



IN THIS ISSUE

Spotlight on New Public Parks

NEPA TIMELINE

Key Milestones and Upcoming Events

April 26, 2016 CAG Meeting #2A Scoping/Data Gathering Meeting	March 23, 2016 CAG Meeting #1 Introduction and Purpose/Need, NEPA Process Overview
July 6, 2016 Public Scoping Meeting	May 17, 2016 CAG Meeting #2B Scoping/Data Gathering Meeting Part II
August 17, 2016 Final Public Scoping Document Published	August 11, 2016 CAG Meeting #3 Public Scoping Results Alternatives Screening
October 24, 2016 CAG Meeting #5 Ecology and Drainage Basin Opportunity Areas	September 20, 2016 CAG Meeting #4 Concept Component Development
January 31, 2017 CAG Meeting #7 Alternative 2: Stormwater Drainage Improvements	December 6, 2016 CAG Meeting #6 Alternative 1: Structural Flood Reduction
May 24, 2017 CAG Meeting #9: NEPA Process and Ecological Resources	March 29, 2017 CAG Meeting #8 Alternative 1: Structural Flood Reduction
October 17, 2017 CAG Meeting #11: Alternative 1: Structural Flood Reduction, Alternative 2: Stormwater Drainage Improvements, Alternative 3: Hybrid Alternative	June 27, 2017 CAG Meeting #10 Alternative 3: Hybrid Alternative
January 31, 2018 APA Public Hearing	January 11, 2018 Community Meeting, Recommended Alternative

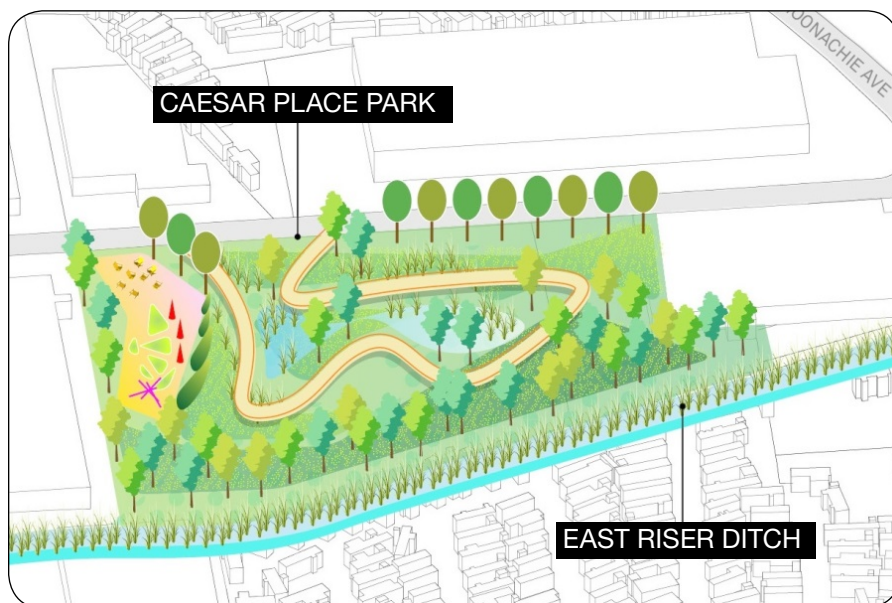
Please visit www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov to obtain current Proposed Project information and data, including confirmation of the above meeting dates.

