REBUILD BY DESIGN

MEADOWLANDS

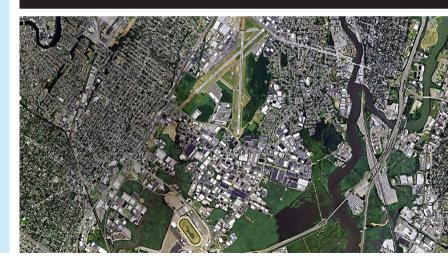


FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

Boroughs of Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, and Teterboro, and the Township of South Hackensack in Bergen County, New Jersey

CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP (CAG) MEETING

ECOLOGY AND DRAINAGE BASIN OPPORTUNITY AREAS









- Welcome and Agenda
- Project Status Update & Schedule
- Project Process & Screening Criteria
- What We Learned from CAG #4 Meeting
- Project Area Ecology
- Drainage Basin Opportunity Areas





PROJECT STATUS UPDATE



- Developed working draft Concept Screening Criteria
 - Updated based on CAG #3 meeting
- Completed and published to the project website
 - CAG #4 meeting minutes
 - September 2016 Newsletter
- Received additional input from CAG #4 meeting
- Developing the Preliminary Draft EIS
 - Conducting field work to support EIS and Feasibility Study
- Further developing the alternative conceptual ideas and locations







