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Hudson-Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study

Appendix B
Ongoing Restoration Efforts

Final Integrated Feasibility Report
& Environmental Assessment

April 2020

Prepared by the New York District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers



THE PORT AUTHORITY
OF NY & NJ

Hudson-Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study Final Integrated Feasibility Report & Environmental Assessment





1. Introduction

The HRE Study Area is home to remarkable restoration and planning efforts. This appendix covers existing/prior reports (B-1), ongoing (B-2) and completed (B-3) restoration and resilience projects conducted by the USACE and regional partners. These reports and restoration efforts serve as the foundation for the recommendations of this draft Feasibility Report/Environmental Assessment (FR/EA). Together with the actions recommended in this draft report, the ongoing and future restoration efforts will represent both a significant investment in several Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE) Planning Regions and a tremendous step toward restoring lost ecological values and achieving the regional goals of the HRE Comprehensive Restoration Plan (USACE, 2016).

2. Prior Reports (B-1)

Highlighted prior reports considered during the development of this Draft FR/EA are provided in the following sections for the HRE region, each planning region, and/or “source” study. Additional reports can be found in Chapter 10, References.

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Municipality Surveys

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Belleville Township/Essex County (RM 8-10): Thomas Herits, 429 Stephens St. Belleville, NJ 07109. (11/10/06)

Borough of East Newark/Hudson County (RM 5.6-6.1): Robert B. Knapp, Acting Burough Clerk, 34 Sherman Avenue, East Newark, NJ 07029

City of Clifton, Passaic County: (RM 11-13 and RM 17): Ms. Macil Homza, Secretary, Clifton Environmental Protective Commission, City Hall, 900 Clifton Avenue, Clifton, NJ 07013. (10/13/06)

Elizabeth (south of RM0): Oscar Ocasio, Department of Planning & Community Development, 50 Winfield Scott Plaza, Elizabeth. (10/11/06)

East Rutherford/Bergen (RM 13): James Cassella, Mayor, 1 Everett Place, East Rutherford, NJ 07073 (10/20/06).

Essex (Third River): Lawrence Ferchak, Essex County Division of Mosquito Control, 99 W. Bradford Avenue, Cedar Grove, NJ 07009.

Passaic County (Clifton/Nutley line to Dundee Dam): Anthony DeNova, County of Passaic, 401 Grand Street, Paterson, NJ 07505. (10/26/06)

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Town of Harrison/Hudson County (RM 3.5 to 5.6): Peter Higgins, Harrison Redevelopment Agency, 600 Essex Street, Harrison, NJ 07029. (2/13/07)

Town of Kearny (RM 0.0-8.0): Michael J. Martello, Construction Code, 402 Kearny Avenue, Kearny NJ 07032. (1/26/07)

Township of Nutley Essex (RM 8-11): Dominic Ferry, 1 Kennedy Dr. Nutley, NJ 07110.

Township of Bloomfield, Essex County (Third River): Paul D. Lasek, P.E., Township Engineer, 1 Municipal Plaza, Bloomfield, NJ 07003
(10/25/06)

Master Plans

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See Summary of Site Investigations conducted by governmental partnership agencies (USEPA, USACE, NOAA, USFWS, NJDOT and NJDEP) used for remedial action decisions and restoration planning outlined in Table 1 below.

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Table B-1. List of Investigations Utilized to inform the remedy selection and restoration planning during the Lower Passaic River Restoration Project

Source: USEPA Remedial Investigation Report for the Focused Feasibility Study – Lower Eight Miles of the Lower Passaic River (Updated- Table 2-1 List of Investigations)

| Investigation | Year | Study Name | Surveying Agency | Surveying Entity | Survey Extent (River Mile [RM]) | Governing Work Plan |
|-----------------|-----------|---|------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Sediment | 2005 | 2005 Sedflume Testing | USEPA | USACE | RM0 to RM15 | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. August 2005a and January 2006b |
| | 2005 | 2005 Gust Microcosm Testing | USEPA | Chesapeake Biogeochemical Associates | RM0 to RM15 | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. August 2005a and January 2006b |
| | 2005 | 2005 USEPA High Resolution Sediment Coring | USEPA | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. | RM0 to RM15 | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. August 2005a and January 2006b |
| | 2005 | Polytechnic Institute (RPI) and Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory (L-DEO) Upper Passaic High Resolution Sediment Cores | RPI & L-DEO | RPI & L-DEO | Upper Passaic, above Dundee Dam | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. August 2005a and January 2006b, Field Modification Form, March 23, 2007 |
| | 2006 | 2006 USEPA Low Resolution Sediment Coring | USEPA | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. | RM0 to RM7 | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. August 2005a and January 2006b |
| | 2007 | 2007 USEPA Upper Passaic High Resolution Sediment Coring | USEPA | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. | Upper Passaic | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. August 2005a and January 2006b |
| | 2007-2008 | 2007-2008 USEPA Supplemental Sediment Programs | USEPA | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. | RM0 to RM17 | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. December 2007 |
| | 2008 | 2008 USEPA Suspended-Phase High Flow Storm Event Sampling | USEPA | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. | RM0 to RM17, tributaries and CSOs/SWOs | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. December 2007 |
| | 2008 | 2008 Sedflume | USEPA | USACE | RM2.2 | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. |



| Investigation | Year | Study Name | Surveying Agency | Surveying Entity | Survey Extent (River Mile [RM]) | Governing Work Plan |
|---------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------|---|--|---|
| | | Consolidation Testing | | | | August 2005a and January 2006b |
| | 2008 | 2008 CPG Low Resolution Sediment Coring | USEPA | CPG | RM0 to RM17 | ENSR, 2008 |
| | 2009-2010 | 2009-2010 CPG Benthic and Surface Sediment Program | USEPA | CPG | RM0 to RM17 | AECOM, 2009 |
| | 2012 | 2012 CPG Low Resolution Supplemental Sampling Program | USEPA | CPG | RM0 to RM17 | AECOM, 2011 |
| | 2013 | 2013 Low Resolution Second Supplemental Sampling Program | USEPA | CPG | RM 7.2 to RM 14.6 | AECOM, 2012 |
| Hydrodynamics | Nov - 2004 to Sep - 2005 | November 2004 to September 2005 Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. Survey | USEPA | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. | Upper 11 miles of Passaic | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. August 2005a and January 2006b |
| | Aug - Oct 2004 | August to October 2004 Rutgers University Survey First Deployment | USACE & NJDOT | Rutgers University | RM0 to RM6 | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., <i>et al.</i> , 2005a |
| | Nov - 2004 to Jan 2005 | November 2004 to January 2005 Rutgers University Survey Second Deployment | USACE & NJDOT | Rutgers University | RM 0 to RM6 | |
| | Jul - Sep 2005 | July to September 2005 Rutgers University Survey Third Deployment | USACE & NJDOT | Rutgers University | RM 0 to RM6 | |
| | 2005 | NJDOT Environmental Dredging Pilot Study | USACE & NJDOT | TAMS/EarthTech & Malcolm Pirnie | Between RM2.6 and RM3 | TAMS/EarthTech & Malcolm Pirnie, 2005 |
| | 2008-2009 | Rutgers University and University of Delaware ADCP Study | Rutgers University | Rutgers University and University of Delaware | Arthur Kill, Kill van Kull, Newark Bay, Passaic River and Hudson River near Newark Bay | Not Available |
| | 2009 | TSI ADCP Moorings Study | USEPA | TSI | RMs 2.1, 3.2 and 4.1 | Tierra Solutions, Inc., 2009, Revision 2 |

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| Investigation | Year | Study Name | Surveying Agency | Surveying Entity | Survey Extent (River Mile [RM]) | Governing Work Plan |
|---------------|-----------|---|------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|
| | 2010 | CPG Physical Water Column Monitoring Program | USEPA | CPG | RMs 1.4, 4.2, 6.7, 10.2 and 13.5 | AECOM, 2010 |
| Water Column | 2005 | 2005 Large Volume Water Column Sampling Study | USEPA | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. | Passaic | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. August 2005a and January 2006b |
| | 2005 | 2005 Small Volume Water Column Sampling Study | USEPA | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. | Passaic | |
| | 2005 | 2005 Semi-Permeable Membrane Device Study | USEPA | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. | Passaic | |
| | 2005 | 2005 USEPA High-Flow Water Column Suspended Solids Sampling | USEPA | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. | Passaic | |
| | 2005 | NJDOT Environmental Dredging Pilot Study | NJDOT & USACE | TAMS/EarthTech & Malcolm Pirnie | Between RM 2.6 and RM3 | TAMS/EarthTech & Malcolm Pirnie, 2005 |
| | 2009-2010 | 2009-2010 CPG Physical Water Column Monitoring | USEPA | CPG | Passaic | AECOM, 2010 |
| | 2010 | CPG High-Flow Water Column Suspended Solids Sampling | USEPA | CPG | Passaic | AECOM, 2010 |
| | 2011-2013 | CPG RI Water Column Monitoring/Small Volume Chemical Data Collection | USEPA | CPG | Passaic, Newark Bay, Second River, Third River, Saddle River, Hackensack River, Arthur Kill and Kill van Kull | AECOM, 2012 |
| Ecological | 1999 | 1999 Late Summer/Early Fall Environmental Sampling Program | USEPA | TSI | RM1 to RM7 | TSI, 1999 |
| | 2000 | 2000 Spring Environmental Sampling Program | USEPA | TSI | RM1 to RM7 | TSI, 1999 |
| | 2005 | 2005 Sediment Profile Imaging Survey of Sediment and Benthic Habitat Characteristics of the Lower Passaic River | USACE & NJDOT | Aqua Surveys, Inc. | RM0 to RM17 | Aqua Survey, Inc., 2006 |
| | 2005 | 2005 Taxonomic Identification of Benthic | NJDOT & USACE | Aqua Surveys, Inc. | RM 0 to RM17 | Aqua Survey, Inc., 2005 |



| Investigation | Year | Study Name | Surveying Agency | Surveying Entity | Survey Extent (River Mile [RM]) | Governing Work Plan |
|----------------|-----------|--|------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| | | Invertebrates | | | | |
| | 2009-2010 | 2009-2010 CPG Benthic and Surface Sediment Program | USEPA | CPG | RM0 to RM17 | Windward, 2009 |
| | 2009-2010 | 2009-2010 Fish Community and Tissue Collection Surveys | USEPA | CPG | RM0 to RM17 | Windward, 2010 |
| | 2010 | 2010 CPG Habitat Identification Survey | USEPA | CPG | RM0 to RM17 | Windward, 2011a |
| | 2010 | 2010 CPG Summer/Fall Avian Community Survey | USEPA | CPG | RM0 to RM17 | Windward, 2011b |
| | 2012 | 2012 background Fish Tissue Survey | USEPA | CPG | RM 17.4 to RM 21.5 (above Dundee Dam) | Windward, 2012 |
| TSI Newark Bay | 2005 | TSI Newark Bay Study Phase I | USEPA | TSI | Newark Bay | Tierra, 2005 |
| | 2007 | TSI Newark Bay Study Phase II | USEPA | TSI | Newark Bay | Tierra, 2007 |
| | Nov-1989 | November 1989 Topo-Metrics, Inc. for USACE | USACE | Topo-Metrics, Inc. | RM-0.5 to RM14.98 | Not Available |
| | Mar-1995 | March/April 1995 Ocean Surveys, Inc. for TSI | USEPA | TSI | RM0.87 to RM6.97 | TSI, 1995 |
| | Nov-1996 | November 1996 Ocean Surveys, Inc. for TSI | USEPA | TSI | RM0.87 to RM6.95 | TSI, 1995 |
| | Apr- | April 1997 Ocean Surveys, | USEPA | TSI | RM0.87 to RM6.95 | TSI, 1995 |

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| Investigation | Year | Study Name | Surveying Agency | Surveying Entity | Survey Extent (River Mile [RM]) | Governing Work Plan |
|------------------------------------|----------|---|------------------|------------------------|--|---|
| Bathymetry and Geophysical Surveys | 1997 | Inc. for TSI | | | | |
| | Jun-1999 | June 1999 Ocean Surveys, Inc. for TSI | USEPA | TSI | RM0.89 to RM6.97 | TSI, 1995 |
| | Aug-2001 | August 2001 Ocean Surveys, Inc. for TSI | USEPA | TSI | RM0.89 to RM6.96 | TSI, 1995 |
| | Jul-2002 | July 2002 TVGA Consultants for USACE | USACE | TVGA Consultants | RM-0.44 to RM8.01 | Not Available |
| | Nov-2004 | November 2004 Rogers Surveying, Inc. for USACE | USACE | Rogers Surveying, Inc. | RM-0.54 to RM17.42 | Not Available |
| | 2005 | Aqua Survey Inc. Geophysical and Side Scan Sonar Survey | NJDOT & USACE | Aqua Survey Inc. | RM0 to RM17 | Malcolm Pirnie, Inc. August 2005a and January 2006b |
| | Sep-2007 | CPG - Multi-Beam (MB) and Single-Beam (SB) Bathymetry | USEPA | CPG | RM-0.50 to RM14.45 (MB) RM0.5 to RM8.21 and RM14.38 to RM16.54 (SB) | de Maximis, Inc., 2007 |
| | Nov-2008 | CPG - Multi-Beam and Single-Beam Bathymetry | USEPA | CPG | RM-0.5 to RM14.26 | CPG, 2008 |
| | Jun-2010 | CPG - Multi-Beam Bathymetry | USEPA | CPG | RM-0.5 to RM14.27 | CPG, 2010 |
| | Oct-2011 | CPG - Bathymetric Survey of Lower 14 Miles of the Passaic River After Hurricane Irene | USEPA | CPG | RM-0.5 to RM14.27 | CPG, 2010, Field Modification Number: FM-110921 |

^a: The original vertical datum for surveys was MLW as defined by the USACE. The transect density for the surveys was approximately 52 transects per mile.



3. Ongoing Restoration (B-2)

Highlighted ongoing ecosystem and restoration efforts within the HRE planning region are provided in Table B-2.

Table B-2. Ongoing Ecosystem and Coastal Restoration within the HRE Planning Regions with Recommended Plan (Excludes Beach Nourishment)

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|-----------------|---|---------------------------|--|
| Multiple | NY & NJ Harbor & Tributaries Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRМ) Study | USACE, NYSDEC, NJDEP, NYC | The NY-NJ Harbor & Tributaries is one of 9 focus areas identified in the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study report (USACE, 2015). The purpose of this study is to investigate comprehensive approaches to improve community resilience and to manage risk of damages from future coastal storms and impacts of sea level rise (SLR). The project will identify and explore areas of coastal storm risk and develop the most feasible comprehensive combination of structural, non-structural, and/or natural and nature-based measures into alternatives that best manage risks from current and projected future coastal flooding in both the short and long term. Interim Feasibility Report was released on February 19, 2019 and a Draft Feasibility Study and Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement are expected to be released in Spring 2020. |
| Multiple | Combined Sewer Overflow Abatement Program | NYCDEP and NYSDEC | In 2012, the NYSDEC and NYCDEP signed an agreement to reduce combined sewer overflows and improve water quality through the collection and treatment of sewerage prior to release into the HRE. Under this agreement, several long-term control plans for specific waterbodies and one for NYC were drafted to identify appropriate combined sewer overflow controls necessary to improve water quality. Overflow abatement measures include conducting environmental dredging of several tributaries within the City of New York to remove combined sewer overflow mounds that contribute to nuisance odors and dissolved oxygen deficits within affected waterbodies. These waterbodies include Paerdegat Basin, Flushing Bay, Flushing Creek, Gowanus Canal, Bergen Basin, Fresh Creek, Newtown Creek, and Thurston Basin. |
| Multiple | NYC Raised Shorelines | NYC | The NYC plans to raise bulkheads and build other shoreline structures in low-lying neighborhoods throughout the City, including a number of low- and moderate-income communities impacted by Hurricane Sandy, to minimize inland tidal flooding, which would worsen neighborhoods in the floodplain, threatening their economic viability and residential stability. The component planned for the Tottenville area of Staten Island will continue to be coordinated with Living Breakwaters (DB#5) and Tottenville Dunes (DB#597). |

