

## Open 90% of our waterways for recreation by reducing water pollution and preserving our natural areas

Although NYC's water quality has improved over the past few decades, we still do not comply with the Federal Clean Water Act standard due primarily to the discharge of sewage into our waterways when our combined-sewer infrastructure is overwhelmed with stormwater.

- 27 billion gallons of combined sewage overflow (CSO) of which approximately 2 billion gallons are sewage enter the City's waterways each year
- In some areas, as little as 0.1" of rain in one hour can cause a CSO
- 450 CSO outfalls exist around the City and cause environmental degradation
- As a result, 52% of our tributaries, including creeks and canals, do not meet standards for recreational use



### CLEANING OUR WATERWAYS, CREATING A HEALTHIER ENVIRONMENT

To improve our water quality of all of our waterways, we have two approaches:

- **Infrastructure solutions.** By law, the City must create a capital plan based on hard infrastructure solutions to improve water quality.
- **Best Management Practices (BMPs).** Cost-effective and innovative methods to mitigate storm water runoff, often called Best Management Practices (BMPs), will be tested and eventually implemented on a larger scale.

### INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS

- We will complete Long-Term Control Plans for all 14 New York City Watersheds, as required by law
- Reduce CSO discharges during rainstorms by expanding wet weather capacity at treatment plants

## **BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

We cannot rely solely on hard and centralized infrastructure upgrades to improve the quality of our waterways. We must pursue a range of proven and emerging strategies to keep stormwater from entering our combined sewer system at all. These include natural strategies, such as planting trees and green roofs, to retain, detain or cleanse the water.

- Increase use of High Level Storm Sewers (HLSS), which are designed to capture 50% of rainfall before it enters our pipes, and divert it directly into the waterways
- Capture the benefits of our open space plan, including street tree plantings and more greenstreets
- Expand the Bluebelt program, which is designed to use streams, ponds, and wetland areas to convey, treat, and detain stormwater prior to its release into the harbor.
- Form an interagency BMP Task Force to create a plan to implement BMPs citywide
- Pilot promising BMPs including vegetated ditches along highways, new tree pit designs, and reintroduction of mollusks to filter and clean water
- Require trees and landscaping for commercial and community parking lots
- Provide incentives for green roof installations
- Protect wetlands by evaluating current protections and creating a wetland policy

**For more information: [www.nyc.gov/planyc2030](http://www.nyc.gov/planyc2030)**