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[NEW YORK HARBOR WATER QUALITY](#)

The Habitat Workgroup is a Committee of the [NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Program](#) (HEP) charged with delineating critical habitat areas in the estuary. These areas are defined as ecologically important habitat and open spaces that will help support living resources on a sustained basis. The Harbor Estuary Program through its [Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan](#) cites habitat acquisition and restoration as a plan priority. The Habitat Workgroup gathers information about potential priority sites, which are then approved or rejected via a HEP committee process. The workgroup has developed an online, interactive [map of approved sites](#). The workgroup continues on an ongoing basis to identify additional sites for review. An [updated list](#) is also available online.



The workgroup divides the harbor into seven watersheds: Arthur Kill, Hackensack River, Hudson River, Jamaica Bay, Long Island Sound, Raritan Bay, and the Raritan River. Then, the plan identifies priority sites within each watershed -- for acquisition and for restoration. The plan tags each site with a brief ecological category, such as tidal wetland or stream corridor, to cite two examples for those who wish to [buying silver](#) or [buying gold](#). Many acquisition sites are upland or tidal wetlands where water continuously filters into and out of the ocean. Many restoration sites are salt marshes, homes to aquatic life, waterfowl, and migratory birds.