

NEWTOWN CREEK

What Is Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration?

Newtown Creek is a waterway that forms part of the border between the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens in New York City. It has and continues to support industrial and commercial activities along its banks and plays a vital role in the economy and culture of the surrounding communities. However, decades of contamination have negatively impacted the Newtown Creek natural environment. To compensate the public for these impacts, the Newtown Creek Natural Resource Trustees are conducting natural resource damage assessment and restoration (NRDAR) activities for the site.



The goal of NRDAR is to compensate the public for natural resource losses.

WHAT IS NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT AND RESTORATION?

NRDAR is a regulatory process to determine the amount and type of restoration needed to compensate the public for injuries to natural resources resulting from hazardous substances, oil, and/or other contaminants.

The NRDAR process is distinct from cleanup activities directed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and New York State, but the two processes are related. Cleanup protects people and the environment from current and future harm. NRDAR restores or replaces injured natural resources to improve ecological function and public use of those resources.

THE TRUSTEES

Trustees are government officials who act on behalf of the public when natural resources are injured or destroyed as a result of a release of a hazardous substance, oil, or other contaminant. Trustees for this site:

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- U.S. Department of the Interior, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

NEWTOWN CREEK NATURAL RESOURCES

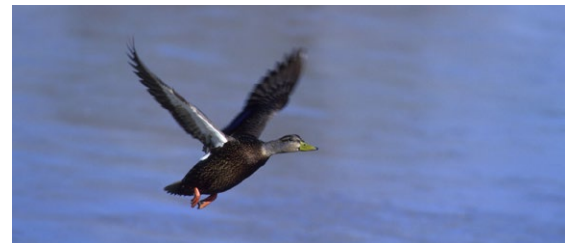
Examples of resources that could be affected by hazardous substances, oil, and/or other contaminants include:

Natural Resources

- Water and sediment
- Invertebrates (shellfish)
- Fish (mummichog, Atlantic menhaden, striped bass)
- Birds (spotted sandpiper, black duck)

Natural Resource Services

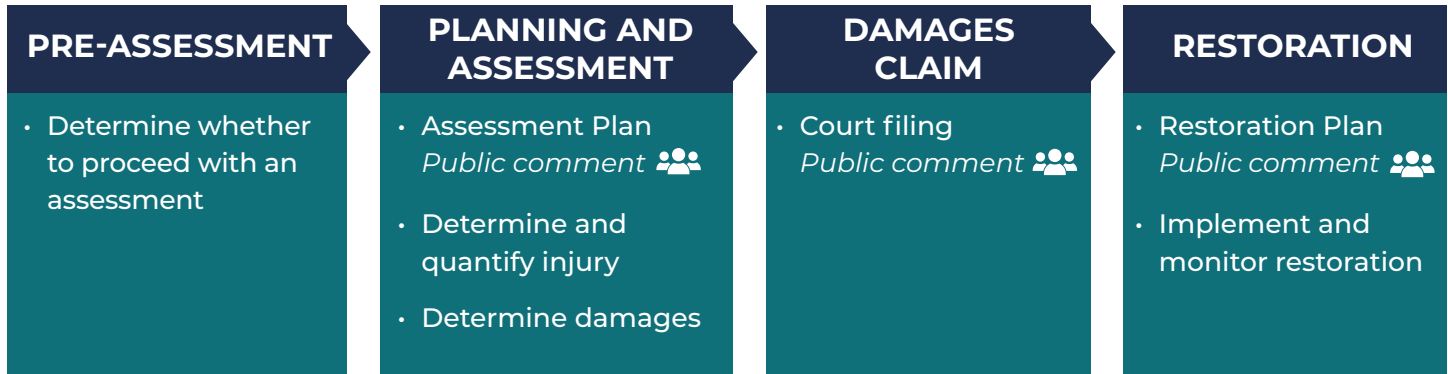
- Recreation (fishing, boating)
- Habitat for fish and wildlife
- Community uses and connections



NEWTOWN CREEK

What Is Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration?

