Lincoln Park Restoration Project
Lessons learned transforming a landfill to an eco-recreation destination

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Outline

- Project Overview
- Challenges and Solutions
  - Franken-funding
  - Synchronization of moving parts
  - Excavating uncharacterized fill
  - Working with marsh muck
  - Contracting to the lowest-bid
- A Happy Ending
Project Location

- Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey
- County-owned site waterfront portion of great parks system
Project History
Best designed illegal dump
Lincoln Park Restoration Project

NJDEP, in partnership with NOAA and Hudson County set out to:
- Restore 42 ac coastal marsh
- Expand recreational features

Timeline
- Construction 2010–2011
- Monitoring 2011-2014
The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

Martin Luther King, Jr.
Challenge #1: Franken-funding

- **Design:** NJDEP/NOAA
- **Construction:**
  - $2.3 million in oil spill settlement funds
  - $10.3 ARRA
  - $1M NJDEP
  - County-funded elements
  - USACE-funded elements
  - Tethered to adjacent project
2 men, one an ex-HCIA employee, indicted for extortion of Lincoln Park golf course funds

February 12, 2015 - Crime, Jersey City - Written by John Heinis - 1 comment

Two men, one of whom is an ex-employee of the Hudson County Improvement Authority, were indicted on charges of extorting thousands of dollars in illegal payments in order to arrange approvals of landfill material for the Lincoln Park Skyway Golf Course project in Jersey City, U.S. Attorney Paul Fishman announced Wednesday.

Gerard Pica, 65, of Middletown and James Castaldo, 59, of Beachwood were indicted by a federal grand jury on February 10 and each charged with two counts of conspiracy to commit extortion under color of official right.
Solution #1: Franken-funding

- Passionate leader: Dave Bean - NJDEP
- Over communication
- Cohesive team with folks playing to their strengths
- More communication
Challenge #2: Synchronization of Material

- Step 1: Over-excavate
- Step 2: Separate contaminated material
- Step 3: Place dried excavated material on landfill (cap)
- Step 4: Place 2+ feet of sand (from Newark Bay) until achieve marsh grade
- Plant within narrow window
Solution #2: Synchronization of Material

- Marsh restoration – supply material for landfill cap
- Navigation channel widening – supply material for marsh planting
Challenge #3: Excavating Uncharacterized fill

- Could not fully characterize site: historic fill and illegally dumped material
- Urban area, adjacent to hazardous waste sites
Jersey City's Lincoln Park is scene of bone discovery as workers dig in construction of new golf course

Friday, July 23, 2010
By MICHAELANGELO CONTE
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

What appears to be a human bone was excavated in Jersey City yesterday by workers using earth moving equipment to build a new golf course.

"It has not yet been confirmed that this was a human femur bone," said Michael DeFazio, adding that it shows signs of decay and the ground in the area of landfill containing a large amount of broken bottles, officials said.

The bone was picked up by the state Regional Medical Examiner's Office in Newark and DeFazio said the medical examiner will attempt to make a definitive determination whether or not it is human.

The Hudson County Prosecutor's Office's Homicide Squad was called to the park at 9:15 a.m. by the Hudson County Sheriff's Office, which patrols county parks.
Challenge #4: Working with Unconsolidated Material

- Achieving specific marsh grades with unconsolidated material
- Payment of material – volume versus truck loads
Challenge #5: Contract Mechanism

- Lowest qualified bid doesn’t always mean qualified contractors
- Marshes are messy
Challenge #5: Contract Mechanism

- Communication is king – make sure everyone understands what they are building.
Happy Ending