



# **Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan and the Ecological Pilot Projects**

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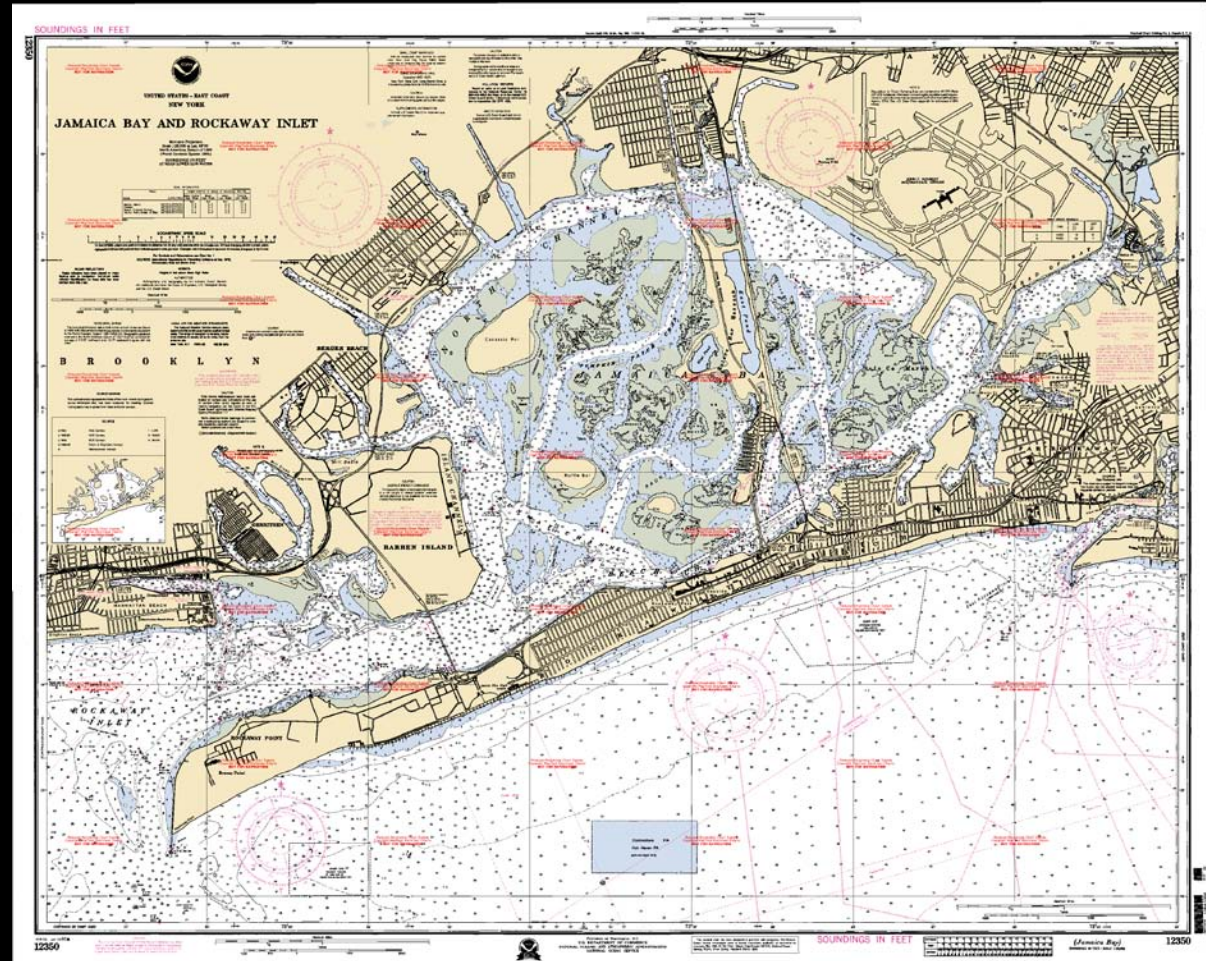
**John McLaughlin  
New York City Environmental Protection**

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# Location



# Today



# Historic Perspective

## Extent of tidal wetlands based on Ratzler Survey 1776 - 1777



# Today

Lost resources

Hardened shorelines

Changed topography

Poor water quality



# Watershed Protection Plan

**In 2005 – Enacted by City Council as Local Law 71, required to create WPP**

**Also required to create Plan Advisory Committee**

# Teaming/Coordination

US Army Corps of Engineers, NY District

National Park Service – Gateway National Park

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

NOAA

NYS Department of State

NYC Department of City Planning

SUNY – Stony Brook

Kingsborough Community College

Queens College

American Littoral Society

NY/NJ Baykeeper

Jamaica Bay EcoWatchers

Port Authority of NY&NJ

NYC Department of Parks and Rec.

NYC Soil and Water Conservation Dist.

