

City of Rye LWRP Monitoring Report June 2015

Community Background:

The City of Rye is located on Long Island Sound in Westchester County, New York. It covers a total land area of approximately 6 square miles with a population of 15,720 (U.S. Census, 2010). The City is bordered to the north with the Village of Port Chester and the south with the Village of Mamaroneck. Its western border adjoins the Town of Harrison while its eastern border is Long Island Sound. Boston Post Road (U.S. Route 1) is a main transportation corridor within the City, which provides access to the waterfront area.



View of Hen Island

The City of Rye's coastal area contains a balance of residential, recreational and conservation areas. The coastal area contains Hen Island, Milton Harbor, Pine Island and Manursing Island. The City's coastal area supports an abundance of fish and wildlife species featuring two NYS significant coastal fish and wildlife habitats: Playland Lake and Manursing Island Flats; and Marshlands Conservancy. Blind Brook flows through the City before it empties into Milton Harbor.

Public access within the waterfront area includes the following parks and preserves: Rye Town Park and Beach, Disbrow Park, Rye Nature Center, Edith G. Read Natural Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, Playland Amusement Park and Marshlands Conservancy. Rye Town Park and Beach is a 62-acre preserve with 28 acres of lawns and paths and an expansive beachfront of 34 acres fronting Long Island Sound. Disbrow Park features several playing fields including Feeley,



Rye Beach

Sterling, Grainger and Disbrow New Fields. Rye Nature Center, a 47-acre natural area offers outdoor recreational opportunities and educational programs for the public.



Manursing Lake

The Edith G. Read Natural Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, a 179-acre preserve is designated as an Audubon “Important Bird Area” providing a haven for migratory and shore birds. The sanctuary features Manursing Lake, an 85-acre lake that provides wintering habitat for waterfowl. Bordering the Edith G. Read Natural Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is Playland Amusement Park, a cultural attraction listed on the National Register of Historic Places, which features the oldest wooden roller

coaster. Playland Amusement Park also features a public beach area. Marshlands Conservancy, 147-acre wildlife sanctuary offers direct access to the Long Island Sound. Trails weave through forest, meadow, salt marsh and shore habitats offering spectacular views of Long Island Sound. The sanctuary is an ideal location for bird-watching, picnicking and nature study.

The City’s coastal area also offers several marinas and boating facilities including American Yacht Club, Apawamis Club, Coveleigh Club, Durland Scout Center, Manursing Island Club, Rye City Boat Basin, Shenorock Club, Tide Mill Boat Basin, and Westchester Country Club Beach Annex.

Collaborations with Department of State:

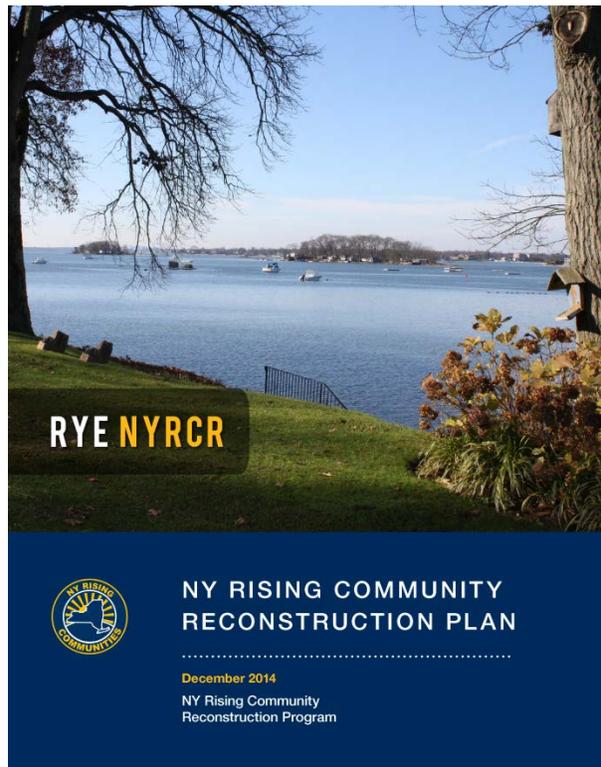
Since the completion of its Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) in 1991, the City has worked to advance its implementation. The Department of State (DOS) has awarded one Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (EPF-LWRP) grant to the City (See chart: Grants Awarded - Title 11 Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, City of Rye).

The City of Rye completed a study with design alternatives for a sediment control system for the City Marina. Environmental characteristics of the project site and the immediate surrounding areas were assessed. The assessment focused on conditions which influence sedimentation within the municipal boat basin. Conditions included a detailed description of the site, the characterization of historical maximum water surface elevations, an understanding of the influence of storms on the site, the characterization of erosion and construction practices in Blind Brook, a review of shoaling and dredging within the boat basin, and the characterization of tidal and riverine hydrodynamic regime.

Eight conceptual schemes were developed which could potentially mitigate shoaling within the municipal boat basin. The eight conceptual schemes focused on the mitigation of shoaling at the historical shoal formation at the mouth of Blind Brook. The schemes consisted of the following: 1) conducting annual dredging of the authorized channel, 2) enlarging the sedimentation basin and dredging, 3) installing a pneumatic barrier, 4) installing training groins, 5) constructing a dam and tide gate structure across Blind Brook, 6) installing a hydraulic agitation system, 7) installing a fixed pier and dredging as required, and 8) constructing flow diversion walls. Each of the eight conceptual schemes were evaluated based on the following criteria: proven technology, effectiveness, regulatory compliance, ease of construction, maintenance frequency, construction cost, maintenance cost, and operating cost. Based on the evaluation, the Flow Diversion Wall, Sedimentation Basin and the Fixed Pier and Dredging Schemes were recommended for further development. Additionally, two general conceptual plans were developed for the reconfiguration of the municipal boat basin.

