

Village of Piermont LWRP Monitoring Report June 2015

Community Background:

The Village of Piermont is located in Rockland County on the west side of the Hudson River. It is located approximately 25 miles north of the Battery end of Manhattan. It is characterized as a low-lying community that comprises 0.7 square miles of land area. The Village has 2.5 miles of shoreline on the Hudson, 1 mile of frontage on the tidal portion of the Sparkill Creek and 0.6 miles on the freshwater Sparkill Creek. As of 2010, the Village's population was 2,510.

The Village's most prominent feature is Piermont Pier, which is a principal public access point to the Hudson River. The pier serves as a park with 0.5 mile of shoreline on each side. Parelli Park is located at the base of Piermont Pier featuring a boardwalk and benches for both residents and visitors. The dock at the end of the pier extends approximately one mile out into the river. It is a popular spot for fishing, walking and wildlife viewing.



Piermont Pier



Source: NYSDEC

Piermont Marsh

South of the pier is Piermont Marsh which encompasses 1,017 acres. It is part of the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve which is managed by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The site occupies two miles of shoreline including the mouth of Sparkill Creek and extensive tidal shallows. The marsh is also comprised of brackish tidal marsh, shallows and intertidal flats.

Collaborations with Department of State:

The Village completed its Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) in 1992. Since the LWRP was developed 23 years ago, the Village sought financial assistance from DOS in 2014 to update their LWRP through the Environmental Protection Fund-Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (EPF-LWRP). The Village was successfully awarded the grant to update its LWRP. It is the intent of the Village to incorporate strategies that reduce risk to infrastructure and property from sea level rise, revitalize the economy and conserve coastal resources. The LWRP update will build on the Resilience Roadmap for the Village of Piermont, which was completed in

September 2014. This document addresses coastal flooding risks related to sea level rise and details recommendations to create a more resilient village. The Village, in collaboration with DOS will start the update of its LWRP in 2015.

In addition to this grant, the Village has also received four (4) other EPF-LWRP awards. (See chart: Grants Awarded - Title 11 Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, Village of Piermont). In 2002, the Village completed a shoreline protection project along Piermont Pier to protect the storm-damaged north side of the pier. Additionally, the Village completed the construction of a trail along the eastern, narrow portion of Piermont Pier to allow public access to the Hudson River. The Village also completed a plan entitled "Water Quality Improvement Plan for the Sparkill Creek and its Watershed Including Provisions for Steep Slope Protection". The plan provides recommendations for the overall management of Sparkill Creek.

LWRP Monitoring Process:

The goal of the monitoring process is for the Department of State - Office of Planning and Development (OPD) to assess a community's consistency with its LWRP and to understand implementation activities and decision-making procedures related to the LWRP. Additionally, this process provides a forum for the community to highlight successes, and request technical and financial assistance for program implementation.

The Department of State (DOS) began the Village of Piermont's LWRP monitoring process by sending a letter which described the process and a list of survey questions. Subsequently, DOS held a conference call and a site visit with the Village of Piermont. Three representatives of the Village including Mayor Chris Sanders, Steven Silverberg and Sylvia Welch discussed the Village's responses to the survey questions and participated in the site visit, which was held in April of 2015. The tour provided DOS staff with an opportunity to see first-hand existing and potential recreational opportunities within the Village's waterfront. Along the tour, DOS Program and Consistency Staff also discussed a number of issues affecting the Village. Issues included the redevelopment of waterfront properties and the impact of storms that have affected the Village.

Office of Planning and Development Findings:

Overview

The *Village of Piermont Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)* was prepared in order to guide development within the coastal areas in a way that protects and preserves natural resources, and enhances public enjoyment of the waterfront.

Overall, the Village has made great strides in implementing projects identified in the LWRP and increasing the public's enjoyment and access to its waterways.

Since its adoption in 1992, the Village has implemented several projects and actions outlined in the LWRP.

LWRP Implementation

The implementation of the LWRP includes the following projects and actions:

- Constructed a boat launch at Parelli Park
- Constructed a public walkway along north shore of Piermont Pier
- Developed steep slope legislation
- Improved public access to the Hudson River
- Secured grant funding from other state agencies including New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and The Hudson River Valley Greenway.

