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## Fall Foliage

Ashokan Reservoir - New York City Water Supply System


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## DEP Advances Stimulus-Funded Paerdegat Basin Restoration Project

### Project Will Improve Water Quality, Create Ecology Park and Restore Jamaica Bay Wetlands

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection today announced the registration of a \$15 million contract to restore 38 acres of wetlands and natural grasslands adjacent to the Paerdegat Basin Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Facility located on the shores of Jamaica Bay in Brooklyn. The registration means that the contractor, Tully/Posillico Civil, can begin to mobilize so the stimulus-funded project can get underway.

"This investment will greatly improve the ecology of the Paerdegat Basin area," said Environmental Protection Commissioner Cas Holloway. "When finished, the community will be able to enjoy a five-acre 'Ecology Park' teeming with native plant life. The combination of absorbing more stormwater and the creation of tidal wetlands will improve water quality in Paerdegat Basin. This is just one part of DEP's larger commitment to improving water quality and ecology in Jamaica Bay."

The project will help absorb stormwater by reintroducing local plant life and restoring the shoreline. Five acres of parkland will become an "Ecology Park," which will offer access to salt marshes and grassland area and include educational exhibits about coastal habitats. Construction is expected to begin this spring and completed in January 2012, with public access in 2013. The project is funded through Clean Water State Revolving Funds — a program administered the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation — that were authorized under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The restoration will complement the \$357 million capital investment that DEP is making in building the Paerdegat Basin Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) abatement project, which will store 50 million gallons of CSOs during storms. When stormwater surges into sewers it can trigger CSOs when sewers and treatment plants reach capacity, which by design protects the sewer system and treatment plants.

### MORE INFORMATION

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