CAG SCHEDULE

MOVING FORWARD

CAG #5

Focus on Alternative 2: Storm Water Drainage Improvements

CAG #6

Focus on Alternative 1: Structural Flood Reduction

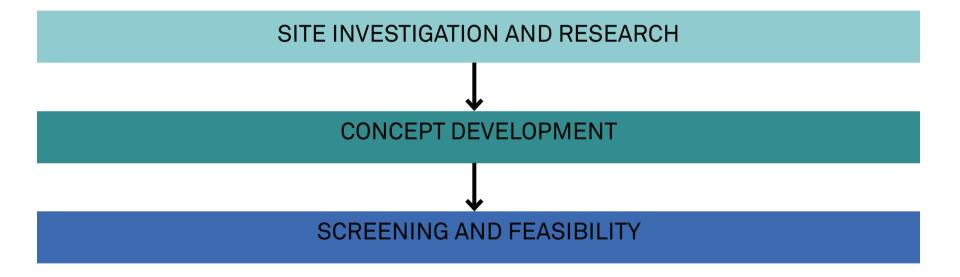
CAG #7

Focus on Alternative 3: Hybrid





DEVELOPING CONCEPTS







SCREENING CRITERIA

COMPONEN	SCREENING CRITERION		MPARATIVE CONCEPT SCREENING METRICS ve" or "relatively" indicates that concepts are	
<u> </u>		GOOD	FAIR	POOR
	Reduces Flood Risk from Coastal Storm Surge (Alternatives 1 and 3)	Provides the greatest relative reduction in future flood risk, as measured by annual flood damage reduction, from coastal storm surge risk.	Provides a moderate relative reduction in future flood risk, as measured by annual flood damage reduction, from coastal storm surge risk.	
	Reduces Flood Risk from Rainfall /Interior Drainage Challenges (Alternatives 2 and 3)	Provides improved discharge corridors and/or natural storm water storage for most high priority inflow locations/localized flooding areas in the Project Area.	Provides improved discharge corridors and/or natural storm water storage for some high priority inflow locations/localized flooding areas in the Project Area.	Provides improved discharge corridors and/or natural storm water storage for few to none hig priority inflow locations/localized flooding areas the Project Area.
FLOOD RISK REDUCTION	Provides Protection to Vulnerable and Underserved Populations	Protects the greatest relative number of vulnerable and underserved populations as compared to other concepts.	Protects a moderate relative number of vulnerable and underserved populations as compared to other concepts.	Protects least relative number of vulnerable an underserved populations as compared to other concepts.
	Provides Protection to Critical Infrastructure (emergency services, hospitals, transit facilities)	Protects the greatest relative amount of critical infrastructure as compared to other concepts.	Protects a moderate relative amount of critical infrastructure as compared to other concepts.	Protects the least relative amount of critical infrastructure as compared to other concepts.
BUILT ENVIRONMENT/HUMAN ENVIRONMENT	Effects to Existing Utilities & Utility Infrastructure	Requires no or only limited relocations of existing utility infrastructure.	Requires a moderate amount of relocations of existing utility infrastructure.	Requires a large amount of relocations of existing utility infrastructure. However, these impacts could be mitigated in concert with Proposed Project implementation.
	Effects to Existing Transportation Network, Local Traffic, and Connectivity	Includes features to improve connectivity (vehicles, bike, pedestrians) of the street system that would improve connections and traffic circulation. Would result in long-term benefits to transportation infrastructure, with no adverse impacts to transportation infrastructure.	Does not include features to improve connectivity (vehicles, bike, pedestrians) of the street system that would improve connections and traffic circulation. However, the concept would not adversely affect existing or future-planned connectivity. Would not result in any long-term transportation improvements. May result in neutral or minor adverse impacts to transportation infrastructure.	May decrease connectivity or traffic circulation some locations and/or conflict with future opportunities to improve connectivity (vehicles bike, pedestrians). Would not result in any lon term transportation improvements. Would result in mitigatable adverse impacts to transportation infrastructure during construction or operation or operation.
	Effects on Land Acquisition / Housing Displacements	May result in land use improvements over the long term. Would not require land acquisitions / easements, housing demolition, or permanent relocations.	Would not result in land use improvements over the long term. Would require minimal land acquisitions / easements. No housing demolition or permanent relocations would be required.	Would not result in land use improvements ov the long term. Would require numerous land acquisitions / easements, and minimal housing demolition or permanent relocations.
	Potential to Provide Increased Waterfront Access	Includes features that would improve waterfront access within the Project Area.	Does not include features that would improve waterfront access within the Project Area.	Would result in a minor decrease in waterfront access within the Project Area.
	Effects to Recreational, Civic, and Cultural Amenities and Uses	Incorporates many new and/or improved amenities to support recreational, commercial, and cultural activities.	Incorporates few new and/or improved amenities to support recreational, commercial, and cultural activities.	Incorporates no new and/or improved amenitie to support recreational, commercial, and culturactivities.
	Effects to Viewshed and Local Visual Quality	Includes features that would enhance views of water and other natural areas.	Does not include features that would enhance views of water and other natural resources.	Includes features that would result in a minor decrease in views of water and natural areas.

- How do we use the screening criteria to consolidate potential opportunity areas?
 - Identify potential opportunities and develop into concepts
 - Screen concepts using screening criteria
 - Not all opportunities/concepts will pass screening process

Sample of the screening criteria matrix





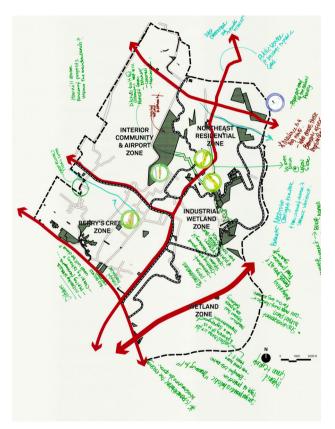


WHAT WE LEARNED FROM CAG #4 MEETING

Susan Bemis, AECOM







INVEST

- Address frequent flooding from rain fall events.
- Utilize the most immediate and cost efficient option(s) for protection from storm surges.

EXAMINE

- Potential water displacement towards neighboring communities.
- · Holistic solution.

MAINTAIN

 Long-term maintenance of proposed project infrastructure is a concern: Who maintains and for how long?

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER

• Opportunities for private land acquisition during the concept development process.







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ALTERNATIVE 1 - CAG #4 COMMENTS

STRUCTURAL FLOOD REDUCTION



Berry's Creek

WATERFRONT ACCESS

 Access to the Hackensack River needs to remain a priority.

PROTECTION OF WETLANDS

 Emphasize wetland and biological resources protection + enhancement.

MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

· Consider minimal footprints.

DEPLOYABLES

 Maintenance and operations of deployables are a concern.

PRIORITIZE FLOOD PROTECTION

 General interest in flood protection incorporated with public benefit, but flood protection is the main objective.







STORM WATER DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS



Green street example

CURRENT SYSTEMS

- Improve current systems, including ditches and pipes.
- Potential to install backflow preventers.

CONSIDER VARIOUS ENGINEERING IMPROVEMENTS

- Green rain gardens, permeable paving, bioswales, among other green infrastructure elements.
- Grey pump stations, increase flow capacity of drainage basins, and detention basins.

