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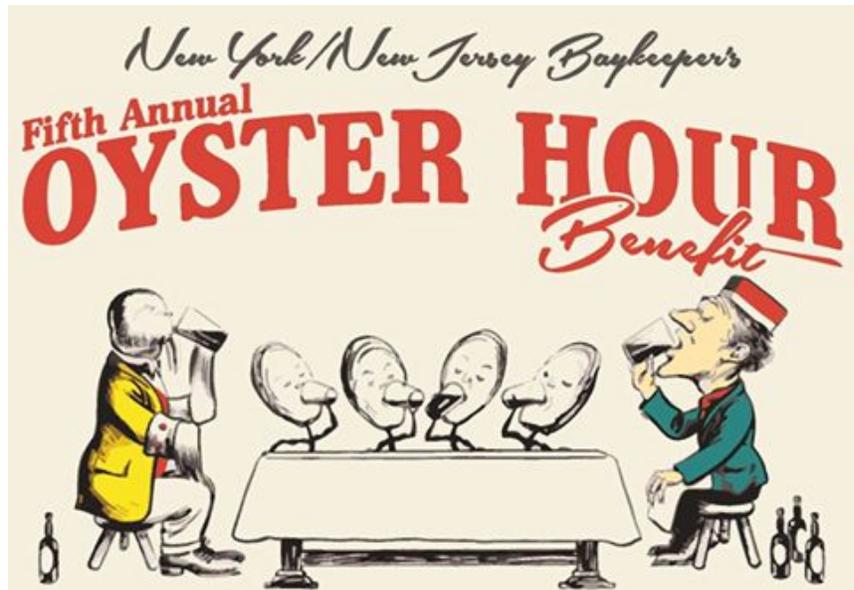
April 2016 E-Newsletter

From the Baykeeper

Polluters abused the mighty Passaic River like a garbage dump for years, disposing carcinogens like dioxin and other toxins, into a precious waterway teeming with life. At long last, justice will be served. The final cleanup plan for the lower eight miles the Passaic River Superfund site was released by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on March 4, 2016. The cleanup plan consists of a complete bank-to-bank dredge of 3.5 million cubic yards of toxic sediment which will be disposed of out-of-state and will be the one of the largest cleanups in the country. This comprehensive cleanup plan is a victory and now we must focus our attentions on ensuring that the polluters stop delaying the cleanup and pay for their mess. We look forward to working with our partners and the communities of the

Join us at our 5th Annual Oyster Hour Benefit!

This year we'll be planting our 3 MILLIONTH oyster! Celebrate with us on May 2nd at [Pier A Harbor House](#) in NYC and enjoy local wines, brews, spirits, and oysters! [Click here](#) to learn more and reserve your tickets!



Pets Love Liberty State Park Too!

Thanks to you, over 8,000 have signed the petition to #SaveLSP!

If you haven't already, add your name to the fight [here](#). Upcoming events are planned for this spring to keep making our voices heard including a Pet Parade Protest on May 14th! [Click here](#) for details.

impacted areas to revitalize the Passaic River.

Debbie Mans
NY/NJ Baykeeper

Upcoming Events

Is Your Drinking Water Safe? Forum

April 13, 2016, 7-9pm
Brookdale Community College

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Monmouth County, NJ
[Click here](#) for details.

Raritan River Week

April 18-30, 2016

[Click here](#) for details.

Rahway River Earth Day Cleanup

April 23, 2016, 8:45am-1pm

Rahway River at Winfield Park

[Email Joe](#) with questions.

Hudson County's Earth Day Fair

April 23, 2016, 11am-4pm
Liberty State Park
Jersey City, NJ

[More info here.](#)

Complying with Stormwater Regulations Workshop

May 13, 2016

Montclair State University
Hosted by Rutgers Cooperative Extension Water Resources Program
[Register here.](#)

Cleanups

May 14, 10am-12pm
Matawan Creek, Matawan, NJ. [Click here](#) for details

Pets For The Park

Hosted By:
Friends Of Liberty State Park

#savelsp
#petsforthepark



Pet Parade Protest Against The Privatization Of Liberty State Park

Saturday May 14th

10:30 AM

NEW! Plastics Research

We'll be partnering with Rutgers University and Raritan Riverkeeper this summer to sample 5 sites in the Raritan River and 5 sites in the Passaic River! We'll be trawling for plastics to extract and identify toxins adhered to plastics, identify toxins that may be leaching out of plastics, and examining the impacts plastic has on the eastern oyster and zebra fish.

This plastic study will connect the dots in our geographical region for the first time and provide valuable data within two generally ignored waterbodies. To learn more and for ways you can help, check out our [NY/NJ Harbor Plastic Collection Report here.](#)

Citizen Science Coming to a Waterway Near You!

