

THE BRONX RIVER LONG TERM CONTROL PLAN



The Problem: Raw Sewage & Untreated Stormwater is Released into the Bronx River

Throughout New York City, wastewater from our homes goes down drains and pipes and off to the local wastewater treatment plants. There, the wastewater goes through a treatment process and then clean water is released into the nearest waterbody. Unfortunately, these treatment plants do not have the capacity to handle both wastewater from our homes and inputs from rain. So when it rains as little as 1/10", Combined Sewage Overflow (CSO) outfalls release a mix of untreated stormwater and raw sewage directly into the Bronx River to prevent overwhelming wastewater treatment plants. Human health risks from exposure to Bronx River after CSO events includes diarrhea, skin rashes, and pink eye.

What is a Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) & How Can it Help Solve this Problem?

A Long Term Control Plan is required by the Clean Water Act, which establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface water. –NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection

- A LTCP is an evaluation of long term solutions to reduce CSO events and improve water quality.
- The goal of each LTCP is to identify appropriate CSO controls to achieve water quality standards that are specific to each waterbody.
- The Bronx River LTCP will establish water quality standards for the foreseeable future!
- Includes a public participation process
- Identifies balance of green infrastructure, such as green roofs and rain gardens, and grey infrastructure, such as holding tanks and expansion of capacity at treatment plants, and for each watershed

How Does This Affect Our Community?

This LTCP will determine the next steps that DEP will take in addressing these CSO's to meet water quality standards. Many Bronx communities, including students, regularly use this river, which was designated a National Water Trail by the National Park Service in 2012, for education, recreation, and enjoyment. We need a clean and healthy river to protect our own health and safety.

What Are We Asking For?

The Bronx River Alliance calls on NYC DEP to comply with the Clean Water Act and raise the quality of the Bronx River so that it meets the highest level - fishable and swimmable, or in other words: safe for primary contact.

How Can You Help Keep Our Waters Safe?

**Engage in the public participation opportunities offered by DEP at the Bronx River long term control plan public meeting in February 2015!!
Provide input on your vision for the Bronx River.**

- Spread the word about the impact of CSO's on our local waterways.
- Write to your elected officials and express your concern for the health of your community.
- Enjoy all the river has to offer by participating in Bronx River activities and events.



Nearly 5,000 people a year paddle the Bronx River, which was designated a National Water Trail by the National Park Service