

Reclaiming the River for the People: Lower Passaic River Superfund Community Advisory Group

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Presentation today...

- Why the river is so important to our lives and livelihoods
- How it came to be polluted
- What's the status of the cleanup
- History & Role of the Superfund Community Advisory Group (CAG)
- Future for the river, and next steps

Lower Passaic River Geography



Headwater of the Passaic in Mendham Township



The tidal stretch in Newark, NJ

Passaic powered the region's industrialization...



Great Falls in Paterson, initially powered “Silk City” in the mid 19th century.



Dundee Dam and Canal, built in 1861. Powered textile factories, later rubber, pharmaceuticals and other chemicals

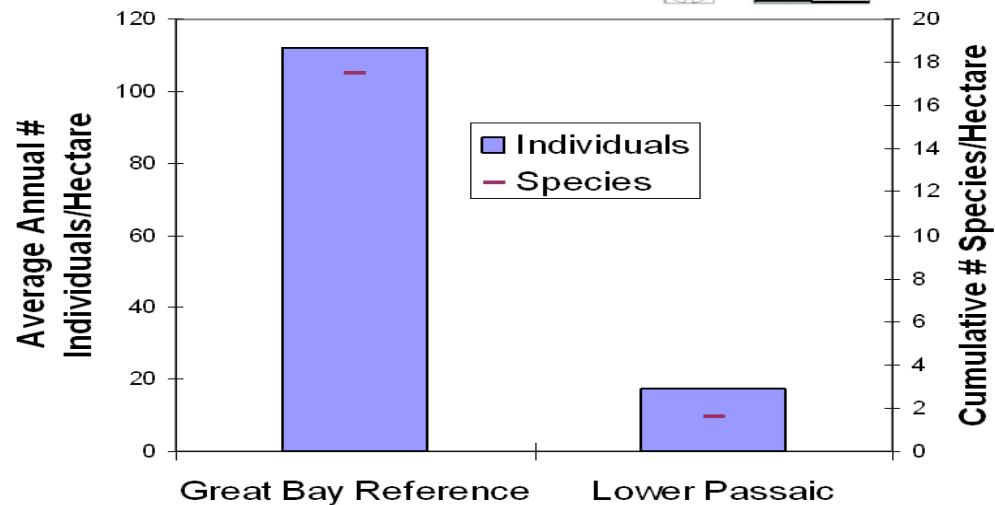
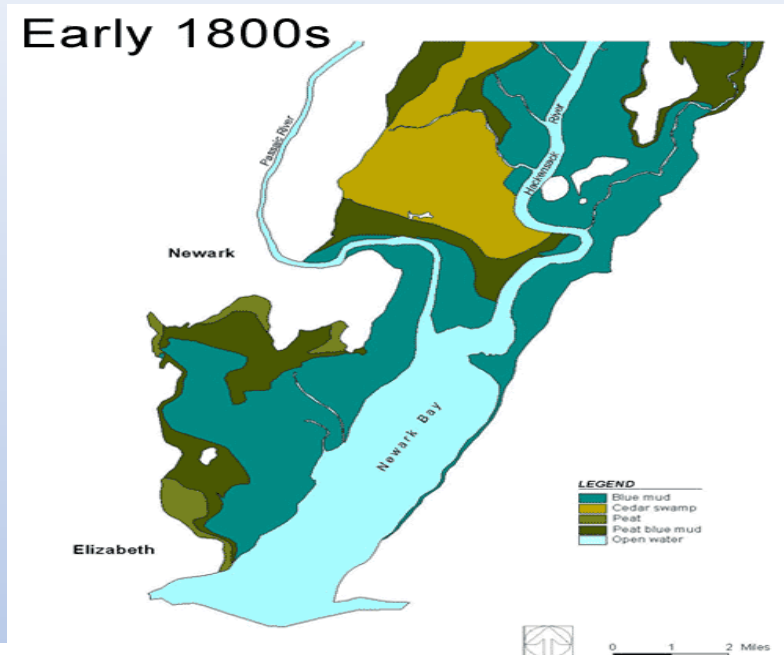


Port Newark, at the mouth of the Passaic

...and became a casualty



Pollution impacts ecosystem and human health



(Iannuzzi et al., 2004)

