

# Ready to Retreat: Voluntary Home Buyouts in Post-Sandy New York City

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# Staten Island Advance

## It is dangerous to live at Oakwood Beach


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By [Letters to the Editor](#) | [editor@siadvance.com](mailto:editor@siadvance.com)

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By TINA SABELLA DOWNER  
OAKWOOD BEACH

My husband and I purchased our home in 1988 in Oakwood Beach.

Many residents are NYC employees; it is a blue collar, working class all owner-occupied neighborhood, and we take pride in where we live.

Though homes are small, they are well kept and some residents including myself loved it so much that we expanded instead of moving.

# 1992 nor'easter, Oakwood Beach





**AFTER SANDY: THE RECOVERY**

**FOX 5**

[myfoxny.com](http://myfoxny.com)

6:05 34°

**SOME HOMEOWNERS IN OAKWOOD  
BEACH, S.I. WANT A BUYOUT**

**AFTER  
SANDY**  
THE RECOVERY

Gov. Cuomo announces buyout plan: “There are some parcels that Mother Nature owns”



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## Homeowners in Flood Zones Opt to Rebuild, Not Move





GOV CUOMO  
OCEAN BREEZE  
NEEDS YOUR  
BUY OUT !!!

Gov. Cuomo,

Desperate...

Will work for buyout.

Crescent Beach Buyout Committee



GOV. CUOMO  
BRING THE SUN BACK TO  
SUNNYVALE VILLAGE  
BUY OUT

GOV. CUOMO  
**BUYOUT**  
SOUTH BEACH - PLEASE

GOV. CUOMO  
PLEASE HELP US =  
**BUY US  
OUT**  
SOUTH BEACH

NO WAY OUT  
NEED A  
**BUYOUT**  
SOUTH BEACH

GOV. CUOMO SENIOR SICK  
SOUTH BEACH  
NO WAY OUT RED BROKE  
NEED A  
**BUY ME  
OUT PLEASE**

Gov. Cuomo  
"Mother Nature WANTS  
Her LAND BACK."  
BUY US OUT  
AND Give it BACK

# What Happened: Inundation



Mayor Bloomberg: "As New Yorkers, we cannot and *will* not abandon our waterfront... We must protect it, not retreat from it."



