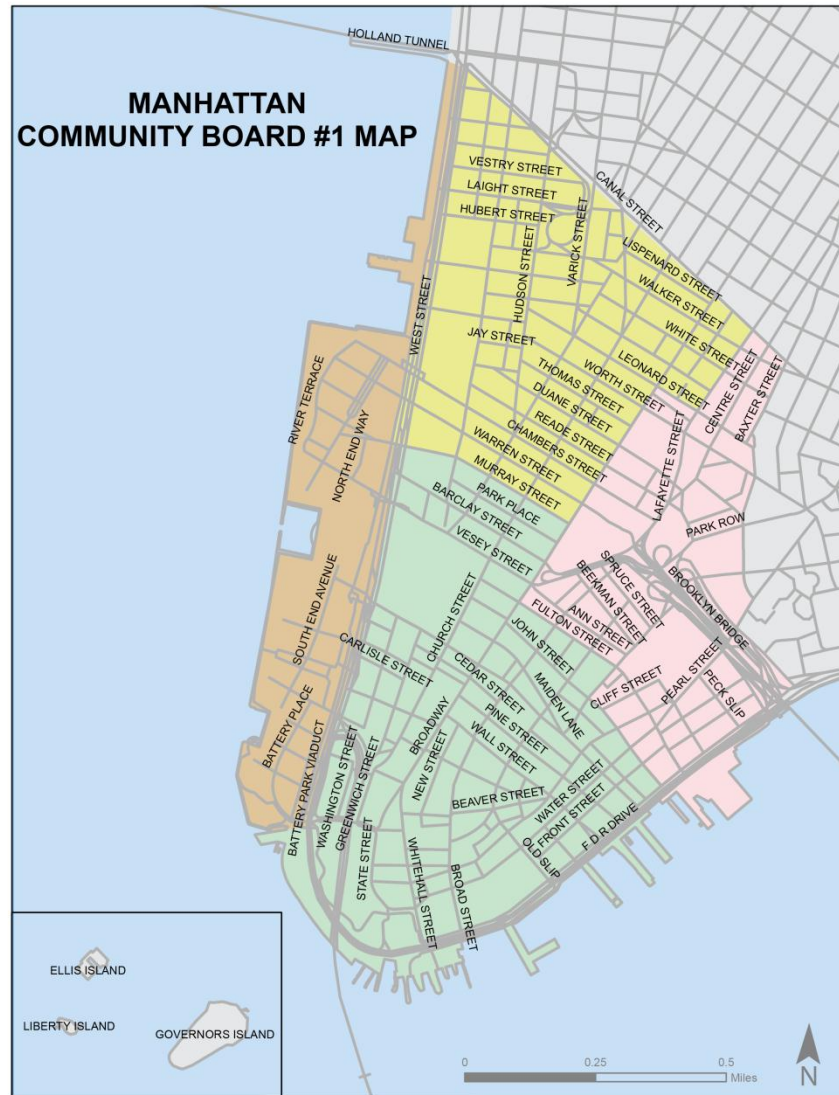


“What is Sandy”

