



# Save the Sound<sup>®</sup>

Action for our region's environment.

## **HUTCHINSON RIVER WATERSHED PLAN PHASE I - WESTCHESTER COUNTY**

Kick off Meeting

September 21, 2022

Katie Friedman, New York Ecological Restoration Program Manager

Nicole Davis, Watershed Coordinator

Sam Marquand, Clean Water Advocate

Suzette Lopane, Westchester County Landscape Architect



# Hutchinson River Watershed Plan

## Phase I – Westchester County



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Westchester  
gov.com



NFWF



Biohabitats



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**Save the Sound leads environmental action in the Long Island Sound region. We fight climate change, save endangered lands, protect the Sound and its rivers, and work with nature to restore ecosystems.**





# Restoration

Save the Sound leads hands-on habitat restoration, creating lasting physical change that strengthens natural ecosystems for the benefit of wildlife and communities.





# New York Ecological Restoration Program

- ❖ Save the Sound's Ecological Restoration team has over a decade of experience in river restoration, green infrastructure, watershed planning, and coastal restoration.
- ❖ Expanding further into New York to implement on-the-ground projects
- ❖ Roles we play include:
  - Facilitator and Convener
  - Project Development Partner
  - Project Manager

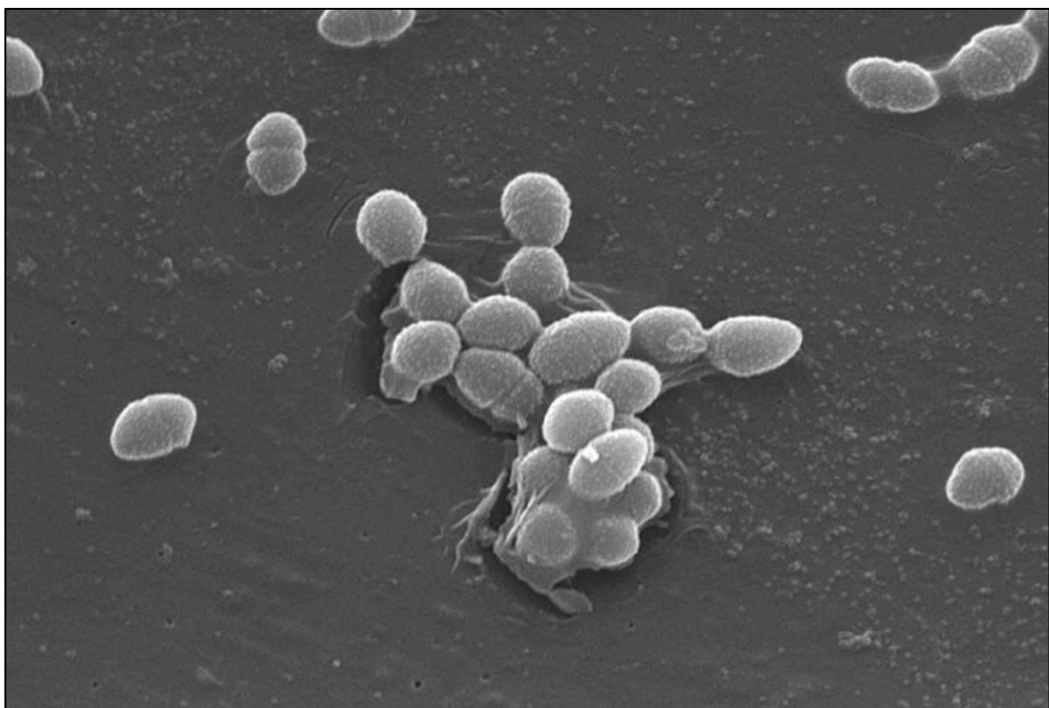






# Water Quality Monitoring: Fecal Indicator Bacteria

- Save the Sound Citizen Scientists collect water samples from 62 Sites
- Samples tested for the fecal indicator bacteria Enterococci or *E. coli*
- Scored samples based on the New York and Connecticut safe swimming criteria



[http://www.wikiwand.com/pt/Enterococcus\\_faecalis](http://www.wikiwand.com/pt/Enterococcus_faecalis)

