

Shape Your **Waterfront** How to promote access, resiliency, and ecology at the water's edge

Let's create the best waterfront possible. How?

With good design that results in resilient, accessible waterfronts. In other words, shoreline projects need to allow us to live with the water, instead of fighting it.

The waterfront is a place of challenge and opportunity. We saw the challenge recently, when Superstorm Sandy swept through with devastating consequences. Whether you endured destructive flooding, were stuck in gas lines for hours, or lived without power for weeks, we all learned that our waterfront is a utility on which we depend. Harsher waterfront conditions due to climate change are inevitable—and we have to be ready.

We have also come to understand the potential of our magnificent harbor, as we've begun to truly enjoy our cleaner waterways, expanded ferry service, and beautiful new waterfront parks.

The bottom line is: we can't develop the shoreline the way we used to. Thousands of waterfront stakeholders—maritime businesses, park administrators, developers, homeowners, government regulators and scores of others who control and manage our waterways—must understand that projects at the edge need to balance and support access, resiliency, and ecology.

It is this ethos that informs the WEDG program: that we can and *must* strive for better waterfront design.

Our future depends on it.



Shape your waterfront with WEDG.

Why?

Communities can...

- › Activate your waterfront with amenities your community needs
- › Be equipped to advocate for improved public access, resiliency, and ecological benefits
- › Become more effective waterfront stewards

Owners & Professionals can...

- › Have a menu of best practices at your fingertips
- › Save money on waterfront projects by decreasing vulnerability and risk
- › More precisely forecast the duration of project planning/construction
- › Better predict regulatory expectations; streamline the permit review process
- › Improve community relations during project development
- › Use best practices generated by leaders in the design community

Government Agencies can...

- › Better support promotion of public benefits such as waterfront amenities and resilient strategies in the face of climate change
- › Encourage applicants to use WEDG as a tool to provide a more consistent, less confusing project review
- › Promote water-dependent uses

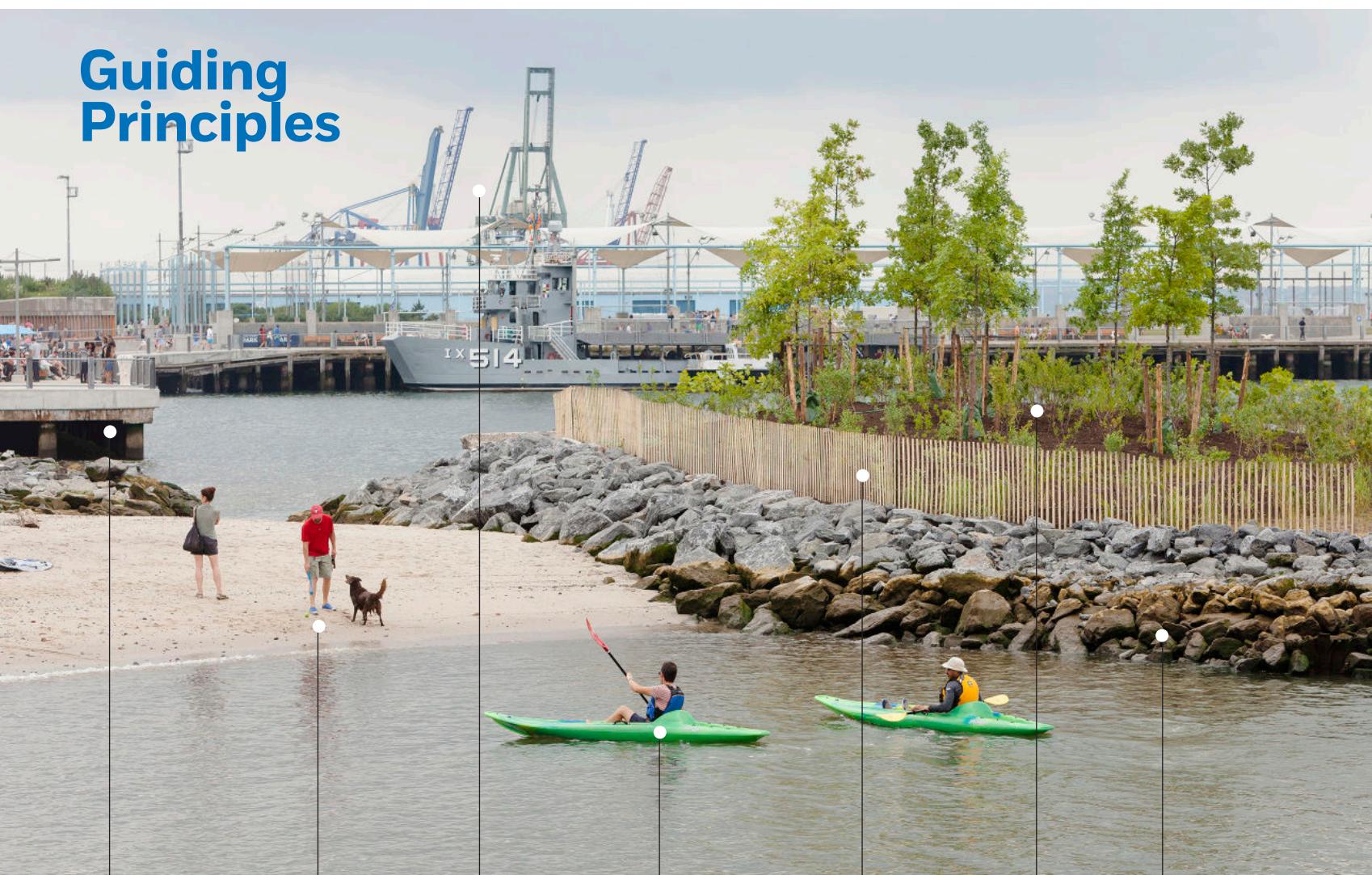
See for yourself!
Check out WEDG at
waterfrontalliance.org/WEDG

