Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan PRIORITIZED STRATEGIES WORKSHOP

Kingsborough Community College Building U, Room 220

June 21, 2007



TONIGHT'S AGENDA

- 6:30 pm Open House & Sign-in
- 6:45 pm Where We Are In The Planning Process
- 7:00 pm Stormwater Best Management Practices (Esther Siskind, DEP)
- 7:45 pm Restoration Ecology & Water Quality (John McLaughlin, DEP)
- 8:30 pm What You Can Do To Protect Jamaica Bay? (Shino Tanikawa, NYCSWCD)
- 9:00 pm Conclusion of Workshop



JAMAICA BAY WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN Local Law 71 (LL71 of 2005)

- Directs DEP to develop a Watershed Protection Plan for the watershed/sewershed of Jamaica Bay.
- Plan to develop strategies to address:
 - Wetland Loss, Habitat Loss and Ecological Degradation
 - Water Quality

Schedule:

- March 1, 2007: Draft Plan delivered to City Council
- October 1, 2007: Final Plan to be delivered to City Council



WHERE WE ARE IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

- Draft Plan contained 76 potential strategies in areas of:
 - Water quality
 - Restoration ecology
 - Land use
 - Public access
 - Public outreach
- Since March Draft, NYCDEP has continued evaluation of potential strategies
 - Environmental feasibility
 - Technical feasibility
 - Legal feasibility
 - Economic feasibility



WHERE WE ARE IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

- Additional progress since March 1 Draft:
 - Obtained funding and further developed pilot projects for stormwater best management practices (BMPs)
 - Substantially completed designs for BMPs to be constructed for Rockaway and Paerdaget Bridges as part of NYCDOT's Belt Parkway Bridges Project
 - Participating in the Mayor's PlaNYC BMP Interagency Task Force
 - Reviewed Advisory Committee's final recommendations submitted to City Council on June 1



WHERE WE ARE IN THE PLANNING PROCESS

- Prior to October 1, NYCDEP will:
 - Complete feasibility evaluations of management strategies including water quality modeling
 - Select recommended strategies based on completed evaluations
 - Develop implementation measures for recommended strategies including:
 - Schedule and milestones
 - Responsible entity(ies)
 - Funding needs
 - Monitoring and updating the Plan
 - Explore partnerships for plan implementation and coordination



STORMWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



STORMWATER BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- Two types:
 - On-site BMPs
 - Off-site BMPs



ON-SITE STORMWATER BMPS

- On-site stormwater measures
 - Rain barrels
 - Rooftop/subsurface detention/cisterns
 - Rain planters
 - Infiltration/Bioinfiltration
 - Dry wells
 - Green roof

Reducing impervious surfaces

- Porous pavement
 Impervious surfaces requirements
- Water Conservation – 5% over five years



ON-SITE BMP EXAMPLES

Infiltration Strip on Residential Driveway in the Jamaica Bay Watershed



Rain Barrels for Stormwater Detention & Reuse in the Jamaica Bay Watershed Jamaica Bay Watershed Photo Credits: Biohabitats, Inc. 2007.



A Rain Garden from The Chicago Green Alley Handbook (2007)



GREEN ROOFS

- Identify appropriate locations.
- Best opportunities: larger facilities (e.g., box stores, industrial buildings) with flat roofs.
 - Gaia Study Green Roof Pilot Project



One of Geia's greenroof projects in the NYC area.



PARKING LOT BIORETENTION: ZONING TEXT CHANGE



- Most stormwater absorbed on site
- Natural filter for oil, heavy metals and other pollutants
- Natural irrigation better ensures planting remains lush and green



EXAMPLE OF POROUS PAVEMENT



Along with the stormwater benefits of this pervious basketball court, it has the additional advantage of minimizing the sound of the bouncing ball, which the neighborhood greatly appreciates. As the picture shows, the court is being actively used.



