Welcome to our 2021 NYC Candidate School Infrastructure: Mobility, Wastewater, & **Green Infrastructure** February 11th, 2021 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm



Transit Equity for Recovery

A briefing for 2021 campaigns

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Kate Slevin Senior Vice President Regional Plan Association

Danny Pearlstein Policy & Communications Director Riders Alliance

Challenges Facing Our Transit System

• Infrastructure

- Funding for the MTA's 2020-2024 Capital Program
- Traffic and Priorities on City Streets
- Reliability and Accessibility

• Riders

- COVID-19 Public Health Concerns
- Economic Challenges and Affordability
- Safety on City Streets
- Access to the Transit Network

An Equitable Transportation-Led Recovery



An Equitable Transportation-Led Recovery

- Fund public transportation
- Improve and expand bus service
- Address climate goals through changes in transit
- Make transit more affordable
- Prioritize accessibility
- Expand opportunities for safe biking
- Achieve vision zero
- Reprioritize the allocation of streetspace

Priorities that Need City Leadership

- Fund capital work
- Stand up for riders
- Improve and expand access to transit
- Reprioritize how we use City streets

Fund Capital Work



Challenges for public transit:

- Delayed implementation of congestion pricing
- MTA budget reliance on farebox revenue
- Pandemic impact on capital work

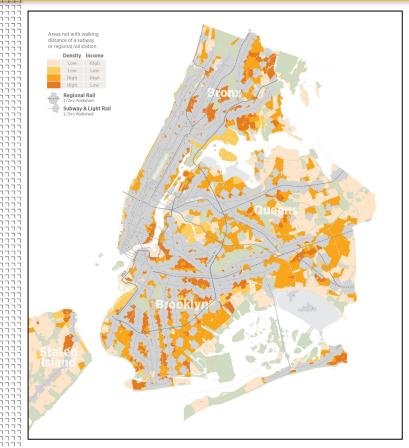
- Interagency cooperation on congestion pricing
- Continued advocacy for federal transit support
- Implement transit options on City streets to connect more neighborhoods

Stand Up For Riders



- Mayor gets four seats on MTA board
- Use bully pulpit to advocate for riders
- Lead by example to get people back on transit
- Advocate for regional priorities
- Help fund Fair Fares and Freedom Ticket

Improve and Expand Access



Challenges for public transit:

- 40% cannot walk to subway or rail stations
- Some of the slowest bus speeds in the country
- Limited Access-A-Ride (AAR) options
- Cost and feasibility of subway expansion

- Continue to ensure safe, clean streets
- Advocate for better AAR service
- Expand on successful bus redesign projects
- Build support for long-term expansion projects

Case Study: 14th Street Busway



NYCDOT Transit & Truck Priority (TTP)

- Limit access for private vehicles
- Improve safety and operations
- Restrict left turns on the corridor
- Create new pedestrian spaces
- Install curb extensions

Pre-Pandemic Improvements*:

- 24% Increase in Travel Time
- 14% Increase in Bus Ridership
- 94% Increase in Bike Ridership
- 42% Decrease in Pedestrian Injuries

*See Sam Schwartz 14th Street TTP Winter 2020 Quarterly Report

Case Study: Edward L. Grant Highway



Bus Redesign Challenges:

- High bus-ridership corridor
- Safety issues on wide roadway a Vision Zero corridor
- Unprotected bike lanes
- Congestion

Redesign Improvements:

- Center-running bus lane
- Boarding islands
- Protected bike lanes
- Pedestrian refuge islands
- Low-cost

Bus Turnaround Campaign: 30 Miles to Go



Opportunity:

- Build on the momentum of accelerated bus lane installation in recent years
- Restrictions on bus lane enforcement cameras have been lifted
- Setup a playbook for what will be a mandated 30 miles/year

http://busturnaround.nyc/

The Triboro

- Above-ground rail line stretching 24 miles from Co-op City in the Bronx to Bay Ridge in Brooklyn.
- Use of existing rail right-of-way reduces construction cost.
- 24 new stations, transfers to 17 subway lines and 4 commuter rail lines.
- Initial ridership of 100,000 daily commuters.

The tracks are already there — let's put them to use!



Reprioritize the Use of City Streets

Walk First Priority

Sustainable Transportation

Biking / High Capacity Transit

Goods movement

Personal Transit Taxi/on-demand services

Private Autos

Reprioritize the Use of City Streets





- Repurpose streets to calm traffic and provide more local open space
- Five Borough Bikeway citywide vision for safe and accessible biking
- Enforcement on streets to clear congestion and speed up bus times
- Open dining, retail and culture

Thank

Equity On Our Streets: A Transportation-Led Recovery Agenda for Candidates https://rpa.org/latest/news-release/equity-transportation-agenda

Bus Turnaround Coalition http://busturnaround.nyc/

SAVE THE DATE!

Safe, Equitable and Accessible Streets:

A 2021 Mayoral Candidate Forum on the Future of Transportation in NYC Thursday, March 25th @ 6:30pm via Zoom and Facebook Live Stream

danny@ridersny.org | @RidersAlliance | ridersny.org

kslevin@rpa.org | @RegionalPlan | rpa.org





Clean School Buses

WHY ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES ARE IMPORTANT

Current School Buses

•Current fleet of NYC school buses run on diesel and gasoline

•School buses emit noxious pollutants (carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxide, etc.) that worsens air quality

•NYC students (especially special education students) spend hours a day riding on school buses breathing in harmful fumes

•Students w/respiratory conditions (e.g. asthma) are more likely to get sick from breathing in these fumes, leading to absenteeism and possibly hospital visits