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| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|-----------------|--|---|---|
| | | | Construction began August 1, 2017 and is expected to be completed by December 21, 2022. |
| Multiple | Billion Oyster Project | NY Harbor School | NY Harbor School with goal to bring back one billion oysters - self sustaining oyster reefs to New York Harbor. HRE - Small Scale Oyster Restoration recommended advance the BOP program with NY Harbor School who will be construction sponsor. |
| Lower Bay | South Shore of Staten Island Coastal Storm Risk Management | USACE, NYSDEC | The project is divided into two phases of study. Phase 1 (Ft. Wadsworth to Oakwood Beach) analyzed solutions and recommended levees, floodwalls and non-structural measures to reduce hurricane and storm damage: Final Feasibility Report/EIS and ROD completed in December 2016. The Design Phase for preparations of plans and specifications began in early 2017 and construction is estimated to begin late 2020. It was determined that there was no Federal interest for Phase 2 (Great Kills to Tottenville) however the State and City of New York are continuing to plan other projects for this area such as Living Breakwaters and Tottenville Shoreline Protection Project. |
| Multiple | Public Greenways | NYC, NYCDPR, NYCDOT, Byron and Bronx River Alliance, NYCEDC | <p>Waterfront Greenway initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MillionTrees NYC, a PlaNYC initiative, is a public-private program. In 2015, two (2) years ahead of schedule, MillionTrees NYC achieved the program goal of planting 1,000,000 trees in New York City. • The Manhattan Waterfront Greenway is a 32-mile multiuse trail that circumnavigates Manhattan Island, and includes over 23 miles of waterfront pathways and facilitates access to over 1,500 acres of parkland throughout the borough. The greenway builds on recent efforts to transform a long-neglected waterfront into a green attraction for recreational and commuting use. • Construction on the South Bronx Greenway and the Bronx River Greenway is underway encompassing 1.5 miles of waterfront greenway, 8.5 miles of inland green streets, and nearly 12 acres of new waterfront open space throughout the Hunts Point and Port Morris neighborhoods in the Bronx. The Bronx River Greenway extends for 23 miles along the Bronx River, from Westchester County to Soundview Park in the South Bronx. Approximately 19 miles of the greenway are currently in place with completion anticipated within the next decade. • The Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway is a 26-mile route linking neighborhood parks and open spaces from Greenpoint to Lindenwood/Howard Beach. To date 18 miles have been completed with eight (8) miles remaining. https://www.brooklyngreenway.org/ portions of the Brooklyn waterfront Greenway and the Jamaica Bay greenway overlap |



| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|-----------------|---|--|---|
| | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Jamaica Bay Greenway will be a 28-mile network of bicycle and pedestrian paths connecting more than 10,000 acres of parks and beaches. More than 10 miles are in place. |
| Multiple | Ecological Solutions to Coastal Community Hazards | NFWF, NJDEP, Sustainable Jersey, NJ Sea Grant Consortium | <p>NJDEP will convene an experienced team of public and private stakeholders to address the need for community resiliency strategies and preventive actions for NJ's many ecologically significant coastal areas that are threatened by dense coastal development and climate change impacts. Hurricane Sandy emphasized the need for community resiliency strategies and preventative actions to minimize future impacts. Ecosystem-based infrastructure approaches can provide a cost effective solution that will protect critical habitat and people. However, there is no systematic approach for developing or providing green infrastructure nor is there a current system that can determine which communities would make good candidates for green infrastructure. The NJDEP will work with partners to systemically identify ecological resiliency strategies and develop them into successful, ready to use local actions. Twenty municipalities will receive green infrastructure viability assessments through this project. Nine pilot communities will then complete specific resiliency projects with project team assistance and be used as green infrastructure success models.</p> |
| Lower Bay | Tottenville Shoreline Protection System | NYS GOSR, NYC | <p>NYS GOSR project through NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program. The proposed project would construct resilient dune structures and plantings along a portion of the South Shore of Staten Island, which was expanded through regional coordination efforts. This on-shore project will be analyzed with the off-shore Living Breakwaters project (DB#5) in a single DEIS. Both projects are being coordinated with the area component of the NYC Raised Shorelines project (DB#695). The final designs were expected to be completed end of 2019 and construction is expected to begin end of 2020.</p> |
| Jamaica Bay | Spring Creek North | USACE, NYCDPR | <p>Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) Section 1135 Ecosystem Restoration of 7.6 acres of low marsh, 5.4 acres of high marsh, 22.1 acres of maritime upland for total of 35.1 acres of habitat. Project Partnership Agreement executed in August 2018 to initiate design and implementation phase.</p> |
| Jamaica Bay | Jamaica Bay Oyster Population Restoration | NFWF, NYCDEP | <p>DOI's Sandy Coastal Resiliency grants administered by NFWF to NYCDEP to restore oyster beds across half an acre in the northeastern end of Jamaica Bay at the Head of Bay. Models from previous studies showed that the location site has ideal conditions that will promote oyster growth, recruitment, and larvae retention potential. The HRE small scale oyster restoration recommended in the FR/EA expands this oyster restoration project.</p> |

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|-----------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Jamaica Bay | Sunset Cove's Salt Marsh and Upland Habitat | NFWF, NYCDPR | DOI's Sandy Coastal Resiliency grants administered by NFWF to NYC Department of Parks and Recreation to restore 4.5 acres of salt marsh and 7 acres of upland habitat on Sunset Cove, a 12.57 acre parcel located on a former abandoned and derelict marina in Broad Channel, Queens. Nearly the entire island of Broad Channel was flooded during Hurricane Sandy with inundation ranging from 3-10 feet. The restored salt marsh will connect to adjacent wetland complexes within Jamaica Bay. The existing hardened shoreline will be rehabilitated and enhanced to improve water quality and provide oyster and shellfish habitat. Phase 1 of this project was completed in June 2019. |
| Jamaica Bay | Atlantic Coast of NY, East Rockaway to Rockaway Inlet, & Jamaica Bay Reformulation Study | USACE, NYSDEC, NYC | In August 2019, the Chief's Report for the Atlantic Coast of New York East Rockaway Inlet to Rockaway Inlet and Jamaica Bay Hurricane Sandy Reformulation Study was signed by Lt. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, USACE Commanding General and has been transmitted to the Assistant Secretary for the Army for Civil Works for review and final approval. The preferred alternative includes a hurricane barrier from Coney Island to Breezy Point and interim risk offset measures within the Bay. Construction start of the first phase is targeted for 2020-21, but will depend on the length of reviews and approvals, and the relative complexity of design. Documents are available at: http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Projects-in-New-York/East-Rockaway-Inlet-to-Rockaway-Inlet-Rockaway-Be/ . Jamaica Bay shoreline sites recommended in this HRE FR/EA could serve as NNBs and complement solutions from the reformulation effort. |
| Jamaica Bay | Fresh Creek Coastal Protection | NYS GOSR | This NY Rising project would fund flood protection measures to capture storm surge and rising waters at the most vulnerable areas along Fresh Creek in Canarsie, Brooklyn. The target area is along Fresh Creek and E. 108th Street between Avenue J and N. Fresh Creek Restoration recommendation would complement this project. |
| Jamaica Bay | Bay Park Waste Water Treatment Plant Nitrogen Removal System | NY State | NYS has pledged to develop and construct a nitrogen removal system at Bay Park. (See DB#57 and DB#334 for other components.) |
| Jamaica Bay | Jamaica Bay Rockaway Inlet Federal Navigation Channel - Operation & Maintenance Dredging | USACE | The existing project provides for an entrance channel 20 ft deep at mean low water, 1,000 ft wide, about 1.7 mi long and connecting two interior channels with deep water in the Atlantic Ocean, of suitable hydraulic dimensions to maintain the present tidal prism in the bay. The channel extends from Rockaway Inlet into Jamaica Bay. Dredge material can be beneficially used at Jamaica Bay marsh islands or along the Rockaway Peninsula. |



| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|-----------------|---|----------|---|
| Jamaica Bay | South Valley Stream Shoreline Restoration | NYS GOSR | Restore the natural shoreline in South Valley Stream along “The Path” by constructing a living shoreline to buffer tidal flow, planting trees and other vegetation, repairing outfalls, and installing green infrastructure measures with educational signage to capture stormwater runoff. |
| Jamaica Bay | Riis Park Shoreline and Parking Lots | NPS | Replace 1-mile seawall and repair all parking lots and shoreline structures. Project includes work that was accomplished in 2013 and 2014 on ancillary components. The seawall assessment is complete and repair of Sandy damage is in design. The seawall has a large amount of non-hurricane damage that will not be covered by Sandy funding. The Sandy work will result in a stable seawall for the next 5 years. The remaining Riis parking area repairs are in pre-design. Project location is at Gateway National Recreation Area. |
| Jamaica Bay | Fort Tilden Shore Access and Resiliency Project | NPS | Project will rebuild the damaged sections of Shore Road near Fort Tilden inside Gateway National Recreation Area in Jamaica Bay and Breezy Point. The EA identified the preferred alternative is Alternative D, which includes: (1) undamaged section of Shore Rd to remain, (2) pathway constructed along damaged and deconstructed roadway, (3) sand-trapping fences installed to facilitate dune accretion, (4) dunes planted with native vegetation, (5) existing bulkhead removed to -3 feet below existing ground line, (6) wooden groins removed completely, (7) demolition of buildings 15, 16, 17 and 18, and (8) Battery Kessler access secured and allowed to naturally decay. Funding will be combination of NPS Sandy Recovery funds and FHWA ERFO funds. |
| Jamaica Bay | Breezy Point Risk Mitigation System | NYCSBS | The proposed work concerns the protection of Breezy Point and Roxbury Beach from flooding. Both communities are located along a narrow peninsula, home to a residential community with a summer residency of 12,000 and year-round residency of 4,300. Rockaway Point Blvd., the main ingress and egress, was flooded during Sandy, preventing firefighters from combating a fire which consumed over 115 homes. Project proposes combined flood protection including double dunes, permanent PVC sheet pile walls, and additional deployable or permanent walls. Proposed designs are conceptual. FEMA’s HMGP grant is phased, with FEMA phase 1 funding of \$2.9 million (federal share) and \$3,866,667 in total costs authorized, for analysis of cost effectiveness, technical feasibility, engineering and design, and Hydrologic and Hydraulics; as well as permits, NEPA and administrative cost recovery. NYC has submitted request to HUD to allocate \$14.5 million in CDBG-DR funds as local match (25%). Construction funds are contingent on EA/FONSI and other deliverables that will be done as part of phase 1. If the phase 1 criteria are met and project passes review, it would be approved for phase 2, |

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| | | | with FEMA then to consider remaining funds in an amount not to exceed 54,277,647. |
| Harlem River, East River, Western Long Island Sound | Shoelace Park Restoration | NYCDPR and NYCDEP | NYC Parks' ongoing efforts within Shoelace Park to conduct invasive species removal and native plantings and NYCDEP's CSO Abatement Program to improve water quality. The HRE Bronx River- Shoelace Park site recommended in this FR/EA will complement and has considered these efforts in the future without project conditions (FWOP). |
| Harlem River, East River, Western Long Island Sound | Garth Woods, Bronx River Restoration | Westchester County Department of Planning | Restoration of Garth Woods site that will realign the Bronx River channel to improve hydrology; remove invasive plant species and native planting. The HRE Bronx River - Harney Road/Garth Woods site recommended in this FR/EA will be coordinated and complement the County's efforts and was considered in the FWOP). |
| Harlem River, East River, Western Long Island Sound | Flushing Creek Environmental Dredging | NYCDEP | NYCDEP plans to dredge Flushing Creek and Bay to remove the top 3-ft of sediment and place clean cap material in order to improve benthic habitat, hydrology and odor control. The HRE - Flushing Creek restoration project recommended in this FR/EA will be closely coordinated and timed with NYCDEP environmental dredging of adjacent creek. |
| Harlem River, East River, Western Long Island Sound | Flushing Creek Long Term Control Plan | NYCDEP | NYCDEP is implementing green infrastructure plans to help mitigate stormwater from entering the sewer system by installing hundreds of streetside bioswales to manage stormwater on the streets and sidewalks. By 2030, DEP intends to manage 8% of Flushing Creek's watershed and 13% of Flushing Bay's watershed impervious cover with green infrastructure. This program is important for the sustainability of the restoration project at Flushing Creek. |
| Harlem River, East River, Western Long Island Sound | Roberto Clemente State Park Shoreline and Park Improvements | NYState | Improvements to approximately 16 acres of 25-acre Roberto Clemente State Park, including replacement of existing sheet pile bulkhead, reconstruction of adjacent esplanade, creation of tidal/intertidal natural habitat for plants and storm water absorption, and upland improvements. FEMA PA grant of \$1.5 million for repair to concrete bulkhead. NYS issued FONSI July 21, 2014 as HUD responsible entity, which was used by FEMA EHP to support its environmental determination. |
| Harlem River, East River, Western Long Island Sound | Bronx River Shoreline at Starlight Park | NFWF | One of DOI's Sandy Coastal Resiliency grants administered by NFWF. The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation will carry out shoreline restoration efforts on the Bronx River, New York City's only freshwater river, to improve the river's recovery and increase community resiliency. Since the late 1990's, there has been a collaborative community and government effort to transform the Bronx River from an abandoned dumping ground into an ecological, economic, recreational, and educational resource. The restoration |



| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|--|--|---------------------|--|
| | | | <p>area is located in the South Bronx between Westchester Avenue and 172nd Street in the tidal estuary of the river. The project will revitalize floodplain functions for 1.7 acres, re-naturalize 740 feet of armored shoreline, and restore native saltmarsh grasses on half an acre of new wetland habitat. Further, 11 acres of parkland will be enhanced using stormwater best management practices and have reduced toxic substance exposure through the removal of contaminated fill. NFWF is administering a grant totaling \$4,400,000, which includes \$4,350,000 in DOI funds, and \$50,000 in private foundation funds. Design was completed in April 2016. Bid packages for site remediation, wetlands creation, and Bronx River shoreline re-naturalization were due in April 2016. Comments from NYSDEC and USACE on 1st permit submission are being addressed.</p> |
| <p>Harlem River, East River, Western Long Island Sound</p> | <p>Hunts Point Resiliency</p> | <p>NYCEDC</p> | <p>One of the winning proposals from HUD's Rebuild by Design competition. The current scope of the project includes the continued study, analysis, planning, and stakeholder engagement related to the proposal and the design and construction of a resulting pilot project at Hunts Point in the Bronx. Total HUD CDBG-DR funds for the project is \$51 million, with \$20 million from the Rebuild by Design allocation.</p> |
| <p>Newark Bay, Passaic River, Hackensack River</p> | <p>Diamond Alkali Superfund Site- Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study</p> | <p>USEPA</p> | <p>RI/FS for lower 17-mile study area (including tributaries) from Dundee Dam to Newark Bay- Operable Unit 2 [Coordinated Restoration Program since 2003] and Newark Bay RI/FS (Operable Unit 3). Restoration of Oak Island Yard would be implemented after remediation and additional restoration opportunities in Newark Bay and Lower Passaic would be coordinated and sequenced with the superfund program.</p> |
| <p>Newark Bay, Passaic River, Hackensack River</p> | <p>RBD Meadowlands Flood Protection Project</p> | <p>NJDEP</p> | <p>One of the winning proposals from HUD's Rebuild by Design competition. Funds will support the first phase of a flood protection project in the northern New Jersey meadowlands, within the Boroughs of Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, and Teterboro, and the Township of South Hackensack. Such measures will be designed to address the impacts of coastal and riverine (fluvial) flooding on the quality of the human environment in the Project Area due to both sea level rise and storm hazards, including heavy rainfall events and intense coastal storm events. The approximate Project Area boundaries are: Hackensack River to the east; Paterson Plank Road and the southern boundary of Carlstadt to the south; State Route 17 to the west; and Interstate 80 and the northern boundary of the Borough of Little Ferry to the north.</p> |
| <p>Newark Bay, Passaic River,</p> | <p>Joseph G. Minish Passaic River Waterfront Park</p> | <p>USACE, NJDEP</p> | <p>Construction of 1 mile of bulkhead (steel sheet piles with concrete cap) at Minish Passaic River Waterfront Park, Newark. Construction scheduled to start in February 2020. Phase I of the project includes 6,000 linear feet of</p> |

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|---|---|----------|---|
| Hackensack River | | | bulkhead construction and 3,200 linear feet of riverbank grading and native plantings. Two bulkhead construction reaches have been completed north of Penn Station and construction is ongoing new to Jackson Street Bridge. Partners are working towards a project agreement for Phase II/III design and construction of a waterfront walkway and park. |
| Newark Bay, Passaic River, Hackensack River | Newark Bay Wetlands Restoration Project | NFWF | One of DOI's Sandy Coastal Resiliency grants administered by NFWF. The City of Newark, NJ will carry out restoration efforts on a 12 acre are located along the Newark Bay, a tidal bay located at the confluence of the Passaic and Hackensack Rivers, to improve wetland resiliency functions and habitat for threatened and endangered species. Due to its proximity to Newark Bay and regular tidal inundation, the restoration site provides an excellent opportunity for wetland restoration, enhancement, and preservation. Much of this site contains degraded wetlands that are being affected by invasive species or severe shoreline erosion along the Newark Bay. If left in its current state, the site will continue to erode thereby exposing itself to the effects of sea level rise and increasingly powerful Atlantic storms. Yellow and black-crowned night herons have been seen and documented within the parcel area. Unfortunately, the invasive species Phragmites australis occupies four acres of the site and continues to encroach upon many areas that would otherwise support native vegetation. Benefits from this restoration project includes the creation of desirable habitat, improvements to flood control, reduction in erosion into Newark Bay, and skilled workers who can become natural resource stewards. In October 2015, Newark's Department of Economic and Housing Development issued an RFP for "engineering design, permitting and construction oversight services for the stablization and restoration of a 12.1 acre tidal wetland located in the City of Newark on Newark Bay." HRE-Oak Island Yard adjacent site that will result in habitat connectivity and increased benefits. |
| Upper Bay | Red Hook Integrated Flood Protection System | NYCORR | This project in Red Hook, Brooklyn proposes a combination of permanent and long-term components (e.g., multi-purpose berms, deployable flood walls, street elevations, and landscape and drainage improvements). FEMA 404 HMGP advance assistance funds obligated. FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program-Advanced Assistance (HMGP-AA) program study. For subsequent project phases, the City and the State have committed \$50 million in HUD CDBG-DR funds and \$50 million in HMGP funds for a total of \$100 million in funding to be used for environmental review, permitting, design, engineering and construction. |



| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|-----------------|---|-------------------|---|
| Upper Bay | Liberty State Park Restoration (HRE Project Authorized - WRDA 2007) | NJDEP (USACE IIS) | NJDEP- Office of Natural Resource Restoration has contracted with the USACE to design and construct restoration at Liberty State Park. The project will restore 234 acres including ~ 44 acres of tidal marsh, 25.6 acres of fresh water wetland features, 50 acres of grasslands, enhancement of 100 acres of urban forest. In addition, the plan includes public amenities such as restrooms, pedestrian walkways and bridges and parking lots. |
| Lower Bay | Oyster Restoration Project | NY/NJ Baykeeper | Oyster restoration at Naval Weapons Station Earle with testing a variety of oyster techniques (e.g., spat on shell, oyster castles, gabions). The HRE - Oyster restoration at Naval Weapons Station Earle will expand NY/NJ Baykeeper's reef project. |
| Lower Bay | Strengthening Coney Island's Resiliency Through Green Streets | NFWF, NYCDPR | DOI's Sandy Coastal Resiliency grants administered by NFWF to NYCDPR to carry out a project to improve resiliency in the Brighton Beach neighborhood on New York City's Coney Island, an area that has long been vulnerable to damage from storm surge and flooding and is expected to experience additional climate change risks from rising sea levels, increased storms, and precipitation. This community also experiences frequent localized flooding due to the area's topography and degraded road conditions. The project will install 11 green streets to mitigate localized flooding, capture and filter 2,583,482 gallons of stormwater runoff per year, and reduce pollutants from entering local waterways. Additional environmental benefits will also be provided including beautification, urban heat island effect mitigation, carbon sequestration, increased biodiversity, and improved air quality. This project will initiate Brighton Beach's transformation of the right-of-way to develop productive green space. Further, Brighton Beach will also serve as a model as New York City expands its green streets program to Coney Island and other communities in the Jamaica Bay Watershed. As of April 2016, the contract award is scheduled for Q3 2016, and construction is scheduled for Q4 of 2016. Funding includes a DOI grant of \$990,000 and matching funds from NYC DPR of \$333,333. Construction began September 2019 and is 5% complete as of January 27, 2020. |
| Lower Bay | Coney Island Creek | NYCEDC | This study would investigate hydrological management strategies that would prevent and mitigate upland flooding, improve waterfront open space, strengthen neighborhood connections, enhance infrastructure, and provide opportunity for economic development around the Creek. |
| Lower Bay | Monmouth Beach Marshes and Dunes | NFWF | One of DOI's Sandy Coastal Resiliency grants administered by NFWF. The borough of Monmouth Beach, NJ will restore and enhance two coastal landscapes that serve as natural barriers to the impacts of storms that were destroyed or severely weakened by Hurricane Sandy. The borough has a |

**Hudson-Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study
Final Integrated Feasibility Report & Environmental Assessment**

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------|---|
| | | | <p>population of 3,200 and occupies two square miles, of which one square mile is upland. The borough lies between two bodies of water with Atlantic Ocean to the east side and Shrewsbury River to the west side. Given the proximity to both bodies of water, the borough was severely impacted by Hurricane Sandy which inflicted over \$6 million of infrastructure damage to sewer systems, town buildings, a school, and waterfront structures. Additionally, streets were flooded with up to six feet of water and one third of citizens' homes were damaged or destroyed. A 5,000-foot coastal dune system along the Atlantic Ocean will be restored to help absorb and dissipate the ocean's wave energy during storms. The dune will be restored with local wildlife officials' input to provide optimum nesting habitat for endangered species including piping plovers, least terns, and black skimmers. Several marsh islands in the Shrewsbury River will also be restored and provide over 17 acres of habitat for wading and roosting birds, while reducing wave impacts to homes and infrastructure. The project is supported by \$1,317,250 in DOI funds, \$1,750,000 in in-kind services/materials from USACE, and \$462,750 in NFWF private foundation funds.</p> |
| Lower Bay | Great Kills Harbor Breakwater Study | NYC NYS | <p>NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program and the New York City Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency and Department of City Planning have released a study evaluating the use of offshore breakwaters to mitigate wave action and erosion at Great Kills Harbor, on the eastern shore of Staten Island. The study was funded through a partnership with the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission. The report was completed last year.</p> |



4. Completed Restoration Efforts (B-3)

The completed restoration and resilience projects conducted by the USACE and regional partners are highlighted in the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Progress Report. Included is the 2009-2014 report, the 2014-2016 update, and the 2017-2019 update.

