



Glen Cove, New York

Glen Cove is a small city located on the north shore of Long Island. Parks, public beaches, nature preserves, and private homes span eight miles of the city's shoreline. However, most of the remaining one mile of shoreline, the historically industrialized Glen Cove Creek waterfront, is comprised of



contaminated, abandoned, and underused properties. The Glen Cove Creek Waterfront Revitalization Plan was developed in 1993 to address the clean up and redevelopment of 214 acres of the waterfront. In 1997, the City received a Brownfields Pilot Grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and in 1998, Glen Cove was designated a Brownfields Showcase Community by the Brownfields National Partnership.

What are Brownfields and what is NOAA's Role?

Brownfields are abandoned, idle, or underused industrial or commercial sites where real or perceived contamination complicates redevelopment. Cleaning up and redeveloping coastal Brownfields expands local economies, improves public access to the coast, restores natural resources, and revitalizes waterfronts. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA's) experience in solving critical environmental challenges, combined with its role as the

primary coastal stewardship agency enable us to deliver a unique suite of tools and expertise to revitalize urban estuaries and port areas while improving coastal habitat.

Brownfields Issues in Glen Cove

Only two miles of the city's shoreline are currently accessible to the public through beaches, parks, and boat launch areas.

Revitalization of the Glen Cove Creek waterfront would provide the public with an additional mile of waterfront access.

Glen Cove Creek contains two federal Superfund sites, a New York State Inactive Hazardous Waste site, and other sites with varied levels of contamination. Dredging the creek is one component in the revitalization of the waterfront. Dredging of the inner portion of the creek has been temporarily suspended due to the presence of radioactive waste in the dredged material. A decision on whether it is possible to resume maintenance dredging will be made based on the results of a recent sediment sampling and radiological scoping survey. If contaminant levels are too high, NOAA will work with EPA to pursue environmental dredging of sediments under a Superfund cleanup to allow the area to be safely re-used.

Accomplishments through Partnerships

Glen Cove's Brownfields activities have spawned numerous partnerships and positive working relationships between the city, all levels of government, the private sector, and the local community. The Glen Cove Creek Waterfront Revitalization Plan was developed and implemented by the city in partnership with NOAA and the New York State Coastal Management Program.

Between 1995 and 1999 NOAA's Office of Sustainable Development supported annual "Commitment to Action" workshops that brought together federal, state, and local partners to focus support for implementing Glen Cove's waterfront plan. These workshops:

- allowed the city articulate their vision for a revitalized waterfront. The plan and resulting zoning changes provided a roadmap for the community's vision;

- helped the city understand the role and jurisdiction of various players and identify programs, technical assistance, and funding available to implement the Glen Cove Creek Revitalization Plan;
- established a long-term commitment for partnership between the city and federal, state and local agencies.

NOAA will use these successful workshops as models in future efforts with other communities.

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration has provided technical assistance during Glen Cove's revitalization efforts. NOAA is working with the city, as well as EPA, the Army Corps of Engineers, and others to plan coastal habitat restoration along Glen Cove Creek. NOAA has provided technical support for the cleanup at the two Superfund sites on the creek, and is working with partners to integrate restoration into the cleanup process and expedite natural resource recovery and habitat restoration.

The community has leveraged over \$40 million in public and private funding. In 2000, a new restaurant opened on Glen Cove Creek, the first business established on the waterfront in years. Last year, a new high-speed ferry service to Manhattan began operating from the Glen Cove waterfront. The city is soliciting proposals for a hotel, conference center, and mixed-use development for one of the Brownfields properties.

What NOAA Brings to the Table for Coastal Revitalization

With its coastal focus and experience in solving critical environmental challenges, combined with its position within the Department of Commerce, NOAA balances environmental and economic needs.

- NOAA expertise improves cleanup and redevelopment and expedites decision-making.
- NOAA benefits local economies and improves quality of life in coastal communities by applying sustainable and economic development programs.
- NOAA sponsors local workshops focusing on Brownfields revitalization. These workshops help communities gather input from all parties involved in the revitalization process, creating strong partnerships for more efficient action.

- NOAA, in partnership with state coastal management programs, provides assistance to communities for planning and implementing waterfront revitalization efforts, many of which have included cleanup and redevelopment of Brownfields.
- NOAA revitalizes port areas through the use of advanced marine transportation tools and services.

For more information contact:

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