

Resiliency Planning

After Sandy, the City of New York released “A Stronger, More Resilient New York”, a detailed action plan for recovery from the storm and the long-term resiliency of New York City’s coastal communities, buildings, and infrastructure. The plan outlined coastal protection strategies such as the The Red Hook Integrated Flood Protection Feasibility Study, as well as building scale strategies.

To help facilitate resilient reconstruction and development, the Department of City Planning developed the Flood Resilience Zoning Text Amendment in October 2013. The text removed zoning barriers that limited the ability of homeowners and developers to make necessary changes to better protect their new and existing buildings from floods by new flood resilient construction standards and to maximize reductions to flood insurance premiums.

City Planning is working with community members and property owners to further develop zoning and land use strategies that facilitate the retrofit of a wider array of building types, such as industrial buildings, commercial storefronts, and row houses.

**What do you want to see in Gowanus?
Give us your thoughts and suggestions!**



FEMA Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (PFIRMs)

What are flood zones?

Flood zones are areas identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Each flood zone describes a land area in terms of its risk of flooding. FEMA releases Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) that highlight this risk.

In 2015, FEMA released new **Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps (PFIRMs)** for New York City. These maps are used to determine which properties must meet New York City building code and zoning requirements for properties at risk of flooding.*

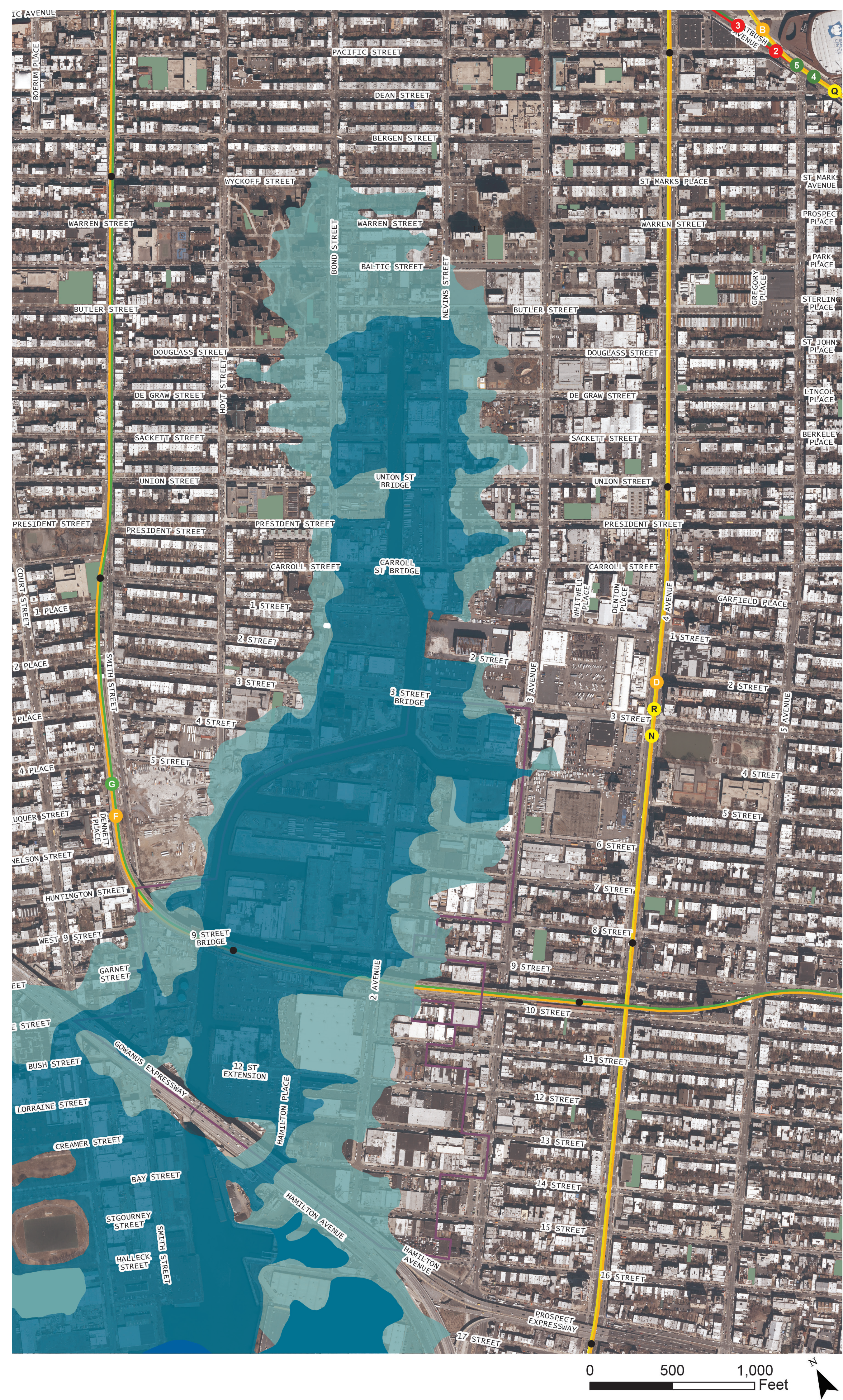
 A Zone (1% Annual Floodplain)

A Zone: A portion of the area subject to flooding from the 1% annual chance flood. These areas are considered high risk flooding areas. NYC Building code requires new and substantially improved buildings in the A Zone to be elevated or floodproofed.

 Shaded X Zone

Shaded X Zone: The area of moderate flood risk outside the regulatory 1% annual chance flood.

*In October 2016 FEMA announced that the City of New York won its appeal of FEMA's 2015 Preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps and has agreed to revise New York City's flood maps. This will result in revised flood maps which will provide New York City residents with more precise flood risk data for current conditions, in addition to providing a new map product for future conditions that account for climate change. Until any new flood maps are issued, the city's building code will continue to reflect the 2015 Preliminary FIRMs to ensure that new buildings are better able to withstand flood risk.



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