

INTRODUCTION

New York City's Waterfront Revitalization Program (WRP), originally adopted in 1982, updated in 2002, and revised herein, is the city's principal Coastal Zone management tool. The guiding principle of the WRP is to maximize the benefits derived from economic development, environmental conservation, and public use of the waterfront, while minimizing the conflicts among these objectives. A local waterfront revitalization program, such as New York City's, is authorized by New York State's Waterfront Revitalization of Coastal Areas and Inland Waterway Act, which stems from the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act.

Through individual project review, the WRP aims to promote activities appropriate to various waterfront locations. The program is designed to coordinate review of activities and decisions affecting the Coastal Zone, particularly when there are overlapping jurisdictions or multiple agencies responsible for review. To carry out this function, the WRP establishes a set of ten policies for the development and use of the waterfront and provides a framework for evaluating the consistency of activities in the Coastal Zone with those policies. When a proposed local, state, or federal project or discretionary action is located within the Coastal Zone or is likely to affect the policies of the Coastal Zone, a determination of the activity's consistency with the coastal policies contained in the WRP must be made before the action or project can move forward.

The WRP is presented in three parts. The first part contains an explanation of the regulatory and planning context of the program; sets forth the Coastal Zone boundary; describes the applicable standards and processes for the review of local, state, and federal activities for consistency with the program; and includes a discussion of local regulations that are related to the implementation of the program. The second part presents the WRP policies. The last part contains sectional maps delineating the boundaries of New York City's Coastal Zone, as well as maps of the Special Natural Waterfront Areas, the Significant Maritime and Industrial Areas, the Arthur Kill Ecologically Sensitive Maritime and Industrial Area, the Priority Marine Activity Zones, and Recognized Ecological Complexes, to which certain policies refer.