RECORD KEEPING
For Your Shoreline Property

Although living on the shoreline presents unique challenges, there are ways you can be better prepared and protect your property. A good first step is knowing where important structures on your property are in relation to the shoreline. This way you can better assess potential risks, such as flooding or erosion, to those features and determine if mitigation efforts could be helpful.

Collecting information on your property is a great way to develop a long-term plan and foresee potential issues that your property may be vulnerable to. Keeping a record of significant events, such as storms or extreme changes in water levels, and how these have impacted your property can help you assess potential risk (i.e., damage to your property or shoreline). Although there are uncertainties in weather and water level forecasting, having a personal record for reference can still help you make decisions.

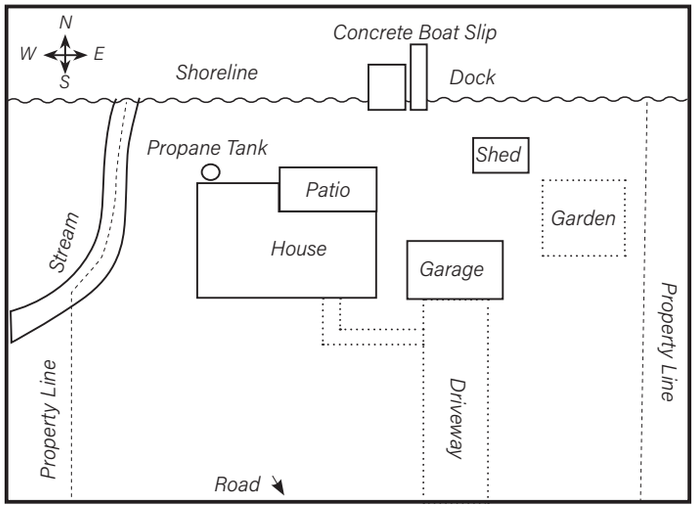
This document provides you with a few ways to assess your property and stay aware of potential issues that may arise. Work through the following activities and keep this document in a safe place for future reference.

Property Mapping

Having a map of your property can be a useful tool. Knowing where structures (i.e., dock, home, shed, electric, etc.) are in relation to the shoreline help you better understand your flood risk and ways to minimize impacts. Create a sketch of your property using the space provided on the next page. See the example below to help you get started.

Consider including the following features in your property map:

- Directional reference and scale
- Buildings or permanent structures, especially those near the water
- Energy sources (natural gas tank, electrical box, etc.)
- Boat slips, docks, or stairs for water access
- Existing shoreline protection structures
- Natural features such as mature trees
- Any other structures that may be vulnerable to flooding or erosion