OPEN SPACES

• Enhance the performance of existing open spaces.

NATURAL CONDITIONS

 Return developed areas to natural conditions and find opportunities for enhancement.







ALTERNATIVE 3 - CAG #4 COMMENTS

HYBRID SOLUTION



Hackensack River

NO ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Development has displaced natural habitat and systems.
- Improvements should not be used to generate or promote new development.

POLLUTION + CONTAMINATION

- Understand and consider pollution issues associated with Berry's Creek.
- Consider a tide gate at Paterson Plank Road.

GREEN + GREY INFRASTRUCTURE

 Utilize a combination of both to get the most benefit.





TETERBORO AIRPORT

Opportunity for green infrastructure at Teterboro Airport (upgrade of disturbed environments).

TETERBORO AIRPORT, WEST **COMMERCIAL AVENUE**

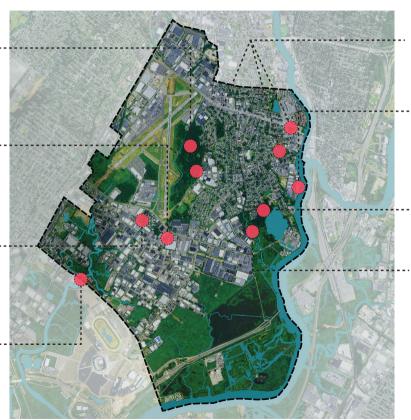
Bioswales and green infrastructure (south/east of the Teterboro Airport, West Commercial Avenue, southern end of the Project Area).

EAST AND WEST RISER

Prioritize the East and West Riser ditches for Berry's Creek area, especially in consideration of the nearby mobile home communities.

PATERSON PLANK ROAD

Consider addition of a tide gate along Paterson Plank Road in the Berry's Creek Zone.



TETERBORO FOREST. LOSEN SLOTE. WILLOW LAKE, VACANT LOTS

Utilize existing open spaces.

HACKENSACK RIVER EDGE

Potential for additional habitat creation. water storage, and water access.

MEHRHOF WETI AND ZONE

Area immediately north of Mehrhof pond wetland zone could be a good location for recreational paths.

LOSEN SLOTE

Large migratory bird area would benefit from enhancements such as widening.





PROJECT AREA ECOLOGY

John Rollino, AECOM





PROJECT AREA ECOLOGY



Existing habitat near development

- The Project Area contains natural areas surrounded by suburban, industrial, and commercial development. Several of these natural areas have not been intensively studied to date by others.
- The ecological studies being conducted by AECOM will be used to support the NEPA analysis, regulatory agency consultations, and associated permitting.







PROJECT AREA ECOLOGY



(Foreground) Birds and marshes along the Hackensack (Background) NJ Turnpike Bridge

- As part of the EIS, the field data collection will be supplemented with previous and ongoing studies (e.g., Fisheries Inventory of the Hackensack River, FAA Wildlife, etc.)
- Members of the project team have past experience conducting studies for the NJSEA (formerly HMDC) (e.g., Secaucus High School Site) and/or other multiyear studies (Empire Tract)





BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES



East Riser Ditch, looking north from Amor Ave, Carlstadt, NJ

- Biological resource studies (ongoing) include:
 - Habitat mapping and evaluation
 - Wetland delineation
 - Botanical inventories
 - Wildlife studies:
 - Avifauna (birds)
 - Benthic Invertebrates
 - Fish
 - Herptofauna (Reptiles and Amphibians)
 - Mammals







BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: GOALS



Scientists evaluate soil conditions in Little Ferry

- Categorize habitats, flora, and fauna, and conduct ecological evaluations in support of a NEPA-level analysis.
- Identify high-value ecological resources and provide input into planning process in order to minimize impacts to greatest extent possible.
- Identify and develop opportunities to increase ecologic value of the Project Area post project construction.







HABITAT MAPPING



Mowed lawn detention basin, Moonachie, NJ



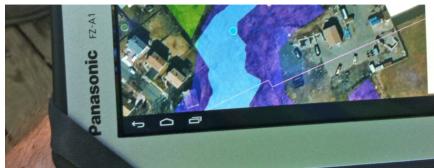
Hardwood Swamp, Teterboro, NJ

- Project Area ~5,800 acres.
- ~4,000 acres are commercial, industrial, and residential.
- ~1,800 acres are "natural areas" –
 parcels with vegetated communities.





