

# RESILIENT NEIGHBORHOODS INITIATIVE

## South Queens:

Old Howard Beach, Hamilton Beach,  
and Broad Channel



# Presentation Outline

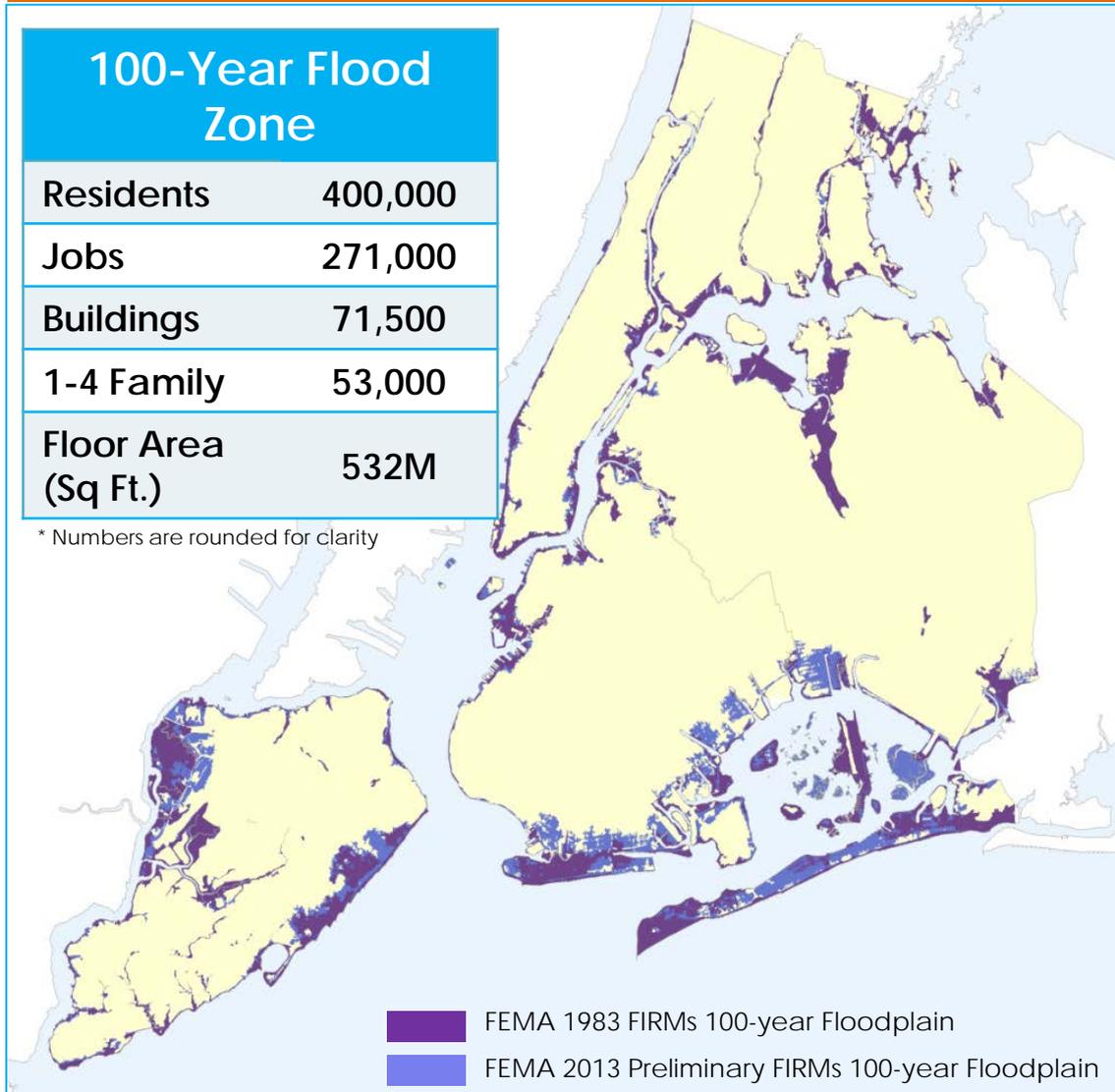
City-wide Coastal Climate Resilience

DCP on Coastal Climate Resilience

DCP Resilient Neighborhood Initiative

- Study Area Issues and Opportunities
- Expected Deliverables
- Timeline

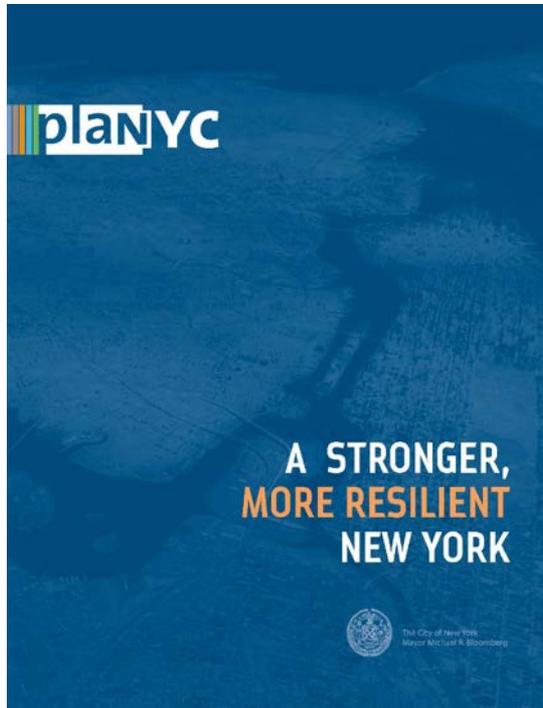
## NYC Resiliency Challenges



- Wholesale retreat is not an option for NYC.
- A lesson from Sandy: Buildings can be protected if built to contemporary code standards.
- Changes to flood maps and the National Flood Insurance Program pose an additional economic challenge.
- NYC is taking a multilayered approach to resiliency, or the ability to withstand a recover from a storm.

# A Stronger, More Resilient New York

The City's plan to build resiliency and make all New Yorkers safer is a multi-layered approach that is ambitious, achievable, and based on the best available science.



## Strengthen coastal defenses

- Complete existing USACE coastal risk reduction projects
- Expand natural protections and other innovative measures

## Upgrade buildings

- Amend the building code to strengthen new construction
- Incent investments in existing buildings

## Protect infrastructure and services

- Harden critical assets and supply chains
- Expand natural infrastructure systems

## Make neighborhoods safer and more vibrant

- Advocate for flood insurance affordability
- Address underlying challenges during the rebuilding process

The City's 257 initiatives comprise **a strategic plan** to reduce the risk of extreme weather and climate change. This innovative plan includes funding, an implementation schedule, and **can be achieved over the next ten years.**

## A Stronger, More Resilient New York – Key Initiatives in South Queens



Call on and work with the USACE to complete existing studies and implement coastal protection project