Appendix B-2: Ongoing Ecosystem and Coastal Restoration (excludes beach nourishment) within HRE Planning Regions with Recommended Plan Sites

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|-----------------|---|---------------------------|---|
| Multiple | NY & NJ Harbor & Tributaries Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) Study | USACE, NYSDEC, NJDEP, NYC | <p>The NY-NJ Harbor & Tributaries is one of 9 focus areas identified in the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study report (USACE, 2015). The purpose of this study is to investigate comprehensive approaches to improve community resilience and to manage risk of damages from future coastal storms and impacts of sea level rise (SLR). The project will identify and explore areas of coastal storm risk and develop the most feasible comprehensive combination of structural, non-structural, and/or natural and nature-based measures into alternatives that best manage risks from current and projected future coastal flooding in both the short and long term. Interim Feasibility Report was released on February 19, 2019 and a Draft Feasibility Study and Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement are expected to be released in Spring 2020.</p> |
| Multiple | Combined Sewer Overflow Abatement Program | NYCDEP and NYSDEC | <p>In 2012, the NYSDEC and NYCDEP signed an agreement to reduce combined sewer overflows and improve water quality through the collection and treatment of sewerage prior to release into the HRE. Under this agreement, several long-term control plans for specific waterbodies and one for NYC were drafted to identify appropriate combined sewer overflow controls necessary to improve water quality. Overflow abatement measures include conducting environmental dredging of several tributaries within the City of New York to remove combined sewer overflow mounds that contribute to nuisance odors and dissolved oxygen deficits within affected waterbodies. These waterbodies include Paerdegat Basin, Flushing Bay, Flushing Creek, Gowanus Canal, Bergen Basin, Fresh Creek, Newtown Creek, and Thurston Basin.</p> |

Appendix B-2: Ongoing Ecosystem and Coastal Restoration (excludes beach nourishment) within HRE Planning Regions with Recommended Plan Sites

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|-----------------|--|------------------|---|
| Multiple | NYC Raised Shorelines | NYC | The NYC plans to raise bulkheads and build other shoreline structures in low-lying neighborhoods throughout the City, including a number of low- and moderate-income communities impacted by Hurricane Sandy, to minimize inland tidal flooding, which would worsen neighborhoods in the floodplain, threatening their economic viability and residential stability. The component planned for the Totenville area of Staten Island will continue to be coordinated with Living Breakwaters (DB#5) and Totenville Dunes (DB#597). Construction began August 1, 2017 and is expected to be completed by December 21, 2022. |
| Multiple | Billion Oyster Project | NY Harbor School | NY Harbor School with goal to bring back one billion oysters - self sustaining oyster reefs to New York Harbor. HRE - Small Scale Oyster Restoration recommended advance the BOP program with NY Harbor School who will be construction sponsor. |
| Lower Bay | South Shore of Staten Island Coastal Storm Risk Management | USACE, NYSDEC | The project is divided into two phases of study. Phase 1 (Ft. Wadsworth to Oakiwood Beach) analyzed solutions and recommended levees, floodwalls and non-structural measures to reduce hurricane and storm damage: Final Feasibility Report/EIS and ROD completed in December 2016. The Desing Phase for preparations of plans ans specifications began in ealry 2017 and construction is estimated to begin late 2020. It was determined that there was no Federal interest for Phase 2 (Great Kills to Tottenville) however the State and City of New York are continuing to plan other projects for this area such as Living Breakwaters and Tottenville Shoreline Protection Project. |

Appendix B-2: Ongoing Ecosystem and Coastal Restoration (excludes beach nourishment) within HRE Planning Regions with Recommended Plan Sites

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|-----------------|------------------|---|--|
| Multiple | Public Greenways | NYC, NYCDPR, NYCDOT, Byron and Bronx River Alliance, NYCEDC | <p>Waterfront Greenway initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MillionTrees NYC, a PlaNYC initiative, is a public-private program. In 2015, two (2) years ahead of schedule, MillionTrees NYC achieved the program goal of planting 1,000,000 trees in New York City. • The Manhattan Waterfront Greenway is a 32-mile multiuse trail that circumnavigates Manhattan Island, and includes over 23 miles of waterfront pathways and facilitates access to over 1,500 acres of parkland throughout the borough. The greenway builds on recent efforts to transform a long-neglected waterfront into a green attraction for recreational and commuting use. • Construction on the South Bronx Greenway and the Bronx River Greenway is underway encompassing 1.5 miles of waterfront greenway, 8.5 miles of inland green streets, and nearly 12 acres of new waterfront open space throughout the Hunts Point and Port Morris neighborhoods in the Bronx. The Bronx River Greenway extends for 23 miles along the Bronx River, from Westchester County to Soundview Park in the South Bronx. Approximately 19 miles of the greenway are currently in place with completion anticipated within the next decade. • The Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway is a 26-mile route linking neighborhood parks and open spaces from Greenpoint to Lindenwood/Howard Beach. To date 18 miles have been completed with eight (8) miles remaining. https://www.brooklyngreenway.org/ portions of the Brooklyn waterfront Greenway and the Jamaica Bay greenway overlap • The Jamaica Bay Greenway will be a 28-mile network of bicycle and pedestrian paths connecting more than 10,000 acres of parks and beaches. More than 10 miles are in place. |

Appendix B-2: Ongoing Ecosystem and Coastal Restoration (excludes beach nourishment) within HRE Planning Regions with Recommended Plan Sites

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|-----------------|---|--|--|
| Multiple | Ecological Solutions to Coastal Community Hazards | NFWF, NJDEP, Sustainable Jersey, NJ Sea Grant Consortium | NJDEP will convene an experienced team of public and private stakeholders to address the need for community resiliency strategies and preventive actions for NJ's many ecologically significant coastal areas that are threatened by dense coastal development and climate change impacts. Hurricane Sandy emphasized the need for community resiliency strategies and preventative actions to minimize future impacts. Ecosystem-based infrastructure approaches can provide a cost effective solution that will protect critical habitat and people. However, there is no systematic approach for developing or providing green infrastructure nor is there a current system that can determine which communities would make good candidates for green infrastructure. The NJDEP will work with partners to systemically identify ecological resiliency strategies and develop them into successful, ready to use local actions. Twenty municipalities will receive green infrastructure viability assessments through this project. Nine pilot communities will then complete specific resiliency projects with project team assistance and be used as green infrastructure success models. |
| Lower Bay | Tottenville Shoreline Protection System | NYS GOSR, NYC | NYS GOSR project through NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program. The proposed project would construct resilient dune structures and plantings along a portion of the South Shore of Staten Island, which was expanded through regional coordination efforts. This on-shore project will be analyzed with the off-shore Living Breakwaters project (DB#5) in a single DEIS. Both projects are being coordinated with the area component of the NYC Raised Shorelines project (DB#695). The final designs were expected to be completed end of 2019 and construction is expected to begin end of 2020. |

Appendix B-2: Ongoing Ecosystem and Coastal Restoration (excludes beach nourishment) within HRE Planning Regions with Recommended Plan Sites

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|-----------------|---|---------------|---|
| Jamaica Bay | Spring Creek North | USACE, NYCDPR | Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) Section 1135 Ecosystem Restoration of 7.6 acres of low marsh, 5.4 acres of high marsh, 22.1 acres of maritime upland for total of 35.1 acres of habitat. Project Partnership Agreement executed in August 2018 to initiate design and implementation phase. |
| Jamaica Bay | Jamaica Bay Oyster Population Restoration | NFWF, NYCDEP | DOI's Sandy Coastal Resiliency grants administered by NFWF to NYCDEP to restore oyster beds across half an acre in the northeastern end of Jamaica Bay at the Head of Bay. Models from previous studies showed that the location site has ideal conditions that will promote oyster growth, recruitment, and larvae retention potential. The HRE small scale oyster restoration recommended in the FR/EA expands this oyster restoration project. |
| Jamaica Bay | Sunset Cove's Salt Marsh and Upland Habitat | NFWF, NYCDPR | DOI's Sandy Coastal Resiliency grants administered by NFWF to NYC Department of Parks and Recreation to restore 4.5 acres of salt marsh and 7 acres of upland habitat on Sunset Cove, a 12.57 acre parcel located on a former abandoned and derelict marina in Broad Channel, Queens. Nearly the entire island of Broad Channel was flooded during Hurricane Sandy with inundation ranging from 3-10 feet. The restored salt marsh will connect to adjacent wetland complexes within Jamaica Bay. The existing hardened shoreline will be rehabilitated and enhanced to improve water quality and provide oyster and shellfish habitat. Phase 1 of this project was completed in June 2019. |

Appendix B-2: Ongoing Ecosystem and Coastal Restoration (excludes beach nourishment) within HRE Planning Regions with Recommended Plan Sites

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|-----------------|--|--------------------|---|
| Jamaica Bay | Atlantic Coast of NY, East Rockaway to Rockaway Inlet, & Jamaica Bay Reformulation Study | USACE, NYSDEC, NYC | In August 2019, the Chief’s Report for the Atlantic Coast of New York East Rockaway Inlet to Rockaway Inlet and Jamaica Bay Hurricane Sandy Reformulation Study was signed by Lt. Gen. Todd T. Semonite, USACE Commanding General and has been transmitted to the Assistant Secretary for the Army for Civil Works for review and final approval. The preferred alternative includes a hurricane barrier from Coney Island to Breezy Point and interim risk offset measures within the Bay. Construction start of the first phase is targeted for 2020-21, but will depend on the length of reviews and approvals, and the relative complexity of design. Documents are available at: http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Projects-in-New-York/East-Rockaway-Inlet-to-Rockaway-Inlet-Rockaway-Be/ . Jamaica Bay shoreline sites recommended in this HRE FR/EA could serve as NNBFs and complement solutions from the reformulation effort. |
| Jamaica Bay | Fresh Creek Coastal Protection | NYS GOSR | This NY Rising project would fund flood protection measures to capture storm surge and rising waters at the most vulnerable areas along Fresh Creek in Canarsie, Brooklyn. The target area is along Fresh Creek and E. 108th Street between Avenue J and N. Fresh Creek Restoration recommendation would complement this project. |
| Jamaica Bay | Bay Park Waste Water Treatment Plant Nitrogen Removal System | NY State | NYS has pledged to develop and construct a nitrogen removal system at Bay Park. (See DB#57 and DB#334 for other components.) |

Appendix B-2: Ongoing Ecosystem and Coastal Restoration (excludes beach nourishment) within HRE Planning Regions with Recommended Plan Sites

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|-----------------|--|----------|---|
| Jamaica Bay | Jamaica Bay Rockaway Inlet Federal Navigation Channel - Operation & Maintenance Dredging | USACE | The existing project provides for an entrance channel 20 ft deep at mean low water, 1,000 ft wide, about 1.7 mi long and connecting two interior channels with deep water in the Atlantic Ocean, of suitable hydraulic dimensions to maintain the present tidal prism in the bay. The channel extends from Rockaway Inlet into Jamaica Bay. Dredge material can be beneficially used at Jamaica Bay marsh islands or along the Rockaway Peninsula. |
| Jamaica Bay | South Valley Stream Shoreline Restoration | NYS GOSR | Restore the natural shoreline in South Valley Stream along “The Path” by constructing a living shoreline to buffer tidal flow, planting trees and other vegetation, repairing outfalls, and installing green infrastructure measures with educational signage to capture stormwater runoff. |
| Jamaica Bay | Riis Park Shoreline and Parking Lots | NPS | Replace 1-mile seawall and repair all parking lots and shoreline structures. Project includes work that was accomplished in 2013 and 2014 on ancillary components. The seawall assessment is complete and repair of Sandy damage is in design. The seawall has a large amount of non-hurricane damage that will not be covered by Sandy funding. The Sandy work will result in a stable seawall for the next 5 years. The remaining Riis parking area repairs are in pre-design. Project location is at Gateway National Recreation Area. |

Appendix B-2: Ongoing Ecosystem and Coastal Restoration (excludes beach nourishment) within HRE Planning Regions with Recommended Plan Sites

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|-----------------|---|----------|---|
| Jamaica Bay | Fort Tilden Shore Access and Resiliency Project | NPS | <p>Project will rebuild the damaged sections of Shore Road near Fort Tilden inside Gateway National Recreation Area in Jamaica Bay and Breezy Point. The EA identified the preferred alternative is Alternative D, which includes: (1) undamaged section of Shore Rd to remain, (2) pathway constructed along damaged and deconstructed roadway, (3) sand-trapping fences installed to facilitate dune accretion, (4) dunes planted with native vegetation, (5) existing bulkhead removed to -3 feet below existing ground line, (6) wooden groins removed completely, (7) demolition of buildings 15, 16, 17 and 18, and (8) Battery Kessler access secured and allowed to naturally decay. Funding will be combination of NPS Sandy Recovery funds and FHWA ERFO funds.</p> |

Appendix B-2: Ongoing Ecosystem and Coastal Restoration (excludes beach nourishment) within HRE Planning Regions with Recommended Plan Sites

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Jamaica Bay | Breezy Point Risk Mitigation System | NYCSBS | <p>The proposed work concerns the protection of Breezy Point and Roxbury Beach from flooding. Both communities are located along a narrow peninsula, home to a residential community with a summer residency of 12,000 and year-round residency of 4,300. Rockaway Point Blvd., the main ingress and egress, was flooded during Sandy, preventing firefighters from combating a fire which consumed over 115 homes. Project proposes combined flood protection including double dunes, permanent PVC sheet pile walls, and additional deployable or permanent walls. Proposed designs are conceptual. FEMA's HMGP grant is phased, with FEMA phase 1 funding of \$2.9 million (federal share) and \$3,866,667 in total costs authorized, for analysis of cost effectiveness, technical feasibility, engineering and design, and Hydrologic and Hydraulics; as well as permits, NEPA and administrative cost recovery. NYC has submitted request to HUD to allocate \$14.5 million in CDBG-DR funds as local match (25%). Construction funds are contingent on EA/FONSI and other deliverables that will be done as part of phase 1. If the phase 1 criteria are met and project passes review, it would be approved for phase 2, with FEMA then to consider remaining funds in an amount not to exceed 54,277,647.</p> |
| Harlem River, East River, Western Long Island Sound | Shoelace Park Restoration | NYCDPR and NYCDEP | <p>NYC Parks' ongoing efforts within Shoelace Park to conduct invasive species removal and native plantings and NYCDEP's CSO Abatement Program to improve water quality. The HRE Bronx River- Shoelace Park site recommended in this FR/EA will complement and has considered these efforts in the future without project conditions (FWOP).</p> |

Appendix B-2: Ongoing Ecosystem and Coastal Restoration (excludes beach nourishment) within HRE Planning Regions with Recommended Plan Sites

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Harlem River, East River, Western Long Island Sound | Garth Woods, Bronx River Restoration | Westchester County Department of Planning | Restoration of Garth Woods site that will realign the Bronx River channel to improve hydrology; remove invasive plant species and native planting. The HRE Bronx River - Harney Road/Garth Woods site recommended in this FR/EA will be coordinated and complement the County's efforts and was considered in the FWOP). |
| Harlem River, East River, Western Long Island Sound | Flushing Creek Environmental Dredging | NYCDEP | NYCDEP plans to dredge Flushing Creek and Bay to remove the top 3-ft of sediment and place clean cap material in order to improve benthic habitat, hydrology and odor control. The HRE - Flushing Creek restoration project recommended in this FR/EA will be closely coordinated and timed with NYCDEP environmental dredging of adjacent creek. |
| Harlem River, East River, Western Long Island Sound | Flushing Creek Long Term Control Plan | NYCDEP | NYCDEP is implementing green infrastructure plans to help mitigate stormwater from entering the sewer system by installing hundreds of streetside bioswales to manage stormwater on the streets and sidewalks. By 2030, DEP intends to manage 8% of Flushing Creek's watershed and 13% of Flushing Bay's watershed impervious cover with green infrastructure. This program is important for the sustainability of the restoration project at Flushing Creek. |

Appendix B-2: Ongoing Ecosystem and Coastal Restoration (excludes beach nourishment) within HRE Planning Regions with Recommended Plan Sites

