

South Battery Park City Resiliency Project

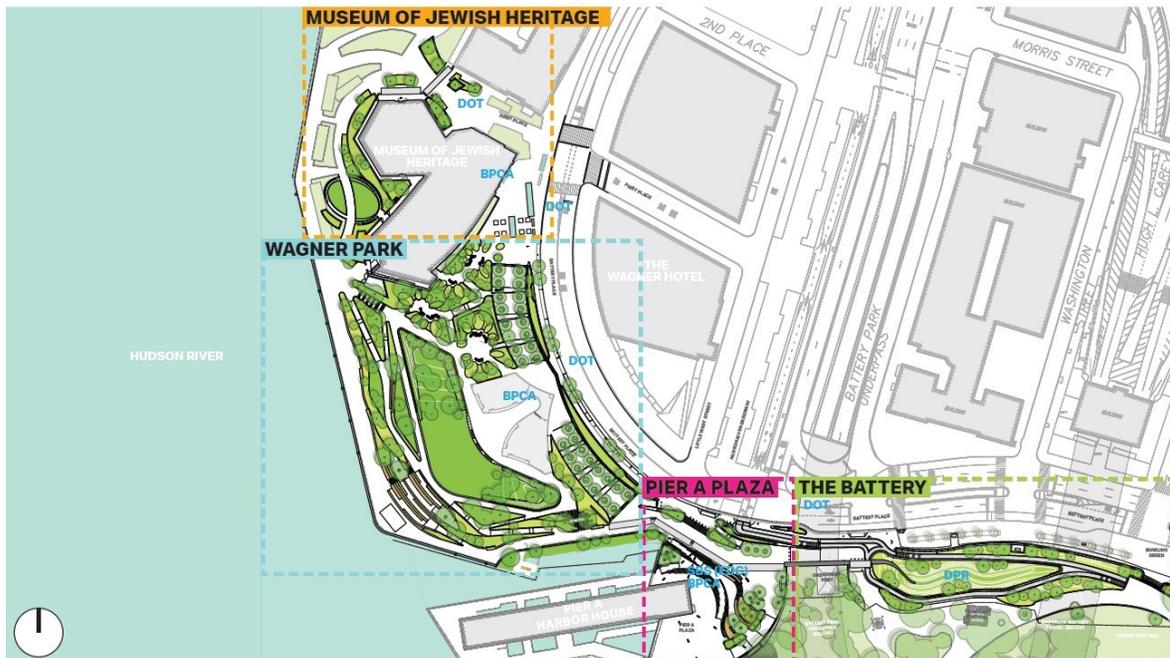
Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated: August 10, 2022

OVERVIEW AND PROJECT NEED

1. What is the South Battery Park City Resiliency Project?

The South Battery Park City Resiliency Project (SBPCR) is a BPCA capital project designed to provide flood risk reduction for Battery Park City and Lower Manhattan in response to increasingly frequent and more severe storms. It comprises an integrated flood barrier system from the Battery Park City Esplanade at the west end of First Place, along the waterside edge of the Museum of Jewish Heritage (MJH), through Robert F. Wagner Park, and Pier A Plaza, that then extends eastward along the northern edge of The Battery, ending at approximately the southwest corner of Battery Place and State Street. The project also includes modifications and upgrades to the storm-water drainage system on the interior side of the flood barrier system to ensure that flood risks on that side are not exacerbated by the coastal surge protection. The project is part of the City of New York's larger Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency (LMCR) Project.

