



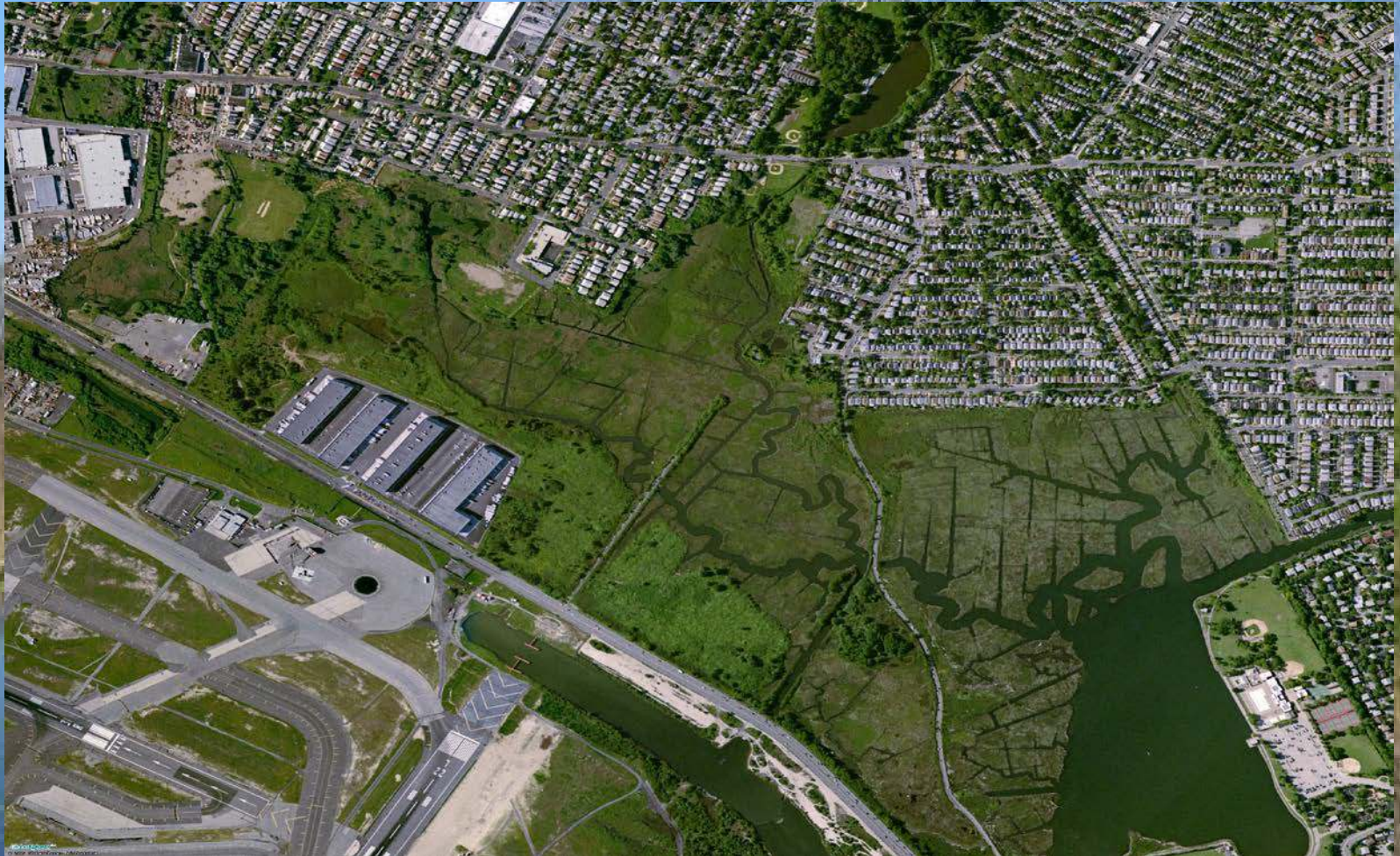
IDLEWILD PARK Preserve

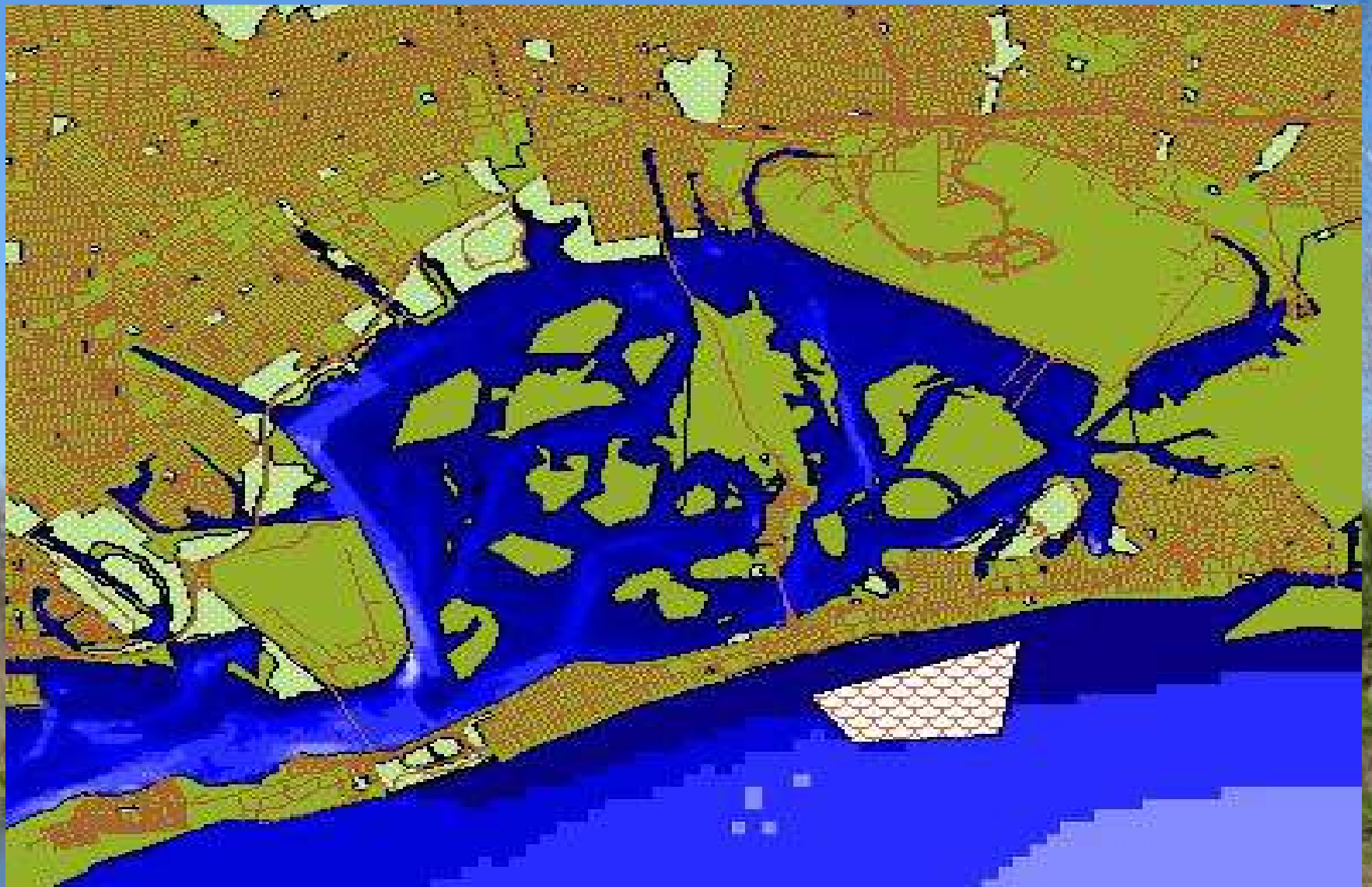
Head of the Bay

Man With Nature...

Man Against Nature...

Idlewild Park lies just south of the Brookville, Rosedale, and Springfield Gardens communities and immediately north of JFK Airport, Thurston Basin or Rockaway Boulevard.





Idlewild Park Preserve: A critical
part of the Jamaica Bay Watershed!

The Idlewild Park wetlands are valuable community resources to be preserved and restored.