The City recently participated in the New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program (NYRCR). The City completed a NYRCR Plan in December 2014 that identified strategies and projects to make the City more resilient in the face of future storm events. Projects identified in the waterfront area through the NYRCR process include:

- *Improved Milton Road Drainage to Harbor*- review the hydrology of the area and the hydraulics of the existing drainage system to alleviate flooding
- *Designate Rye Golf Club as a City-Operated Emergency Center*- retrofit existing facility to serve as an emergency center including modifications which would secure it against storm damage.
- *New Entrance to the Rye Nature Center*- create a new roadway entrance that does not cross Blind Brook



Rye NYRCR Plan Cover

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 LWRP monitoring process for the City of Rye by sending a letter which described the process and a list of survey questions. DOS held a site visit with the City in May 2015 to discuss the survey questions and tour the waterfront area. The tour provided DOS staff with an opportunity to see first-hand existing recreational opportunities and discuss potential projects within the City's waterfront area. Christian Miller, City Planner, participated in the LWRP monitoring process.

Office of Planning and Development Findings:

Overview

The City of Rye Local Waterfront Revitalization Program was prepared in order to guide development within the coastal area in a way that protects and preserves natural resources, and enhances public enjoyment of the waterfront.

DOS encourages the City to update its 24-year old LWRP to serve as a strategic plan for the waterfront. This would allow the City to incorporate a harbor management plan/program that regulates water uses within the harbor area. This update would provide an opportunity to consider and incorporate potential projects and actions within the waterfront area. It would also provide an opportunity to educate and train the City on its responsibilities to ensure that all applicable actions taken by the City are consistent with the LWRP. A key element would be formal local consistency training by DOS staff to all pertinent local officials and boards.

LWRP Implementation

Since its adoption in 1991, the City has implemented several projects and actions outlined in the LWRP. It has made great strides in increasing the public's enjoyment and access to Long Island Sound.

The City recognized the need to develop land use regulations and local laws to insure that future development will be compatible with the present land uses and to implement the local program policies. The City created coastal zone districts including the membership club district (MC), conservation district (C) and waterfront recreation (WR) district to retain specific land uses. The membership club district includes boating clubs along the shore of Milton Harbor including Coveleigh Club, Shenorock Shore Club and American Yacht Club. The conservation

district includes conservation areas along the shore of Long Island Sound including Marshlands Conservancy and Manursing Lake. Waterfront recreation areas consisting of Rye Golf Club, Rye Town Park and Playland Amusement Park are included within the waterfront recreation district. The City has maintained public access to the Long Island Sound through the development of the coastal districts.

The City adopted a Stormwater Management Law in 2007 and made some amendments in 2013. The City also adopted a Floodplain Management Law in 2007.

Public access improvements included the refurbishment of the Rye Town Dock and the rehabilitation of the pier at Playland Amusement Park. Westchester County also made repairs to the south boardwalk, fishing pier and site work after damages were caused by Superstorm Sandy. As described in the City's LWRP, a vista at the end of Dearborn Avenue is proposed to provide additional public access to the waterfront for passive water enhanced recreation.

LWRP Document Accessibility

The City's LWRP is available at the Planning Department's office located at City Hall. An electronic copy is available on the City's website and DOS's web site at the following links:

<http://www.egovlink.com/rye/docs/menu/home.asp>

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

Local Consistency Review

The City of Rye Coastal Zone Management Waterfront Consistency Review Law (Chapter 73) was adopted in 1991 to provide for the protection and beneficial use of the natural and man-made resources within the City's waterfront area by ensuring that actions classified as Type I or unlisted under Part 617 of Title 6 of NYCRR to be undertaken, approved or funded by town agencies will be undertaken in a manner consistent with the policies and purposes of the City of Rye LWRP.

Per the City's Coastal Zone Management Waterfront Consistency Review Law, for actions to be directly undertaken by the City of Rye, the agency shall, as early as possible in the formulation of the action, refer the proposed action to the Planning Commission for a determination of consistency and shall not implement such action until the Planning Commission has issued such determination of consistency.

For applications by persons, firms and corporations to a city agency for approval, the applicant, when making the application to such agency, shall simultaneously apply to the Planning Commission for a determination of consistency. The applicant shall prepare a coastal assessment form (CAF) to assist with the consistency review of the proposed action. In most

cases, the Planning Commission shall make a determination of consistency based on the CAF and other information deemed necessary.

Grants Awarded			
Title 11 Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (EPF LWRP)			
City of Rye			
Year	Amount of Grant	Project Description	Status
1997	\$21,500	Design of Sediment Control System for City Marina- The city would design a sediment control system for City Marina to minimize siltation from the Blind Brook tributary and reduce the need for dredging. The project will ensure more effective use of the marina for recreational vessels. Once the project is implemented and dredging has occurred, the capacity of the marina will increase from 400 slips to 450 slips, a 12% increase. The report will determine the volume of silt that is deposited into the marina basin each year by the Blind Brook tributary, recommend ways to minimize the sediment loading, and determine the amount of material that should be dredged.	Closed