THE NRDAR PROCESS



NRDAR AT NEWTOWN CREEK

NYSDEC, NOAA, and FWS formed a Natural Resource Trustee Council to efficiently plan and implement the NRDAR. To-date, the Trustees:

- Determined through a [Preassessment Screen](#) (PAS) that hazardous substances released into Newtown Creek could injure natural resources, and an assessment could be conducted at reasonable cost.
- Intend to collaborate with potentially responsible parties to carry out assessment activities and expedite restoration.
- Coordinate NRDAR activities with the EPA and New York State cleanup (remedial) process.
- Released a [Draft Assessment Plan](#) for public review and comment through May 30, 2024.
- Communicate with the public.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact the Trustees to ask questions and find out more:

NYSDEC Natural Resource
Damages Section
625 Broadway, 14th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-1500

Email:
nrd@dec.ny.gov



NEWTOWN CREEK

What Is a Natural Resource Damage Assessment Plan?

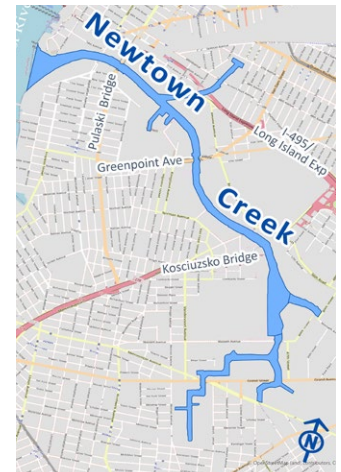
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WHAT IS THE ASSESSMENT PLAN?

The Assessment Plan describes the Newtown Creek Natural Resource Trustees' proposed approach to conducting the NRDAR and helps the Trustees make reasonable decisions about assessment activities. The Plan summarizes existing data, including information on Newtown Creek natural resources, human uses, and contaminants. The Plan also outlines potential analyses and studies that may be used to evaluate contaminants and their effects on natural resources and the services those resources should provide. Trustee considerations for selecting analyses and studies include:

- Relevance of new information to injured resources and lost services.
- Technical feasibility and cost.
- Use of results to quantify injury and determine damages (money) and restoration.

The Plan also describes how the Trustees intend to coordinate with the cleanup (remedial) process and parties potentially responsible for the contamination as well as communicate with the public.



The goal of NRDAR is to compensate the public for natural resource losses.


THE NRDAR PROCESS

Assessment Plan development occurs during the Planning and Assessment phase.

PRE-ASSESSMENT

- Determine whether to proceed with an assessment

PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT

- Assessment Plan
Public comment 
- Determine and quantify injury
- Determine damages

DAMAGES CLAIM

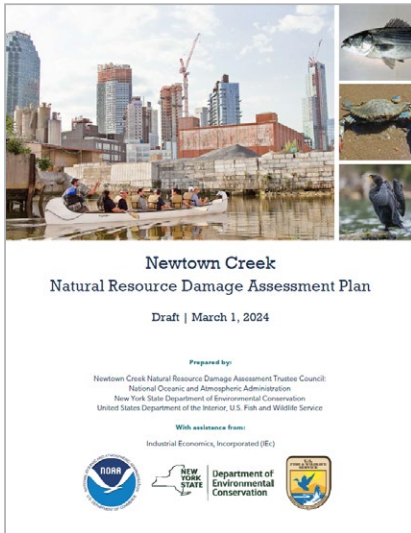
- Court filing
Public comment 

RESTORATION

- Restoration Plan
Public comment 
- Implement and monitor restoration

NEWTOWN CREEK

What Is a Natural Resource Damage Assessment Plan?



NRDAR PHASE: PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT

INJURY DETERMINATION

Did injury to natural resources occur?

INJURY QUANTIFICATION

How severe is that injury over time?

DAMAGE DETERMINATION

What projects or amount of dollars are needed to restore natural resources and resource services that will compensate the public for natural resource losses?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the U.S. Department of the Interior, through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (the Trustees), have shared the Draft Assessment Plan for the Newtown Creek NRDAR. You are encouraged to review and provide written comments on the Plan through **May 30, 2024**.

The plan is available on Trustee websites:

<https://dec.ny.gov/regulatory/hrd/major-ongoing-nrd-assessments>

<https://darrp.noaa.gov/hazardous-waste/newtown-creek>

www.fws.gov/media/newton-creek-nrda

Physical copies can be accessed at:

Queens Public Library
Sunnyside Branch
43-06 Greenpoint Avenue
Long Island City, NY 11104
Tel: (718) 784-3033

NYS Department of Environmental
Conservation - Region 2
4740 21st Street
Long Island City, NY 11101
Tel: (718) 482-4900

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact the Trustees to submit comments, ask questions, and find out more:

NYSDEC Natural Resource
Damages Section
625 Broadway, 14th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-1500

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