



# Harbor Scorecard

## Are New York City's Waterfronts Strong, Healthy, and Open?

The Waterfront Alliance is a coalition of more than 950 organizations working together to bring about real change to our city's 520 miles of shoreline. Our Alliance Partners include businesses and nonprofit organizations throughout New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and beyond. We are a unified voice for our shared waterfront, through building consensus on important waterfront policy and planning issues, and producing special events and public programs.

In commemoration of our tenth anniversary, the Waterfront Alliance has released the Harbor Scorecard, a web tool

that creates benchmarks for strong, healthy, and open waterfronts. Using data from research institutions, agencies, and citizen scientists, the Scorecard is our region's first neighborhood-by-neighborhood index of waterfront access, water quality, and coastal resiliency. It is a tool to measure change over time and to see how your community stacks up to your neighbors:

Are you protected from the next major storm?  
How healthy is the water near you?  
Can you get to and on the water?

### STRONG

Are you protected from coastal flooding?

#### STATISTICS

**408k**

New Yorkers have a **50%** chance of a major flood in their homes by **2060**

**41%**

of those are **economically and socially vulnerable**

### Can you stay dry?

**We face a major collective challenge to protect against more intense storms and sea level rise.**

Within the next few decades, there is a 50% chance we will see a major flood where 400,000 people live now.

That is a population roughly the size of Miami or New Orleans, two other cities facing climate risks.

The effects will be unjust, as more than 40% of those at risk of major flooding face substantial social or economic barriers to recovery.

### HEALTHY

Are your waterways fishable and swimmable?

#### STATISTICS

**23%**

of water samples **fail** EPA safe swimming standards

**17.3B**

gallons of **raw sewage** were discharged in 2015

### Should you get wet?

**17 billion tons of raw sewage were dumped into the waterways in 2015, a relatively dry year.**

In wet years, that total can be much higher, because we are underinvesting in solutions to our antiquated combined sewer system that pollutes the waterways during precipitation events.

Bacteria levels in the water vary greatly by location: official water testing samples in the middle of the harbor show better results than citizen scientists, who test where people are actually getting into the water.

### OPEN

Are your waterways accessible for people and boats?

#### STATISTICS

**1 in 4**

boating access points per miles of NYC's coastline

**53%**

of waterfront districts have **one or fewer** places to touch the water

### Where can you get wet?

**We have new waterfront parks and open space, but are still relatively limited for getting into and onto the water.**

Access to swim in the water for recreation and or touch the water for education is unevenly distributed, with more than half of all waterfront districts restricted by inaccessible waterways.

Counting recreational boat launches, historic boat programming, ferry landings, tour and charter locations, and marinas, there's just one place to board or launch a boat for every four miles of NYC coastline.

Find your neighborhood at [waterfrontalliance.org](http://waterfrontalliance.org)

