Salt Marsh Restoration at Concrete Plant Park, Bronx River

The Bronx River Alliance employs community organizations, concerned citizens and schools to monitor water quality and track weather conditions for input into a comprehensive database the Alliance is continually building. The Alliance hosts training seminars for all interested parties, and provides all the necessary testing equipment to participants. In this way The Alliance is bringing together the community around the central goal of rehabilitating their river, all while educating local children in a hands-on, outdoor environment. Establishment of the Bronx River Water Trail facilitated the rehabilitation of abandoned parks and brownfields along the banks.

Oysters were once plentiful in New York City waters. But over the years, the oyster industry has seen a huge decline due to pollution. Improvement has been seen in the last 10 years in terms of the number of oysters in the Bronx River, but these oysters are not safe for people to eat. They are, however, important to the health of the river because they filter large amounts of water creating a better habitat for fish, crabs, worms and barnacles. In 2010, USACE, NOAA, EPA, NYC Parks Natural Resource Group, NY/NY Baykeeper, Hudson River Foundation, the Urban Assembly New York Harbor School, Rocking the Boat, and other local agencies constructed an oyster reef to provide a better place for oysters to live in the Bronx River.

NOAA, EPA and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service along with the Wildlife Conservation Society-Bronx Zoo, the NY Botanical Garden, NYC Parks and the Bronx River Alliance have partnered to restore migratory fish passage at the three dams on the Bronx River in NYC. The project is expected to provide river herring and other diadromous fishes access to upstream spawning and rearing habitats. The passages will allow restored recruitment of fish populations so that sustainable fish runs can be restored in the Bronx River. The New York-New Jersey Harbor National Estuary Program is funding an effort by NYC Parks and Recreation to develop final design plans for passage of migratory fish at two Bronx River dams. The Bronx River Watershed Initiative has contributed over $6 million to stormwater management projects designed to improve water quality in the river.