

Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve



Revised Management Plan 2009-2014



This management plan has been developed in accordance with NOAA regulations, including all provisions for public involvement. It is consistent with the congressional intent of Section 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended, and the provisions of the New York Coastal Management Program.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Management Plan, a revision of an original 1993 plan, provides a framework to guide the direction and activities of the Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve (HRNERR). The Reserve is a state-federal partnership program that relates to four federally-designated and state-protected sites along 100 miles of Hudson River Estuary: Piermont Marsh, Iona Island, Tivoli Bays, and Stockport Flats.

The mission of HRNERR is to improve the health and vitality of the Hudson River Estuary by protecting estuarine habitats through integrated education, training, stewardship, restoration, and monitoring and research programs. This program is operated as a partnership between New York State and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

In support of the HRNERR mission, the plan sets forth five goals and several objectives in support of each goal, and identifies policies that protect the natural resources and ecological integrity of the Reserve sites. The plan provides guidance for operations, management, research, monitoring, education and public outreach, stewardship, resource protection, public access, and other reserve purposes for the next five years or until the plan is revised and updated. New York State's implementation of this plan will be evaluated by NOAA during required program evaluations every three years.

This management plan also describes the elements necessary to identify key resources of the Reserve, determine the appropriate level of human use for the sites and their resources, and foster their long-term protection. All agency actions in the Reserve must be compatible with the management plan goals, objectives, and policies, which will be implemented consistently throughout the Reserve.

This management plan was developed in accordance with federal regulations and follows an established NERR management plan structure and content. It is consistent with Section 315 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 and its amendments. The plan is also consistent with the New York State Coastal Management Program and its coastal policies.

Chapter 4 describes how the Reserve will pursue its first goal: to increase scientific understanding of Hudson River estuarine habitats. This will be accomplished through the mapping and inventory of Hudson River shorelines, the study and documentation of estuarine habitat functions, and documentation of spatial and temporal changes in estuarine habitats or its tributaries. Human impacts on the estuary are also being identified, including sea level rise and other climate change impacts, and the Reserve is seeking to advance planning for impact mitigation and adaptation. This scientific information will be shared with decision-makers to enhance ecosystem protection and management and the vitality of estuarine habitats.

The Reserve's second goal is to increase estuarine literacy to promote active stewardship and environmentally sustainable behaviors and decisions. Chapter 5 describes a suite of

education and interpretation activities. The Reserve uses its sites, interpretive facilities and the river and its inhabitants to serve community groups, the public, students, teachers, and environmental educators.

The Reserve's third goal is to increase informed decision-making to protect and enhance Hudson River habitats. Chapter 6 describes the Estuary Training Program, through which the Reserve plans and develops partnerships to offer workshops and training that enhance process skills, scientific and technical knowledge, and management capacity of local and regional decision-makers.

Under the fourth goal, the Reserve will enhance stewardship of the land and water ecosystems within the Reserve. Chapter 7, the stewardship chapter, includes a resource protection plan, a habitat restoration plan, and a land acquisition plan.

The fifth goal is to enhance Reserve operational capacity and facilities to enable the Reserve to support all the previous programmatic goals. Chapter 8 includes an administration and operations plan, a facilities plan, and an access plan. The facilities plan describes a set of energy enhancements planned for the Norrie Point Environmental Center, the Reserve's headquarters since 2007.

Finally, Chapter 9 of the plan describes the Reserve's approach for integrating education, training, research, and stewardship to ensure a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts. Through partnerships and staff activities, the Reserve remains committed to accomplish the Reserve's mission through this action plan, and to fostering the integrity of all Hudson River habitats.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADAAG	Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines
CZMA	Coastal Zone Management Act
CFRR	U.S. Code of Federal Rules and Regulations
CMP	New York State Coastal Management Program, DOS
DEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
DOS	New York State Department of State
ECL	New York State Environmental Conservation Law
FMP	Final Management Plan
GIS	Geographic Information System
HREMP	Hudson River Estuary Management Program
HRFNC	Hudson River Federal Navigation Channel
HRNERR	Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NEIWPC	New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission
NERR	National Estuarine Research Reserve
NERRS	National Estuarine Research Reserve System (refers to all NERRs in the national network of interacting sites)
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce
NPS	Non-Point Source (Pollution)
NYS	New York State
OCRM	Office of Coastal Resource Management, NOAA
OGS	New York State Office of General Services
OPRHP	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
PI	Principal Investigator
PIPC	Palisades Interstate Park Commission
SEQRA	New York State Environmental Quality Review Act
SMP	Site Management Plan
SRD	Sanctuaries and Reserves Division, Office of Coastal Resource Management, NOAA
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WRCRA	New York State Waterfront Revitalization and Coastal Resources Act