



Rebuild By Design New Meadowlands Project Update

April 2015

In June 2014, the State of New Jersey was awarded \$380 million to implement two flood mitigation projects through the Rebuild by Design competition, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). New Jersey was awarded \$230 million to implement a comprehensive urban water strategy in the Hudson River region and \$150 million to implement a storm resiliency project in the Meadowlands District called the New Meadowlands.

This is an update on the New Meadowlands project, which includes Moonachie, Little Ferry, Carlstadt, Teterboro and South Hackensack.

DEP is the lead State agency to plan, design and construct the project. In addition to gathering public input through multiple public meetings, DEP is hosting regular Executive Steering Committee meetings with mayors of the towns within the project areas and HUD officials for coordination and policy decisions.

Other steps taken to engage the public on the New Meadowlands project include the development of a website providing general information and the project's next steps. An electronic mailing list has also been established so residents and interested parties can receive future project updates from DEP.

Please register at www.nj.gov/dep/floodhazard/rbd-meadowlands-subscribe.htm. DEP will continue to work with mayors and stakeholders to identify additional opportunities for outreach, including hosting additional public meetings in order to ensure that the process is truly open and transparent.

DEP is preparing to start feasibility studies for the New Meadowlands project, which includes conducting an overall assessment of the project area, collecting data through survey work and determining benefits and impacts to infrastructure and working with the local municipalities to obtain any plans or reports that could be beneficial to the next project phase. Additionally, DEP has begun working with sister agencies such as the New Jersey Department of Transportation, the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs, the Meadowlands Regional Commission and Bergen County to ensure an open exchange of data and ideas. This feasibility stage also includes a critical Environmental Impact Assessment (EIS) of the project to determine any impacts to the ecosystem or the environment.

DEP is working closely with the New Jersey Department of Treasury to release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for this essential work of determining project feasibility and engineering design. The RFP will solicit proposals from qualified design contractors to ensure that the project is properly designed at a competitive price. The feasibility studies are expected to take between one and two years. Once feasibility is complete, the project will enter the design phase, followed by construction.

The New Meadowlands flood risk reduction project conceptually consists of a large natural reserve along the Hackensack River, which will connect and expand marshland. The design aims to use a system of green and gray infrastructure, to protect against ocean surges and rain event flooding. The feasibility study will ultimately determine what types of measure can be designed and constructed.

The Rebuild by Design competition was created in the summer of 2013 by the federal Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force as a way to develop ideas capable of dramatically improving the physical, ecological, and economic resilience of the Sandy-affected region. HUD conducted and administered the competition in partnership with philanthropic, academic, and nonprofit organizations. During the competition, ten interdisciplinary teams comprised of scientists, engineers, designers, and architects spent months understanding the major vulnerabilities of the region and collaborating with local and regional stakeholders to develop locally responsive proposals to improve the resilience of waterfront communities.

For more information on the New Meadowlands project, visit <http://www.nj.gov/dep/floodhazard/rbd-meadowlands.htm>.

For more information on the Rebuild by Design competition, visit <http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/sandyrebuilding/rebuildbydesign>

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