native vegetation, and/or building treatment structures that capture garbage and sediments. By successfully improving water quality at the surface, the quality of underground drinking water supplies will also improve.

What is a watershed?

Watershed (*noun*): an area of land defined by ridges descending to lower elevations.



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LIVING WITH THE BAY PROJECTS

How are Living with the Bay Projects determined?

The Living with the Bay design team surveyed local governments and the community (and developed a Technical Advisory Committee and a Community Advisory Committee) to identify flooding areas of concern.

How were Living with the Bay projects selected to consider reducing flooding?

Flooding areas of concern (described above) that were caused by the same source were grouped together into projects. The projects will be prioritized based on how many structures the project will help, how much flooding would be reduced, the cost, and other indirect impacts such as improvements to the environment and increased public access to nature and public education.

How can I find out if Living with the Bay will address flooding in my area?

A list of projects being considered under Living with the Bay were presented to the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) and can be found on the website at <https://stormrecovery.ny.gov/living-bay>.

How will the project improve water quality?

To absorb stormwater runoff and storm surges, improvements will be made to existing wetlands and marshlands that have deteriorated from their historic area and health. This will also help absorb nitrogen and filter the water, improving the water quality.

Will the project include public education about the local environment and education?

As part of the project authorized and funded by HUD, Living with the Bay will include job training and public educational programs (e.g., featuring the nature and history of the Mill River watershed).

How will the project affect birding and bird migrations?

Living with the Bay projects will include enhancements to wetlands and marshlands in the project area, improving the area and habitat for birds and their migratory habits.

Will fixing flooding problems upstream cause more flooding downstream?

Projects under consideration to reduce flooding typically rely upon holding or slowing the storm water, rather than transferring it to another point, which would prevent an increase in flooding in other areas. Additionally, the projects selected for Living with the Bay will be modeled to show the impact of the project on flood reduction.

Will an education center be located in the south end of the project area?

At the request of the community, a project to construct an education center in the south of the project area will be included in the Living with the Bay project area for consideration. All projects will be reviewed and prioritized before selection.

Does Living with the Bay fund research into environmental or innovative technology projects?





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Based upon the HUD funding source, eligible projects for Living with the Bay must use commercially available, proven technologies to help reduce flood risks. The HUD guidelines prevent GOSR from incorporating innovative or emerging technologies into the Living with the Bay project because they pose a higher risk.

How can Living with the Bay help the environment?

To help buffer flooding, Living with the Bay projects will include coastal and wetland restoration. Dredging ponds and lakes will help improve ecosystem conditions, which will favor proliferation of native species over invasive species. Additionally, installing a fish ladder at Smith Pond is being considered to help improve the range of migratory fish species.

Will this project improve the discharge of the Bay Park Wastewater Treatment Plant?

FEMA is working with the Bay Park Wastewater Treatment (BP WWTP) plant to improve resiliency for future storms. Changes to the BP WWTP are beyond the scope of Living with the Bay.

Will the project redirect the effluent of the Bay Park Wastewater Treatment Plant to the ocean?

FEMA is working with the Bay Park Wastewater Treatment (BP WWTP) plant to improve resiliency for future storms. Changes to the BP WWTP are beyond the scope of Living with the Bay.

COMMUNICATING WITH LIVING WITH THE BAY

How can I get additional information about Living with the Bay?

The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery Living with the Bay website will continue to develop as more implementation information becomes available (<http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/living-bay>). Public workshops that will be advertised in advance to share program information. The schedule for those public workshops will be provided on the website.

How can I submit comments about Living with the Bay?

A comment form is included on the Living with the Bay website (<https://stormrecovery.ny.gov/content/living-bay-comment-form>) for community input.

LIVING WITH THE BAY BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

How is Living with the Bay Funded?

The Living with the Bay Program was one of seven programs funded through the Rebuild by Design process following Hurricane Sandy. The program budget amount submitted in the overall Living with the Bay design proposal was \$177,366,078, with a HUD Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) allocation of \$125,000,000. The budget is available at <https://stormrecovery.ny.gov/living-bay>.

What is the Living with the Bay schedule?

The Living with the Bay schedule is maintained at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/living-bay>.