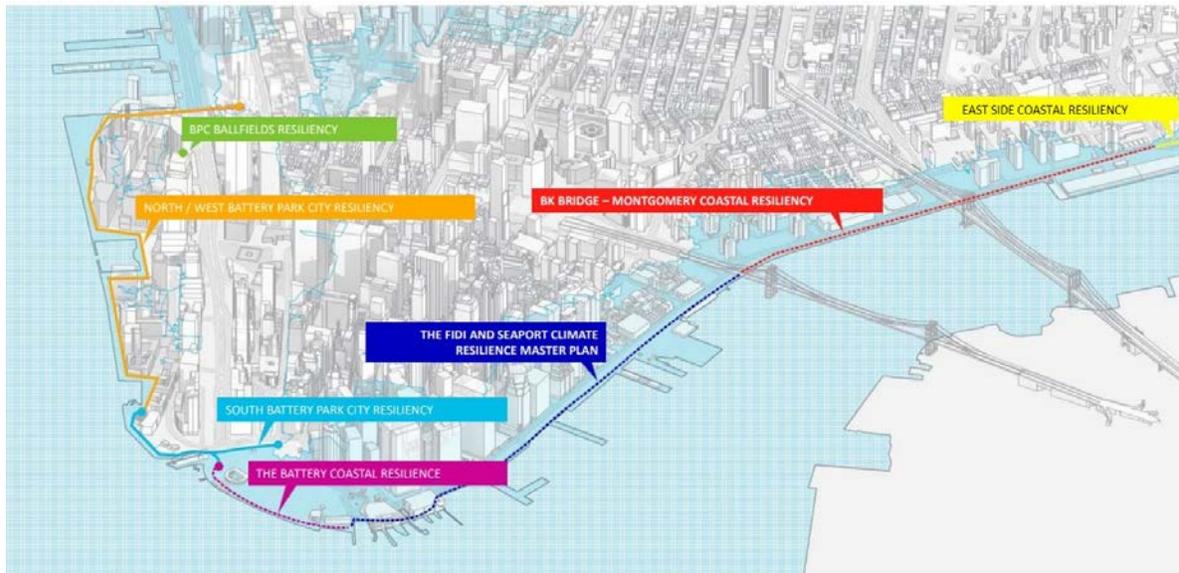


2. What is the Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency (LMCR) Project?

The Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency (LMCR) Project is a capital program initiated by the NYC Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice to reduce flood risk due to coastal storms and sea level rise in Lower Manhattan given its highly vulnerable location and its outsized economic impact on New York City as a whole. The LMCR Project addresses Lower Manhattan's coastline from Montgomery Street on the East Side to North Moore Street on the West Side, including Battery Park City. The goal of the program is to increase resiliency while preserving access to the waterfront by integrating both existing and newly created public space.

More information can be found below:

[NYC GOV | Reducing Flood Risk and Building Resilience in Lower Manhattan](#)



3. What other projects are part of LMCR?

The South Battery Park City Resiliency Project is one of several resiliency projects, including the North/West Battery Park City Resiliency, The Battery Coastal Resilience, East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR), and Brooklyn Bridge-Montgomery Coastal Resilience (BMCR) that, together, will reduce flood risk in Lower Manhattan.

More information can be found below:

[BPCA GOV | Battery Park City Resiliency](#)

[NYC GOV | The Battery Coastal Resilience](#)

[NYC GOV | Brooklyn Bridge-Montgomery Coastal Resilience](#)

[NYC GOV | East Side Coastal Resiliency](#)

4. Why is the South Battery Park City Resiliency Project necessary?

The science makes clear that, due to climate change, future storms will likely be far worse than Superstorm Sandy in 2012, which resulted in more than 50 lives lost in New York and billions of dollars in property damage, including more than \$10M to public spaces in Battery Park City alone. In response to the inescapable reality of Lower Manhattan's unique vulnerabilities to climate change, multiple New York State and New York City entities have accelerated resiliency planning efforts. BPCA is playing a critical role in providing risk reduction for Battery Park City and adjacent neighborhoods, while also tying into the larger Lower Manhattan risk reduction objectives of the LMCR.

5. What does the South Battery Park City Resiliency Project protect us from?

The SBPCR Project's primary goal is to reduce risk from increasingly severe and more frequent storms, specifically a 100-year storm event, impacting the southern-most portion

of Battery Park City. While the SBPCR Project will provide immediate risk reduction for a 100-year storm, it will also provide the ability to protect against the 2050 100-year storm, once the North/West Battery Park City Resiliency Project is constructed and a tie-in between the two projects is created.

6. What is a 100-year storm event?

A 100-year storm is a severe storm with a 1% likelihood of happening in any given year. A 100-year storm on one day does not decrease the chance of a second 100-year storm occurring in that same year or any sequent year. In other words, there is a 1 in 100 or 1% chance that a storm will reach this intensity in any given year.

For more information see below:

[USGS GOV | The 100-Year Flood](#)

7. What other benefits will the project bring?

The SBPCR Project is expected to be accredited by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Accreditation requires a FEMA review and verification that the flood system meets all pertinent requirements and achieves an acceptable level of risk reduction. FEMA accreditation will remove the project area from the current flood zone. As a result, owners in the area who have a federally-backed mortgage would no longer be required to obtain flood insurance.

For more information see below:

[FEMA GOV | Letter of Map Amendment & Letter of Map Revision](#)

8. Do “flood events” mean high tide?

No, flood events are not the same as high tide, although they can be exacerbated if they happen at high tide. High tide naturally occurs on a daily 12-hour basis due to the gravitational pull of the moon and its relationship with the earth. It is also referred to as “tidal force.” This gravitational pull not only creates high tide but also low tide.