- The intertidal wetlands in the Idlewild Park Preserve system are some of the most valuable types of wetlands that exist.
- The wetlands in Idlewild contain the largest expanse of high quality marsh along the shores of Jamaica Bay.
- The tidal creeks in the park are the most extensive in, and provide the largest volume of freshwater to the Bay.
- Wetlands are natural sponges playing a key role in flood control. This was evident during Sandy.

RAPE OF IDLEWILD

- To too many, Idlewild Park has been a barren tract of land with invasive exotic plants that has seemed ripe for development. This allowed the *rape* of the park in 2001 when 25.4 acres of parkland were alienated to the NYC EDC to be sold off to the International Airport Corporation to construct an Air Cargo Industrial Park.
- This has allowed the PANYNJ to demand the removal of 315 trees from Idlewild in 2014.
- All of the adjacent communities in Southeast Queens strongly objected to these intrusions, but they were approved anyway. In fact, when asked, one official that there were no wetlands there.

Why Is Restoration Necessary?

From 1970 - 1976, two sections of Idlewild Park totaling roughly 100 acres were used by the Department of Sanitation (DOS) as a construction waste land fill. This use by DOS ruined acres of valuable wetlands. The remaining parkland to the north and east of the landfill was designated intertidal and high marsh wetlands in the 1970's by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. These wetlands, which are the headwaters to Jamaica Bay, drain into Thurston Basin and out to the larger Bay area.

The benefits of this potentially beautiful natural expanse of wetlands and uplands abound.

- A restored Idlewild provides habitat to many of the endangered species that live or have lived there.
- Idlewild Park is a great resource for environmental education.
- Idlewild is a wonderful area for recreation.



Benefits (Cont'd)

- It serves as a natural buffer between the airport, airport-related business and the residential communities, although the PANYNJ threatens that function.
- It helps control flooding in the area. This area is within the 100 year flood plain



The Struggle Today

- **Prevention of dumping and other encroachment.**
- **Educating communities that it's not just a swamp, but a valuable salt marsh area .**
- **Protecting Idlewild against intrusion by JFK Airport expansion.**
- **Raising funds for its improvement and development.**

Restoration Benefits

Environmental Education



A restored Idlewild can turn our youth on to science, motivating them to learn through the natural environment, bringing environmental education into the state-mandated instructional programs, and enhancing academic achievement.

Environmental Education

Learning to Restore



A Natural Laboratory for Educators and Researchers



A restored Idlewild will serve as a natural classroom for teachers of our local schools, students in colleges and universities as well as a laboratory for scientists such as ecologists, biologists and other researchers

Restoration Benefits

Recreation and Waterfront Access

A restored Idlewild can provide a sense of place and offer essential qualities that aid community and individual well-being through its nature walks, access to the water front and salt marsh, sports fields, fresh air and serenity.



Restoration Benefits

Biological Diversity and Preservation of Essential Ecological Functions

A restored Idlewild provides habitat to many of the endangered species that have lived or live here.



A Ribbed Mussel.

Eastern Queens Alliance's Vision

- An Idlewild to which the vital benefits of the intertidal wetlands have been restored to provide all of the structural and functional aspects of naturally formed wetlands. The Bluebelt system is one example.
- Establishment of a full scale *Idlewild Park Environmental Science Learning Center*
- An accessible Idlewild where all can stroll along trails and boardwalks, canoe and kayak among the marshes, or just soak up nature.

What Is Needed?

- That there be no further intrusions, construction upon or de-mapping of the wetlands or parkland in Idlewild.
- That the PANYNJ refrain from further impacts to Idlewild, i.e., removal of trees in Idlewild.
- That all city-owned wetlands and water front properties, particularly those along the south side of Rockaway Boulevard and on the northern perimeter of Thurston Basin become a waterfront park. That others immediately adjacent to Idlewild Preserve be designated parkland. These are ecologically sensitive parcels.
- That privately owned wetlands immediately adjacent to Idlewild be acquired by NYC and placed under the aegis of Parks.

What We Envision

The Concept/Schematic Design



IDLEWILD PARK SALT WATER MARSH ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

EDAW

February 23, 2006 Masterplan
Phase 1: Conceptual & Early Schematic