

DAVID STERN, LONG ISLAND, NY

Co-chair, Living With The Bay Community Advisory Committee (CAC)



David Stern in front of Hempstead Lake Reservoir (above)

Fun Fact: Last year I was able to get the Army to award my 90-year-old dad the Purple Heart he earned during his combat in the Battle of the Bulge 70 years ago.

What prompted your involvement?

I have worked as an environmental professional for 17 years and as a college professor for the past 14 years. I have always been fascinated with the Mill Creek and the Hempstead Lake Reservoir. Especially how these bodies of water relate to the City of Brooklyn's last effort to remain an independent city and its failure to protect its groundwater water supply. The idea of reimagining this suburbanized stream corridor not just for improved flood protection but also to improve the environment and therefore everyday life was very attractive to me.

What part of the project excites you the most?

The integration of flood risk reduction measures with ecological and recreational improvements to the Mill Creek stream corridor is exciting. I look forward to the Community Advisory Committee reviewing the proposed changes. I have a particular interest with the possible inclusion augmenting stream flow through the recharging of the headwaters of the stream with treated wastewater from the Bay Park Waste Water Treatment plant.

What lessons have you learned from being on a Rebuild by Design project advisory group?

The planning team's commitment to an environmentally sensitive project has been a welcome change from the skepticism associated with other government funded flood risk reduction projects.

“ I am surprised by the willingness of the planning team to incorporate the ideas presented by the public into project design. ”

What has been your biggest surprise?

I've been pleasantly surprised by the extent of public outreach that the planning team has conducted to foster maximum public input. Also, the willingness of the planning team to incorporate the ideas presented by the public into project design has been great.

What community engagement tactic worked best?

With the help of my co-chair, Joe Forgione, we have significantly contributed to shaping the agenda from the project team. The Governor's Office of Storm Recovery has been instrumental in assisting the Community Advisory Committee to function and has made every effort to insure maximum participation.

Stay connected with Living with the Bay at:
stormrecovery.ny.gov/living-bay-slow-streams

&
<http://www.rebuildbydesign.org/our-work/sandy-projects>

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