Indicator	Single Sample Fail	Geomean (Average) Fail
Enterococci	> 104 MPN/100 mL	> 35 MPN/100 mL
<i>E. coli</i>	> 235 MPN/100 mL	> 126 MPN/100 mL





# Water Quality Monitoring: Fecal Indicator Bacteria



- Sampling season is June – August
  - [Pollution watchdog](#) all year
- Samples collected weekly at each site by watershed
- Annual training prior to season

Please contact:

[pollution@savethesound.org](mailto:pollution@savethesound.org)

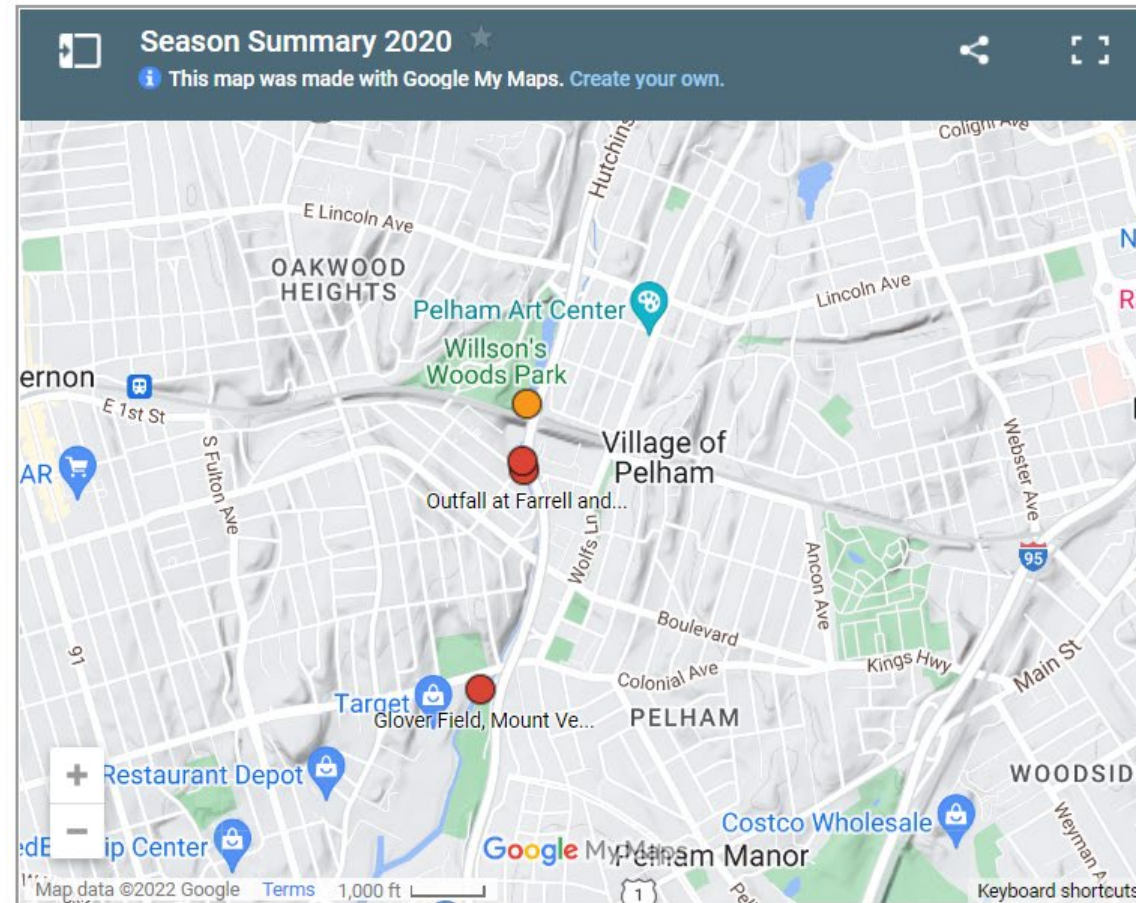
for more information!