Address affordability issues related to reform of the National Flood Insurance Program and define mitigation measures that are feasible in an urban environment

Study and implement zoning changes to encourage retrofits of existing buildings and construction of new resilient buildings

Develop a comprehensive revitalization plans for commercial corridors



Conceptual rendering of Beach 116<sup>th</sup> Street



## City-wide Flood Resilience Text Amendment

**Issue:** Zoning can hinder construction and retrofitting to new flood protection standards.

**Response:** Enable new and existing buildings to comply with latest FEMA flood elevations and remove other zoning impediments, while alleviating the potential for negative effects on the streetscape.

**Timing:** Initial changes adopted Oct. 2013; Update entering public review Fall 2015



## Resilience Strategies for NYC Building Types

**Issue:** Little existing guidance for effective strategies for retrofitting and reconstruction of a wide range of existing NYC building types

**Response:** Compile best practices guide

**Timing:** Initial guide for retrofit options anticipated Fall 2014 with further analysis to inform ongoing efforts on rebuilding and insurance affordability



## Resilient Retail

**Issue:** Flood risks threaten pedestrian-oriented retail corridors, where elevation and dry floodproofing are often impractical or cost-prohibitive

**Response:** Identify physically and market-feasible resilience strategies

**Timing:** Policy recommendations anticipated by Spring 2015 with coordination ongoing with Resilient Neighborhoods study areas

## Purpose

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Work with communities to identify changes to zoning, land use and other actions that support the vitality of neighborhoods and help residents and businesses withstand and recover quickly from future storms and other climate events.

