

Groundwork Elizabeth

October 26, 2023

The Trotters Branch/Elizabeth River Restoration project

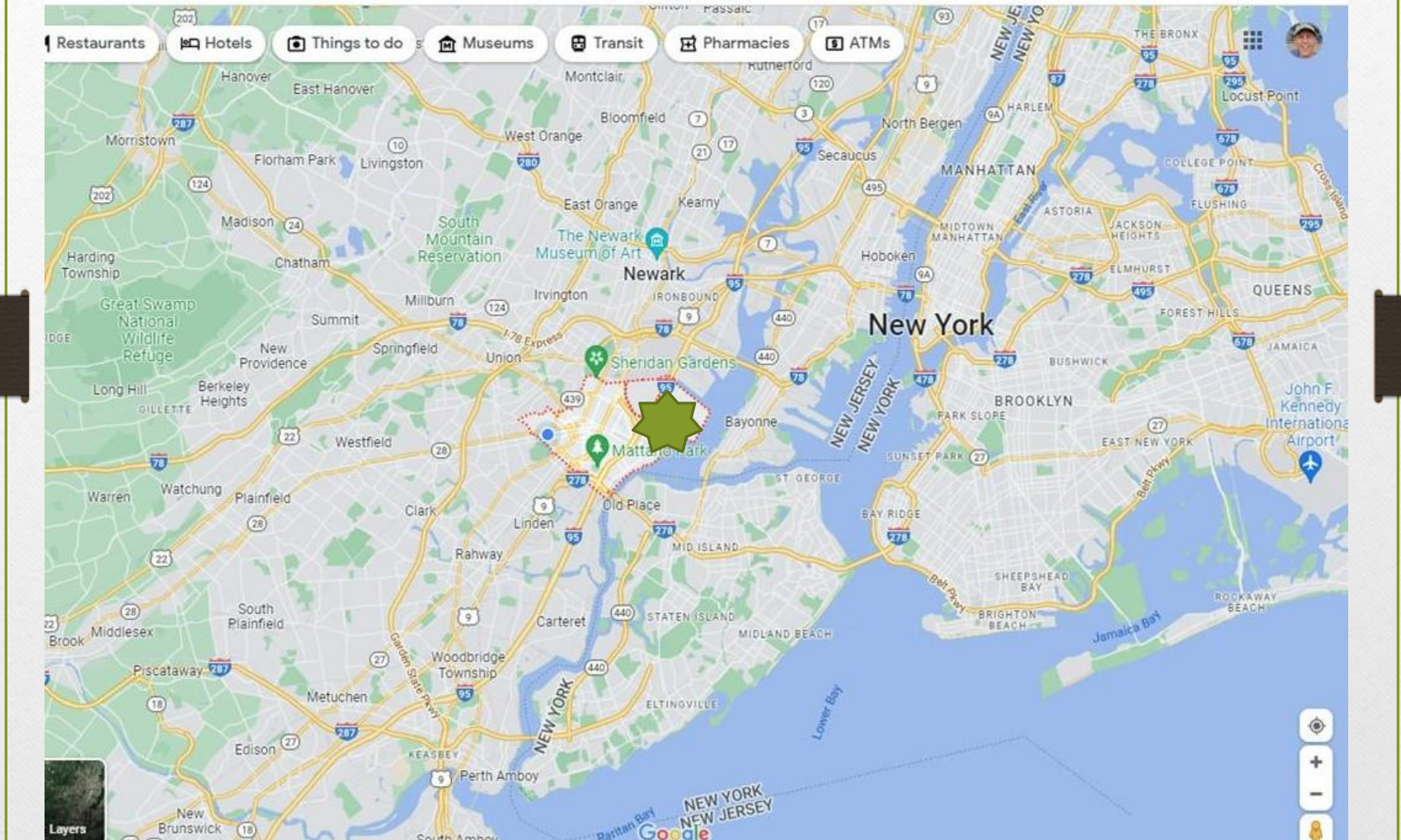


GROUNDWORK
Elizabeth

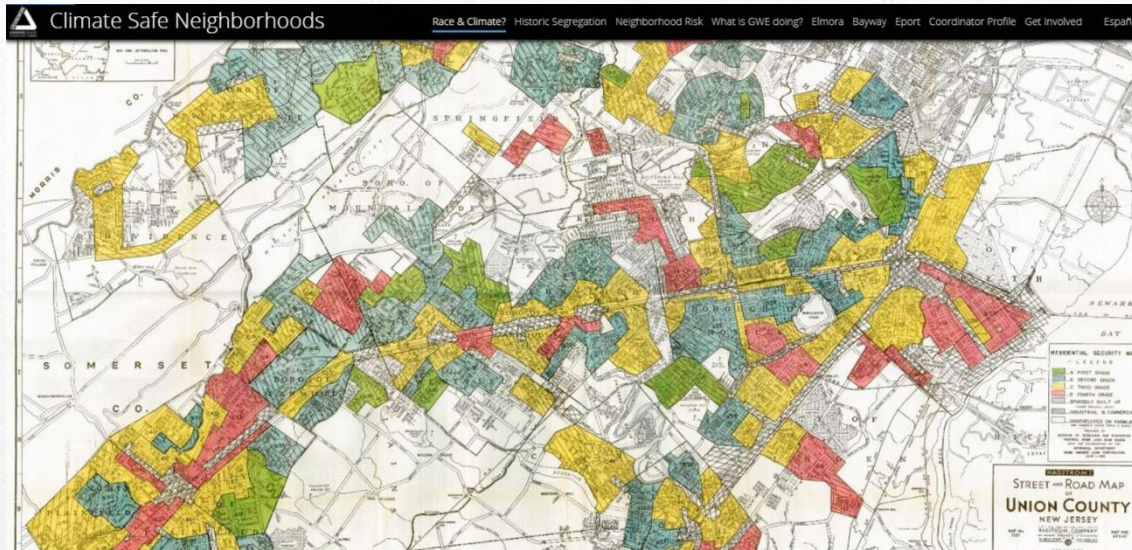


The City of Elizabeth, an EJ community

Population 135,000, Union County 572,000



Redlining and Environmental Justice (HOLC)



-Groundwork Elizabeth is dedicated to pursuing a future in which everyone's neighborhood environment is green, healthy and resilient and lives are uplifted as a result.

-We work on projects that affect those who often bear an unfair burden of Environmental INJUSTICE.



Demographics of our urban community



The long term issues of environmental injustice affect those most at risk and those that are in the weakest position to change their circumstances.

- 64% of residents are Hispanic/Latino of any race; 19% Black or African American
- Community is significantly lower in high school graduation rates, higher in poverty rates.
- Community has a severe lack of open greenspaces



Our project:

Trotters Branch is a branch of the Elizabeth River at Phil Rizzuto Park

- The watershed/environment is degraded due to erosion causing flooding.
- Both the natural elements and those who live near the site are negatively affected by the condition of the site
- Groundwork is actively working to mitigate the challenges which hurt the local ecology and those who live near the site.

The Trotters Branch/Elizabeth River Restoration project

Welcome to the Trotters Creek Trail



Sponsored by the Union County
Board of Chosen Freeholders

UNION COUNTY
We're Connected to You!

Take time to visit Trotter's Creek Trail, Elizabeth's Last Woods, and learn about what's in your ecosystem!



Special Thanks to Kean University (SESS) students for providing content throughout the trail.

For more information: www.groundworkelizabeth.org



Step 1: Identify why we are there.