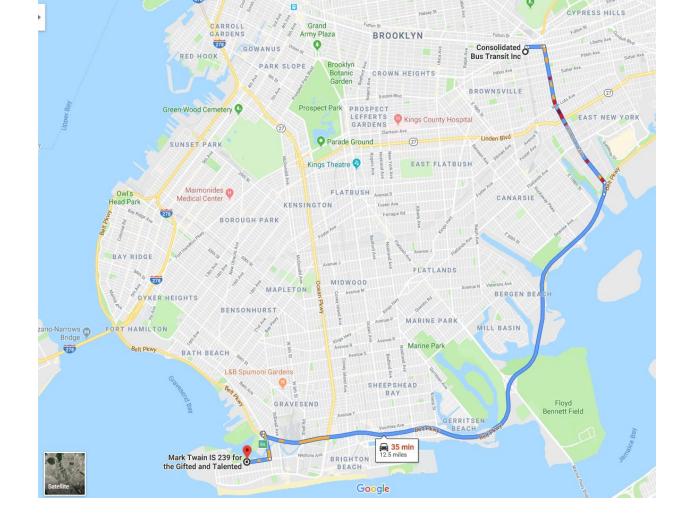


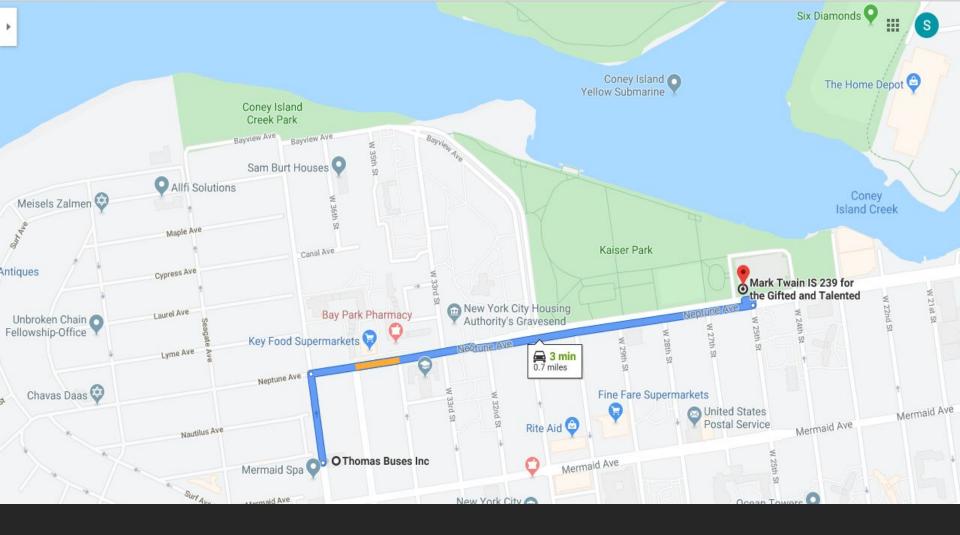
Why Electric School Buses

- Electric school buses are better for the environment
- Most school bus depots are in environmental justice communities.
- Electric school buses mean less diesel traffic in these communities
- Electric school buses improves air quality, which in turn improves the health of children by reducing the exposure to harmful pollutants











Access-A-Ride

- Paratransit service for people w/disabilities who are unable to take public transportation
- Inefficient routes can lead to poor air quality, as Access-A-Ride (AAR) vans run on gasoline
- Access to bus lanes can help to reduce amount of traffic time for AAR vans
- We want to work with community partners and elected officials who are committed to a more responsive, greener AAR system



SWIM Coalition

Stormwater Infrastructure Matters

Julie A. Welch | Program Manager: <u>swimmablenyc@gmail.com</u>, <u>www.swimmablenyc.org</u> (917) 647-1780

70+ organizations citywide who advocate for clean waterways around NYC:

Through our multi-tiered platform of education, outreach, policy and monitoring, SWIM members call for and influence the development of equitable, comprehensive, sustainable stormwater management planning, practices, and solutions (both green and grey infrastructure) that restore ecological systems, create local economic opportunities, and improve water quality in our local waterways.

NYLCV 2021 NYC Environmental Candidate School: Infrastructure

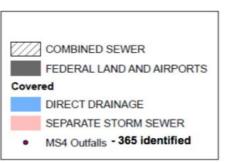
- Wastewater/Stormwater Infrastructure in NYC
- CSO and Stormwater Pollution in NYC Waterways: Root Causes
- Water Quality Improvement Programs and Solutions

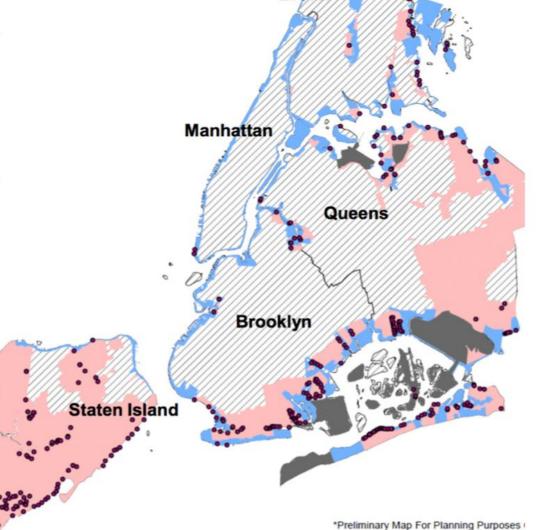
The surface area of New York City is more than 72 percent <u>impervious</u>

Dense urban development has reduced NYC's ability to absorb the large amounts of rainfall we get each year.

NYC's antiquated sewer infrastructure gets inundated by stormwater runoff from our streets, sidewalks, and buildings during wet weather.

Like many older coastal cities, we have an antiquated combined sewer system (in 60% of the city) and a separate storm sewer system (in ~40% of the city): Both systems contribute to ongoing pollution in our waterways





The Two Systems:

- In the combined sewer system: wastewater from inside our buildings (i.e toilets, sinks, showers etc.) and polluted stormwater runoff from our streets travel through the same set of pipes to wastewater treatment plants throughout the city. When it rains (sometimes as little as 1/10 of an inch), this system gets overwhelmed and has to divert and discharge its contents (untreated sewage and polluted stormwater) directly into our waterways via ~500 outfall points along our shoreline
- In the separate sewer system areas of the city there are two sets of pipes, one for stormwater and one for wastewater. The wastewater goes to the treatment plants and the polluted stormwater is discharged directly into our waterways without being treated.

Water Quality in NYC's Waterways

Every year, around <u>20 billion gallons of untreated wastewater and</u> <u>polluted stormwater runoff</u> (**Combined Sewer Overflow: CSO**) bypass the city's sewage treatment plants during wet weather and get discharged into the waters via outfall points along the shoreline of all five boroughs."