*Make every community better than it was before Sandy.*

## Planning Goals

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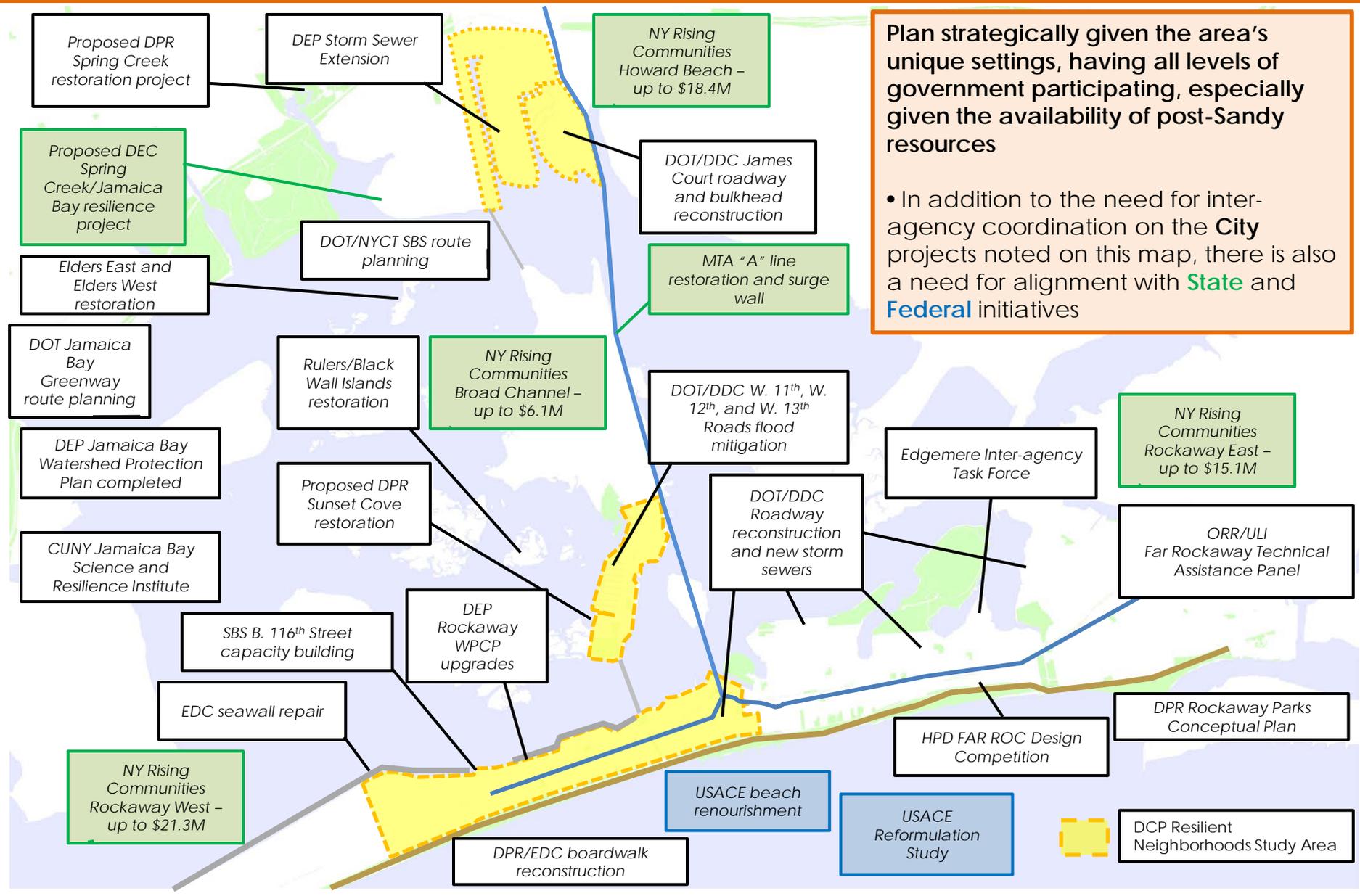
- 1 Reduce risks from natural hazards such as flooding and coastal storms.**
- 2 Foster economically and socially vibrant communities that are able to adapt to changing conditions.**
- 3 Coordinate land use planning with rebuilding activities and infrastructure investment.**

