



ENVIRONMENTAL FOCUS



Volume 42, Issue 1 “aesthetic, unpolluted, environment protecting a natural and historic heritage”

February 2014

EVENTS CALENDAR

For more info /links check www.bceq.org

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 11AM to 5PM

The 20th Annual Bronx Parks Speak Up!

BRONX PARKS: A 20/20 VISION

Lehman College Faculty Dining Room

Refreshments will be served. For Information or in

case of a major weather event please visit

www.bronxspakeup.org or call 718-601-1460

THURSDAY MARCH 13TH, 6 to 8PM

Harlem River Working Group Meeting

PLANNING FOR THE HIGH BRIDGE OPENING

Highbridge Recreation Center, 2301 Amsterdam Ave,

NY, NY, RSVP harlemriver@bceq.org

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 3PM to 7PM

BCEQ Membership Meeting & Water Conference

BRONX WATERFRONT PLANNING & COMMUNITY

ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN GUIDELINES

Manhattan College, Leo Engineering Building

3825 Corlear Ave., off 238th St.

RSVP Pre-registration required for refreshment ticket as

well as weather event notification -- rsvp@bceq.org

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2014, 10AM to 1PM

Friends of Van Cortlandt Park & CB 8

PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE OVER MAJOR DEEGAN TO CONNECT THE OLD CROTON AQUEDUCT TRAIL

10am - meet in the Park at last subway stop of #1 or #4

For more information, call 718-601-1460, email

christina@vancortlandt.org

THURSDAY, APRIL 24TH, 9AM to 5PM

Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance

REBUILDING OUR WATERFRONT: FROM THE WATER IN, FROM THE GRASSROOTS UP

ABOARD THE *HORNBLOWER INFINITY*

www.waterfrontalliance.org/2014 Waterfront Conference

Registration required.

Bronx' Waterfront Planning & Community Environmental Design Guidelines – Water Conference

On Wednesday, March 19, 2014, the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality will hold its Annual Membership Meeting and Water Conference at Manhattan College. This year's topic -- "Bronx Waterfront Planning and Community Environmental Design Guidelines" – invites the community to join the discussion in order to create a report at the end of the year.

The program includes a plenary session general three workshops. Main speakers in the plenary session will be from the Harbor Estuary Program, the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance and other groups doing work to protect waterfront edges and water bodies. The three workshops are geographical: South Bronx Rivers, Bronx Harlem River, and the East Bronx Rivers.

Free and open to the public, the location is the **Manhattan College, Leo Engineering Building, 3825 Corlear Avenue, Bronx NY from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.** Please RSVP to pre-register and reserve your seat rsvp@bceq.org.

Special thanks to Con Edison for their support of this newsletter and refreshments making this conference a success.

What's New about the BCEQ Harlem River Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA)?

By March, we are hoping to get an extension so we can begin the planning. Working with the Parks Department, a consultant has won the bid and will soon be working in the area which extends from Spuyten Duyvil to 149th Street.



*New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program to work with research team to take a closer look at our shorelines

The New York-New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program has selected a team of researchers to move forward with a new project to study our urban shorelines.

The team, lead by researchers at Columbia University, the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, Stony Brook University, and the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, will be working with the NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program through the next year to develop a standard protocol for assessing the habitat quality associated with ecologically-enhanced urban shorelines.

In our estuary, we have lost much shoreline and shallow water habitat. In highly urbanized areas, there are challenges to habitat restoration because of existing uses (port, structures, and other social or economic pressures). In these cases, alternative techniques to increase habitat value of urban areas (while supporting a variety of uses) are being proposed or implemented, but their ecological value is not well understood. In concert with a great regional interest in designing differently to better accommodate multiple goals, the research team will develop a standard way to measure the habitat quality of shorelines, and to compare lower impact alternatives to existing shoreline stabilization approaches. As regulators, landowners, and engineers increasingly are faced with reviewing or proposing options, an established method will enable stakeholders to build a library of case studies so that better decisions can be made for our urban shoreline habitat.

The research team will be meeting with the NY-NJ Harbor & Estuary Program and an Advisory Committee for the project in early 2014 and the protocol will be piloted in summer.

This protocol will complement other work being conducted in the harbor and elsewhere on shoreline habitat, and goals for increasing shoreline and shallow habitat in the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan. Stay tuned for updates as we progress!