MAPPED DATA COLLECTION



Screen shot of handheld tablet and mapped habitats



Scientists mapping habitats

- Scientists traversed the Project Area on foot and identified "natural areas."
- Aerial images of the Project Area were used as a background on hand-held tablets.
- Natural areas were sketched in tablets and inputed as a GIS file.
- ~ 400 habitat polygons and shoreline developments (~1,800 ac).
- Each natural area was given an alpha-numeric code, based on its geographic location.







MAPPED DATA COLLECTION



Wetland /Herbaceous/emergent/Drainage (Y)/Disturbed (Y)/
Phragmites australis, Persicaria perfoliata/Common Reed Marsh

- Other data collected for each natural area polygon included:
- Dominant Habitat Type wetland/ upland/waterbody/etc.
 - Covertype herbaceous, forested, deciduous, etc.
 - Ditch/drainage present/adjacent Y/N
 - Disturbed Y/N
 - Dominant species species identified
 - Habitat Community floodplain forest, urban woodlot, common reed marsh.







ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION



High value wetland



Low value wetland

- •Using US Army Corps of Engineers "Evaluation of Planned Wetlands (EPW)" methodology.
- •EPW mathematically scores wetlands on a number of functions (sediment stabilization, wildlife habitat, water quality, etc).
- •Through computation, scientists assess "health" of existing wetlands and calculate the "Functions and values" of mitigated wetlands.
- •Using site-specific information gathered from studies, habitats are being coded based on ecological value and function.







WETLANDS



(Foreground) Created/enhanced marsh, Secaucus, NJ (Background) Project Area

- Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act:
 Wetlands are "areas that are inundated or
 saturated by surface or ground water at a
 frequency and duration sufficient to support, and
 that under normal circumstances do support, a
 prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life
 in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally
 include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas."
- Freshwater Wetlands: The "three parameter approach." Wetlands under normal conditions have hydric soils; dominance of hydric vegetation; and presence of hydrology.
- Tidal Wetlands: Use elevation data too (e.g., Spring high tide line).







SOILS: UPLAND AND WETLAND

PRELIMINARY DATA

• Upland soils Note brown color, loose friable texture. Soils are dry.



Wetland soils

Note dark black color, mucky appearance, obvious saturation. Changes in soil are a result of anoxic conditions.









Soils cores taken less than 5 feet from each other at a site near Bellman's Creek.





DELINEATED LINE

PRELIMINARY DATA



 During a wetland delineation, scientists note soil characteristics, hydrology, and vegetation. These observations allow for the delineation (i.e., delineated line) between uplands and wetlands.

Wetland site, Durham, Ct





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WILDLIFE STUDIES



Indian Lake, Little Ferry, NJ

- Birds, reptiles/amphibeans, fish, benthic invertebrates, and mammal studies occur seasonally (summer completed).
- Additional studies for birds weekly during summer, fall, and spring. Specialized nesting study in spring.
- Other specialized studies vernal pools, nocturnal species/activity, game cameras.







Caption: Northern Mockingbird resting on branch along Commerce, Blvd.

- At 10 locations throughout the Project Area, scientists conduct morning and/or evening studies.
- All birds sighted are counted.
 Activity is noted, as well as direction and distance from scientist.
- Data allows for the creation of a spherical histogram to be overlaid on habitat mapping data to determine site usage.









Double-crested cormorant flying above Hackensack River

- To date, over 70 bird species identified.
- Majority of sightings were very common species: European starlings, mourning dove, ring-billed gull.
- Habitats in which birds sighted:
 - 7.07% Open Water
 - 19.87% Structure
 - 21.80% Upland
 - 51.33% Wetland







American Crow
American Goldvinch
American Kestrel
American Redstart
American Robin
American Tree Sparrow

Bald Eagle Barn Swallow Belted Kingfisher Blue Jay

Brown-headed Cowbird Bufflehead

Carolina Chickedee

Canada Goose

Carolina Wren Cedar Waxwing Chimney Swift Common Grackle Common Yellowthroat Domestic Goose Double-crested Cormorant Downey Woodpecker Fastern Pheobe European Starling Field Sparrow

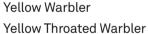
Great Black-backed Gull

Great Blue Heron **Great Egret** Herring Gull House Finch House Sparrow Killdeer King Bird Kinglet sp. Lesser Yellow Legs Little Blue Heron Mallard Marsh Wren Mourning Dove

Northern Cardinal

Northern Flicker Northern Harrier Northern Mockingbird Osprey Ovenbird Palm Warbler Peregrine Falcon Red Tail Hawk Red Winged Blackbird Red-bellied Woodpecker Ring-billed Gull Rock Dove Rufous-sided Towhee Sandpiper sp.

