

NYC Department of Environmental Protection Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan

PROJECT UPDATE

Presented at York College, June 14, 2006



PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Project Development and Outreach
- Goal Development
- Ongoing Modeling Efforts
- Draft Potential Management Strategies Under Consideration
- Next Steps



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

- Meetings with Advisory Committee to discuss relevant issues (8 to date)
 - Boat trip and kick-off
 - Planning process
 - Restoration activities
 - Modeling
 - Stormwater management
 - Sewer improvements
 - JFK Airport
 - Public education and outreach



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- 2 Public Meetings in Winter 2006
 - Local Law 71
 - Priority problems
 - Potential solutions
 - Current protection and restoration efforts
 - Advisory Committee members, role & responsibility
 - How to get involved



AGENCY OUTREACH

- Department of City Planning
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Economic Development Corporation
- Office of Environmental Coordination
- Larger Interagency Meeting
 - Department of Buildings
 - Department of Transportation
 - Department of Sanitation
 - Housing, Preservation & Devt



DEVELOPING GOALS

- Water Quality
- Wetlands & Buffers
- Fish & Wildlife
- Public Use & Enjoyment
- Sound Land Use & Development
- Education & Outreach



GOAL 1: WATER QUALITY

- Improve and maintain water quality in Jamaica Bay to support a healthy and self-sustaining ecosystem and to improve recreational uses.





GOAL 2: WETLANDS & BUFFERS

- Protect, restore and create wetlands – including adjacent protective vegetated upland buffers.





GOAL 3: FISH & WILDLIFE

- Protect, restore and maintain indigenous populations of vertebrates and invertebrates
- Invasive species control.





GOAL 4: PUBLIC USE & ENJOYMENT

- Provide public access and recreational opportunities along Jamaica Bay and in its watershed.





GOAL 5: SOUND LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT

- Promote “green” behavior and sensible land use planning and development throughout the watershed.





GOAL 6: PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- Foster local watershed stewardship by increasing public awareness and community involvement through outreach and education activities.





ONGOING MODELING EFFORTS

- Comprehensive JB Water Quality Plan
- Long-Term Control Plan
- JB Watershed Protection Plan



ONGOING MODELING EFFORTS

- Best Management Practices (BMP's) within the watershed may provide important stormwater quality benefits that warrant further evaluation
- The following BMP's show promise and should be studied further for appropriateness of use and effectiveness examples include:
 - Porous Pavement Materials
 - Infiltration Trenches
 - Biofiltration Swales
 - Street Tree Plantings



FOCUS OF POTENTIAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES



CATEGORY 1: WATER QUALITY

- Evaluating recommendations from Comprehensive Water Quality Plan and Long-Term Control Plan
- Using appropriate and targeted BMPs within watershed
- Improving DO in tributaries and select areas of the bay that are affected seasonally
- Improving stormwater quality
- Reducing floatables



CATEGORY 2: WETLANDS & BUFFERS

- Restoring and creating additional tidal wetlands
- Restoring or creating additional freshwater ponds and brackish wetlands
- Restoring submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV)
- Implementing monitoring and maintenance programs



CATEGORY 3: FISH & WILDLIFE

- Protecting existing wildlife habitats
- Restoring headwaters of Jamaica Bay (i.e., Idlewild)
- Restoring/enhancing shallow water mudflat habitats
- Creating SAV beds
- Restoring/enhancing coastal grassland communities
- Restoring/enhancing dune habitats
- Restoring/enhancing coastal woodland & shrubland habitats
- Restoring extirpated plant species



CATEGORY 4: PUBLIC USE & ENJOYMENT

- Increasing public awareness of the ecological value and importance of Jamaica Bay
- Increasing access to the diverse landscape types throughout watershed and the bay.



CATEGORY 5: SOUND LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT

- Minimizing impervious surfaces
- Using “on-site” BMP’s to control runoff
- Encouraging “green” development
- Promoting sustainable development practices in private and public sectors



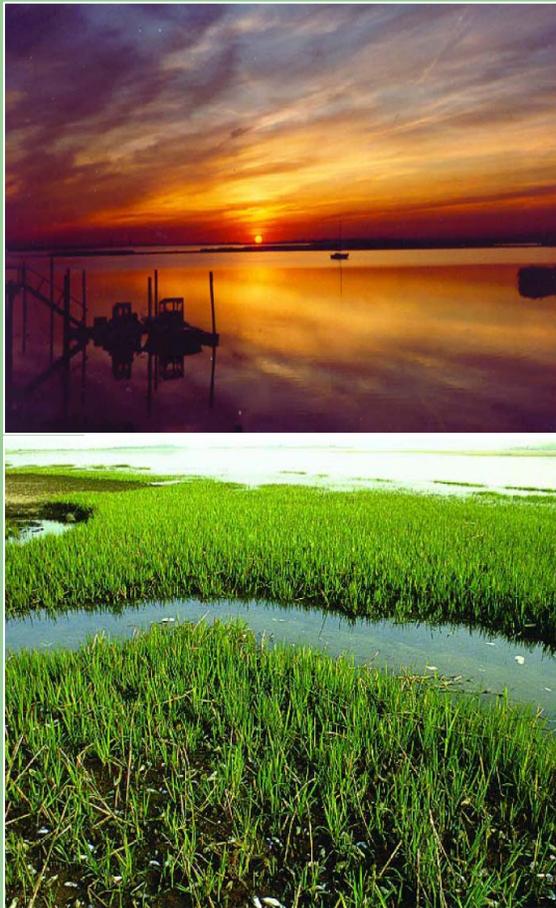
CATEGORY 6: PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- Branding the Jamaica Bay Watershed (e.g., signage indicating that you are entering JB Watershed)
- Improving coordination among existing education/outreach groups
- Raising awareness of issues among young people through education
- Reducing polluting/damaging behaviors
- Increasing the number of volunteers and events



NEXT STEPS

- City Council amending Local 71 to provide appropriate time extension (introduced as Intro 376)
- Revising and refining modeling runs
- Continuing to discuss potential management strategies with appropriate agencies (city, state and federal)
- Refining potential management strategies based on agency and public input
- Evaluating all strategies to develop appropriate protection recommendations
- Holding additional public meetings to present “draft” recommendations



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