

The N-EWN Knowledge Series

A Continuing Education Series about Engineering with Nature



Joseph Sutkowi
Chief Waterfront Design Officer
Waterfront Alliance

Waterfront Design for Resilient Communities

This webinar will discuss emerging trends in waterfront design with a focus on embedding resilience, providing access, and ecology in urban waterfronts. The presentation will include an overview of the Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines (WEDG®) and case study projects from riverine, lacustrine, and coastal waterfronts across the U.S.

Save the date!

Upcoming webinars will take place the 3rd Thursday of the month.

Feb. 19
12:30pm ET

Mr. Joseph Sutkowi, Waterfront Alliance
Waterfront Design for Resilient Communities

Mar. 19
12:30pm ET

Dr. Quirijn Lodder and Ms. Evelien Brand,
Rijkswaterstaat
Dutch experience with beaches and dunes as coastal Natural and Nature Based Features for Flood Risk Management - *An overview of 30 years of nature-based coastline management*

Apr. 16
12:30pm ET

TBD

Register here: <https://bit.ly/3gR9ADL>

or scan:



1 Continuing Education Credit (CEC) is available to attendees

Recorded webinars will be posted online at: <https://n-ewn.org/resources/n-ewn-knowledge-seminars/>

Presented by:



NETWORK FOR
ENGINEERING
WITH NATURE



Questions? Please contact:
Alex Curwin, LimnoTech
acurwin@limno.com



David Lloyd
Courtesy of SWA/Balsley and WEISS/MANFREDI



RESILIENCE, ECOLOGY, AND ACCESS AT THE WATER'S EDGE

WEDG[®] (WATERFRONT EDGE DESIGN GUIDELINES)

NETWORK FOR ENGINEERING WITH NATURE

FEBRUARY 2026



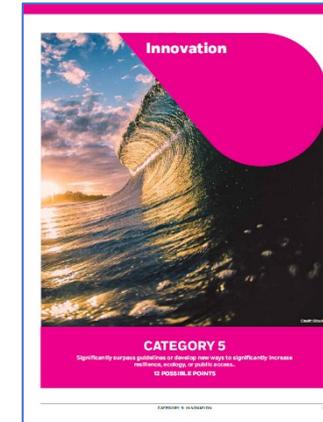
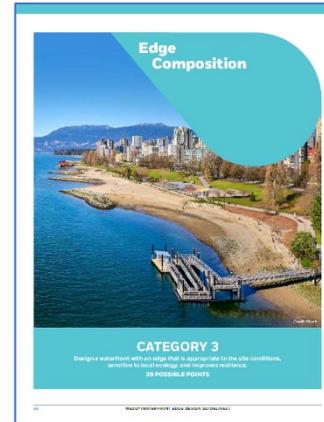
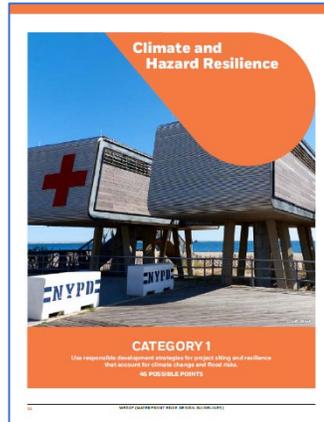
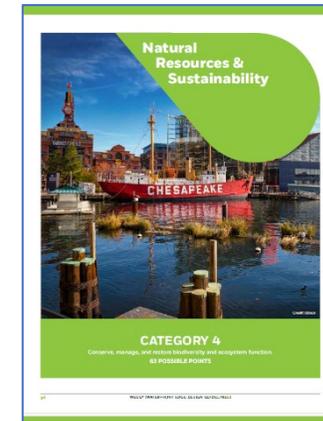
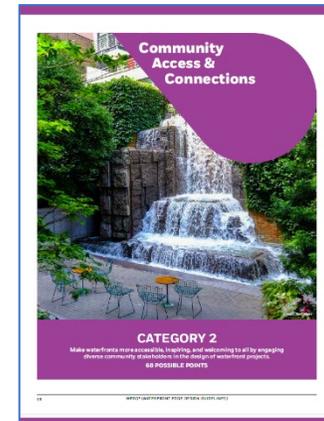
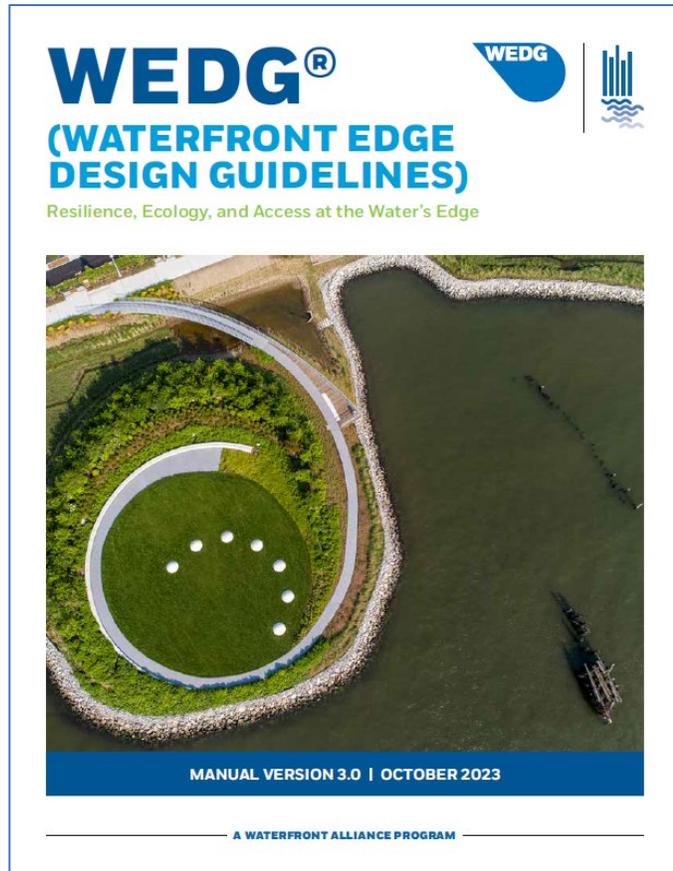
Waterfront Alliance

