

# 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.

### 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)

### 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.

### NEWTOWN CREEK NATURAL RESOURCES

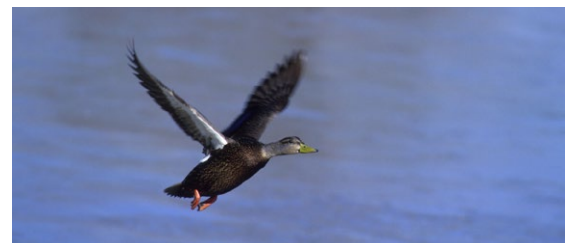
Examples of resources that could be affected by hazardous substances, oil, and/or other contaminants include:

#### Natural Resources

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

#### Natural Resource Services

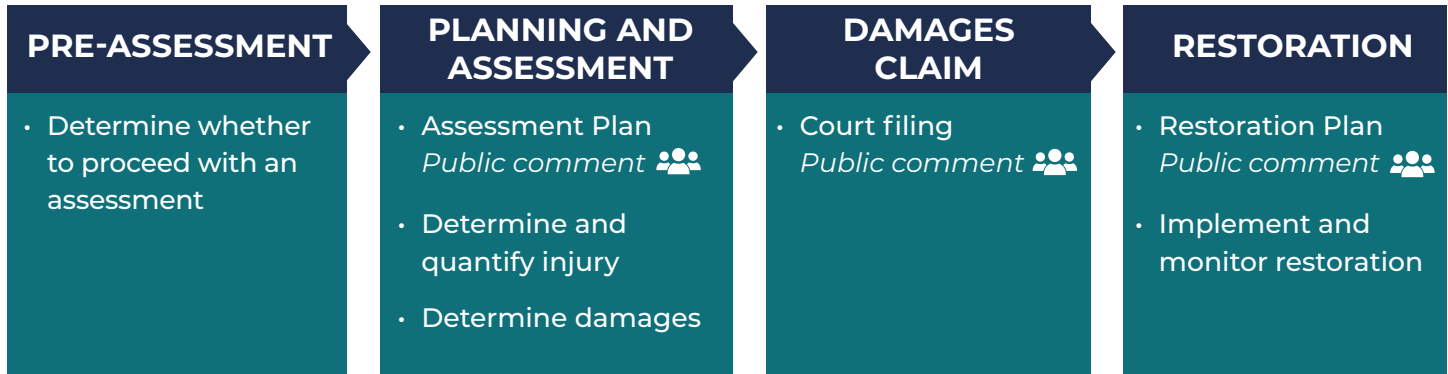
- Recreation (fishing, boating)
- Habitat for fish and wildlife
- Community uses and connections



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### 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  
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Albany, NY 12233-1500

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