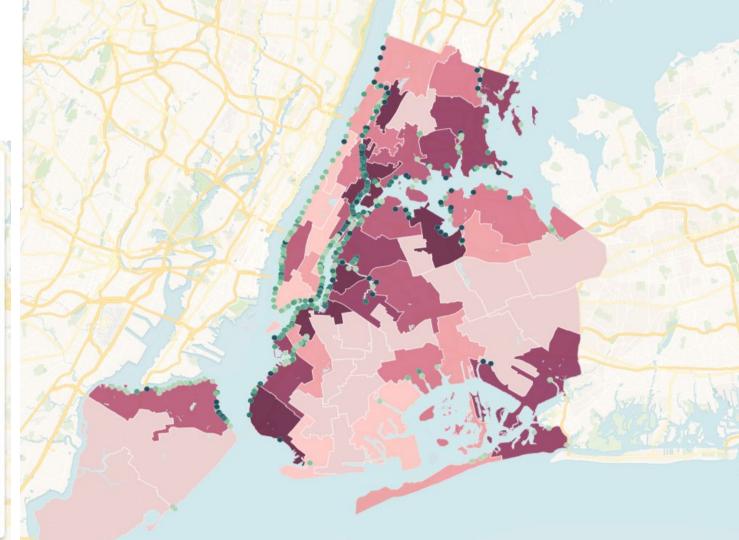
Combined sewer overflows are currently the largest ongoing source of pollution in NYC's waters



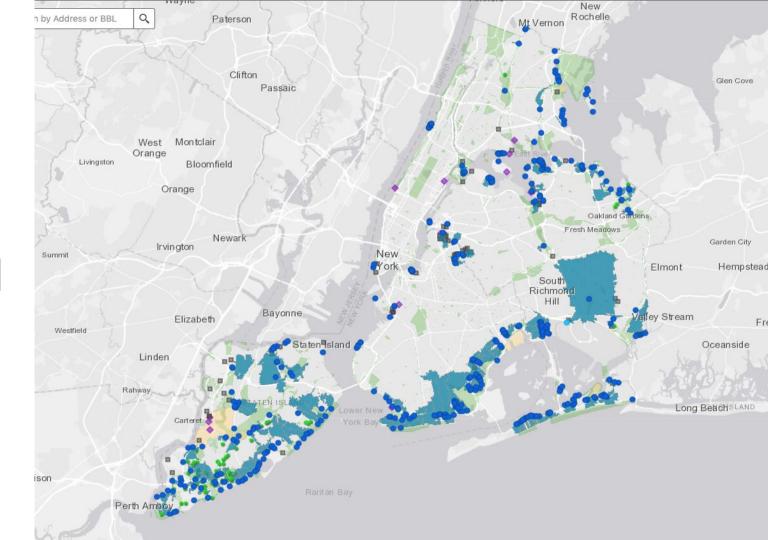


Click Council District For Information CSO DATA, COUNCIL MEMBER CONTACT... Overflow by City Council District NO AVAILABLE DATA OR OVERFLOWS Overflow by City Council District IN MILLIONS OF GALLONS 10 2.1k

470 AVG



Known MS4 Outfall **Points** mapped by DEP



NYC Water Quality Improvement Plans

• 11 Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Long Term Control Plans (LTCP):

evaluate solutions and develop and implement plans to reduce CSO pollution in local waterways so that they meet state and federal clean water quality standards by 2030.

- <u>Green Infrastructure Plan</u>: manage 1 inch rainfall on 10% city's impervious surfaces with GI by 2030 to reduce 1.67 billion gallons of stormwater per year.
- <u>Stormwater Management Plan</u> for our Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4): decrease pollutants in stormwater through improved on site management by 2030

Eleven CSO LTCP's: \$5.2 billion 2012-2030+ : Key Concerns

- Plans don't consider rainfall & sea level rise projections for our region: Mean annual precipitation is projected to increase between 4 to 13% by the 2050s, Sea level is expected to keep rising by 11 to 21 inches by the 2050s (NYC Panel on Climate Change)
- Plans not based on up to date water quality standards mandated by EPA
- Some waterways are getting chlorination: stakeholder concerns
- When completed in 2030 + will still leave 18 billion gallons/year CSO
- Current program delays due to pandemic related budget constraints: public needs to understand implications of delays

CSO Long Term Control Plans:

 Alley Creek & Little Neck Bay: \$12 million 	2024
Hutchinson River: \$167 million	2030
Westchester Creek: \$0 Action	No
 Flushing Creek: \$92 million 	2027
Coney Island Creek: \$0 Action	No
 Flushing Bay: \$1.6 billion 	2035
Bronx River: \$185 million	2026
 Gowanus Canal:\$1.2 billion 	2030
 Newtown Creek:\$1.3 billion 	2042
 Jamaica Bay: \$579 million 	2030
Citywide/Open Waters: \$42 million * Waters in red are getting disinfection facilities	2030

Intro 1618:

- Integrated Plans for every waterbody with a CSO LTCP using EPA integrated planning framework (holistic plan for CSO & MS4)
- **<u>Quarterly Updates</u>** to Stakeholder Advisory Groups
- <u>Series of annual reports on current conditions in</u> each waterway available for public comment
- Inventory of GI potential on public and private property in each LTCP watershed

Green Infrastructure in CSO Area 2012 - 2030 \$1.6 billion investment

- Total Acres To Green: 8,000 (out of our 150,000 impervious acres) in order to manage the first inch of stormwater runoff on 10 % of the city's impervious area (within the CSO section of the city) by 2030
- Acres greened to date: ~1230
- More than 50 percent of the impervious land in DEP's targeted areas is privately owned: DEP recognizes that it cannot attain its 8,000-greened-acre goal without developing a strategy to systematically site GI on private property

Green Infrastructure Incentive Programs

- <u>Green Roof Tax Abatement (renewed every 4 years)</u> abatement not high enough, program cap needs to be raised
- <u>Green Roof Grant</u> for private properties (administered by DEP, constrained by 20 year covenant makes it difficult reimbursement not up front)
- <u>New Grant Program for GI initiatives (</u> i.e. rain gardens, permeable pavement, green roof) on properties 50,000 square feet and higher: going into effect in 2021
- <u>NEED:</u>
- Inventory of rooftops in NYC with real potential for vegetated systems
- <u>Inventory of GI potential</u> on public and private property in each LTCP watershed (Intro 1618 calls for this)
- <u>Metrics collection and database</u> to document impacts and benefits of green roof and GI

Stormwater Management Plan for the MS4 Area of the City

- Underway since 2018/2019
- Mapping Stormwater Outfall points for this system
- Calculating Stormwater outfall volumes for each waterbody
- Piloting floatables catchment methods to reduce trash
- Monitoring, tracking and reducing illegal connections from building's wastewater pipes to MS4 pipes
- Upcoming: Renewal of the MS4 Permit from DEC, we'll monitor, inform our members and comment at public hearing

2021 Unified Stormwater Rule

New and re-development on parcels 20,000 sq ft or larger <u>citywide</u> will be required to manage 1.5 inches of rainfall. There will be a hierarchy of stormwater practices the developer will have to consider. The first options are bioretention and green roof. The last option is slow release detention.