Together we lead the way for thriving and resilient waterfronts, shorelines, and coastlines.



RESILIENCE ECOLOGY AND ACCESS

WEDG® (WATERFRONT EDGE DESIGN GUIDELINES)



WEDG VERIFIED PROJECTS



THE RIVER MILE: SOUTH PLATTE RIVER RESTORATION PROJECT
DENVER, CO



ILLINOIS BEACH STATE PARK SHORELINE STABILIZATION PROJECT
LAKE COUNTY, IL



SOUTH BATTERY PARK CITY RESILIENCY
MANHATTAN, NY



JOSE MARTI PARK
MIAMI, FL



EAST SIDE COASTAL RESILIENCY
MANHATTAN, NY



RIVERFRONT PARK
WILMINGTON, NC



BRONX POINT
BRONX, NY



OAK POINT/MCINNIS CEMENT
BRONX, NY



SANDY HOOK PILOTS ASSOCIATION
STATE ISLAND, NY



DOMINO SUGAR
BROOKLYN, NY



BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK,
BROOKLYN, NY



SIMS RECYCLING
BROOKLYN, NY



HUNTERS POINT SOUTH
QUEENS, NY



GREENPOINT LANDING
BROOKLYN, NY



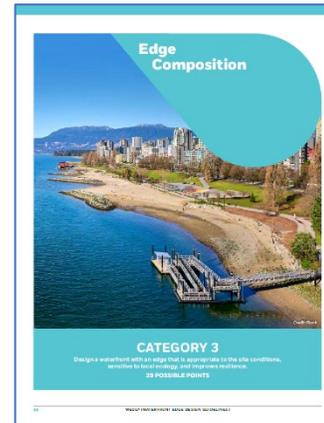
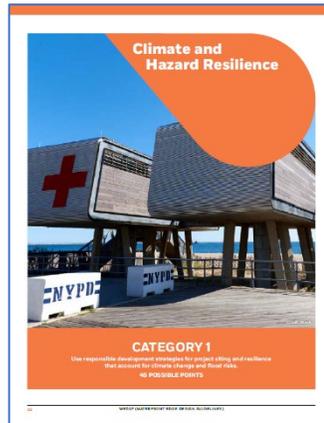
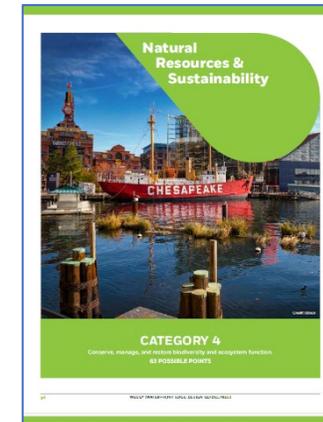
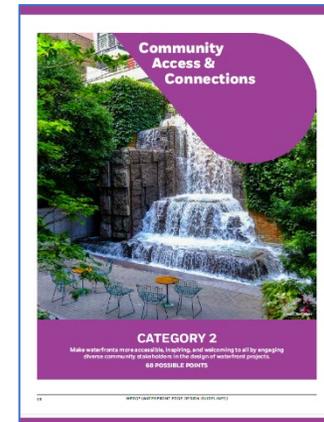
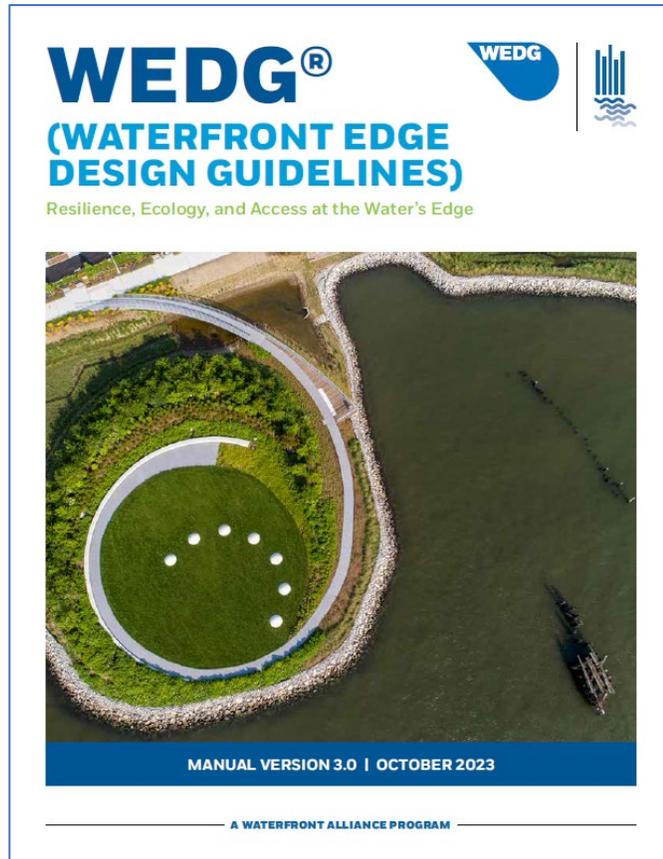
STARLIGHT PARK
BRONX, NY

WHY WEDG?



- Strengthen the community engagement processes by building trust with stakeholders
- Smooth permitting and approvals processes with city and state agencies and elected officials
- Increase your project's competitiveness for funding
- Differentiate your project from other sites and even other green building standards
- Provide guidance to your design team around resilience, sustainability, and placemaking
- Position your project for long-term success and viability

WEDG® (WATERFRONT EDGE DESIGN GUIDELINES)





CATEGORY 0: Site Assessment & Planning

Enlist a
Multidisciplinary
Project Team

Assess Sitewide
Social and Ecological