# 2020 Bacteria Monitoring Data

Select Year: [2022](#) • [2021](#) • [2020](#) • [2019](#) • [2018](#) • [2017](#) • [2016](#) • [2015](#) • [2014](#)



## 2020 Bacteria Monitoring Stats

61 sites, 671 water samples,  
2 trained volunteers

(Covid-19 pandemic limited 2020 volunteer participation)

## 2020 Bacteria Sampling Data

[Weekly Monitoring Data Maps](#)

Westchester, NY & Greenwich, CT [pdf](#) [xls](#)

Queens & Nassau Counties [pdf](#) [xls](#)

Summary by Site [pdf](#) [xls](#)

Quality Assurance Project Plan [pdf](#)

## Map Legend

- Passes safe swim criteria
  - Fails safe swim criteria
  - Fails safe swim criteria by 10X or more
  - Wet weather sample\*
- \*Wet weather = 1/2" or more of rainfall in the 72 hours prior to sample collection

## Quick Links

[Best and Worst](#)

<https://www.savethesound.org/what-we-do/healthy-waters/measuring-water-quality/2020-bacterial-water-quality-data/>





# Unified Water Study

- Standardized water quality monitoring protocol developed by Save the Sound, used by groups around Long Island Sound to collect comparable data on the environmental health of our bays and harbors
- Parameters include: Dissolved oxygen, water clarity, chlorophyll *a*, seaweeds, oxygen saturation

Inner Eastchester Bay:



2019

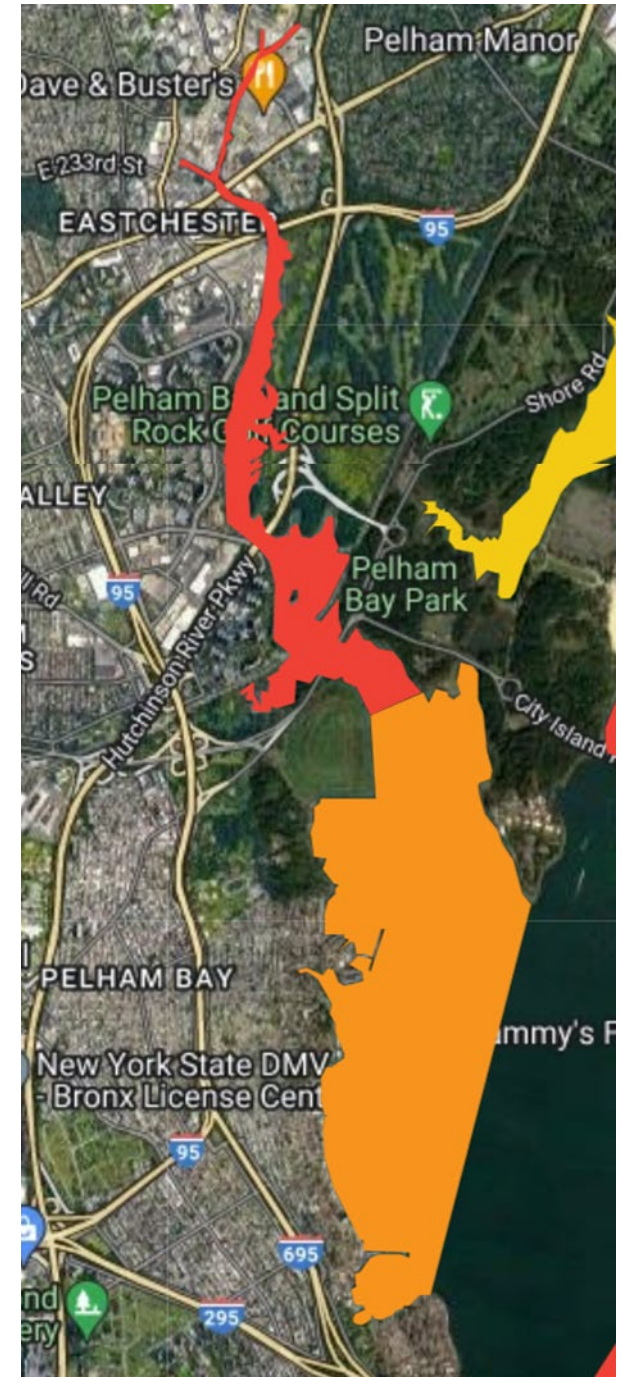
Outer Eastchester Bay:



2019



[www.soundhealthexplorer.org](http://www.soundhealthexplorer.org)







# Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. What is a Watershed Plan?
  - Hutchinson River watershed overview
  - Project objectives and planning process
  - Project scope & schedule
  - Available study reports and data
3. Group Discussion
  - Watershed Priorities
    - What is important to you in the watershed?
    - What would you like to see changed or improved?
    - What do you want to see in the plan?
  - Community Knowledge & Engagement
    - What information is available?
    - Who else who should be part of the planning process?
    - What will be the most effective outreach strategies?
4. Next Steps
  - Forming a Steering Committee (meets bi-monthly)
  - Streamwalks!
  - Second public meeting: Watershed Baseline Assessment Presentation – November/December 2022





# What is a Watershed?

All lands that drain to a given river or other water body, and eventually to the sea.

