

Executive Summary

The purpose of the 2007 Update is to provide a current review of the 82 tidal wetland acquisition and restoration project proposals presented in the ‘Reconnaissance Phase Report’ (1994) and ‘Response to Public Comment from the Reconnaissance Phase Report and Decisions on Project Prioritization for the Planning Phase’ (1997); the 2007 Update also presents several new projects of growing importance in the region that are deemed eligible for Jamaica Bay Damages Account (JBDA) funding.

Of the 82 original proposals, three were accomplished using JBDA as the sole funding source; six were fully or partly completed using JBDA money and funds from cost-sharing partners; 14 have been fully or partly completed using other (non-JBDA) funding sources; six proposed projects are no longer available and 53 proposals have not changed in status. In addition, five new projects have been added to the list.

The 2007 Update contains the following sections:

- Section 1: Discussion of completed, on-going, and future projects that have received JBDA funding. The means for selecting and funding projects are also discussed.
- Section 2: Table 1 ‘Summary of Project Proposals - Updated 2007’ is an updated version of the table issued in the original documents cited above.
- Section 3: Maps showing project locations:
 - Figure 1. JBDA proposal sites in eastern Jamaica Bay
 - Figure 2. JBDA proposal sites in western Jamaica Bay
 - Figure 3. JBDA proposal sites in Staten Island
 - Figure 4. JBDA proposal sites in the Bronx

Section 1:

Completed Projects

The first project to be completed using JBDA funding was the acquisition and restoration of property along Norton Basin, now managed by DEC as the **Norton Basin Natural Resources Area (NBNRA)**. The site is listed as 'Healy Avenue', proposals #1-A, #1-B and #58 in Table 1. Today, the eleven acre property is tidal wetland and maritime grassland habitat and includes a network of footpaths. JBDA was the sole funding source for the project. The estimated costs listed in the Reconnaissance Phase Report were \$1.5 million for acquisition and \$200,000 for restoration. Ultimately, \$3 million was spent for acquisition and \$300,000 was spent on habitat restoration at NBNRA.

In addition to NBNRA, JBDA funds (\$700,000) were used as local match for the **Rockaway Gateway Greenway Bike Paths** along Flatbush Avenue and Cross Bay Boulevard, a project aimed at restoring access between inland communities and Jamaica Bay. The project is listed as proposal #46 in Table 1. The project was accomplished with funds from the Federal Department of Transportation ISTEA program (\$1.9 million) and National Park Service (NPS) (\$180,000). Bike path construction was completed Fall 2006.

Lessons learned during planning and implementation of the NBNRA project and the Rockaway Gateway Greenway Bike Paths led to some refinement in the Department's approach to selecting projects for JBDA funding. The costs of acquisition and restoration in New York City are substantially higher than the costs estimated in the 1994 Reconnaissance Phase Report. Upon completion of the work at NBNRA, it became apparent that the account would quickly be depleted if JBDA continued to be the sole funding source for subsequent projects. As a result, the availability of complementary funding has become increasingly important in prioritizing projects for consideration under JBDA. Cost-sharing provides an opportunity to undertake larger acquisition and restoration projects than can be accomplished using JBDA funds alone.

On-Going Projects

Turtle Cove in Pelham Bay Park, Bronx (listed as 'Turtle Cove', proposal #12 in Table 1) is receiving \$400,000 from JBDA for planning, design and implementation of wetland restoration. JBDA funds will be used, in conjunction with mitigation funding provided by New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) and the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA), to restore and enhance over 15 acres of intertidal marsh through berm removal and culvert replacement. The project is currently in the design phase; construction is expected to occur in 2008.

JBDA funds (\$85,000) will provide local match for 1996 Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act funds (\$324,825) to restore tidal wetlands at **Tallapoosa West** in Pelham Bay Park, Bronx County. In Table 1 the site is listed as Proposal #14 'Phragmites Management'. The project will be designed to improve stormwater filtering capacity of Tallapoosa West through *Phragmites* removal, regrading, wetland and upland plantings, and excavation of tidal channels.

Development of project design is expected in 2007.

