Comprehensive Restoration Planning in the Lower Passaic River Watershed

Restoration Work Group July 26, 2006

Passaic River Partner Agencies: CERCLA-WRDA







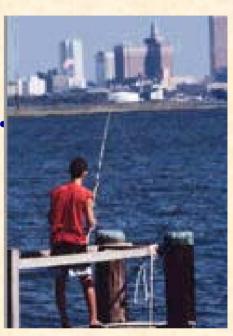






Overall Project Goals

- **✓** Create, enhance, and restore habitat.
- **✓** Enhance plant communities.
- **✓** Enhance animal communities.
- **✓** Improve water quality.
- **✓** Improve sediment quality.
- ✓ Support human use.





ID Watershed Problems...

- Aquatic & Riparian Habitat Degradation and Loss
- •Habitat Fragmentation and Loss of Wildlife Corridors
- Contamination
- Poor Water Quality
- Continuing Sources
 - ✓ CSOs and storm water runoff
- Floatables
- Lack of Recreational Use



ID Watershed Objectives

- Identify Ecosystem Restoration Projects
 - ✓ Provide local, regional, and national benefits.
 - **✓** Consistent with local and regional plans
 - **✓ Long-term protection of biological resources**
- Identify projects suitable for local, state, or federal agency implementation.
- Identify opportunities
 - ✓ Construction of Wetlands (Multi Use, WQ & Habitat)
 - **✓ Ecosystem Restoration @ each site**
 - ✓ Improve human use (access, recreation, aesthetics, education, floatable removal...)
 - **✓ Stormwater management**

HRE CRP

 HRE CRP objective will develop Target Ecosystem Characteristics (TECs) for:

a mosaic of new and existing habitats that provide the ecosystem services valued by society.

• TECs are design criteria for the estuary we all desire



[What] [Where] [How Much] [By When]

Harbor CRP Consistency Target Ecosystem Characteristics

- Public Access
- Sediment Quality
- Coastal Wetlands (NA)
- Shallow Water & Shorelines
- Habitat Connections
- Shore Bird Habitat
- Habitat for Fish and Crustaceans
- Enclosed Confined Waters (NA)
- Water Column Habitat
- Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
- Oysters & Oyster Reefs

What would the Lower Passaic River CRP look like?

- History of degradation and losses
- Existing conditions and environmental quality trends
- Problem identification summary
- Target Ecosystem Characteristics
- Generic restoration measures
- Contributions of habitat types to TECs
- Site specific criteria and plan components
- Sequencing considerations
- Public involvement
- Process guide for nominating sites, plan management and monitoring

Joint Integrated Feasibility Report

- ✓ Site characterization and assessment
- ✓ Integration of alternatives for remediation and restoration
- ✓ Conceptual restoration plans and preliminary costs
- ✓ Recommendation for "Spin-off" restoration studies
- ✓ NEPA compliance
- ✓ Potential implementation strategies