# What Happened: Inundation



# \$100 million and counting for Staten Island buy-out program

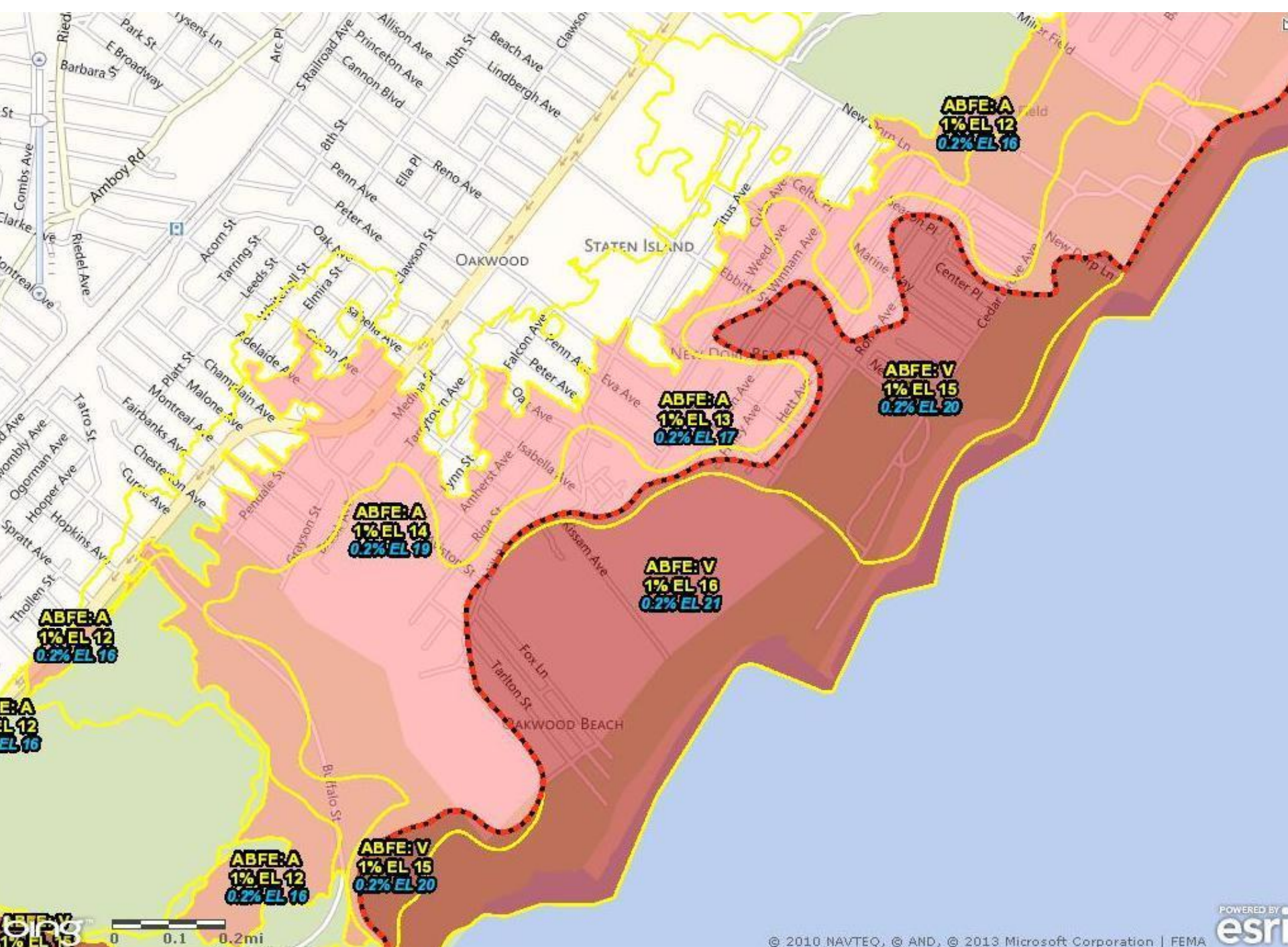


## ALL AROUND STATEN ISLAND



- [Staten Island Advance Obituaries](#)
- [Guide to Staten Island](#)
- [Food & Dining](#)





