

Feedback from Public Engagement Event #2 – Sept. 8, 2014 @ St. Mark’s Episcopal Church

Community Planning and Capacity Building

Needs

- Better coordination among agencies with overlapping jurisdictions
- Better availability/notification of sandbags – where to get them, how to get them to your home/business
- Sustained campaign of information about emergencies before they happen
- Emergency response team in city government

Opportunities

- Identify community organizations that can be partners with the City

Projects

- Encourage residents to provide cell numbers to the City to get disaster calls
- Deliver sandbags to neighborhoods rather than a central garage
- Disaster kits – everyone should have one in their home, place of employment (red cross has a site that explains how to set these up)

Economic Development

Assets

- Hudson River as a scenic/tourism asset (*already inventoried under Natural/Cultural Resources*)
- Odell Avenue – Grey Oaks Plaza (*already inventoried within “Nepperhan Avenue corridor” grouping*)
- Nepperhan Avenue – Walgreen’s/McDonald’s (*lies outside flood zones*)

Needs

- Walgreens (pharmacies) and McDonald’s (key food locations) should have generators so they can stay open after a storm when people need their services – incentivize their installation
- Backup generators – should be incentive money for homeowners/ businesses to buy these
- Backup electricity for elevators in high-rise buildings
- Public transportation – need alternatives when one system goes down

Projects

- Use waste methane from WWTP for electricity

Health and Social Services

Assets

- Andrus Home (as shelter) (*lies outside the City of Yonkers and the Geographic Scope area*)

Needs

- Citywide pumping agency for flood areas – rather than FD or other agency that already is busy during a disaster

Opportunities

- Develop alliances with Hastings, Bronxville, and other nearby municipalities to help with shelter, cooling, feeding centers

Projects

- Mandate food stores and gas stations have gas/solar generators
- Subsidize generators that use natural gas or change from oil to gas

- Develop pilot project with ConEd/City to survey neighborhoods for neighbors willing to share natural gas generators (e.g. a generator coop)

**Note: - Gas may not be best option for generators if ConEd is going to turn off the gas during a flood – rates should not be higher for generator users*

Housing

Asset

- Truman Avenue (between Executive Boulevard and Odell Avenue – affected by Irene) (*already inventoried within “Nepperhan Avenue corridor” grouping*)
- Homes in vicinity of Schulze field flood plan (*already inventoried within “Freddolino Park” grouping*)
- Vermont Terrace (*lies outside of flood zones*)
- Parkview, off Palmer Road (*already inventoried as “Parkview Avenue Apartments”*)
- 900 Palmer Road (*already inventoried as “MHACY – Angelo R. Martinelli Manor”*)
- Wellington, Palmer Road (*already inventoried as “Brooklands Apartments”*)

Needs

- Greater availability of temporary housing for people displaced in the wake of a storm/flood
- Funds/loans for elevating homes above flood levels, and floodproofing techniques
- Need elevation studies to establish which homes actually need to get flood insurance

Opportunities

- Hotels could lower their rates for displaced persons after a flood

Projects

- Clean out catch basins

Infrastructure Systems

Assets

- Sewer lines (trunks, channels, pipes, etc) (*specific vulnerable points have already been inventoried*)
- MTA Bridge over Bronx River right above Midland Avenue (*already inventoried within “Metro North Harlem Line” grouping*)
- 2 Bashford Street – was flooded with sewerage from the underground sewer main (*already inventoried within “Getty Square – Downtown District” grouping*)

Needs

- Berm/dam that runs between Hastings and Odell Bridge along the Saw Mill River Parkway needs to be rebuilt – higher, wider, concrete, etc
- Enhanced/enlarged storm drain piping to replace old outdated system
- Install storm drains in yards between streets where water collects and floods basements
- Require new commercial developments to install generators to save resources for their neighbors
- Grants / tax benefits for generators
- Power – solar/wind/other renewables – connect owners with the resources to put these in place
- Berm Maintenance in Nepera Park

Opportunities

- When heavy rainstorms are forecast, pay extra attention to clearing river path through narrow passages and under bridges

Strategies

- Reduce stormwater infiltration into sanitary system

Projects

- Increase capacity of the Saw Mill (could build a culvert diverting water down to the Hudson)
- Install Backflow preventers (one way check valve)
- Conduct inflow and infiltration studies to curtail stormwater flows to sanitary sewers
- County Sewer in Bronx River – fix the lining
- Create community dry wells
- Build a berm/floodwall along the Sprain Brook
- Provide information to help homeowners go solar and thereby prevent power outages
- Create lists of reliable companies for solar to help home and business owners
- ConEd should put more of their power lines underground

Natural and Cultural Resources

Assets

- Yonkers Historical Society (*lies outside flood zones*)
- Andrus Home (as shelter) (*lies outside City of Yonkers and Geographic Scope area*)
- Foxfire School (as shelter) (*already inventoried under Health and Social Services*)
- Colts Club (as shelter) (*lies outside flood zones*)
- Untermeyer Park (*lies outside flood zones*)
- Yonkers Raceway (as shelter) (*already inventoried under Economic Development*)
- Sarah Lawrence College facilities (as shelter) (*already inventoried under Health and Social Services*)
- Scout Field (*lies outside City of Yonkers and Geographic Scope area*)
- Crestwood Lake + Bronxville Lake (*water bodies not typically added to inventory as they are not principally at risk from flooding*)
- Richter Field (Nepperhan Avenue) (*already inventoried as "Richter Park"*)
- PS 22 School (*already inventoried under Health and Social Services*)

Needs

- Permeable pavement
- Reduce Saw Mill Flooding – need public ownership of river corridor for maintenance
- Water Safety Education (what to do when you flood)
- Maintenance – tree pruning
- Grant money for green retrofits for homeowners and businesses
- Storm Basins – reporting plan/maintenance program
- Raise and reinforce berms
- Clean the rivers, remove debris, trees, etc
- Request dredging of the waterways
- Use green spaces properly - trails

Opportunities

- Monitor storm basins and sewers
- Chart and monitor runoff patterns to aid future redesign

Projects

- Clean brush and vine growth on grassy area – Hearst to Tompkins
- Clean out storm drains
- Tidal marsh + seawall, natural coastline
- Remove rubbish and clean out river to prevent blocked flows
- Fix the berm on Clunie and Nepperhan and expand drainage capacity
- Community-based call-in line (call to report a downed tree, or an eroded berm, for example)
- Smart development (prohibit new development in flood areas)