

Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan  
**STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**

Kingsborough  
Community College  
Building U, Room 220  
Commissioner Emily Lloyd

December 7, 2006



# TONIGHT'S AGENDA

- 6:30 pm Open House and Sign-in
- 7:00 pm Workshop Orientation by NYCDEP
- 7:30 pm First Breakout Group Session
- 8:10 pm Short Break
- 8:20 pm Second Breakout Group Session
- 9:00 pm Conclusion of Second Breakout Group Session and Workshop

# LOCAL LAW 71 (LL71)

- Created by City Councilmember Gennaro and signed by Mayor Bloomberg on July 25, 2005
- Amended the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to developing a watershed protection plan for the watershed/sewershed of Jamaica Bay.
- Primary reasons include:
  - Wetland Loss
  - Water Quality
  - Habitat Loss
  - Ecological Degradation

# LL71 SPECIFIC TENETS

- “Restore and maintain the water quality and ecological integrity of Jamaica Bay.”
- “Assess the technical, legal, environmental, and economical feasibility” of:
  - BMPs for soil erosion, stormwater runoff, non-point and point-source pollution
  - Addressing threats to aquatic habitat
  - Land acquisition and land use planning practices and opportunities
  - A protocol for coordination with appropriate federal, state, and city entities
  - A protocol for coordination with NYC Office of Environmental Coordination
  - A public education and environmental awareness program
  - A program to coordinate existing enforcement efforts

# JAMAICA BAY WATERSHED PROTECTION PLAN

## *Working Goal:*

The goal of the Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan is to develop specific action strategies that protect, manage and restore water quality, and improve and sustain the ecological integrity of the bay.

## *Schedule:*

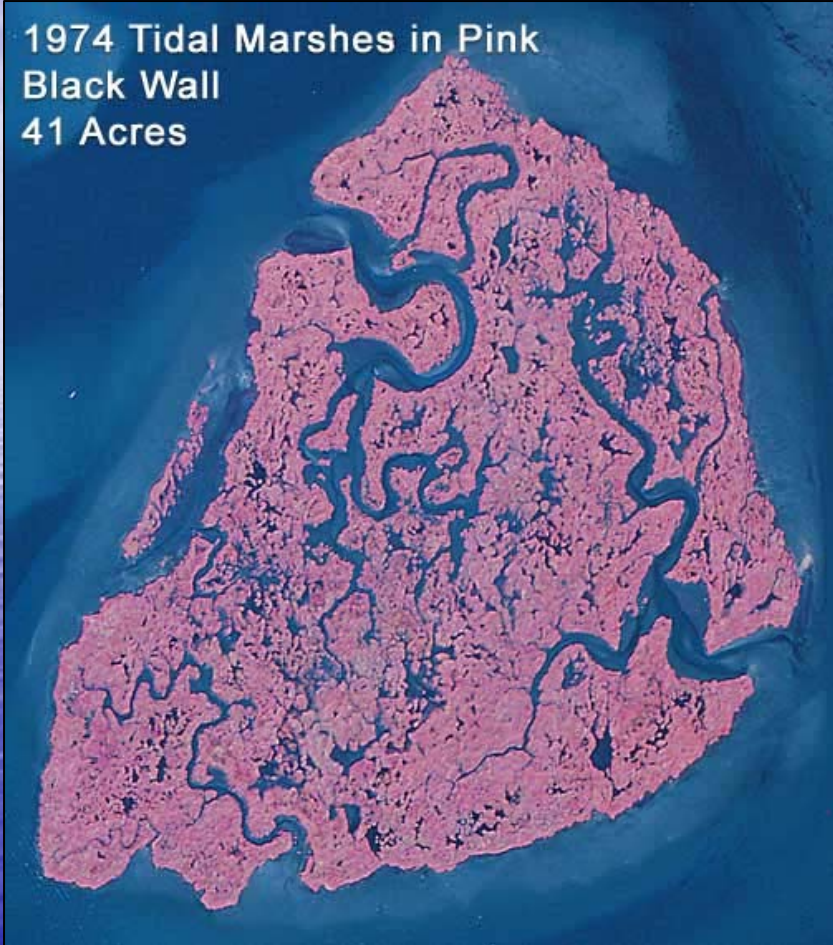
Final plan to be delivered to City Council  
October 1, 2007.

# REASONS FOR PROTECTING JAMAICA BAY...

- Important ecological, cultural and recreational asset
- Diverse habitat and vegetation (salt marsh, coastal grasslands, etc.)
- Fish nursery (81 species recorded)
- Prime migratory route along Atlantic Coastal Flyway
- Renowned birding location (325 species and 62 confirmed breeding)
- Local marine research and acts as an outdoor classroom
- Flood control and protection against storm surges
- Wetlands provide natural pollutant attenuation
- 214 species of special concern, state and federally listed species (flora and fauna)

# WETLAND CHANGES OVER TIME

1974 Tidal Marshes in Pink  
Black Wall  
41 Acres



1999 Tidal Marshes (shown in pink)  
Black Wall  
21 Acres



At current rate of loss, all wetlands could be gone by 2025.