Benefits to working in watersheds:

- Multi-stakeholder engagement
- Encourage awareness of local water bodies and land use
- Identify problem areas in relation to one another
- Work collaboratively to identify and implement high-impact interventions
- Working at a “natural scale” that forges new relationships across boundaries



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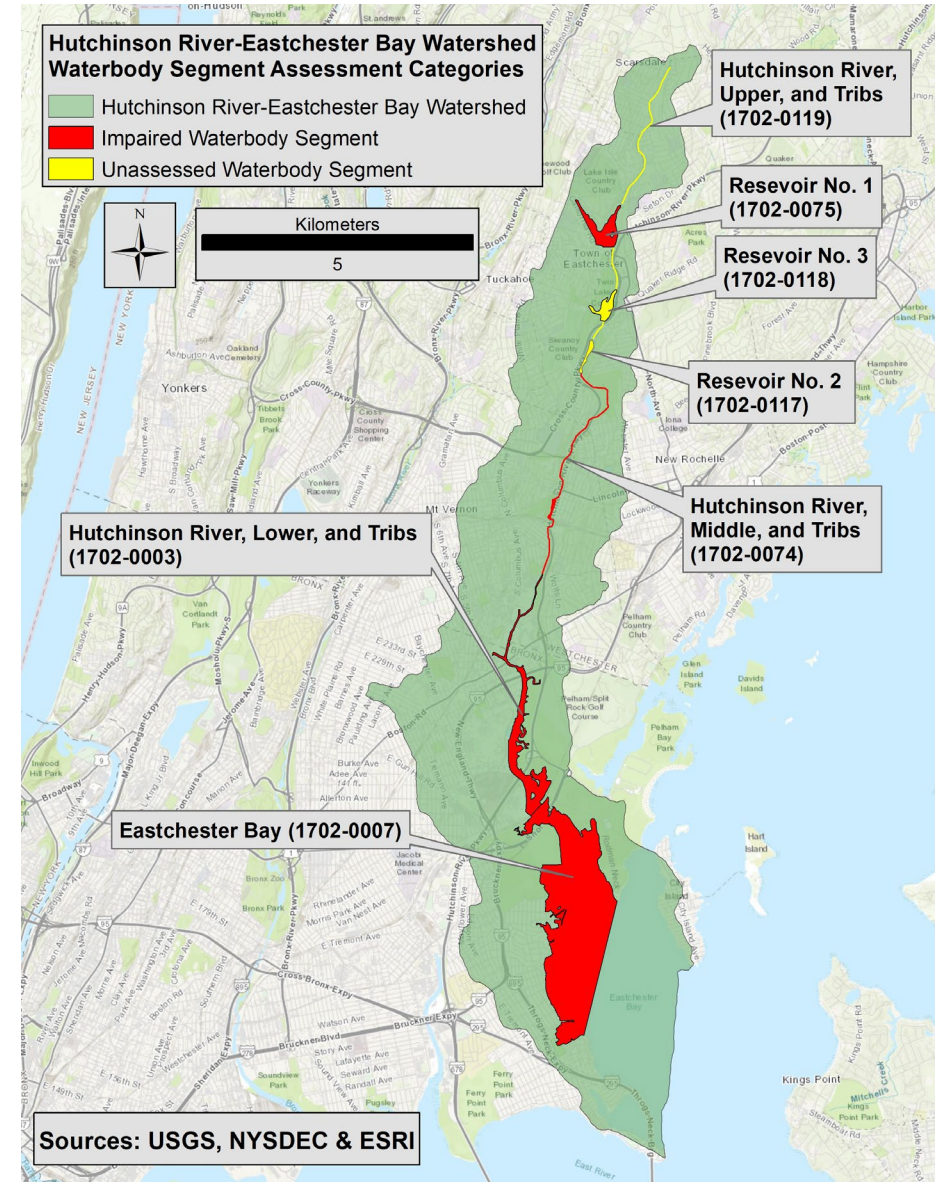
Westchester  
gov.com