Bergen Beach is located within Gateway National Recreation Area in south Brooklyn. The project is listed as proposal #14 'Phragmites Management' in Table 1. Project design for wetland restoration was initiated in 2002, with expected contributions of \$128,500 in JBDA funds and \$379,000 in Bond Act funds. However, due to problems of restricted access due to the Belt Parkway bridges improvement project, the Department may reprogram JBDA funds to another project. If this occurs restoration at Bergen Basin will be revisited in the future.

In Staten Island, tidal and freshwater wetlands and upland habitat on the Arthur Kill will be purchased next year using \$1,000,000 in JBDA funding. The acquisition adds over 20 acres to the existing **Harbor Herons Complex** in Staten Island. The project is listed as proposal #40.

Future and New Project Proposals

The Department is committed to using JBDA funds (up to \$2.5 million) for one or more of the habitat restoration projects identified by the **Jamaica Bay Ecosystem Restoration Project (JBERP)**. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is the federal sponsor. The projects identified by JBERP are large-scale in nature and involve fill removal, control of invasive species, wetland and upland restoration and improvements to public access, among other objectives.

JBERP identifies eight potential restoration sites in Jamaica Bay. Seven of these sites were listed for acquisition and/or restoration in the JBDA Reconnaissance Phase Report, and are presented in Table 1: **Brant Point** (proposals #2-A and #2-B), **Fresh Creek** (proposals #5-A and #5-B), **Spring Creek** (proposals #4-A and #4-B), **Bayswater Park** (proposal #32), **Paerdegat Basin** (proposal #26), **Dubos Point** (proposal #25), and **Dead Horse Bay** (proposal #52). Release of the Feasibility Report is expected in 2007.

Jamaica Bay Marsh Island Restoration, a priority project in the region, has been added to the list of proposals that qualify for JBDA funds. Concern about salt marsh loss in Jamaica Bay resulted in the creation of the Jamaica Bay Marsh Island Restoration program. The objective is to restore marsh islands, to offset the substantial losses documented in recent years, through placement of dredge material and marsh plantings. Construction of the Elders Point East marsh footprint and planting of roughly 75% of the island was completed in Fall 2006. The remaining planting will be completed in Spring 2007. The work was funded by the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey as mitigation for impacts associated with the Harbor Deepening Project. Subsequent phases of construction will require local funding partners. Elders Point West has been designed; construction coordination is being sought for 2007-2008, with NYCDEP as the likely funding partner. NYSDEC and NYCDEP are the scheduled partners for a third project at Yellow Bar Hassock. JBDA funds may be needed to augment funds for Yellow Bar Hassock or for funding subsequent marsh island projects. Marsh Island Restoration is listed as proposal #70 in Table 1.

Subaqueous Borrow Pit Restoration has also been added to the list of proposals that may qualify for JBDA funds. Borrow pits are areas of the bay floor that have been artificially deepened, typically by sand mining activities. The Department, working in cooperation with the Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and other stakeholder agencies, has determined that aquatic and benthic habitats in borrow pits located in Norton Basin and Little Bay are functionally impaired. A demonstration project to beneficially reuse dredged material to restore these degraded areas is under development. Subaqueous Borrow Pit restoration is listed as proposal #71 in Table 1.

Westchester Creek/Zarega Ave (Bronx). Located on the western shore at the mouth of the creek, this approximately 600-foot section of shoreline was illegally filled in the 1980s. Restoration would involve the removal of the fill, regrading of the shoreline, and establishment of native wetland and upland vegetation. Westchester Creek/Zarega Ave. is listed as proposal #72 in Table 1.

Old Place Creek access site (Staten Island). This NYSDEC-owned parcel would be modified to provide the only public access point to the Old Place Creek system. Conceptual plans include the creation of a trail system leading to fishing stations along the creek bank, a hand launch area for canoes and kayaks, and a bird observation platform. Landscaping would be performed to replace the current plant community, which is dominated by invasive species, with native grassland species. Old Place Creek Access site is listed as proposal #73 in Table 1.

Pugsley Creek restoration (Bronx). The shoreline of the creek is managed by the NYC Parks Department. Restoration work would include the removal of historic fill, with site regrading and planting to re-establish native wetland and upland plant communities. Pugsley Creek restoration is listed as proposal #74 in Table 1.

