



## project profile : conservation planning



(New York City Department of Environmental Protection)



*The 142 square mile Jamaica Bay watershed contains some of the most densely populated areas of the country, the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, New York, which lie immediately adjacent to the ecologically productive Jamaica Bay marine estuary complex.*

## Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan

*Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, New York City*

Jamaica Bay is an estuary within the jurisdictional boundary of New York City, immediately adjacent to the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens. The 142 square mile watershed supports one of the most densely populated urban areas in the United States. The effluent from numerous water pollution control plants, combined sewer overflows, and augmented stormwater runoff has severely degraded water quality in the Bay. Land filling and dredging operations has reduced the historic wetland complex by 50%, and the remaining saltmarshes are rapidly eroding. Nevertheless, the estuary remains an important ecological, cultural, and recreational resource for the citizens of New York City.

Piecemeal restoration and conservation actions have been applied by multiple agencies, including the National Park Service, US Army Corps of Engineers, and NYC Department of Environmental Protection. Recognizing that a coordinated restoration and management effort is necessary, Local Law 565 was legislated in 2005 and calls for the formulation of a Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan.

Biohabitats is researching the ecological systems in Jamaica Bay Estuary, quantifying impacts, and making recommendations for sustainable ecological restoration and management. In addition, Biohabitats is helping to coordinate a planning document that will guide future restoration and conservation actions, and present a collaborative framework for managing this rich and complex urban ecological system.

### PROJECT AT A GLANCE

SERVICES	Inventory & Assessments Planning Management Public Outreach Policy
CLIENT	New York City Department of Environmental Protection
PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE	Atlantic Coastal Plain
BIOREGION	New England
WATERSHED	Jamaica Bay