



# S.W.I.M. Coalition

Stormwater Infrastructure Matters: utilizing stormwater as a resource, not a waste!

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CITY'S Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plans

This year (2016) through 2017, city, state and federal agencies will be planning how and to what extent New York City must reduce the current 27 billion gallons of annual sewage overflow and improve water quality citywide. These decisions will significantly impact the livability of our neighborhoods for generations to come.

The NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is moving ahead with 11 Combined Sewer Overflow Long Term Control Plans (LTCP) for local waterbodies. As a result of community advocacy, the plans will include some amount of green infrastructure. But the plans are not yet complete, and the goals of each plan are still being debated. More public input is needed to make sure these plans are comprehensive and effective, *your voice matters!*

S.W.I.M. Coalition is reviewing the plans and will produce fact sheets and host workshops in 2016 to discuss the individual plans with our member organizations, community groups, and interested individuals so that they can better advocate for the full use - whether fishing, swimming, boating or wading - of their local waterbody.

### IMPORTANT TERMS

#### LTCP - Long Term Control Plan

New York City's plans to reduce pollution from sewer overflows that occur when it rains.

#### CSO - Combined Sewer Overflow

Mix of stormwater and raw sewage that overflows into local waterways when it rains heavily, roughly 75 times a year.

#### GI - Green Infrastructure

Constructed urban green spaces designed to capture stormwater runoff, such as rain gardens, roadside plantings, and green roofs.

#### Grey Infrastructure

Built structures to capture and treat stormwater and sewage after it has already entered the sewer system.

#### DEP - Department of Environmental Protection

New York City agency responsible for environmental protection, including sewage and stormwater systems.

#### DEC - Department of Environmental Conservation

New York State agency responsible for environmental regulation, which must sign-off on the City's LTCP's.

#### EPA - Environmental Protection Agency

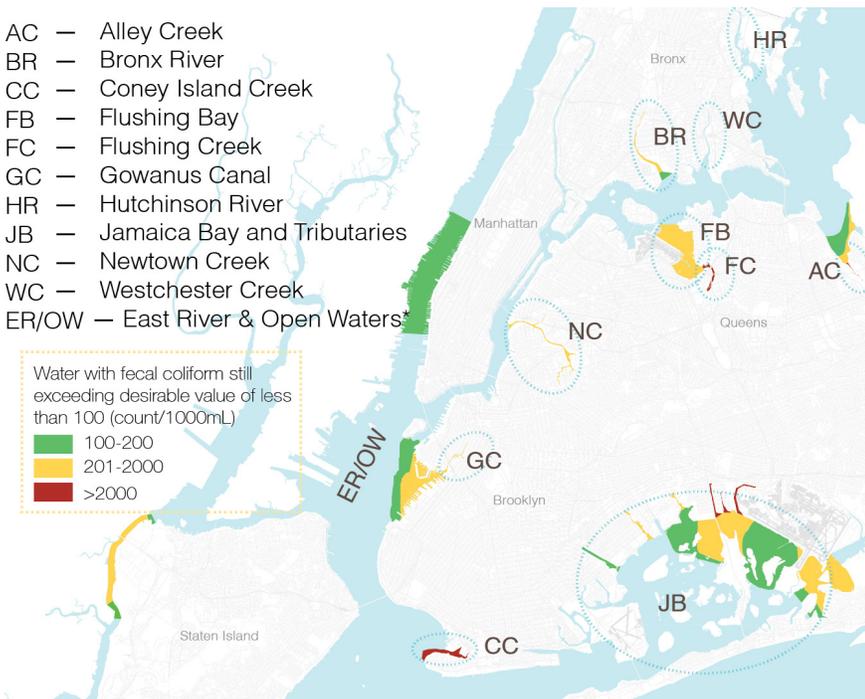
Federal agency that oversees state and city water quality programs.

### YOUR LOCAL WATERWAYS

- AC — Alley Creek
- BR — Bronx River
- CC — Coney Island Creek
- FB — Flushing Bay
- FC — Flushing Creek
- GC — Gowanus Canal
- HR — Hutchinson River
- JB — Jamaica Bay and Tributaries
- NC — Newtown Creek
- WC — Westchester Creek
- ER/OW — East River & Open Waters\*

Water with fecal coliform still exceeding desirable value of less than 100 (count/1000mL)

- 100-200
- 201-2000
- >2000



\* Open Waters are all the other NYC waters into which CSOs discharge (e.g. Hudson & Harlem Rivers, New York Harbor, Kill Van Kull, Arthur Kill)

