

# NEWTOWN CREEK

## What Is a Natural Resource Damage Assessment Plan?

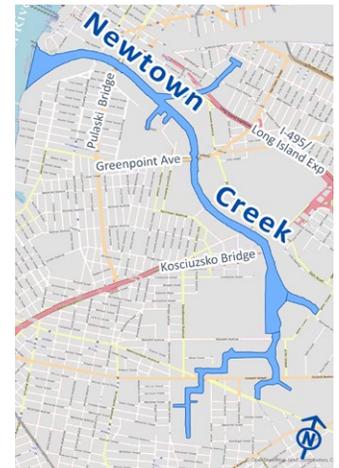
Newtown Creek is a waterway that forms part of the border between the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens in New York City. It has and continues to support industrial and commercial activities along its banks and plays a vital role in the economy and culture of the surrounding communities. However, decades 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.

### 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.

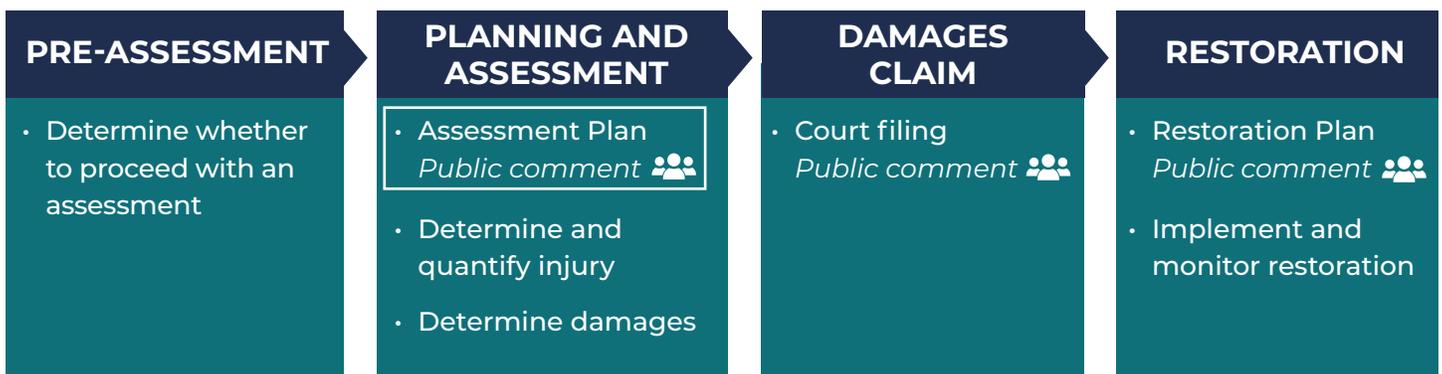
The Plan also describes how the Trustees intend to coordinate with the cleanup (remedial) process and parties potentially responsible for the contamination as well as communicate with the public.



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

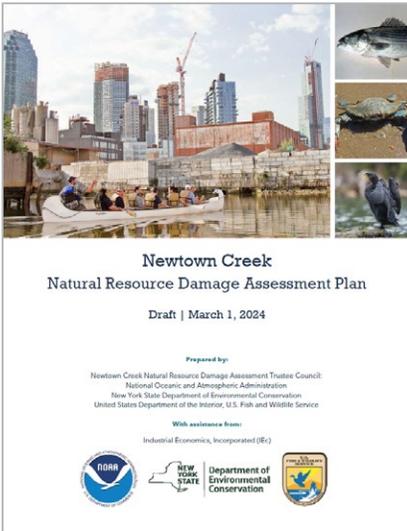
### THE NRDAR PROCESS

Assessment Plan development occurs during the Planning and Assessment phase.



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### 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/nrd/major-ongoing-nrd-assessments>

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

[www.fws.gov/media/newton-creek-nrda](http://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

Email: [nrd@dec.ny.gov](mailto:nrd@dec.ny.gov)