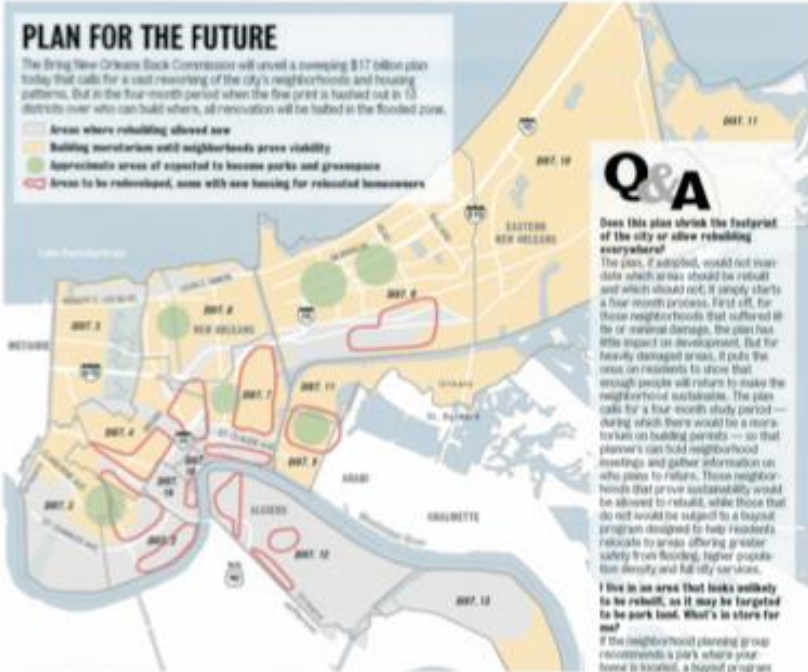
## 4 MONTHS TO DECIDE

**NAGIN PANEL SAYS HARDEST-HIT AREAS MUST PROVE VIABILITY CITY'S FOOTPRINT MAY SHRINK; FULL BUYOUTS PROPOSED FOR THOSE FORCED TO MOVE**  
*New housing to be developed in vast swaths of New Orleans' higher ground*

### PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

The Bigg New Orleans Back Commission will unveil a sweeping \$17 billion plan today that calls for a vast reworking of the city's neighborhoods and housing patterns, but in the four-month period when the fine print is hashed out in 13 districts over which can build where, all renovation will be halted in the flooded zone.

- Areas where rebuilding allowed now
- Building restoration until neighborhoods prove viability
- Approximate areas of expected to become parks and green space
- Areas to be redeveloped, some with new housing for relocated homeowners



### Q&A

#### Does this plan shrink the footprint of the city or allow rebuilding everywhere?

The plan, if adopted, would not overstate which areas should be rebuilt and which should not; it simply starts a four-month process. First off, for those neighborhoods that suffered little or no structural damage, the plan has little impact on development. But for heavily damaged areas, it puts the onus on residents to show that enough people will return to make the neighborhood sustainable. The plan calls for a four-month study period — during which there would be a moratorium on building permits — so that planners can hold neighborhood meetings and gather information on who plans to return. Those neighborhoods that prove sustainably would be allowed to rebuild, while those that do not would be subject to a buyout program designed to help residents relocate to areas offering greater safety from flooding, higher population density and full city services.

**I live in an area that looks unlikely to be rebuilt, so it may be targeted to be park land. What's in store for me?**

If the neighborhood planning group recommends a park where your home is located, a buyout program would provide homeowners no less than 60 percent of their pre-Katrina equity — as long as proposed federal legislation sponsored by U.S. Rep. Richard Baker, R-Baton Rouge, is adopted. The huge commissioner's plan barter recommendations that homeowners

By Frank Dumez and Gordon Russell Staff writers

torians on building permits in sheltered areas covering most of the city while residents there need to work where to locate

their neighborhoods. But ultimately commissioners say, not every neighborhood will be sustainable and those will be a

bing Maps

**89=Y**  
**4=N**

**93 Total Homes**  
**3750 = (47) 28 Condo**

**3754 = (30)**

**3755 = (16)**

## New Creek

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Riga Street

518	514	512	524	522	528	526	524	522	518	514	512
Buyout	Buyout	Buyout	Buyout	Buyout	Buyout	No Buyout	Buyout	Buyout	Buyout	Buyout	Buyout
LOT # 35	LOT # 34	LOT # 33	LOT # 31	LOT # 30	LOT # 29	LOT # 28	LOT # 27	LOT # 24	LOT # 23	LOT # 22	LOT # 21
Already Bought out	Already Bought out	Already Bought out	Already Bought out	Already Bought out	Already Bought out	Already Bought out	Already Bought out	Already Bought out	Already Bought out	Already Bought out	Already Bought out
518	514	512	524	522	528	526	524	522	518	514	512

Block # 4684

## Oakwood Beach 3

575	569	567	563	557	555	549	545
VFW POST	Buyout	Buyout	Buyout	Buyout	Buyout	Buyout	Buyout
LOT # 17	LOT # 17	LOT # 102	LOT # 100	LOT # 116	LOT # 12	LOT # 8	LOT # 6
No Buyout	Buyout	Buyout	Buyout	Buyout	Buyout	Buyout	Buyout
575	569	567	563	557	555	549	545

Mill Road

Ade laide Avenue



3 3 9

DAYS

OCEAN BREEZE

STILL

NOT

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