Section 2:

Table 1: Summary of Project Proposals - Updated 2007

The following table is an updated version of the table titled ‘Summary of Project Proposals’ on pages 10-14 of the Response Report (DEC 1997). The column labeled ‘Status 2007’ provides current information regarding the status of proposals identified in the original document. Proposal numbers in parentheses indicate overlap in scope of two or more proposals.

For full descriptions of each proposal, see the Reconnaissance Report (DEC 1994) and Response Report (DEC 1997).

Proposal Number and Site Name		Location	Proposal Description	Status 2007
1-A	Healy Ave. (Norton Basin Natural Resource Area)	Jamaica Bay	Purchase parcel for addition to park	NYSDEC purchased the 11-acre parcel in 1995 using JBDA funds. The site is now managed by DEC as the ‘Norton Basin Natural Resources Area’
1-B (58)	Healy Ave (NBNRA)	Jamaica Bay	Install guardrail / Restore wetlands	Site regrading and planting of intertidal marsh, maritime dune and grassland were completed in 1998 with JBDA as sole funding source.
2-A	Brant Point	Jamaica Bay	Purchase parcels to consolidate holdings	Partially addressed via other funding source(s). Several parcels still available for consideration.
2-B	Brant Point	Jamaica Bay	Wetlands enhancement/Shrub and meadow restoration	No change
3-A	Vernam-Barbados	Jamaica Bay	Transfer of land from NYC Economic Development Corporation to NYC Parks	Completed

Proposal Number and Site Name		Location	Proposal Description	Status 2007
3-B (61)	Vernam-Barbados	Jamaica Bay	Restore maritime heathland and grassland / Create access road / Install protective guardrail	No change
4-A	Spring Creek	Jamaica Bay	Purchase land to consolidate holdings	No change
4-B	Spring Creek	Jamaica Bay	Salt marsh planting / Clean-up / Protective Guardrail	No change
5-A	Fresh Creek	Jamaica Bay	Transfer from NYC Department of Real Property to NYC Parks	No change
5-B	Fresh Creek	Jamaica Bay	Purchase of land for consolidation of NYC Parks holdings	No change
6-A(24)	Hook Creek	Jamaica Bay	Transfer of Parcels to NYC Parks	No change
6-B(24)	Hook Creek	Jamaica Bay	Purchase of In-Holding Private Land	No change
6-C	Hook Creek	Jamaica Bay	Install Guardrail	No change
7-A	Four Sparrow Marsh	Jamaica Bay	Transfer of Land from NYC EDC to Parks (Or Agreement on Protection)	No change

Proposal Number and Site Name		Location	Proposal Description	Status 2007
7-B	Four Sparrow Marsh	Jamaica Bay	Woodland/Shrub Plantings for Erosion Control and Install Guardrail	No change
8	Long Pond	Staten Isl.	Purchase Privately Held Parcels	Completed by NYC Parks via other funding source(s)
9	Butler Manor	Staten Isl.	Purchase Privately Held Parcels	Completed by DEC via other funding source(s)
10	Pelham Bay Lagoon	Bronx	Intertidal Wetland Restoration	Completed by NYC Parks via other funding source(s)
11	Twin Island Marsh	Bronx	Restoring Tidal Inundation with Culverts	Completed by NYC Parks via other funding source(s)
12	Turtle Cove	Bronx	Restore Tidal Flushing	Planning completed using JBDA funds. Design on-going with JBDA funds and cost-sharing partners. Implementation expected in 2008 using funds from JBDA and partners.
13	Unspecified	Jamaica Bay	Artificial Reef	No change
14	Unspecified	All 3 areas	<i>Phragmites</i> Management	Programmed for Tallapoosa West (Bronx) and Bergen Beach (Brooklyn) using JBDA and other funding
15	Floyd Bennett Field Navy Pier	Jamaica Bay	Restore Fishing Access	No change

