

East Side Coastal Resiliency

East Side Coastal Resiliency (ESCR) is a critical physical, social, and economic resiliency project, providing a 2.4-mile-long coastal flood protection system interwoven with existing parks and cityscapes in Lower Manhattan's most vulnerable neighborhoods. ESCR serves as a groundbreaking example of how dense coastal urban areas in the United States can adapt to the realities of climate change and sea level rise. As the first major coastal flood protection project in construction in New York City, ESCR literally set the standard for flood protection around the city. Our team worked extensively with City agencies and offices to define and refine the flood protection design criteria for the project,

establishing a level of protection that has since been replicated for all coastal flood protection projects underway in Lower Manhattan. The flood protection system involves complete reconstruction of East River Park to raise elevations in the park eight to twelve feet to turn the entire park into a space in which a resilient landscape and recreational amenities merge with a hardened line of flood protection, all while achieving universal accessibility to the waterfront. ESCR embodies all aspects of the client's core design concepts for infrastructure projects including equity, sustainability, resiliency, and healthy living.



ESCR provides 2.4 miles of flood protection, comprised primarily of concrete floodwall and steel flood gates.



Flood gate crossings are used where needed to preserve and enhance pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular connections through the project's busy Lower East Side corridor.



Changes in elevation necessary to integrate flood protection in East River Park were also used as an opportunity to incorporate seating and new passive recreation spaces.



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