

LI Sound and Udalls Cove Environmental Update

By Cecilia Venosta

The DCA, in partnership with the office of Congressman Tom Suozzi, hosted a meeting with local environmental groups to discuss initiatives to protect Little Neck Bay. We invited Save the Sound, Udalls Cove, The Douglaston Manor Environmental Association, Alley Pond Environmental Center, Inc., Friends of Alley Pond Park, Northeast Queens Parks and Parks Natural Resources Division, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Queens College, CUNY, SWIM Coalition, Bayside Anglers, DEP, New York State Environmental Conservation.

After hearing about and reviewing projects from several of the groups, Congressman Tom Suozzi's office decided to support an earmarks application for the water quality improvement project for which Save the Sound will be seeking federal grant appropriations. This project includes three components: salt marsh and oyster restoration at Big Rock in Udalls Cove, and two rain garden installations in the Alley Creek watershed, one in Alley Pond Park, and the other in Linnaeus Park and are shovel ready. These three sites are all located in Queens, NY, and will collectively result in demonstrable water quality benefits for Little Neck Bay.

Going forward, Suozzi's office would like to continue to support our local groups and their projects to protect and better our local environment.

The Douglaston Civic Association will continue to support and facilitate meetings with all local groups to work together on environmental issues. We are planning a public meeting in September and the main topic will be the local environment. We hope to have Congressman Tom Suozzi and representatives of each organization join us.