



Hudson River Comprehensive Restoration Plan

A Plan to Restore and Revitalize the Hudson River



Overview

Although dramatic progress has been made to improve the condition of the Hudson River Estuary over the past 40 years, lingering challenges and emerging risks, including sea level rise, storm surge and flooding, are contributing to an uncertain future for the Hudson River Estuary and the communities along its shoreline.

A comprehensive, estuary-wide framework for project planning and implementation is necessary to address many of the challenges facing communities that are working to manage and protect their waterfront infrastructure and natural assets. *Partners Restoring the Hudson*, an established public/private partnership among 20+ federal, state, and non-governmental organizations, is working to develop and implement a state and federally recognized **Hudson River Comprehensive Restoration Plan** (the Plan). The Plan will provide an inventory of community-based restoration and adaptation projects to improve habitat conditions and community resilience. Ultimately, this Plan will:

- Identify and prioritize habitat restoration and resilience projects along the shorelines of the Hudson River Estuary
- Guide future investment of federal, state, local and private dollars to restore valued natural resources and community infrastructure
- Benefit residents, businesses, and communities by improving the health of the estuary and improving recreational and tourism activities that contribute to local economies

Stakeholder Engagement

The scale and scope of the project necessitates an extensive network of partnerships between public agencies, private organizations, and non-governmental organizations. *Partners Restoring the Hudson*, has developed a collaborative model that will support local plan development based on new information — sea level rise, storm surge and social vulnerability models – with a phased-release of this information beginning in 2015.

Partners Restoring the Hudson seeks the input of county planning officials, municipal officials, and stakeholder groups in identifying a suite of priority places and conservation actions that will be most effective in sustaining the natural resources of the Hudson River Estuary. To support the development of a Plan, a participatory community planning process began in January 2015. Communities are sharing information about the needs and opportunities along the Hudson River Estuary shoreline related to habitat restoration and protection, community infrastructure and recreation and access.

Benefits of Community Participation

Through the community planning process, participants will:

- **Identify** habitat restoration and environmental infrastructure projects in their communities
- **Learn** about cutting-edge planning tools that estimate vulnerabilities to projected sea level rise and storm surge impacts
- **Collaborate** in a regional, inter-municipal process that leverages community benefits



At a Glance

Partners: Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Historic Hudson River Towns, Hudson River Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Riverkeeper, Scenic Hudson, Columbia University, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, Cornell Cooperative Extension Columbia and Greene Counties, Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts, Hudson River Watertrail Association, Hudson River Watershed Alliance, Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries and the Hudson River Foundation (list in formation)

Agencies: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), New York Department of State (NYDOS), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Hudson River Valley Greenway

Location: Hudson River Estuary from the Tappan Zee Bridge to the Federal Dam at Troy

Timeline: The community planning process began with a series of regional meetings in January 2015 and is expected to last up to 15 months. During this process, participating communities will work to identify specific projects to be considered for inclusion in a Hudson River Comprehensive Restoration Plan. A regional Plan will enable communities to be prepared for future local, state and federal funding opportunities.

If you would like to participate in this regional effort or to learn more, contact:

- The Nature Conservancy, Andy Peck, apeck@tnc.org or (601) 874-3648
- Historic Hudson River Towns, Jerry Faiella, gjfaiella@aol.com or (914) 760-8067
- Hudson River Watershed Alliance, Maureen Cunningham, mcunningham@hudsonwatershed.org or (518) 469-4748