

Appendix K: Monitoring Objectives and Performance Standards

Performance standards for the Bronx River watershed that are based on physical, chemical or biological conditions are not likely to reflect measurable changes on a short timescale. This plan provides recommendations to Alliance partners that will guide their river management techniques and restoration projects for the next 5 – 10 years. Though it discusses the large-scale changes to infrastructure and policy necessary for the improvement of the Bronx River's health, measurable levels of improvement at the watershed level will take decades to materialize.

Project specific and even sub-watershed (often sewershed) measurements will prove more relevant and useful for judging the success of actions recommended in this plan. The completion of work toward ecological goals will provide the measures of success in River Management, Habitat Improvement Projects, Stormwater Management Projects and Policy Review/Compliance.

River Management

The Bronx River Alliance Crew work in close collaboration with the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (especially NRG, Bronx Borough Office and Green Apple Corps) and community groups to maintain the river corridor. Their continued work will be measured using the following:

- Adherence to guidelines for large woody debris management
- Tons of floatable debris and other garbage removed from the river corridor each year
- Number of full river blockages removed
- Invasive vegetation maintenance on previously planted plots
- Linear feet of bank stabilized
- Miles of greenway trail maintained

Based on the workplan of an individual year, goals will be set for each of these measures. Successful management of the river will be judged by reaching the goals set for each year.

Habitat Improvement Projects

Habitat improvement factors into many different types of projects that occur on the Bronx River—it may be the driving force behind a small native planting or it may be a small element of a much larger greenway path construction project. Either way, metrics like plant survival, invasive species resurgence and soil stability should be monitored by the implementing agency to determine real success of the project. If needed, maintenance such as re-planting or invasive species removal should occur when needed.