What is WEDG?

Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines (WEDG) is a tool and scorecard for creating resilient, accessible waterfronts. Anyone can use it. You don't have to be an engineer, an architect, an urban planner, or a developer, though these people undoubtedly will find WEDG very helpful. You just have to care about your waterfront.

A well-designed waterfront can and will improve your quality of life—and it can also keep you safe. It's all about innovative, interdisciplinary design.

Guiding Principles



Encourage cost-effective solutions

Commit to equity and community input

Encourage maritime activity

Enhance public access, especially for boats

Use a science-based, evaluative process for restoration

Enhance ecology

Promote resiliency

Who will find WEDG useful?

COMMUNITIES

WEDG has a menu of great ideas and designs that promote public access, offer ecologically smart options for healthy shorelines, promote state-of-the-art amenities, and encourage resiliency that protects all of us. It's useful for concerned citizens, civic groups, community boards, and elected officials.

OWNERS & PROFESSIONALS

WEDG is a tool and scorecard to guide and enhance new waterfront projects, offering better ways to build at and manage waterfronts with best practices that are understandable, feasible, beneficial, and permit-friendly. It's practical for maritime businesses, park administrators, property owners and developers, and design practitioners.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

WEDG is a boon for government agencies that welcome well-prepared permit applications. Keep in mind that while WEDG certification certainly will indicate a design that incorporates many governmental public policies, **WEDG certification is NOT itself a permit.**

How does WEDG work?

MWA developed WEDG as a way to achieve real and necessary change at the waterfront. With input from hundreds of waterfront experts, we created guidelines and an incentive-based ratings system. We earned the support of all major government regulators. And the result is a logical, easy-to-use tool for any type of waterfront, with scorecards tailored for three types of uses:

-  RESIDENTIAL / COMMERCIAL
-  PARKS
-  INDUSTRIAL / MARITIME

Within these three types of uses, waterfront projects earn credits in seven categories:

- | | |
|---|--|
|  SITE SELECTION & PLANNING |  MATERIALS & RESOURCES |
|  PUBLIC ACCESS & INTERACTION |  OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE |
|  EDGE RESILIENCY |  INNOVATION |
|  ECOLOGY & HABITAT | |

WEDG IS FOR THE EDGE

It is intended to be used for properties directly touching a water body. The program does not involve guidance on individual building design (such as LEED® does) but does include recommendations for water-dependent infrastructure and measures for improved resiliency for any type of structure one would build at the edge.

WEDG is easy to use. Check it out!

Version 1.0 was released in January 2015, and is now available for download at waterfrontalliance.org/WEDG.

Over the next year, MWA will showcase a wide variety of waterfront projects to demonstrate how and where WEDG can be used. We are constantly improving WEDG and invite you to send feedback to wedginfo@waterfrontalliance.org. Future plans include a dedicated WEDG web portal through which applications for WEDG certification may be submitted, reviewed, and certified. We are also creating a WEDG Homes for smaller residential projects.

Waterfront Building Council

MWA has established a Waterfront Building Council as a preliminary body of professional organizations that assist in certifying WEDG pilot projects.

**WEDG Funders**

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation
The New York Community Trust
Surdna Foundation

Design

Pentagram

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