

Manhasset Bay Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP)
Initial Vision Statement and Goals
January 2, 2023

Initial WQIP Vision Statement:

Advance the Goals outlined below so as to maintain and, where feasible, expand the availability of Manhasset Bay for swimming, fishing and other human uses, while also concurrently enriching the environmental and maritime quality of the Bay ecosystem.

Initial WQIP Goals:

1. Minimize impacts to water quality in the Bay from non-point source discharges including, but not limited to, stormwater runoff, on-site sanitary systems, illicit discharges to stormwater conveyances, and waterfowl, recognizing that these sources will be worsened by climate change. This can be achieved, in part, by assisting the Manhasset Bay watershed municipalities in preparing strategies for improving water quality in compliance with the NYSDEC MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit requirements.
2. Minimize impacts to water quality in the Bay from point source discharges including, but not limited to, water pollution control district effluent outfalls.
3. Optimize local laws and regulations to ensure that they effectively control water quality impacts in the Bay. This will be accomplished by listing the applicable local laws/regulations and identifying potential enhancements.
4. Ensure that the operations of local governments in the Manhasset Bay watershed are undertaken in a manner that minimizes water quality impacts and considers climate change impacts, while also supporting the MS4 program and municipal housekeeping.
5. Maintain and, where feasible, restore and enhance tidal and freshwater wetlands in the Bay and its watershed so that these resources can support healthy ecosystems, provide flood and stormwater control, and offer opportunities for open space, education, recreation, and aesthetic appreciation.
6. Promote the remediation of contaminated sites to mitigate impacts to the Bay.
7. Maintain open space lands in the Bay's watershed to ensure the continuing benefits derived from areas of natural, pervious cover, especially in the face of climate change.
8. Minimize impacts to water quality in the Bay from marinas, boatyards, and related waterfront uses.
9. Minimize impacts to water quality in the Bay from fertilizer use and pet wastes.

This document was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund.



10. Minimize the sedimentation of the Bay and its tributary water bodies. Where feasible and beneficial, consider restoring natural bottom contours in the Bay and its tributary water bodies.
11. Continue water quality monitoring in the Bay and expand this program to the degree practicable, so that trends in water quality conditions can be properly tracked and the program can be tailored to provide data that is maximally useful for characterizing impacts, tracking changes due to climate change, and assisting in formulating strategies for corrective action. Integrate water quality data collected by other entities, such as the Interstate Environmental Commission, as feasible.
12. Enhance the coordination of efforts to improve water quality conditions in the Bay, particularly through continuing inter-municipal cooperation by the MBPC, as well as expanded public education initiatives to attain broad-based community support. Tap into the local libraries and public school systems as collaborators in these public education initiatives.
13. Account for sea level rise and other effects of climate change in the design and implementation of projects addressing water quality issues in the Bay to ensure maximum effectiveness over the long term.
14. Maintain the relevance of the WQIP through continuous tracking of progress on the implementation of recommendations and regular plan updates as appropriate.

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