Context
and Vulnerabilities

Develop and
Implement a Plan for
Equitable
Stakeholder
Engagement

Create a Maintenance
and Adaptive
Management Plan

CATEGORY 1: Climate & Hazard Resilience

Avoid or Reduce
Flood Risk from the
Waterbody

Reduce Pluvial
Flooding
and Stormwater
Discharge

Improve Stormwater
Discharge Quality

Establish an
Emergency
Preparedness and
Response Plan

Reduce Contribution
to
Urban Heat





CATEGORY 2: Community Access & Connections

Provide Quality Public
Access Areas on the
Waterfront

Design Sites to Improve
Visual and Other Sensory
Connections to the Water

Support Industrial Water-
Dependent Uses

Reduce Industrial Impacts
to Human Health and
Wellbeing

Provide Diverse
Programming and Passive
Educational Features



CATEGORY 2: Community Access & Connections

Increase Transportation
Access to the Waterfront

Create Maritime or
Environmental
Employment Opportunities

Increase Waterfront
Pathway and Greenway
Connectivity

Provide Direct Connections
to the Water for People
and Boats

Support Diverse and
Sustainable Maritime
Activity



CATEGORY 3: Edge Composition

Choose an
Appropriate Edge
Composition for the
Context and Intended
Use

Maintain or Emulate
Natural Shoreline
Shape and Slope

Protect the Working
Edge

Ecologically Enhance
Structural
Components

An aerial photograph of a waterfront park. In the foreground, a large green semi-circle contains the title text. The park features a paved walkway, several buildings with orange roofs, and a swimming pool. A multi-lane bridge spans the water in the background. The water is blue with several boats, including a white motorboat and a sailboat. The city skyline is visible in the distance.