Sharp-shinned hawk Snowy Egret Song Sparrow Sparrow sp. Spotted Sandpiper Swallow sp. Tree Swallow Water Thrush White-breasted Nuthatch Wood Duck



Yellow Rumped Warbler





Fish Crow

Gray Catbird

FISH AND BENTHIC INVERTEBRATES



Minnow traps in Losen Slote headwater



- Sampled from 9 different locations in the Project Area using fish traps.
- Fish identified to date include: bluegill, pumpkinseed, catfish, carp, goldfish, mummichogs, and mosquitofish.
- Species common to disturbed environments.









Skunk captured on infrared game camera near River Barge Park in the southern portion of the study area.

- Mammals surveyed through game cameras, presence identification (tracks and scat), nocturnal surveys, and (soon) snow tracking.
- Mammal survey locations occur throughout Project Area in a variety of representative habitats.
- Bats studied with night vision scopes, meters, and ultrasonic microphones that capture bat echolocations.
- Game cameras stationed throughout the Project Area in a variety of habitats.







MAMMALS

PRELIMINARY DATA

Big Brown Bat (Eptesicus fuscus)

Cat (Felis silvestris catus)

Chipmunk, unknown species

Grey Squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis)

Groundhog (*Marmota monax*)

Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*)

Muskrat (Ondatra zibethicus)

Opossum (Didelphis virginiana)

Rabbit (Sylvilagus floridanus)

Raccoon (Procyon lotor)

Rat (unknown species)

Red Fox (Vulpes vulpes)

Skunk (Mephitis mephitis)

White-tailed Deer (Odocoileus virginianus)

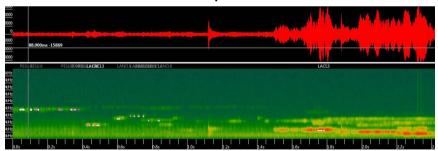




MAMMALS



Bat meter with ultrasonic microphone at Losen Slote



Screen shot of bat echolocation using acoustical software

- Using a meter with ultrasonic microphone, scientists record bat echolocations.
- Analyzing timing, kHz, and other factors, scientists can identify what species are present in an area.







ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT





Forested Mitigation Area, Duke Farms, Hillsborough, NJ

- Using existing data collected to identify potential areas to avoid and enhance.
- Using ecological value calculation methods (e.g., EPW, IVA, etc.) and other metrics, it is possible to quantify impacts and ensure that enhancement would provide a net ecological benefit.







View of Hackensack River, looking south from Rt 46 Bridge

- Many Project Area habitats are home to invasive species and other stressors.
- Studies to date have shown aquatic fauna affected by contamination south of Moonachie Ave.
- Many small waterways are polluted and stressed, often due to previous engineering projects and efforts.
- To date, data has shown that developed industrial / commercial areas have limited ecological value to fauna.









PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS

Tidal Gate along Berry's Creek

- The Proposed Project presents a unique opportunity to reduce flooding and simultaneously improve habitat values and functions.
- Improvements could include, but are not limited to:
 - New marshes along the Hackensack
 - Upgrades of streams daylighting, select plantings, fish habitat improvements.
 - Invasive species removal.







