

WETLANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTION

Local Law 71 of 2005

In June 2005, the City Council passed Int. No. 565-A [Local Law 71 of 2005], which requires the DEP to create a watershed protection plan for Jamaica Bay and sets forth measures the DEP must assess for inclusion in the plan. Such measures include best management practices for the minimization of soil erosion and stormwater runoff; a protocol to coordinate with other agencies that have jurisdiction over the area; a public education program; and acquisition and land use planning.

Local Law 83 of 2005

In August 2005, the City Council passed Int. No. 566-A [Local Law 83 of 2005], which established a task force to determine the feasibility of transferring City-owned wetlands to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Local Law 36 of 2006

In August 2006, the City Council passed Intro. No. 376-A [Local Law 36 of 2006], ensuring that the Department of Environmental Protection would have sufficient time to develop a comprehensive watershed protection plan, pursuant to Local Law 71 of 2005, including effective measures to protect the marshland and overall health of Jamaica Bay.

Local Law 37 of 2006 and Local Law 13 of 2007

In August 2006 and March 2007, the City Council passed Intro. No. 409 and Intro. No. 505 [Local Law 37 of 2006 and Local Law 13 of 2007, respectively], extending the work of the temporary Wetlands Task Force created by Local Law 83 of 2005. This extension enabled the Task Force to complete its inventory of City-owned wetlands and to ascertain the feasibility of transferring these properties to Department of Parks and Recreation in the interest of protecting their environmental, economic and other benefits to New York City.

Local Law 31 of 2009

In May 2009, the City Council passed Intro. No. 506-A [Local Law 31 of 2009], which requires the City to identify remaining wetlands using a satellite or aerial survey, and to develop a Comprehensive Wetlands Protection Strategy (CWPS) to avoid and minimize loss of these valuable areas. The goals of the CWPS are to conserve, protect, enhance, stabilize, restore and expand City wetlands; to achieve no net loss of wetlands in the city; and to standardize and improve the City's approach regarding wetlands management. The CWSP is also required to consider current protections, as well as the value of wetlands to the City in terms of economics, ecological functions and aesthetics.

Local Law 21 of 2009

In March 2009, the City Council passed Intro. No. 919-A [Local Law 21 of 2009], requiring coordination between the City's Department of Buildings, the State's Department of Environmental Conservation and other agencies before the approval of construction documents for development in coastal zones, to ensure that requisite environmental review takes place and protect against the loss wetlands.