



# NEW YORK CITY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Annual Highlights 2015

In 2015, we continued to strengthen GI partnerships, including the SWIM Coalition, NYC Water Infrastructure Steering Committee, NY NJ Harbor & Estuary Program, and Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts. We also launched the New York City Urban Soils Institute, a partnership among the District, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Brooklyn College, and The Gaia Institute.

### GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

#### Fulton Avenue Stormwater Capture Planter

With funding from the Conservation Project Assistance Fund, the District completed the stormwater capture planter system in the courtyard of the apartment building at 1203 Fulton Avenue in the South Bronx.

Responding to the residents' desire to use the backyard as a community space, we created a sitting area and a raised bed vegetable planter in addition to the large stormwater capture planters. The District will follow up with the residents to maintain the planters.



**Sedum on the greenroof at Logan Gardens. A Spruce sapling was found growing on this roof!**

#### GI Education

Logan Gardens greenroof was featured in two educational videos in 2015. The first was a video produced by a team of graduate students from Pratt Institute and is titled "[How Important is Green Infrastructure?](#)" The second is a video produced by the Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District and titled "[Stormwater Pollution and Green Infrastructure Solutions.](#)"

Shino also visited schools groups with the Sewer in a Suitcase to teach students about CSOs and how individual actions can make a difference.

We hope to disseminate our knowledge and experience far and wide in the future!

#### DEC Endorsed 4-Hr Construction Site Inspection Training

The District hosted one NYSDEC endorsed 4-hr Erosion and Sediment Control Trainings in March. We served a total of fifty people in one session. We will continue to offer workshops as needed in the future in partnership with the Dutchess Co. Soil &

Water Conservation District

#### Stormwater Infrastructure Matters Coalition

Shino continued her leadership role on the steering committee and provided administrative support.

SWIM was able to hire a part time coordinator in 2015 with grants from Van Amerigen

Foundation and the Lily Auchincloss Foundation. In addition, Pratt Institute continued to assign a graduate fellow to SWIM. With the coordinator and the graduate fellow, we produced educational materials on water quality related topics, such as fact sheets on CSOs and Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4).

#### NYC Department of Environmental Protection's Water Infrastructure Steering Committee

Shino continued to serve on the Water Infrastructure Steering Committee convened by the DEP. In 2015 the Committee was expanded to cover MS4 issues.

#### Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts

The District continued to serve as the fiscal administrator of the Coalition as well as provide programmatic leadership. Shino served on the Steering Committee and worked closely with the coordinator.

Shino attended the Hudson River Estuary Management Advisory Committee meetings, representing both the LHCCD and the NYC Soil & Water Conservation District.

### **New York New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program**

Shino continued to serve as the alternate to the NY Co-Chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee. 2015

was a transition year for the HEP Program Office, which officially moved to the Hudson River Foundation and underwent some staff changes. The CAC continued to work with the Program Office to expand membership and the reach of the program.

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Participation in various coalitions and committees has been highly productive: it has allowed the District to leverage limited resources to accomplish tasks and to reach out to a wider audience – both in number and types of people.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION**

### **NYC Envirothon**

The 2015 Envirothon was held in Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens. Con Edison generously provided the funding for the event. The current event topic was sustainable agriculture – a topic that is quite relevant to urban residents as well as rural dwellers. A total of 21 teams participated from 12 different schools across all five Boroughs. Stuyvesant High School, Brooklyn Technical High School and Staten Island Technical High School were the first, second and third place winners respectively. Grover Cleveland HS from Queens and Pelham Bay HS from the Bronx were the other borough winners.

The event was supported through partnerships with the Bronx River Alliance, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service, NYC Parks, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYC Law Department, and Audubon Constitution Marsh Center & Sanctuary.

### **NY State Envirothon**

Rebecca attended the State Envirothon with the teams. Out of the 50 teams from across the state, Stuyvesant High School and Staten Island Technical High School received 18th and 19th place overall. Grover Cleveland HS also participated in the State

### **Envirothon.**

### **NYC Outdoors: Environmental Education Expo**

Rebecca coordinated the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual NYC Outdoors! Expo with The River Project and NYU Wallerstein Collaborative. We were able to host the event in the Kimmel Student Center at NYU, where we hosted more than 30 exhibitors and had over 130 attendees.

The 2015 Expo featured Halawai, an organization working with the Polynesian Voyaging Society to bring a traditional Polynesian canoe to NYC. The canoe, built and navigated in the style of the native Polynesian people, has been on a three-year voyage around the world to spread the message of international cooperation.

### **School requests**

The District received several requests for technical assistance. We continued to assist with the water quality laboratory sessions for AP Environmental Science classes at a high school. Shino presented at three career days – one each at elementary, middle and high schools, took Kindergartners to the Hudson River for water testing once a month, and demonstrated how CSOs pollute our water using the Sewer in a Suitcase.

## **HUDSON RIVER FOODWAY CORRIDOR**

The RC&D Coordinator, Jill, and Shino made a trip to Saratoga Springs to meet with the Southern Saratoga

Chamber of Commerce and the Vermont Sail Freight to build a partnership.

## **NEW YORK CITY SOIL SURVEY**

### **NYC Urban Soils Institute**

The New York City Urban Soils Institute (USI)