CATEGORY 4: Natural Resources & Sustainability

Site with Ecological Sensitivity

Create, Restore, or Maintain Habitats and Ecosystem Services

Preserve and Increase Ecosystem Connectivity

Support Native Habitat Complexity and Biodiversity

Avoid Human Disturbance to Natural Resources

Redevelop and Clean Up Degraded Sites

An aerial photograph of a waterfront park. In the foreground, a large green semi-circle contains the title text. The background shows a multi-lane bridge with cars, a city skyline with high-rise buildings, and a park area with palm trees, a paved walkway, and a small building with a red roof. The water is blue with several boats, including a white motorboat and a sailboat.

CATEGORY 4: Natural Resources & Sustainability

Practice Sustainable Fill
and Soil Management

Use Renewable and
Resilient Energy Sources

Reduce Emissions
through Carbon
Management

Practice
Environmentally
Responsible
Construction

Reduce Water Use

Engage a Partner to
Study or Monitor the
Site

An aerial architectural rendering of a park. In the foreground, a curved promenade with a dark railing runs along a body of water. Behind it, a large, curved amphitheater with tiered seating is integrated into a green lawn. A modern, white, arched pedestrian bridge spans across a path in the background. The park is filled with lush green trees and winding paths. A large, semi-transparent pink circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, partially obscuring the park's details.

CATEGORY 5: Innovation

**AMPHITHEATER DESIGN
SUPPORTS DAY-TO-DAY USE,
COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING
& PASSIVE RECREATION**

Inventive
Design

Exemplary
Performance

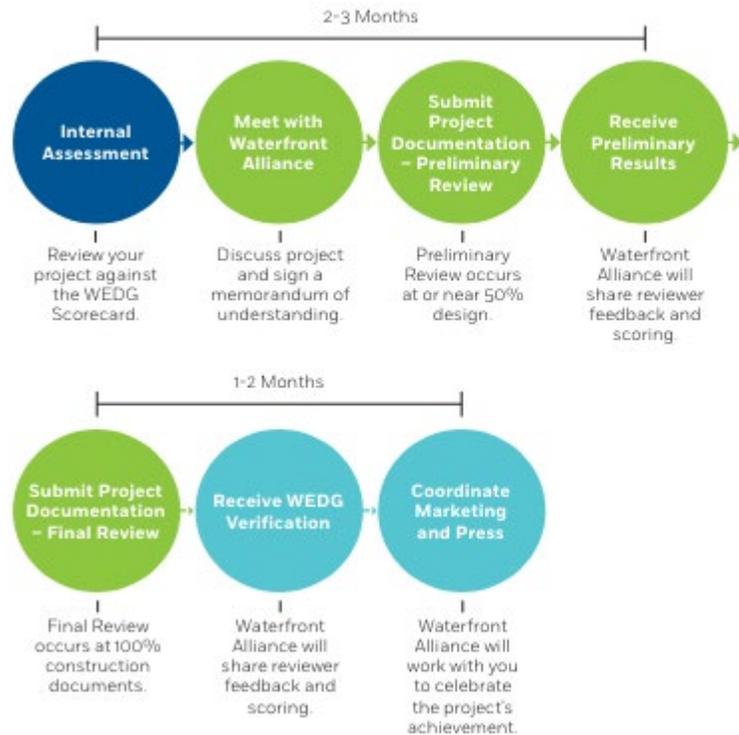
MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- Site must include the water's edge on the property and as part of the project scope
- Projects must include a soft or natural shoreline within the project bounds **or** provide an ecological enhancement on a hardened shoreline
- Projects must conduct community engagement
- Projects must have public access (or an acceptable alternative for industrial sites under Credit 2.1)
- Projects must avoid intentionally introducing invasive plant species
- Projects must build to a minimum Design Flood Elevation that incorporates Sea Level Rise (where applicable) and freeboard