# Hutchinson River Watershed

- Watershed spans 12, 394 acres across both Westchester County and the Bronx
- Hutchinson River flows south into Eastchester Bay of the Long Island Sound
- Municipalities within the watershed include:
  - Scarsdale
  - Eastchester
  - New Rochelle
  - Pelham
  - Mt. Vernon
  - The Bronx
- Hutchinson River is on the NYSDEC 303(d) List of Impaired Waters due to fecal coliform, oxygen demand, oil and grease, garbage and refuse
  - Suspected sources are urban stormwater runoff and combined sewer overflows







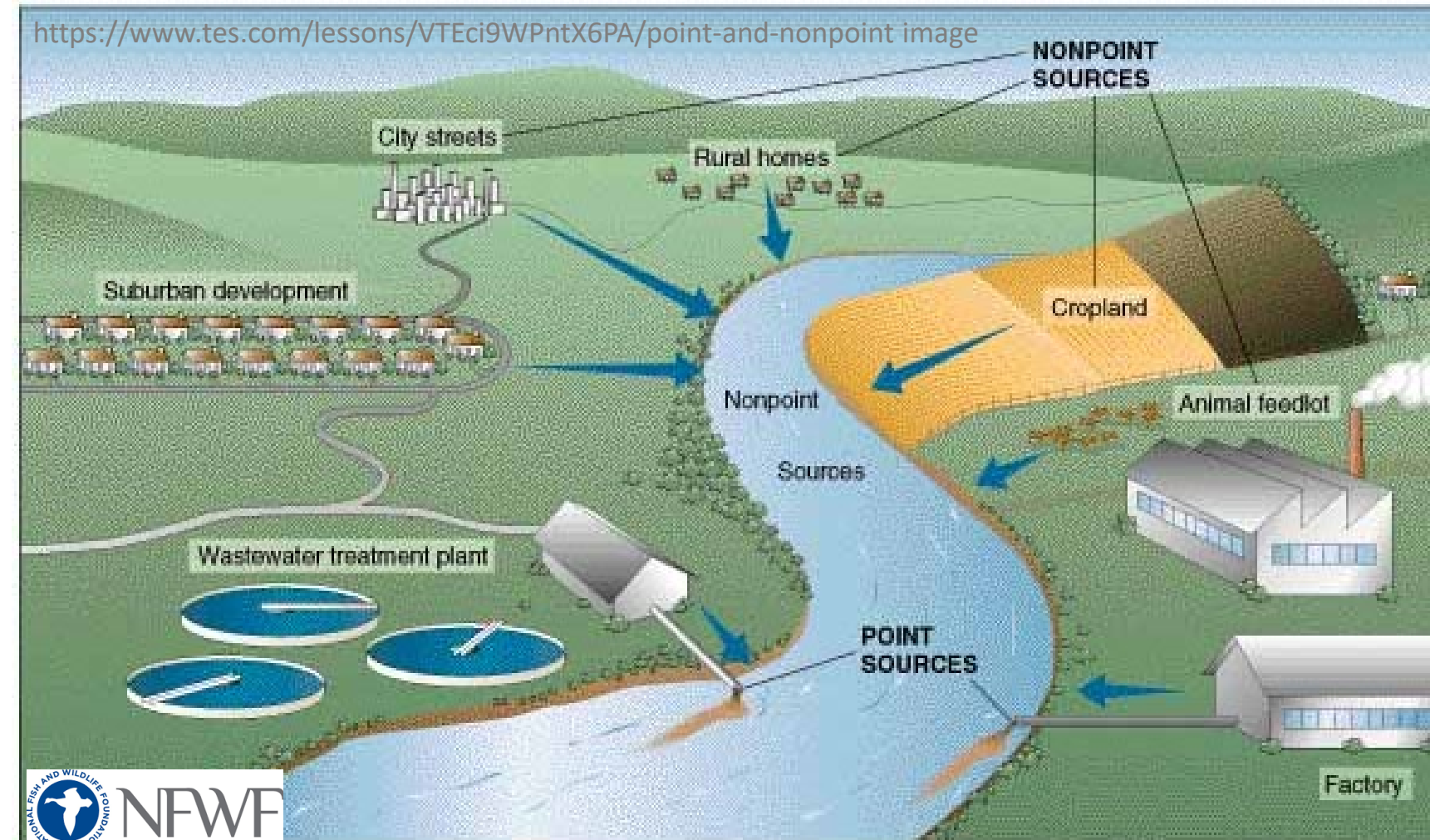
# Point Source -vs- Non-Point Source Pollution

