

Alley Creek

Long Term Control Plan

Alley Creek and Little Neck Bay are significant natural resources that provide communities in northeastern Queens with access and educational opportunities on the water at Bayside Marina, Little Bay Park, Douglaston Manor Beach and Alley Pond Environmental Center. Approximately 20% of annual discharges to Alley Creek and Little Neck Bay are from combined sewer overflows (CSOs) during rain and snow events. For this reason, water quality in Alley Creek may be impacted by CSOs. DEP will be completing a Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) to better understand CSO impacts on water quality and related recreational uses within these waterbodies, and the potential need for future improvement projects. The goal of each combined sewer overflow long-term control plan is to identify the appropriate controls necessary to achieve waterbody-specific water quality standards, consistent with Federal CSO Policy and the water quality goals of the Clean Water Act.

DEP has invested more than **\$142 million** to improve water quality in Alley Creek and Little Neck Bay. Implemented water quality improvement projects include a CSO retention facility and a 16-acre environmental restoration project. Currently, Little Neck Bay is suitable for swimming, boating and fishing and Alley Creek is classified for boating and fishing uses. DEP will use water quality monitoring data and modeling tools to determine the water quality improvements resulting from these control projects to meet the existing and highest attainable use standards.



Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor
Carter H. Strickland, Jr., Commissioner



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Alley Creek CSO Retention Facility

In 2011, DEP completed a **\$122 million** CSO retention facility in Bayside, Queens. Every time it rains, the facility collects up to five million gallons of combined sewage that was previously discharged into Alley Creek and Little Neck Bay. Since the facility was built, Alley Creek CSOs have decreased from approximately 517 million gallons to 256 million gallons per year, a 51% reduction. The remaining CSO will receive preliminary treatment to remove floatables and settleable solids before being discharged. Retained CSO is pumped to the Tallman Island Wastewater Treatment Plant for treatment when storms subside. DEP also invested in additional upstream sewer enhancements, including a new Tallman Island outfall (TI-025) to increase the sewer system's capacity and help reduce sewer surcharging and street flooding.



Alley Creek Environmental Restoration

In 2011, DEP completed a **\$20 million** environmental restoration of the northern portion of Alley Pond Park in Bayside, Queens. DEP constructed eight acres of tidal wetlands and eight acres of native coastal grassland and shrubland habitat in an effort to reduce CSOs in Alley Creek and Little Neck Bay. The new plantings and restored wetlands absorb stormwater runoff, reducing the amount that enter and overwhelm the sewer system during wet weather events.

For more information on DEP's CSO program, please visit our website at www.nyc.gov/dep/ltcp or visit [www.Facebook.com/NYCWATER](https://www.facebook.com/NYCWATER).

Watershed Stats

Total Drainage Area: **4,879 acres**

Combined Sewer Contributory Area: **2,292 acres (47%)**

Wastewater Treatment Plant: **Tallman Island**

NYSDEC Classification: **Class I (Alley Creek) & SB (Little Neck Bay)**

Ecological Classifications: **Special Natural Waterfront Area (DCP)**

Significant Coastal Fish & Wildlife Habitats: **Recreational Boating & Fishing**

- Combined Sewer Outfall
- Stormwater Outfall
- ▲ Alley Creek CSO Retention Facility
- Alley Creek Environmental Restoration

Drainage Area Type

- Combined Sewer Area
- Separate Sewer Area
- Direct Drainage Area

Land Use

- One and Two Family Buildings
- Multi-Family Buildings
- Mixed Residential and Commercial Buildings
- Commercial and Office Buildings
- Industrial and Manufacturing
- Transportation and Utility
- Public Facilities and Institutions
- Open Space and Outdoor Recreation
- Parking Facilities
- Vacant Land

