

HOG ISLAND PUBLIC WORKSHOP 01/10/07 - OPPORTUNITIES
List the most promising opportunities for the restoration of Hog Island (HI) and Newton Creek (NC)

MONITORING
Monitor the natural restoration of HI and NC by developing a project to analyze plant, macroinvertebrate, fish and animal species after remediation of the site has been completed.
A chance to test ideas on how to restore/enhance human impacted ecosystems.
FUNDING
Leverage GLA funding for additional projects.
Feds desire for success and willingness to invest resources.
Feature success of GL Legacy Act Project and restoration model to leverage for fund for GL clean-up.
Purchase conservation easements. Purchase land along NC.
IMPLEMENTATION FOR OTHER AOC
The process of developing and implementing a plan has promise for use on other areas w/in the AOC.
Setting a good ecological precedent for future estuary restoration projects. Success here can lead to many other success within and outside of the SLR estuary. This would strengthen the overall ecosystem.
Application to entire harbor.
A lot of enthusiasm for being the 1st AOC to try a project like this.
DEVELOP METHODS AND DOCUMENTATION FOR SPECIFIC RESTORATION TECHNIQUES
Need to increase emergent vegetation should learn to do it in the estuary at this site.
Need to restore riparian corridors and should learn from this site.
Why and what is the remediation taking place. Is it for aesthetics, microbes, plants, wildlife/fish, or humans?
Should not be the end, but rather the beginning of a larger process.
Stabilize riparian /floodplain area to eliminate erosion. Reforestation-establish adequate buffer w/ restrictions/easements-establish shade/trees for DO levels. Use phytoremediation to address areas not remediate. Increase protection status of HI from "special use" to something "conservation". Establish wetlands of priority. Use sieche to hydrate atoll.
INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL
Attempt control/over exotics- buckthorn.
The island is probably as good as can be expected and should be left alone except to remove noxious weeds.
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT/PROTECTION
Low impact habitat enhancement-natural structures such as logs and rock.
Plant some plants and let it be.
Migratory bird habitat (rare) in the area that has been lost due to development can be enhanced/created/restored at this site. Specifically shorebird habitat both migratory feeding and nesting sites to benefit species such as plovers, and shallow water coastal wetland to benefit species such as American Black Ducks and Scaup.
Remove fish barriers.
A refuge- stop over-nesting site for shorebirds and waterfowl on the island.
Improve environmental functions for wildlife & plant habitat integrity. Refuge for local and threatened/endangered plants that may be impacted by development elsewhere in the city. Provided higher quality stopover and nesting habitat for migratory birds and breeding birds.
Establish a fish population in NC. For NC to be a clean environment, not a dump for peoples garbage. To give wildlife a natural habitat again.
Best protection of riparian corridor is probably value to the public- trails equals public value.
Enhancement for wildlife.
Large woody cover in inlet. Pull pilings out of harbor place them in the water area. Coastal Estuary channel creation to improve seiche interaction.
STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT
Community support leadership St. Louis River CAC support from City/County.
Public must be appraised of the HI process and shown that this is the first restoration site on a large list.
Community and city to work together to meld plans for HI/ the estuary including the Allouez Bay & Wisconsin Point. This has been a dream for more than 10 years- w/the mix of Wisconsin State, Superior, Douglas Co., City of Superior, & Tribal governments.
Dedicated, hard-working, talented, energetic, knowledgeable group of local concerned citizens, resource managers, and staff motivated to accomplish a project who have in place strong relationships of which to draw additional expertise.
Synergistic effect of multi-agency input and financial support and local groups and individuals.
Such a dedicated group of people from city, county, state, federal and private groups.
HI & NC have a dedicated local support group - the St. Louis River Citizen Action Committee... made up of professional resource managers/scientists/local citizens/business people.
EDUCATION/AWARENESS
Education opportunities because of its urban location.
School programs - "adopt a stream".
Awareness in the community of the importance of ecological succession/remediation. Education.
Improve social functions: stormwater management, water quality, floodwater mngt, research, cultural, educational, recreational, aesthetic functions.
May give future volunteers a greater sense of environmental stewardship.
LIMIT HUMAN USE
Don't make it a park because kids will have parties and the police would have a hard time.
Limit human extent and ensure ecological habitat.
I suggest that restoration be done first for human health and aesthetics of the natural area. Plants and animals can be the major beneficiaries of the process. Humans can benefit from the cleaner environment and the natural beauty produced. The other animals and plants can have a greater benefit by having a new niche to exist in. This description necessitates limiting human use of the area.
It should be easier to limit access during restoration and may also provide good habitat since it isn't being trampled. It already has some important native/threatened species present.
FUTURE ENJOYMENT
Continue to move from remediation to restoration process leaving something for the future to enjoy.
It demonstrates to people that urbanization/industrialization can co-habit an area when properly managed.
The location of this site within the city, adjacent to other recreational land, will highlight the demonstrative and educational opportunities this project can have as an impact to local citizens, visitors and for similar urban watersheds elsewhere in the area.
Highly visible location along USH2/52 and hiking trail corridor.
Energize the community toward a positive focus.
Organize a trail and clean-up and create awareness of the beauty of the area.
If limited public uses, opportunity for passive recreational use.
NC floodplain and walking trail.
MINIMIZE POLLUTION IMPACTS
Installation of upland BMPs to minimize non-point source and point source runoff impacts.
HI and NC are now deemed clean and neither are natural systems. In a sense we can't go wrong.
We have the opportunity now to protect the area from pop growth and development probably one of the best areas to escape pop growth and its effects.