## Resilient Neighborhoods Study Areas

- Neighborhoods affected by Sandy and areas with flood risk
- Unique land use and zoning issues beyond those addressed in citywide planning



# COORDINATION ON KEY INITIATIVES



**Plan strategically given the area's unique settings, having all levels of government participating, especially given the availability of post-Sandy resources**

- In addition to the need for inter-agency coordination on the **City** projects noted on this map, there is also a need for alignment with **State** and **Federal** initiatives

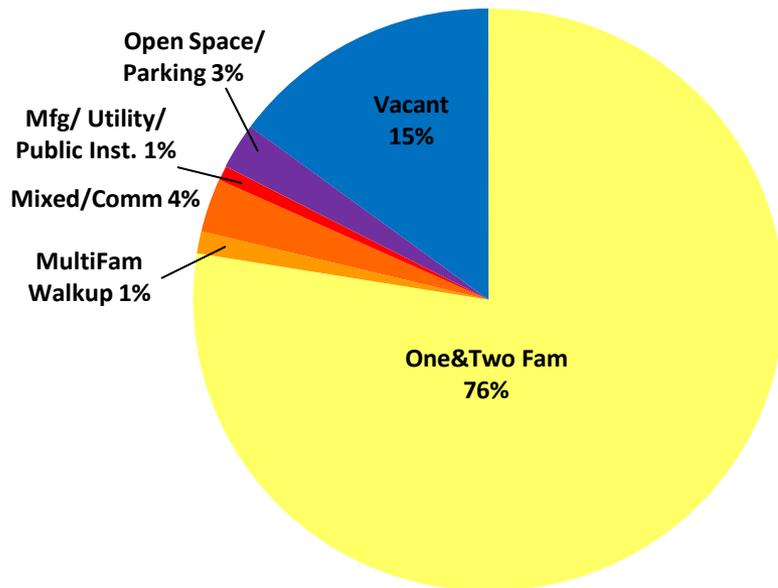
## Old Howard Beach and Hamilton Beach

Blocks in Study Area: 99

Total Population in 2010: 7,362

Number of Buildings: 2,334

Percent of Parcels by Land Use



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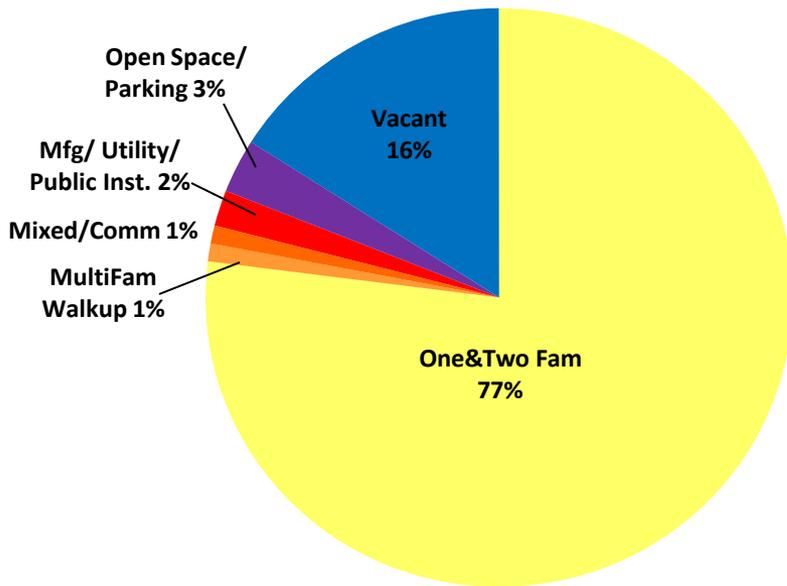
## Broad Channel