Proposal Number and Site Name		Location	Proposal Description	Status 2007
16	Jamaica Bay	Jamaica Bay	Restore Fishing Access (Various Projects)	Partly addressed at NBNRA (#1) and Rockaway/Gateway Greenway Bike Path (#46)
17	Broad Channel	Jamaica Bay	Restore Interpretive Kiosk and Bathroom	Partly addressed by National Park Service
18	Airport Extension at JoCo Marsh	Jamaica Bay	Install Culverts to Restore Tidal Flow	No change
19	Jamaica Bay	Jamaica Bay	Develop comprehensive plan to control/enhance access to sensitive areas	No change
20(45)	Far Rockaway	Jamaica Bay	Install Signage/Fencing at Piping Plover & Least Tern nesting sites	On-going via other funding source(s)
21	Unspecified	All three areas	Upland Sand Piper Habitat Creation	No change
22	Unspecified	Jamaica Bay	Enhancement of Public Access/Educational Materials	Partly addressed via NBNRA (#1), Rockaway/Gateway Greenway Bike Path (#46) using JBDA funds and other funding sources
23	LILCO Property	Jamaica Bay	Purchase Property	No change
24 (6A/6B)	Hook Creek	Jamaica Bay	Inter-Agency Transfer / Park Designation	No change

Proposal Number and Site Name		Location	Proposal Description	Status 2007
25	Dubos Point	Jamaica Bay	Purchase Land	No longer available
26	Paerdegat Basin	Jamaica Bay	Transfer Land to NYC Parks	No change
27	Hendrix Creek	Jamaica Bay	Inter-Agency Transfer	No longer available
28	Vandalia Dunes	Jamaica Bay	Purchase Land - Limit Development	No longer available
29	Beach 90th Street	Jamaica Bay	Purchase parcel	No longer available
30(57)	Mott Basin	Jamaica Bay	Acquisition of private parcels (at head of Mott Basin)	Several parcels no longer available
31	Mott Peninsula (Bayswater Park)	Jamaica Bay	Acquire Several Private Parcels	No change
32 (63)	Bayswater State Park	Jamaica Bay	Restoration of Tidal Wetlands	No change
33	Norton Peninsula	Jamaica Bay	Transfer and/or Open Space Easements and Acquisition	No change
34	Unspecified	All 3 areas	Plant Submerged Aquatic Vegetation	No change
35(71)	Grassy Bay	Jamaica Bay	Rehabilitate Dredging Site with cap	No change

Proposal Number and Site Name		Location	Proposal Description	Status 2007
36	Seagirt Ave.	Jamaica Bay	Purchase Parcels Containing Tidal Wetlands	No change
37	Palmer's Inlet	Bronx	Purchase of Parcels to Protect Access to Historic Fish Weir	No longer available
38	Pugsley Creek	Bronx	Purchase of Parcels or Easements to Consolidate Holdings	Completed by NYC Parks
39	City Island	Bronx	Purchase land containing salt marsh	No longer available
40	Harbor Herons	Staten Isl.	Purchase land with on-site restoration	Purchase of parcels containing 20+-acres wetland and upland is expected in 2007 using \$1,000,000 in JBDA funds
41	Pelham Bay Park (Eastchester Bay Coastline)	Bronx	Remove concrete from shoreline	No change
42	Pelham Bay Park and Ferry Point Park	Bronx	Grasslands restoration	No change
43	Greenwich Property (Bayswater Park)	Jamaica Bay	Creation of an Intern Center	No change

Proposal Number and Site Name		Location	Proposal Description	Status 2007
44	Unspecified	All 3 areas	Purchase boat for research and educational purposes	Partially addressed by DEC through purchase of boat for Jamaica Bay Guardian (used non-JBDA funds)
45(20)	Breezy Point	Jamaica Bay	Gull Management	No change
46	Jamaica Bay	Jamaica Bay	Rockaway/Gateway Greenway Bike Path	Completed using \$700,000 JBDA funding. Funding partners included USDOT and NPS
47	Jamaica Bay (various sites)	Jamaica Bay	Grassland Restoration	No change
48	Bronx River	Bronx	Expansion of Water Quality Monitoring	Addressed by on-going efforts of Bronx River Alliance and others
49	Bronx River	Bronx	Shoreline Habitat Restoration for Soil Conservation	Addressed by on-going efforts of Bronx River Alliance and others
50	Bronx	Bronx	Expand Community Education and Outreach Programs	Addressed by on-going efforts of Bronx River Alliance and others
51	Paw-Paw Woods	Staten Isl.	Land Purchase	No change
52	Gerritsen Inlet/Dead Horse Bay	Jamaica Bay	Intertidal wetland restoration/cleanup, upland restoration and <i>Phragmites</i> control	No change
53	Canarsie Beach	Jamaica Bay	Wetland and upland restoration/cleanup and security guardrail	No change

