

# The Tidal Exchange

~E-news~

Of the



New York-New Jersey  
Harbor & Estuary Program

*News and upcoming events in the harbor!*

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## A DAY AT THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

### When you sleep, where does your sewage go?

Yonkers, NY - On Saturday, March 3rd, the Harbor & Estuary Program's own Gabriela Munoz attended a tour of the Yonkers Wastewater Treatment Plant, the largest in Westchester County.

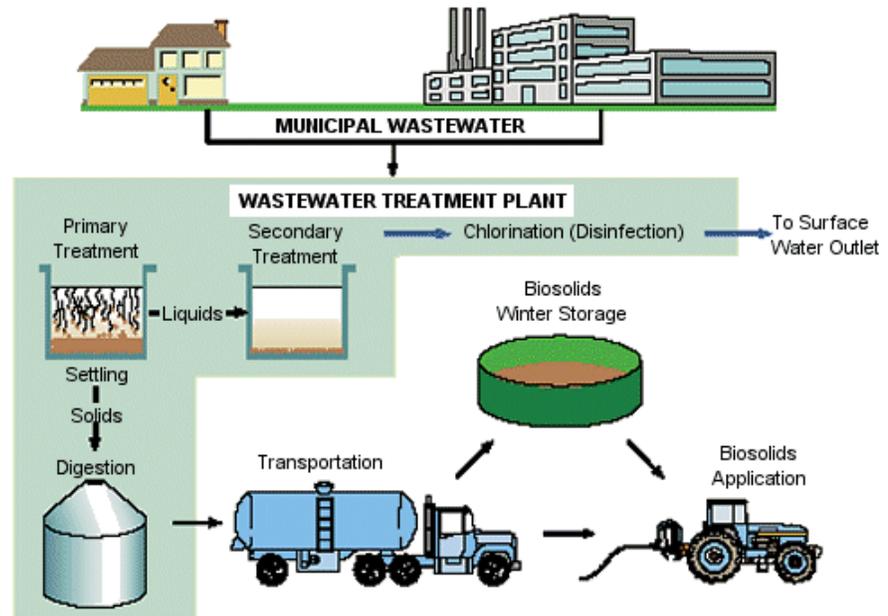


Yonkers WWTP manager, informs onlookers about primary and secondary treatment.

Wastewater treatment, something we don't generally think twice about before flushing, requires an enormous amount of infrastructure, the functioning of which is critical to environmental (and thus human) health throughout the watershed. Treatment levels range from primary (separation of solids, settling), to secondary (removing biological content), to tertiary (additional removal of nitrogen, phosphorous, and other compounds that can affect water quality). The Yonkers plant is a secondary treatment facility, [one of seven treatment plants used to treat wastewater](#) for 90% of the County's inhabitants (or approximately 854,000 people), and is fed by 190 miles of sewers.

Organized by Matt Malina of [NYC H2O](#), the tour followed the whole secondary treatment processes, from arrival of sewage and wastewater to the plant, to discharge of the treated water and

[biosolids](#). The largest in Westchester, this facility treats much of the County's wastewater. Find out more about your local treatment plant by visiting your county's website.



Schematic diagram of secondary treatment (source: Ontario Govt.)

## ATLANTIC STURGEON: ENDANGERED

### NOAA Fisheries announces new status for New York Bight and other distinct populations

February 6, 2012 - The National Marine Fisheries Service [announced that three northeast "Distinct Population Segments" are now considered in danger of extinction](#), due to: precipitous declines in population; limited amount of current spawning; and other impacts that have and will continue to prevent recovery.



The Atlantic Sturgeon is now considered endangered in the New York Bight region

Sturgeons are toothless relics, predating dinosaurs in existence. The Atlantic Sturgeon is the largest of New York State's sturgeons, occasionally reaching over 200 pounds in weight, and is extremely long-lived, in some cases exceeding 60 years. Its anadromous life history requires it to migrate from saltwater to freshwater to spawn.

Once abundant, the sturgeon was heavily fished for their meat and eggs in the mid to late 1800s, decimating the population. Since then, the effects of habitat decimation, bycatch, pollution, and other problems have taken a further toll.

## NEW PILOT INVESTIGATION: WHAT'S GOING INTO OUR ESTUARY FROM THAT SEWER PIPE?

### NYC announces sewer outfall-tracking program

Feb. 16, 2012: The New York City Department of Environmental Protection [recently announced](#) its launch of a pilot program to track combined sewer overflows in real time. The new sensors will allow the Department to better understand the effects of combined sewer overflows and to enhance alerts of when and where they occur.

Like many cities with aging infrastructure, New York City is supported by a sewer system that is largely combined (stormwater and wastewater in the same pipe), such that the system often reaches capacity and discharges this combined sewer overflow into the city's waterways. [Click here for a map of the city's combined sewer outfalls](#), or for a more in-depth look at CSOs, check out our [2005 issue of the Tidal Exchange](#). The metropolitan region of New Jersey faces many of the same issues. For more information about CSOs in New Jersey, see [this presentation](#).