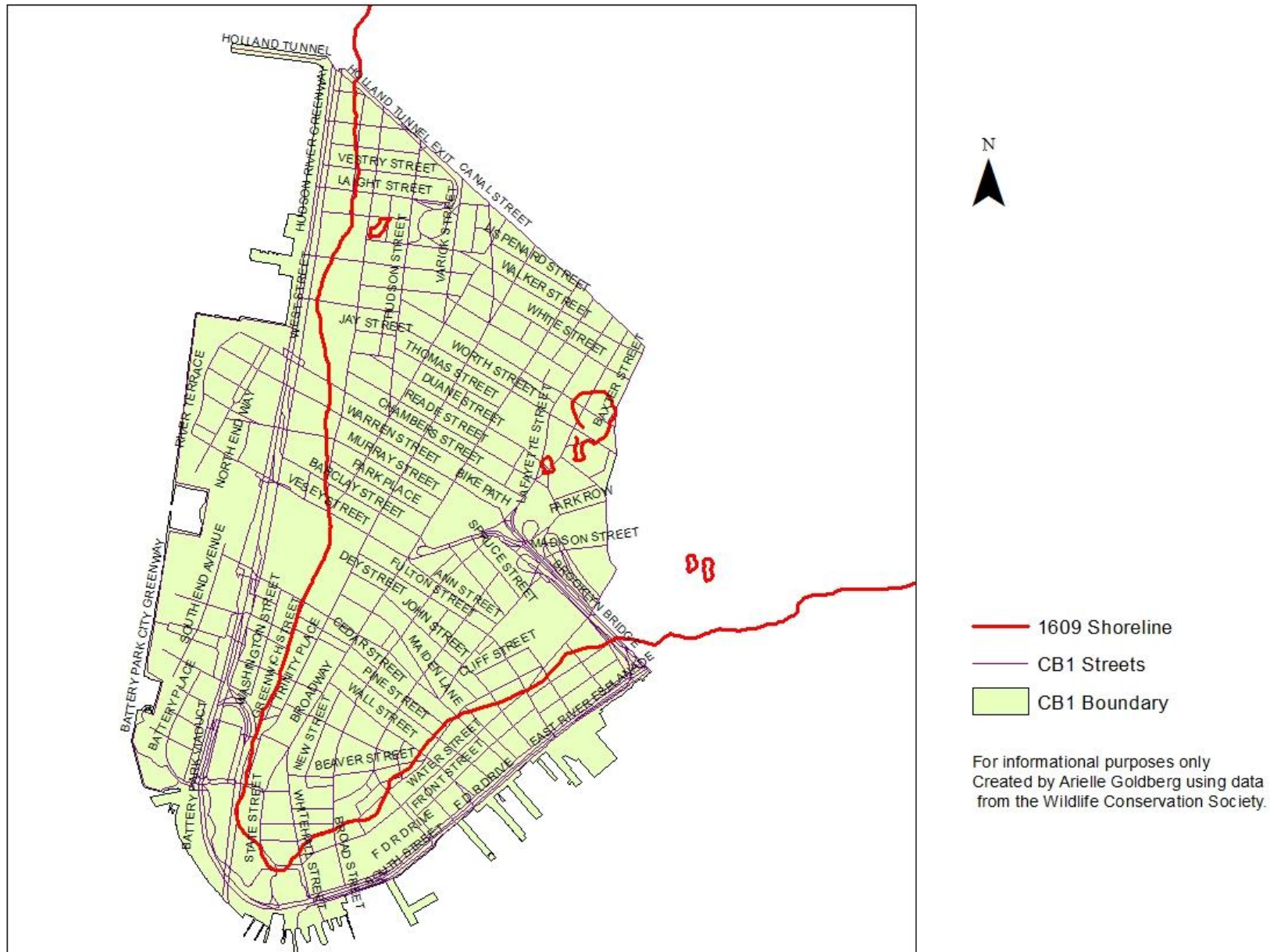
Presentation by Catherine Mcvay
Hughes, Chair of CB1



