Bronx Council for Environmental Quality ([www.bceq.org](http://www.bceq.org)) present this community-driven conversation to work toward a plan that protects the urban built environment by using nature to improve ecosystem services. This highlights critical and sustainable steps to reduce the high cost of increasing electricity to cool residents in response to managing forecasted 3-day-100-degree heat waves. Combined with clean energy goals, put nature first for an answer of how to remove CO2.

By doubling down on greening, with the added requirement of regular maintenance routines, the level of carbon sinks and biodiversity will increase and help offset current levels of heat island effects. This means greening and using natural green structures on land and other hardened areas to energize to the point of creating 30% protected forest, local GI, wetlands, and improve the 500 miles of shorelines in NYC.

Choose to prioritize natural green parks and open spaces because green works faster than clean energy to remove CO2 – cleaning air, managing runoff on land, reduce flooding, and lower the fire risk in our natural areas. To meet the City’s goal of reducing greenhouse gases, more productive natural features – water, air, and soil -- must be restored and protected, ASAP.

**BCEQ REPORTS:**

• Amalgamated Hilltop Project and Research - <http://www.bceq.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Harlem-River-Hilltop-online-1.pdf>

• Treat Rain like a Natural Resource - <https://bceq.org/2022/04/02/treat-rain-like-a-natural-resource/>

**PARKS REPORTS**: benefits of Tree Canopies, Natural Areas, Stormwater Management, Wetlands

• Trees - <https://tree-map.nycgovparks.org/tree-map>

• Natural Areas - <https://naturalareasnyc.org/nyc-nature-map/>

• Stormwater Management - <https://naturalareasnyc.org/stormwater-management-nature-steps-up-where-city-infrastructure-falls-short/>

• Wetlands - <https://naturalareasnyc.org/4-different-types-of-wetlands-and-where-in-nyc-to-visit-them/>

**DEP REPORTS** – Green Infrastructure from CSOs to Cloudburst Management, Tibbetts Brook

• Green Infrastructure: <https://www.nyc.gov/site/dep/water/green-infrastructure.page>

• Tibbetts Brook – Stream daylighting is the process of restoring a stream to a more natural state by removing any obstructions covering it, such as concrete or pavement. <https://www.nyc.gov/site/dep/whats-new/tibbetts-brook-daylighting-project.page>