

FLOOD RESILIENCE MITIGATION PLANNING, FEASIBILITY & DESIGN STUDY FOR CHARLESTOWN NAVY YARD / LITTLE MYSTIC CHANNEL



Public Workshop October 8, 2025

PROJECT OVERVIEW

WHY THIS PROJECT?

The Charlestown Navy Yard and Little Mystic Channel areas are at risk of flooding today. With sea level rise, coastal flooding is projected to affect progressively larger extents in 2030, 2050, and 2070 if flood risks are not addressed.

PROJECT GOAL

To advance the analyses and strategies developed in *Climate Ready Boston* (2016) and *Coastal Resilient Solutions for East Boston and Charlestown* (Phase II) (2022), this project aims to do the following:

- Assess flood risks in the Charlestown Navy Yard and the Little Mystic Channel
- Align with neighboring projects
- Evaluate opportunities and constraints in implementing flood protection designs
- Create flood protection tools for property owners
- Identify and develop the design for a preferred long-term approach

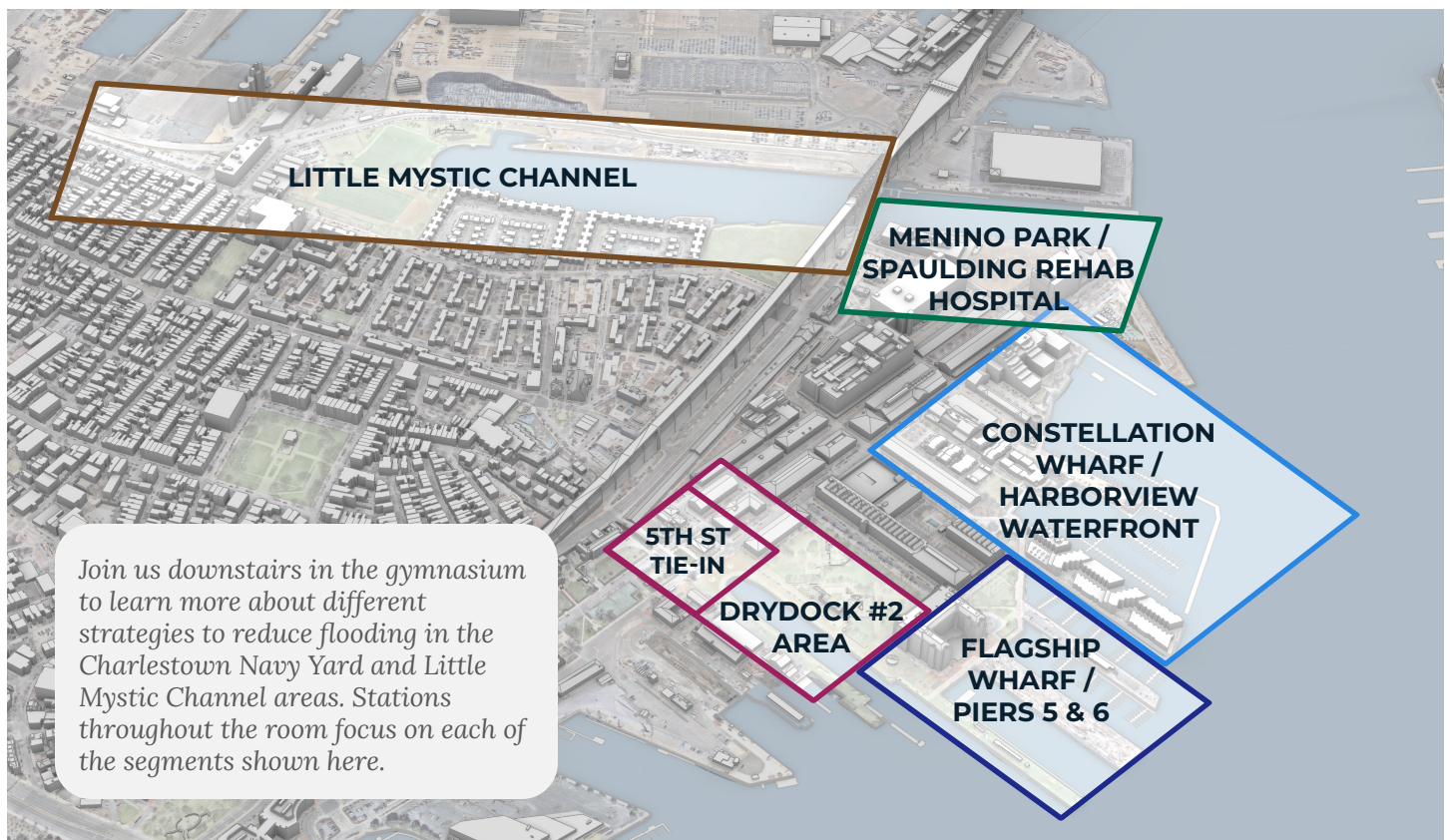


Flooding along the Harborwalk near 13th Street.
(Source: Ben Stoddard, 2018)



Water level at Little Mystic Channel near Charles Newtown during a storm.
(Source: Ben Stoddard, 2018)

TODAY'S PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE



In partnership with:



City of Boston
Planning Department



City of Boston
Environment



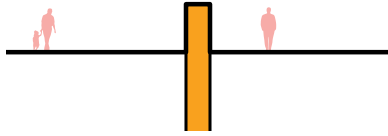
Consultant team:



FLOOD BARRIER TYPES

There are many ways to reduce flooding throughout the Charlestown Navy Yard and Little Mystic Channel areas. Options explored through this project include *flood walls*, *urban furniture or park features*, and *raised grade or landscape*.

