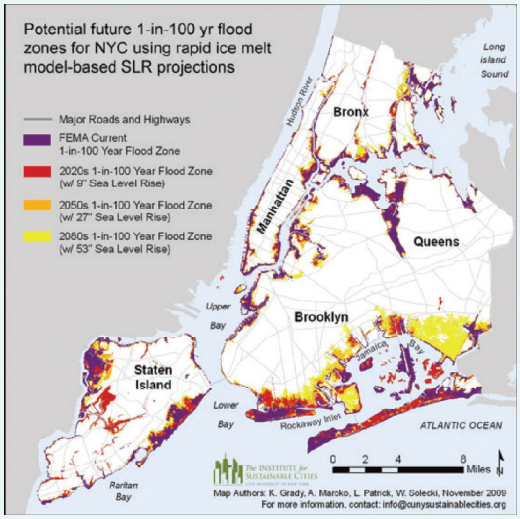
Climate Resilient Waterfronts for New York City

CLIMATE CHANGE & NYC WATERFRONTS

Waterfronts are attractive areas for many –often competing- uses in NYC and are seen as multi functional locations for economic-, environmental- and social activities on the interface between land and water. New York City waterfronts play a crucial role as a first line of flood defense and in managing flood risk and protecting New York City for future climate change and sea level rise.

The city of New York has embarked on a climate adaptation program (PlaNYC) outlining the policies needed to anticipate to the impacts from climate change. As part of this policy the Department of City Planning is currently preparing Vision 2020: New York City Comprehensive Waterfront Plan for the over 500 miles of New York City's waterfront. An integral part of the vision is to improve resilience to climate change and sea level rise.

This study provides input for the New York City's Vision 2020 by assessing how flood insurance, and flood zoning and building code policies can contribute to waterfront development that is more resilient to climate change.



Current 1/100 year flood zone for New York City and potential future flood zones under climate change

METHOD

This study, has focused on recommendations that are routed in existing legislation on flood insurance, zoning policies and building codes for New York City. It explores possibilities for improved cooperation between the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) coordinated by FEMA, the NYC Building Department and the NYC Planning Department to ensure that all existing regulations are applied with maximum efficiency.

New York in the 1930s and 2010: the effect of zoning policies and building codes on the vulnerability of New York City to floods

CONTACT

The project is coordinated by the NYC Department of City Planning (DCP) through the Vision 2020 program

Website:
http://www.nyc.gov/html/dcp/html/cwp/index.shtml

This reseach addresses the issue of climate change and flood risk for Vision 2020:

Contact: Prof. Dr. Jeroen Aerts:
Jeroen.aerts@ivm.vu.nl