DRAINAGE BASIN OPPORTUNITY AREAS

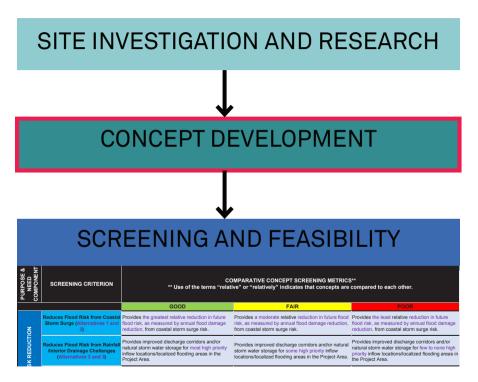
Michael Vecchio, HDR





PROCESS + SCREENING CRITERIA

DEVELOPING CONCEPTS



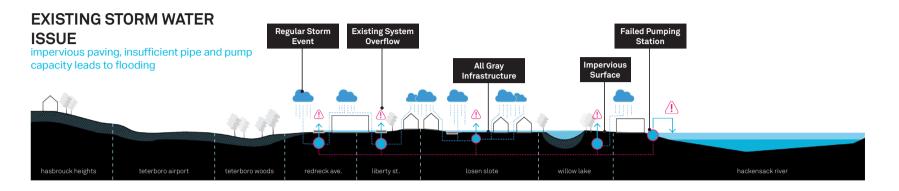
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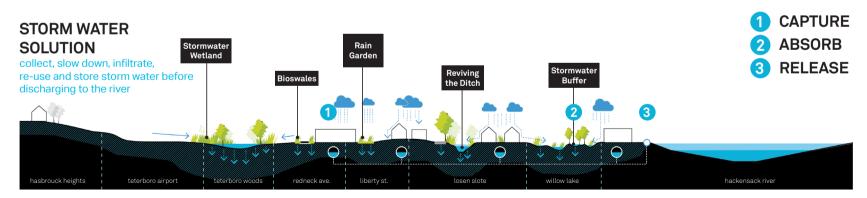






STORM WATER IMPROVEMENTS









KIT OF PARTS:

MOVING FROM STRATEGY TO OPPORTUNITY































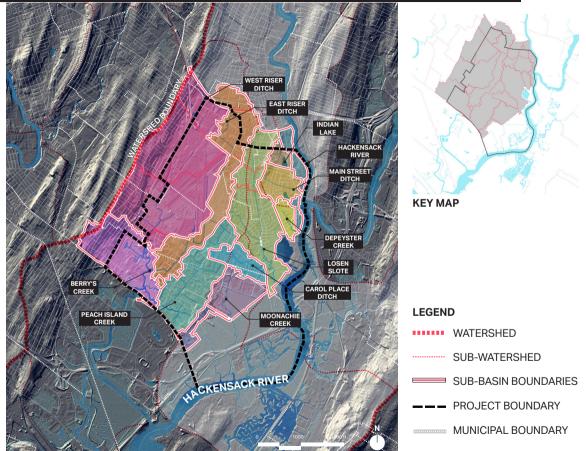




DRAINAGE SUB-BASINS

Michael Vecchio, HDR

- Zones represent distinct sub-basins within the Project Area.
- Identify storm water management strategies within watershed and zones:
 - Grey Infrastructure
 - Green Infrastructure





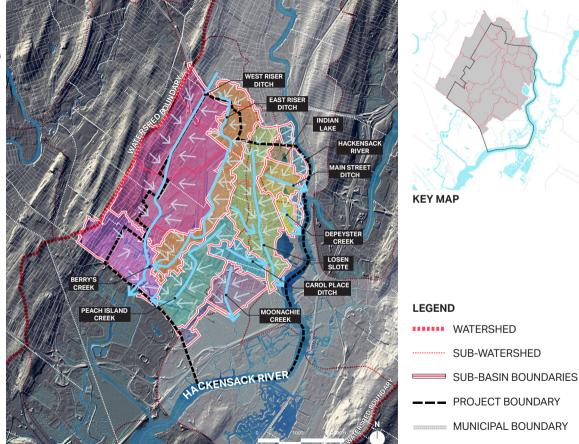




DRAINAGE SUB-BASIN FLOWS

Michael Vecchio, HDR

How is water moving and being captured within each sub-basin?