## TYPICAL WATERSHED SCENES





# Jamaica Bay Watershed



Nassau County

## Legend

 Jamaica Bay Watershed

0 3,800 7,600 15,200 Feet





## JAMAICA BAY WATERSHED SCENES



# TONIGHT'S BREAKOUT GROUP SESSIONS

- Objective: To convene technical experts, agency staff, and interested and involved community members to engage in small group discussions of specific potential management strategies that DEP is currently evaluating as part of the JBWPP process so that the strategies are further developed based on broad stakeholder input.

# GOALS

## (and Breakout Group Topics)

1. Water Quality
2. Wetlands and Buffers
3. Fish & Wildlife
4. Public Use & Enjoyment (i.e., Public Access)
5. Sound Land Use & Development
6. Public Education & Outreach

# 1. WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES

- 1a: Increase non-development related stormwater management to filter and remove pollutants. (For development related stormwater management, see Goal 5.)
- 1b: Reduce nitrogen loading to the Bay.
- 1c: Increase DO in tributary basin areas of chronic hypoxia/anoxia to improve ecological productivity.
- 1d: Increase DO in areas of the Bay with chronic hypoxia/anoxia to improve ecological productivity.
- 1e: Reduce pathogen loading into the tributary basins and the Bay.
- 1f: Reduce floatables in tributary basins, open waters, and along shoreline.
- 1g: Alleviate existing loading of hydrocarbons or other toxic contaminants into the Bay, tributaries, groundwater and/or surface water resources, and prevent future leakage in commercial and industrial areas.
- 1h: Provide for the proper remediation of toxic sediments in the Jamaica Bay estuary, and prevent the further degradation of sediments from heavy metals.

## 2. WETLANDS & BUFFERS OBJECTIVES

- 2a: Restore salt marsh islands in the Bay.
- 2b: Protect wetlands through enhancement, monitoring and enforcement.
- 2c: Restore and create additional tidal wetlands along the periphery and upland buffer areas.
- 2d: Restore or create additional acres or freshwater ponds/non-tidal wetland around the Bay periphery.
- 2e: Restore submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) e.g. eel grass in protected and limited areas of the Bay.

## 3. FISH & WILDLIFE OBJECTIVES

- 3a: Identify, protect and maintain existing natural wildlife habitats.
- 3b: Restore the headwaters of Thurston Basin.
- 3c: Restore and enhance existing indigenous grassland communities.
- 3d: Restore or enhance dune and beach habitats.
- 3e: Maintain or increase populations and support the recovery of animals and plants that are listed as endangered, threatened, rare or vulnerable.
- 3f: Restore or create additional woodland and/or shrubland habitats.

## 4. PUBLIC USE & ENJOYMENT OBJECTIVES

4a: Increase public access to Jamaica Bay.

4b: Increase public access to a wider range of landscape types in the upper watershed in order to expand the public's understanding of the interconnectivity of the entire Jamaica Bay watershed.



## 5. SOUND LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

- 5a: Minimize the extent of impervious surfaces within existing and new development in the watershed.
- 5b: Enhance use of on-site stormwater management techniques and best management practices in new and existing development.
- 5c: Encourage "green" development.

## 6. PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH OBJECTIVES

- 6a: Increase the visibility of the Bay and the interconnections between human activities in the watershed and impacts on Bay conditions.
- 6b: Improve coordination among existing groups involved in Jamaica Bay-related education and outreach activities.
- 6c: Raise awareness of Jamaica Bay-related issues among young people to promote local stewardship early during a child's development.
- 6d: Raise awareness of Jamaica Bay-related issues through creating an informed citizenry.
- 6e: Reduce polluting or damaging behaviors through community outreach and education activities related to land use activities.
- 6f: Increase the number of volunteers throughout the watershed by promoting volunteer opportunities in a coordinated manner and providing meaningful volunteering experiences.

# TONIGHT'S BREAKOUT GROUP SESSIONS

- Two breakout group sessions for each goal identified will enable you to be a part of multiple discussions OR stay in same group to discuss specific strategies in more detail
- Schedule for sessions 1 and 2:
  - Welcome & Introductions (10 minutes)
  - Main Strategy Discussion (25 minutes)
  - Prioritization Exercise/Conclusion (5 minutes)
- Each group session will have:
  - Facilitator and recorder
  - Posters, flip charts, markers, comment sheets

# ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

- Water Quality (Room 220)
- Wetlands and Buffers (Sign-in Lobby)
- Fish & Wildlife (Room 216)
- Public Use & Enjoyment (Room 219)
- Sound Land Use & Development (Room 218)
- Public Education & Outreach (Room 219)

QUESTIONS?