Some key issues that were mentioned at the site visit included:



North Shore Walkway



Piermont Pier Park

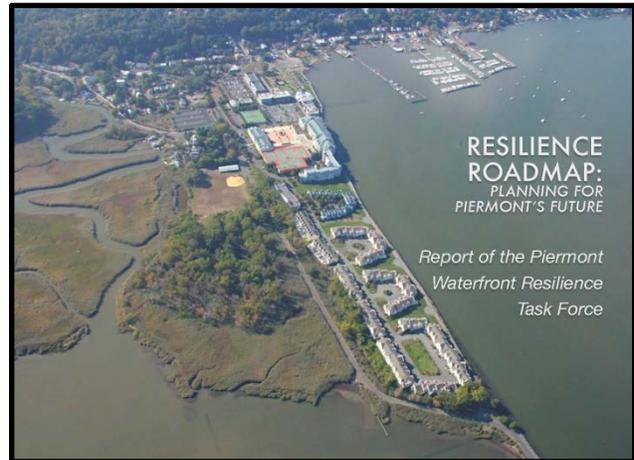


Marina at Piermont Waterfront

- Redevelopment of waterfront parcels: There are some parcels that are being considered for redevelopment. One property is currently owned by the Knights of Columbus, which suffered severe damage from Superstorm Sandy.
- Survival of Marinas: There are four existing marinas. The marinas are struggling due to the damage that has occurred from past storm events. It is likely that some of the marinas will not continue their operations.

- Maintenance of Piermont Pier: There is severe erosion on both sides of the shoreline of the pier. The Village would like to coordinate with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation regarding repair and maintenance of the shoreline. There is also sediment infill occurring north of the pier.
- Maintenance of Bulkheads and Seawalls: Bulkheads and seawalls require frequent repairs and replacement.

- Planning for a more resilient Village: The Village has experienced frequent flooding during storm surge events including nor'easters and tropical storms. As part of the development of the Resilience Roadmap: Planning for Piermont's Future, the Piermont Waterfront Resilience Task Force has identified recommendations that tie immediate recovery needs to long-term adaptation goals. The Village has



Resilience Roadmap Document Cover

identified the need to incorporate these findings/recommendations into the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Update. Specifically, some of the findings/recommendations include: 1) describing coastal and climate hazards relevant to Piermont, incorporating FEMA flood mitigation strategies, and setting goals for flood resilience, 2) reviewing and identifying which and how local regulations can be modified to foster increased resilience to future storms and sea level rise, 3) encouraging the use of natural buffers and green shoreline infrastructure to reduce flood risk and erosion and conserving natural resource functions, 4) planning for continued long-term availability of public parks, walkways and waterfront access, and 5) promoting best stormwater management practices and green infrastructure to alleviate upslope erosion, overland flooding, flash flooding and mud flows.

LWRP Document Accessibility

The Village's LWRP is available at the Village Clerk's office and library. An electronic copy is available on DOS's web site at the following link:

http://docs.dos.ny.gov/communitieswaterfronts/LWRP/Piermont_V/Index.html

Local Consistency Review

The Village Code, which details waterfront regulations and reviews required by the NYS Department of State, is referred to in all decisions, rulings, opinions regarding waterfront

property and issues relating to the waterfront. The Village’s Waterfront Consistency Review Law offers the Village relatively robust powers to evaluate a wide range of proposed private developments and public actions and issue recommendations of consistency.

The Village Board, with the advice and assistance of the Planning Board, is the lead agency for SEQRA review and is also responsible for the LWRP consistency review. The Village Board is responsible for the determination of LWRP consistency for all land use applications, zoning map and text changes, applicable public policy decisions and public projects. The Village Planning Board is lead agency on land use applications. The Village Planning Board coordinates their consistency review with their SEQRA and site plan review.

The Building Department includes the Coastal Assessment Form (CAF) and Short Form Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) with their application packages provided to applicants before the land use boards. The documents are completed by the applicant at the application stage, reviewed as needed by the Village Engineer and then by the lead agency (typically the Planning Board) if such proposed action is either a Type I or Unlisted Action.

Grants Awarded			
Title 11 Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program			
Village of Piermont			
Year	Amount of Grant	Project Description	Status
2014	\$35,000	#T1000545: The Village of Piermont will update its 1992 Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. The Program will build on the current development of a Waterfront Adaptation Vision Plan and Resiliency Roadmap and will focus on strategies that reduce risk to infrastructure and property from sea level rise, revitalize the economy and conserve coastal resources.	Open
2007	\$95,000	#C006860: In order to provide improved facilities as part of the Hudson-Fulton-Champlain Quadricentennial, the Village of Piermont will construct improvements at Piermont Pier on the Hudson River. The Village will repave Ferry Road, transform an abandoned storage building into a welcome center with a new roof, siding, exterior decking, seating, and landscaping, and install two ADA-compliant portable toilets.	Open
1997	\$41,500	#C005853: The Village would prepare a management plan for the Sparkill Creek watershed and incorporate best management practices and siting guidelines to protect steep slopes along the Hudson River.	Closed
1997	\$25,000	#C005854: The Village would construct walking trails and a bicycle path along the eastern, narrow portion of the Piermont Pier. Interpretive signs regarding the natural and cultural history of the area would be installed	Closed

Grants Awarded**Title 11 Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program****Village of Piermont**

Year	Amount of Grant	Project Description	Status
		along the trails and Pier Road.	
1996	\$25,000	#C005795: The project involves the placement of nearly 3,000 linear feet of stone riprap along south and north margins of the Piermont Pier in order to help protect the Pier from storm and ice damage.	Closed