BMP MODELING

Modeling the effects of BMPs on CSOs

- Develop land use prototypes
 - Low density residential
 - Medium and high density residential/commercial
 - Big box commercial and industrial
 - Schools and other institutional
- Evaluate rainfall events & stormwater volumes on lot:
 - 2.5" rainfall event = 4,634 gallons
 - 1.2" rainfall event = 2,225 gallons
 - 0.4" rainfall event = 742 gallons
- New vs. Existing Development
- Low Cost vs. High Cost BMPs





BMP MODELING

Example of a prototype and BMP scenario (cont.):

Prototype: single family residential (e.g., R2 or R3)

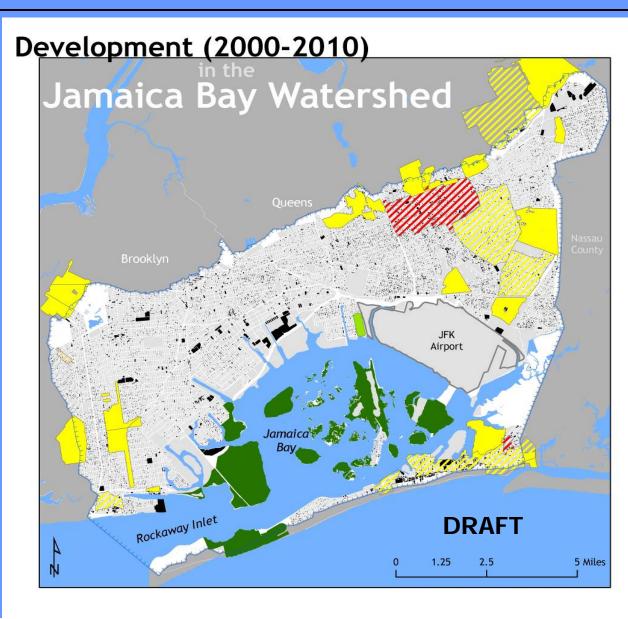
	Existing Development		New Development	
	Low Capture	High Capture	Low Capture	High Capture
BMP Capture Volume	224 g	449 g	1137 g	2304 g
Average rainfall event (0.4")	30%	60%	+100%	+100%
90%ile rainfall event (1.2")	10%	20%	50%	+100%



BMP MODELING: PENETRATION RATES

Data from:

- •DOB
- •DCP
- •EDC
- •HPD
- •SCA
- •DDC





ADDITIONAL NYCDEP PILOTS AND MAYOR'S PLANYC INITIATIVES

Rain Barrels distribution: gauge public acceptance and maintenance

Porous Pavement: evaluate urban maintenance issues



ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY & CODES

	Authority as Related to Disposal of	
NYC Agency	Stormwater	Legislative Authority
Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)	 Establish Drainage Plan - sets sewer sizes in relation to development established in City Map 	• Administrative Code, Title 24 (24-503)
	• Assess the capacity of the sewer system to accept stormwater from new development or altered development	• Administrative Code, Title 24 (24-526) and Reference Standard 16 (P110.0)
	• Issues permits for the connection of the building house sewer	• Administrative Code, Title 24 (24-507)
Department of Buildings	 Develops Building Code – sets standards for construction practices on individual lots in accordance with land uses and zoning 	• Administrative Code, Title 27 (27-102)
	• Reviews new building or alternation applications and associated drainage and plumbing. Can issue permit for connection of building house sewer in conjunction with a permit for construction or alteration of a structure.	• Administrative Code, Title 27 (27-901, 27-909, 27-916 and 27- 2027)
	• Authority for Plumbing Code which allows retention and recycling of stormwater	• Administrative Code, Title 28 (28-1101.2, 1110.1, C101.1)
Department of City Planning (DCP)	 Establish City Map – establishes land uses and population densities in districts (zones) around City 	• City Charter (Section 198)
	• Develop Zoning Resolution - controls open space on lots and other factors such as floor area ratios that impact use of individual lots	• City Charter (Section 200)
Department of Transportation	 Responsible for roadways and sidewalks and associated storm drainage 	• Administrative Code, Title 17
	• Can become involved with site grading	• Administrative Code, Title 19 (19-137)
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene	• Enforces drainage on property when poor drainage impacts public health	• Administrative Code, Title 17 (17-119)



SUMMARY OF EXISTING SEWER CODES

The rules are constructed:

- to prevent water borne diseases created by standing water;
- to prevent street flooding;
- to prevent disputes between homeowners created by storm drainage being routed across property boundaries; and
- to promote safe walking conditions by not having water flow across sidewalks.



