Sharing Knowledge about Natural and Nature-Based Features (NNBF) in New York

Identifying NNBF knowledge gaps and sharing related research and data informs stakeholders about resilient shoreline practices

Utilization of natural and nature-based features is a novel approach for shoreline management in New York State (NYS) and gaps remain in both knowledge and practice. Shoreline decision-makers often lack the necessary information on NNBF suitability and performance, particularly throughout the diverse coastal environments of the state. More work is needed to identify critical needs to advance the use of NNBF research and data to build socially, ecologically, and structurally resilient shoreline practices in NYS.

New York Sea Grant (NYSG) received funding from the U.S. Coastal Research Program to address the need for NNBF research and data sharing through forums, workshops, and communication products that will connect

Natural and nature-based features were utilized in the installation of a living shoreline in Patchoque, NY. Photo: NYSG/K. Fallon

diverse end-users with relevant expertise. The goal of this two-year project is to inform and influence shoreline planning, design, and management in NYS by co-producing a diverse set of processes information products for stakeholders utilizing existing NNBF research and monitoring data.

In June 2023, NYSG convened a workshop with diverse stakeholders from more than 20 organizations, representing state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and shoreline contractors, to identify knowledge gaps and data needs in NNBF. Forums are planned to address the top-identified gaps and needs: baseline conditions of sites, success rates of NNBF, and socio-cultural benefits of NNBF. Two virtual forums (held in October and December) drew nearly 130 participants from across NYS; a third forum will be held in early 2024.

Through forums and workshops, New York Sea Grant is identifying the knowledge gaps surrounding natural and nature-based features in New York State and working to share research and data that can inform and advance resilient shoreline practices.

Project Partner: Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay

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