### HOW TO GET INVOLVED

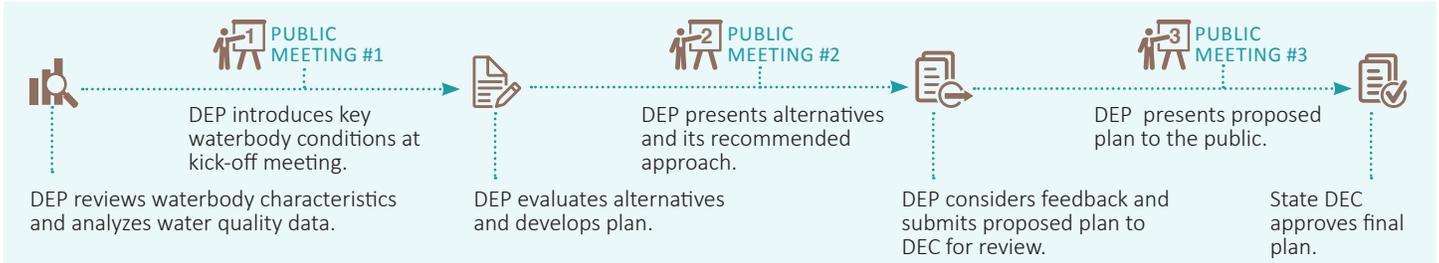
- 1 Attend public meetings and speak up, see back for ways to speak up.
- 2 Sign up for our e-blasts to get the latest information about important public meetings and community actions around the City's LTCP's as they get issued.
- 3 Send Public Comment letters to DEP, DEC & EPA: S.W.I.M. will post instructions and sample letters on our website & in our e-blasts. Send us a copy of your comments too so we can share with members.



# DEP'S PUBLIC MEETING TIMELINE

In NYC, water quality is managed by the City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which is charged with the development of the LTCPs. DEP is required to actively seek input from the public as these plans are developed, so DEP holds three formal public meetings to do this. It's up to citizens to make sure these opportunities for input are meaningful. The plans are then submitted to the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for approval. To sign up to receive notice of public meetings, email DEP at [ltcp@dep.nyc.gov](mailto:ltcp@dep.nyc.gov) and ask to be on their email list.

**When to weigh in:** Besides the DEP meetings, anyone can send comments to DEP, DEC, and EPA throughout the process. Some time after Public Meeting #3 on each plan, DEC will announce a formal comment period before the state makes any final decision to approve or disapprove a plan.



## 5 WAYS TO SPEAK UP AT A DEP PUBLIC MEETING

- 1 Tell the NYC DEP how you currently use the city's waterways, and how you would use the water if it were cleaner. It is important that DEP not just prioritize high traffic beaches for water quality improvements.
- 2 Ask about the NYC DEP's water quality goals for the plan. Will the water be fishable and swimmable? If you paddle, row, or use the water in any other way, advocate for the water to be clean enough to swim in safely.
- 3 Ask the NYC DEP how they plan to control CSO in your waterbody. Will they reduce CSO? Can expanding green infrastructure help reduce CSO? Or, will DEP add chlorine to disinfect CSO, and what health and environmental risks does this pose?
- 4 Ask about other sources of pollution. For example, are connected waterbodies also polluted? Is there stormwater pollution from MS4 (see SWIM's MS4 fact sheet)? Ask how the plans are coordinated to address these other sources of pollution.
- 5 Ask about the LTCP timeline. When is the NYC DEP starting improvements and why?

## INDIVIDUAL LTCP SCHEDULES

Waterbody	Status*	Public involvement
<a href="#">Alley Creek</a>		Send public comments to NY State DEC during 45 day review period.
<a href="#">Westchester Creek</a>		The NY State DEC expected to invite comments on whether to approve plan.
<a href="#">Hutchinson River</a>		
<a href="#">Bronx River</a>		Send public comments to NY State DEC during 45 day review period.
<a href="#">Gowanus Canal</a>		Send public comments to NY State DEC during 45 day review period.
<a href="#">Flushing Creek</a>		Send public comments to NY State DEC during 45 day review period.
<a href="#">Flushing Bay</a>		The City DEP will submit final plan to the State DEC in June 2017.
<a href="#">Coney Island Creek</a>		Spring 2016 DEP will submit final plan to NY State DEC in June 2016.
<a href="#">Citywide (East River &amp; Open Waters)</a>		Jan. 12, 2016
<a href="#">Newtown Creek</a>		planning has not begun, stay tuned by signing up for SWIM eblast at <a href="http://www.swimmablenyc.org">www.swimmablenyc.org</a>
<a href="#">Jamaica Bay &amp; Tributaries</a>		

\*Note: This status is SWIM's best estimate of where DEP is in their development process.

Stormwater Infrastructure Matters (S.W.I.M.) is a coalition of 70 member organizations dedicated to ensuring swimmable and fishable waters around New York City through natural, sustainable stormwater management practices. For more information about the plans and to get involved with our outreach program visit us at [www.swimmablenyc.org](http://www.swimmablenyc.org), contact us and follow us at [swimmablenyc@gmail.com](mailto:swimmablenyc@gmail.com) and [@SWIMcoalition](https://twitter.com/SWIMcoalition).