BMP CONSISTENCY WITH CURRENT CODES

- Current Codes
 - Storm drainage from impervious surfaces must generally be conveyed directly to a storm or combined sewer especially when within 200 feet of the property.
 - Detention must be provided when sewer capacity is inadequate.
 - Revised Plumbing Code allows retention with controlled release, beneficial use and recycling of stormwater in accordance with NYCDEP requirements.
- Review other Municipality Codes
- Determine constraints and potential need for revisions
 - Facilitate BMPs while ensuring flooding and standing water issues are addressed



POSSIBLE BMP IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

- Code Review
- BMP design manual
- Design standards for parking lots
- Financial incentives
- City agency projects
- BMP pilot projects



OFF-SITE STORMWATER BMPS

- Capture and infiltration of runoff from roadways and sidewalks
- Use of vacant parcels for stormwater management
- Use of **parks** for stormwater management



ROADWAY AND SIDEWALK BMPs

• Types:

- Infiltration swales in medians and along curbs
- Infiltration basins within streets and sidewalks
- Adjacent land areas for detention/retention
- Increased street-side planting including enhanced tree
 opening
- Creates street trees, greenways, and open space

Pilot Projects:

- Gaia Study: GreenStreets for Stormwater Capture
- Includes 3-years of data collection and monitoring



INFILTRATION SWALES ALONG MEDIANS OR CURBS





Bioinfiltration swale along roadway median. Photo credit: Biohabitats, Inc., 2007.



Cross-section of roadway and sidewalk BMP.

INFILTRATION SWALES ALONG MEDIANS OR CURBS



Conceptual example of roadway and sidewalk BMP. More opportunities exist on wider streets with greater potential for increased volume.



ROADWAY & SIDEWALK BMPS Street Trees

 NYC Department of Parks & Recreation to plant 1 million trees.

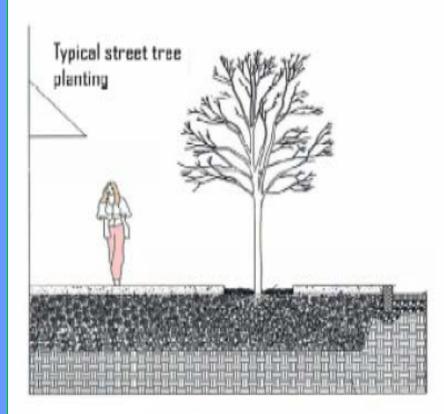


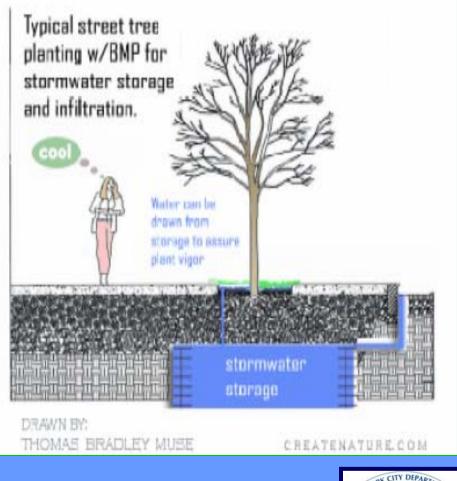
NYCDEP will do pilot to look at enhanced tree pit design:

- Largest practical street tree sidewalk opening
- Satisfactory soil growing medium
- Capture and storage of stormwater for later use by tree through soil moisture sensors and solar activated pumps.
- Healthier trees and reduced overall mortality rates.



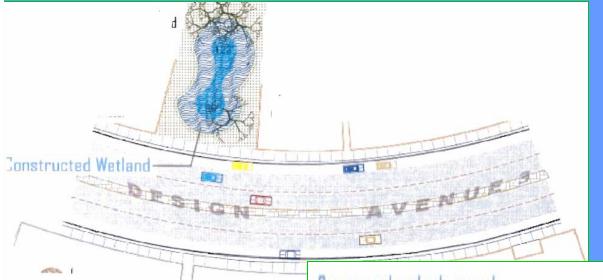
ENHANCED STREET TREE PILOT WITH ADDITIONAL WATER STORAGE







ROADWAY & SIDEWALK BMPS Roadway Adjacent Areas



This type of system (e.g., standing water) is likely not possible in many residential areas but is better suited along highways.

Return pipe to sewer system required to prevent potential flooding.

Constructed wetlands at work ...