Blocks in Study Area: 56

Total Population in 2010: 2,434

Number of Buildings: 998

Percent of Parcels by Land Use

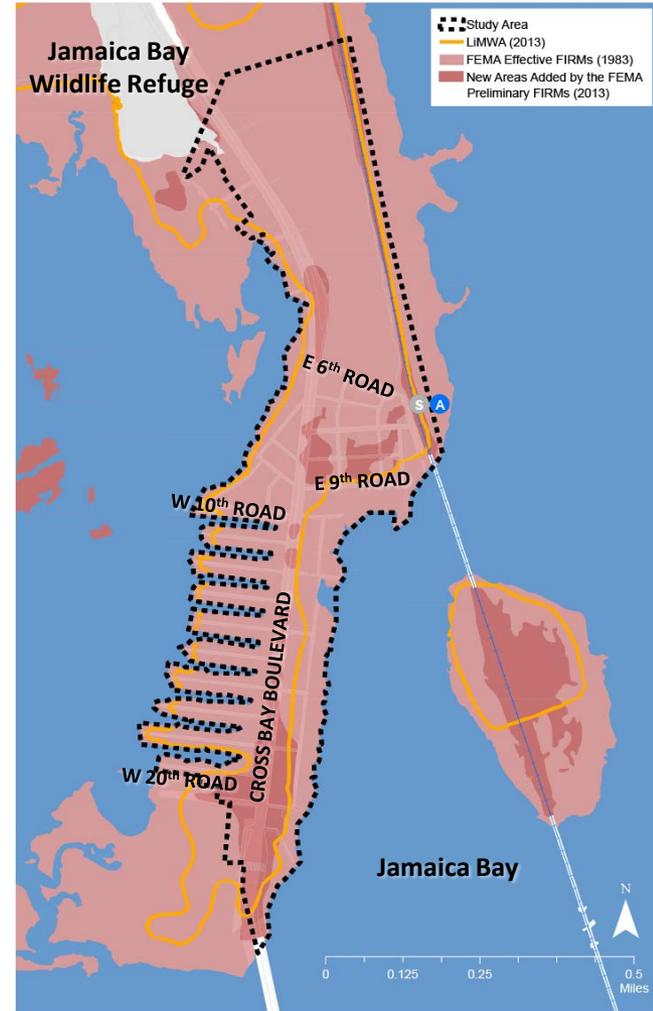


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## Hamilton Beach, Old Howard Beach, and Broad Channel



Old Howard Beach and Hamilton Beach: New areas added by the FEMA Preliminary FIRMs (2013). FEMA Best Available Flood Risk Data.



Broad Channel: New areas added by the FEMA Preliminary FIRMs (2013). FEMA Best Available Flood Risk Data.

## Hamilton Beach, Old Howard Beach, and Broad Channel – Issues

1. Tidal flooding occurs today and these conditions are only expected to worsen with projected sea level rise.



Broad Channel, Queens – after a rain event and during a Supermoon high tide



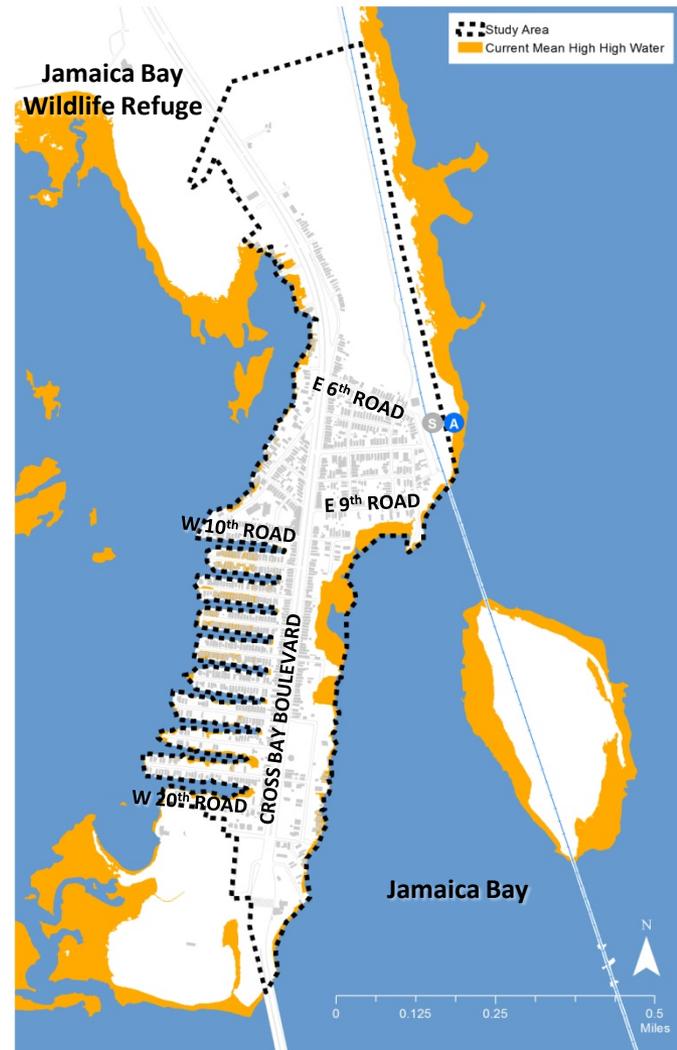
Hamilton Beach, Queens – after a rain event and during a Supermoon high tide

