

### 1.1.1 Vision and Goals

This WQIP has been developed to advance the goals outlined below to maintain and, where feasible, expand the availability of Manhasset Bay for swimming, fishing, shellfishing, and other human uses, while also concurrently enriching the environmental and maritime quality of the Bay Ecosystem.

The goals of the WQIP include:

1. Minimize impacts to water quality in the Bay from non-point source discharges including, but not limited to, stormwater runoff, on-site wastewater treatment systems (i.e., cesspools and septic systems), illegal hookups to stormwater drainage, fertilizers, pet waste and waterfowl, recognizing that these sources will be worsened by climate change. This can be achieved, in part, by assisting the Manhasset Bay watershed municipalities in preparing strategies for improving water quality in compliance with the NYSDEC MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) permit requirements, and pursuing programs and funding for advanced wastewater treatment.
2. Minimize impacts to water quality in the Bay from point source discharges.
3. Optimize local laws and regulations to ensure that they effectively control water quality impacts in the Bay. This will be accomplished by listing the applicable local laws/regulations and identifying potential enhancements.
4. Ensure that the operations of local governments in the Manhasset Bay watershed are undertaken in a manner that minimizes water quality impacts and considers climate change impacts, while also supporting the MS4 program and municipal housekeeping.
5. Maintain and, where feasible, restore and enhance tidal and freshwater wetlands in the Bay and its watershed so that these resources can support healthy ecosystems, provide flood and stormwater control, and offer opportunities for open space, education, recreation, and aesthetic appreciation.
6. Promote the remediation of contaminated sites to mitigate impacts to the Bay.
7. Maintain and, where feasible, expand open space lands in the Bay's watershed to ensure the continuing benefits derived from areas of natural cover that promotes water infiltration, among other ecosystem and water quality benefits, especially in the face of climate change.
8. Minimize impacts to water quality in the Bay from marinas, boatyards, and related waterfront uses.
9. Reduce the use of fertilizers in the watershed and encourage the proper disposal of pet wastes in order to reduce this pollution source to the watershed and Bay.
10. Minimize the sedimentation of the Bay and its tributary water bodies. Where feasible and beneficial, consider restoring natural bottom contours in the Bay and its tributary water bodies. Utilize dredging to remove excess sediment and contaminants where required from hindered water flow and quality, while ensuring that dredging activities are environmentally sustainable and minimally disruptive.

11. Continue water quality monitoring in the Bay and expand this program to the degree practicable, so that trends in water quality conditions can be properly tracked, and the program can be tailored to provide data that is maximally useful for characterizing impacts, tracking changes due to climate change, and assisting in formulating strategies for corrective action. Integrate water quality data collected by other entities as feasible.
12. Enhance the coordination of efforts to improve water quality conditions in the Bay, particularly through continuing inter-municipal cooperation by the MBPC, as well as expanded public education initiatives to attain broad-based community support. Tap into the local libraries and public school systems as collaborators in these public education initiatives.
13. Account for sea level rise and other effects of climate change in the design and implementation of projects addressing water quality issues in the Bay to ensure maximum effectiveness over the long term.
14. Maintain the relevance of the WQIP through continuous tracking of progress on the implementation of recommendations and regular plan updates as appropriate.