Flood events are an overflow of water onto normally dry land and are caused typically by periodic storm events. Flood events can be enhanced or increased if a storm event arrives onto a shoreline at high tide, due to already elevated water levels as part of its tidal cycle.

9. What happens if I live in Battery Park City but outside the flood barrier protection area?

BPCA is at work on two interrelated resiliency projects as part of the Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency (LMCR) project to protect all of Battery Park City and the Lower Manhattan coastline from the threats of storm surge and sea level rise, and is engaging with the community and local stakeholders each step of the way.

While locations outside of the indicated flood barrier protection areas will not be protected by the SBPCR project, the risk of flooding will not be increased as a result of the project.

Additionally, once all of the LMCRC projects are completed, all of Lower Manhattan will be better protected from the 2050 100-year storm risk.

PROJECT DESIGN

10. What will the finished project look like?

The animations linked below show what Wagner Park and various aspects of the site will look like when the project is complete:

- [Museum of Jewish Heritage & Wagner Park – An Esplanade Jog](#)
- [Wagner Park – A Roam Around the Lawns](#)
- [Wagner Park – Garden Meander](#)
- [Wagner Park – The Allee Approach](#)
- [Wagner Park – Sidewalk Stroll](#)
- [A Walk From The Battery to Pier A Plaza](#)

11. What will the new Pavilion in Wagner Park include?

Like the existing Wagner Park Pavilion, the new building will include public restrooms, a restaurant, and a publicly accessible roof with a viewing area. New features include a green roof and community room. The new Pavilion will also be highly energy efficient, designed and operated to account for its carbon emission impacts. The new, higher elevation of the park allows for ground-level space below the park level and along Battery Place that will be used for back-of-house kitchen operations and BPCA Parks Departments' maintenance and horticulture operations space.

12. What were the design priorities for the project?

The five key design principles for the project are:

1. Maximize Protected Area
2. Maximize Public Space
3. Maintain Design Legacy
4. Maintain Views and Access to Waterfront
5. Create an Adaptable Site

13. How does the project provide storm protection?

The SBPCR Project's barrier system and interior drainage enhancements will consist of a combination of passive and deployable measures designed to provide flood risk reduction in accordance with current Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 100-year flood levels. The passive measures will be stationary and designed to be effective with no additional actions. The deployable measures require some form of action to take place when they are needed. The barrier system will serve as an effective stand-alone protective measure, providing independent utility and flood risk reduction to a broad swath of the southern portion of South Battery Park City and Lower Manhattan. It will also be capable of connecting to future waterside flood barrier systems to the east and to the north, and consequently provide immediate adaptability – once connected to the future North/West BPC Resiliency Project—to the 2050s 100-year storm.

14. What is a DFE?

Design Flood Elevation (DFE) refers to the height of flooding above sea level that the project is being designed to address. The DFE is determined by considering the following four factors:

1. Sea-level rise
2. Storm surge
3. Wave action
4. Freeboard (An additional safety factor elevation component added above the anticipated high-water line to meet FEMA standards)

15. What is an HOI?

Height of Intervention (HOI) is the distance between an existing elevation and the height of the proposed DFE.

16. What are the key components of the project?

Specific components of the SBPCR Project will include, among others:

- Elevation of Wagner Park and Pier A Plaza to above the projected flood levels
- Replacement of Pavilion at Wagner Park with a zero-carbon facility certified by the International Living Future Institute (ILFI)
- Flood walls and deployable flood gates
- Improvements to storm drainage systems serving the project site to reduce flood risks
- New landscaping features and plaza components
- Installation of a storm-water retention cistern
- Enhancements to street-side site security along Battery Place
- Modifications to the inlet at Pier A and associated waterside edge conditions
- Creation of a physical tie-in between the SBPCR Project and the Battery Coastal Resilience Project

More information can be found below:

[BPCA GOV | SBPCR Final Scoping Document](#)

[BPCA GOV | SBPCR Scaled Plans Sections](#)

17. How will the proposed project affect bike lanes and pedestrian crossings?

The SBPCR Project design will reduce the amount of conflict areas as bicycle traffic travels from the Hudson River Greenway to The Battery Bikeway. The current condition mixes bicycle and pedestrian traffic throughout Pier A Plaza. By re-aligning the bikeway to the north, closer to the curb, the project design will protect cyclists and pedestrians from each other by using plantings and low seat walls as a buffer. The pedestrian and bicycle traffic crossings have been re-aligned to improve awareness with paving changes, increased sight lines (by re-aligning the crossing to 90 degrees), and warning band pavers to slow bicycle

traffic. Additionally, the change in elevation along the landscape berm will be located to the east to reduce the speed of bicycle traffic near Pier A.