NY/NJ Baykeeper has been awarded a NY-NJ Harbor and Estuary Program grant to monitor Raritan Bay waters for pathogens. Pathogens are microorganisms like bacteria, fungi, or viruses commonly found in raw sewage discharged in our waters. People can become very sick if they come in direct contact with water exceeding pathogen levels. Thus, this summer, volunteers will be monitoring sites along the Raritan

and meeting locations.

Registration Open for Summer Kayak Tours and Eco Cruises!

[Click here](#) for kayak tour details.

[Click here](#) to register for our Boats and Bridges Eco Cruise - August 21

[Click here](#) to register for our Shrewsbury River Eco Cruise - July 17

Soundview Oyster Monitoring

Volunteer days are coming up later this spring! Our volunteers measure oysters for survivorship and growth at our reef in Soundview Park, Bronx, NY. Email allison@nynjbaykeeper.org to add your name to the volunteer list!

Sustainable Raritan Awards

Nominations now being accepted for the 2016 Awards. [Click here](#) for details.

Horseshoe Crab Monitoring

Training Session

Learn how to monitor, count, and tag horseshoe crabs on Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 7:00pm at Bayshore Waterfront Park, 719 Port Monmouth Road, Port Monmouth, NJ

Monitoring Dates: (Exact locations to be announced)

Friday, May 6 starting at

Bayshore from Perth Amboy to the Highlands. This project is in partnership with the Bayshore Regional Watershed Council, the Lower Raritan Watershed Partnership, and Raritan Riverkeeper. For more information, attend the April 14th meeting of the Bayshore Regional Watershed Council at 7:30pm in Keyport Boro Hall.

NEW! Living Shoreline Project



NY/NJ Baykeeper and our partner, the Rutgers University Center for Urban Environmental Sustainability (CUES), will be installing a 0.91 acre Living Shoreline adjacent to Ware Creek at Naval Weapons Station Earle (NWSE) in NJ this spring! We'll be testing whether an artificial oyster reef installation parallel to the mouth of the creek will reduce soil erosion. Coastal erosion along shorelines is a natural process that is threatening the expanding population within the coastal zone of NJ. Vertical oyster reef structures can reduce storm energies. However, it is not known if this is an effective technique in urban estuaries, which is why we will be conducting this important research to strengthen our coasts!

Other activities occurring at NWSE this summer include setting oysters at our aquaculture facility, monitoring the oysters and structures in the ¼ acre experimental plot to assess overwinter survival and growth, repeating our successful biodiversity study, and continuing to collect water quality data. Stay tuned for updates!

Public Access Update

Continuing efforts to address the recent NJ Appellate Court's ruling invalidating DEP's public access rules, Senator Smith's

8:15pm
 Saturday, May 21 starting
 at 8:30pm
 Sunday, June 5 starting at
 8:45pm
 Monday, June 20 starting
 at 8:30pm

For more information,
 email [Joe Reynolds](#) or
[click here.](#)

In the News

[New Jersey Focuses on Keeping Sewerage out of Rivers](#)

[What Kind of Pollutants are there in NYC's Waterways?](#)

[NY/NJ Baykeeper Supports A2281 Smart Container Act](#)

[Groups Applaud Water Infrastructure Investments in New York State's Budget](#)

[The Passaic River Cleanup: Time for EPA to Play Hardball](#)

[Companies to Pay \\$1.4B to Cleanup Passaic River](#)

[165M Plastic Particles Float in New York Harbor at any Given Time](#)

[Christie, DEP Shamefully Refuse to Hear Public on LSP Plans](#)

Public Access Task Force held its second meeting on March 22nd. The Task Force is on track to deliver a report containing recommendations to Senator Smith by April 26. NY/NJ Baykeeper remains active as a co-chair of the Task Force and will contribute recommendations that favor expanded public access for all of New Jersey.

In other public access news, a report released by the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program provides a comprehensive look at where and how the public can access Harbor waters. It's not as accessible as you might think. [Click here](#) to read the report.

MS4 Permits Released! Comments due April 15

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) released preliminary draft versions of the permits for Tier A and Tier B municipal separate storm sewer systems (or "MS4s"). These permits cover the stormwater systems of 461 "Tier A" municipalities and 104 "Tier B" municipalities across New Jersey. While the permits include several improvements, NY/NJ Baykeeper is advocating for stronger permits that will ensure that water quality does not continue to degrade in NJ. Check out our blog [here](#) for more details. Comments on the preliminary draft can be sent to ms4predraft@dep.nj.gov by April 15.

Protecting, preserving, and restoring the NY/NJ Harbor Estuary since 1989.

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