- Advocates think the parcel size should smaller (10,000 sq ft) to ensure that more sites are eligible for the new practices
- City Council Committee for Resiliency and Waterfronts held a public hearing on Feb. 8 for

Intro 962 which proposed limiting the amount of impervious surfaces on new development and

horizontal retrofits: aligning this with the new stormwater rule to support the new stormwater

management practices citywide is vital

Additional Remedies:

City Level:

- <u>Water Rate Restructure</u>: Important 2021 DEP Study and Advisory Group
- NYC Sustainable Roof Laws: LL 92 and 94: new and retrofit roofs: awareness and technical support
- <u>Pervious Pavement:</u> Only one or two pilots, need to scale this up, perhaps through Intro 2092 for climate resiliency guidelines and implementation of pilot capital projects
- Renewable Rikers: NYC DEP study for a New Wastewater Treatment Plant and other programs

State Level:

• <u>Restore Mother Nature Bond Act</u>: currently on hold, needs to be passed and put on the ballot; includes funding for resilient infrastructure, Army Corps Storm Barriers Study for NY/NJ waters: reinstated but needs to be funded

BE A CLEAN WATER STEWARD

Your guide to understanding the City's water quality improvement plans & how to advocate for *fishable, swimmable* waterways.





BE A CLEAN WATER STEWARD

Your guide to understanding the City's water quality improvement plans & how to advocate for *fishable, swimmable* waterways. SWIM Coalition

Stormwater Infrastructure Matters

NYCE Landscape, Extreme Heat, Equity 8 Green Infrastructure

Emily Nobel Maxwell Director

Cities Program, New York, The Nature Conservancy

Mike Treglia/The Nature Conservancy

Who We Are

The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.



Types of Green Infrastructure In New York City



Photo Credit: Kevin Arnold

Rain Gardens



Photo Credit: Michael Treglia



Green Roofs

Blue Roofs



Photo Credit: NYC DEP

Stormwater Greenstreets



Types of Green Infrastructure In New York City



Photo Credit: NYC DEP

Permeable Pavers



Photo Credit: NYC DEP

Subsurface Detention



Photo Credit: NYC DEP

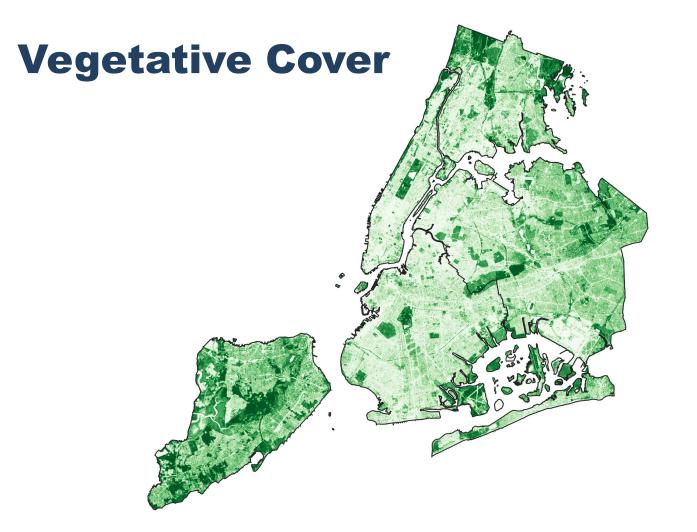
Cisterns and Rain Barrels



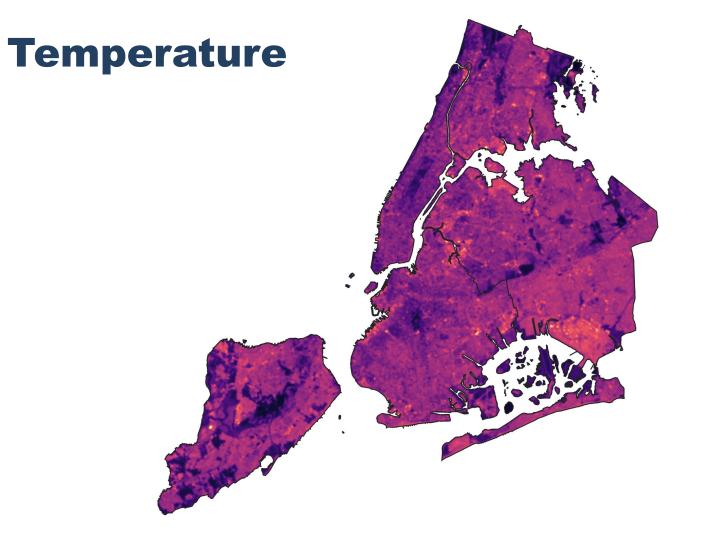
Photo Credit: NYC DEP

Infiltration Basins













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- ANDER







Green Roof Benefits

- 21-26% Reduction in Building Energy Use
- Significant Stormwater Absorption
- Reduced Air Temperatures and Air Pollution
- Multi-functional Space
- Extends Roof Lifespan





First Assessment of Green Roofs in NYC

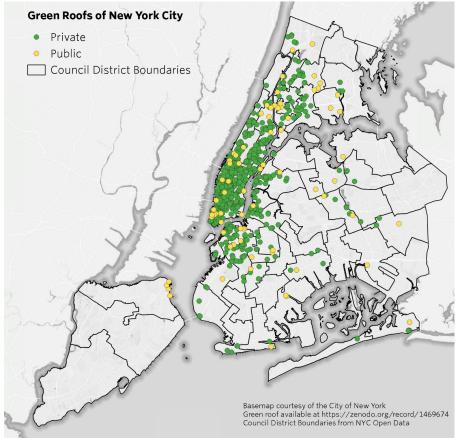
How Many? 736 Where?