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|---|---|----------|---|
| Harlem River, East River, Western Long Island Sound | Roberto Clemente State Park Shoreline and Park Improvements | NYState | Improvements to approximately 16 acres of 25-acre Roberto Clemente State Park, including replacement of existing sheet pile bulkhead, reconstruction of adjacent esplanade, creation of tidal/intertidal natural habitat for plants and storm water absorption, and upland improvements. FEMA PA grant of \$1.5 million for repair to concrete bulkhead. NYS issued FONSI July 21, 2014 as HUD responsible entity, which was used by FEMA EHP to support its environmental determination. |

Appendix B-2: Ongoing Ecosystem and Coastal Restoration (excludes beach nourishment) within HRE Planning Regions with Recommended Plan Sites

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|---|---|----------|---|
| Harlem River, East River, Western Long Island Sound | Bronx River Shoreline at Starlight Park | NFWF | <p>One of DOI's Sandy Coastal Resiliency grants administered by NFWF. The New York City Department of Parks and Recreation will carry out shoreline restoration efforts on the Bronx River, New York City's only freshwater river, to improve the river's recovery and increase community resiliency. Since the late 1990's, there has been a collaborative community and government effort to transform the Bronx River from an abandoned dumping ground into an ecological, economic, recreational, and educational resource. The restoration area is located in the South Bronx between Westchester Avenue and 172nd Street in the tidal estuary of the river. The project will revitalize floodplain functions for 1.7 acres, re-naturalize 740 feet of armored shoreline, and restore native saltmarsh grasses on half an acre of new wetland habitat. Further, 11 acres of parkland will be enhanced using stormwater best management practices and have reduced toxic substance exposure through the removal of contaminated fill. NFWF is administering a grant totaling \$4,400,000, which includes \$4,350,000 in DOI funds, and \$50,000 in private foundation funds. Design was completed in April 2016. Bid packages for site remediation, wetlands creation, and Bronx River shoreline re-naturalization were due in April 2016. Comments from NYSDEC and USACE on 1st permit submission are being addressed.</p> |

Appendix B-2: Ongoing Ecosystem and Coastal Restoration (excludes beach nourishment) within HRE Planning Regions with Recommended Plan Sites

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|---|--|----------|--|
| Harlem River, East River, Western Long Island Sound | Hunts Point Resiliency | NYCEDC | One of the winning proposals from HUD's Rebuild by Design competition. The current scope of the project includes the continued study, analysis, planning, and stakeholder engagement related to the proposal and the design and construction of a resulting pilot project at Hunts Point in the Bronx. Total HUD CDBG-DR funds for the project is \$51 million, with \$20 million from the Rebuild by Design allocation. |
| Newark Bay, Passaic River, Hackensack River | Diamond Alkali Superfund Site-Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study | USEPA | RI/FS for lower 17-mile study area (including tributaries) from Dundee Dam to Newark Bay- Operable Unit 2 [Coordinated Restoration Program since 2003] and Newark Bay RI/FS (Operable Unit 3). Restoration of Oak Island Yard would be implemented after remediation and additional restoration opportunities in Newark Bay and Lower Passaic would be coordinated and sequenced with the superfund program. |

Appendix B-2: Ongoing Ecosystem and Coastal Restoration (excludes beach nourishment) within HRE Planning Regions with Recommended Plan Sites

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|---|--|--------------|---|
| Newark Bay, Passaic River, Hackensack River | RBD Meadowlands Flood Protection Project | NJDEP | One of the winning proposals from HUD's Rebuild by Design competition. Funds will support the first phase of a flood protection project in the northern New Jersey meadowlands, within the Boroughs of Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, and Teterboro, and the Township of South Hackensack. Such measures will be designed to address the impacts of coastal and riverine (fluvial) flooding on the quality of the human environment in the Project Area due to both sea level rise and storm hazards, including heavy rainfall events and intense coastal storm events. The approximate Project Area boundaries are: Hackensack River to the east; Paterson Plank Road and the southern boundary of Carlstadt to the south; State Route 17 to the west; and Interstate 80 and the northern boundary of the Borough of Little Ferry to the north. |
| Newark Bay, Passaic River, Hackensack River | Joseph G. Minish Passaic River Waterfront Park | USACE, NJDEP | Construction of 1 mile of bulkhead (steel sheet piles with concrete cap) at Minish Passaic River Waterfront Park, Newark. Construction scheduled to start in February 2020. Phase I of the project includes 6,000 linear feet of bulkhead construction and 3,200 linear feet of riverbank grading and native plantings. Two bulkhead construction reaches have been completed north of Penn Station and construction is ongoing new to Jackson Street Bridge. Partners are working towards a project agreement for Phase II/III design and construction of a waterfront walkway and park. |

Appendix B-2: Ongoing Ecosystem and Coastal Restoration (excludes beach nourishment) within HRE Planning Regions with Recommended Plan Sites

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|---|---|----------|--|
| Newark Bay, Passaic River, Hackensack River | Newark Bay Wetlands Restoration Project | NFWF | <p>One of DOI's Sandy Coastal Resiliency grants administered by NFWF. The City of Newark, NJ will carry out restoration efforts on a 12 acre are located along the Newark Bay, a tidal bay located at the confluence of the Passaic and Hackensack Rivers, to improve wetland resiliency functions and habitat for threatened and endangered species. Due to its proximity to Newark Bay and regular tidal inundation, the restoration site provides an excellent opportunity for wetland restoration, enhancement, and preservation. Much of this site contains degraded wetlands that are being affected by invasive species or severe shoreline erosion along the Newark Bay. If left in its current state, the site will continue to erode thereby exposing itself to the effects of sea level rise and increasingly powerful Atlantic storms. Yellow and black-crowned night herons have been seen and documented within the parcel area. Unfortunately, the invasive species Phragmites australis occupies four acres of the site and continues to encroach upon many areas that would otherwise support native vegetation. Benefits from this restoration project includes the creation of desirable habitat, improvements to flood control, reduction in erosion into Newark Bay, and skilled workers who can become natural resource stewards. In October 2015, Newark's Department of Economic and Housing Development issued an RFP for "engineering design, permitting and construction oversight services for the stablization and restoration of a 12.1 acre tidal wetland located in the City of Newark on Newark Bay." HRE-Oak Island Yard adjacent site that will result in habitat connectivity and increased benefits.</p> |

Appendix B-2: Ongoing Ecosystem and Coastal Restoration (excludes beach nourishment) within HRE Planning Regions with Recommended Plan Sites

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|-----------------|---|-------------------|---|
| Upper Bay | Red Hook Integrated Flood Protection System | NYCORR | This project in Red Hook, Brooklyn proposes a combination of permanent and long-term components (e.g., multi-purpose berms, deployable flood walls, street elevations, and landscape and drainage improvements). FEMA 404 HMGP advance assistance funds obligated. FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program-Advanced Assistance (HMGP-AA) program study. For subsequent project phases, the City and the State have committed \$50 million in HUD CDBG-DR funds and \$50 million in HMGP funds for a total of \$100 million in funding to be used for environmental review, permitting, design, engineering and construction. |
| Upper Bay | Liberty State Park Restoration (HRE Project Authorized - WRDA 2007) | NJDEP (USACE IIS) | NJDEP- Office of Natural Resource Restoration has contracted with the USACE to design and construct restoration at Liberty State Park. The project will restore 234 acres including ~ 44 acres of tidal marsh, 25.6 acres of fresh water wetland features, 50 acres of grasslands, enhancement of 100 acres of urban forest. In addition, the plan includes public amenities such as restrooms, pedestrian walkways and bridges and parking lots. |
| Lower Bay | Oyster Restoration Project | NY/NJ Baykeeper | Oyster restoration at Naval Weapons Station Earle with testing a variety of oyster techniques (e.g., spat on shell, oyster castles, gabions). The HRE - Oyster restoration at Naval Weapons Station Earle will expand NY/NJ Baykeeper's reef project. |

Appendix B-2: Ongoing Ecosystem and Coastal Restoration (excludes beach nourishment) within HRE Planning Regions with Recommended Plan Sites

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|-----------------|---|--------------|---|
| Lower Bay | Strengthening Coney Island's Resiliency Through Green Streets | NFWF, NYCDPR | DOI's Sandy Coastal Resiliency grants administered by NFWF to NYCDPR to carry out a project to improve resiliency in the Brighton Beach neighborhood on New York City's Coney Island, an area that has long been vulnerable to damage from storm surge and flooding and is expected to experience additional climate change risks from rising sea levels, increased storms, and precipitation. This community also experiences frequent localized flooding due to the area's topography and degraded road conditions. The project will install 11 green streets to mitigate localized flooding, capture and filter 2,583,482 gallons of stormwater runoff per year, and reduce pollutants from entering local waterways. Additional environmental benefits will also be provided including beautification, urban heat island effect mitigation, carbon sequestration, increased biodiversity, and improved air quality. This project will initiate Brighton Beach's transformation of the right-of-way to develop productive green space. Further, Brighton Beach will also serve as a model as New York City expands its green streets program to Coney Island and other communities in the Jamaica Bay Watershed. As of April 2016, the contract award is scheduled for Q3 2016, and construction is scheduled for Q4 of 2016. Funding includes a DOI grant of \$990,000 and matching funds from NYC DPR of \$333,333. Construction began September 2019 and is 5% complete as of January 27, 2020. |
| Lower Bay | Coney Island Creek | NYCEDC | This study would investigate hydrological management strategies that would prevent and mitigate upland flooding, improve waterfront open space, strengthen neighborhood connections, enhance infrastructure, and provide opportunity for economic development around the Creek. |

Appendix B-2: Ongoing Ecosystem and Coastal Restoration (excludes beach nourishment) within HRE Planning Regions with Recommended Plan Sites

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|----------|---|
| Lower Bay | Monmouth Beach Marshes and Dunes | NFWF | <p>One of DOI's Sandy Coastal Resiliency grants administered by NFWF. The borough of Monmouth Beach, NJ will restore and enhance two coastal landscapes that serve as natural barriers to the impacts of storms that were destroyed or severely weakened by Hurricane Sandy. The borough has a population of 3,200 and occupies two square miles, of which one square mile is upland. The borough lies between two bodies of water with Atlantic Ocean to the east side and Shrewsbury River to the west side. Given the proximity to both bodies of water, the borough was severely impacted by Hurricane Sandy which inflicted over \$6 million of infrastructure damage to sewer systems, town buildings, a school, and waterfront structures. Additionally, streets were flooded with up to six feet of water and one third of citizens' homes were damaged or destroyed. A 5,000-foot coastal dune system along the Atlantic Ocean will be restored to help absorb and dissipate the ocean's wave energy during storms. The dune will be restored with local wildlife officials' input to provide optimum nesting habitat for endangered species including piping plovers, least terns, and black skimmers. Several marsh islands in the Shrewsbury River will also be restored and provide over 17 acres of habitat for wading and roosting birds, while reducing wave impacts to homes and infrastructure. The project is supported by \$1,317,250 in DOI funds, \$1,750,000 in in-kind services/materials from USACE, and \$462,750 in NFWF private foundation funds.</p> |

Appendix B-2: Ongoing Ecosystem and Coastal Restoration (excludes beach nourishment) within HRE Planning Regions with Recommended Plan Sites

| Planning Region | Project Name | Agencies | Project Summary |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------|---|
| Lower Bay | Great Kills Harbor Breakwater Study | NYC NYS | NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program and the New York City Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency and Department of City Planning have released a study evaluating the use of offshore breakwaters to mitigate wave action and erosion at Great Kills Harbor, on the eastern shore of Staten Island. The study was funded through a partnership with the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission. The report was completed last year. |

Restoring the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary

Ensuring Ecosystem Resilience and Sustainability in a Changing Environment

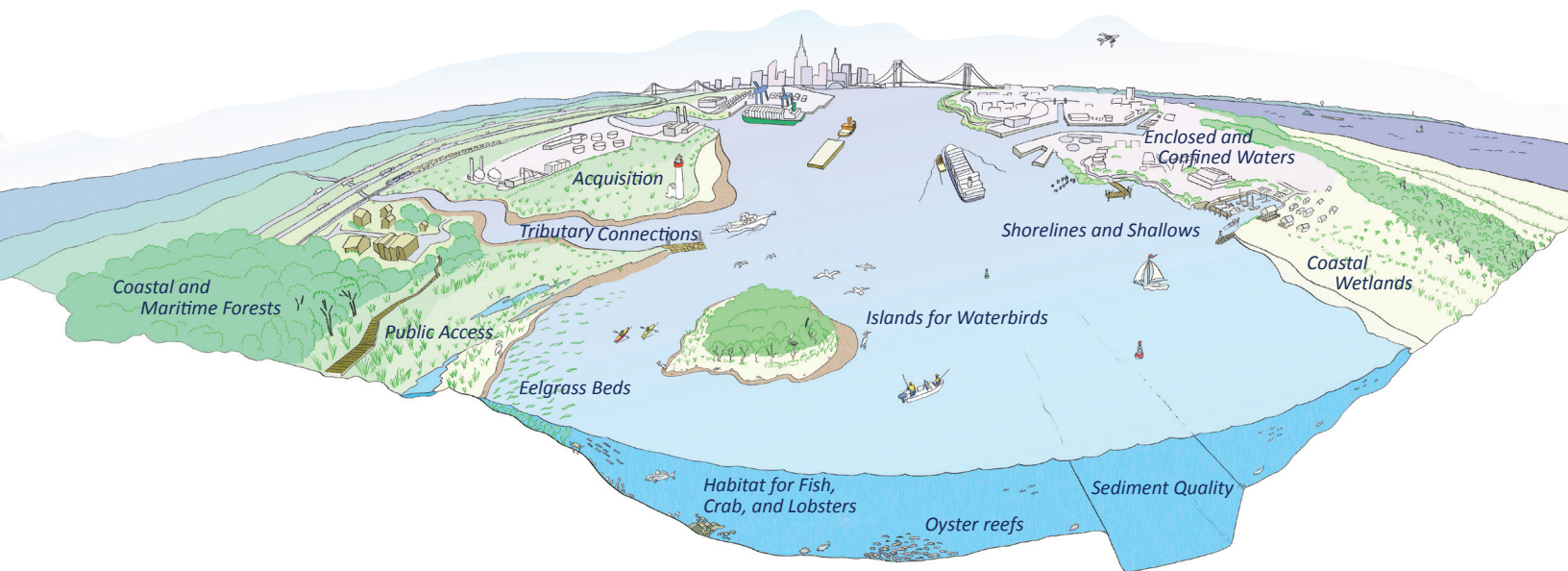


PROGRESS 2009-2014 AND CHARTING THE PATH FORWARD

OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY

Restoration of the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary has advanced considerably since the release of the first draft of the *Hudson-Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan*, published in 2009 by the United States Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey and the New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program. The plan set goals for each of 12 Target Ecosystem Characteristics to be met by 2020 and 2050. Some 2020 goals have already been met or exceeded, including targets for public access, habitat for waterbirds, coastal and maritime forests, and improving tributary connections critical to migratory fish. However, progress toward other goals such as oyster reefs and eelgrass beds, has proved more challenging.

Achieving these and other Comprehensive Restoration Plan goals will require substantial funding and leveraging efforts, above existing amounts. Funding provided for recovery and rebuilding efforts after Superstorm Sandy will provide one near-term possibility. Advancements in our understanding and development of additional data on shorelines and shallow water habitat, sediment management, and the ecological value and efficacy of “nature-based” resiliency features are critical to reaching these goals successfully.



The *Hudson-Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan* set goals for 12 Target Ecosystem Characteristics - www.watersweshare.org



New York - New Jersey
Harbor & Estuary Program
www.harborestuary.org

HUDSON RIVER FOUNDATION
for Science & Environmental Research

Reporting on progress and identifying the ways to address challenges was the agenda for *Restoring the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary*, a symposium held in New York City on June 3, 2014. The Restoration Work Group of the New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program convened a diverse audience of nearly 200 attendees. This report summarizes progress toward meeting 2020 and 2050 goals, remaining challenges to be addressed in the coming years, and actions identified at the workshops and community discussions during the symposium.¹

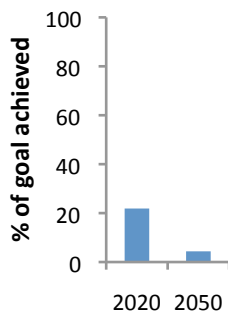


Wetlands

2020 goal: create or restore a total of 1,000 acres of freshwater and coastal wetlands.

2050 goal: continue creating or restoring an average of 125 acres per year for a total system gain of 5,000 acres.

Since 2009: twenty wetlands restoration projects have been implemented, notably multiple large-scale island restoration projects in Jamaica Bay such as Yellow Bar Hassock, and at the recently opened Lincoln Park in New Jersey. Multiple near-term projects are expected in the next few years, including Sunset Cove Park, also in Jamaica Bay.



Since 2009: one potential nesting island and multiple known foraging wetlands were enhanced. As of the last harbor-wide survey, eight islands had nesting populations and nearby foraging habitat.



Carl Alderson

Multiple habitats were restored at Lincoln Park West in Jersey City.

Kate Boicourt



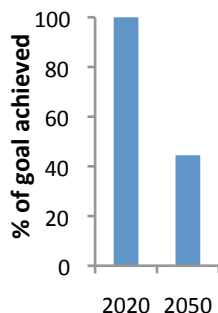
Volunteers plant *Spartina* to help restore wetlands in Jamaica Bay.



Habitat for waterbirds

2020 goal: enhance at least one island without an existing waterbird population in Hudson-Raritan Estuary (HRE) regions containing islands and create or enhance at least one foraging habitat.

2050 goal: all suitable islands provide nesting sites and have nearby roosting and foraging habitat.

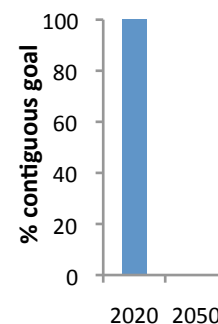
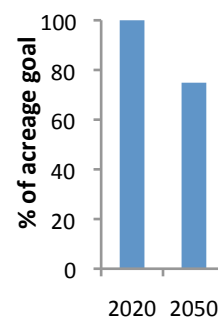


Coastal and maritime forests

2020 goal: establish one new coastal and maritime forest community of at least 50 acres and restore at least 200 acres among several coastal forest/upland habitat types.

2050 goal: 500 acres of coastal and maritime forest community among at least three sites and 500 acres of restored coastal forest/upland habitat.

Since 2009: over 100 percent of the 2020 goal for overall forest acreage was reached, as well as 100 percent of the contiguous forest goal. Innovative strategies, including converting former landfills into habitat (e.g. Brookfield in Staten Island), have helped achieve goals.



