

# Building Community Consensus about Climate Change Resilience

Northeast Coastal and Barrier Network  
Northeast Region  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



The homepage of Visionmaker NYC invites site visitors to view New York City in its current form, how it was hundreds of years ago, and how it might be.

## Visionmaker Jamaica Bay: Share Your Vision of the Future!

**When it comes to planning for future change in our national parks, everyone has a voice.** Ideally, each of us could weigh options for making our shared communities more resilient to climate impacts; and all of our opinions could

be gathered together to decide the most agreeable way forward. An online program created by the Wildlife Conservation Society allows us to do just that. **Visionmaker Jamaica Bay** combines highly detailed information about current New York City landcover, the latest advances in environmental

modeling, and a user-friendly interface to display Jamaica Bay as it is, as it was, and as it could be—under scenarios chosen by you, the site visitor. Researchers funded by the National Park Service are currently **seeking visions from as many community members as possible**, to better understand how visions of resilience vary based on our different priorities.



The Jamaica Bay area is a dynamic mix of natural and built environments, which all interact and respond to change in different ways. Researchers at the Wildlife Conservation Society have reconstructed the ecology of New York City in 1609 (above) and have developed models and tools for displaying how the current landscape of the city may change in the face of future change. Envisioning that future is up to you!

### Would you like to be involved?

Signing up for Visionmaker is free and easy. Users of the site can save and share their visions, creating a rich source of information for managers intent on developing the most economically and environmentally sound strategies for resilience. Visitors to the site are encouraged to explore the video tutorials in the help section to get started.

<https://visionmaker.us/nyc/jamaicabay>

What can these visions tell us?

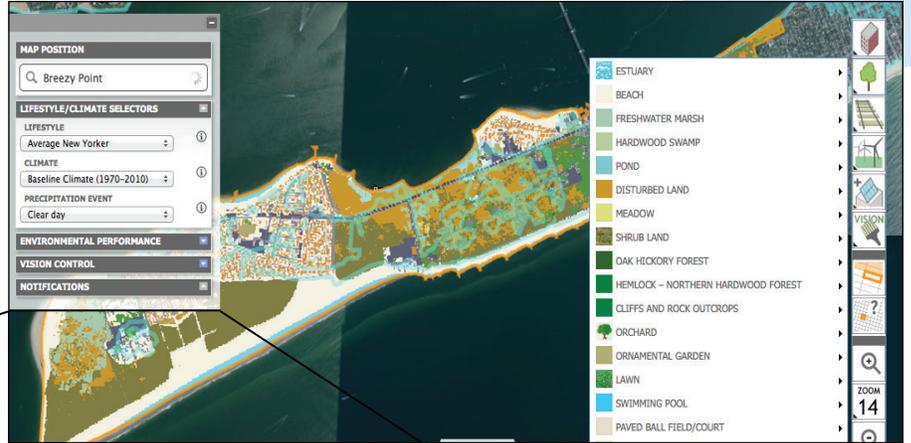
# How do residents, managers, researchers, and other members of our community envision the future? What is most important to each of us?

For example, if we hope to lower future flooding risk, what do we each prioritize?

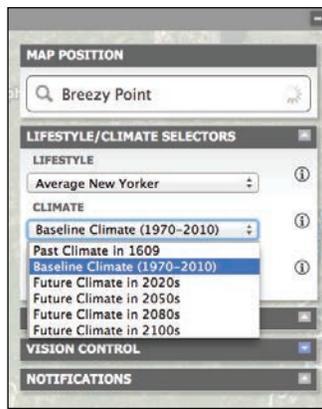
- Expanding use of clean technologies?
- Changing our own individual lifestyles to reduce waste?
- Modifying infrastructure or restoring the extent of natural habitats?
- A little bit of all of the above?

## In Visionmaker, you can...

...select a map extent and look at the current landcover; then *change* that landcover by painting the map with different ecosystems or types of buildings, or even technologies like solar panels, green roofs, rain barrels, compost bins, and wind farms.



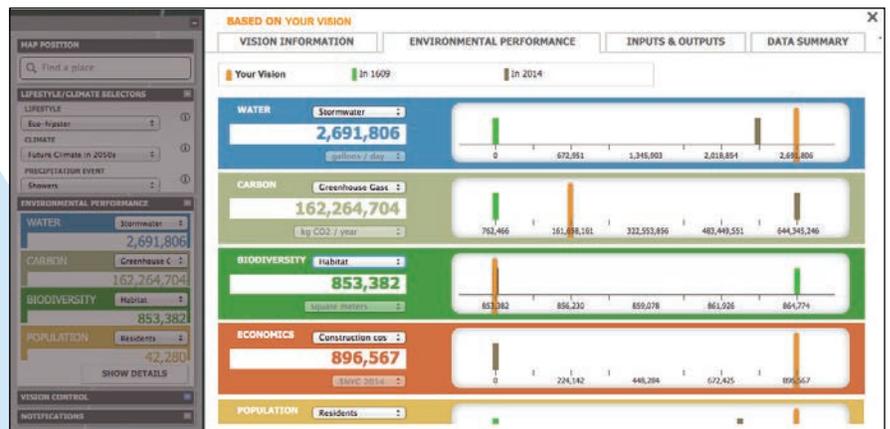
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...change the Lifestyle option to alter how the typical person on the map uses energy or generates waste; change the Climate scenario and Precipitation event options to see how high floodwaters would rise under a future climate, or how much stormwater runoff would occur during a heavy rain.

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...ask the map to calculate how your vision performs, both in terms of the environment and the economy. If you add green roofs, does that lower greenhouse gas emissions and stormwater runoff? How much money would those additions cost? What balance between cost and benefit seems best to you?



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[science.nature.nps.gov/IM/units/ncbn/index.cfm](http://science.nature.nps.gov/IM/units/ncbn/index.cfm)

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Acquisition, Coordination, Compilation, Data Management and Change Analysis of LiDAR and Other Geospatial Data Collected Pre- and Post-Hurricane Sandy  
Task Agreement P13AC00875 of Cooperative Agreement Number P09AC00212