* Team assembled by Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance to develop guidelines for waterfront design

Simultaneously, the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance is working on developing Waterfront Edge Design Guidelines (tentatively termed "WEDG") for the region, taking inspiration from LEED-style guidelines that encourage good design that, in this case, would take into account the many waterfront uses of the harbor as well as ecological considerations. NY-NJ HEP staff are engaging in this effort and will be working with MWA to ensure that knowledge gained through the Program's assessment protocol project will be used to inform these guidelines.

* The articles on this page were taken from the Tidal Exchange eNews: <http://myemail.constantcontact.com/HEP-transition--cultivating-our-urban-edge--and-winter-in-Sandy-Hook.html?soid=1104274495059&aid=09x86GOgrDs>

Environmental Poetry Contest

A new column for members to submit poetry.

The world of The Bronx seems a Decent Terrain,
Where what would otherwise be Rooftop Runoff
from Rain

Next to an Asphalted and Wasted Land
Could a Wetland create in an Urban Parkland

- Paul S. Mankiewicz



Bronx Council for Environmental Quality Board Members and Officers 2013-2014

Founder – Theresa Lato
Past President – I.C. Levenberg-Engel

President – Joyce Hogi

1st Vice President – Dr. Paul Mankiewicz

2nd Vice President – Dorothea Poggi

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BCEQ Board meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, except for July and August, from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm (* changed dated due to holiday or other conflicts). For more info, to request a spot on our agenda or for directions please email: volunteer@bceq.org

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES

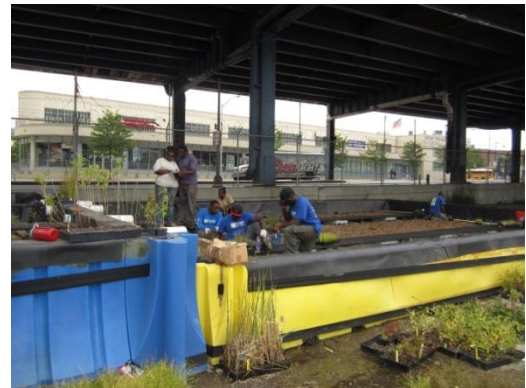


March 19 * Annual Meeting
(Election of Board of Directors) - Waterfront Conference, Manhattan College
April 9 – Board of Directors
May 14 – Board of Directors
June 11 – Education Awards and Annual BBQ
September 10 – Election of officers
October 8 - Harlem River Celebration week
November 12 – Semi-annual meeting
December 10 - Holiday Party

Check for up to date info - www.bceq.org

Pop Up Wetland – first of its kind, cleans water runoff from highway

This extraordinarily creative “best management practice” captures stormwater runoff from the elevated Major Deegan Expressway with a “pop-up wetland”. The wetland is filled with ordinary native plants which remove pollutants, allowing clean water to drain to the river. Rain passes through a large pipe into a first flush basin, then to the wetland with overflow into the prairie meadow. This project is within the BCEQ Harlem River BOA.



Funding for this project is made possible through a grant from the WCS-NOAA South Bronx Waterfront Partnership and Congressman Jose Serrano.

This is a project of the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality, the Harlem River Working Group, and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation. Other major partners are: dlandstudio, Gaia Institute, Highbridge Community Life Center, Sustainable South Bronx, U.S. Geological Survey, the National Parks Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, NYC Parks Greenbelt Native Plant Center, New York Restoration Project, and others. It is part of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership program. In 2011, the Urban Waters Federal Partnership (UWFP) announced efforts on seven pilot locations, one of which is the Bronx & Harlem River Watersheds (New York).

Check the BCEQ web page for more info and photos.

Bronx Council for Environmental Quality

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Draft Matrix of Guidelines and Goals
 Within this newsletter is information that will be expanded at the annual water meeting on March 19). But we want to hear what you think about the design of our water's edge. We hope it will spur a lively discussion. Comment at www.bceq.org

Category of guidelines	Clean Water	Resiliency	Sustainability
1. Edge guidelines			
2. Water catchment guidelines			
3. Access to shore / waterfront guidelines			
4. Biota coverage – plants 80/20 pervious			
5. Other			