

# Kingston Tidal Waterfront Flooding Task Force Recommendations

The Task Force developed 24 general recommendations for the City, listed below. A series of site-specific recommendations for shoreline neighborhoods were also developed. A complete list of both can be found in the full report. The final recommendations of the Task Force were endorsed by 17 members of the Task Force. Some of the recommendations can be implemented immediately; others call for further study to investigate complex policy issues. Both the Planning Team and the Task Force hope that their work will inspire Kingston to consider flood resiliency in all of its decision making and to continue the dialogue on this important issue.

## City Operations, Funding and Decision Making

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### Near-term Actions

1. Adopt the sea-level rise and flood projections recommended by New York State and the Kingston Waterfront Flooding Task Force for planning purposes. [Plan and projections adopted Nov 2013 by Common Council in Resolution #200 of 2013 and endorsed by Mayor](#)
2. Incorporate these 24 findings and recommendations from the Kingston Waterfront Flooding Task Force into other City and regional plans. [Language integrated into Comprehensive Plan, adopted 4/2016](#)

### Long-term Actions

3. Develop a Kingston Waterfront Long-term Resiliency Plan. [Hudson Riverport-Implementation Plan, FGEIS and Market Conditions update for 192 acres of Kingston's Rondout Waterfront under the Brownfield Opportunity Area \(BOA\) Program of the NYS DOS- Completed 2016](#)
4. Reduce Kingston's greenhouse gas emissions and contribution to sea level rise and other climate impacts through the implementation of Kingston's Climate Action Plan, green infrastructure and green architecture. [Climate Smart Kingston Commission was established under Resolution #120 of 2014, convened in March 2016, tasked with implementing Climate Action Plan, see <http://www.kingston-ny.gov/ClimateSmartKingston>](#)
5. Ensure that all relevant City staff and elected and appointed officials are fully trained in and expected to incorporate impacts of flooding and sea-level rise into their daily work. [Climate Smart Community Coordinator/Sustainability Coordinator on staff to coordinate with municipal staff on integration of recommendations and flooding considerations.](#)

## Resilient Structures

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### Near-term Actions

6. Ensure that zoning designations in the Kingston 2025 Comprehensive Plan consider increasing risk and vulnerability from flooding and sea-level rise.

7. Require that proposals for new development of any kind in the Flood Hazard Overlay District take flood risk into account. [Hudson Landing, Waterfront Promenade, Hutton Brickyard and newly approved Rondout Waterfront, LLC Project waterfront developments](#) have all been re-examined by Planning Department and Planning Board to accommodate for flooding and rising waters.

8. Reduce stormwater, upland flooding and combined sewer overflows through green infrastructure and best stormwater management practices. [Green Infrastructure Mapping underway; Two major City parking lot improvements to include several GI installations - completed 2016; Stormwater education and small scale rainbarrel distribution on going; Rondout Creek Watershed Management Plan Development completed.](#) [Broadway Streetscape Project](#) incorporates \$2million green infrastructure component.

### **Long-term Actions**

9. Research, evaluate and implement changes to City building and zoning codes that will increase resiliency and are cost-effective and socially equitable.

10. Study the feasibility of using policy, zoning and building codes to achieve creative, water-dependent and water-enhanced uses that are resilient, including elevated, amphibious, or floating structures, wharves, berms and elevated rights of way.

11. Evaluate the use of natural buffers and green shoreline infrastructure to reduce flood risk and erosion and conserve natural resource functions. [Sustainable Shoreline Project along Rondout - Phase 1 in design, Phase 2, currently out to bid, design work to be completed in 2019.](#)

12. Ensure that local street networks, utilities and other infrastructure function and remain connected as the City implements adaptation strategies to sea-level rise. [NYS DOS Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Grant for \\$60,000 design to fix 1,400 feet of failing bulkhead on waterfront. Additional \\$300,000+ grant to do additional design work of failing bulkhead.](#)

13. Research and evaluate land-use tools and financing mechanisms or incentives to facilitate flood adaptation in the waterfront.

## **Promoting a Waterfront Economy and Economic Revitalization**

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### **Long-term Actions**

14. Ensure opportunities exist for open space and recreation over the long term. [Kingston Greenline: Kingston Point Rail Trail - Under construction](#) and [Hudson Landing Promenade](#) plans underway. Empire State Trail will now go through Kingston including waterfront area

15. Consider future flood hazards in economic development planning. [Hudson Riverport;](#) [Rondout Harbor Management Plan](#)

16. Develop a plan to mitigate both near- and long- term risk to the wastewater treatment facility. [Development of a Wastewater Treatment Plant Long Term Capital Plan \(2015\)](#) from EFC Funding

## Community Collaboration and Public Outreach

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### Near-term Actions

17. Host an informational public meeting with FEMA. **Task Force hosted a [National Flood Insurance Program and Community Rating System Workshop](#) on December 4, 2014- Hosted Bill Nechamen from NYS DEC Floodplain Management Section**
18. Conduct public outreach to property owners, tenants and prospective buyers in the Flood Hazard Overlay District.
19. Encourage and assist community-based organizations in their efforts to communicate the risks of flooding and potential adaptation solutions to vulnerable or non-English speaking populations.
20. Collaborate with other waterfront communities and county and state government to plan for coastal hazards like sea-level rise and storm surge. **Facilitating regional Hudson River Estuary Program grant to re-convene four waterfront communities (Kingston, Catskill, Piermont and Stony Point) to collaborate on how to take steps forward to implement recommendations decided on in each community's task force. Also present at regional and local conferences and events to describe work of Kingston's Task Force, including at the regional Climate Smart Communities Conference in 2015. All of Kingston Task Force's meeting proceedings, agendas and resources can be found on [the City's website](#).**

## Emergency Management

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### Near-term Actions

21. Revise emergency management planning documents. **Kingston Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan was drafted in 2014. – in progress**
22. Employ new tools to improve real time emergency management planning. **[Established Swift911, the City's Emergency Notification System, to alert citizens to emergencies, subscription based.](#)**
23. Ensure safe access and evacuation along the waterfront during regular flood events. **Kingston's Draft Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan has evacuation guidelines.-in progress**

### Long-term Actions

24. Develop a process to map and track repetitive storm damage.

**Final report and other materials from the Task Force available at:**  
[www.kingston-ny.gov/WaterfrontFloodingTaskForce](http://www.kingston-ny.gov/WaterfrontFloodingTaskForce)