Sea Grant New York

www.nyseagrant.org

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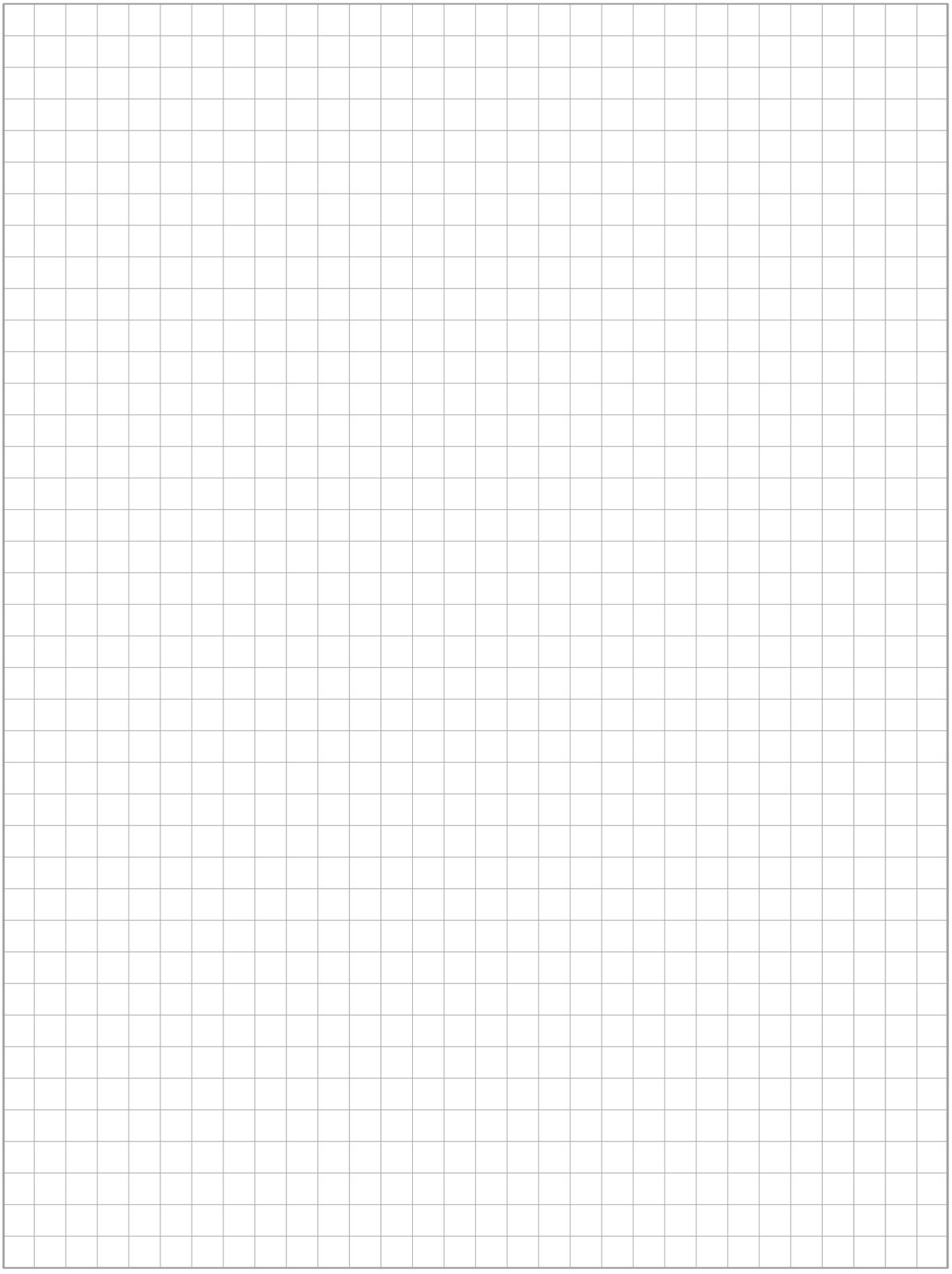

Structure	Structure Elevation (ft.)	Distance to Water (ft.)	Flood Risk (High, Med., Low)	Erosion Risk (High, Med., Low)	Notes

Assessment of Risk to Structures

In addition to mapping features of your property, it may also be helpful to list important structures and note their elevation and distance from the water to determine if any structures are at risk to flooding or erosion. Structures to consider may be buildings, docks, energy sources (such as natural gas or electric), or other features that you may want to protect. You might want to reference a property survey map to find the elevation of specific structures. If you don't have a survey map that is up-to-date, you may find an estimated elevation by using a topographic map. Use the table above to assess which of the structures on your property, if any, are vulnerable to flooding/erosion. This may help you prioritize mitigation efforts.

Photographic Records

You might consider capturing photographs of where different water levels occur on your property. These photos will provide a "snapshot" of where water levels meet your shoreline and/or important features on your property.

Tips for taking useful photographs:

- Take photos during daylight hours for good visability.
- Take photos that capture a majority of the waterline on your property. If possible, try to take a wide shot that includes your home within the frame as a point of reference. Alternatively, you can use other landscape features like roads or docks.
- Take photos from the same perspective at different water levels for easy comparison.
- Be sure to note the date and water levels when the photos were taken.
- It may also be helpful to organize photos and keep them within this folder or in a folder on your computer so you can reference them as needed.
- Please be careful when taking photos near the water and do not put yourself at risk!

Storm Tracking

While residing along the shore of a lake, you are bound to experience some extreme weather events. Keeping track of these events, and what occured on your property as a result, can help you better prepare for the next one. Use the following chart to keep a record of storms, lake water levels and any significant outcomes of the storm that may have impacted your property or posessions.

Date(s) of Storm	Max Water Level	Storm Description (Note: precipitation type and amount, windspeed, etc.)	Storm Outcomes (Note: significant flooding or erosion, damage to structures or property, etc.)