¹See Appendix A on www.watersweshare.org for a list of specific projects.

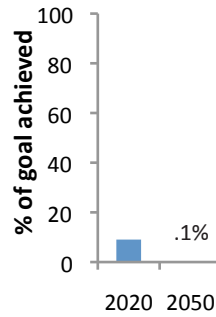


Oyster reefs

2020 goal: 20 acres of self-sustaining, naturally expanding reef habitat across several sites.

2050 goal: 2000 acres of established oyster reef habitat.

Since 2009: nine percent of the 2020 goal was realized, and it will be challenging to attain both 2020 and 2050 goals. Oyster restoration will require additional large-scale research in this region. Efforts continue, particularly in the Bronx River and Raritan Bay, through oyster gardening programs, and a recently funded project in Jamaica Bay.



Peter Malinowski

A student holds an oyster he helped to grow on Governors Island.

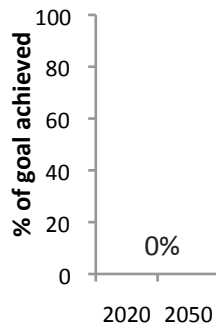


Eelgrass beds

2020 goal: create one bed in at least three regions

2050 goal: three established beds in each suitable HRE region.

Since 2009: eight test beds were created in two planning regions, but none have survived more than two years. Challenges include understanding and addressing water quality and sediment movement. Additional research into restoration techniques and opportunities is required.

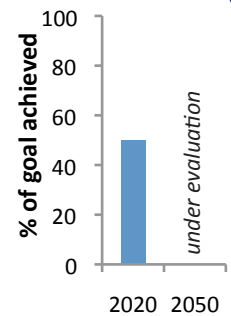


Shorelines and shallows

2020 goal: develop new shorelines and shallows sites in two HRE regions.

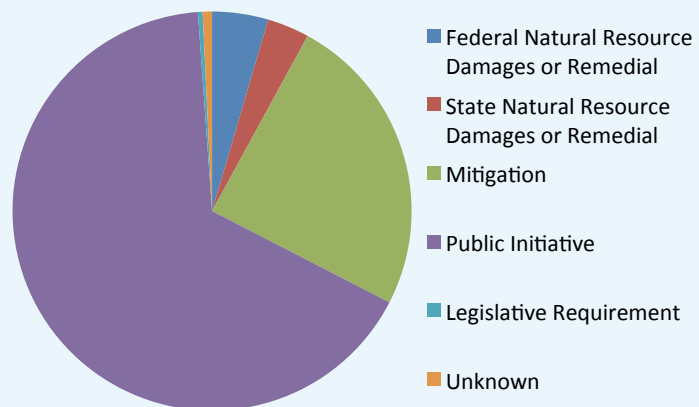
2050 goal: restore all available shoreline habitats in three HRE regions.

Since 2009: two projects were completed in two planning regions (Hunts Point Landing and Brooklyn Bridge Park) in New York City. These projects are challenging, but are critical to counteract significant historic losses of shallow water habitat. Further research is needed to address progress toward the 2050 goal and will be addressed in future reports.



How are projects funded?

Over \$1 billion was spent on all targets between 2009 and 2014.² However, only roughly \$240 million of that was spent on habitat restoration. Public access and acquisition investments totaled about \$870 million. Additionally, Alderson and Bowers found that between 1987-2012, roughly one quarter of restoration projects were paid for due to Natural Resource Damages, mitigation, or other permit requirement or settlement, suggesting that the full picture of habitat gained is more nuanced.^{3,4} In the near-term, many projects will be completed using funds authorized after Superstorm Sandy. A longer-term strategy for meeting goals requires increased funding from a diversity of sources, as well as addressing other impediments to restoration and acquisition. Additionally, new construction authorization in a future Water Resources Development Act resulting from the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Feasibility Study would serve as a major funding source in the future.



Funding sources of restoration in the harbor estuary between 1987-2012⁴

²Numbers are based on publicly-reported costs and communication with funders or project leads, and should be considered approximate.

³Compensatory mitigation for wetlands, unless in excess of requirement, is not counted toward these goals. See *Appendix B* on www.watersweshare.org.

⁴Carl W. Alderson, Bowers J., *Restoration of the New York/New Jersey Harbor - Harbor History Database*. NOAA Unpublished manuscript. June 2012.

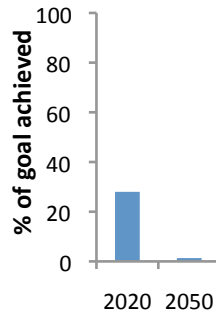


Sediment contamination

2020 goal: isolate or remove at least 25 acres of contaminated sediment.

2050 goal: isolate or remove at least 25 acres of contaminated sediment every two years.

Since 2009: seven acres of contaminated sediments were removed in the lower Passaic River (56,000 cubic yards). Outside of the region, a significant source of PCBs to the harbor was also reduced (2.7 million cubic yards) in the upper Hudson River. Removals in Newtown Creek, Gowanus, and the Passaic River are anticipated in the near term. A second iteration of the Contaminant Assessment and Reduction Project will launch in 2015, and targets for this goal may change as more is learned.

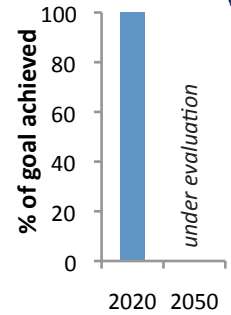


Public access

2020 goal: create one access and upgrade one existing access per year.

2050 goal: all waters of the HRE are accessible.

Since 2009: over 500 acres of new publicly accessible waterfront spaces (17 new and 16 upgraded) have been established, making this a notable success story for the harbor. New plantings and other work at many of these sites has also helped contribute toward other Target Ecosystem Characteristics. Determining progress toward the 2050 goal will be defined upon completion of the 2015 Public Access Assessment currently being conducted by the Estuary Program and partners.



Gabriela Munoz



John McShane

Before and after images of the recently daylighted Saw Mill River, unearthed after 100 years of burial underground in Yonkers, New York.



Tributary connections



2020 goal: restore connectivity or habitat within one tributary reach per year.

2050 goal: continue rate of restoring and reconnecting areas.

Since 2009: three large dam removals occurred in the Raritan River, and fish passage was established over the 182nd Street Bronx River dam. Dams and other

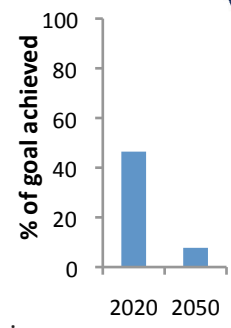
obstructions prevent many key and threatened species from accessing critical habitat. Near-term projects are anticipated on the Bronx River.

Acquisition

2020 goal: acquire and preserve 1,000 acres of coastal property.

2050 goal: acquire and preserve 200 acres of coastal property per year for a total of 6,000 acres.

Since 2009: acquisitions of over 100 acres in both South Brunswick and Raritan Township in New Jersey contributed to a total of nearly 500 acres. The high cost of property in this densely developed region makes this an ambitious target. Recent buy-out programs in flood prone areas will result in additional land acquisition for conservation and flood mitigation.





Courtesy Newark Riverfront Revival, www.newarkriverfront.org, Damon Rich

Newark Riverfront Park, located along the Passaic River in Newark, New Jersey, was opened to the public in 2013.

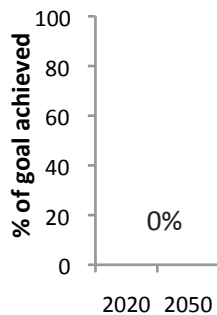


Enclosed and confined waters

2020 Goal: upgrade water quality of eight enclosed waterways.

2050: upgrade water quality of all enclosed waterways.

Since 2009: there have not been changes significant enough in water quality to count toward goals, based on the most recent information on impaired waters from the states of New Jersey and New York and the Environmental Protection Agency. However, improvements are underway at multiple sites through the Long Term Control Plans for combined sewer overflows now being permitted or implemented in the states of New York and New Jersey.



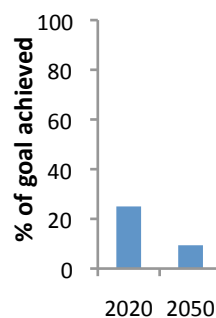
Habitat for fish, crab, and lobsters

2020 Goal: complete a set of two related habitats in each HRE region

2050 Goal: complete four sets of at least two related habitats in each HRE Region.

Since 2009: one project in each of two planning regions was completed—notably Calvert Vaux Park and Brooklyn Bridge

Park in New York City. These projects are defined through enhancing and connecting multiple types of habitats spanning from shorelines and shallow waters to upland vegetation, a difficult challenge in the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary.



HEARING FROM THE RESTORATION COMMUNITY: KEY NEAR-TERM ACTIONS

Symposium attendees participated in one of three breakout groups charged with discussing the following topics: *Setting priorities for a changing future, Moving forward on implementation, and Community engagement.* The outcome of these sessions was distilled into the following set of priorities and actions for the New York – New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program and its Restoration Work Group.



Gabriela Munoz

Break-out group participants discuss ways to engage communities in estuary stewardship, such as the importance of direct outreach.

Setting priorities for a changing future

The urban context of the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary makes it one of the most challenging restoration and conservation environments in the nation. Climate change compounds the complexity of the management of this ecosystem. Superstorm Sandy has focused attention and brought resources to the possibility of employing existing habitat and “nature-based features” to reduce risks posed by coastal storms and sea level rise. There are many scientific, engineering, management, and monitoring challenges to making conservation and restoration part of a comprehensive approach to reducing climate-related risk. Even when new ideas seem promising, the design or funding process may be on a time frame that does not allow for required research and analysis through experimentation or pilot projects.

“How do we get some of these newer ideas for green infrastructure into the mix?”

- Debbie Mans, New York/New Jersey Baykeeper

Participants offered suggestions on how to examine and evaluate ways to meet resiliency goals and increase natural resource restoration and protection in an innovative, efficient and low-risk manner.

#1 Remove impediments to restoration implementation.

- Pursue additional ways to facilitate efficient and effective review of environmentally beneficial projects through permitting changes or improved guidelines.
- Support the development and use of standard monitoring protocols to enhance the understanding of habitat quality and services.
- Identify areas that have potential for advancing challenging restoration targets such as oysters and eelgrass that would be more likely to succeed with water quality improvements.

#2: Improve the understanding and incorporation of nature-based resiliency approaches.

- Define and pursue a shorelines characterization research plan to efficiently and effectively achieve habitat restoration and resiliency goals.
- Facilitate discussions with the Restoration Work Group and partners, expanding on the *Research Plan to Advance the Understanding of Potential Green Infrastructure Strategies in New York City* report, Rebuild by Design, and other projects to

address research needs and data-sharing as well as incorporate strategies outlined in the *North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study*.^{5,6,7}

#3: Increase the understanding of how sediment transport and quality, water quality, and management interact to support habitat in rising sea level conditions.

- Support projects that improve the understanding of how multiple factors interact along with rising sea levels so that these considerations can be effectively incorporated into restoration design and management.

#4: Improve the understanding of best restoration and conservation practices for urban ecosystems.

- Support research that improves the understanding of how to achieve desired habitat functions in urban ecosystems.
- Invest in case studies and pilot projects for restoration activities that test, implement, and evaluate new restoration techniques including living shorelines.

Moving forward on implementation

Restoration of urban habitat is costly but critical; a multi-faceted funding strategy is needed to reach restoration goals. Funding restoration projects is increasingly changing; there is a need for a nimble collaborative approach to funding and implementing projects, and aligning restoration goals to leverage appropriate funding sources.

“In the past we have been competitive with each other; it’s important that we present a unified front. I would love to see us engage more with New Jersey.”

- Venetia Lannon, New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation

Gabriela Munoz



Venetia Lannon and Nancy Kete joined a panel focused on funding.

#5: Employ the NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program as a platform to explore diverse funding sources.

- Develop a comprehensive funding strategy for achieving restoration goals outlined in the *Hudson-Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan*.
- Articulate science and information needs so that new sources of funding can address these gaps as near-term opportunities arise.

⁵Zhao, Haihong; H. Roberts; J. Ludy; A. Rella; J. Miller; P. Orton; G. Schuler; L. Alleman; A. Peck; R. Shirer; J. Ong; M. Larson; K. Mathews; K. Orff; G. Wirth; L. Elachi. *Research Plan to Advance the Understanding of Potential Coastal Green Infrastructure Strategies in New York City*. 2014. NEIWPCC.

⁶USACE, 2015. *North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study: Resilient Adaptations to Increasing Risk Main Report* (January 2015)

⁷USACE- Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC), 2015. *Use of Natural & Nature-Based Features (NNBF) for Coastal Resilience* (ERDC SR-15-1)

Community engagement

The New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary is home to more than 20 million people and hosts more than 50 million visitors each year. There is increased public recognition that our shared waters are a valued resource and investments have provided more opportunities for accessing them. For public understanding and reverence to grow, the restoration community needs to do a better job of reaching out to residents and expanding awareness of how the estuary affects all of our lives. Increasing awareness is an important task and requires an approach that effectively engages the community.

“You also have to get out on the ground and build a level of trust with communities.”

- John Rosser, Future City, Inc.

#6: Improve the public awareness of and engagement with the estuary and its health.

- Develop a better understanding of public awareness and engagement in estuary issues and identify specific audiences that may be better reached.
- Determine a strategy for reaching key audiences, including a means of supporting community-led outreach and engagement efforts through grant programs and coordinated partnership projects.

- Assess and communicate the ecological, social, and economic values of the estuary and restoration.

#7: Improve and increase public access to and from our waterways as a way to foster stewardship.

- Evaluate and support mapping of public access; identify areas of need; and recognize best practices.
- Target advocacy, grant programs, events, and other resources toward underserved areas.



Gabriela Munoz

Katerli Bounds and Leila Mougoui of New York City Parks paddle through the Arthur Kill to Pralls Island to restore heron nesting habitat.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Interested in learning about the estuary? Subscribe to *Tidal Exchange E-news* or check out www.harborestuary.org. Have a question about habitat restoration or want to nominate a site for inclusion in the *Hudson-Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan*? Contact us at habitat@harborestuary.org or check out www.watersweshare.org.

This report was produced by the New York - New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program in partnership with its Restoration Work Group. Lead Authors: Kate Boicourt (New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program), Lisa Baron (Restoration Work Group Chair and US Army Corps of Engineers), and Robert Pirani (New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program). Contributing Authors: Hanem Abouelezz (National Park Service), Carl Alderson, (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration), Peter Weppler (US Army Corps of Engineers), Grace Jacob (New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection), Ruth Ehinger (New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection), Marit Larson (NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation), Jim Lodge (Hudson River Foundation), Debbie Mans (New York/New Jersey Baykeeper), Marc Matsil (The Trust for Public Land), John McLaughlin (NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection), Andrew Peck (The Nature Conservancy), Rosalie Siegel (Port Authority of NY & NJ), Steve Zahn (NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation).





Restoring the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary



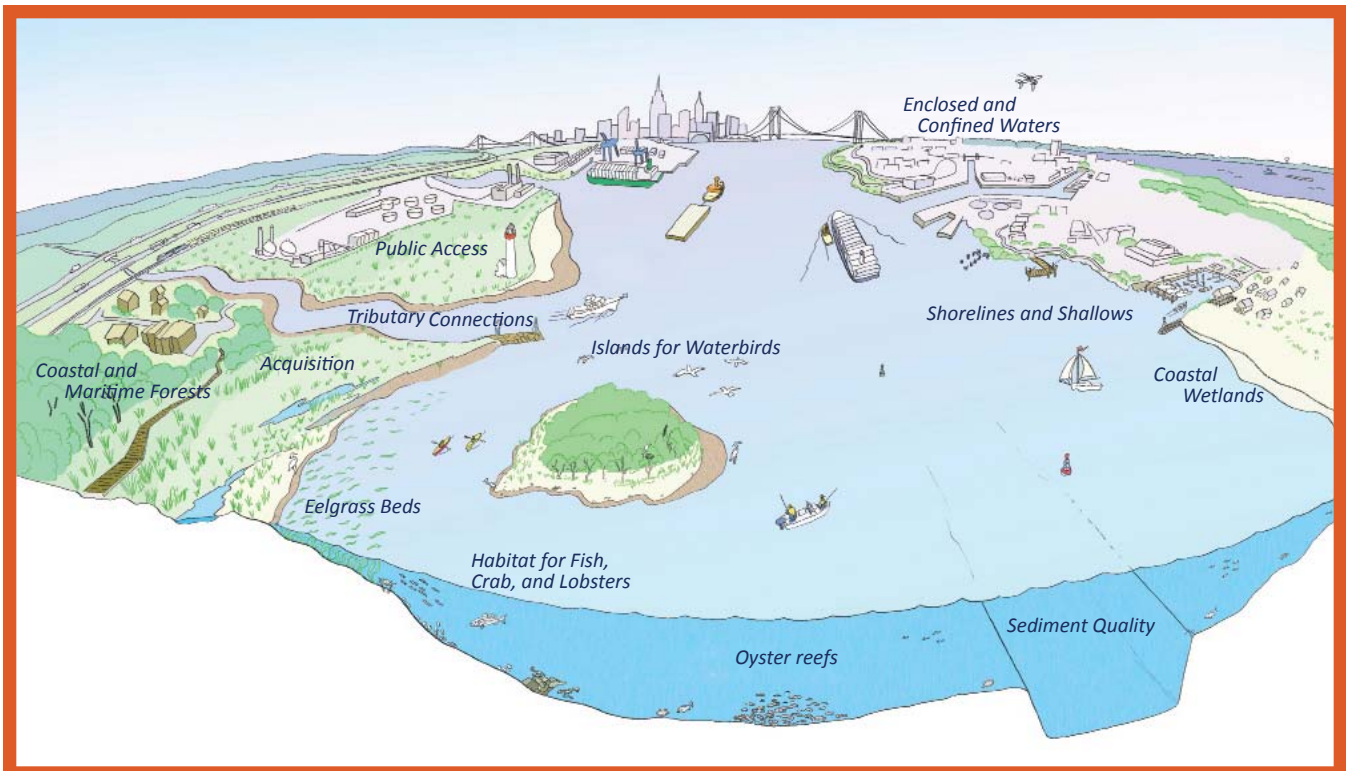
RESTORATION PROGRESS 2014-2016

OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY

The New York – New Jersey Harbor Estuary is a vibrant and ecologically significant resource, despite its location at the heart of the North America's largest metropolitan area. Its open water, countless tidal tributaries, and wetlands are home to an amazing array of fish and wildlife. Through the creation of the Hudson Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan (HRE CRP), HEP and its partners have set goals for the conservation and restoration of 12 Target Ecosystem Characteristics (TECs) to be met by 2020 and 2050.* These shared aspirations for wetlands, habitat for waterbirds, tributary connections, oyster reefs, and other TECs provide a path towards a healthy and renewed urban ecosystem.