FLOOD WALL

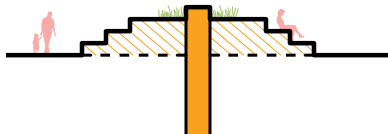


Flood barrier as a standalone wall. Different finishes can add visual interest. Can be used in areas with limited space due to small footprint. Opportunities for community spaces and planting are limited.

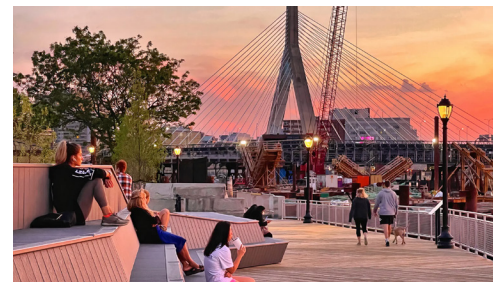


Flood wall with architectural concrete finish in the East Side Coastal Resiliency project in NYC (Source: OFTN Architecture)

URBAN FURNITURE OR PARK FEATURES

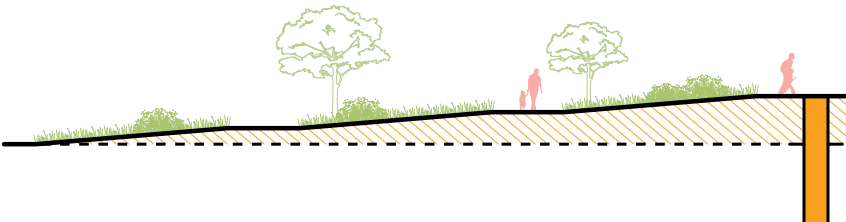


Flood barrier integrated with features such as seat steps or planters. The height of the barrier is partially obscured. Features can be designed to match surrounding area. Requires more space than flood walls.



Flood barrier integrated with seat steps at Langone Park in Boston's North End (Source: Weston & Sampson)

RAISED GRADE OR LANDSCAPE



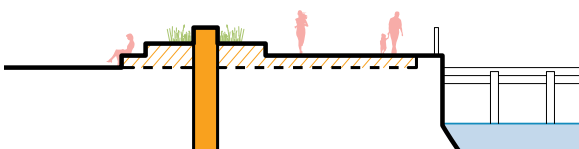
Flood barrier fully hidden in raised landscape. Visual impact is minimized. A large site area is needed to slope up to the top of the flood barrier.



Raised East River Park grade in the East Side Coastal Resiliency project in NYC (Source: OFTN Architecture)

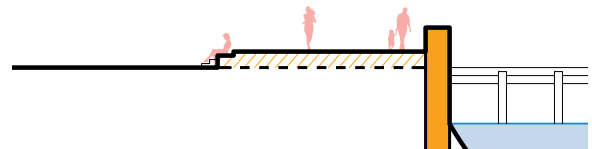
FLOOD BARRIER LOCATION

FLOOD BARRIER INSET FROM WATER



- Potentially easier to construct & phase
- Areas outside the barrier are not fully protected
- Access to the Harborwalk may feel less continuous

FLOOD BARRIER AT WATER'S EDGE



- Existing bulkhead may complicate construction
- Protection up to the waterfront
- Easier access to the Harborwalk

COMMON PROS AND CONS

Each flood barrier design option comes with pros and cons. Some pros and cons may be different based on the segment of the waterfront you are looking at. As you learn more about each design option during today's open house, use the key below to understand how the project team is considering the pros and cons of that design strategy.

When you provide feedback on design options through the survey and comment cards, we hope that you will let us know which pros and cons were most important in your decision. Your feedback will be very helpful in our review process!

PROS



Matches existing waterfront character



Less impact to waterfront views



Improves access along waterfront



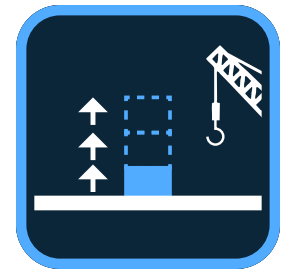
Opportunities for new public amenities



Easier to operate and maintain



Easier to construct



Can be built over time

CONS



More impact to existing waterfront character



More impact to waterfront views



More impact to waterfront access



Harder to operate and maintain



Harder to construct



Needs to be built all at once