NEWS

December 2017

Spotlight on New Public Parks

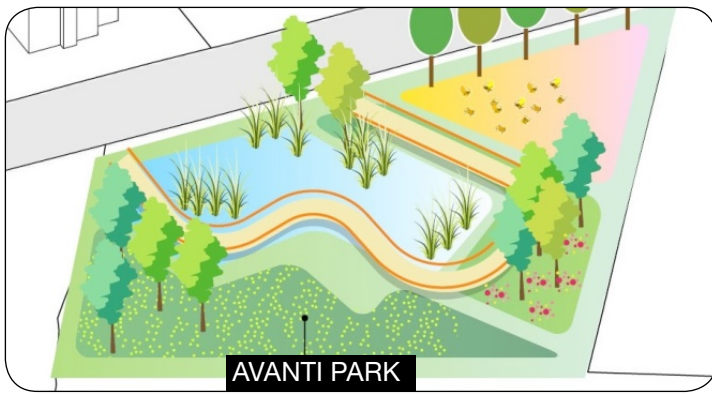
The Proposed Rebuild By Design Meadowlands Project seeks to integrate civic, cultural, ecological, economic, and recreational values into the flood hazard risk reduction strategies. One of the co-benefits of the Proposed Project would be the development of new parks and recreational areas. Each of the unique parks has been designed to provide recreational opportunities; include green infrastructure for the storage, treatment, and infiltration of stormwater; and, when possible, enhance public access to the waterfront or existing natural areas. The design for each of these parks also includes habitat enhancements from planting native species in upland areas, as well as restoring degraded wetlands and/or creating new wetlands. The three new parks proposed under the Alternative 3 *Build Plan*, as well as the redesign of Willow Lake Park, are described and illustrated below. Please note that the proposed park names are preliminary and subject to change.



Concept Drawing of Proposed Caesar Place Park

Caesar Place Park would be developed on a 4-acre vacant lot between Caesar Place and East Riser Ditch in Moonachie. Wetland hydrology would be established or enhanced throughout much of the site; approximately 3 acres of wooded and emergent wetlands would be constructed in this park, in addition to open lawn and native upland plantings. The park would be landscaped with native grasses, shrubs, and trees; existing invasive species would be removed. The upland areas would provide the opportunity for passive recreation. Elevated boardwalks with outlooks and viewing platforms would be constructed to allow visitors to access wetland habitats. Native plantings along the perimeter of the park would provide aesthetic transition within the surrounding urban context. Rain gardens would also be located on site to filter stormwater from Caesar Place.





Concept Drawing of Proposed Avanti Park

Avanti Park would be a new 1-acre park located on an existing open lot next to the First Presbyterian Church along Moonachie Road, just north of Edstan Drive in Moonachie. The existing mowed lawn habitat would be replaced with native wetland and upland habitats along with active and passive recreation opportunities. The primary feature of the park would be a constructed wetland that would collect and infiltrate stormwater from both the park and the adjacent lot. An elevated walkway would traverse this wetland and connect back to permeable pavement along Moonachie Road. A permeable play surface would be established on the eastern side of the park. Perimeter woodland and other native plantings would be used to screen adjacent warehouses, increase biodiversity, and provide additional stormwater filtration.

Riverside Park would be located along Riverside Avenue and Washington Avenue in Little Ferry. The 2.6-acre area currently contains a boat dock and undeveloped lands along the Hackensack River that are primarily covered by pavement and mowed lawns. As proposed, the undeveloped areas would be enhanced for informal recreation and gathering. Pedestrian paths would weave through the vegetated areas and along the shoreline, and trees would be planted around the perimeter to create a visual buffer. Restoring a degraded intertidal wetland adjacent to the walking path would enhance the habitat and aesthetics along the shoreline. Bioswales would be constructed to slow and filter stormwater as it passes through the park prior to discharging into the Hackensack



Concept Drawing of Proposed Riverside Park

River. Improved boat docks and a boat launch would create new and improved recreational opportunities for boating, kayaking, birdwatching, and fishing.

Willow Lake Park, an existing park in Little Ferry, would be improved by enhancing pedestrian circulation, recreation, play, and ecological benefits. Existing pedestrian paths would be expanded to create a network of trails connecting the new park features. Congregation areas and circulation trails would interface with the lake, frame the park, and draw people in from Main Street, Pickens Street, and Washington Avenue. A new play area would expand the existing playground with permeable play surfaces and play equipment for the community. Native plantings and low meadows with scattered trees would provide habitat for pollinators and birds, while woodland areas would frame the park and provide habitat for other species. Rain gardens would also be constructed to filter stormwater from Pickens Street.



Concept Drawing of Proposed Willow Lake Park

Get involved!

- ✓ If you would like to become a member of the CAG, please contact Alexis Taylor at 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

Did you know...

The Alternative 3 *Build Plan* would create approximately 7.6 acres of new parks in the Project Area, and the Alternative 3 *Future Plan* could include an additional 5.7 acres of new parks, for a total of approximately 13.3 acres of new recreational opportunities.



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