Mostly Midtown and Downtown Manhattan

What Types of Buildings? Primarily Privately Owned Residential & Institutional

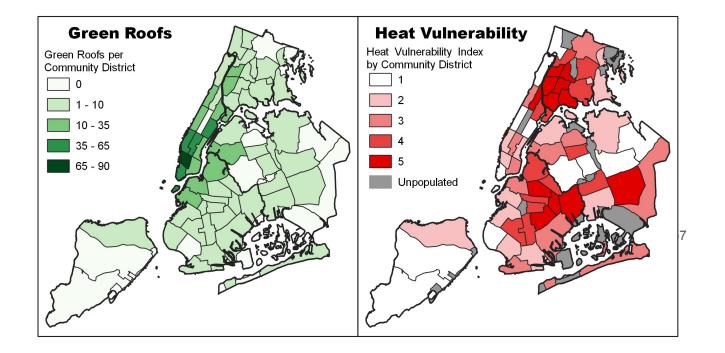


Only 0.07% of all rooftops have a green roof





Inequitable Distribution: Heat Vulnerability





New Policy

- Retrofit mandate
- New construction standards
- Green roof information requirements
- Tax abatement renewal and increase

TNC Recommendations

- Ensure sufficient incentives
 - Unlock Green Roof Tax Abatement and expand program over time
 - Improve Green Infrastructure Grant Program
- Institutionalize green roof tracking
- Ensure municipal buildings, especially schools, benefit from green roofs directly





Photo credit: Diane Cook and Len Jenshel

NYC Trees: the Basics

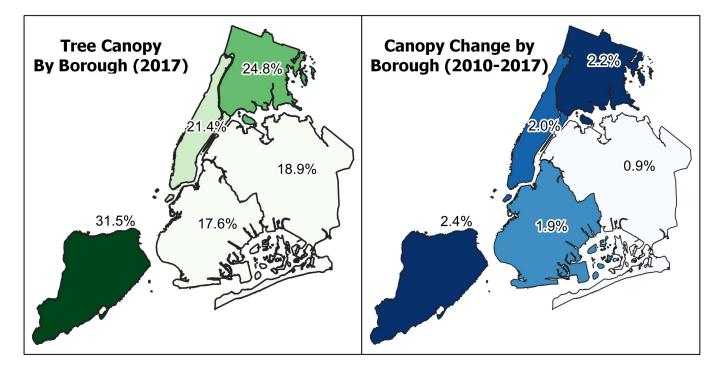
- Approximately 7 million trees
- 666,134 street trees
- 22% percent of land covered by tree canopy
- At least 138 Species of Trees in NYC
- Spread across a variety of land uses and ownership types
- While not defined as GI by the City, trees are critical natural infrastructure!



NYC Trees: Annual Services

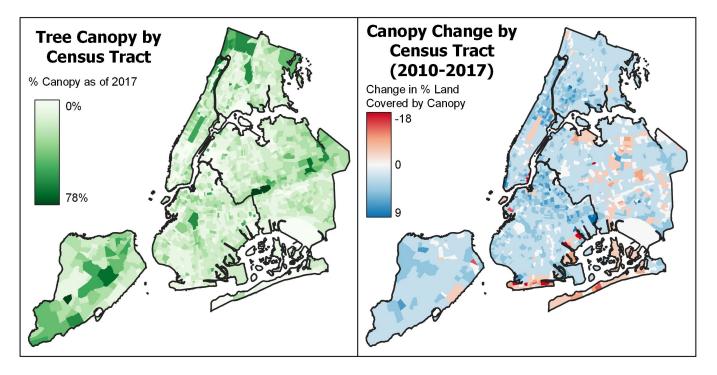
	Replacement value (one-time)	\$5.7 billion	
	Store 1.2 million tons of carbon (4.2 m tons of CO ²)	\$153 million	
	Absorb 51,000 tons of carbon annually (186,000 tons CO ²)	\$6.8 million	
	Remove 1,100 tons of air pollution annually	\$78 million	
	Reduce residential energy costs annually	\$17.1 million	
	Reduce runoff by 69 million cubic feet annually	\$4.6 million	
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		The N Conse	ature 💓

Canopy and Canopy Change





Canopy and Canopy Change





Tree Canopy and Heat Vulnerability

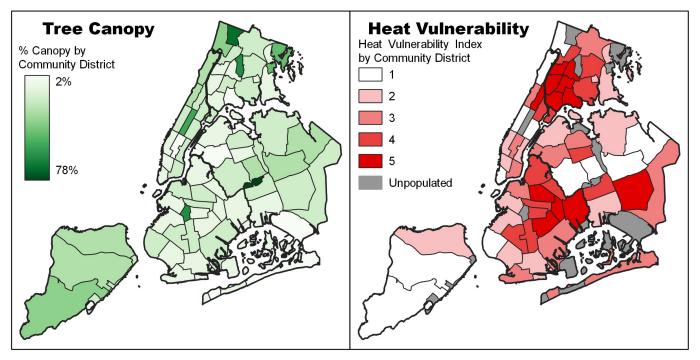


Figure Credit: New York City Environmental Justice Alliance and The Nature Conservancy





Photo credit: Diane Cook and Len Jenshel

NYC Trees: Challenges Faced

- No powerful advocates/leadership
- Insufficient funding
- Disparate management & inequitable distribution
- Lack protection
- Climate change
- · Pests and pathogens



NYC Urban Forest Task Force

Bjarke Ingels Group Brooklyn Botanic Garden Citizens Committee for New York City City University of New York Con Edison **Coney Island Beautification Project Davey Resource Group Design Trust for Public Space Drexel University** El Puente Gowanus Canal Conservancy Green City Force Hudson Square Business Improvement District Jackson Heights Beautification Group Long Island City Partnership National Wildlife Federation Natural Areas Conservancy New York Cares New York League of Conservation Voters New York Restoration Project New Yorkers for Parks NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene NYC Department of Parks and Recreation NYC Environmental Justice Alliance

NYC Housing Authority NYC Soil & Water Conservation District NYS Department of Environmental Conservation NYU Langone Health Partnerships for Parks Queens Botanical Garden Real Estate Board of New York **Rutgers University** Snug Harbor Cultural Center & Botanical Garden Starr Whitehouse The Earth Institute at Columbia University The Evergreens Cemetery The Nature Conservancy The New School The New York Botanical Garden The Trust for Governors Island Trees New York Tri-I ox Trust for Public Land Urban Arborists Urban Systems Lab **USDA Forest Service** Wave Hill West 80s Neighborhood Association Whitman Nurseries



Just Nature NNG

Our Just Nature NYC Partnership with NYC Environmental Justice Alliance advocates more nature-based solutions, especially trees, across New York City to support

hoto credit: Charles Gleberman



Photo credit: US Navy/flickr.com

Recommendations

- Ensure rules and incentives to promote justice, equity, expansion and better distribution of green roofs, our urban forest, and green infrastructure more broadly
- Preserve and increase funds for urban forestry, both capital and operational
- Advance and expand Cool Neighborhoods program
- Play Fair for Parks: ensure robust funding for parks and green jobs for New Yorkers





Photo credit: US Navy/flickr.com

Thank you!