**#HarborScorecard**



# Harbor Scorecard

**WATERFRONT ALLIANCE**

**STRONG**

**HEALTHY**

**OPEN**

50% flood risk by 2060<sup>1</sup>

% high-risk/low-income<sup>2</sup>  
# sites, risk of contamination<sup>3</sup>

% unsafe swimming<sup>4</sup>

% unhealthy fish<sup>5</sup>  
millions gal. sewage<sup>6</sup>

Boating, recreation<sup>7</sup>

# ferry landings  
# sites, swim or touch water<sup>8</sup>

	Community District		STRONG				HEALTHY				OPEN						
			People	%	% high-risk/low-income <sup>2</sup>	# sites, risk of contamination <sup>3</sup>	Agency	Citizen	% unhealthy fish <sup>5</sup>	millions gal. sewage <sup>6</sup>	Public	Private	# ferry landings	# sites, swim or touch water <sup>8</sup>			
MANHATTAN	1 Lower Manhattan	☆☆☆	14.0	23%	4%	75	☆☆☆	10%	15%	3%	99	☆☆☆	3	6	7	1	
	2 Greenwich Village	☆☆☆	4.9	5%	0%	24	☆☆☆	—	10%	—	184	☆☆☆	1	2	0	1	
	3 Lower East Side	☆☆☆	22.9	14%	61%	24	☆☆☆	—	9%	—	228	☆☆☆	0	1	0	0	
	4 Chelsea/Clinton	☆☆☆	3.9	4%	0%	39	☆☆☆	—	31%	—	189	☆☆☆	3	7	1	1	
	6 Murray Hill/Stuyvesant	☆☆☆	9.6	7%	0%	15	☆☆☆	18%	22%	21%	171	☆☆☆	0	0	1	1	
	7 Upper West Side	☆☆☆	0.4	0%	0%	0	☆☆☆	—	—	—	42	☆☆☆	2	1	0	1	
	8 Upper East Side	☆☆☆	5.0	2%	0%	4	☆☆☆	—	—	—	335	☆☆☆	0	0	1	0	
	9 Manhattanville	☆☆☆	0	0%	0%	2	☆☆☆	11%	38%	6%	88	☆☆☆	0	1	1	1	
	10 Central Harlem	☆☆☆	3.4	2%	61%	4	☆☆☆	30%	—	0%	261	☆☆☆	0	0	0	0	
	11 East Harlem	☆☆☆	16.7	14%	79%	15	☆☆☆	—	39%	—	398	☆☆☆	0	0	2	2	
	12 Northern Manhattan	☆☆☆	5.1	2%	100%	8	☆☆☆	—	29%	—	493	☆☆☆	5	1	0	4	
		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>85.8</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>210</b>		<b>14%</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>2488</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>
BRONX	1 Mott Haven	☆☆☆	0.4	0%	44%	40	☆☆☆	—	38%	—	493	☆☆☆	0	0	0	0	
	2 Hunts Point	☆☆☆	0.2	0%	0%	8	☆☆☆	45%	35%	30%	329	☆☆☆	4	1	0	4	
	4 Highbridge	☆☆☆	0	0%	0%	0	☆☆☆	21%	—	18%	778	☆☆☆	0	0	0	0	
	5 University Heights	☆☆☆	3.5	2%	0%	3	☆☆☆	—	—	—	81	☆☆☆	1	0	0	1	
	8 Riverdale	☆☆☆	0.9	1%	15%	2	☆☆☆	8%	—	4%	235	☆☆☆	0	0	0	0	
	9 Soundview	☆☆☆	1.7	1%	19%	2	☆☆☆	36%	50%	35%	1259	☆☆☆	3	1	0	3	
	10 Throgs Neck	☆☆☆	7.0	6%	15%	8	☆☆☆	12%	—	28%	674	☆☆☆	1	9	0	2	
	11 Pelham Parkway	☆☆☆	0.4	0%	0%	1	☆☆☆	—	60%	—	0	☆☆☆	2	0	0	2	
	12 Williamsbridge	☆☆☆	0.0	0%	0%	5	☆☆☆	73%	—	35%	159	☆☆☆	1	0	0	1	
		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>14.1</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>69</b>		<b>30%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>4008</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>13</b>
	BROOKLYN	1 North Brooklyn	☆☆☆	4.3	3%	6%	48	☆☆☆	61%	46%	50%	1567	☆☆☆	3	1	3	2
		2 Brooklyn Heights	☆☆☆	0.6	0%	0%	11	☆☆☆	12%	25%	0%	144	☆☆☆	2	3	2	3
5 East New York		☆☆☆	3.5	2%	21%	2	☆☆☆	25%	—	37%	89	☆☆☆	0	0	0	0	
6 Red Hook		☆☆☆	5.4	5%	57%	70	☆☆☆	23%	46%	4%	344	☆☆☆	3	1	3	1	
7 Sunset Park		☆☆☆	1.3	1%	1%	28	☆☆☆	8%	—	0%	846	☆☆☆	0	0	1	0	
10 Bay Ridge		☆☆☆	0.0	0%	0%	1	☆☆☆	21%	—	32%	535	☆☆☆	0	0	1	0	
11 Bensonhurst		☆☆☆	5.0	3%	100%	10	☆☆☆	10%	—	0%	919	☆☆☆	0	1	0	0	
13 Coney Island		☆☆☆	80.9	66%	83%	108	☆☆☆	33%	—	14%	57	☆☆☆	0	0	0	5	
15 Sheepshead Bay		☆☆☆	36.6	25%	21%	29	☆☆☆	0%	—	0%	0	☆☆☆	1	3	0	3	
18 Marine Park, Mill Basin		☆☆☆	36.9	17%	1%	18	☆☆☆	6%	—	8%	153	☆☆☆	5	9	0	5	
		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>174.6</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>325</b>		<b>21%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>4654</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>
QUEENS		1 Astoria	☆☆☆	3.1	2%	32%	10	☆☆☆	14%	32%	32%	1513	☆☆☆	1	0	1	1
	2 Long Island City	☆☆☆	3.3	2%	0%	41	☆☆☆	90%	32%	49%	735	☆☆☆	2	0	2	1	
	3 North Corona	☆☆☆	0.0	0%	100%	0	☆☆☆	31%	38%	5%	1243	☆☆☆	1	2	0	1	
	7 Flushing	☆☆☆	2.0	1%	37%	41	☆☆☆	22%	0%	15%	944	☆☆☆	4	3	0	6	
	10 Howard Beach	☆☆☆	15.7	12%	81%	13	☆☆☆	7%	—	7%	527	☆☆☆	0	0	0	2	
	11 Bayside	☆☆☆	0.5	0%	0%	0	☆☆☆	71%	—	24%	442	☆☆☆	0	0	0	2	
	13 Rosedale	☆☆☆	13.9	7%	0%	11	☆☆☆	—	—	—	1131	☆☆☆	1	0	0	2	
	14 The Rockaways	☆☆☆	74.8	61%	38%	61	☆☆☆	2%	—	13%	—	☆☆☆	4	3	2	10	
		<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>113.2</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>177</b>		<b>20%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>6535</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25</b>
	STATEN ISLAND	1 North Shore	☆☆☆	1.2	1%	0%	45	☆☆☆	9%	—	4%	358	☆☆☆	1	1	1	3
		2 Mid-Island	☆☆☆	15.0	11%	0%	17	☆☆☆	0%	—	4%	0	☆☆☆	3	0	0	3
		3 South Shore	☆☆☆	4.2	3%	0%	8	☆☆☆	6%	—	5%	0	☆☆☆	7	3	0	11
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>20.4</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>70</b>		<b>6%</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>358</b>		<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>	
	<b>NYC</b>		<b>408</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>851</b>		<b>20%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>17320</b>		<b>64</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>86</b>	