This report addresses the achievements made by the HEP Restoration Work Group Partners between 2014 and 2016, and overall progress towards the 2020 and 2050 goals. Restoration progress made between the release of the HRE CRP in 2009 and 2014 was summarized in the previous HEP Restoration Progress Report (HEP 2015).

Due to a large influx of funding at the federal and state levels following Superstorm Sandy, the most significant progress toward the targets was in the acquisition category. More than 360 acres of flood-prone properties were acquired, primarily along the eastern shore of Staten Island and in the Raritan River watershed. Strong progress also continued in the coastal & maritime forest TEC, where over 33 acres of coastal forest were created. At least \$450 million dollars was spent on restoration or protection of over 450 acres of habitat since 2014. But efforts to restore eelgrass beds, enclosed and confined waters, and oysters remain challenging.



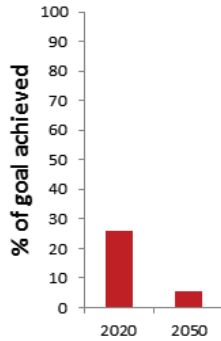
Wetlands



2020 goal: create or restore a total of 1,000 acres of freshwater and coastal wetlands.

2050 goal: continue creating or restoring an average of 125 acres per year for a total system gain of 5,000 acres.

Recent Projects: since 2014, one large-scale project in New Jersey (Woodbridge Waterfront Park, 38.5 acres) and a few smaller-scale projects in New York City have been completed. While a number of large-scale restoration projects have occurred in the past few years, they only make up 25% of the 2020 goal. A number of important upcoming projects (Spring Creek North and South in Jamaica Bay, future phases of Woodbridge Waterfront Park, and Teaneck Creek Park) are expected to be completed in the next few years, increasing the goal progress by 10%. Looking forward, the Hudson Raritan Estuary Restoration Feasibility Study has recommended 26 new wetland restoration



GreatEcology



Restored wetlands at Woodbridge Waterfront Park, NJ

sites (totaling approximately 424 acres) in Jamaica Bay, the Lower Passaic River, the Hackensack River, Flushing Creek, and the Bronx River (USACE, 2017).

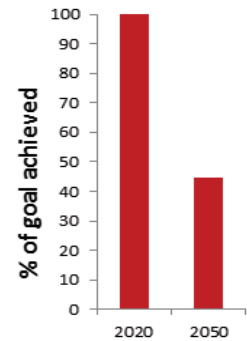
Funding is a primary limitation to meeting 2020 goals, though there are many funding opportunities highlighted in the Comprehensive Restoration Plan. These proposed investments in wetland restoration are important as wetlands are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of sea level rise and development, and can provide resiliency benefits.

Habitat for Waterbirds

2020 goal: enhance at least one island without an existing waterbird population in Hudson-Raritan Estuary (HRE) regions containing islands and create or enhance at least one foraging habitat.

2050 goal: all suitable islands provide nesting sites and have nearby roosting and foraging habitat.

Recent Projects: while the goal of enhancing one potential nesting island was met in 2014, no additional islands have since been enhanced. However, multiple foraging habitats have been restored, and eight out of 18 islands had nesting long-legged wading birds as of the 2015 nesting survey (Winston 2015). A number of islands that used to house nesting birds still have no nesting pairs (Shooters and Pralls Islands, Isle of Meadows, North Brother, among others). In the near-term, multiple large-scale wetland restoration projects and the repair of the West Pond berm breach in Jamaica Bay are expected to be completed in the next few years providing long-legged wading bird forage habitat.



Coastal and Maritime Forests

2020 goal: establish one new coastal and maritime forest community of at least 50 acres and restore at least 200 additional acres among several coastal forest and upland habitat types.

2050 goal: 500 acres of coastal and maritime forest community among at least three sites and 500



Restored Maritime Forest at Cedar Grove Beach, Staten Island, NY

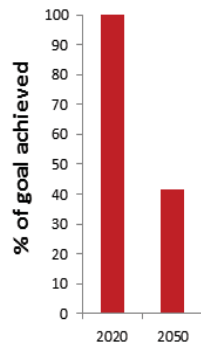


NYC Department of Parks and Recreation

* The first draft of the HRE CRP was published in 2009 by the United States Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey and HEP. The HRE CRP was revised and Version 1.0 was released in June 2016 representing a milestone of regional consensus for the NY and NJ Harbor Estuary.

additional acres of restored coastal forest and upland habitat.

Recent Projects: fewer coastal and maritime forest restoration projects were completed in the past two years compared to the annual average between 2009-2014, with a few larger projects on Governors Island and Oakwood and Cedar Grove Beaches (Staten Island), providing 15.4 of the 33.6 acres of coastal forest created. A number of smaller, less than one-acre projects were completed during this time frame in New York City and Monmouth County. In the next few years, Spring Creek North and South in Jamaica Bay will be restored, including an estimated nearly 224 acres of maritime forest, shrub, and grassland habitat.



S.P. Sullivan, NJ Advance Media

A field technician at U.S. Naval Station Earle, Ware Creek, NJ

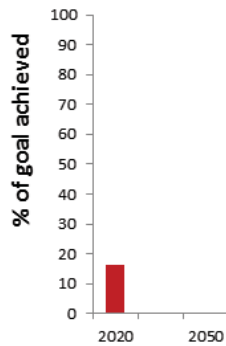
To increase in population naturally, oyster larvae have to successfully settle on viable oyster habitat and then survive to a spawning adult stage, both difficult in a harbor where there is little oyster habitat or spawning adult reef to be found, and where multiple factors (predation, disease, strong physical forces, pollution) impact success. The results of the Tappan Zee Bridge, Naval Station Earle and Soundview Park (Bronx, NY) projects will continue to inform the scientific understanding of best practices for restoring oysters in the harbor.

Oyster Reefs

2020 goal: 20 acres of self-sustaining, naturally expanding reef habitat across several sites.

2050 goal: 2000 acres of established oyster reef habitat.

Recent Projects: since the 2014 report, two pilot projects have been constructed. The first, in Ware Creek leading to Raritan Bay incorporated oyster spat set on “oyster castles” as part of a living shoreline project. In Thurston Basin in Jamaica Bay, a 0.5 acre reef was installed in 2016. Additionally, though not counted towards restoration goals, experimental restoration research led by the Hudson River Foundation and others was recently funded as partial mitigation for the Tappan Zee bridge expansion. Educational oyster gardens supported by the Billion Oyster Project and Urban Assembly New York Harbor School continue to expand and be monitored by students. Future sites and expansion of existing reef locations comprising 58 acres of oyster habitat at Bush Terminal Piers Park, Governor’s Island, Soundview Park, Jamaica Bay and Naval Station Earle were recommended for construction by the HRE Feasibility Study (USACE 2017).



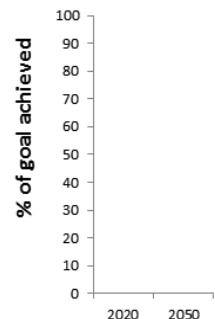
While oyster reefs once were prevalent habitat in the NY-NJ Harbor estuary, their restoration is challenging.

Eelgrass Beds

2020 goal: create one bed in at least three HRE regions.

2050 goal: three established beds in each suitable HRE region.

Recent Projects: while none have survived for multiple years, a number of experimental eelgrass restoration plots were created in Jamaica Bay, providing scientific insight into the issues affecting restoration potential. The difficulty in establishing plots in the bay is thought to be caused by a number of factors including: a large blue mussel set in 2011 settling on the leaves, sediment waves impacting early shoots, and predation. It is also possible that the small size of the beds may have negatively influenced survival. Much like oysters, eelgrass has been decimated in the harbor to the point of functional extirpation and will likely require significant



investment in larger projects to achieve success and remain established over time.

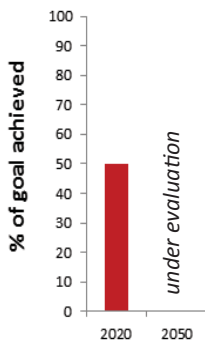
Shorelines and Shallows

2020 goal: develop new shorelines and shallows sites in two HRE regions.

2050 goal: restore all available shoreline habitats in three HRE regions.

Recent Projects: in 2014, a new shallow water area was established in Brooklyn Bridge Park – Pier 4 beach, with tide pools incorporated into the design. Expected near-term projects include living shorelines at Ware Creek and Newark Bay. While there have not been many projects for this target, and they are all located

in the same HRE region (Harlem River/East River/Western Long Island Sound), there has also been a push to develop a greater understanding of sustainable shorelines. In 2015, HEP produced a report on developing a protocol for urban shoreline assessment (Reid et al. 2015). In 2014-2016, the Hudson River Sustainable Shorelines effort and HEP, among others, have conducted studies on the ecological and structural values associated with living shorelines.



Kate Boicourt



Pier 4 Beach, Brooklyn Bridge Park, NY

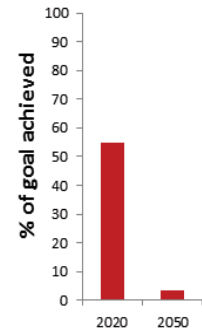
Sediment Contamination

2020 goal: isolate or remove at least 25 acres of contaminated sediment.

2050 goal: isolate or remove at least 25 acres of contaminated sediment every two years.

Recent Projects: contaminated sediment has been removed from three superfund sites in the Hudson-Raritan watershed.

At the Horseshoe Road and Atlantic Resources superfund sites, sediments were removed from the Raritan River and disposed offsite. Additionally, a small amount of material was removed from the Gowanus Canal superfund site. In the longer term, additional contamination removal or stabilization is expected in these areas as well as in Newtown Creek and the Lower Passaic River. In 2016 the EPA released the Record of Decision for the cleanup of the lower 8.3 miles of the Lower Passaic River (removal of 3.5 million cubic yards), which was an important milestone towards restoration.

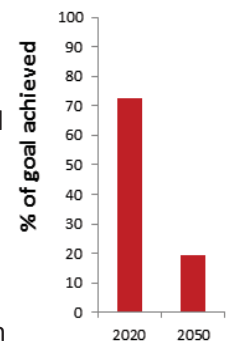


Tributary Connections

2020 goal: restore connectivity or habitat within one tributary reach per year.

2050 goal: continue rate of restoring and reconnecting areas.

Recent Projects: There has been one new project completed since 2014, the second phase of the Sawmill River daylighting in Yonkers. The 2014-installed 182nd Street fish ladder is now in place and has begun to pass eels and other species upstream. Other expected near-term projects include two upstream fish ladders in the Bronx River (Stone Mill Dam and Bronx Zoo), the potential Weston Mill Dam removal along the Raritan River, and culvert replacements further upstream in the Hudson River Watershed. Additionally, the Lawrence Brook Fish Ladder feasibility study presents an opportunity for future fish passage development. Going forward, the HRE Feasibility Study has also identified and developed a prioritization tool for ranking future fish passage projects (USACE 2017).





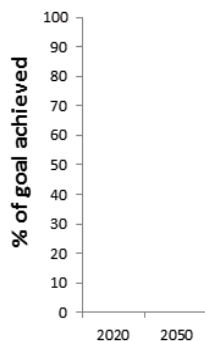
Gowanus Canal, Brooklyn, NY

Enclosed and Confined Waters

2020 Goal: upgrade water quality of eight enclosed waterways.

2050: upgrade water quality of all enclosed waterways.

Recent Projects: there are currently no examples of areas that have been improved to meet their designated use. There are, however, actions that have been undertaken, such as sewage treatment plant upgrades in Jamaica Bay, and a number of planning and regulatory efforts underway that are required to address unsatisfactory water quality conditions. The Long Term Control Plan and MS4 permitting processes in New York and New Jersey are being currently developed. If implemented, the plans will improve a number of water bodies, such as the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn, the Passaic and



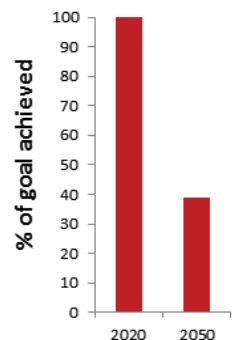
Harlem Rivers, and Flushing Bay. These are longer-term projects requiring significant financial and construction efforts, that have multiple-year horizons of implementation.

Public Access

2020 goal: create one access and upgrade one existing access per year.

2050 goal: all waters of the HRE are accessible.

Recent Projects: seven new access improvement projects were completed in both New York and New Jersey including the newly-acquired Swimming River Park along the Navesink River, New Stapleton Waterfront Park along the northeast coast of Staten Island, a small addition along the Harlem River (Muscota Marsh Park), as well as new walkways and esplanades





Paddlers at the opening of the Old Place Creek boat launch, Staten Island, NY.

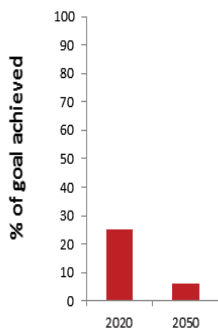
along the Harlem River waterfront. Additionally, the High Bridge, a pedestrian path connection between Manhattan and the Bronx, was restored and reopened for the first time in 45 years, and a new kayak launch and viewing platform were created in Old Place Creek on Staten Island. Upcoming expected projects include Woodbridge Waterfront Park in New Jersey and Sunset Cove Park in Jamaica Bay.

Habitat for Fish, Crab, and Lobsters

2020 Goal: complete a set of two related habitats in each HRE region

2050 Goal: complete four sets of at least two related habitats in each HRE region.

Recent Projects: no projects have been completed since the last report. Calvert Vaux Park in Brooklyn, NY, which was restored in 2013, provides habitat for a number of wildlife, and serves as spawning habitat for horseshoe crabs. Many of the projects recommended for construction by the HRE Feasibility Study restore fish, crab and lobster habitat throughout five of the planning regions.



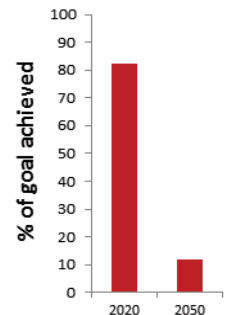
Acquisition

2020 Goal: acquire 1000 acres of habitat for protection.

2050 Goal: continue to acquire at a rate of 200 acres per year (6,000 acres) for a total of 7,000 acres.

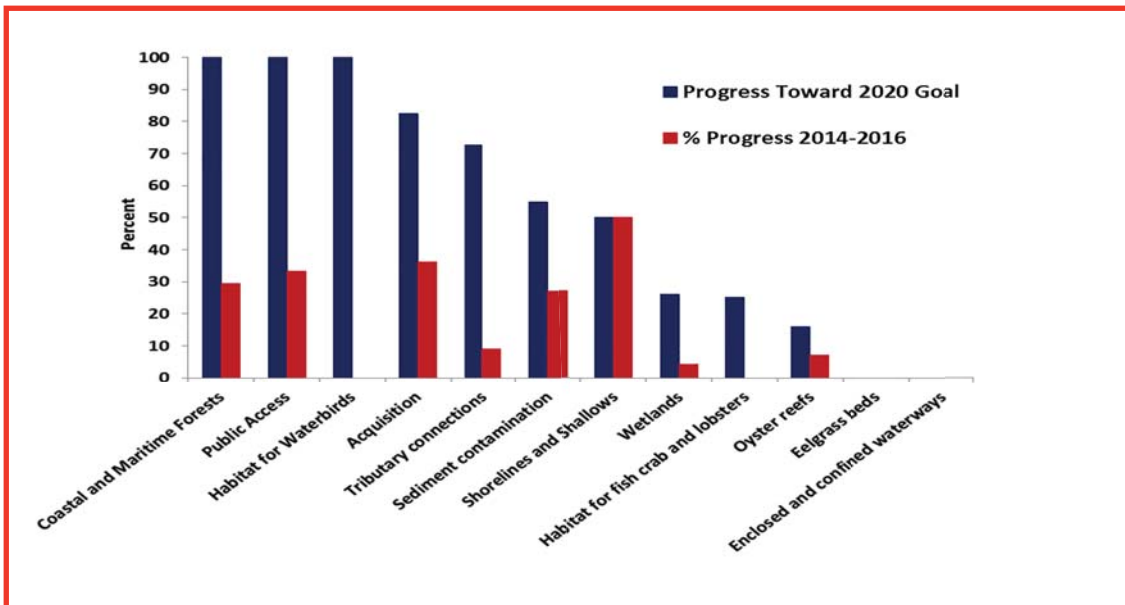
Recent Projects: significant progress toward this goal was made in the past two years.

This progress was primarily due to many purchases of small flood-prone properties in both New York and New Jersey (over 200 were less than one-quarter acre in size) by the States of New York and New Jersey. There were also a few larger-parcel purchases, such as the 89-acre addition to Freneau Woods and the 17-acre Big Brook Park in Monmouth County, NJ.





One of the many houses acquired by the State of NY in Oakwood Beach, Staten Island, NY. The houses were demolished and the lots were planted with native grasses until it is determined what will be done with these flood-prone lots.



Lead Authors: Kate Boicourt (HEP, now Waterfront Alliance), Isabelle Stinnette (HEP), and Lisa Baron (HEP Restoration Work Group Chair and USACE). Contributing Authors: Robert Pirani (HEP), Carl Alderson, (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration), Lauren Alleman (The Nature Conservancy), Susan Elbin (NYC Audubon), Peter Wepler (US Army Corps of Engineers), Grace Jacob (New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection), Ruth Ehinger (New Jersey Dept. of Environmental Protection), Marit Larson (NYC Dept. of Parks & Recreation), Jim Lodge (Hudson River Foundation), Debbie Mans (New York/New Jersey Baykeeper), Susan Maresca (NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation), Marc Matsil (The Trust for Public Land), John McLaughlin (NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection), Lisa Oberreiter (Passaic Valley Sewerage Commissioners), Andrew Peck (The Nature Conservancy), Ken Scarlatelli (NY State Dept. of Environmental Conservation), Nellie Tsipoura (NJ Audubon).

