

# Connecting with Our Waterways: Public Access and its Stewardship in the New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary 2015

## *Appendix B: Stewardship Assessment Questions*



Thank you for taking the time to provide us with this vital information.

The intent of this study is to understand the environmental stewardship and public access management along the shorelines of the New York - New Jersey harbor estuary. We know many of you are familiar with managing for public access. As for stewardship, we define it as the act of conserving, managing, monitoring, advocating for, and educating the public about their local environments.

In this assessment, we will ask questions about your organization, who you work with, where you work, what you do, and how you do it. It should take about 20 minutes to complete and your work will be automatically saved, provided that you continue using the same computer to complete the survey. Based on the information we collect, we will develop maps to show how people work together to improve the NY-NJ Harbor, helping to inform multiple efforts and an overall goal of increasing and improving estuary-wide access! **Please note that for the 2015 assessment, we are focusing primarily on the core NY-NJ Harbor Estuary Region.** We appreciate your contribution to this shared achievement.

If at any time you have any questions regarding the assessment please feel free to contact [stewardship@harborestuary.org](mailto:stewardship@harborestuary.org).

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## **Section 1 of 10: Contact Information**

Your personal information is confidential. We will not share your name, personal email, personal phone number, or other identifying information with anyone outside of the research team. We may contact you if we have questions about information you provide on this survey.

Your name:

Your phone number:

Your email:



## **Section 2 of 10: Organizational Contact Information**

**If you are affiliated with more than one group or organization, please fill out the survey for each group. If you are not able to answer all of the questions, please reach out to someone else in your group or organization and ask them to fill out the survey.**

Organization name:

Website:

Mailing address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Key contact name:

Organization email:

Organization phone:

### **Does your organization wish to be listed in a public, online stewardship database?**

We will **not** indicate information such as budget, number of staff and/or volunteers, or primary funding sources tied to your organization. This information will be aggregated for analysis at the park scale.

Yes

No

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## **Section 3 of 10: General Stewardship Activities**

Does your group aim to conserve the local environment?

Yes

No

Does your group manage some area of the local environment?

Yes

No

Does your group monitor the quality of the local environment?

Yes

No

Does your group advocate for the local environment?

Yes

No

Does your group aim to educate the public about the local environment?

Yes

No

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## **Section 4 of 10: Basic Information about your Group/Organization**

### **What does your group/organization work on?**

Please choose all that apply.

- Public health
- Education
- Housing (including homeowners or condo association, real estate management firm)
- Community improvement and capacity building
- Environment
- Animal related
- Human services
- Employment, job
- Legal services, civil rights
- Arts, culture
- Recreation and sports (including boating)
- Crime, criminal justice
- International, foreign affairs, and national security
- Research in science, technology, and social sciences
- Religion related
- Private grant-making foundation
- Seniors
- Youth
- Transportation related (including water taxis and ferries)
- Development
- Food service (restaurant, bar)

Marina

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**If you had to choose just one activity, what would you say is your group's primary focus?**

Please choose one.

Public health

Education

Housing (including homeowners or condo association, real estate management firm)

Community improvement and capacity building

Environment

Animal

related

Human services

Employment, job

Legal services, civil

rights

Arts, culture

Recreation and sports (including

boating)

Crime, criminal justice

International, foreign affairs, and national security

Research in science, technology, and social

sciences  Religion related

Private grant-making

foundation  Seniors

Youth

Transportation related (including water taxis and

ferries)  Development

Food service (restaurant, bar)

Marina

Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**\* What is your group/organization's legal definition?**

Please choose the most appropriate response.

501(c)(3) (or has

applied)

501(c)(4) (or has

applied)

Community group/organization without 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) status (for example, a waterfront cleanup group or a boating club)

Town/township/city/village government agency

County government agency

State government agency

Federal government agency

Public administration district

Private firm, for-profit

business

Homeowners or condominium association

Other (please specify)

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## **Section 5 of 10: Your Group/Organization's Stewardship Activities**

**Considering all of the programs, activities, and services your group/organization works on, what percentage of your group/organization's effort has been for environmental stewardship during the past year?**

Please select one.

- 0-19%
- 20-39%
- 40-59%
- 60-79%
- 80-100%

**What type(s) of setting has your group/organization physically done stewardship work in within the past year?**

Please choose all that apply.

### **Water & Water-Related**

- Watershed or sewershed
- Stream, river or canal
- Waterfront, beach or shoreline
- Marina, docks or boat ramp
- Ocean
- Bay

## Land

- "Natural"/restoration area
- Park
- Community garden
- Vacant land
- Playground/playing field/ball field
- Dog run/dog park
- Street tree
- Botanical garden
- Greenway/rail-trail
- Flower box/planter
- Public right of way (e.g., street ends, roadside, traffic island, greenstreet)
- Urban farm
- Forest/woodland
- Grassland

## Building

- Green building
- Rooftop
- Courtyard/atrium/plaza
- Front yard/back yard
- School yard
- Apartment/grounds
- Historically-designated buildings/landscapes





## Section 6: Where Your Group/Organization Does Stewardship (Government/Private, for profit agencies)

**\* Does your group/organization have a Geographic Information System (GIS), jpg, or pdf file showing the boundaries of where your group/organization have done stewardship work within the past year that you would like to provide?**

If you check “yes”, the research team will contact you to get the file(s).

- Yes
- No, I will describe below the boundaries of where my group/organization has physically done stewardship work within the past year. (You can list multiple locations) Examples: “Jenkins Park”, “the Hackensack Meadowlands”, “City of Hoboken”, “The Raritan River Watershed”, “Brooklyn”, “Breezy Point”, “Piers 81 – 96, in Manhattan” “ZIP code 08901”

**Who owns the property or properties on which your group organization has physically done stewardship work within the past year?**

Please choose all that apply.

