REBUILD
BY
DESIGN

SIX YEARS SINCE SANDY: REBUILD BY DESIGN'S SANDY PROJECTS ENHANCE SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

October 29th, 2018 marks the sixth anniversary of Superstorm Sandy. Six years after Sandy caused death, destruction, dislocation, and damage in the New York tri-state area, each of the HUD-funded Sandy flood-risk reduction projects exemplifies the importance of rebuilding and strengthening a community's social fabric and civic life as well as hardening its physical infrastructure to mitigate the effects of future flooding.

When the Rebuild teams came together to address this challenge, they worked to ensure that civic life would be enhanced by the new infrastructure needed to protect against future storms. For this anniversary we have chosen to celebrate the elements of the projects that will strengthen a community's social fabric and civic life.

POWERING EMERGENCY REFUGE CENTERS

Hunts Point residents in the Bronx will benefit from several forms of social infrastructure. Two public schools in their neighborhood will become vital facilities for refuge and emergency services during extreme-weather emergencies as a result of the rooftop solar panels and battery-backup equipment that will be added as part of the Hunts Point Resiliency Project. *Learn more>>*

BUILDING MULTI-PURPOSE PARKS

The Hudson River Project, which encompasses all of Hoboken, New Jersey, and adjacent flood-prone slivers of Jersey City and Weehawken, embodies many social infrastructure elements beyond solely building the flood-risk reduction barriers near its waterfront and storm-water retention infrastructure inland.

In conjunction with "Resist, Store, Delay, Discharge," the city of Hoboken implemented a number of additional resilience projects consistent with its principles. It designed and built the *Southwest Resilience Park* as part of the city's overall strategy to delay, store and discharge excess stormwater. The six-acre park is New Jersey's first resilience park, combining green space and flood mitigation. It includes cafe tables and chairs, an ampitheater, green infrastructure, a bike-share station, dog run, public wifi and lawn with play sculptures. The City-owned public library also incorporated resilience measures by dry flood-proofing and stormwater detention into renovation of its historic 1897 building, a place for refuge and emergency staging during extreme weather events. *Learn more>>*

PROTECTING HOUSING

A basic form of social infrastructure is safe housing, which is the focus of the Rebuild by Design pilot project in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The project will replace a World War II era public housing complex in a flood-prone neighborhood with modern housing resilient to chronic rain-event flooding and acute storm surges from the Long Island Sound. Key to enabling Next to the new housing to be build in the neighborhood is, a 2 ½-acre stormwater park that will divert water flood waters away from the new housing by means of terraced basins, bioswales and underground storage. In addition, the park will provide opportunities for active and passive recreation as well as environmental education. Learn more on pg 7-8 of *this document*.

ENHANCING RECREATION

Enhanced recreational opportunities play an important role in several Rebuild by Design projects.

In New Jersey, the Meadowlands Project, which extends into five municipalities along the Hackensack River watershed, envisions creating three new parks, totaling 7.6 acres, that will improve five existing opens spaces, create new pedestrian paths, provide new river access and boating opportunities, and expand and improve 3 ½ acres of estuarine wetlands. *Learn more>>*

New York City has proposed to raise the East River Park by eight feet to protect the park as well as adjacent upland residential and commercial neighborhoods. Residents will enjoy flood-resilient amenities that include eight baseball fields, three soccer fields, a running track, a multipurpose field, four and a half basketball courts, and 12 tennis courts. *Learn more>>*

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEARNING

Living Breakwaters and Living with the Bay both provide educational opportunities for the next generation of experts in resilience, sustainability and science.

This past summer the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR) and Hofstra University instituted a five-week Summer Science Research Program. High school science students worked with Hofstra faculty mentors to develop environmental research projects related to Long Island's Mill River watershed on Long Island's South Shore. *Learn more>>*

On Staten Island, GOSR's Living Breakwaters Project partnered with the Billion Oyster Project to seed oysters in the wave-attenuation reefs that will be constructed offshore and provide experiential education for high school and college students. The Billion Oyster Project's work on Staten Island now includes 14 schools, nine restoration stations and two pilot oyster nurseries. *Learn more>>*

As the seven Sandy projects proceed to construction, the Rebuild by Design projects will become a proof point for the value of social infrastructure in strengthening community life and protecting against climate change. To learn more, visit rebuildbydesign.org.