New sensors will track CSO discharges

## OPEN SPACE PRESERVED IN RARITAN WATERSHED

### 108-acre Urbach farm preserved

*Raritan Twp* - A partnership comprised of Raritan Township, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Green Acres program, the Hunterdon Land Trust, the Raritan Headwaters Association and Hunterdon County closed last month on the acquisition and preservation of Urbach farm.

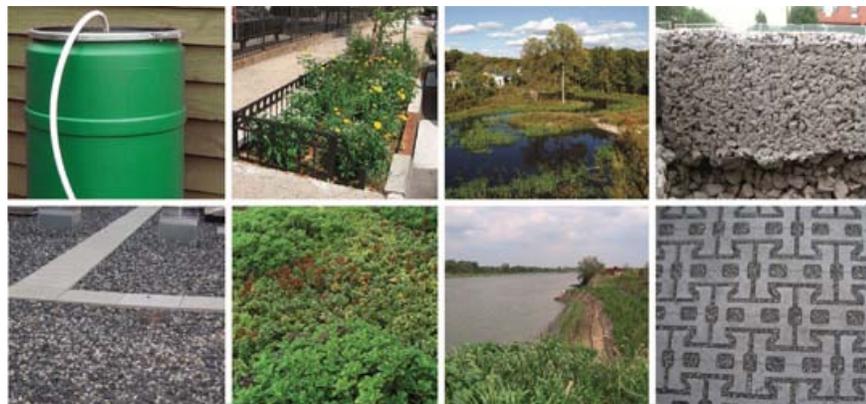


Though the fields will continue to be farmed, woodland paths will be opened up to the public for walking, bird-watching, and other recreation.

## GROWTH IN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

### Technical assistance funds and new online resource

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has recently announced opportunities for direct technical assistance for projects that use green infrastructure to protect water quality. Approximately \$950k will be distributed between 10-20 projects. To find out more and apply, [click here](#). The EPA has also created a [new website](#) to catalog case studies and resources related to Green Infrastructure throughout the nation. [Check it out!](#)



NYC will employ multiple GI techniques (from NYC.gov)

### NYC to contract for \$12 million of Green Infrastructure in Gowanus, Newtown Creek, and Flushing Bay.

March 12, 2012 - New York City Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Carter Strickland announced the release of a request for proposals for \$12 million worth of contracts to advance its [Green Infrastructure Plan](#) (2010) in three areas of the City. The Green Infrastructure projects are intended to help capture stormwater before it enters the combined sewer system, so that it

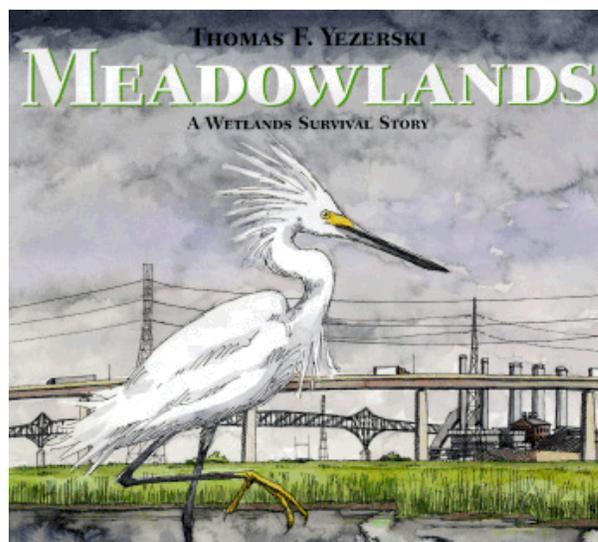
may reduce the amount of combined sewage and stormwater overflowing into our estuary during storms.

The work to be conducted will build on [previous efforts and pilot projects](#) to reduce stormwater in the city.

## MEADOWLANDS: A WETLANDS SURVIVAL STORY

### Yzerski releases local wetlands-themed children's book

The New Jersey Meadowlands, approximately 20,000 acres spanning from the New Jersey Turnpike north to I-80 and the Teterboro Airport, have a deeply intertwined urban and natural history. Thomas Yzerski explores this in his new book, which was a recent "notable children's book" according to the New York Times.



## PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED FOR PROPOSED ROCKLAND DESALINATION PLANT

### Public comment period open on Environmental Impact Statement

Following the acceptance of a [draft Environmental Impact statement](#), the New York State Department of Conservation held a public hearing about [the project](#) on March 6, 2012, and has extended the public comment period until April 20th.

The desalination plant, proposed as [part of a way to address a projected seven million gallon/day gap between year 2015 supply and demand](#), would pump 10 million gallons/day from the Hudson River to create an additional 7.5 mgd of drinking water. [Review the draft EIS and](#) submit any comments



The plant would process 10mgd of Hudson River water to create

to: 7.5mgd drinking water (Photo:  
James Grellier)

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## CALENDAR OF WATER ACTIVITIES

### NYC Water Trail Association Would like to Add Your Event to their Calendar.

Is your organization holding a human-powered event in or around NYC? Please send the info to:

[calendar@nycwatertrail.org](mailto:calendar@nycwatertrail.org)

including:

- NAME OF EVENT
- Date/Dates with START AND END TIMES
- SHORT Description of Activity or Event
- Name of Organizing Group
- Contact info ( website or email address)



Kayaking in Yonkers with the Yonkers Paddling & Rowing Club

To check out the calendar, please visit [www.nycwatertrail.org/events.html](http://www.nycwatertrail.org/events.html).