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Emily Nobel Maxwell Director, Cities Program, NY emaxwell@tnc.org



Lisa Bloodgood Director of Advocacy & Education Ibloodgood@newtowncreekalliance.org (310)696-9168 NewtownCreekAlliance.org

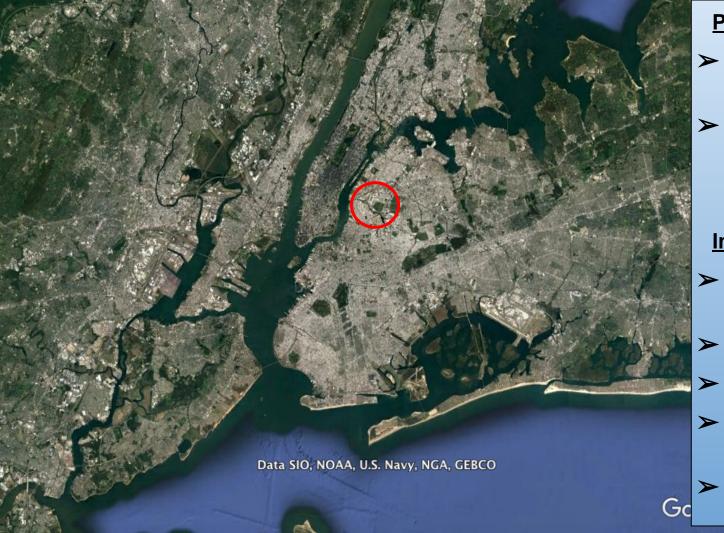
NEWTOWN CREEK ALLIANCE RESTORE // REVEAL // REVITALIZE

Since 2002, the Alliance has served as a catalyst for effective community action, working to restore community health, water quality, habitat, access, and vibrant commerce along Newtown Creek.



NYLCV 2021 Candidates School: <u>Green Infrastructure</u>

- Local implications & impacts - Environmental Justice areas
 - Benefits (spoiler! it's not just about water)
- Public Access to shared waters
- Other ways to prioritize GI?
- Waste Water Treatment **OR** Resource Recovery Facility
 - Promise, Burden & Compromise



Problem:

- NYC is a built environment
- Most surfaces are paved or otherwise covered

Impacts:

- Poor water quality
- Poor air quality
- Extreme heat
- Little to no room for ecosystems
- Little to no access to nature



Combined Sewer Overflow:

Pathogens, chemicals, plastics, petroleum products, & more discharged during most rainstorms

- NYC: 450 outfalls o 20 Billion Gallons/Year
- Newtown Creek: 22 outfalls
 - 1.2 Billion
 Gallons/Year



In NYC, Green Infrastructure describes an array of practices that use or mimic natural systems to manage <u>stormwater runoff</u>

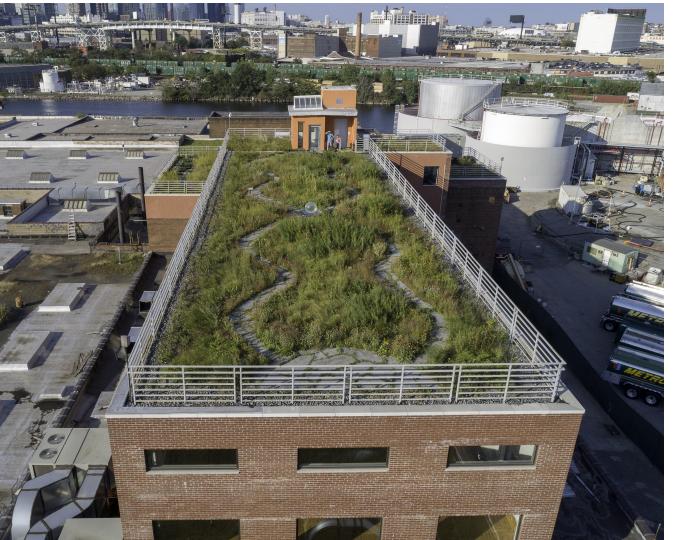
Focusing on 2 types with the biggest local impact:

 Right of Way*/ Curbside Rain Gardens

*Right-of-way (ROW) includes sidewalks, medians and the roadway.

~30% of the impervious cover in the city

Green Roofs



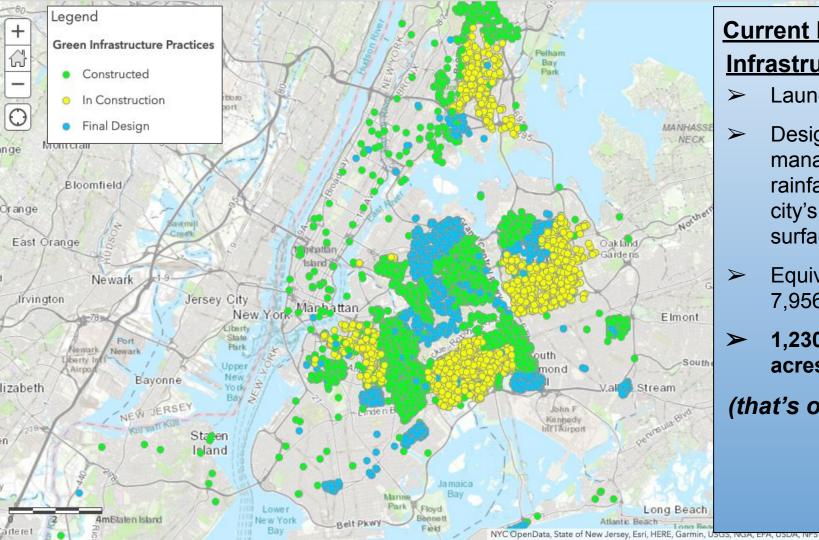
Green Roofs

As of 2016 the 736 green roofs on public and private buildings cover only about 60 acres (or 0.15% of all rooftop surface area)

Green Roofs of New York City

Basemap courtesy of the City of New York Green roof available at https://zenodo.org/record/1469674

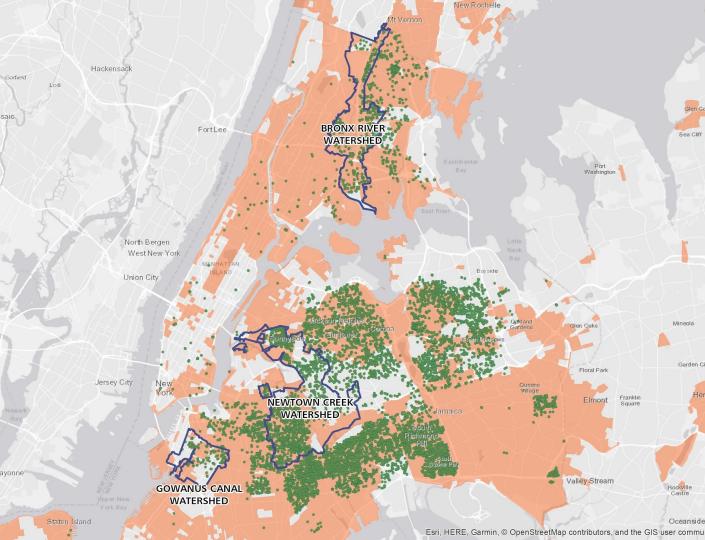
- There is an unequal distribution of green roofs across the city, with most concentrated in midtown & downtown Manhattan.
- Local Law 94 will change this dynamic some.
- DEP GI Grant
 Program
- Green Roof Tax Abatement



