



S.W.I.M. Coalition

Stormwater Infrastructure Matters: utilizing stormwater as a resource, not a waste!

Westchester Creek Raw Sewage Overflows

NEWS ALERT! City's plans leave Westchester Creek as a dumping ground.

Westchester Creek is a two-mile tidal inlet, flowing from Westchester Square and opens into the East River at Ferry Point Park, under the Whitestone Bridge.

Westchester Creek is plagued by ongoing pollution. Nearly every time it rains, raw sewage and polluted stormwater overflow from New York City's antiquated sewers, called Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO). In a typical year, 289 million gallons of CSO is discharged into Westchester Creek.

After years of planning, the City has been revealing long term plans for waterbodies throughout the City to reduce CSOs (called Long Term Control Plans, or LTCPs). The LTCP for Westchester Creek was **approved** this summer by the State of New York. The State and City have decided that they will not reduce the volume of CSO discharges into Westchester Creek by even one gallon for the foreseeable future.



Here are some of the reasons you should be concerned about the approval of these plans:

- **Public health not protected:** The plan fail to meet federal health standards for safe contact with the water.
- **No reduction in CSO:** The plan allows 289 million gallons of sewage and polluted stormwater to be dumped into Westchester Creek for decades to come.
- **Short-changing green infrastructure:** The plan ignores cost-effective opportunities to reduce sewer overflows with green infrastructure on public and private property.
- **Flawed public process:** The public process is not reaching much of the community or allowing for meaningful input.



o Both the City and the State have failed to communicate ongoing pollution to the community. (How did you hear about CSOs and the development of LTCPs?)

o The approval of these plans was not publicly announced, but rather quietly posted on the City and State's websites.

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Stormwater Infrastructure Matters (SWIM) is a coalition of 70 member organizations dedicated to ensuring swimmable and fishable waters around New York City through natural, sustainable stormwater management practices.