- **Flooding of Neighborhoods and Erosion of the Riverbank:**



Step 2

- **Clearly identify Project Goals:**

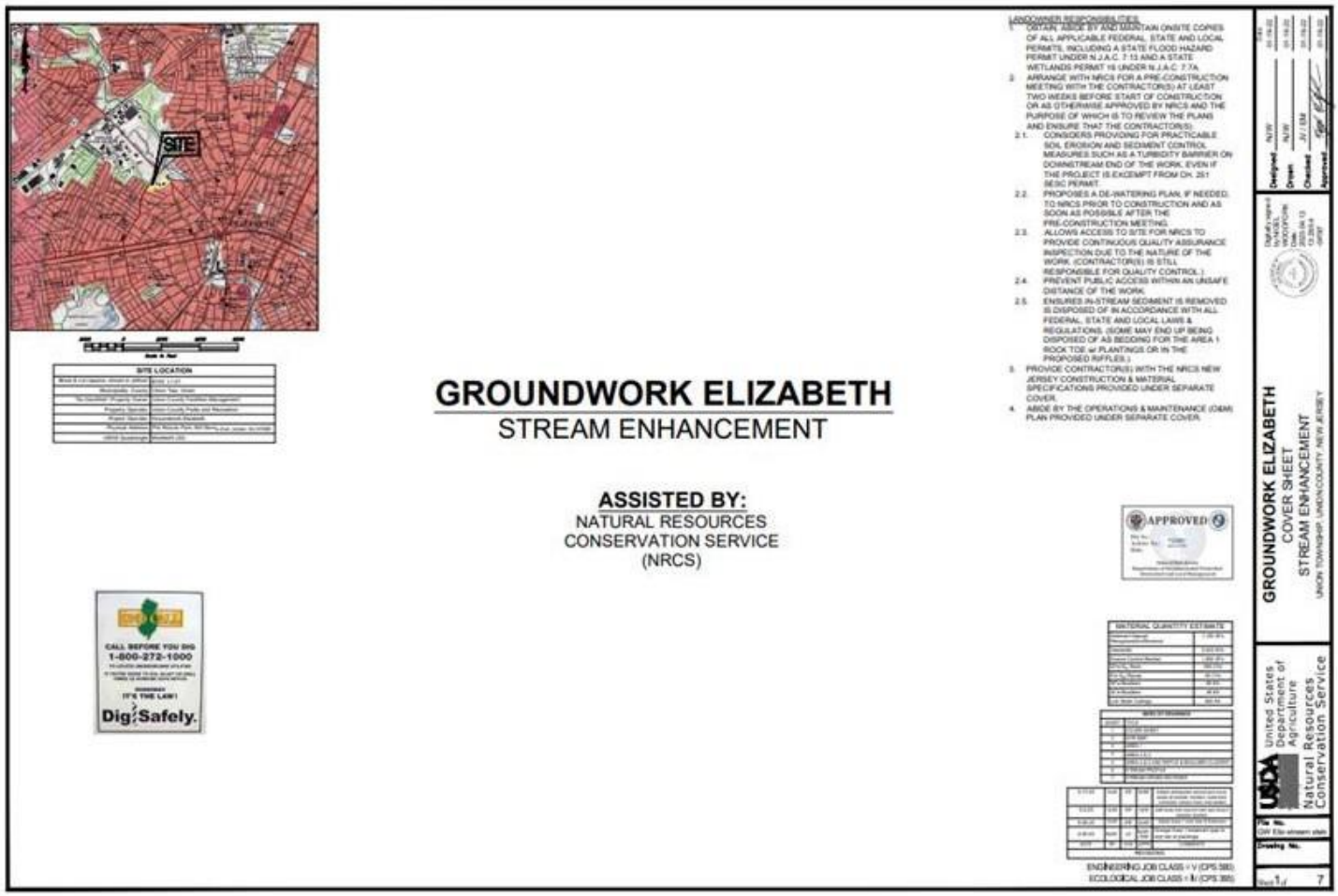
- *Slowing of riverbank erosion, via engineering plans with NRCS, Union County, slowing of pollution and litter entry, including reduction of sheet flow and water flow immediately affecting health of wildlife and water quality.*
 1. *Reduce Invasive species threat* to health of environment, work to help save trees from falling into river, remove dead trees, creating a better habitat for water based wildlife and flow from tributary to Elizabeth River to Newark Bay watershed.
 2. *Improve water quality, and natural water flow:*
 3. Replant riparian site with grasses, trees, native bushes for immediate change to water quality and health and welfare of wildlife native to Newark Bay watershed area.
- *Improve land based habitats:*
 1. The building of green infrastructure projects like a rain and pollinator garden create more friendly habitats for birds, mammals, amphibians, and native plants and improve access to sites near to the riverbank.
 2. A low impact trail and the construction of a short boardwalk will also help to protect native wildlife at the site.

- **Secure Engineering**

- **Secure Engineering**



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



- **Step 4:**
Work on tasks outlined in plans

















OXYGENATION and clear water



Using our local workforce



Using our local workforce



Improvements provide a safe place for our urban community to enjoy needed open space



Step 5 Metrics and Reporting:

- **Who does the project serve?**

- 1)Elizabeth and Union Public School Children, public and private, i.e. Kean University Science Students, Union County College Science Students
- 2)Local indigenous species, plant and animal.
- 3)Phil Rizzuto Park users, 10,000+ per month.
- 4)Intergenerational population that lives within walking distance to the Park.
- 5)As an example of working in partnership to enhance and protect the local environment for other Union County communities across the nation.
- 6)Bring attention to interested partners to the project to leverage funding from Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery and others for more work in the future.
- 7)As a location to understand Climate related issues in a greater sense and to develop plans to counter them.

\$\$\$Budget shortfall

- **Due to the devastation of Hurricane Ida the scope of our work increased. We modified our plans and had to acquire more materials, especially large boulders and rip rap to stabilize the stream bank.**

\$\$\$Budget shortfall

Cost of project: \$500,000 to date



SHORTFALL \$68,000

We have lined up over \$432,000 from the following partners for the project to date.

Phillips 66 Bayway Refinery: \$74,000

USDA.NRCS: \$83,000

National Fish and Wildlife : \$225,000

NJ Conservation Foundation:\$50,000



Sponsored by the Union County Board of County Commissioners

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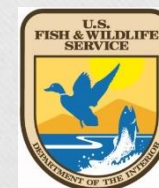


Friends of Great Swamp
National Wildlife Refuge

Dedicated to the conservation of the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Morris County, NJ



BAYWAY REFINERY
Linden, NJ



Request to NJCWRP



Groundwork Elizabeth is requesting \$25,000 to help fill the gap in our material costs for the Phil Rizzuto Project.