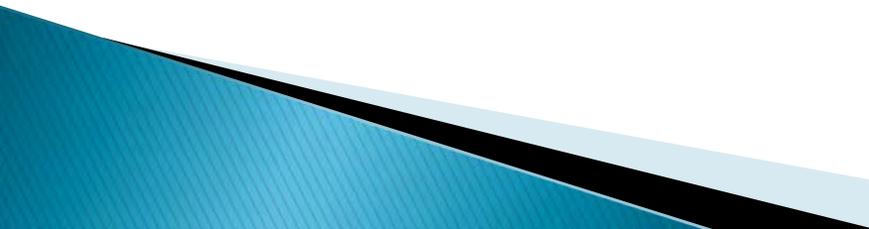


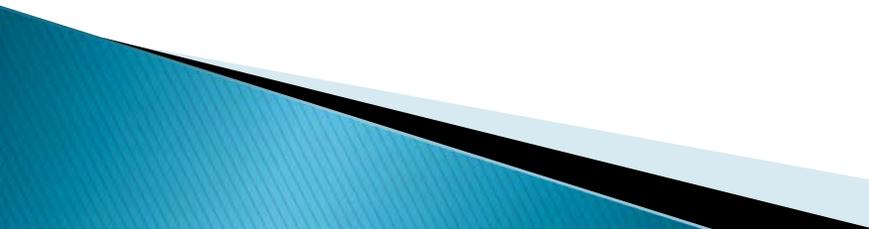
# Community-Wetlands Restoration Project Rulers Bar/Black Wall Islands



# History– Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers–Science/Policy

- ▶ Wetlands Loss in Jamaica Bay
  - ▶ Nitrogen Impact on Water Quality of the Bay
  - ▶ Oyster pilot projects in Jamaica Bay
  - ▶ \$115,000,000 Nitrogen Agreement with NYC
  - ▶ Opposition to JFK airport expansion
  - ▶ Opposition to Contaminated fill in Jamaica Bay Borrow Pits
  - ▶ Opposition to proposed offshore LNG island in 2011
- 

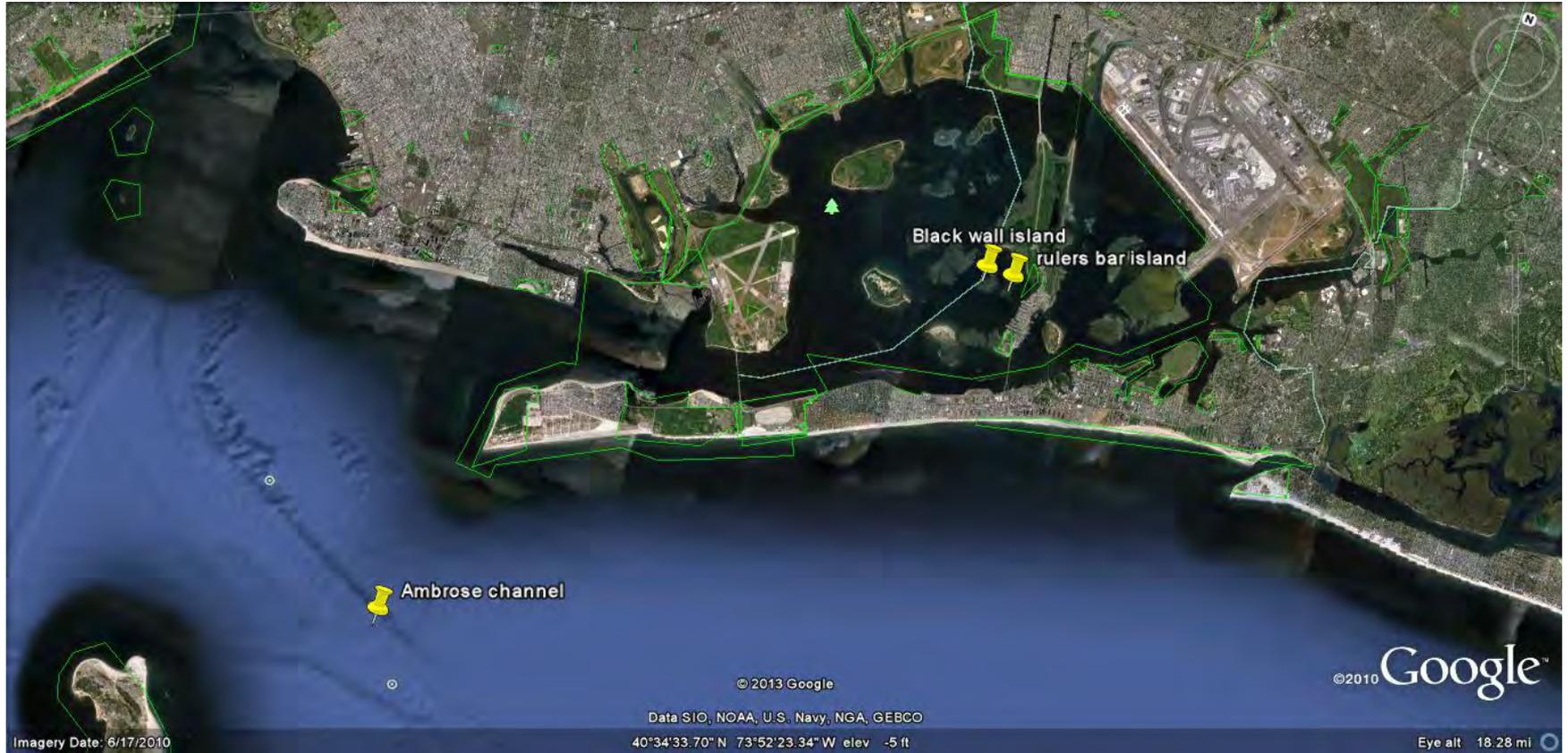
# Rulers Bar/Black Wall Island Project Partners