WEDG VERIFICATION PROCESS

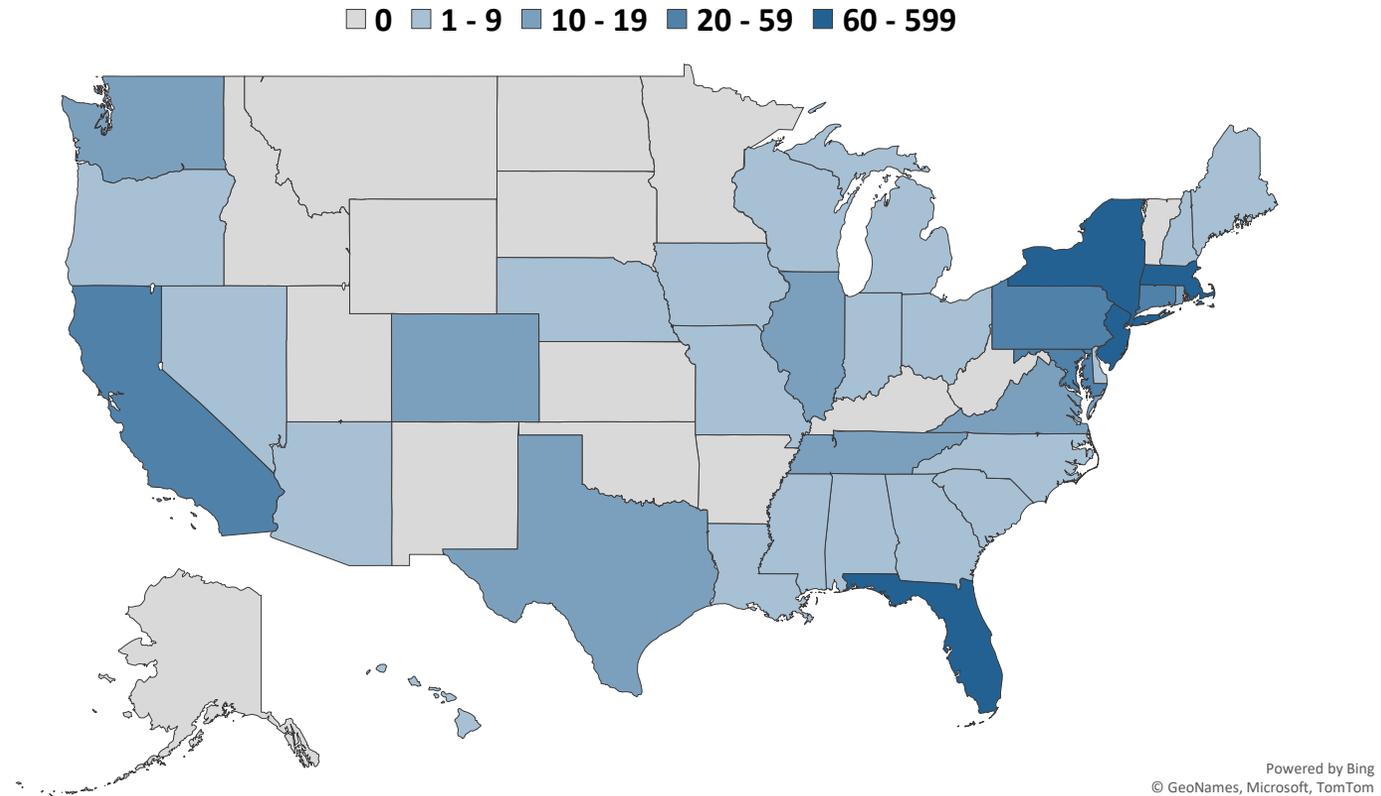
Option 1: Preliminary + Final Review (suggested)



Option 2: Final Review Only



WEDG PROFESSIONALS – CURRENT NETWORK OF 1,300+



www.wedgprofessionals.org



WHAT YOU CAN DO

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. | Zoning code requires WEDG for waterfront multifamily residential sites

NEW YORK, N.Y. | Resolutions for inclusion in land use review process

PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ | Included in Sustainable Infrastructure Guidelines

CAMDEN, N.J. | Custom WEDG Addendum integrated in ordinances

WILMINGTON, N.C. | Used for a public sector project

MIAMI, F.L. | Multiple ordinances around stormwater and a set of design guidelines

WEDG IN REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS



March 2026 Livestream (●)

WEDG® Professionals Course

(Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines)



Date: March 11 & 12



Time: 1pm-5pm EST



CEUs Available: 6 AIA LU, 6 LA CES, 6 PE PDH

REGISTER HERE

bit.ly/WEDG-Mar26





Courtesy of SWA/BALSLEY
and WEISS / MANFREDI.
Photograph by David Lloyd.

WEDG®

IS A RESOURCE FOR YOU

Contact Us

wedg.waterfrontalliance.org

Joseph Sutkowi

Chief Waterfront Design Officer

jsutkowi@waterfrontalliance.org



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Water Environment | Scientists Engineers



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA



ERDC
Engineering Research Center

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