VACANT PARCELS FOR STORMWATER PARKS

- Investigate use of vacant parcels for stormwater retention/ detention ("Stormwater Parks")
- Stormwater runoff reduction at a City-block scale (parcels & streets)
- Opportunity to provide urban green spaces
- Opportunity to bring some surface water features to watershed
- Opportunity for additional upland habitat
- Public demonstration of stormwater BMPs



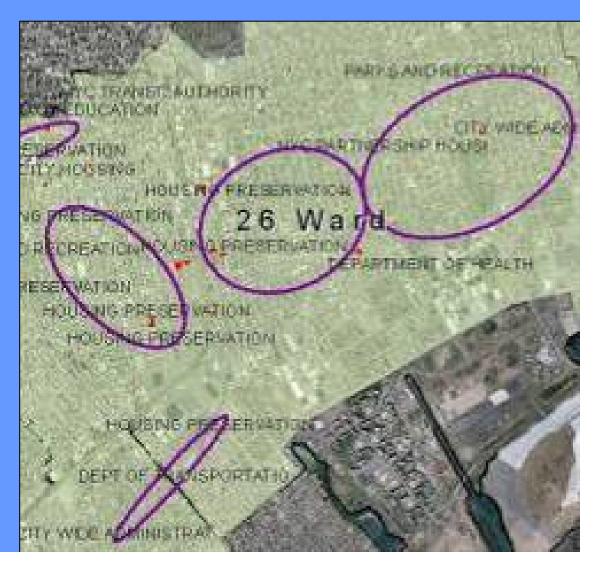
Detention Pond in Residential Area of Kings County, WA



VACANT PARCELS FOR STORMWATER PARKS Selection Criteria

Parcels identified as:

- City-owned
- Vacant
- > 2-5 ft depth to groundwater (depending on location in watershed)
- > 5,000 sq ft in size
- Within close proximity of schools
- Within proximity to existing open spaces
- In areas that do not currently have many parks
- In "clusters" where storage can be maximized



VACANT PARCELS FOR STORMWATER PARKS Design Criteria

- Potential conflicts with existing utilities, neighboring property uses, high groundwater table.
- Capture of roof runoff from adjacent parcels would require installing a "feeder pipe" from the roof leaders of each house to direct flow into stormwater parcel
- Ponded water may be considered a health hazard measures to encourage infiltration or use sub-surface storage

RUNOFF STORAGE POTENTIAL

2.5 inch event:

1.2 inch event:

.4 inch event:

Average lot size:	10,000	sq ft			
Usable area:	80%				
Usable area:	8,000	sq ft			
Average storage depth:	2	ft			
Average storage volume:	16,000	cu ft			
Average storage volume:	120,000	gallons			
AVERAGE RUNOFF PER BLOCK					
Average block area:	150,000	sq ft			
Assume 90% impervious area					

28,125

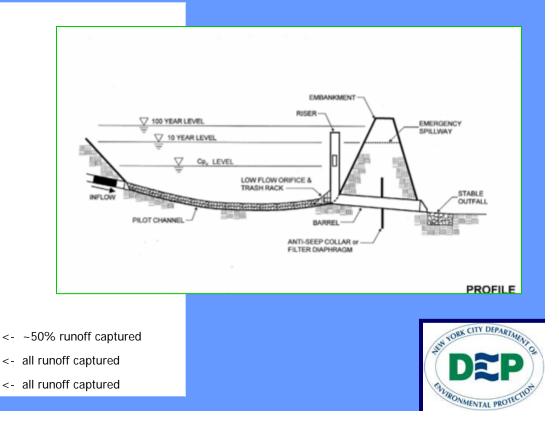
13,500

4,500

cu ft

cu ft

cu ft



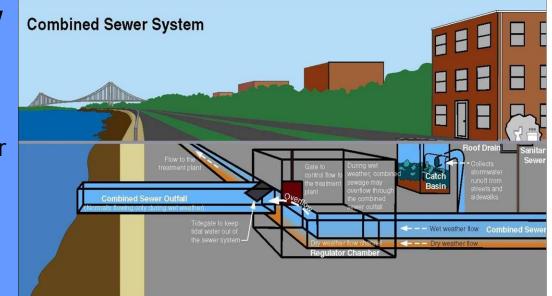
VACANT PARCELS FOR STORMWATER PARKS *Next Steps*

- Identify 3 priority sites
- Evaluate drainage and infiltration for each site
- Create concept designs
- Develop planning-level cost estimates
- Model water quality/CSO effects



MAXIMIZE EXISTING SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE

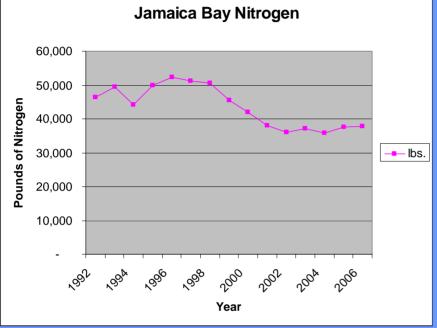
- Catch Basins: first line of defense
 - Regularly inspect and clean catch basins (3 year cycle)
 - Hooding program to reduce floatables entering system
- Sewers: conveyance system
 - Enhancing cleaning program to remove sediment
- Regulators: divert flow to CSO when interceptor/WPCP limit is reached
 - Inspection one to four times per month
- Interceptors: convey flow from sewers to WPCP
 - Exploring program to inspect and assess need for cleaning



Water Quality Improvements Through Ecological Restoration



Nitrogen Discharges



Since 1996 nitrogen discharges to Jamaica Bay have been reduced by 30%.