SOURCES (2017)  
Climate Central Surging Seas Risk Finder; Univ. of South Carolina Hazards & Vulnerability Research Institute

SOURCES (2015):  
NYC Department of Environmental Protection Harbor Water Sampling Data; NYC Water Trail Association Citizens' Water Quality Testing Program; NYC Soil & Water Conservation District Open Sewer Atlas; dash indicates data unavailable

SOURCES (2017):  
NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Program Public Access Work Group; NYC Water Trail Association; NYC Parks; Waterfront Alliance

NOTES

1. Estimates of current population with land elevation facing 50% cumulative risk of flood event at 7 feet above current high-tide line through 2060, accounting for medium-high sea level rise projections
2. Percent of population facing 50% cumulative risk of flooding by 2060 rated "High" on the Social Vulnerability Index of the Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute
3. Number of sites in the EPA's Facilities Registry System within land area facing 50% cumulative risk of flooding by 2060
4. Percent of water samples that exceeded the EPA-recommended Beach Action Value of Enterococcus bacteria (60 cfu), triggering public notice and possible closure; "Agency" indicates NYCDEP samples and "Citizen" indicates citizen science samples
5. Percent of water samples with dissolved oxygen levels below the EPA-recommended threshold for survival of fish larvae (4.8 mg/L)
6. Modeled projection of millions of gallons of raw sewage entering the waterways in 2015 through combined sewer overflows during rain events (2015 represents a low volume due to relatively dry weather; volume fluctuates with rainfall, and was projected at 25B gal. in 2014)
7. Number of locations of facilities for accessing New York's waterways by launching or boarding a boat; "Public" indicates human-powered boat launches, and historic and educational programming sites; "Private" indicates tour and charter locations and marina facilities
8. Number of locations for direct contact with New York's waterways for recreation or environmental education, including bathing beaches, waterfront parks with natural shorelines and get-downs; further detail available on district scorecard