## Point Source:

- ❖ Piped directly from origin to the river
- ❖ Generally Permitted
- ❖ Examples – Wastewater Treatment Plant, Factories, Spills

## Non Point Source

- ❖ Stormwater Runoff from urban, suburban, rural and agricultural lands







# Watershed Plan Objectives

- ❖ Identify existing water quality issues.
- ❖ Consolidate previous and ongoing efforts under one plan.
- ❖ Engage watershed municipalities and the public.
- ❖ Develop a set of unified goals for watershed protection and restoration.
- ❖ Prioritize water bodies and projects to improve and protect water quality.
- ❖ Ultimately de-list impaired waters – improve water quality.

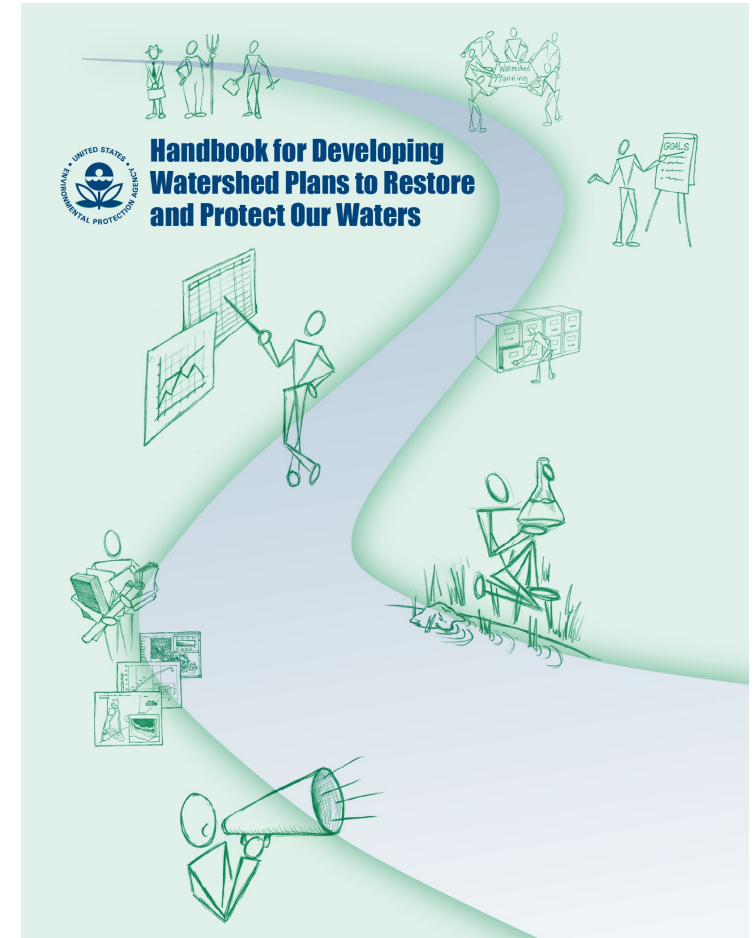






# EPA Nine Element Process

1. Impairment
2. Load Reduction
3. Management Measures
4. Technical & Financial Assistance
5. Public Information & Education
6. Schedule
7. Milestones
8. Performance Criteria
9. Monitoring







# Interactive Input Map



Hutchinson River Public Input Map  
To be hosted at: [www.SaveTheSound.org/hutchplan](http://www.SaveTheSound.org/hutchplan)

