

# NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Office of Natural Resources, Region 2

47-40 21st Street, Long Island City, NY 11101

P: (718) 482-6464 | F: (718) 482-4502

[www.dec.ny.gov](http://www.dec.ny.gov)

## Spring Creek South Storm Protection and Ecosystem Restoration Project Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Where did the money come from?

This project is funded by the [FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\)](#), which provides grants to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the HMGP is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. The HMGP is authorized under Section 404 of the [Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act](#).

### 2. How will this project impact public access and park amenities?

The property is part of Gateway National Recreation Area, a national park. Therefore, it is publically accessible land and will be managed in a way that is consistent with the [Gateway National Recreation Area General Management Plan](#). During construction, however, access to part or all of the site may be temporarily suspended for safety reasons. Once construction is complete, public access will be restored.

### 3. What is the project schedule?

Site sampling prior to site construction began in Fall 2015 and is scheduled to be completed by Summer 2016. Construction is expected to commence in 2017 and should take approximately 2 years.

### 4. What are you planting?

We will be planting exclusively native vegetation. We collaborated with the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation's [Greenbelt Native Plant Center](#) to select plants that are native to this region and provide high resilience benefits. These species include marsh grasses such as *Spartina alterniflora*, shrubs like northern bayberry, and trees including pitch pine and blackjack oak. Additionally, we considered the site's proximity to JFK International Airport in the selection of plant species and have identified vegetation that is unlikely to attract large bird species, which can be a hazard to passenger aircraft.

### 5. How will the construction of this project impact residents?

Due to safety concerns, parts of Spring Creek will be closed to the public during construction. Additionally, construction equipment and crews will be present on-site during site characterization and construction. During site characterization, these crews will be working from approximately 7AM – 3PM, and will access the site via 165th Avenue. Further details regarding the specific equipment that will be used can be found in the Project Documents section of this website.

### 6. Who can I contact if I have any questions or concerns?

Lisa Baron, with the US Army Corps of Engineers, is the project manager for the Spring Creek South restoration. She can be reached by phone at (917) 790-8306, or by email at [lisa.a.baron@usace.army.mil](mailto:lisa.a.baron@usace.army.mil). Any questions regarding DEC's involvement in this project can be directed to Thomas Panzone at [thomas.panzone@dec.ny.gov](mailto:thomas.panzone@dec.ny.gov).