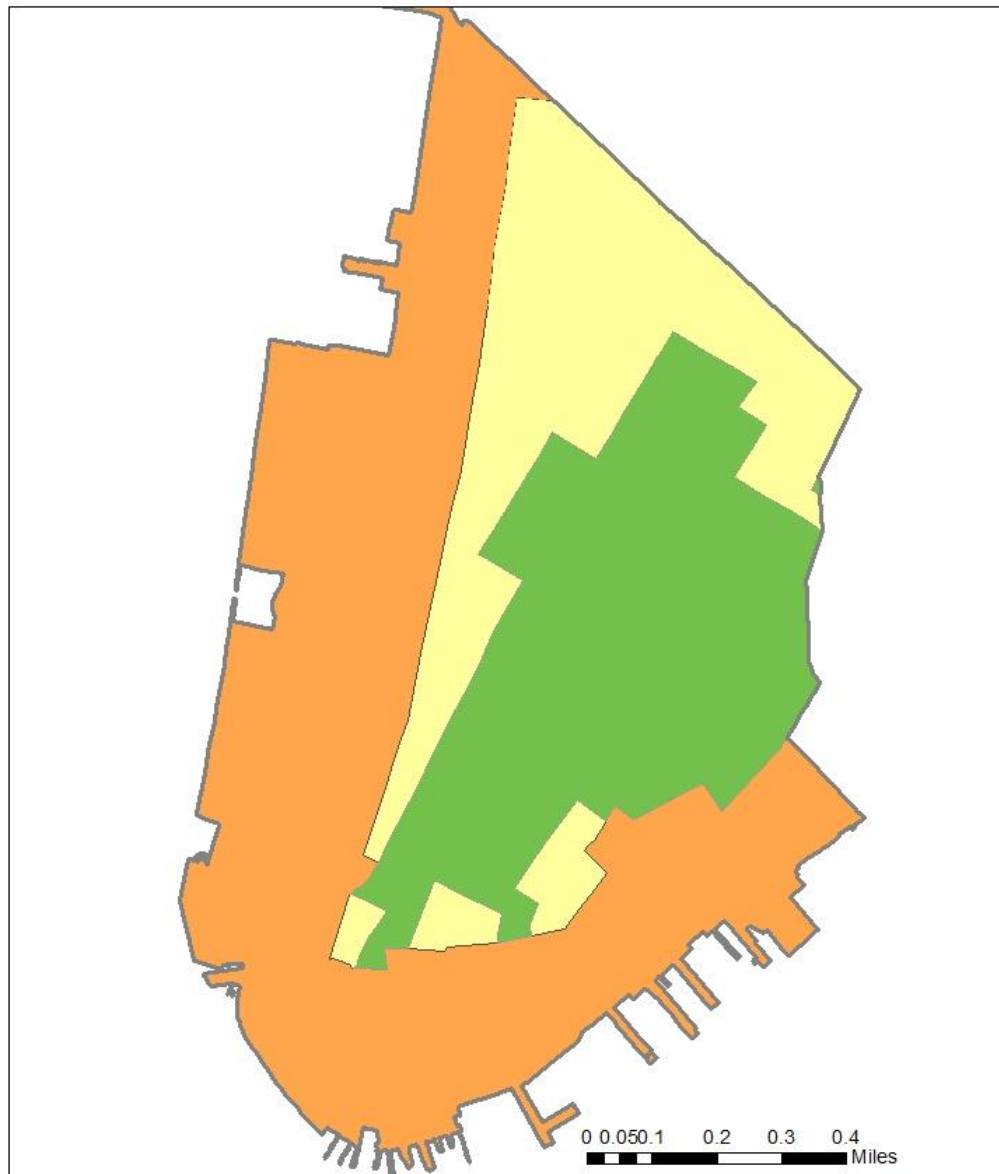
Source: NYC DCP, BYTES of the Big Apple

Arielle Goldberg & Diana Switaj; October 2012

Manhattan Shoreline in 1609



Community Board 1 and Evacuation Zones



