

Comprehensive Restoration Planning in the Lower Passaic River Watershed

Restoration Work Group

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Passaic River Partner Agencies: CERCLA-WRDA



**NJ Dept of
Environmental
Protection**

Overall Project Goals

- ✓ **Create, enhance, and restore habitat.**
- ✓ **Enhance plant communities.**
- ✓ **Enhance animal communities.**
- ✓ **Improve water quality.**
- ✓ **Improve sediment quality.**
- ✓ **Support human use.**



ID Watershed Problems...

- **Aquatic & Riparian Habitat Degradation and Loss**
- **Habitat Fragmentation and Loss of Wildlife Corridors**
- **Contamination**
- **Poor Water Quality**
- **Continuing Sources**
 - ✓ **CSOs and storm water runoff**
- **Floatables**
- **Lack of Recreational Use**



ID Watershed Objectives

- **Identify Ecosystem Restoration Projects**
 - ✓ **Provide local, regional, and national benefits.**
 - ✓ **Consistent with local and regional plans**
 - ✓ **Long-term protection of biological resources**
- **Identify projects suitable for local, state, or federal agency implementation.**
- **Identify opportunities**
 - ✓ **Construction of Wetlands (Multi Use, WQ & Habitat)**
 - ✓ **Ecosystem Restoration @ each site**
 - ✓ **Improve human use (access, recreation, aesthetics, education, floatable removal...)**
 - ✓ **Stormwater management**

HRE CRP

- HRE CRP objective will develop Target Ecosystem Characteristics (TECs) for:

a mosaic of new and existing habitats that provide the ecosystem services valued by society.

- TECs are design criteria for the estuary we all desire



[What] [Where] [How
Much] [By When]

Harbor CRP Consistency

Target Ecosystem Characteristics

- Public Access
- Sediment Quality
- Coastal Wetlands (NA)
- Shallow Water & Shorelines
- Habitat Connections
- Shore Bird Habitat
- Habitat for Fish and Crustaceans
- Enclosed Confined Waters (NA)
- Water Column Habitat
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
- Oysters & Oyster Reefs

What would the Lower Passaic River CRP look like?

- History of degradation and losses
- Existing conditions and environmental quality trends
- Problem identification summary
- Target Ecosystem Characteristics
- Generic restoration measures
- Contributions of habitat types to TECs
- Site specific criteria and plan components
- Sequencing considerations
- Public involvement
- Process guide for nominating sites, plan management and monitoring

Joint Integrated Feasibility Report

- ✓ Site characterization and assessment
- ✓ Integration of alternatives for remediation and restoration
- ✓ Conceptual restoration plans and preliminary costs
- ✓ Recommendation for “Spin-off” restoration studies
- ✓ NEPA compliance
- ✓ Potential implementation strategies