18. Will the park be accessible to those with disabilities?

Yes. The SBPCR Project will conform to Universal Access design principals, which will allow the park to be usable by all regardless of their disabilities and without the need for adaptation or specialized accommodations.

More information can be found below:

[NYC GOV | Universal Design](#)

19. Will there be water reuse on-site?

A storm-water retention cistern will be installed as part of the project. The storm-water runoff will be pre-treated to filter out sediment through trench drains with filters or in landscape cells. The cistern will store the pre-treated water prior to reuse. Under normal conditions, the pre-treated water will be released to the water reuse room, where it will receive additional filtration and disinfection prior to being reused on-site and within the building. The cistern will store the 95th percentile storm event. The discharge pipe will be located at the bottom of the cistern. This pipe will discharge to the water reuse room and be opened and closed by a valve. A separate pipe will come off the discharge line that connects to the storm drain system in Battery Place. The line will also contain a valve which will allow us to drain the cistern to the storm drain line in Battery Place as needed.

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

20. Where can I learn more about the project and the public feedback that helped develop the final designs?

Public participation has been key to this project’s success. The links below show how the designs developed in concert with community input, particularly from Manhattan Community Board 1. The links include public presentations as well as video recordings of those presentations and the public discussion at those meetings:

1. [Community Meeting \(November / December 2016\)](#)
2. [Community Meeting \(March / April 2017\)](#)
3. [Manhattan CB 1 Waterfront, Parks & Resiliency Committee \(June 2017\)](#)
4. [Executive Summary – Wagner Park Site Assessment & South BPC Resiliency Plan \(July 2017\)](#)
5. [Public Meeting \(November 2018\)](#)
6. [Public Meeting \(March 2019\) | Video](#)
7. [Public Meeting \(April 2019\) Video](#)
8. [Public Meeting \(June 2019\) | Video](#)
9. [Manhattan CB1 Environmental Protection Committee \(October 2019\)](#)
10. [Public Meeting \(January 2020\) | Video | Follow Up Q&A | Scaled Plans](#)

11. [“Deployables Workshop” with Manhattan CB1 \(May 2020\)](#)
12. [Update to Manhattan CB1 \(June 2020\)](#)
13. [Update to Manhattan CB1 \(February 2021\)](#)
14. [Update to Manhattan CB1 \(April 2021, Revised\)](#)
15. [LMCR Update to Manhattan CB1 \(June 2021\)](#)
16. [EIS Scoping Meeting \(October 2021\) | Video](#)
17. [Update to Manhattan CB1 \(March 2022\) | Video](#)
18. [Letter to Manhattan CB1 re: SBPCR Project \(June 2022\)](#)

21. What is the community engagement plan for the project?

Community outreach has been an integral part of the development of the design. Most recently, we’ve held public walkthroughs of the space and public hearings for the environmental review. A scale model of the entire project is available for view at the Battery Park City Community Room at 200 Rector Place. We also have increased signage throughout the project area, added posters to Battery Park City building lobbies, and sent postcards to all residents of Battery Park City. We will continue to spread the word out as much as possible in the weeks and months ahead.

CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS AND UPDATES

22. How long will construction of the project last?

Phased on-site construction activities are expected to commence after Labor Day 2022 and take 24 months to complete.

23. What hours of the day will construction take place?

Typical working hours will be 7:00am-3:30pm Monday through Friday and 8:00am-4:00pm Saturday.

24. Will any trees need to be disturbed to complete the project?

To enable implementation of the project, some trees must be removed and will be replaced in-kind. Others will be transplanted to new locations. Overall, the project will result in a net gain of 116 trees within the project area.

25. What are the evacuation and sheltering plans for the neighborhood if a flood event were to occur during construction?

NYC Emergency Management helps New Yorkers before, during, and after emergencies through preparedness, education, and response. Through NYCEM’s Know Your Zone program, you’ll find information about the city’s hurricane evacuation zones, the hazards you may face from a hurricane and what to do to prepare.

More information can be found below:
[NYC GOV | NYC Emergency Management](#)

26. Where can I sign up for project updates?

A project hotline has been established at (917) 624-5409.

27. Where can I submit comments on the project?

Questions and feedback about SBPCR can be sent to sbpcrinfo@bpca.ny.gov

or:

Battery Park City Authority
200 Liberty Street, 24th Floor
New York, NY 10281
ATTN: South BPC Resiliency Project Team