

# The Tidal Exchange

~E-news~

*News and upcoming events in the harbor!*

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**NYC PARKS MAKES STRIDES IN MEASURING HOW WELL MARSHES ARE KEEPING UP WITH SEA LEVEL RISE**



Mike Morris and Dwayne Spencer install Surface Elevation Tables (SETs) at Pelham Bay Park, Bronx. Photo: Ellen Hartig/NYC Parks NRG

## Surface Elevation Tables installed in Pelham Bay and Spring Creek

This winter, [New York City Parks and Recreation's Natural Resources group](#) is installing two Surface Elevation Tables (SETs) to measure accretion - the elevation gained in marshes by the vegetation actually trapping of sediment and other material. [Read more about surface elevation tables...](#)

Understanding how well a marsh is gaining elevation through accretion over time is important because it can give us a sense of the general health of a particular marsh and how well it is keeping up with sea level rise. Additionally, it can inform the management and restoration of marshes, leading to a likely

greater success of projects in the face of sea level rise. The two SETs will be put in place at Pelham Bay Park in the Bronx, and at Spring Creek in Queens, and join other efforts to track marsh accretion in the estuary including that of the [Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute](#).

## GREENING UP OUR ACT WITH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE



A model "green roof" at the [Greenburgh Nature Center](#) in Scarsdale, NY (photo by Gabriela Munoz)

### NRDC report looks at how our country is using green infrastructure and how we could be doing it better

An estimated 10 trillion gallons of untreated stormwater runs off roofs, roads, parking lots, and other paved surfaces, often through the sewage systems, into rivers and waterways that serve as drinking water supplies and flow to our beaches, increasing health risks, degrading ecosystems, and damaging tourist economies.

In the [Rooftops to Rivers](#) report, Natural Resources Defense Council takes a look at the technical and policy aspects of green infrastructure across the nation, including a case study on New York City and examples of state actions.

## FOUR SPARROW MARSH DEVELOPMENT PLAN WITHDRAWN



Aerial view of Four Sparrow Marsh. Image by Ron Bourque

In September, commercial development plans proposed for land adjacent to Brooklyn's Four Sparrow Marsh were withdrawn.

This 63-acre wetland is one of the few remaining salt marshes on the shores of Jamaica Bay and provides habitat for many birds, including the four sparrow species that give it its name. The proposed development threatened to affect the wetland's water quality, disrupt site hydrology, and directly kill birds as a result of collisions with windows. [Learn more...](#)

### CALL FOR AUTHORS, EDITORS, AND REVIEWERS

#### Marine education journal "*Ripples*" returns

The New York State Marine Education Association (NYSMEA) is will resume publishing their marine education journal *Ripples*, and is looking for:

- **Authors** to contribute marine-related articles.
- **Experienced editors** to prepare articles for publication.
- **Peer reviewers** to ensure the journal's quality.

If interested, email [Meghan Marrero](#).

To keep abreast of other marine education resources and opportunities in New York, consider subscribing to NYSMEA's e-newsletter, [The Strandline](#).

### \$4 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY-BASED GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

#### NYC Dept of Environmental Protection Announces its 2012 Green Infrastructure Grants Program

The focus this year is on projects by private property owners, businesses, and not-for-profit organizations to use green infrastructure to reduce or manage stormwater on private property and public sidewalks. Preference for grants will be given to projects that create





additional benefits such as increased shade, decreased energy use for cooling buildings, increased awareness about stormwater management, and increased community stewardship.

NYCDEP is hosting a series of grant workshops for prospective applicants. [Read more...](#)

## SMALL GRANTS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AND REVITALIZE COMMUNITIES



### EPA Announces Urban Waters Small Grants Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency expects to award \$1.8 to \$3.8 million in small grants to improve water quality in urban areas through activities that also support community revitalization and other local priorities. Available funds will support research, studies, training, and demonstration projects.

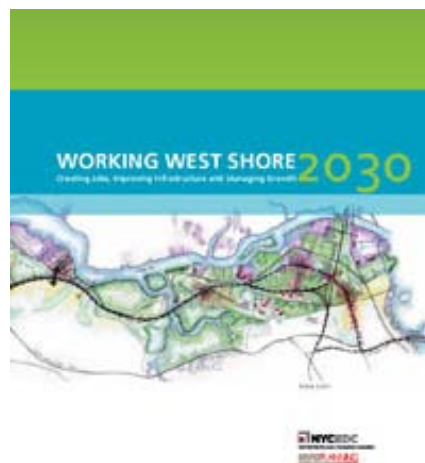
The deadline for applications is **January 23, 2012**. Webinars to assist applicants will be held on **December 14, 2011** and **January 5, 2012**. [Read more...](#)

## CITY RELEASES PLAN FOR STATEN ISLAND'S WEST SHORE

### Report details 20-year strategy to guide public and private land use

The New York City Department of City Planning and Economic Development Corporation have released *Working West Shore 2030: Creating Jobs, Improving Infrastructure, and Managing Growth*.

