

CaD Tarrytown Summary of Community Meetings
September 9, 2022

The Climate-adaptive Design studio (CaD) is a Cornell University Department of Landscape Architecture graduate-level course that connects students with Hudson riverfront communities to explore design ideas for more climate resilient, ecologically vibrant, and connected waterfront areas.

The Village of Tarrytown was chosen as the host community for the Fall 2022 CaD studio through a competitive selection process. On September 8th and 9th, the nineteen CaD students and their professor Josh Cerra visited Tarrytown to tour the waterfront and meet with stakeholders.

On September 9th, the CaD studio held two meetings at the Senior Center pavilion in Pierson Park. Attendees at the morning and evening meetings included municipal staff, elected officials, community volunteers, waterfront stewards, representative of businesses and non-profit organizations, recreationalists and residents.

The meetings began with presentations on the CaD studio and climate-related risks in Tarrytown, which include flooding, extreme heat and sea-level rise. Flooding and sea-level rise are of particular concern today and in the future because critical infrastructure, including the Metro North Railroad, Village Hall and Municipal Housing Authority residences are located in high flood risk areas. After the presentations, attendees were asked to respond to two questions in an open forum and in small group discussions with the students.

What are your concerns about climate change in Tarrytown?

Responses included:

- Experiencing increased flooding, especially at Franklin Courts & Metro North Railroad
- Housing affordability and gentrification
- Traffic congestion, circulation and safe evacuation routes
- H-bridge is problematic for traffic and not safe for pedestrians
- Pedestrian safety, wayfinding and non-motorized connectivity are concerns
- Need connections between upland areas and the waterfront
- Too many parking lots on the waterfront
- Goose droppings are a health and quality of life concern
- Erosion of bulkheads causing failures and sinkholes
- Sediment accumulation from tributaries are impacting boat passage on the water
- Environmental concerns, including wildlife habitat and preservation of green space
- Waterfront uses have changed over time. Sea-level rise will bring more changes and we need to decide what to protect
- Much of the waterfront is built on fill – what will happen when filled areas are inundated by flooding and river water?

What is your vision for the waterfront?

Responses included:

- A green waterfront that is accessible and welcoming to all
- A civic space between the Village Hall and train station that welcomes and orients
- Walkability and access to amenities like restaurants, grocery stores and access to food through community gardens or edible landscaping
- More amenities for young people, including a youth center
- Fewer parking lots and public transport to offsite parking areas (trolley)
- More connectivity to the Riverwalk over the train tracks and the Mario M. Cuomo bridge
- Restore the pedestrian tunnel below the train tracks
- Climate resilient redevelopment of the Washington Irving Boat Club to provide amenities to all residents
- Enhance river-based transportation through a ferry and public pier for larger boats like the Clearwater Sloop, Circle Line and SS Columbia
- Incorporate renewable energy and decrease fossil fuel use in waterfront areas
- A water and land-based tourism destination
- Improve connections with Andre Brook and other buried streams