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Group Meeting

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## NEPA TIMELINE

Key Milestones and Upcoming Events

July 6, 2016  
Public Scoping  
Meeting

August 17, 2016  
Final Public Scoping  
Document Published

September 20, 2016  
CAG Meeting #4

October 24, 2016  
CAG Meeting #5

December 6, 2016  
CAG Meeting #6

January 31, 2017  
CAG Meeting #7

March 29, 2017  
CAG Meeting #8

**NEXT MEETING**

May 24, 2017  
CAG Meeting #9:  
NEPA Process and  
Biological Resources

June, 2017  
CAG Meeting #10  
Alternative 3 -  
Hybrid Alternative

**Did you know...**

In the Project Area, there are 147 acres of designated parks and recreational fields/facilities, and approximately 1,519 total acres of active and passive parkland, wetlands and mitigation banks, open spaces, recreational areas, and boating facilities.

Please visit [www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov](http://www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov) to obtain current Proposed Project information and data, including confirmation of the above meeting dates.

# NEWS

April 2017

## Report from March's Citizen Advisory Group Meeting

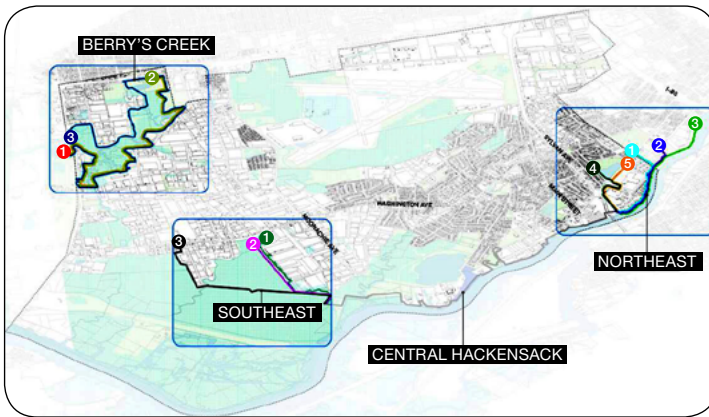


Attendees of the March CAG meeting view process models used by the Project Team

The March Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) meeting for the Rebuild by Design Meadowlands Flood Protection Project was held on Wednesday, March 29, 2017 at the Municipal Building in the Borough of Little Ferry. The meeting included a detailed overview of the Alternative 1 Structural Flood Reduction concept development and screening process. During the December CAG meeting, the Project Team presented 11 alignment options for Alternative 1. All of the alignments included a central line of protection in the Central Hackensack region where there are clusters of industrial and residential properties near the shoreline. Alignment options were presented for three distinct areas of the Project Area: Northeast (five options), Southeast (three options), and Berry's Creek (three options). During the concept development process, the alignment options were designed with the "Protect, Cultivate, and Energize" goal in mind.

- **Protect:** Maximize the use of existing topographical high points in the Project Area to decrease the amount of infrastructure required and minimize construction costs and potential impacts.
- **Cultivate:** Remain as close as possible to the Hackensack River/Berry's Creek to maximize the amount of land protected.
- **Energize:** Connect existing public parks and/or provide new park space on existing public land to avoid conflicts with private property.





The three distinct areas of focus within the Project Area examined in the screening process

Since December, the Project Team has subjected the alignment options to a multi-tiered screening process to refine them. The screening process has concentrated on the following metrics: effectiveness at achieving flood risk reduction; overall project benefits; ability to be implemented within the project budget; environmental impacts to specific resources, with a particular emphasis on hazards and hazardous materials, wetlands/water resources, transportation and existing evacuation routes, and biological resources; the need for land acquisition; and the need to incorporate mitigation into the overall design.

As a result of the screening process, the Project Team eliminated three of the original Northeast options due to evacuation route concerns. The two remaining Northeast options along the Hackensack riverfront remain under analysis. Further, the Southeast option along the north side of Commerce Boulevard was eliminated due to the need for substantial private property acquisition. The two remaining Southeast options, as well as all three of the original Berry's Creek options, are still under analysis and going through the screening process.

During the meeting, the Project Team also introduced the Hybrid Alternative (Alternative 3). Alternative 3 will include a combination of the structural flood control features from Alternative 1 and the interior stormwater drainage improvements from Alternative 2. The Project Team is currently considering a variety of hybrid options and examining the tradeoffs of each option. Alternative 3 will be discussed further at the June CAG meeting. The next CAG meeting will be held on May 24, 2017 and will discuss the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) Process and recent Biological Resource investigations.

## Flood Control and Public Access Opportunities

The Project Team is carefully considering land use and public access when applying the "Kit of Parts," originally introduced at the September CAG meeting. Within the northern portions of the alignment, the Project Team is exploring opportunities to provide waterfront connections



Process Model example used by the Project Team to explore design ideas

and new open space due to the proximity of existing open space and residential communities. For example, multi-functional flood structures (e.g., modular walls, benches and planters), a fluvial wetland park, recreational fields, cantilever walkways, and other active and passive recreational opportunities are being considered. The Project Team presented three potential options at the March CAG meeting, which included a Fluvial Wetland Park under the US Route 46 Bridge, the K-Town Park and Riverwalk, and the Riverside Park and Riverwalk. Each of these concepts would serve a dual role by providing flood protection and public/waterfront access. Within the southern portions of the alignment, industrial land uses are more prevalent and public access is challenging. Thus, the Project Team is looking into simpler flood protection measures (e.g., walls, single- or double-sheet pile walls, and/or berms) to minimize construction and operational costs.



Multi-functional system providing flood control as well as seating and space for plantings

### Get involved!

- ✓ If you would like to become a member of the CAG, please contact Alexis Taylor at [rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov](mailto:rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov). NJDEP welcomes your participation and input into this process!
- ✓ Share information from this newsletter with friends and neighbors.
- ✓ Educate your friends and colleagues on the Proposed Project and NEPA process.
- ✓ Continue to build interest in the Proposed Project.
- ✓ Subscribe to receive email updates on the Proposed Project at: [www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov](http://www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov)



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