Current NYC Green

Infrastructure Plan

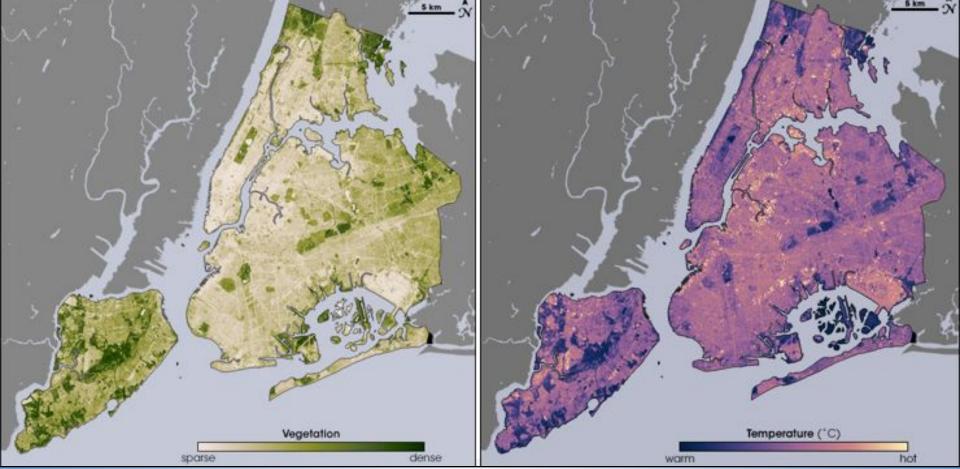
- Launched in 2010 \succ
- Designed to \succ manage 1 inch rainfall on 10% of city's impervious surfaces by 2030
- Equivalent of \succ 7,956 acres
- 1,230 greened \triangleright acres to date
- (that's only 15.5%)



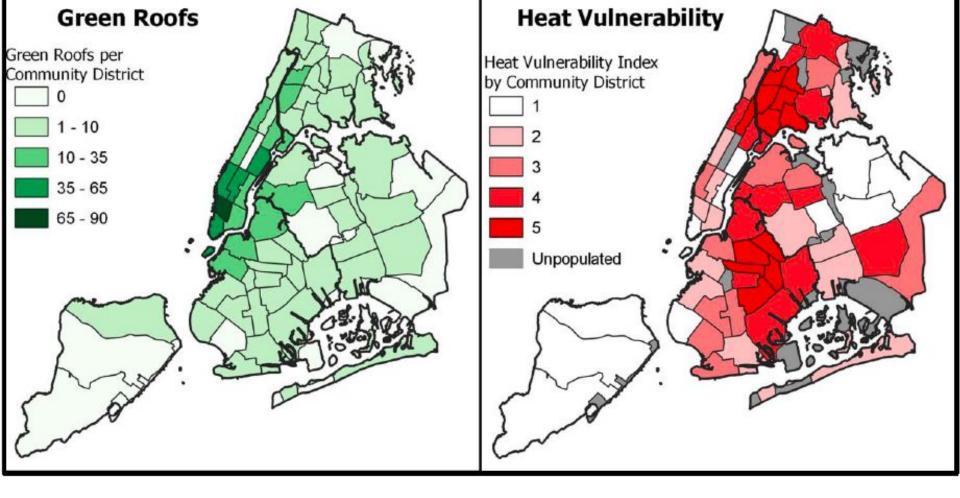
Areas in <u>**Red</u>** are classified by the State DEC as potential Environmental Justice areas. EJ areas are defined as:</u>

- At least 51.1% of the population reported themselves to be members of minority groups; or
- At least 23.59% of the population had household incomes below the federal poverty level.

The <u>Green</u> dots are Right of Way Rain Gardens <u>Outlined</u> are 3 tributary watersheds



Left, areas of the map that are dark green have dense vegetation. These regions match up with the dark purple regions, those with the coolest temperatures, on the right. These images show the cooling effects of plants on NYC's heat. Credit:Robert Simmon, using data from the Landsat Program.



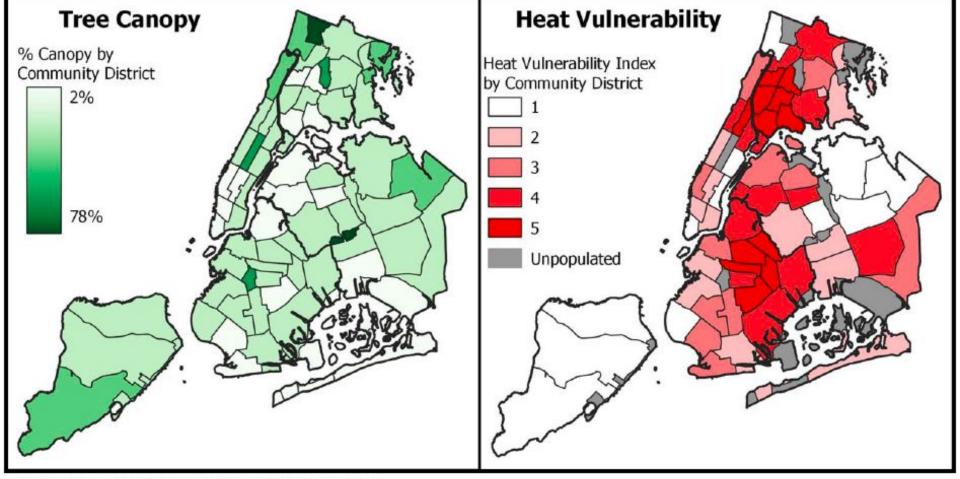


Figure Credit: New York City Environmental Justice Alliance and The Nature Conservancy

The average reduction of particulate matter near a tree is 7-24%, the cooling effect is up to 3.6° F

New York City TREE CANOPY

Ecological Benefits

- Stormwater intercepted each year 1,077,053,910 gallons Value: \$10,662,828.33
- Energy conserved each year 662,975,528 kWh Value: \$83,697,267.9
- Air pollutants removed each year 1,259,991 pounds
 - Value: \$6,588,091.37