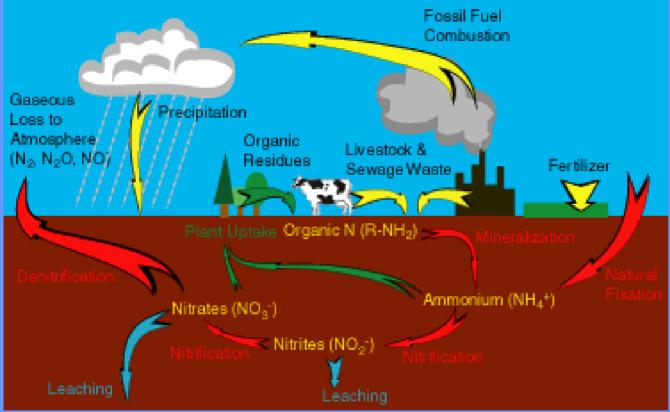
Ongoing efforts within Jamaica Bay:

- Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan
- •Long Term Control Plan

•Jamaica Bay Comprehensive Water Quality Plan



Nitrogen Cycle



Graphic Credit: John Arthur Harrison, Ph.D. "The Nitrogen Cycle: Of Microbes and Men," Visionlearning Vol. EAS-2 (4), 2003.



Water Quality and Ecological Issues of Jamaica Bay

Objective: Water Quality

- Reduce Nitrogen
- Increase Dissolved Oxygen

Objective: Restoration Ecology

- Restore salt marsh islands
- Parcel acquisitions and restorations
- Remove shoreline debris and restore
- Removal of anthropogenic soils
- Removal of invasive vegetation
- Greater scientific study
 - more local involvement required
- Possible development of Harbor Estuary Program (HEP) sub-workgroup to coordinate specific management strategy options of the Watershed Protection Plan



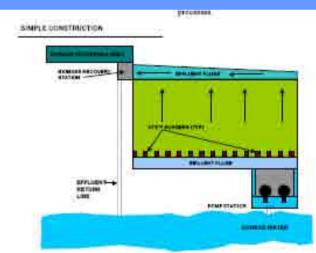
Presentation overview of Pilot Studies and existing restoration projects of Jamaica Bay

- Algal turf scrubbers
- Algae harvesting
- Oyster and eelgrass restoration
- Marsh island wave attenuators
- Existing ecological restorations
- GPS of existing shoreline debris piles
- Shoreline debris removal and restoration



Algal Turf Scrubbers (ATS)

- Nitrogen and phosphorus uptake driven by high rates of photosynthesis
- Patented technology developed by Dr. Walter Adey & held by Smithsonian Institution
- Requires only 3-5% of the land area of comparable treatment wetlands
- Less effective during colder months
- Harvested algae could be used to produce biodiesel



Graphic Credit: Hydromentia, Inc.



Algae Harvesting

- Can produce 30 times more biodiesel than the current sources (e.g., corn, soy, etc...)
- High oil content (~ 50% by weight)
- New Zealand company produced one million liters of biodiesel from algae
- Algae grow rapidly resulting in high production.
- Possible dual use of existing NYCDEP skimmer boats



Photo Credit: Aquarius Systems



Oyster Restoration

- Keystone species and known as the "ecosystem engineer"
- Can filter up to 2.5-gallons per hour or ~ 35-gallons per day
- Chesapeake Bay was once filtered every 3 or 4 days.
- 20% removal rate of nitrogen and natural wave attenuator
- In 1609, oyster reefs covered 350 square miles
- Potentially important and valuable component of eelgrass restoration
- November 2001, AREAC determined survivability





Photo Credit: Maryland Sea Grant

Eelgrass (*Zostera mariana*)

Function

Canopy Structure Primary Production Epibenthic and benthic Cover Nutrient filtration Nutrient regeneration Sediment trapping Oxygen production Wave and current dampening Seed and vegetative expansion Self-sustaining ecosystem

