Industrial waterfronts across the globe face challenges from the impending rise in sea levels and increased coastal inundation. These typically low-lying, impermeable lands support global networks and serve communities from the water. nowhere in Greater Boston is this dynamic more apparent than the city of Everett, located along the Mystic River. An entire third of the city’s land is industrial, largely occupied by a liquid natural gas plant and a neighboring power plant, both of which have been assimilated by their roles as local guardians for the energy needs of the region. Everett is the densest in the country, and has open space that fulfills only a quarter of national standards. Physical and political barriers exist that sever the city, creating numerous thresholds of security and belonging.

This project explores how the development of new ecological infrastructure can serve as the connective tissue that transforms new defenses against flooding into a public asset, as well as a safeguard to valuable working waterfronts. This investigation studies a variety of constructed topographies designed to retain, buffer, divert, and avoid water, creating diverse passive, active, and productive programmatic opportunities. The result is a catalyst for regional resilience, one that acknowledges and protects Everett’s role in New England’s industry while providing its citizens a network of open space and a unified city.

To simultaneously combat impending flooding and lack of waterfront access, a strip of ecological infrastructure is proposed to stretch from the Malden River to Everett’s west, across the city laterally along the Revere Beach Parkway to the Island End River to the east, at the lowest point of the city where threat of inundation is the greatest. This acknowledges existing political and infrastructural barriers; it does not attempt to uproot the industry along the Mystic but negotiates land at the interface between Everett’s two identities. As the Malden and Island End rivers are composed fresh and saltwater respectively, a band of varied ecologies is created with corresponding mixes of wildlife and recreational opportunities.

REFERENCES
Preparing For the Rising Tide, The Boston Harbor Association
Overview of UDE in New England, UDE State
100 Year Open Space Master Plan, City of Everett
Sea Change, See Change Associates

BACKGROUND
The Mystic River has a centuries-old history of coastal development. Industries settled here along the banks of present-day Somerville, Everett, Chelsea, Charlestown, and Malden as the river’s course provided convenient shipping access to Boston Harbor. Landfill was utilized to constrain the river’s previously meandering course and to stabilize extensive mudflats. Resultant open space for these cities was fragmented and scarce. Everett’s industry today is largely composed of natural gas and power generation.

RESULTS
To simultaneously combat impending flooding and lack of waterfront access, a strip of ecological infrastructure is proposed to stretch from the Malden River to Everett’s west, across the city laterally along the Revere Beach Parkway to the Island End River to the east, at the lowest point of the city where threat of inundation is the greatest. This acknowledges existing political and infrastructural barriers; it does not attempt to uproot the industry along the Mystic but negotiates land at the interface between Everett’s two identities. As the Malden and Island End rivers are composed fresh and saltwater respectively, a band of varied ecologies is created with corresponding mixes of wildlife and recreational opportunities.

CONCLUSION
To effectively address our current challenges in our coastal communities and industries, we must acknowledge that the industries placed there are often vital local or regional economies. They cannot simply be transplanted or abandoned. Instead, this threat of future inundation must be leveraged as an opportunity: out of the massive public investment that will be needed to protect private and public realms alike, we can create new landscapes of that hold social and ecological benefits.