# Open Space & the Urban Jungle:

#### **Ecosystem Restoration & Resiliency Post-Sandy**



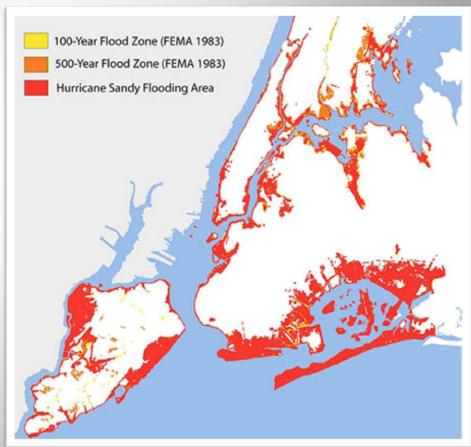




# An island city...at risk...







#### Once Upon A Time.....





- 400,000+/- acre estuary
- wildlife galore; "Staten Island Oysters"
- Industrialization, pollution& development: 85% filled



# Changes in the wind....







- Environmental awakening 1960s & 70s
- Gateway National
   Recreation Area 1972
- National EstuaryProgram 1987
- Changing real estate interest – pro & con
- Waterfront rediscovery& wildlife recovery

#### Serious needs remain...







- Impaired waterways
- Investment is unequal
- Wetland loss continues
- Storms & sea-level rise



#### Advocacy efforts launched...



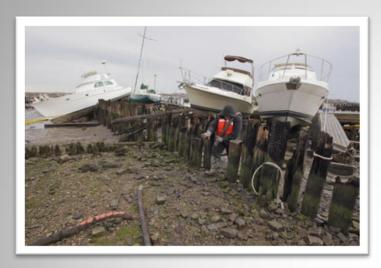
- Government & NGO partnership: NEP
- Civic engagement & urban planning: Plan NYC
- NGO collaboration: Harbor Coalition
- America's Great Waters Coalition





# Hello Sandy!!!











#### Ecosystem damage...



- Beaches, habitat destroyed
- Saltwater intrusion
- Small prey wiped out
- Serious, ongoing pollution







### National Parks damage...



- •\$180 m repairs
- Beaches, bluffs, park facilities, power & sewer lines destroyed
- Statue of Liberty,
   Ellis Island &
   historic sites closed
   for months







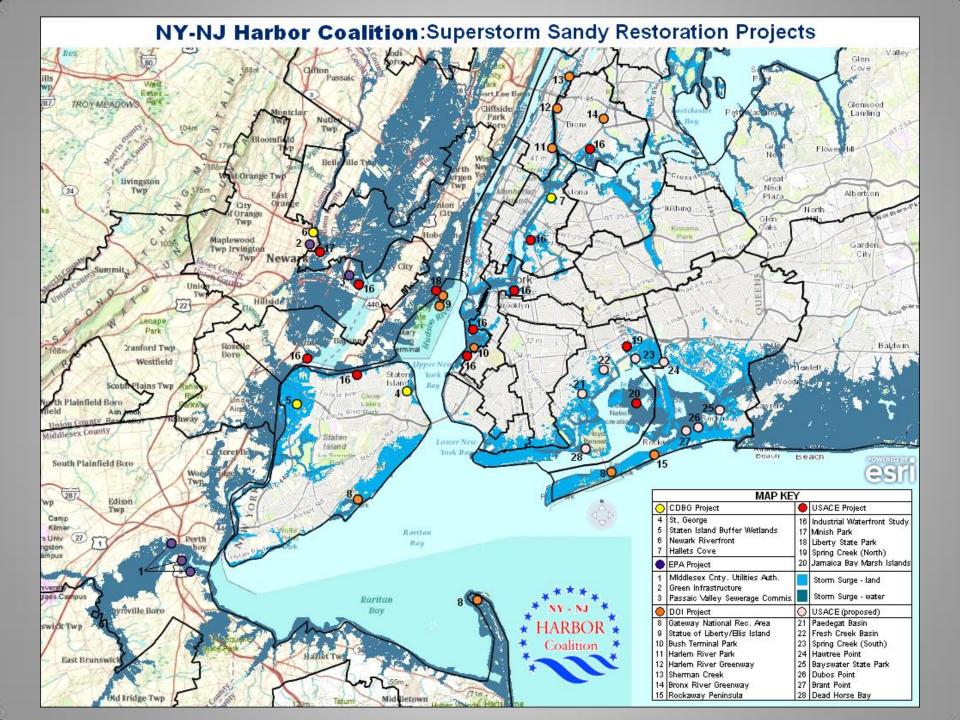
#### **Harbor Coalition post-Sandy focus:**



- Secure full, fair federal recovery funding
- Ensure funds are well-spent on resiliency projects w/ enviro & community benefits
- •28 site-specific priority project requests







#### Coalition priorities include:

\* NY - NJ \* HARBOR \* Coalition \*

- DOI funding for Harlem River Park, Bronx River Greenway,
   Staten Island & others
- USACE projects in Jamaica Bay (w/ marsh islands);
   Newark waterfront
- EPA investment in NJ water treatment plans







#### **MUCH** work remains...







- Projects in underserved communities
- Construction funds:
  - □ USACE work in Jamaica Bay
  - □ Bloomberg resiliency plan
  - □ Gateway NRA master plan
- USACE Resiliency Study
  - Natural shoreline solutions
  - Underserved, industrial areas
- Long-term governance, oversight & monitoring



# **Questions?**Comments? Suggestions?

#### Learn more at:

www.harborcoalition.org

#### Or email:

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Thank you!!!