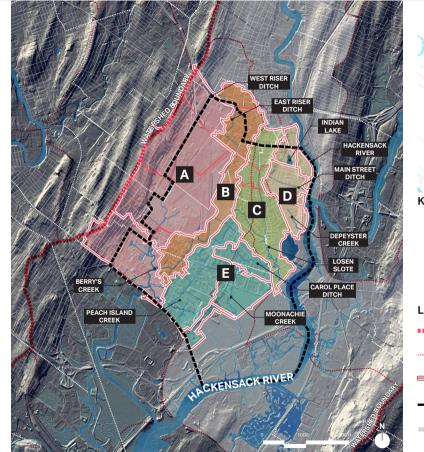
ZONE A West Riser Ditch + Berry's Creek

> ZONE B East Riser Ditch

> > ZONE C Losen Slote

ZONE DDePeyster Creek + Main Street Ditch

ZONE E
Carol Place Ditch + Moonachie
Creek + Peach Island Creek





LEGEND

WATERSHED

SUB-WATERSHED

SUB-BASIN BOUNDARIES

PROJECT BOUNDARY

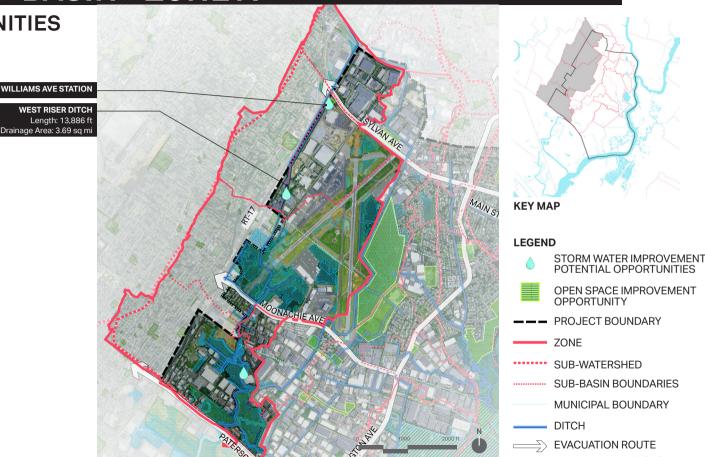
MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY







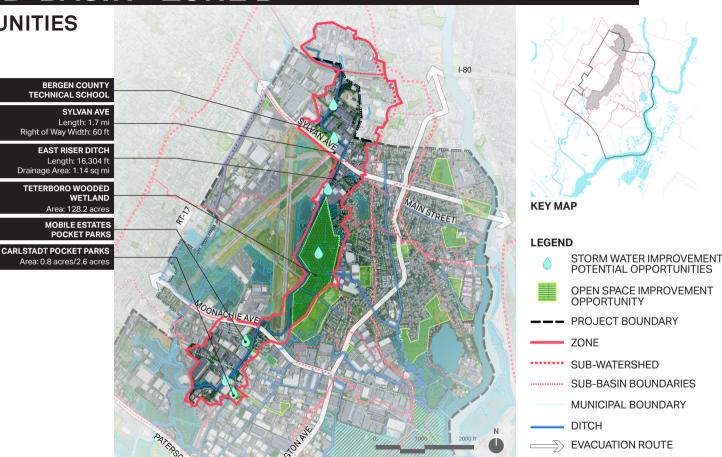
- West Riser dredging
- West Riser Tide Gate and Pump Station
- Access for O&M
- Green streets







- East Riser dredging
- East Riser Tide Gate
- Pump Station
- **Fast Riser Tide Gate** upgrade
- Off-channel storage





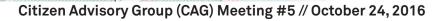


- Losen Slote outfall backflow prevention
- Losen Slote dredging
- Storm sewer capacity upgrades











- Depeyster Creek Pump Station upgrade and Willow Lake
- Storm sewer capacity upgrades
- Main Street conveyance
- Backflow protection on Hackensack