HOG ISLAND PUBLIC WORKSHOP 01/10/07 - CONSTRAINTS
List the constraints to the restoration of Hog Island (HI) and Newton Creek (NC)

INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL
Invasive species especially aquatics (i.e. Zebra mussels, etc.)
The existence of reed canary grass in the upper watershed.
STAKEHOLDERS
Economics - political pressure to develop the area.
Identify the responsible agency or party (County, City, State, etc.) because of multiple arenas/management in the area.
Opposition by larger economic interests and politicians.
Multiple property ownership in the area (developers, railroad industry, industry owners, private landowners etc.)
Integrating and differentiating the visions of stakeholders for Hog Island and Newton Creek (i.e. level of public access and facilities desired by different stakeholders).
Making sure everyone has a voice.
Defining a balance between restoration goals and business development of planners and stakeholders.
SURROUNDING INFLUENCES / POTENTIAL THREATS
Water movement from the creek, to the Bay, to the harbor is not stagnant.
A future spill from the refinery destroying all restoration progress.
Railroad located on shore side.
Newton Creek has lost virtually all of its original hydrologic characteristics because it is dependent on refinery discharge.
Urban and industrial encroachment.
Heavy development around watershed limiting control of runoff and establishment of protective buffers.
The small area may limit resiliency for the ecosystem should environmental challenges occur.
TIME / MONEY
Where will time and money come from to release or remove spill containments structures?
Funding short falls and then relying on dedicated volunteers.
Funding the project for long term maintenance.
Ensuring long term sustainability.
Attaining permits.
Funding from already tight local budgets.
Long-term maintenance issues (development pressures in watershed, physical maintenance, recreational structures, etc.)
EDUCATION / OUTREACH
Changing the values of the community to understand the significance of natural resources.
Getting community involvement and understanding of the importance of the restoration project and how it effects them personally.
Educating County and City decision-makers.
The need to educate on the idea of a self-sustaining ecosystem.
Finding a way to educate on the benefits of this project because of previous ambivalence of the community at large of other blighted/brownfield areas in Superior and the Harbor.
ABILITY TO GAIN SUPPORT
Need a clear goal addressing the primary concerns.
Have achievable goals which optimize success so additional restoration opportunities will be accepted in the future.
Overcoming the assumption that the site is already cleaned up.
Finding a means to gain the support of political leaders to advocate for restoration.
MONITORING / ASSESSMENT
Developing/ agreeing on a measures of success.
Assess the feasibility to repair the impaired flow regime of Newton Creek in which riparian and aquatic organisms communities cannot currently thrive.