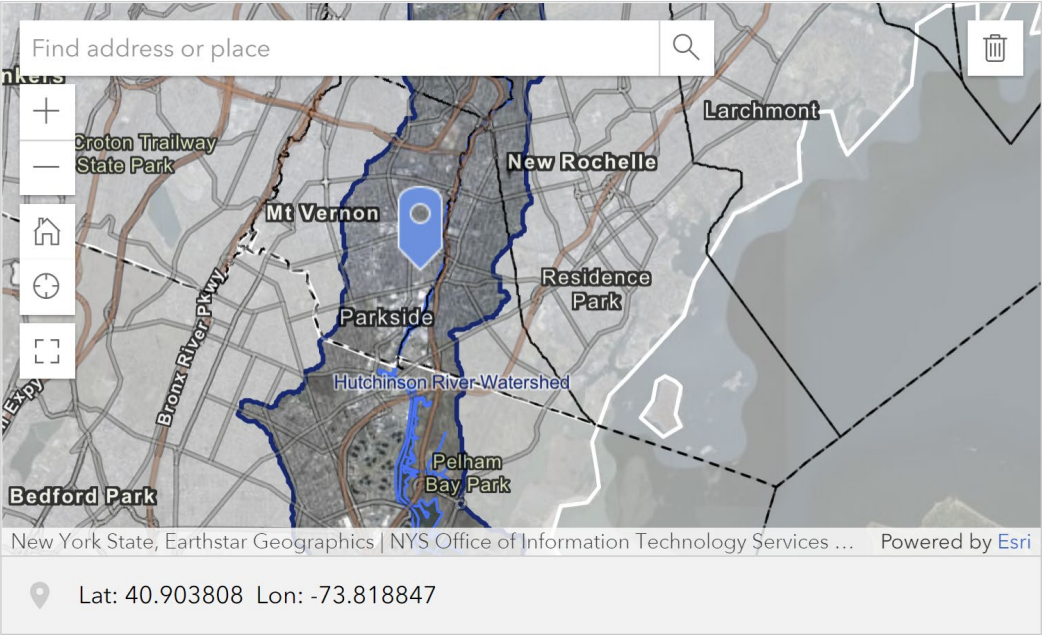
Do you Live, Work and/or Play in the watershed?\*

(Select all that apply)

☐ Live

☐ Work

☒ Play



Type of Input\*

Area of Value: Places/experiences that are beneficial or desirable or contain positive attributes  
Area of Concern: Places/experiences that represent challenges or issues

Areas of Value

Category of Value\*

Other

Description

Walking trail along the river. I would love to see more access along the ri





# Project Schedule

## Phase 1: Westchester County

- ❖ Task 1 Watershed Baseline Assessment  
• Steering Committee Meeting – November 2022  
December 2022
- ❖ Task 2 Watershed Improvement Opportunities  
• Steering Committee Meeting – January 2023  
March 2023
- ❖ Task 3 Watershed Management Plan Development  
• Steering Committee Meeting – May 2023  
June 2023
- ❖ Task 4 Final Plan Elements For Phase 1  
July 2023

## Phase 2: The Bronx

- ❖ Schedule - TBD
- ❖ Expected Completion For Phase 2  
July 2024
- ❖ Final Plan and Celebration  
September 2024





# Group Discussion

## Watershed Priorities

- ❖ What is important to you in the watershed?
- ❖ What are some things you would like to change?
- ❖ What do you want to see in the plan?

## Community Knowledge & Engagement

- ❖ What information is available?
- ❖ Anyone else who should be here?
- ❖ Outreach strategies?



**Jamboard Link** (available in the chat):

<https://jamboard.google.com/d/1VVglx1j90NLWYN1LzcBSm91A45ugkpjpnImqHYh594o/edit?usp=sharing>





# Next Steps

- ❖ Forming a Steering Committee meeting (will meet every other month)
  - Put name in chat or email [reducerunoff@SavetheSound.org](mailto:reducerunoff@SavetheSound.org) by September 30.
- ❖ Streamwalks
- ❖ Presentation of Existing Conditions - December 2022

Project website: [www.SavetheSound.org/Hutchplan](http://www.SavetheSound.org/Hutchplan)

Jamboard will be live through October 31:

<https://jamboard.google.com/d/1VVglx1j9oNLWYN1LzcBSm91A45ugkpjpnImqHYh594o/viewer?f=0>

Questions, Comments, Information: [Reducerunoff@savethesound.org](mailto:Reducerunoff@savethesound.org)







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Thank you!

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