<u>Value</u>

Photo Credit: Hudson River Foundation

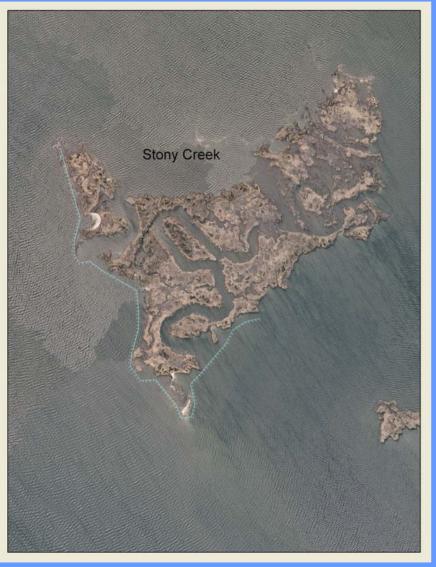


Figure 2-1. Beds of eelgrass (Zostera marina)

Habitat, refuge, nursery and support of fisheries Food for herbivores and wildlife Support of food web and fisheries Protection from predators Improved water quality Support of primary production Improved water quality Improved water quality Dampen resuspension, increase sedimentation Self-maintenance of habitat Recreation, education, landscape level biodiversity



Wave Attenuators



Temporary Floating
Breakwater Systems to
dissipate wave energy,
but allow sediment to
pass through and be
captured.



Photo Credit: Elemental Innovation, Inc.



Landfill Restorations



Largest Restoration undertaken in New York City in over 100-years •Contract growing of plant material

•Promote use of seed grown plants

•Developed soil specifications to "mimic" that of plant community types

- •Use of smaller plant material
- •Use of varying plant sizes

•Limited provenance of plants to within 150-mile radius of site

Mycorrhizal soil inoculations









Pennsylvania Landfill Restoration – In Progress





Walking trails on Pennsylvania landfill to observe Jamaica Bay from a unique vantage point and a chance to come close to the various plant communities





Video Clip of Restoration...





NYCDEP tidal wetland restoration completed in 2004 along eastern shoreline of Paerdegat Basin







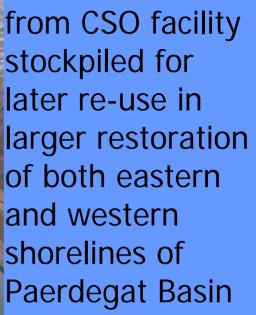
Paerdegat Basin Restoration



Recently completed NYCDEP (May 2007) tidal wetland and upland buffer restoration along eastern shoreline of Paerdegat Basin



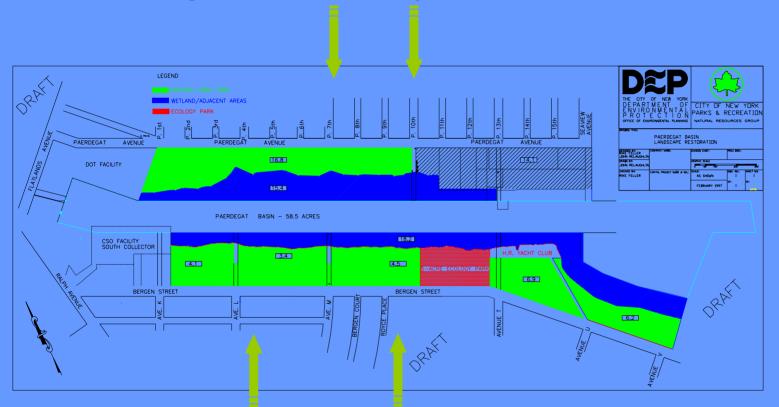
Excavated sand





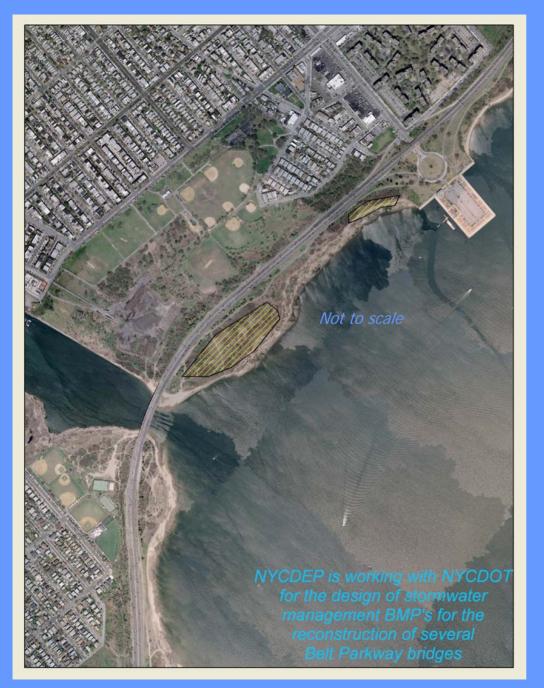
Natural Area Restoration of Paerdegat Basin

