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Restoration of Tidal Wetlands Help to Improve the Health of Alley Creek and Little Neck Bay



Nearly Two Acres of Restored Wetlands will help to Naturally Filter Water and Create Diverse Wildlife Habitat

Photos and Diagrams available on [DEP's Flickr Page](#)

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) marked Earth Day by announcing that work is under way to restore tidal wetlands at Alley Creek in Bayside, Queens. The \$1.8 million project will restore approximately 1.9 acres of critical tidal salt marsh and maritime grassland habitat and includes the removal of debris and invasive common reed grass. The restoration effort aims to re-establish natural tidal flushing to improve the health of the waterway and support a diverse and complex salt marsh habitat. As part of the design for this wetland restoration project, progressively smaller tributary channels will provide even greater water quality benefits. Work is expected to be completed in 2019. This wetland restoration, which lies to the north of Northern Boulevard, builds upon the 16 acres of wetland restoration DEP completed on the south side of the Boulevard.

"Wetlands play a critical and substantial role in a healthy marine environment as they naturally filter impurities and provide valuable wildlife habitat," said **DEP Commissioner Vincent Sapienza**. "From Alley Creek to Flushing Bay, to Newtown Creek and Jamaica Bay, and to our more than 70 Bluebelts across Staten Island, we are creating the conditions that allow wetlands to naturally improve New York City's environment."

"I welcome news of the Alley Creek tidal restoration project, which will go a long way to foster the growth of marine life, improve water quality and reduce area flooding," said **Council Member Paul Vallone**. "Wetlands are a critical part of our

More Information

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Development of the area as a commuter suburb of New York City had significant physical impacts on the waterbody, particularly in terms of biological habitat. The Cross Island Parkway, built in the late 1930s along the western shoreline of the Bay, radically transformed the previous natural shoreline habitat. Similarly, the Long Island Railroad, Northern Boulevard and the Long Island Expressway running along the east-west corridor disrupted wetland areas along either side of Alley Creek at the southern end of Little Neck Bay. The 1.9-acre wetland restoration was undertaken by DEP as part of the resolution of an enforcement matter brought by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for a violation of New York State law.

DEP manages New York City's water supply, providing approximately 1 billion gallons of high quality drinking water each day to more than 9 million residents, including 8.6 million in New York City. The water is delivered from a watershed that extends more than 125 miles from the city, comprising 19 reservoirs and three controlled lakes. Approximately 7,000 miles of water mains, tunnels and aqueducts bring water to homes and businesses throughout the five boroughs, and 7,500 miles of sewer lines and 96 pump stations take wastewater to 14 in-city treatment plants. DEP has nearly 6,000 employees, including almost 1,000 in the upstate watershed. In addition, DEP has a robust capital program, with a planned \$19.7 billion in investments over the next 10 years that will create up to 3,000 construction-related jobs per year. For more information, visit nyc.gov/dep, like us on [Facebook](#), or follow us on [Twitter](#).

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