## NJDEP UPDATES THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES LIST

Based on the latest data, the bald eagle was upgraded to "threatened" for the non-breeding portion of the population to reflect improvements in their populations and new species such as the red knot were added to the "endangered" list to reflect concerns about declines.



Red Knots. Photo by Clay Walker.

For more information about these changes, see <http://www.nj.gov/dep/fgw/ensphome.htm>.

## 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:

**March 14: PCB Remedial Dredging of the Hudson River Phase II** - 3-5:00, hosted by the Hudson River Foundation. [More...](#)

**March 16: [Blue Infrastructure, Flooding and Storm Water Management](#).** Join the Sustainable Raritan River Regional Engineering Council to talk about future direction to address flooding in the region.

**March 22: [Stormwater Infrastructure Matters meeting](#)** - Leif Percifeld and Kate Zidar will be speaking about their CSO public notification projects.

**March 22-24: [SER Conference](#) at Brooklyn College:** Restoration on the Edge: Exploring the Frontiers of Restoration, Collaboration, and Resilience in Changing Ecosystems.

**March 22: Rescuing A River: The Story of the Raritan - Showing at Perth Amboy YMCA.** [For more info and to RSVP...](#)

**March 23: New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program Citizens Advisory Committee [meeting](#),** held at Future City, Inc.

**April 3: Hudson River Foundation Seminar at 10:30 am.** *Horseshoe Crab Conservation Efforts: 455 Million Years In the Making And In Peril?* by John T. Tanacredi, Dowling College. [More info...](#)

**April 14: [River Talks @ Beczak](#):** Hudson River Dredging Update.

**April 15-19: [Northeast Natural History Conference](#)** in Syracuse, NY.

**May 3: OSU webinar - three tools to address water-related climate adaptation in your community** [More...](#)

**May 12: The Great Sawmill River Cleanup** [More...](#)

**May 15 & 16: [22nd Annual Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference](#)** in New Hampshire. Early registration **through April 27.**

**May 15-31 and June 1-15: Call for citizen-scientists!** - NJ Audubon is recruiting for the Lower Raritan Bird Survey. [More...](#)

**May 18-19: MWA 2012 Waterfront Conference - *Our Harbor: An Environmental Engine and Economic Resource*** ([Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance](#), NYC) [More details...](#)

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

#### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Funding available for a study of contamination of the Raritan River in NJ: [\\$100,000 is available from EPA](#)** to study contaminated sites and other sources of pollution impacting water quality in the lower and middle Raritan River. **Deadline:** April 23

**Training & Technical Assistance Grants for public water & wastewater systems: [\\$14.5 million in awards](#)** for small systems

**2012 Graduate Fellowships.** The Hudson River Foundation - up to three full-time research fellowships are available for graduate students conducting research on the Hudson River system (11-\$15,000/yr and a research budget not to exceed \$1,000).

**Deadline: March 21.** [For more information...](#)

**TNC-NOAA Community-based Habitat Restoration Grants.**

Typical grants will be in the range of \$25,000-\$85,000 for restoration projects that benefit fish and shellfish around the coastal United States. Proposals are due by April 13, 2012. [More info...](#)

**EPA Citizen Science - Community Involvement Today and in the Future.** A total of \$125,000 for five to 10 New York City "Citizen Science" projects related to air or water pollution. Grant applications accepted **through April 20, 2012.** [More info...](#)

**NAWCA U.S. Standard Grants:** \$40 million in awards ranging from \$75,001-1 million is available [for restoration or enhancement](#) benefiting wetlands-associated migratory birds. **Deadlines: July 27.** See [Grants.gov](#) funding announcement.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:**

NOAA [Liaison to the Long Island Sound Study.](#)

**PUBLIC COMMENT & MEETING OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Oversight: Transforming NYC's Waterfront - A One-Year Update on the Waterfront Action Agenda.** Friday, March 16 1:00 p.m. 14th Floor 250 Broadway, NYC.

**Plan for Cleanup at American Cyanamid Superfund Site in Bridgewater Township, NJ.** EPA accepts comments through March 30. [More info...](#)

**AWARDS & OTHER OPPORTUNITIES:**

**First annual Raritan River Photo award:** Blue Raritan is looking for photos that highlight the diversity of landscapes in the region. Submit your (300 dpi 8x10") photos of wildlife, landscapes, action, events, people, remediation, restoration to [blueraritan@ejb.rutgers.edu](mailto:blueraritan@ejb.rutgers.edu). Please include location, date taken, and name of the photographer.

**NYCDEP's 26th Water Resources Art and Poetry Contest.**

Students in grades 2-12 can submit photographs, digital art, and video in addition to other forms of artwork and poetry that creatively expresses and understanding of, an appreciation for, water. Submissions will be accepted **through April 6th.** [More info](#)

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