

# Waterfront

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## Introduction

During the recent Reality Check Workshops, topical experts and members of the public worked together in small groups to examine a particular topic in-depth. During the two-hour workshops they worked with a trained facilitator to complete the following exercises:

- 1) Review of Ideas. Participants reviewed all of the ideas related to their topic that were collected during the community Idea Gathering Sessions.
- 2) Critical Questions. Participants engaged in a discussion of two Critical Questions, which had been identified by the *Vision for Staten Island* Steering Committee. The facilitator recorded the results of the discussion on flipchart paper, and then helped the group summarize major areas of agreement and disagreement.
- 3) Implementation Recommendations. At the end of the discussion period, each participant wrote down two practical, specific strategies or implementation steps to help Staten Island achieve its vision for their topic.

The results from the Waterfront group are provided below. Note that responses have been recorded verbatim, and some errors may remain due to handwriting legibility. Responses are numbered for reference purposes only; this does not indicate any sense of priority.

## Critical Question 1:

How can Staten Island make the best use of its waterfront resources? How do we ensure there is a good balance between public spaces, residential, and commercial uses? Write your ideas below and, if possible, use the map provided to indicate locations for specific suggestions.

1. North Shore model for maritime and public access to co-exist
2. Marine education center in St. George and/or Great Kills
3. Public Access Redevelopment
4. Lighthouse Museum Funding and Development Multi-use education and recreation and cultural use
5. Determine needs and desire of constituents (marine, public, industry)
6. Quantify active and nonactive maritime land to identify land development and businesses
7. Refer to RUDAT – merge findings
8. Remove fences and view the waterfront, clean it up
9. Natural area preservation and remediation, clean up water area (business)
10. Regulatory agency issues surrounding West Shore access to waterway
11. Flood Zone project for South Shore

## Critical Question 1 SUMMARY:

1. RUDAT Report has items that may have been overlooked
2. Bring different constituents together
3. Streamline regulatory processes
4. Work within the constraints of the areas
5. Look to NJ model (Dagget Report)
6. Education center for shoreline science

**Critical Question 2:**

What opportunities exist for interim waterfront uses until redevelopment occurs?

1. West Shore safe access
2. Boat tours around island – guided, historical
3. Local events – promote water business and residential
4. Partner with organizations to have tours
5. Collaborate usage for water localities
6. See water trail spots and add docking facilities
7. Add signage to educate public on water use
8. Redevelop homeport
9. Lighthouse development and art shows
10. Add annual events for (working) waterfront visual and knowledge

**Critical Question 2 SUMMARY:**

1. South Shore beaches, clean up for swim, fish
2. Annual events to promote waterfront, all activities
3. Promote local initiatives
4. Preserve natural resources
5. Quick and cheap infrastructure to get people in water

**Implementation Recommendations:**

Consider the draft vision statement, the ideas gathered from the public, and your group’s discussion of critical questions. Please recommend two practical, specific strategies or implementation steps that you would recommend to help Staten Island achieve its vision for your topic.

1. Preserve our history at the National Lighthouse Museum and keep it a public place. Add other uses such as a public park, performing arts center, environmental art marine education center, kayak launch. Bring back the Nantucket LV112 lightship, open the waterfront access
2. Immediately call for a new board to be formed with a new multi-use mission for the NLM site. See [NationalLighthouseMuseum.org](http://NationalLighthouseMuseum.org)
3. Clean up all city-owned waterfront property
4. Create theme signage throughout the Borough including mid-island, highlighting waterfront history and attractions
5. Educational waterway tours as an economic opportunity
6. Cultural event to promote waterfront awareness and maritime business
7. Consider results of these discussions in conjunction with the RUDAT Report
8. Immediately begin to assess what existing waterfront entities are not shoreline specific or water-dependent and consider negotiating relocation to open and identify development
9. Water access and land access from the water. The creation of kayak friendly water trail sites circling the Island and 4 or 5 special barge/floating dock for large vessels
10. Access and education around the North Shore waterfront. Create ways for the public to see and appreciate the working waterfront, with integrative signage
11. Get all city, state and federal agencies on the same page
12. Continue to get all volunteer groups to work together

13. Bulkhead the waterfront. The existing bulkhead line is still on the charts and should need no permits
14. Once done, a full park could be constructed
15. Have the Governor set up permanent Staten Island Waterfront Commission, made up of industry as well as residents, to help develop the waterfront
16. Set up an annual "Staten Island Maritime Day"
17. Community Boards to dialog with maritime-related (dependent) businesses to promote some short term opportunities
18. Community Boards to promote: 1) Waterfront days; 2) Clean-up days; 3) Boat tours around Staten Island
19. Make waterfront parks a destination
20. Make city-owned property a place where Maritime and public meet
21. Map Fresh Kills Park as park
22. Identify four sites around SI waterfront for interim public access and promote these for public activities with local community groups

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