

Documenting Local Flooding and Storm Impacts Through Community Science



A flooded road next to the Wallkill River after a heavy rain event on 4/30/2023.



Storm drain backup.

Extreme weather events can lead to hazards that put lives and property at risk. Floods are the costliest natural hazard in New York followed by wind, snow storm, tornado, ice storm, and coastal hazards¹. According to New York State climate projections, the frequency of extreme weather events will continue to increase².

A picture is worth a thousand words

During and after flood and storm events, many residents take photos to record damage where they live with their mobile phones, often sharing them on social media. Photos play an important role in documenting extreme events and impacts at the local level and can be used in communication and visualization of future events.

The **MyCoast New York** portal is used to collect and view photos of flooding, changing shorelines, and hazardous weather impacts across New York's varied coasts and waterbodies.

Photos are linked to real-time environmental conditions to create reports that help stakeholders like government agencies, business owners, and residents understand our changing environment and make informed decisions.

Photo reports submitted by volunteers can be accessed by everyone at [MyCoast.org/ny](https://mycoast.org/ny). Use the 'Search Reports' page to view photos by location map, report type, or other filters.

SAFETY IS A PRIORITY

Volunteers should follow local safety precautions advised by authorities and take photos once it is safe to do so.

Use the Flood Watch and Storm Reporter tools to document how your community is impacted by weather and climate change.

References: ¹<https://mitigateny.availabs.org/hazards>; ²<https://www.nyscrda.ny.gov/climaidd>



Need more info?
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Report Types



FLOOD WATCH -

Tracking flooding across the state

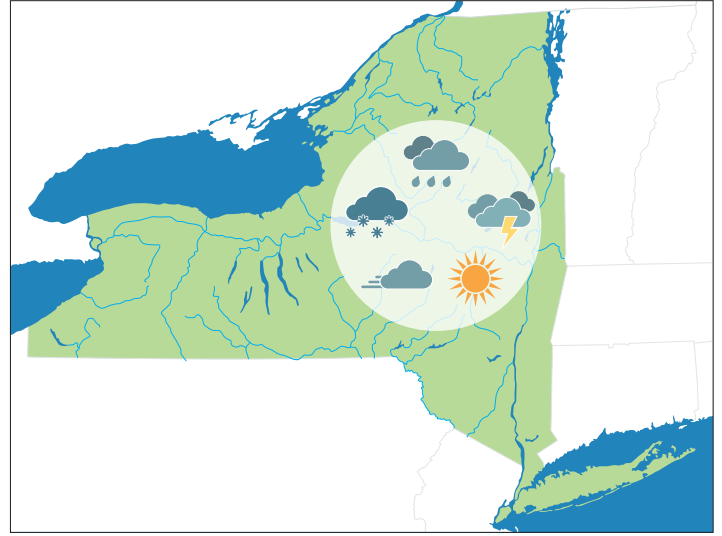
Flooding can occur anywhere for a number of reasons. Use Flood Watch to capture flooding and impacts in your community. Some common types of flooding include: river, ice jam, runoff, urban stormwater failure, agricultural drainage failure, high tide, storm surge, local wave action, and high water in lakes and ponds.



STORM REPORTER -

Documenting damage after the storm

New York experiences heavy downpours, high winds, tropical storms, nor'easters, and lake-effect. Use Storm Reporter to capture damage and impacts to infrastructure, the natural environment, and your community.



How to start:

DOWNLOAD



REGISTER



SNAP PHOTO



+ ADD REPORT



Download the **MyCoast app** or visit **MyCoast.org/ny**

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I contribute photos from non-coastal locations?

Yes. All New Yorkers are impacted by flooding and hazardous weather. Flood Watch and Storm Reporter can be used to document inland flooding and photos will be linked to the relevant data based on location.

What are data sources for environmental data?

1. Weather: [VisualCrossing](#)
2. Tidal gauge & lake level: [NOAA Tides and Currents](#)
3. River gauge: [USGS](#)

Can I upload photos I took in the past?

Yes. If your photo has date, time, and location data, these fields will be automatically populated. If not, you can manually enter the information. It is best to upload photos with geolocation to ensure accuracy of data.

What happens to my photo once I submit it?

Once you submit a photo report, it will be linked with environmental data and posted to the MyCoast NY website. Your photo will be viewable to the public alongside your name, unless you choose to post it anonymously. From there, your photos may be viewed and used by others in a variety of ways. Your photo report will be part of the public domain.

New York's Sea Grant Extension Program provides Equal Program and Equal Employment Opportunities in association with Cornell Cooperative Extension, U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Commerce and cooperating County Cooperative Extension Associations.

New York Sea Grant is part of a nationwide network of 34 university-based programs working with coastal communities through the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Sea Grant research and outreach programs promote better understanding, conservation, and use of America's coastal resources. Sea Grant is funded in New York through SUNY and Cornell University and federally through NOAA.