**Opportunity to coordinate infrastructure and land use planning, looking at both short and long term**

## Hamilton Beach, Old Howard Beach, and Broad Channel – Tidal Flooding



Old Howard Beach and Hamilton Beach:  
Projected Tidal Flooding with Sea Level Rise.  
NOAA Best Available Data.



Broad Channel: Projected Tidal Flooding with  
Sea Level Rise. NOAA Best Available Data.

## Hamilton Beach and Broad Channel – Issues

2. Existing zoning, narrow lots, and narrow, low-lying streets pose challenges for resilient retrofitting and reconstruction



*Semi-detached buildings within an R3-2 district in Broad Channel*



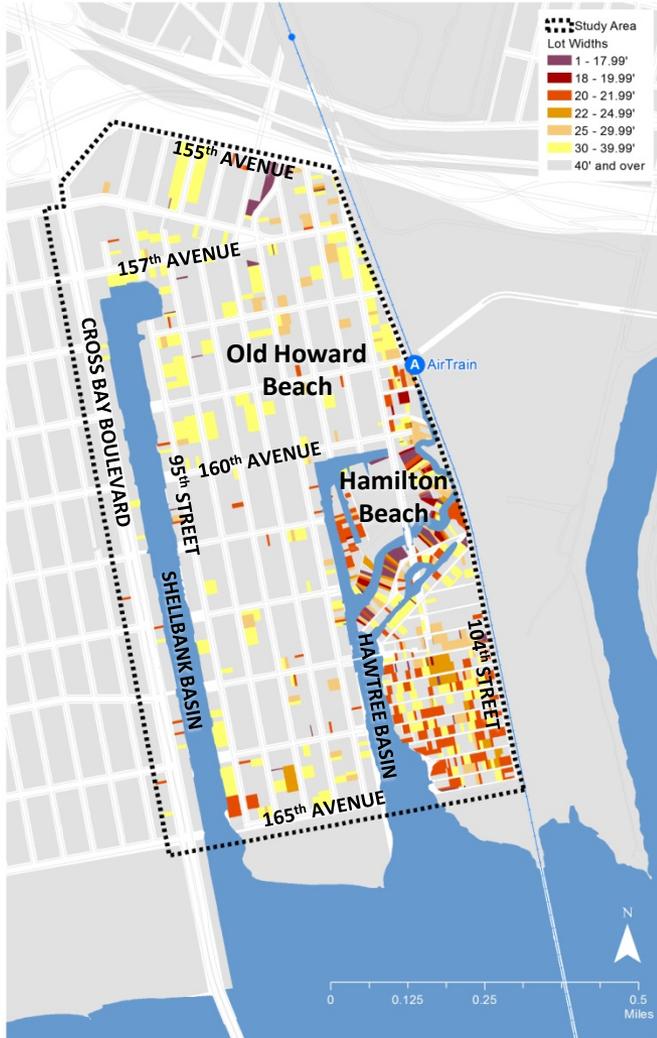
*24 foot wide lots within an R3-1 district in Hamilton Beach*



