REBUILD BY DESIGN

MEADOWLANDS

NEWS

January 2018

IN THIS ISSUE

NEPA TIMELINE

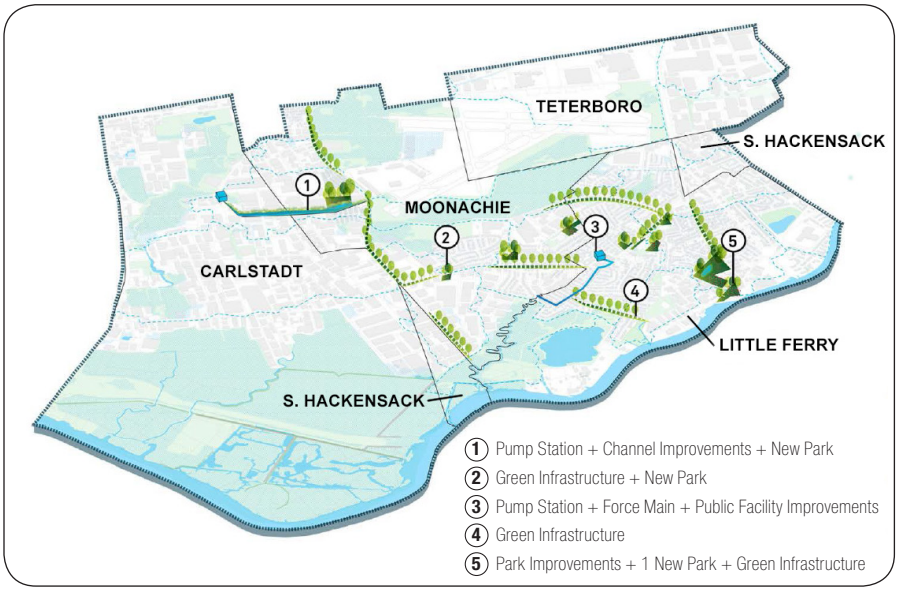
Key Milestones and Upcoming Events

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

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

Report from January's Community Meeting

On January 11, 2018, the Rebuild By Design Meadowlands (RBDM) Project Team held a Community Meeting at the Robert L. Craig School Gymnasium in Moonachie to present the Proposed Project's Preferred Alternative and describe the Build Plan. Dave Rosenblatt, NJDEP Assistant Commissioner, and the mayors of Moonachie, South Hackensack, and Little Ferry opened the meeting by welcoming the crowd and expressing their support for the Proposed Project. The Project Team then proceeded to recap the history of the Proposed Project, including the original RBD competition, the alternatives development and screening processes, and the final Build Alternatives, before announcing and presenting Alternative 3 (Hybrid) as the Preferred Alternative.



Alternative 3: Build Plan showing locations of components

The Preferred Alternative effectively hybridizes Alternatives 1 and 2 by including infrastructure to protect against flooding from both frequent rainfall events and coastal storm surges, and provides multiple co-benefits such as new and improved recreational spaces, habitat enhancements, and water quality improvements. However, the Preferred Alternative cannot be fully constructed by 2022, and its cost would exceed $150 million. Therefore, the Preferred Alternative was divided into a Build Plan and a Future Plan. The Build Plan includes the components of the design (primarily stormwater drainage improvements) that are feasible under the Proposed Project constraints, while the Future Plan includes the remaining components (coastal flood protection and additional stormwater drainage improvements) that could be implemented over time as additional funding sources become available.

The Build Plan focuses on enhancing stormwater drainage throughout the Project Area. Grey infrastructure improvements include dredging

Conceptual Rendering of East Riser Channel Improvments

East Riser Ditch and constructing a pump station at the existing East Riser Ditch Tide Gate, as well as constructing a new pump station and force main along Losen Slote to improve stormwater conveyance. Further, open spaces would be enhanced to increase their stormwater storage capacities. To this end, three new parks (along Caesar Place, Moonachie Road, and Riverside Avenue) would be constructed, and numerous existing municipal properties (i.e., schools, parks, etc.) would be improved, to include new green infrastructure, wetlands, and reduced impervious surfaces. Additional green infrastructure systems would also be constructed along roads in the Project Area to collect and treat stormwater.

The Build Plan would reduce both the areal extent and depths of flooding in the East Riser Ditch and Losen Slote drainage areas. Models suggest that improved stormwater storage and conveyance under the Build Plan would fully eliminate flooding for approximately 20 acres of the Project Area during a 2-year storm and for approximately 39 acres during a 100-year storm, while even larger areas along these channels would experience reduced flooding compared to current conditions. Additionally, the proposed new parks would be located within a quarter-mile of approximately 5,000 residents, thereby providing accessible new recreational opportunities, including access to the Hackensack River. Further, the Build Plan would plant nearly 800 new trees, as well as numerous other native plant communities, within the Project Area, leading to aesthetic and ecological benefits.

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**

Conceptual Rendering of Green Infrastructure and Park Improvments at Caesar Place Park

Did you know...

The breakdown of construction costs for the Build Alternative between grey infrastructure and green infrastructure/parks is 85% for grey infrastructure and 15% for green infrastructure/parks.