- ▶ Jamaica Bay Ecowatcher's and American Littoral Society
  - ▶ NYS DEC
  - ▶ ACOE
  - ▶ NYC DEP
  - ▶ National Park Service
- 

# UNIQUE COMMUNITY BASED PROJECT

- ▶ Organized and overseen by local environmental groups
  - ▶ Community based volunteers
  - ▶ Simplified permitting process
  - ▶ Use of offset mitigation funding
  - ▶ Tremendous reduction in the cost per acre
  - ▶ Youth Engagement on a volunteer and paid basis
- 

# Project Location



# Project Goal

- ▶ Re-create the two wetland islands of Rulers Bar and Black-Wall Island through :
  - ▶ Sand Placement and Grading
  - ▶ Seed collection-Volunteer Effort
  - ▶ Perimeter Fencing
  - ▶ Spartina Plug planting -on Rulers Bar
  - ▶ Seeding—on Black wall
  - ▶ Using community volunteers and Local environmental groups

# FUNDING

- ▶ \$3,410,000 for ACOE Sand Placement –NYC DEP (from Nitrogen Agreement)
  - ▶ \$645,000 Governor Cuomo green infrastructure post sandy ( provided from NYS DEC offset mitigation for MPB and Shell bank basin discharge fines)
  - ▶ \$100,000 from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and NYC DEP
- 

# Sand Placement—Summer 2012



# Creating the islands



# Sand Placement



# Grading the sand



# Island-at Finished Grade



# Finished Islands



# Seed Collection September 2012



# Seed Collection



# Transporting Harvested seed



# Transporting Seed



# Drying Seed out



# Storing seed at NPS facility



# Drying seed out



# Seed off to Bio-Firm



# Fencing—Spring of 2013



# Transporting Plugs out to island May 2013



# Ferrying Spartina Plants



# Transporting Plants



# Transporting Seed Machine



# Seeding of Blackwall island



# Volunteer Effort

- ▶ Over 500 volunteers participated in:
- ▶ Harvesting spartina
- ▶ Transporting seed heads
- ▶ Unloading, watering, and storing spartina plugs and seed
- ▶ Planting and seeding
- ▶ Fence installation and maintenance
- ▶ Boat and vehicular transport
- ▶ Monitoring

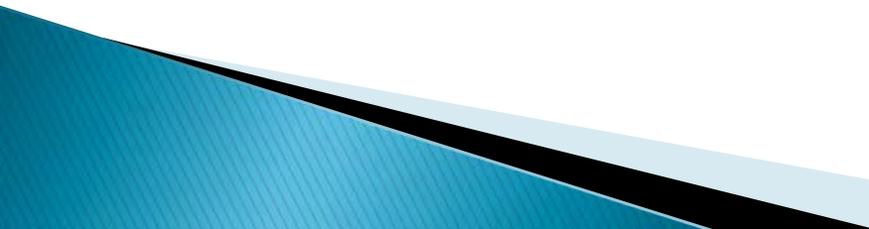
# Youth Engagement

## ▶ 300 young adults involved

### ▶ Including Groups from:

- ▶ Church of God
- ▶ Georgia 4-H Club
- ▶ Boy Scouts
- ▶ Cornell Extension
- ▶ Intrepid C.A.M.P
- ▶ P.S. 230
- ▶ Rockaway Waterfront Alliance
- ▶ NYC Parks Restoration Corps
- ▶ Estee Lauder
- NYC 4-H Clubs
- Girl Scouts
- Brooklyn School of Inquiry
- Bushwick High School
- Teens as Planners
- FDNY Explorers
- NYC Green Teens
- NYC Audubon Society

# Green Jobs Youth Employment

- ▶ Employed a workforce of 50 local students who live in and around Jamaica Bay For:
  - ▶ SEED HARVESTING
  - ▶ Additional Seeding
  - ▶ Additional Planting
  - ▶ Fence Maintenance
  - ▶ Monitoring
  - ▶ Replanting / Reseeding
- 

# NYC DEP Volunteer harvesting seed



# Seed Harvest



# Seed Harvesting



# Clearing Debris



# Loading Plugs onto Boat



# EGOR



# Hand Seeding Perimeter



# Rulers Bar immediately after planting



# Youth Work Crew



# Transporting Volunteers



# Separating Plugs from Trays



# Ground Preparation



# Planting



# PLANTING



# Planting



# PLANTING



# Planting



# Group Photo



# Blackwall seed October 2013



# Rulers Bar October 2013



# OysterCatchers on Island



# Meter high growth



# Summary

- ▶ Great Collaborative Agreement
  - ▶ \$140,000 per acre—Lowest by far to date
  - ▶ Post Sandy—Storm Dissipation Value
  - ▶ Future Environmentalists created
  - ▶ 28 Acres restored to the bay
  - ▶ Jamaica Bay leading the way in new focus of restoration in an Urban Park !
- 

# Sunset on the islands !!

