

“The wisdom of Mr. Oddo and other officials who are acting now to create these Staten Island Bluebelts should be appreciated for generations to come.”

**-STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE
NOVEMBER 20, 2015**

**BOROUGH PRESIDENT'S
DIRECT CONNECT SUNDAY**

AT THE PETRIDES SCHOOL



HEALTH & WELLNESS QUALITY OF LIFE DEVELOPMENT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY JOBS RECREATION EDUCATION TOURISM **INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Mid-Island Bluebelt Project was initiated to help manage flooding by engineering natural drainage corridors, such as streams and ponds, to slow storm water down and allow for proper drainage. These wetlands will allow for storm water to flow into and through the creeks and run under existing streets, protecting adjacent neighborhoods from flooding.

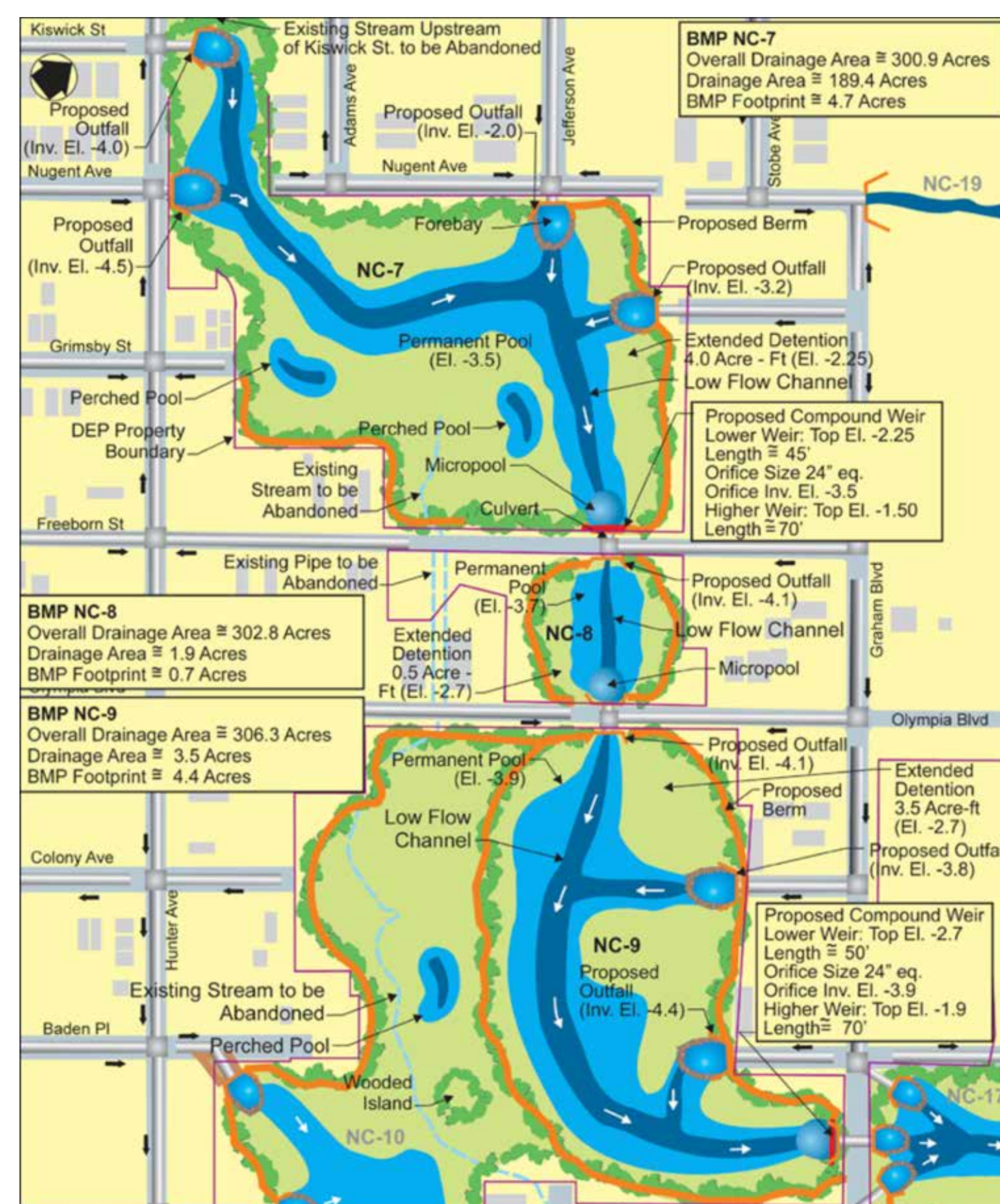
Groundbreaking on this \$25 million project was held in November 2015, with Senator Schumer, local officials, DEP, and DDC. The project created a new 4.7 acre freshwater wetland between Nugent Avenue and Freeborn Street and another .7 acre freshwater wetland between Freeborn Street and Olympia Boulevard.

This past November, BP Oddo toured the nearly completed first phase of the New Creek Bluebelt in Midland Beach, the first two of what will eventually be 19 Bluebelt wetlands.

In addition to creating the wetlands, DEP reported they will be removing phragmites, a large grass plant prone to brushfires, from the area and will replace it with more diverse wetland plantings. This will reduce the threat of brushfires and attract more fish and wildlife to the area.



- ### New Creek Bluebelt Facts
- 1,700 ACRE TOTAL WATERSHED AREA
 - 475 CUBIC YARDS OF TRASH AND DEBRIS REMOVED
 - WATER CONVEYED UNDER STREETS THROUGH WEIRS
 - 31,550 NATIVE PLANTS, SHRUBS, AND TREES WILL BE PLANTED
 - BOROUGH PRESIDENT PROVIDED \$2.3 MILLION IN CAPITAL FUNDS
 - \$11 MILLION GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE WAS SECURED BY SENATOR SCHUMER
 - 2-YEAR MORATORIUM ON DEVELOPMENT ALLOWED DEP TIME TO ACQUIRE PARCELS IN THE WETLANDS



DEP engineers deepen natural stream corridors to create functional Bluebelt flood protection for neighborhoods.

The New Creek Mid-Island Bluebelt

A PROGRESS REPORT