Diverting stormwater from adjacent streets



Diverting stormwater from adjacent streets





Stormwater Management for portions of Belt Parkway

Will begin to treat roadway runoff and attenuate direct discharges



Acquisition – Brooklyn

A strategy under the Watershed Protection Plan, is to evaluate the extent of remaining vacant land for possible acquisition. The following sites were identified in Buffer the Bay and have been under the jurisdiction of New York City Parks for some time:

- Four Sparrow Marsh
- Paerdegat Basin
- Fresh Creek
- Spring Creek



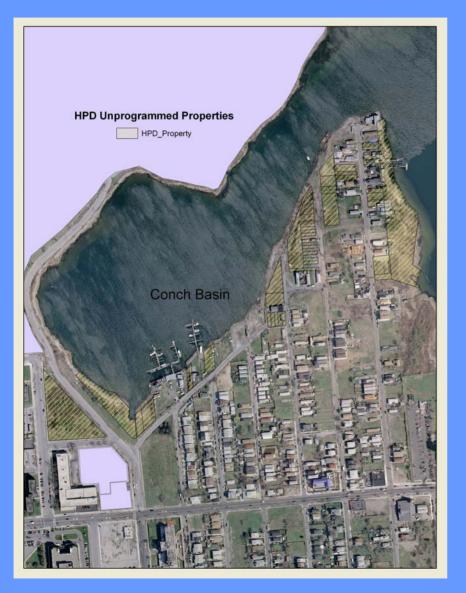
Acquisition – Queens

A strategy under the Watershed Protection Plan, is to evaluate the extent of remaining vacant land for possible acquisition. The following sites were identified in Buffer the Bay and have been under the jurisdiction of New York City Parks for some time:

- Norton Conch/Basins
 - In discussion with HPD and DPR for possible transfer of unprogrammed properties
- Edgemere Landfill (under NYCDOS jurisdiction)
- Dubos Point
- Vernam Barbadoes Peninsula



Norton/Conch Basin Shorelines



As part of the analysis of potential vacant land for acquisition and restoration, NYCDEP will continue to review existing GIS vacant parcel (public and private) data to prioritize those parcels with the highest ecological importance and/or potential for restoration.



GPS Mapping of Shoreline Debris



In coordination with the American Littoral Society, NYCDEP has started to GPS locate debris piles around the perimeter of Jamaica Bay.



Plumb Beach BEFORE cleanup.

Photo Credit: Don Riepe/ Jamaica Bay Guardian It does make a difference! Many volunteers gave their time to make this possible!

Photo Credit: Don Riepe/ Jamaica Bay Guardian

Plumb Beach AFTER cleanup



Four Sparrow Marsh, Brooklyn ... before cleanup



Photo Credit: Don Riepe/ Jamaica Bay Guardian

During the last 9-months, NYCDEP has participated in several shoreline and ecology improvement projects at Plum Beach and sections of Far Rockaway – approximately 2,300 plants were planted and more than 250 cy's of debris were removed. By simply just removing the debris, wetland systems respond positively and bounce.



Photo Credit: Don Riepe/ Jamaica Bay Guardian





Watershed Stewardship: What You Can Do To Protect Jamaica Bay

Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan Prioritized Strategies Workshop June 21, 2007



Shino Tanikawa, District Manager New York City Soil and Water Conservation District



Current Efforts of Local Organizations

- Education Programs
- Beach Cleanups
- Advocacy
- Research and Monitoring
- Restoration
- Outreach

Photo Credits: NYCSWCD, 2003

What is our Message? WHY: Jamaica Bay is an invaluable natural resource that needs to be protected and restored WHAT: The Bay and its Watershed HOW: With YOUR help.

Educate and provide outreach
Protect and restore the ecosystems
Reduce damaging behavior within the watershed
Engage in eco-friendly habits
WHEN: Now!

WHERE: At home, in the yard, at the office, and on the Bay.