Proposal Number and Site Name		Location	Proposal Description	Status 2007
54A	Hawtree Basin	Jamaica Bay	Tidal wetland restoration	No change
54B	Head of Hawtree Basin	Jamaica Bay	Enhance intertidal and high marsh wetlands and <i>Phragmites</i> control	No change
55A	Bergen Basin bulkhead	Jamaica Bay	Restore and enhance wetlands	No change
55B	Bergen Basin western point	Jamaica Bay	Tidal wetland restoration	No change
55C	Bergen Basin subway site	Jamaica Bay	Enhance intertidal marsh and debris removal	No change
56	JFK shoreline enhancement	Jamaica Bay	Tidal wetland enhancement	No change
57(30)	Mott Basin	Jamaica Bay	Tidal wetland/upland enhancement and debris removal	Several parcels no longer available
58(1B)	Healy Ave.	Jamaica Bay	Tidal wetland restoration, upland restoration and security guardrail	Completed; see #1-B
59A	Conch Basin, southeast shore front	Jamaica Bay	Wetland restoration and debris removal	No change

Proposal Number and Site Name		Location	Proposal Description	Status 2007
59B	Conch Basin, head of bay	Jamaica Bay	Tidal wetland enhancement and debris removal	No change
60A	Sommerville Basin- east side	Jamaica Bay	Tidal wetland enhancement and <i>Phragmites</i> control	No change
60B	Sommerville Basin- west (b/w DeCosta and Thursby)	Jamaica Bay	Restoration of tidal wetlands, debris removal and fishing access	No change
61(3-B)	Vernam Barbados	Jamaica Bay	Tidal wetland enhancement and debris removal	No change
62	Breezy Point	Jamaica Bay	Dune stabilization via plantings	No change
63 (32)	Bayswater State Park	Jamaica Bay	Shoreline naturalization by removal of riprap and enhance the tidal wetland	No change
64	Floyd Bennett Field	Jamaica Bay	Shoreline naturalization and tidal wetland restoration	No change
65	South Garden, Jamaica Bay National Wildlife Refuge	Jamaica Bay	Freshwater pond creation	No change
66	Beach 80 th Barbadoes	Jamaica Bay	Wetland restoration	No change

Proposal Number and Site Name		Location	Proposal Description	Status 2007
67	Arverne Renewal Area, Beach to Bay Park	Jamaica Bay	Recreational access	No change
68	Jamaica Bay (various sites)	Jamaica Bay	Mosquito mitigation	No change
69	St. Francis Seminary	Staten Isl.	Acquire sensitive parcels	Completed by DEC using other funding source(s)
70 ¹	Marsh Island Restoration	Jamaica Bay	Restore marsh islands	Added to list in 2007
71 ¹ (35)	Subaqueous Borrow Pit Restoration	Jamaica Bay	Restore borrow pits	Added to list in 2007
72 ¹	Westchester Creek/Zarega Ave.	Bronx	Wetland restoration	Added to list in 2007

¹Proposal identified in 2007 as eligible for JBDA funds.

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Proposal Number and Site Name		Location	Proposal Description	Status 2007
73 ¹	Old Place Creek Access Site	Staten Island	Restore fishing access	Added to list in 2007
74 ¹	Pugsley Creek	Bronx	Wetland Restoration	Added to list in 2007

Figure 1. JBDA proposal sites in Eastern Jamaica Bay.



Figure 2. JBDA proposal sites in Western Jamaica Bay



Figure 3. JBDA proposal sites in Staten Island



Figure 4. JBDA proposal sites in the Bronx



Literature Cited

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Division of Marine Resources. 1994. 'Restoration of Natural Resources through the Jamaica Bay Damages Account - Reconnaissance Phase Report'. September 30, 1994.

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