

# RESILIENT EDGEMERE

## LEARN PHASE | WHAT WE HEARD

LEARN

CREATE

FINALIZE

IMPLEMENT

### COMMUNITY GOALS, PRIORITIES, and GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In the “Learn Phase,” (Workshops 1 and 2), we developed a shared understanding of existing conditions, concerns, and desires for the future of the Edgemere community. The goals, guiding principles, and priorities listed below are based on the input of workshop participants. In the “Create” and “Finalize” phases, the City will use this input to inform strategies, tactics, and projects.

### COMMUNITY GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ✓ **Maintain the close-knit, low-density character of the neighborhood**
- ✓ **Prioritize opportunities and services for existing residents**
- ✓ **Focus on rebuilding Sandy-damaged homes**

#### COMMUNITY GOAL 1

##### Create resilient housing and maintain neighborhood character

- **Prioritize repairs to existing housing over the development of new housing**
  - Improve availability of home elevation and flood insurance resources.
- **Build new housing above flood level**
  - Rebuild and repair Sandy-damaged homes.
  - Do not build new housing near the water.
  - Maintain long-term affordability with a community land trust.
- **Equip community with tools for energy independence**
  - Develop sustainable energy solutions for energy independence and back-up power
- **Elevate neighborhood and roads to improve community flood resiliency**
- **Increase the diversity of the neighborhood in order to attract neighborhood amenities**
  - Do not further concentrate low-income housing.
- **Reserve some vacant city parcels for community gardens with individual plots**
  - Enable homeowners to buy adjacent vacant lots.

#### COMMUNITY GOAL 2

##### Protect the neighborhood from flooding and storms while improving access to the waterfront

- **Improve access to the bay and beach**
  - Rebuild boardwalk and bathrooms at Beach 44th St.
  - Build and improve trails leading to beach.
  - Create access to water for sailing and maritime education.
  - Develop water-based businesses, such as fresh food market or seafood restaurant.
  - Develop ecological education center.
- **Create a continuous bayfront coastal protection feature**
  - Preserve undeveloped open space at tip of peninsula.
  - Explore the need to relocate residents living along the waterfront edge and involve them in decision-making.
  - Prioritize coastal protection needs over new housing development.
- **Create natural coastal protection features such as a living shoreline, protective dunes, wetlands, or oyster reef.**
  - Restore wildlife and wetlands to serve as natural flood mitigation.
  - Create conditions that support a bird sanctuary.
- **Manage stormwater more effectively**
  - Improve stormwater management and reduce overflows.
  - Keep storm sewers clear of blockage from sand and debris trapped in gutters.
  - Address regular flooding on Beach Channel Drive and Beach 37th, 41st, and 42nd St.
- **Create water flow corridor or canal from bay to ocean across Rockaway Peninsula**

#### COMMUNITY GOAL 3

##### Improve mobility and access

- **Improve infrequent and unreliable public transit in order to serve current and new residents**
  - Improve frequency and reliability of public transit services
  - Improve transit facilities, such as elevators at MTA subway stations and lighting, sidewalk, and bike infrastructure.
- **Reduce conflicts between cars and people and improve problem intersections**
  - Improve safety at dangerous pedestrian intersections at Beach 35th to 27th St.
  - Install traffic calming on side streets to discourage frequent speeding.
  - Relieve heavy traffic on east-west corridor.
  - Improve flow at Beach 44th St intersection.
- **Improve education and communication about City infrastructure investments and resources**
  - Improve communication and alerts about evacuation plans and routes.
  - Provide better information and updates to residents about infrastructure projects, transit service status, and public safety.
- **Make transportation infrastructure more resilient**
  - Protect transportation corridors for access before, during, and after storms.
  - Design streets using materials that improve stormwater drainage, such as permeable pavement.
  - Raise streets above flood level.
  - Provide more direct ferry access.
- **Integrate transit and transportation with neighborhood services**
  - Encourage retail and service corridors along Beach Channel Drive and Rockaway Beach Boulevard.

#### COMMUNITY GOAL 4

##### Encourage neighborhood services and amenities

- **Improve existing retail and develop new, walkable retail, which is critical for low-income residents without cars**
  - Develop neighborhood retail along Rockaway Beach Boulevard.
  - Encourage walkable and transit-accessible retail.
  - Support businesses that encourage healthy living.
  - Support locally-owned small businesses.
- **Upgrade and increase capacity of neighborhood services before population growth occurs**
  - Focus on updating and improving existing community facilities, such as schools and healthcare.
  - Improve access to healthcare options, especially a hospital and urgent care.
  - Prioritize community services along Beach Channel Drive, such as a youth community garden, hospital/urgent care, or school/college/library.
- **Provide more support for small businesses and entrepreneurs**
  - Support community-owned co-ops such as community kitchens, educational facilities, or organic food outlets.
- **Improve access to recreation and other activities**
  - Enhance existing sports fields and build recreational facilities.
  - Create indoor recreation/community center for adults.
  - Encourage businesses that provide leisure activities such as movie theaters, bowling alleys, and amusement parks.