Natural Resources Defence Council

NYC Audubon Society

Friends of Gateway

Jamaica Bay Guardian

Jamaica Bay Task Force

Eastern Queens Alliance

# JBWPP Working Goal

**Develop specific action strategies to protect, manage and restore the Bay's water quality and ecological integrity**

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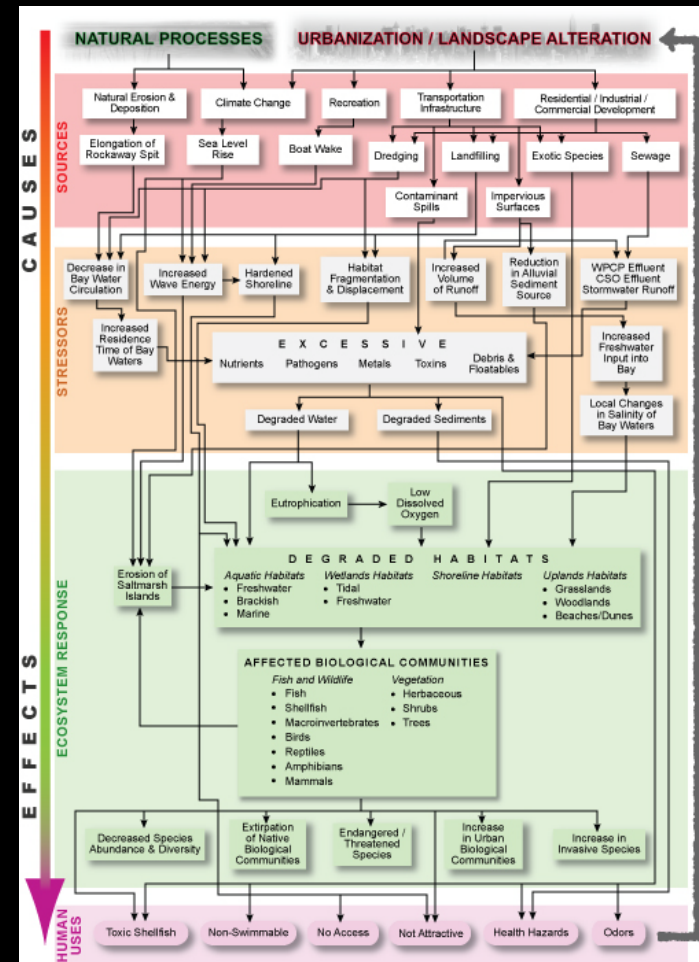
Jamaica Bay Guardian

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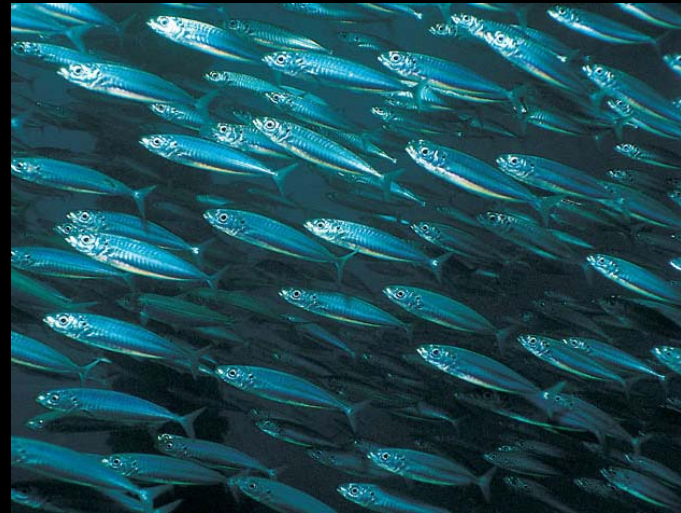
Eastern Queens Alliance

# Study and Planning Approach

- 1) Research and assess available datasets
- 2) Identify and evaluate primary drivers of ecological disturbance
- 3) Determine a project Vision and restoration objectives
- 4) Evaluate restoration strategies
- 5) Prioritize strategies using technical, legal, economic feasibility criteria
- 6) Determine phasing and implementation strategy
- 7) Research funding sources
- 8) Submit final plan and provide updates to NY City Council (2008, 2010)



# Objectives



**What do we want to restore?**

**What do we want to restore it to?**

# Vision

Reality is that the historic ecology of Jamaica Bay cannot be fully restored.....

So....what is our target?

What is our **VISION** for Jamaica Bay in the coming years?

What are we restoring?

# Ecological Restoration

***Ecological restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed.***

- Society of Ecological Restoration  
Primer on Ecological Restoration

# Application to Jamaica Bay

Think restoration of processes:  
ecological, cultural, and institutional

Example: Wetland Restoration

Accelerating rate of marsh erosion, how can we restore a sustainable system?

This requires more than physical replacement of the wetlands – restoring the process of deposition and limiting the rate of erosion.

# Thank you



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