

CITY OF NEW HAVEN

Long Wharf Flood Protection Strategies

New Haven, Connecticut



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from the top: Long Wharf district before; design concept showing a healthier and more resilient coastal ecosystem

Integrating ecology into all aspects of the flood protection strategies being developed provides a healthier and more resilient coastal ecosystem while also creating a public amenity in an urban setting.

With its commercial, educational, industrial, port, and recreational facilities, the Long Wharf district of New Haven, CT is an important regional hub. Its location along New Haven Harbor and directly off of Long Island Sound, however, makes it susceptible to flood damage from extreme weather events. Most recently, the area suffered flooding and structural damage following Hurricane Irene and Superstorm Sandy.

As a key member of a team led by GZA and including Utile Architecture and Cambridge Systematics, Biohabitats worked with the City of New Haven to enhance the resiliency and safety of Long Wharf in the face of future storms and sea level rise while also enhancing the local ecology.

The team was tasked with developing design strategies for a flood protection system for the City's vulnerable resources. Biohabitats primary design focus was to meld the flood protection design concepts with concepts related to coastal resiliency including offshore oyster reef breakwaters, living shorelines, and an expanded coastal ecosystem including sandy beach, tidal wetland and dune habitats. By integrating ecology into all aspects of the flood protection strategies, the team was able to provide concepts that provide a healthier and more resilient coastal ecosystem while also creating a public amenity in an urban setting.

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