- Federal government
- State government
- County government
- Town/township/city/village government
- Other government (e.g., Port Authority)
- Individual
- Corporation (including stores and commercial businesses, joint ventures, real estate investment groups)
- Homeowners/condo association
- Nonprofit or civic organization
- Religious organization
- Don't know
- Other (please specify)

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## Section 6 of 10 Where Your Group/Organization Does Stewardship

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## Section 7 of 10: The Structure of Your Group/Organization

### What year was your group/organization founded?

Note: for national or regional groups/organizations, please tell us the approximate year your chapter was founded. For government agencies, please use the approximate year of your division or program.

### What is your group/organization's mission statement?

(200 words or less)

### Approximately how many of the following does your group/organization have?

Note: for national groups/organizations please provide regional information. For government agencies, please report on the division or program directly serving the waterfront site.

Full-time staff:

Part-time staff:

Members:

Volunteers:

People on outreach database/mailling list:

### Please estimate the total number of volunteer hours contributed per year.

**What is your group/organization's estimated annual budget for the current year? Again, for larger entities such as state and municipal governments, try to estimate the budget allocated to the waterfront site.**

- \$0 - 1,000
- \$1,001 - 10,000
- \$10,001 - \$50,000
- \$50,001 - \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$200,000
- \$200,000 - \$500,000
- \$501,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$2,000,000
- \$2,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- Prefer not to answer

**What are your primary funding sources?**

Choose all that apply:

- Government agencies (city/state/federal)
- Foundations
- Endowment
- Individual memberships/givings
- Fees/program income
- Corporate giving/sponsorship
- In-kind donations
- Other:

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## **Section 8 of 10: Organizational Services**

### **What types of services does your group/organization provide?**

Please select all that apply.

- Educational curricula
- Legal resources
- Buildings/facilities
- Plant materials/equipment
- Technical assistance
- Labor (volunteers/students/interns)
- Grants
- Community organizing
- Computing/internet
- Public relations/outreach
- Data
- Public boating, fishing, or swimming programs
- Coastal resiliency/climate change education or projects
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## How does your group share information with the public?

- N/A, we don't share information National media
- Local media (e.g. neighborhood newspaper)
- Direct mailing/newsletters
- Door-to-door outreach
- Flyers/signs
- Website
- Listserv
- Blog
- Social media
- National conference/meetings
- Regional conferences/meetings
- City conferences/meetings
- Neighborhood-based conferences/meetings
- Radio
- Television





## **Section 9 of 10: Stewardship Networking**

Please list the names of all of the organizations with which you collaborate regularly within the following categories.

### **Businesses**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

### **Civic Groups/Community Groups/Nonprofits/religious groups**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Federal, state or local government entities or elected officials

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Schools/school groups

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.





## **Section 10 of 10: Specific Site Features (Site 1)**

Please answer the following for each site or the most important sites in which you work (please fill out one for each of these sites). If you are a steward of many sites, please describe at least your top three.

If you have more than one site to describe, you will receive instructions on how to proceed at the end of this section.

Site/park name:

Site/Park Location Zip

Code(s):

**Is there direct access to and from the water? Is it possible and safe to launch a boat, swim, or otherwise physically touch the water while visiting the site?**

Yes

No

**How often does your organization provide the following at the site (if these programs only occur seasonally, please answer each for the season in which they occur)**

	Never	Yearly	Monthly	Weekly	Daily
Management or maintenance of the site(s) (e.g., cleanup programs, painting, other non-organic maintenance)					
Public Education programs					
Horticultural / ecological restoration programs					
Publicly accessible free or ticketed cultural events (arts, music, festivals, etc.)					
Private events (weddings, special events, etc.)					
Citizen Science / monitoring programs					
Boating programs (e.g. free / low cost kayaking, canoeing, rowing, etc.)					
Fishing programs					
Swimming programs					
Maritime programming (e.g. historic vessels)					

**Please let us know the relative importance of the following challenges on a scale of 1-5, where 1 is not a problem and 5 is a serious issue for your organization:**

	1. Not a challenge	2	3	4	5	N / A
Limited physical access to and / or parking at the site						
Site owner / manager lack of cooperation						
Limited funding for						

programming						
Lack of public services such as bathrooms, drinking fountains, or food						
Limited funding/capacity for management, maintenance, and/or security						
Other (please specify below)						

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Does the site have the following?**

Check all that apply.

- Public parking Bathrooms/water fountains
- Swimming or wading areas
- Boating access (launch/dock) for human-powered craft
- Boating access (launch/dock) for other craft
- Public berthing/anchor space for fee/rent
- Wash/cut stations for fishing/fishing piers
- Fees to launch
- Significant natural areas, such as a wetland or forest

**In your knowledge of the site, are people with disabilities able to use it without difficulty?**

Yes

No

I don't know

**\* Do you have another site to describe? *If you are a steward of many sites, please describe at least your top three***

Yes (repeat Section 10 for all sites described)

No (finish the survey)







**Are you willing to be contacted for a follow-up interview?**

Yes

No

**Would you like to receive a copy of our assessment, via email, when it is finished?**

Yes

No

**Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your group/organization or this survey?**

**This concludes the STEW-MAP survey. Thank you for your participation.**

**If at any time you have any questions regarding the assessment please feel free to contact [stewardship@harborestuary.org](mailto:stewardship@harborestuary.org).**

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