

WRDA 2026 Impact on New York

1. New flood and coastal storm protection projects

The bill authorizes feasibility studies for numerous New York communities, especially on Long Island and in coastal areas that face flooding, erosion, and storm surge risks. These include:

- Amity Harbor
- Atlantic Beach
- Bayport
- Davis Park (Fire Island)
- Lawrence
- Mattituck Inlet
- Nissequogue River/Stony Brook Harbor
- Peconic Bay
- Point O' Woods (Fire Island)
- Port Washington
- South Shore Long Island
- Spring Valley
- Mohawk River and Erie Canal (Rome area)

These studies are the first step toward future federal flood protection, shoreline stabilization, navigation, and ecosystem restoration projects.

2. Acceleration of major New York resilience projects

The bill directs the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to expedite completion of reports and decision documents for major projects including:

- The New York and New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries project, a massive regional effort intended to reduce coastal storm and flood risks in the New York metropolitan area.
- The Nassau County Back Bays coastal storm risk management project.

The legislation also requires the Corps to provide a schedule and milestones for advancing the Harbor and Tributaries project, increasing accountability and potentially speeding implementation.

3. Ecosystem restoration in New York City waterways

The bill expands habitat restoration authority to support fish and oyster restoration in:

- East River
- Flushing Bay and Flushing River

- Bronx River

Eligible activities include oyster reefs, habitat rehabilitation, hatchery improvements, and native oyster propagation. These projects can improve water quality, ecological health, and coastal resilience around New York City.

4. Harmful algal bloom assistance

The legislation adds **Putnam Lake, New York** to the Corps' harmful algal bloom demonstration program. This could provide technical assistance and federal attention to water-quality problems affecting the lake and surrounding communities.

5. Port and navigation improvements

The bill modifies the navigation project for the Port of New York and New Jersey to improve navigation south of the Elizabeth Port Authority Marine Terminal. More efficient navigation can support freight movement, port competitiveness, and regional economic activity.

6. Support for nature-based flood protection

WRDA 2026 specifically identifies the New York and New Jersey Harbor and Tributaries project as a priority for the Corps' use of natural and nature-based flood protection measures. This could favor solutions such as wetlands, reefs, and other ecological features alongside traditional infrastructure.

Overall, the legislation does **not immediately appropriate construction funding**, but it advances the federal pipeline for many New York flood protection, navigation, and environmental restoration projects, positioning them for future Corps investment and implementation.