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Reid D.J., E.K. Bone, M.A. Thurman, R. Newton, J.S. Levinton and D.L. Strayer. 2015. Development of a Protocol to Assess the Relative Habitat Values of Urban Shorelines in New York – New Jersey Harbor. Prepared for the Hudson River Foundation and New York – New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program, New York. pp. 169.

Winston, T. 2015. New York City Audubon’s Harbor Herons Project: 2015 Nesting Survey Report. New York City Audubon, New York, NY.

MEETING KEY CHALLENGES

In 2014, participants in HEP's Bi-Annual Restoration Conference made suggestions on how to achieve habitat restoration and protection goals. These suggestions will be incorporated into HEP's Draft Action Agenda, to be released in May, 2017. Objectives for the habitat and ecological health section include 1) Making progress towards restoring the estuary's Target Ecosystem Characteristics 2) improving the quality and likely success of habitat restoration practices 3) supporting restoration monitoring and the utility of monitoring data and 4) Advancing the understanding and incorporation of climate change impacts in habitat management and restoration. The NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program and partners are already working towards these objectives including the following developments since 2014:

Making progress towards restoring the estuary's Target Ecosystem Characteristics.

- Goals are nearly met for some targets, but others are hindered by cost, implementation challenges, and regulatory concerns. Small-scale projects for shorelines, eelgrass, and shallows and oyster reefs have continued. Research and collaboration, such as through the Oyster Restoration Research Partnership, HRE Feasibility Study and a current project to investigate the amounts and spatial patterns of eelgrass in the Hudson River, is expected to continue to shed light on status and opportunities. Significantly increased efforts will need to be made to further the eelgrass beds target.

Improving the quality and likely success of habitat restoration practices

- A standard monitoring protocol for urban shorelines was piloted in the Harbor in 2014-2015, and the Hudson River Sustainable Shorelines program is currently piloting a rapid assessment protocol.
- Pilot projects incorporating oysters are underway or planned in New York City, and at US Naval Weapons Station Earle in Middletown, NJ at Ware Creek.

Supporting restoration monitoring and the utility of monitoring data

- There is still a need to increase consistency among resiliency metrics and monitoring, something that HEP, the Science and Resilience Institute at Jamaica Bay, NYSDEC, NYCDPR and other partners, plan to pursue as a follow-up to the previously-published *Research Plan to Advance the Understanding of Potential Green Infrastructure Strategies in New York City* report.

Advancing the understanding and incorporation of climate change impacts in habitat management and restoration

- An evaluation of all HRE CRP restoration opportunities was conducted to determine which sites provide the potential to serve as NNBFs for coastal resilience. These sites are presented in the HRE Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (USACE 2017).
- The North Atlantic Division of the US Army Corps of Engineers recently released a Comprehensive Study, the goals of which were to provide a risk management framework and support resilient coastal communities and robust, sustainable coastal landscape systems including natural and nature-based features.
- With respect to wetlands habitat, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and NYC Department of Parks and Recreation are developing methods and tools for evaluating existing wetland condition and opportunities for potential restoration, given sea level rise predictions.
- Efforts to monitor the ability of regional wetlands to adapt to sea level rise and studies of sediment dynamics near marshes in Jamaica Bay are being undertaken by the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation and Rutgers University.

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

Interested in learning about the estuary? Subscribe to Tidal Exchange E-news or check out www.harborestuary.org. Have a question about habitat restoration or want to nominate a site for inclusion in the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan? Contact us at habitat@harborestuary.org or check out www.watersweshare.org.

Restoring the New York - New Jersey Harbor Estuary

Restoration Progress 2017 - 2019



Overview and Summary

Restoration of the Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE) continues to progress. Over the past three years, more than 40 projects were completed throughout the waterways and watershed in New York and New Jersey, with significant advancement made in restoring maritime forests, acquiring land for conservation, and improving aquatic connectivity for migratory fish and other creatures. While progress towards our goals for oysters and other in-water and shoreline habitat continues to be challenging, continued research and pilot projects have advanced practice. Over \$290 Million was spent in restoration in 2017-2019, with acquisition costs making up 85% of this total.

It has been 11 years since the Restoration Work Group adopted the Comprehensive Restoration Plan (CRP) for the Hudson Raritan Estuary and started tracking progress towards our shared goals: 12 Target Ecosystem Characteristics (TECs) that together define the structure, function and biological diversity of a restored estuary south of the Mario Cuomo (Tappan Zee) Bridge. This report highlights the progress towards these goals over the past three years (2017-2019) since the last Restoration Report. The CRP outlines goals per TEC for 2020 and 2050. As 2020 is almost upon us, it is a good time to assess achievement. The 2020 goals have proven to be largely appropriate; ambitious but achievable. For some of the TECs, we have more than doubled the 2020 goal, while for others there is limited progress. The number of TECs that satisfied the 2020 goal has jumped from three in last Restoration Report (2016), to five in this report. Success is controlled by many diverse factors including organizational priorities, opportunistic funding, and expectations of restoration success. For most of the TECs that did not reach the 2020 goal, such as Eelgrass Beds and Oyster Reefs, the restoration community is still largely in a research or piloting phase, reflecting the challenging practice and difficult environmental conditions. Exceptions include Wetlands restoration and Sediment Contamination that have established restoration techniques but are controlled by the high cost of these projects. Going forward, the 2050 goals will be reviewed to determine if they continue to reflect the priorities of the many public and private stakeholders in the restoration community.

One notable change to highlight is that the Restoration Work Group recently determined the need for a new way to track the Enclosed and Confined Waters TEC. Millions of dollars in capital investments were made to improve water quality in several confined waters since 2009, however that was not being reflected in the tracking method that was initially chosen. The ultimate goal of this TEC is for the water quality in these confined waters to match their receiving waters. The group decided that this could be tracked by metrics of significant effort including construction of green and gray infrastructure.

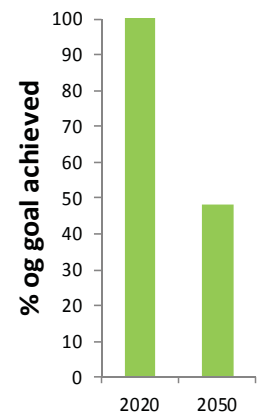


Coastal and Maritime Forest

2020 Goal: establish one new maritime forest of at least 50 acres and restore at least 200 additional acres among several coastal forest/upland habitat types.

2050 Goal: 500 acres of maritime forest community among at least three sites and 500 additional acres of restored coastal forest/upland habitat.

The region's progress toward restoring Coastal and Maritime Forests is one of the most successful efforts. We have almost doubled the acreage set as our 2020 goal and have achieved nearly 50% of our 2050 goal. In the last three years there have been nine coastal forest restoration projects implemented, all efforts by NYC Parks, culminating in 78 acres of restored habitat. The two largest projects are located in Conference House Park and Cedar Beach on Staten Island, New York, restoring critical maritime forest habitat.

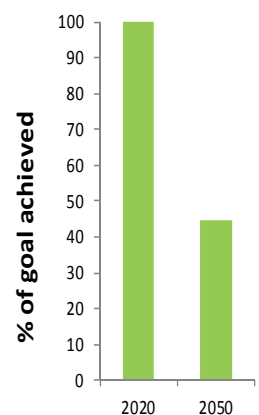


Habitat for Waterbirds

2020 Goal: enhance at least one island without an existing waterbird population in Hudson Raritan Estuary regions containing islands and create or enhance at least one foraging habitat.

2050 Goal: all suitable islands provide roosting and nesting sites and have nearby foraging habitat.

North Brother Island was restored in 2016 to create habitat for long-legged wading birds such as great egrets, little blue herons, green herons, and black-crowned night-herons (collectively referred to as Harbor Herons). So far, the restoration on North Brother Island has not resulted in any usage by the waterbirds and more research is needed to determine what makes desirable breeding habitat in the Harbor for these species. Since 2016, no other island breeding habitat restorations have occurred, but Harbor Herons are still found on eight of the 18 islands in the Harbor Estuary¹. Wetland restoration has continued throughout the Harbor, enhancing the foraging habitat needed by these species. Restoration partners continue to prioritize Harbor Herons, for example in 2018 a colony of green herons nesting on the mainland were protected from disturbance by NYC Parks.



Winston, T. 2018. New York City Audubon's Harbor Herons Project: 2018 Nesting Survey Report. New York City Audubon, New York, NY.



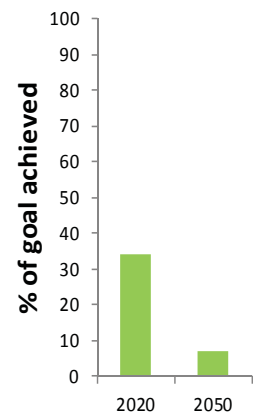
Wetlands

2020 Goal: create/restore a total of 1,000 acres of freshwater and coastal wetlands.

2050 Goal: continue creating an average of 125 acres per year for a total system gain of 5,000 acres.

Progress was made over the last two years towards the Wetland TEC, thanks largely to a 60 acre wetland restoration project in Staten Island. NYC Parks Department conducted a major removal of invasive plants at Oakwood Beach and Ocean Breeze, neighborhoods where damaged houses were bought-out following Hurricane Sandy. Additionally, eight acres were planted to create tidal marsh, brackish marsh, and scrub/shrub marsh habitat in Sayreville, New Jersey, as part of the cleanup of a Federal Superfund site. Restoration at this site is ongoing as some of the plantings were not successful, presumably due to a high pH in the soil. A large, \$14 million restoration was also just completed at Sunset Cove in Broad Channel, New York, that included coastal forest and grassland habitat restoration as well as wetland creation.

Wetland restoration progress is slow and steady. Though projects continue to be implemented, they are not occurring at the rate to which the TEC goals aspire, and after 11 years, we are only a third of the way to our 2020 goal.



Sea Level Rise and Wetland Restoration

Several regional efforts are underway to protect wetland migration pathways; places where wetlands are likely and able to move with sea level rise. With sea level rise, these vulnerable ecosystems encounter the “coastal squeeze,” where urban land uses do not allow for the migration of wetlands, an ecological process that had occurred for thousands of years. This acknowledgment represents a change in restoration planning for wetlands: restoration opportunities must consider where these opportunities will be in the future. HEP’s Restoration Work Group and partners, including Scenic Hudson, Regional Plan Association, NYC Parks and others, are looking into the methods and opportunities to protect these pathways².

Another tool to reduce sea level rise impacts is thin-layer deposition. This method usually consists of spraying sediment in a slurry on an existing marsh to mimic the deposition that occurs naturally with large storm events. Such natural deposition does not occur because the hardening of our shorelines and burial of tidal creeks has led to decreased sediment supply. While this restoration technique has been used widely in other parts of the country, it is relatively untested in our unique urban estuary. NYC Parks has piloted thin-layer deposition methods as well as outlined city-wide opportunities for this type of restoration.



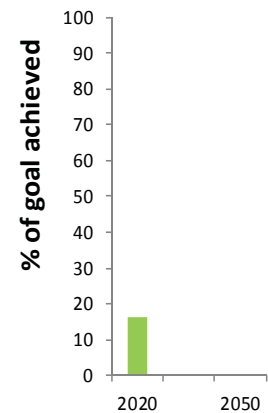
Oyster Reefs

2020 Goal: 20 acres of reef habitat across several sites.
2050 Goal: 2,000 acres of established oyster reef habitat.

In the past three years, the only new oyster restoration has been the lengthening of the living shoreline created by NY-NJ Baykeeper along the Raritan Bayshore at US Naval Station Earle. Though the lengthening of this line of concrete oyster castles does not contribute much acreage towards the TEC goal, importantly, for the first time, monitors found oyster spat in 2018, indicating that this reef may be self-sustaining. In 2018, the largest oyster restoration project to date, a five-acre project consisting of large reef balls and oyster shell gabions, was completed near the Mario Cuomo (Tappan Zee) Bridge. However, this restoration is mitigation for possible damage to wild oyster populations from the construction of the new bridge, and as mitigation, does not count towards our restoration goals. Oyster gardening continues to gain popularity and the Billion Oyster Project has added three “nursery” sites consisting of large cage structures. While they do not make up much in acreage, these sites increase the number of oysters reproducing in our estuary and increase awareness by engagement with students and other stakeholders.



Oyster wrapping piles in the Hudson River Park Estuarine Sanctuary; See Habitat for Fish Crabs and Lobsters



Wetland Mitigation Banking in NYC

The Saw Mill Creek Mitigation Bank Pilot located in northwest Staten Island, was substantially completed in 2018. Initiated by NYC Economic Development Corporation in partnership with NYC Parks, this project undertook the restoration of 54-acres of Saw Mill Creek as a federal and state compliant wetland mitigation bank, the first of its kind in NYC. The restoration of tidal hydrology and salt marsh vegetation at the site was achieved through excavation of approximately 40,000 cubic yards of historic fill, old tires, and other garbage. Complete excavation was achieved in summer 2018, returning twice-daily tidal inundation across much of the restoration site for the first time in nearly half a century. Replanting of native plant species, primarily *Spartina alterniflora*, occurred in the spring of 2018 and 2019. On an on-going basis, invasive species will be removed as part of a five-year monitoring and maintenance plan required by federal mitigation banking rules. The mitigation bank has begun generating mitigation “credits” which are now available for purchase to permittees requiring mitigation. Credit sale proceeds will go first towards funding monitoring and maintenance, and then to capitalize a long term stewardship fund to be dedicated to the protection and maintenance of the restoration area in perpetuity.



Mussel Beach, New York, NY



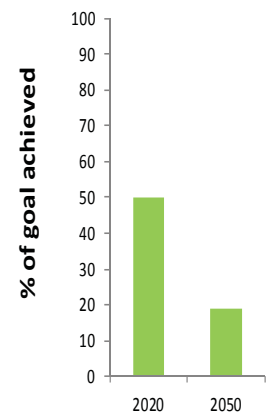
Habitat for Fish, Crab and Lobsters

2020 Goal: create a set of two functionally-related habitats in each region.

2050 Goal: complete four sets of at least two related habitats in each HRE region.

Restoration towards the Habitat for Fish, Crabs and Lobsters TEC has progressed over the past three years since our last report. The purpose of this TEC is to drive restoration projects that enhance habitat by improving multiple ecosystems in a single project location. Recent academic research confirms that mutualistic restorations enhance restoration success,³ and this consideration is reflected in an evolution in our thinking about restoring urban shorelines. Recent projects include a pocket park called Mussel Beach implemented by NYC Parks on the East River, and a pilot project by the Hudson River Park Trust enhancing pile fields in the Hudson by wrapping them in oyster-filled bags.

The new projects in the past three years have allowed us to reach 50% of our 2020 goal. In order to reach our 2020 goal, projects will need to be implemented in the Hudson Raritan Estuary regions that do not yet have projects: the Upper Bay; Jamaica Bay; Arthur Kill/Kill van Kull; and Lower Raritan River.



Derksen-Hooijberg, M., Angelini, C., Lamers, L. P., Borst, A., Smolders, A., Hoogveld, J. R., ... & van der Heide, T. (2018). Mutualistic interactions amplify saltmarsh restoration success. *Journal of applied ecology*, 55(1), 405-414.

PHOTO: I. Stinnette



Tributary Connections

2020 Goal: restore connectivity or habitat within one tributary reach per year.

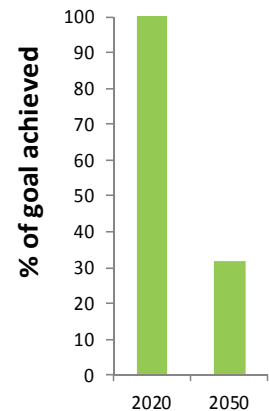
2050 Goal: continue rate of restoring and reconnecting areas.

During the past three years, there has been one major aquatic connectivity project, three minor ones and one riparian restoration project that count toward this TEC goal. We have now reached 100% completion of our 2020 goal.

A notable recent tributary connection project was the removal of the Weston Mill Dam in 2017. This removal opened up 4.7 miles of habitat to migratory fish on the Millstone River in Middlesex County, New Jersey. The dam removal was a true partnership project involving many agencies and local organizations, and was made possible by funds from a Natural Resources Damages settlement. Post-removal monitoring discovered American shad spawning in the newly opened habitat for the first time in 170 years.



Weston Mills Dam Removal



Aquatic Connectivity Assessment

Aquatic connectivity is a key restoration goal for HEP and its partners. The assessment of barriers to fish passage has been recently prioritized regionally with the focus on turning from larger dams to smaller stream crossings and culverts. The adoption of the assessment protocols, training methods and collective database developed by the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) has streamlined and galvanized this research effort. The NYSDEC and Hudson River Estuary Program started a project assessing stream crossings for the Hudson River watershed and HEP has initiated a project to do the same in New Jersey's waterways. These assessments can lead to a prioritization of culvert replacement projects (Tributary Connection Restorations) and have already resulted in restorations and grant funding for connectivity projects in the Hudson River watershed. The information collected during the NAACC assessment can also be used in models that assess culvert right-sizing for mitigating flooding and erosion. This can contribute to knowledge about how the culvert is handling stormwater flows now and under future climate change scenarios. HEP has piloted this project in two subwatersheds in coastal New Jersey and is seeking partners for continued assessments next year.



Eelgrass Beds

2020 Goal: create one bed in at least three HRE regions.

2050 Goal: three established beds in each suitable HRE region.

Though eelgrass is largely extirpated in the Harbor Estuary, it has been set as a target ecosystem in the CRP with a reasonable goal: create pilot projects. For the first time since the adoption of the CRP in 2009, we have made some progress with the Eelgrass Beds TEC. A pilot eelgrass planting has been installed and monitored in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, New York. The project is tiny; managed by volunteers and unfunded, yet for every year of monitoring eelgrass remains, growing doggedly through often zero-visibility waters. The leader of this effort, Bart Chezar, has also reintroduced Sargassum, another native but extirpated submerged aquatic vegetation species. We need eelgrass pilot projects in two additional Hudson Raritan Estuary regions to satisfy our 2020 goal.

