



Reimagining the Hudson: A Vision and A Plan

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Prized by residents and countless visitors for its scenic beauty and recreation, the Hudson River is one of North America's iconic landscapes. Millions of people visit each year to enjoy hiking, fishing, boating, and wildlife watching, and support a \$6.1 billion regional recreation and tourism industry. The Hudson's lands and waters also provide habitat for more than 200 fish species and 19 rare bird species.

But human activities have altered the river, jeopardizing the health of its fish and their habitats. Industrialization is part of the river's history, but thanks to the hard work of scientists, government agencies, and advocates, the river is far cleaner today than it was 40 years ago. Now, coastal communities embrace the river while simultaneously facing unprecedented challenges.

With rising sea levels and increasingly frequent and severe storms expected in the coming decades, these challenges are already multiplying.

Restoring the Hudson is vital to the human and natural communities that depend on the river.

Planning for the River's Future

A newly-released plan, the Hudson River Comprehensive Restoration Plan, reimagines what our river can be. The plan details the current conditions of the Hudson River estuary, identifies potential restoration sites, and recognizes the needs that must be addressed in the coming decades to restore the river and prepare for future conditions.

The plan was designed to inform and enhance two existing plans – the federal *New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program Action Agenda* and the New York State *Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda*.



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Developed by Partners Restoring the Hudson, a group of more than 30 organizations dedicated to protecting the river, the Hudson River Comprehensive Restoration Plan is designed to catalyze innovation and inspire collaboration. The plan will enable stakeholders to work collectively towards a shared goal of a healthy, vibrant, and resilient Hudson River, including:

- Improve ecosystem function and health, strengthen the region's economy, and safeguard waterfront communities by implementing restoration projects such as those that can help increase resilience to sea level rise, flooding, and extreme weather events.
- Secure and leverage federal, state, local, and private dollars to restore valued natural resources and community infrastructure.

The assessment of the 125-mile stretch of the estuary from the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge to the Federal Lock and Dam at Troy will help inform and guide management and conservation actions for decades to come.

While significant progress has been made to improve the condition of the Hudson River, lingering challenges and emerging risks pose serious threats to the estuary and its shoreline communities.

We must act now as waiting will only increase these pressures. The Hudson River Comprehensive Restoration Plan can help to ensure a sustainable, healthy future for our river and the people who live, work and play here.



To view the complete plan and for more information about Partners Restoring the Hudson, please visit thehudsonweshare.org