New York – New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program

Embracing the Comprehensive Restoration Plan

Urban Wetlands Protection and Restoration Workshop
December 1, 2010
What is HEP

• Cooperative program to restore the estuary.
• Federally designated *Estuary of National Significance*.
• Authorized by Federal Clean Water Act.
• CCMP (1996).
Geographic Scope
Primary Issue Areas for HEP

- Water quality
- Sediment Management
- Stewardship/Education
- Public Access
- Habitat restoration and preservation
  - Recommended a regional habitat plan
Comprehensive Restoration Plan

- Many partners involved.
- Lead by USACE and Port Auth
- Based on science
- Provide a shared vision of a restored estuary
- Coordinate and align regional restoration activities
- Build upon HEP Structure
Comprehensive Restoration Plan for Habitat

11 Target Ecosystem Characteristics

Restoration goal is to create:

“a mosaic of habitats that provide society with new and increased benefits from the estuary environment.”
Coastal Wetlands

TEC Goal: 1,200 acres by 2015 and 15,200 acres by 2050

Wetland Restoration: 12,543 acres available

Wetland Creation: 14,469 acres available

14,469 acres available
Elders East Wetland Construction

248,000 CY sand

planting

grading
Management of CRP

- Restoration Work Group under HEP
  - Planning, tracking, policy, coordination.
- Database and Tracking through OASIS
- Waters We Share branding
- Planning Grants through HEP for smaller projects
- Coordinate on larger projects.
- Revisions to CRP lead by USACE
- Significant future funding mechanism needed!
Questions?

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www.WatersWeShare.org
www.HarborEstuary.org