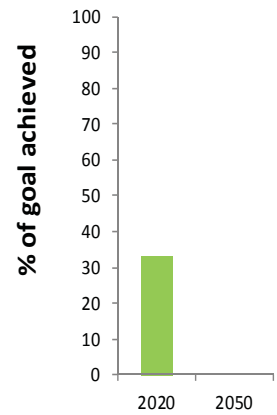


PHOTO: Eelgrass (left) and sargassum (right); Bart Chezar

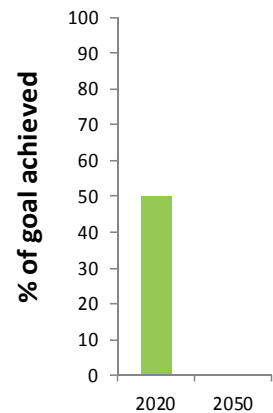


Shorelines and Shallows

2020 Goal: develop new shorelines sites in two HRE regions.

2050 Goal: restore available shoreline habitat in three HRE regions

One shoreline project has been created in the past three years. Progress towards the 2020 TEC goal remains the same as the previous report (50%), because all of the shoreline projects thus far have been in one HRE region: Harlem River/East River/Long Island Sound. A project needs to be completed in a different region in order to satisfy the 2020 goal. Roberto Clemente State Park in Bronx, New York, was enhanced, including a softening of the shoreline to incorporate an intertidal area. This intertidal space lets river water flow through tide gates on the bulkhead and into a rocky tidal pool area that serves as habitat for crabs and small fish.



Hudson Pile Fields Benthic Invertebrates Research

Pile fields, the legacy of historic piers that still exist as wooden piles sticking out of the sediment, have been extolled as good habitat for fish. There is no definitive answer, however, as to why and how fish and other estuarine organisms use the pile fields. In a 2017 project funded by HEP, Dr. Gary Taghon of Rutgers University attempted to address a small portion of the question by assessing if the structure of the benthic community may have some bearing on how the pile fields are used as habitat. Benthic infauna refers to spineless creatures that live in the river sediment, such as crabs and marine worms. These invertebrates tend to remain in place for the majority of their adult lifetimes. Because of this, the structure of benthic communities (which species are found in abundance), reflects local environmental conditions. This study was conducted in the Hudson River Park Estuarine Sanctuary on seven pile fields and proximal inter-pier areas.

Dr. Taghon found no difference between the benthic samples from inside the pile fields and those from sites nearby. Species diversity was found to be either “high” or “good” in all of the samples, based on a widely used index of benthic health. The species found were mostly those that are pollution tolerant, however it is likely that the sampling effort was not sufficient to capture the full diversity of those species that are considered more sensitive.

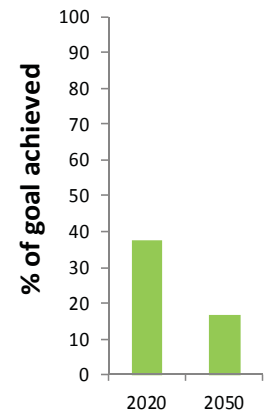


Enclosed and Confined Waters

2020 Goal: improve the water quality of eight enclosed waterways.

2050 Goal: improve the water quality of all enclosed waterways.

To better enable tracking of our progress toward this TEC, the Restoration Work Group created a list of 18 priority waterways of concern (see map below). The Work Group also changed the wording of the Goal from “Upgrade the water quality...” to “Improve the water quality...” because “upgrade” implied that once a waterway received significant improvements, it no longer needed attention. The word “improved,” recognizes that significant infrastructure or restoration projects have been undertaken with the goal of improving water quality and that those projects are having a positive effect. These include construction of combined sewage overflow holding tanks, separation of storm and sanitary sewers, increasing flushing or removing barriers to tidal flow, or a concerted green infrastructure effort in the sewershed. Three of the 18 Enclosed and Confined Waterways have been selected to be listed as Improved. Lincoln Park in Secaucus, New Jersey, was restored in 2010 reconnecting an inland pond to the Hackensack River through a tidal wetland. Bergen and Paerdegat Basins in Jamaica Bay, New York, are two enclosed waterbodies with very poor water quality that have benefited from significant investment from the NYCDEP for grey and green infrastructure projects, including new sewer lines and wetland restoration.



MAP: The 18 priority Enclosed and Confined Waterbodies



Sediment Contamination

2020 Goal: isolate or remove at least 25 acres of contaminated sediment.

2050 Goal: isolate or remove at least 25 acres of contaminated sediment every two years.

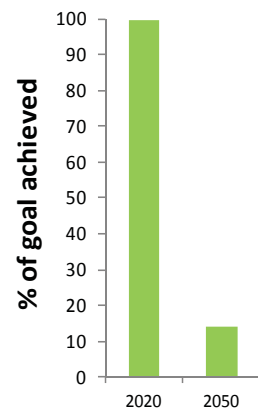
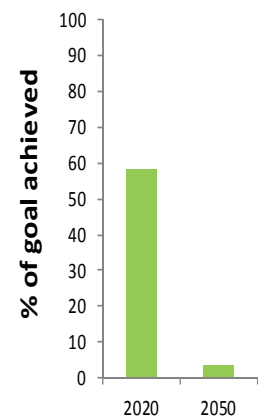
The only sediment contamination project since 2016 was the removal of less than one acre of sediment from a basin of the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn. This dredging project represented a pilot of the larger Superfund cleanup expected in the Gowanus Canal over the next 4 years. The full Gowanus Superfund cleanup should be 10 acres, which would get us to nearly 100% of our 2020 goal. Looking forward, EPA reached a record of decision in fall of 2018 regarding Berry's Creek in Bergen County, New Jersey, which hopefully fast-tracks this cleanup process. The removal of contaminated sediments at Berry's Creek could be over 80 acres. The 17 miles of the Lower Passaic River is also advancing at various stages within the Superfund Program. The lower 8.3 miles of the river is in design phase for the removal of an estimated 500 acres of sediment, and the upper 9 miles interim remedial actions at targeted hot spots are under consideration by USEPA. In addition, potential remedies are advancing through the administrative process for the Newtown Creek Superfund site.

Acquisition

2020 Goal: acquire 1000 acres of habitat for protection.

2050 Goal: continue to acquire at a rate of 200 acres per year (6,000 acres) for a total of 7,000 acres.

Thanks largely to continuing buyout efforts of flood-prone properties in by the NYS Governor's Office of Storm Recovery and the NJDEP Blue Acres program, progress toward the 2020 goal for acquisition has nearly been met. In Staten Island, New York, over 115 acres of flood-damaged homes in three neighborhoods were purchased. In New Jersey over 20 acres were purchased near Raritan and Hudson River tributaries. Additionally, other partners including Trust for Public Land and Middlesex County have acquired parcels together totaling 28 acres. Over \$248 million has been spent on acquisition over the past three years, protecting for conservation and resiliency over 170 acres of land.





Public Access

2020 Goal: create one access and upgrade one existing access per year.

2050 Goal: all waters of the HRE are accessible.

Public Access is where progress continues to be the most advanced of all 12 TECs. We have achieved more than double the 2020 goal of creating one access point and upgrading one shoreline public access site each year. However, the 2050 goal, shows us that there is still a long way to go before all of the suitable shoreline is accessible. The largest new public access spaces created in the last two years are Domino Park in Brooklyn, New York, a private investment made pursuant to New York City's zoning requirements; Hunters Point Extension in Queens, a project led by NYC Parks; and the third phase of the Newark's Riverfront Park, in New Jersey, a municipal park that expands and links several existing waterfront parks along the Passaic River. The newly created waterfront spaces of the past two years increased the accessible waterfront by 1.7 linear miles.

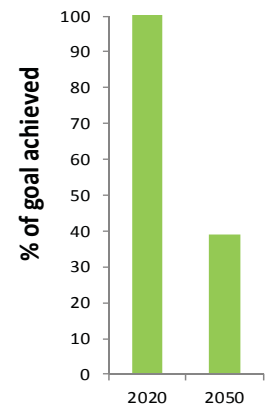
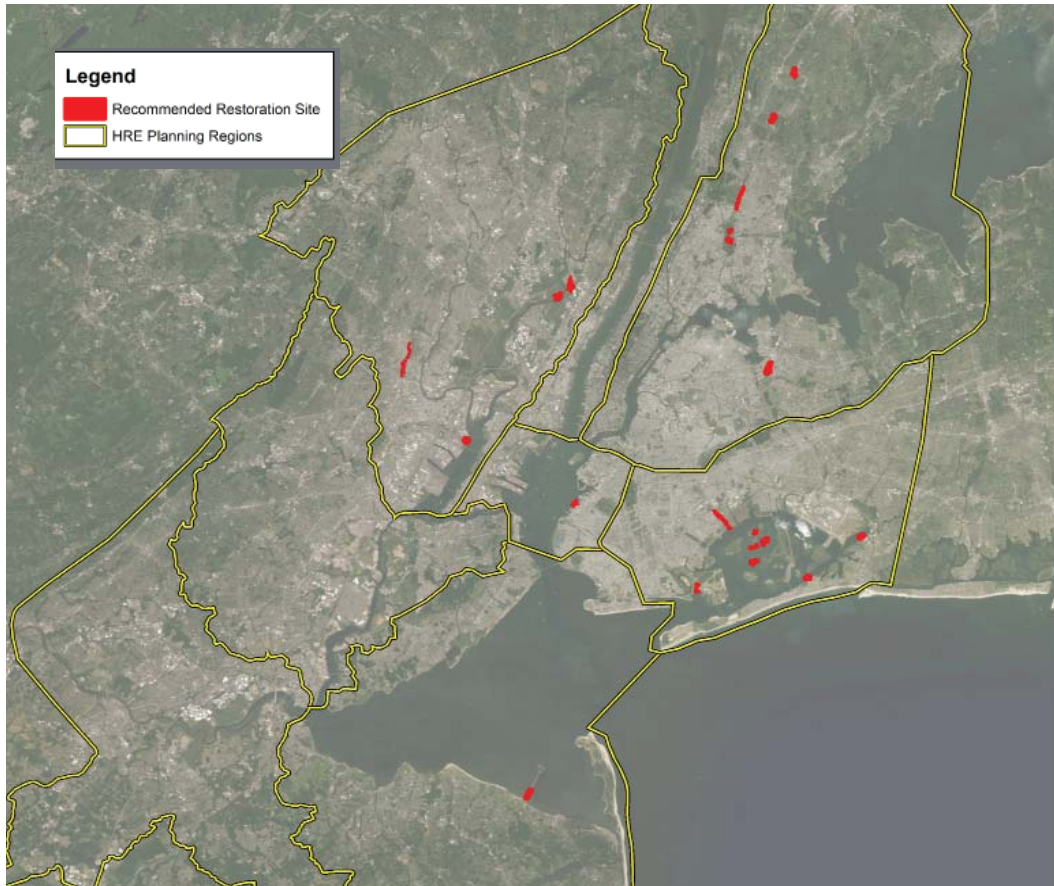


PHOTO: Newark Riverfront Park; The Trust for Public Land

Hudson Raritan Estuary Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study Overview of Recommended Sites

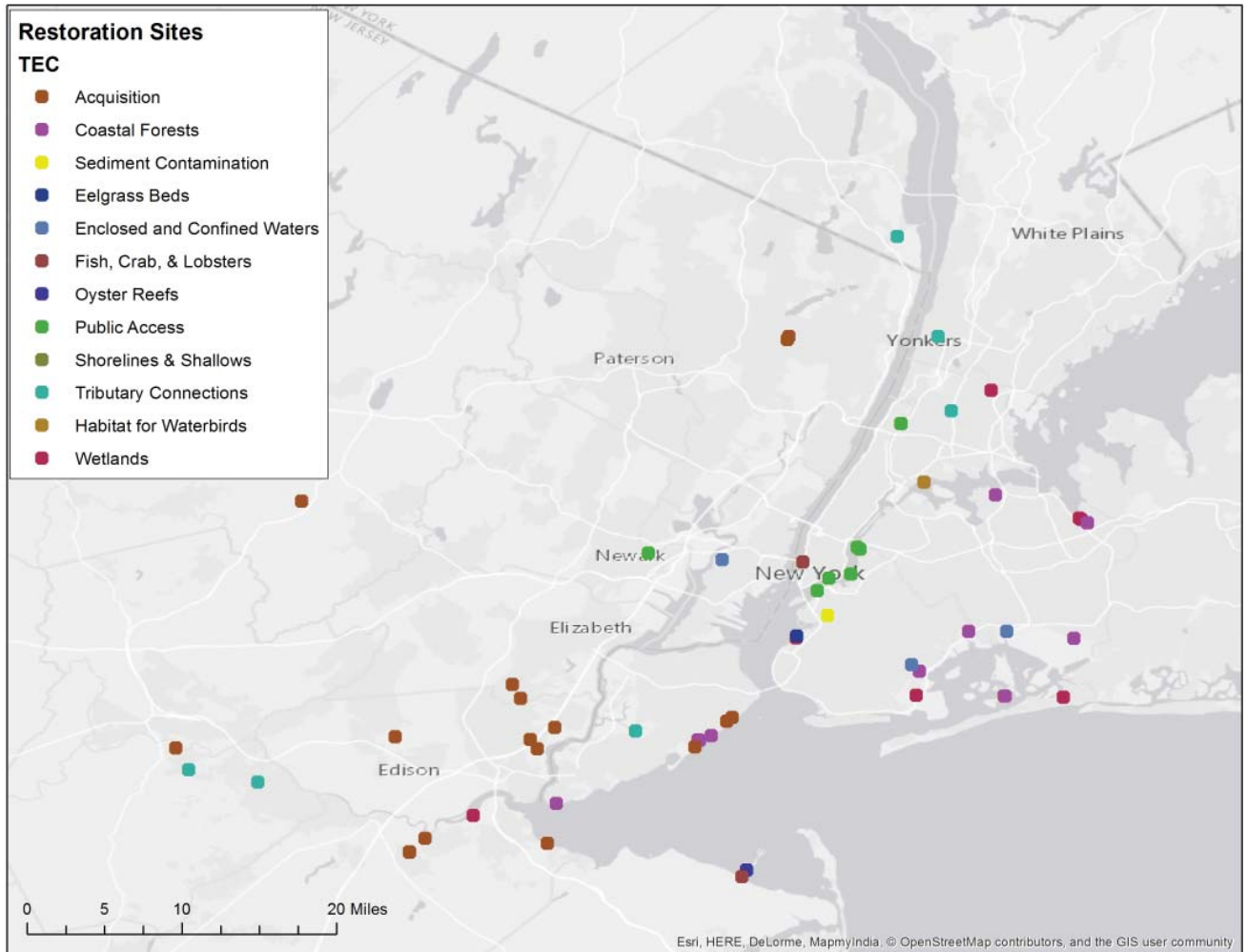


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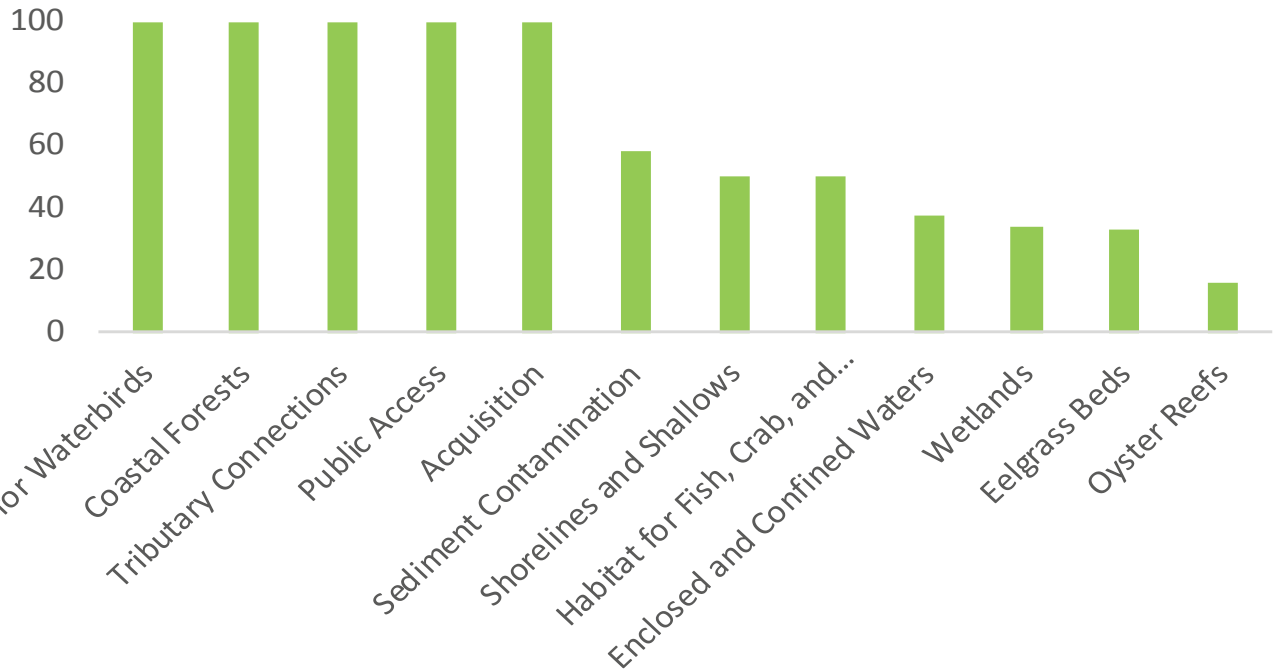


The New York District of the USACE and numerous study sponsors released the Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE) Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment in February 2017. There were 33 restoration sites included in the Tentatively Selected Plan in the Lower Passaic River, Hackensack Meadowlands, Jamaica Bay, Flushing Creek, and Bronx River Basin. Subsequent analyses and the USACE Agency Decision Milestone in September 2018, resulted in the current recommendation of 20 restoration projects. Refined designs, fully funded costs, and regulatory compliance nears completion for these projects to complete the Final FR/EA in early 2020. This step will lead to a Chief's Report and a request for a subsequent Congressional construction authorization. If approved by the Chief and funded by Congress, these projects would advance to pre-construction engineering and design and construction phases with our many State, City and Non-Governmental Organization sponsors over the next 20 years and significantly advance progress towards the goals and targets of the HRE CRP.

Map of all Projects 2017 - 2019



Percent Completion Towards 2020 Goals



This report is a product of the Restoration Work Group of the NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program.
Membership includes:

Hudson River Foundation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
New Jersey Audubon
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
New Jersey Sports and Exhibition Authority
New York-New Jersey Baykeeper
New York Department of Environmental Conservation
New York City Audubon
New York City Department of Environmental Protection
New York City Parks Department
Science and Technical Advisory Committee
The Nature Conservancy
The Trust for Public Land
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Environmental Protection Agency
US Fish and Wildlife Service

NOVEMBER 1, 2019

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PROGRAM