The report is the culmination of a collaborative two-year effort among City and State agencies, over 300 community members, business leaders and civic stakeholders to craft a vision for the West Shore of



Staten Island. The final report details strategies which will guide public and private investment and land use decisions over the next 20 years. [Read more...](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

For more events, check out our [calendar](#). To post your Estuary-related event in our calendar, [please send us the details!](#)

### Save the dates:

- **Do Fish Sleep?** Dr. Judith Weis will be doing two presentations about her book *Do Fish Sleep? Fascinating Answers to Questions about Fishes* in December:

- **Dec 5** at Puffin Cultural Forum in Teaneck, NJ at 7 PM. For more information, call **201-968-0808**.

- **Dec 10** at Beczak Environmental Education Center, on the Hudson in Yonkers, NY. [More details...](#)

-**Dec 6:** The New York League of Conservation Voters will host "*Wasted Opportunity? Confronting NYC's Solid Waste Challenges*", a half-day discussion aimed to explore the issue of how the city can best manage the nonrecyclable fraction of its municipal solid waste. The forum will take place at the New York City Bar Association, 42 West 44th Street, from 8 AM to Noon. It is open to the public, but **registration is required**. [To read more and to RSVP...](#)

- [Hudson River Foundation Fall Seminars](#):

Seminars are free and can be accessed via webinar. [RSVP needed](#).

- **Dec 7:** *Are Hudson River Fish Made of Trees? Understanding Terrestrial Support of the Hudson Food Web from Stable Isotopes* by Jonathan Cole, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies.

- **Dec 10:** Electronic Waste Recycling hosted by the Lower East Side Ecology Center. [Learn more...](#)

- **April 2012: Waterfront Conference.** The conference, organized by the [Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance](#), will cover funding for our region and economic development at the waterfront, among other topics. More details coming up.

- **June 14, 2012: Fourth Annual Raritan River Conference:** *Raritan River Restoration: Our Communities, Our Land, Our Water, Our Future* at Duke Farms in Hillsborough, NJ. For more information or to inquire about giving a presentation, please contact [Judy Shaw](#).

### Funding opportunities:

- [National Urban and Community Forestry grants](#). **Deadline for Pre-Proposals: December 1, 2011.** [More information...](#)

- [Stream Barrier Removal Grants](#): American Rivers and the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are accepting applications for stream barrier removal projects under the Community-based Restoration Program. **Deadline for**

**applications: December 9, 2011.** [Learn more.](#)

- **Urban Waters Small Grants:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency expects to award between \$1.8 to \$3.8 million in funding for projects across the country to help restore urban waters by improving water quality and supporting community revitalization. **Deadline for submitting proposals: January 23, 2012.** [For more information](#) (including applicant webinar dates)...

- **NYC Green Infrastructure Grant Program:** The New York City Department of Environmental Protection will make available up to \$4 million for green infrastructure projects on private property and in sidewalks in combined sewered areas. Applications are due by **February 15, 2012.** [For more information](#), including applicant workshop dates...

- **Five Star Restoration Grant Program:** This program offers modest financial assistance on a competitive basis to support community-based wetland, riparian, and coastal habitat restoration projects that build diverse partnerships and foster local natural resource stewardship through education, outreach and training activities. **Application deadline: February 15, 2012.** [For more details](#) (including applicant webinar)...

- The **N. G. Kaul Memorial Scholarship Fund** will be offering a total of \$2500 in scholarships to students pursuing graduate or doctoral degrees in environmental/civil engineering or environmental science concentrating on water quality who show a commitment to government service. **Application deadline is February 28, 2012.** [For more information](#)...

#### Public Comment Opportunities:

- The U.S. Coast Guard is seeking public comments about Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's proposal to modify the Bayonne Bridge, across Kill Van Kull between Staten Island, NY, and Bayonne, NJ. The public may comment until **Dec. 9, 2011.** [Learn more](#)...

#### Contest:

- "Document Your Environment" multimedia contest: Students ages 13 to 18 can create any type of graphic art, a short video, or a poem using a DocuMentica photo as a prompt. The grand prize will be \$500. Entries will be accepted from **November 1, 2011 to January 6, 2012.** [Learn more](#)...

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