INDIAN LAKE
Area: 15.8 acres

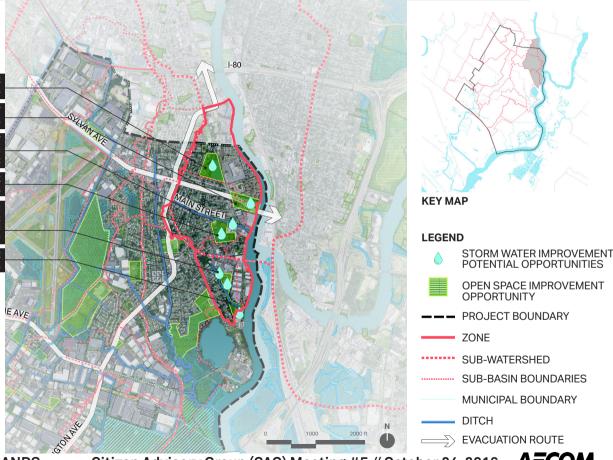
HACKENSACK RIVERFRONT
Area: 12.1 acres

MAIN STREET
Length: 0.9 mi
Right of Way Width: 40 ft

WILLOW LAKE
Area: 12.4 acres

LOUIS STREET DITCH
Length: 2,375 ft
Type: Exposed
Drainage Area: 0.13 sq mi

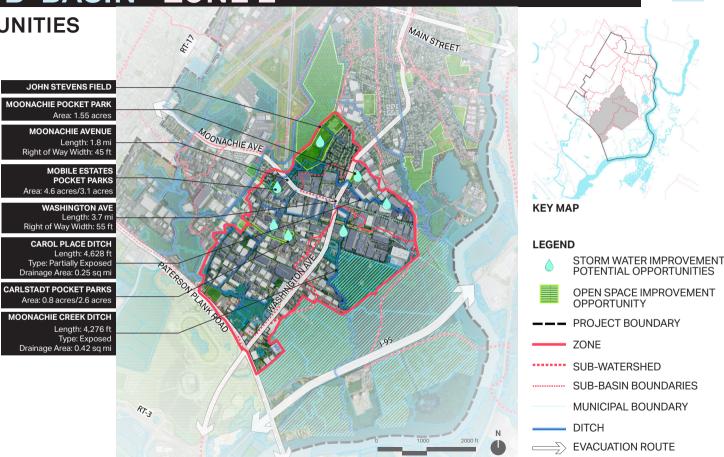
GATES RD/ INDUSTRIAL AVE
Area: 128.2 acres







- Storm sewer capacity upgrades
- Interior pump stations
- Pump station upstream of Peach Island Creek Tide Gate
- Upgrade of Peach Island Creek Tide Gate











WHAT COULD THESE LOOK LIKE?

Susan Bemis, AECOM





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OPEN SPACE + HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS Susan Bemis, AECOM





KEY MAP

WETLAND CREATION

Through grading and wetland planting, existing upland is transformed into wetland

WETLAND ENHANCEMENT

With minimal re-grading and native plantings, existing west Riser Ditch and low-quality wetlands are improved to filter and store more storm water

BOARDWALK

Accessible walkway allows for contiguous wetland and storm water system beneath





OPEN SPACE IMPROVEMENTS





PERMEABLE PAVING

Gravel paving absorbs storm water

BIOSWALES

Filters 60-90% of suspended solids and prevents water from overflowing sewer systems

BIORETENTION

Filters 80-90% of suspended solids and slows flow of storm water into sewer systems **WETLAND CREATION**

Native ecological habitat and storm water infiltration







EAST RISER ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLE





FILTER STRIP

Native plantings uptake pollutants before entry into water systems

BIORETENTION

Filters 80-90% of suspended solids and slows flow of storm water into combined sewer systems **DITCH WIDENING**

Maximizes ecological opportunity and storm water conveyance to larger watershed

GRAVEL TRENCH

Provides initial infiltration of road runoff before overflow into ecologically improved ditch











OPEN SPACE

Absorbs more storm water

NATIVE PLANTS

Low-maintenance options that contribute to native ecological systems

RAIN GARDENS

Filters 60-90% of suspended solids and prevents water from overflowing sewer systems

PERFORATED PIPE

Drains storm water overflow during larger rain events

PERMEABLE PAVING

Absorbs storm water and serves as place-making for Main Street











BIOSWALES

Filters 60-90% of suspended solids and prevents water from overflowing sewer systems **CURB CUT**

Allows infiltration of road runoff into adjacent bioswales while maintaining the safety of raised curbs

OPEN SPACE

Absorbs more storm water





NEXT STEPS

Chris Benosky, AECOM







NJDEP / AECOM UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- Prepare Meeting Summary for CAG #5 meeting
- Continue developing:
 - Initial Alternatives and Concepts
 - Preliminary Draft EIS









CAG CALL TO ACTION

- Review and comment on Meeting Summary for CAG #5 meeting.
- Share information from this meeting with friends and neighbors.
- Educate your friends and colleagues on the Project and NEPA process.
- Continue to build interest in the Project.
- Continue obtaining information, ideas, and potential concerns from constituents.
- Ensure the public knows about upcoming information (to be posted on Project website).









CRITICAL INFORMATION

TUESDAY DECEMBER 6TH CAG MEETING #6

PROJECT WEBSITE WWW.RBD-MEADOWLANDS.NJ.GOV

PROJECT EMAIL RBD-MEADOWLANDS@DEP.NJ.GOV

Q&A





THANK YOU!



