

What is the Resilient Edgemere Community Planning Initiative?

The Resilient Edgemere Community Planning Initiative is a joint effort of New York City agencies to align New York City's Sandy recovery and rebuilding investments in Edgemere with a comprehensive long-term community vision. The public planning process began in October 2015 and will conclude by the summer of 2016.

What are the goals of the initiative?

During two public workshops in October and December 2015, the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and partnering City agencies worked with the Edgemere community to define a set of goals, priorities and guiding principles for the neighborhood's future. Participants established the main community goals as:

- 1 Create resilient housing and maintain neighborhood character**
- 2 Protect the neighborhood from flooding and storms while improving access to the water**
- 3 Improve mobility and access**
- 4 Encourage neighborhood services and amenities**

Who is leading this initiative?

The City of New York is working closely with elected officials, local stakeholders, and the Edgemere community on the Resilient Edgemere Neighborhood Initiative. The Initiative is led by the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) in close collaboration with the NYC Department of City Planning (DCP), the NYC Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations (HRO), and the NYC Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency (ORR). This core team will consult with and coordinate multiple city, state, and federal agencies as well as local elected officials.

What role do Edgemere residents and other community stakeholders play in the planning process?

The planning team has organized four public workshops/open houses between October 2015 and April 2016, where residents shared ideas and concerns, asked questions, and provided feedback. We will organize one more public event to introduce the final Neighborhood Plan in the summer of 2016. Additionally, we mailed a Community Feedback Form to all 1,700 households in Edgemere and are convening bi-monthly meetings of a smaller group of community members (the "Organizing Team") who provide guidance on the format of the public workshops and help reach out to other Edgemere residents. The goal of this engagement is to obtain input from a large number of residents and stakeholders to ensure that the final plan reflects the knowledge, concerns, and aspirations of the Edgemere community.

How is this planning initiative different from previous initiatives?

Under Mayor DeBlasio's *Housing New York* plan, the City is partnering with communities to develop comprehensive plans that ensure neighborhoods are both diverse and livable, now and into the future. In Edgemere, the City will use this planning process to develop a long-term community vision and coordinate Sandy recovery and rebuilding investments with the development of City-owned land. Because HPD owns over 50% of the property in Edgemere, there is a unique opportunity to align existing resources -- and identify new ones -- to collaboratively develop an implementable plan.

How will the Neighborhood Plan be implemented?

Starting this summer, HPD and partner agencies will begin to implement the Neighborhood Plan. Some projects will be funded and ready to be implemented soon. Other tactics and projects will need to go through a longer public approval process or will need outside funding. The Edgemere community will therefore need to play an active role and continue to be engaged over the next several years to ensure the successful implementation of the Neighborhood Plan. During the implementation phase, the planning team will provide regular progress reports to the Organizing Team and broader Edgemere community.

How much will the implementation of the plan cost and where will the funding come from?

This planning process will look at current infrastructure investments and local, state, and federal resources for implementation. This planning initiative is funded by the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Program (CDBG-DR).

What's going on with city-owned vacant lots in Edgemere?

The ideas and priorities generated through this planning process will shape projects presented in the final plan, including for the potential development of vacant city-owned land. Most of this land will ultimately be developed as housing affordable to low- and moderate-income homeowners and renters. However, where appropriate, some sites may be used for other purposes: such as affordable apartments with ground-floor retail, community gardens, and/or open space designed for flood management during storm events. No new construction will begin on city-owned lots before the planning process is complete.

Why does Edgemere need a Resilient Neighborhood Plan?

As a low-lying waterfront community, Edgemere experienced significant damage from Hurricane Sandy, and is threatened by both regular tidal flooding and predicted sea level rise. In Edgemere, the effects of flooding are exacerbated by a high water table, historic inadequate drainage and street infrastructure. The neighborhood also includes a high number of distressed and abandoned homes and large sections of vacant land. Since many vacant lots are publicly owned and because Edgemere is part of a designated Urban Renewal Area, there is a unique opportunity to Develop additional affordable housing, community amenities, and infrastructure that reduces flooding risks.