

Shore thing: a post-Sandy vision swept away

[Daily News Editorial Board](#)



Buried idea (City of New York)

Six years after Sandy, this city's boldest plan for keeping the seas from inundating our streets is washing away before our eyes.

New York City won a national design competition and hundreds of millions of dollars from the federal government for an innovative reimagining of the East River Park and adjoining waterfronts as a buffer protecting lower Manhattan from the ravages of sea rise and storm inundation, backstopped by a protective earth berm rising to meet the FDR Drive.

Several spins around the sun later, city officials say they'll instead raise the

entire park a few feet and seal off the shore with a floodwall.

Avert your eyes from the other bank of the East River, where green spaces privately built to meet the water and at times absorb it are all the rage.

First Deputy Mayor Dean Fuleihan and Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver say their new course will protect trees, tennis courts and maintenance facilities, avoid nighttime FDR shutdowns during construction and, most important, speed up the timeline by a year and a half while the threat of future saltwater flooding mounts.

If only they'd considered time of the essence when a long-planned June 2017 construction start date came and went, Lower East Siders wouldn't have had to worry.