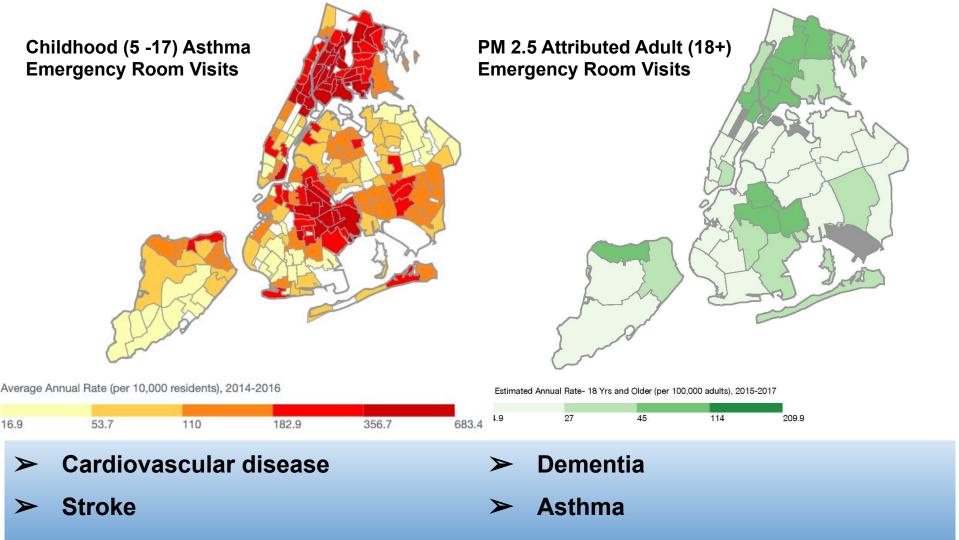
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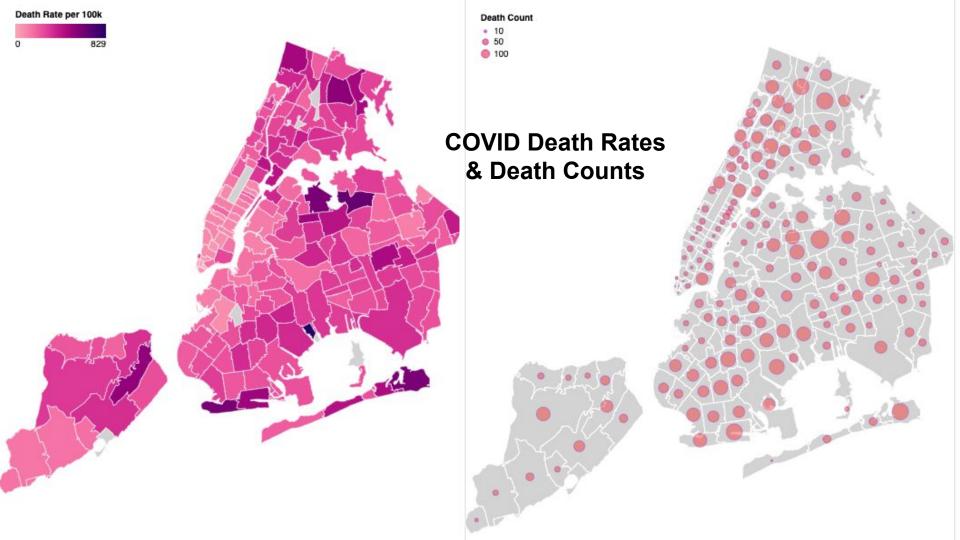
y Islands

- Carbon dioxide reduced each year 1,210,482,019 tons Value: \$4,042,980.89
- S Total Value of Annual Benefits Value: \$104,991,168,49

Benefits are calculated using formulas from the U.S. Forest Service.



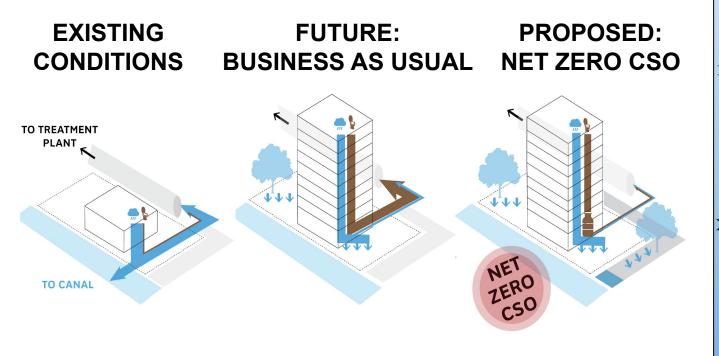






The worst and most immediate impacts of CSOs are seen in our shared waters.

- NYC has 520 miles of shoreline
- 161 miles are waterfront parks
- > 14 miles of beaches
- 345 miles of inaccessible waterfront



<u>CEQR Reform</u> Net Zero CSO for new development

2012 DEP Stormwater Rule mandates 90% on-site stormwater management, but does not achieve net zero CSO impact

Additional residential density will result in higher rates of water consumption (more toilets, bathroom and kitchen appliances, laundry) that will increase wastewater flows to the sewer system

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

'New development sites shall mitigate new CSO volumes and rates.'

Pre-Development CSO Assessment:

Provide accurate assessment of baseline stormwater and sewage conditions on site and within CSO-shed

Post-Development Impact Assessment:

Provide accurate assessment of future stormwater and sewage loads in build-out condition

Determination of CSO Mitigation Requirement:

Provide accurate assessment of unmanaged flows that will contribute to CSO

Determine 100% CSO Mitigation Strategy:

Provide summary of CSO management strategy (refer to Mitigation Toolkit) and demonstrate no-impact development

Methodology for determining baseline conditions and trigger volumes should be flexible enough to adapt over time, but stringent enough to ensure best and most recent data are incorporated into the analysis



Lisa Bloodgood Director of Advocacy & Education Ibloodgood@newtowncreekalliance.org (310)696-9168 NewtownCreekAlliance.org

NEWTOWN CREEK ALLIANCE RESTORE // REVEAL // REVITALIZE

Since 2002, the Alliance has served as a catalyst for effective community action, working to restore community health, water quality, habitat, access, and vibrant commerce along Newtown Creek.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

Stay connected by following us on social media!

Instagram & Twitter: @nylcv Facebook.com/nylcv Youtube.com/nylcv

Next NYC Candidate School

Public Health & Parks

Thursday, February 18th at 5:30pm - 7:30

CVEF