CB1 Boundary

OEM Evacuation Zone

Zones

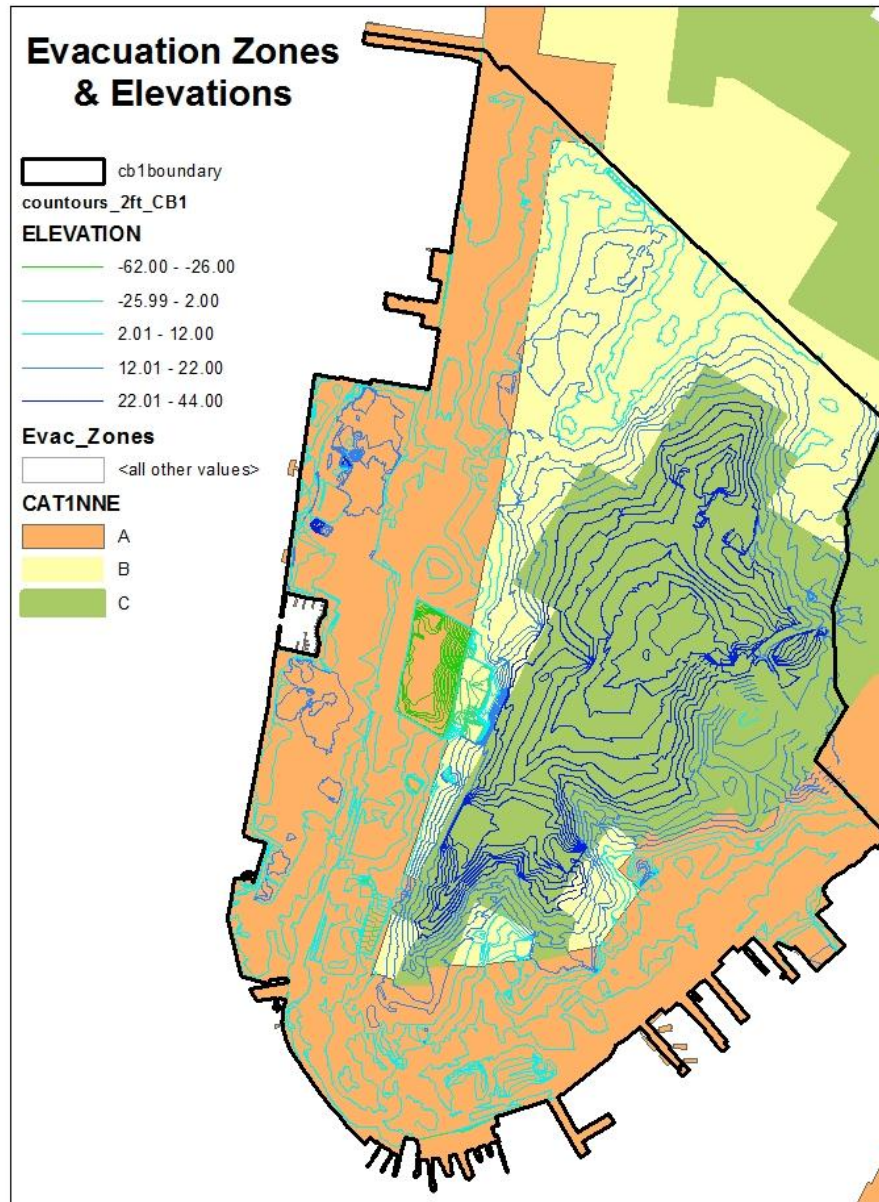
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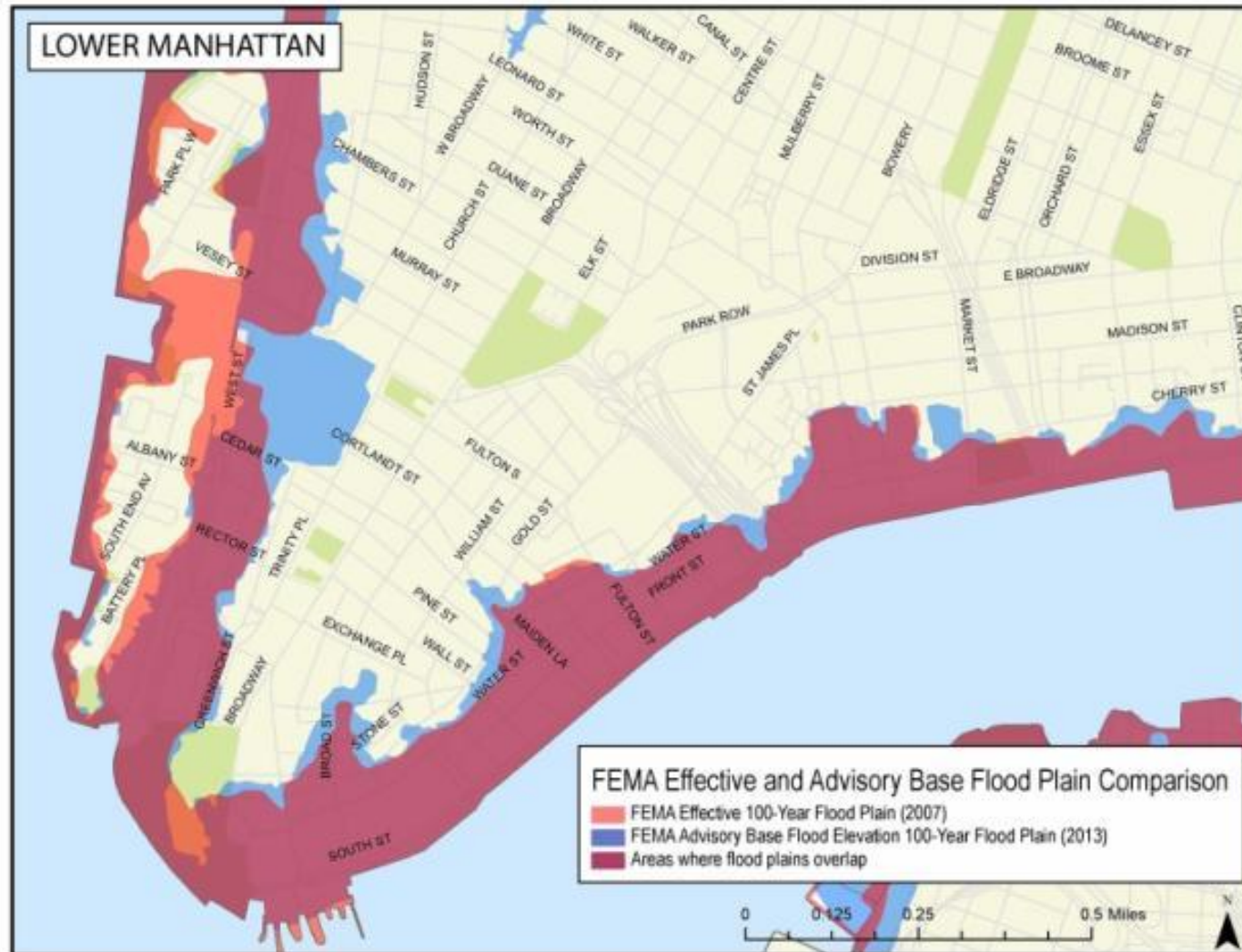
C

