

REBUILD BY DESIGN

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IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS, NEW YORKERS MADE 100,000+ FLOOD REPORTS

Five Years After Hurricane Ida, New Map Documents The Extent Of New Yorkers' Ongoing And Pervasive Flood Risk. Their stories tell what's behind the data.

August 26, 2026 – A new interactive map reveals over 113,481 flood reports to 311 since Hurricane Ida. Nearly half the flood reports, 55,791 (49.2%), were sewer backups. The [Rainproof NYC Flood Map](#) combines personal narrative with publicly available flood data to create a more comprehensive picture of the extent of flood impacts across NYC. The layers include New Yorkers' flood stories, stormwater flood projections, 311 reports, NYC Department of Environmental Protection green infrastructure assets, and [Flood Net](#) sensor data. The interactive feature provides a platform for users to document the experiences they have had with heavy rainfall, identify flood risk in their neighborhoods, showcase community-led actions, and share new ideas for addressing the challenge.

"It's been five years since Hurricane Ida, and the City has received over one hundred thousand flood reports – some 20, 30, and over 40 inches," said **Amy Chester, Director, Rebuild by Design**. "Every community is experiencing increased and heavy rainfall, and every community has a story to tell. The [Rainproof NYC Flood Map](#) will document our journey from Hurricane Ida to becoming a sponge."

The research reveals:

- New Yorkers made 113,481 flood reports to 311 in the five years since Hurricane Ida.
- Nearly half the reports, 55,791 (49.2%), were sewer backups; followed by clogged storm drains at 35,348 (31.1%) reports; water in the street 17,313 (15.3%) reports; and water in basements 5,029 (4.4%) reports.

- The highest concentration of 311 reports have been on Staten Island. There are 25.1 times more reports per 1,000 residents,
- There are 434 flood sensors throughout the city. The highest depth of flood waters was measured at 183rd St / 90th Ave in Queens, at 46.1 inches on May 20th, 2026. Within half a mile, there have been 609 311 reports for flooding.
- Queens Community Board 12 has had 7,250 flood reports, the highest of any board in the city.
- Council District 50 (Staten Island) has had 5,579 flood reports, the highest of any district in the city.

The Rainproof NYC Flood Map, created by [Rainproof NYC](#) in collaboration with [Brooklyn Level Up](#), [FloodNet](#), [Nonprofit Staten Island](#), [Rainproof Flatbush](#), [SQREJC](#), [The City Sponge](#), and [The Dear Neighbor Project](#), underlines how City flood maps do not entirely capture where floods occur.

Five years ago on September 1st, Hurricane Ida made landfall in NYC, taking the lives of [13 New Yorkers](#), with costs amounting to an estimated [\\$781 million](#) in repair and recovery. Since then, NYC has taken significant steps to improve the City's flood preparedness and capacity to manage more water. Simultaneously, events like Hurricane Ida have become more frequent and intense, with more storms like Hurricane Ophelia, the October 2026 floods, and numerous other unnamed events. Shut down subways, roads, businesses, and schools are becoming a new norm during the city's rainy season.

"The flood didn't just damage my home; it changed the way I see life, safety, and tomorrow. Water can wash away possessions in minutes, but the emotional damage can last for years," **said Amit Shivprasad, homeowner and Queens Community Board 12 member.**

[Rainproof NYC](#) was founded by Rebuild by Design and One Architecture & Urbanism in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida to bring New Yorkers together to collectively identify and implement solutions to NYC's worsening flood risk. Today, it comprises a growing movement of community members, technical experts, policy advocates, government partners, private sector firms, and educators united by a commitment to address the challenge of flooding in NYC.

Whenever it rains, I'm out there clearing the catch basins with my neighbors, and it's gotten to the point where I needed to up my prescriptions because it's affecting my mental health," **said Valeen Bhat, Founder & CEO of Private Picassos based in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn.**

"The people of The Flats didn't need a map to tell them flooding was a problem. They've been living it. Climate change and the continued concreting of our neighborhoods through new development means flooding now exists in places it didn't before. And this isn't only a climate issue. It's a housing justice and generational wealth issue. For many families in our community, their home is their greatest, and sometimes only, source of wealth, **said Zalyia Grillet, CEO of Brooklyn Level Up based in Flatbush Brooklyn.** "When that home is repeatedly damaged or

lost, the impact doesn't end with one storm. It can change what a family can pass down for generations."

Every New Yorker has a role to play to address flooding. Rainproof NYC calls on all New Yorkers to share their flood stories to ensure the magnitude and extent of flood impacts is on the record and can guide future decision-making about where preparedness and mitigation investments are needed. Likewise, it encourages communities to share how they are adapting to heavy rainfall to ensure successful solutions are replicated and scaled across the city.

[Rebuild by Design](#) is housed at the Institute for Public Knowledge at New York University and works with communities and local governments to solve environmental and economic challenges. Our work centers people through data, design, community outreach, research, education, and policy to co-create solutions that strengthen infrastructure and protect lives and livelihoods.

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