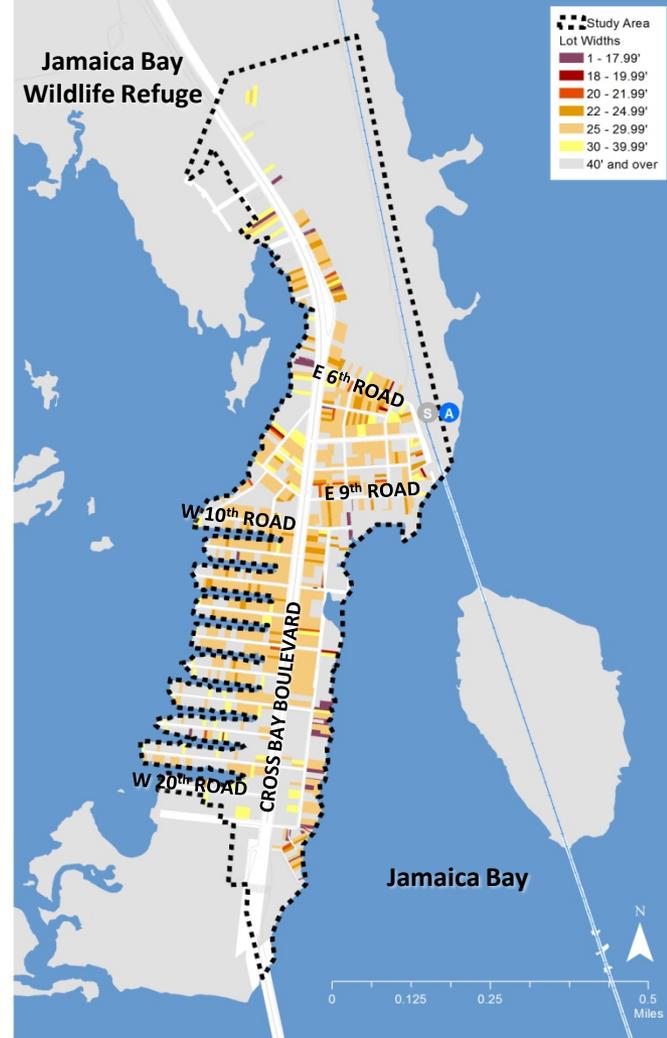
*Narrow street in Hamilton Beach*

**Opportunity to identify changes to zoning to maintain neighborhood character and enable resilience**

Hamilton Beach, Old Howard Beach, and Broad Channel – Lot Width Conditions



Old Howard Beach and Hamilton Beach:  
 Narrow Lots under 40'



Broad Channel: Narrow Lots under 40'

## Hamilton Beach, Old Howard Beach, and Broad Channel – Issues

### 3. High flood elevations present physical and economic challenges to commercial corridors



Cross Bay Boulevard



Coleman Square

**Opportunity to identify business resiliency strategies that facilitate customer access**

## *Study Deliverables*

### Hamilton Beach, Old Howard Beach, and Broad Channel

- With capital agencies, identify potential short-term infrastructure upgrades
- Identify and implement short-term zoning changes to enable appropriate and resilient development
- Identify opportunities to address public safety issues resulting from the vulnerability of the street network
- Provide detailed picture of long-term risks and implications

#### *This process will:*

- Build on outreach from other efforts, including SIRR and NY Rising programs, recognizing need for action.
- Provide clear, concrete information to residents on potential strategies for increasing resiliency that are implementable.
- Shape recommendations based on robust public outreach
- Result in the implementation of regulatory changes through ULURP and plans for infrastructure improvements.

## Timeline for Implementation

- Develop plan for zoning, land use, and infrastructure opportunities and enhancements
  - Identify initial goals, issues, and opportunities
  - Data collection, analysis, and visualization
  - Refine goals, issues, and opportunities
  - Prepare draft recommendations
  - Issue report and implementation plan
  - On-going community engagement (additional committee and public meetings to be scheduled)
  
- Prepare Environmental and Land Use Review materials
  
- Implementation of zoning changes through ULURP