For informational purposes only
Created by Arielle Goldberg
using 2012 NYC OEM Hurricane Evacuation Zone data
Zones are based on "varying threat levels
of coastal flooding resulting from storm surge."

Community Board 1 Topography and Evacuation Zones



Revised FEMA Map



Communication, Evacuation and Emergency Shelters

Flooding from Sandy extended beyond Zone A and into Zone B. For CB1 residents, Seward Park High School served as the primary emergency shelter. With buses and subways shut down and limited taxis, transportation to the shelter was difficult, encouraging some individuals to remain in Zone A. When Seward Park High School lost power, evacuees were forced to move to other shelters.

Notify NYC informed people of the evacuation of Zone A and provided relevant updates before, during, and after the storm. The City, however, wavered in announcing the evacuation and provided less than 24-hour notice. This mixed message and late notice created confusion and possibly discouraged residents from following evacuation orders.

Quality of Life

The aftermath of Sandy caused numerous impacts to quality of life as residents coped with the effects of the storm:

- Some residents went days and others weeks without utilities, and at the beginning, information on available resources was limited and inadequate.
- Suspended mail service caused great inconvenience and jeopardized the health of residents dependent on medical subscription mail services.
- Vulnerability to flooding at our hospitals crippled emergency care resources and raises serious issues for Lower Manhattan health care and emergency needs.

Utilities

The loss of utilities – electricity, heat, and phone and data service – greatly impacted residents and workers of CB1.

- While electricity was restored to most customers within a week, and heat within two weeks, many residents went several weeks without these basic necessities.
- Steam heating systems are vulnerable to flood damage and delayed the restoration of heat for many buildings.
- Lack of phone and data services halted business operations for small and big businesses alike, with many businesses as well as residents still using interim servicers as Verizon installs the new fiber optic system.

Housing Safety Precautions

Superstorm Sandy revealed that residents may be voluntarily or involuntarily confined to buildings without power or functioning infrastructure, including basic necessities such as elevators, water, heat and phone and internet services. Additionally, seniors and vulnerable individuals, especially those on upper floors, had difficulty in the days after the storm accessing basic essential items such as water and food.

Transportation

Flooding caused widespread damage to our transportation infrastructure, including the subway and PATH systems and tunnels, and inconvenienced many residents and workers. With no subway system and a temporary restriction on cars entering the city, residents and workers were unable to commute to work, attend to their daily lives, or even return home.

Schools

Superstorm Sandy revealed limitations in Department of Education (DOE) emergency preparedness and communication procedures:

- Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) were instructed to call every student with updates.
- Parent and students were given less than 24-hour notice of school relocations.
- Additionally, some students were instructed to return to schools lacking heat or that still housed evacuees, including people with mental illness.

Residential and Commercial Buildings

Superstorm Sandy created a myriad of building-related issues for residents, workers, and building managers:

- A majority of buildings in CB1 house their mechanical infrastructure in basements to maximize floor area ratio for the primary function of the building.
- Basements in Zone A and beyond were inundated by Superstorm Sandy and some buildings were without utilities for weeks to months.
- Generators and other temporary, mechanical equipment filled our streets and reduced air quality, posing a serious health issue.
- Residents lacked information concerning the safety of their buildings, and in some instances, did not receive any communication for days from their building managers.

Small Businesses

Many small businesses in CB1 suffered dire financial situations after Superstorm Sandy; some were not covered by federal or private flood insurance and are still paying back 9/11 loans. Furthermore many commercial and residential buildings were closed, depleting local businesses of their customer base. Business in the historic South Street Seaport, were particularly devastated and still struggling to open and survive.

Summary

- Please view CB1 website for full Lessons Learned Document
- Sign up Notify NYC!!!