Youth Education

- As part of Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan, NYCDEP initiated the Jamaica Bay Education Coordinating Committee
- The focus of the committee has been to develop the priority strategy for multi-disciplinary, inquiry-based environmental education K-12th grade curricula
- The Committee is developing a resource directory of existing curriculum based on "what we want young people to know about Jamaica Bay"
- In the future, the Committee could discuss other K-12 education strategies such as informal or nonschool based education programs, multi-media resources, etc.

Reduce Damaging Behavior

Priority strategy includes creating a targeted campaign to provide information about how to protect Jamaica Bay through:

 On-site stormwater management (i.e., BMPs)

Wise use of household chemicals

Water conservation

 Continue NYC outreach campaigns (e.g., proper disposal of waste materials, landscaping, etc.)



WHEN IT RAINS YOU DON'T GO TO THE BEACH, YOUR LITTER DOES.

Don't Litter

Believe it or not, some litter on our beachess actually starts as litter on our City streets. When it rains, litter may wash into storm drains and end up on our shores. So don't

tter. The beach is a lot closer than you think

How to Protect the Bay (from where you live and work)

Capture Rain Rain barrels Rain gardens Restore your lot Native plants Gravel Porous pavement/ pavers Use storm water planters Good for small areas Install a green roof



Photo Credits: Biohabitats, Inc., 2007

You Know Your Community!

 Identify existing open space for stormwater BMPs
 Wide sidewalks
 Existing open space

Work with local schools, universities, and community organizations to find these locations and map them!

Photo Credits: NYCDEP, 2007



How Do We Translate Our Message?

Priority strategy: State of the Bay Conference

- Bring together scientists, resource managers, agencies, involved organizations, etc.
- Share research results related to Jamaica Bay
- Use proceedings to update the Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan

Other strategies: a "Common Gateway"
 Centralized mechanism for disseminating data
 Promote access and use of JBI's library

Build Volunteer Programs for a Healthy Bay

- American Littoral Society
 Beach Cleanups
 Wildlife Census
- Bay Improvement Group
 Beach Cleanups
 Community Gardening
- Friends of Gateway
 - Beach CleanupsCommunity Planting
- Jamaica Bay Watershed Alliance
 - Litter Cleanups
 - Tree Planting

- New York City Department of Environmental Protection
 - Beach cleanups
 - Street cleanups with New York City Department of Sanitation
- New York City Department of Parks & Recreation
 Park Cleanups
 Gardening
- Salt Marsh Nature Center (Urban Park Rangers)
 Beach Cleanups
 Plantings

Where do we put our message? "Drip, Drip, Drip, Drip, Drip, Drip"

- Need for many diverse outreach mechanisms
 - Newsletters
- Public meetings
- Listservs
- Brochures
- Websites
- Stormwater or Impact Calculator
 Signage
 - Media

Who are our Audiences?

- **S**tudents
- **T**eachers
- Elected Officials
- Watershed Organizations (i.e. places of worship, community boards)
- Agencies
- Residents
- Developers
- Small Businesses
 - Auto repair shops
 - Restaurants
 - Cleaning (dry cleaners, car washes/lots, etc.)
 - Health Care

How To Learn More About Jamaica Bay?

Jamaica Bay Institute

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior Gateway National Recreation Area

> Join the Journey to become a recognized steward of Jamaica Bay

Diamondback Terrapin

- Chose from a variety of topics across three activity groups.
- Attend an event and collect your stewardship stamp.
- Redeem your validation card annually with the Institute for a special award.

Check the JBI website, www.nature.nps.gov/jbi, or call the Stewardship Series hotline, 718-338-3338 ext. xxx, throughout the year for updates to the schedule of events and details on how to redeem your card.



Jamaica Bay Institute

ional Park Service . Department of the Interior :eway National Recreation Area



Jamaica Bay Stewardship Series

Creating natural resource stewards through understanding and knowledge



The Jamaica Bay Institute is proud to promote a series of lectures, excursions, and field service opportunities to foster an interest in and understanding of Jamaica Bay. Each event you attend will earn you a stewardship stamp which collectively can be redeemed with the Institute on an annual basis for a distinctive award.



HQ Bldg. #69 Brooklyn, NY 11234

Stewardship Series Validation Card

For more information, contact the Science Education Coordinator Jamaica Bay Institute 718-338-3338, ext. 223 www.nature.nps.gov/jbi

Questions for Discussion

Who should be our priority audiences?

- What else can we do to spread the message?
- What additional partnerships will help us reach our priority audiences?
- What types of incentive programs need to be in place to encourage eco-friendly habits?
- How do we organize and promote volunteer monitoring on JB ecosystems?