Becoming the Passaic River Superfund

Added to the National Priorities List (Superfund Program) in 1987

Contaminants of Concern

- **DIOXIN**
- PCBs
- DDT
- Dieldrin
- PAHs
- Mercury
- Copper
- Lead

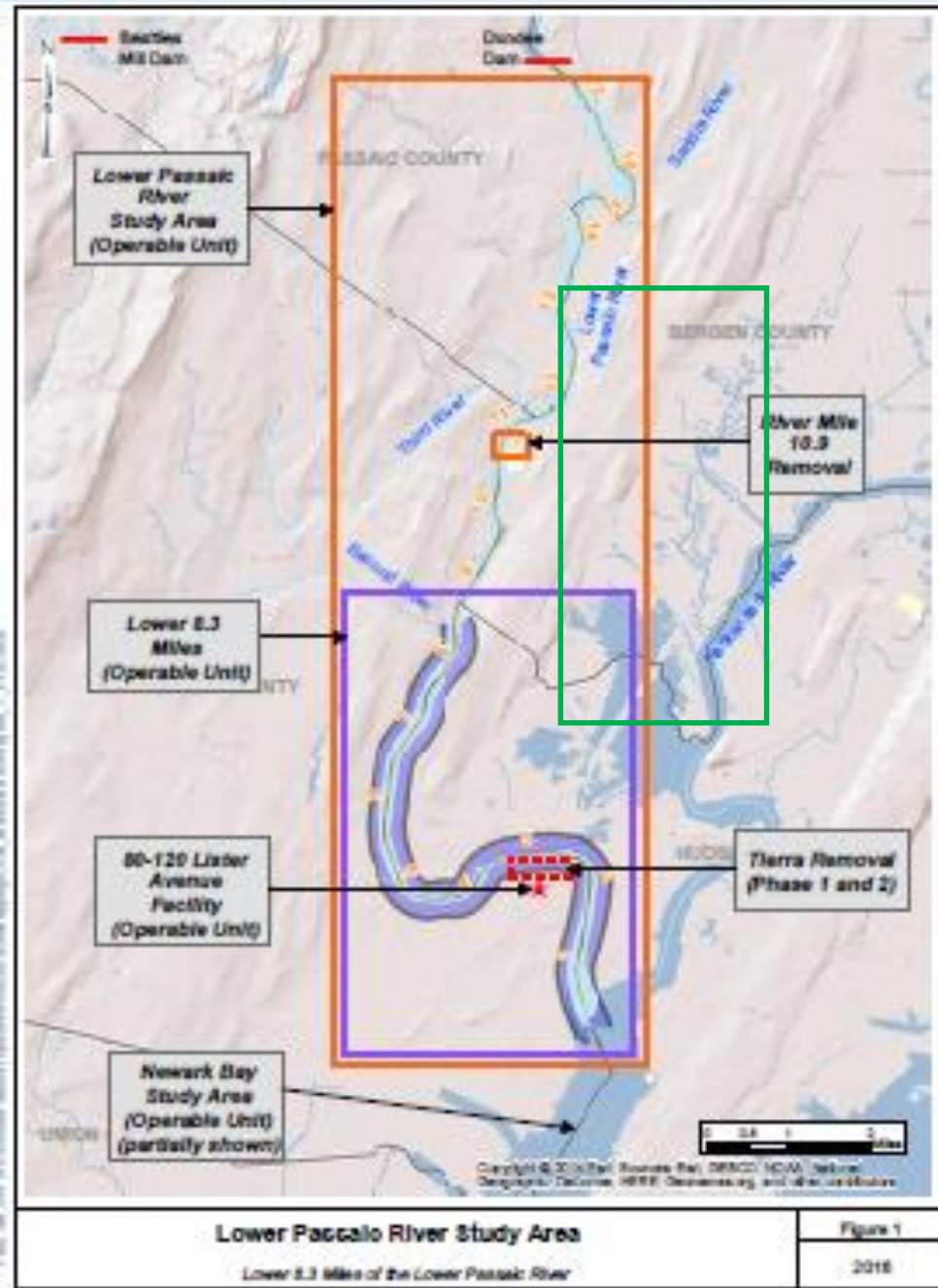
Potentially Responsible Parties

- Diamond Shamrock/Tierra Solutions/Maxus/Occidental
- Responsible Parties -- Group of over 40 corporations

Natural Resource Trustees and Partner agencies



Diamond Alkali Superfund Site



- OU1 – 80-120 Lister Avenue Facility
 - Addressed by the 1987 ROD; completed in 2004
 - Interim containment remedy, which consists of capping, subsurface slurry wall and flood wall, and a groundwater collection and treatment system
- OU2 - Lower 8.3 Miles of the Lower Passaic River Study Area
 - March 2016 ROD selected a remedy to address the sediments of the lower 8.3 miles
 - Most contaminated segment of the river and a primary ongoing contaminant source to the rest of the LPR and Newark Bay.
- OU3 – 17-Mile Lower Passaic Study Area
 - Upper 9-mile Plan proposes a remedy to rapidly address sediment through a interim remedy that relies on adaptive management
 - Includes completing the 17-mile RI Report and an FS that evaluates Upper 9-mile remedial alternatives and acknowledges the Lower 8-mile ROD
- OU4 – Newark Bay Study Area RI/FS

CAG Participation Elements Cont'd - Reviewing Alternatives for the Lower-8 Remedy (2014)

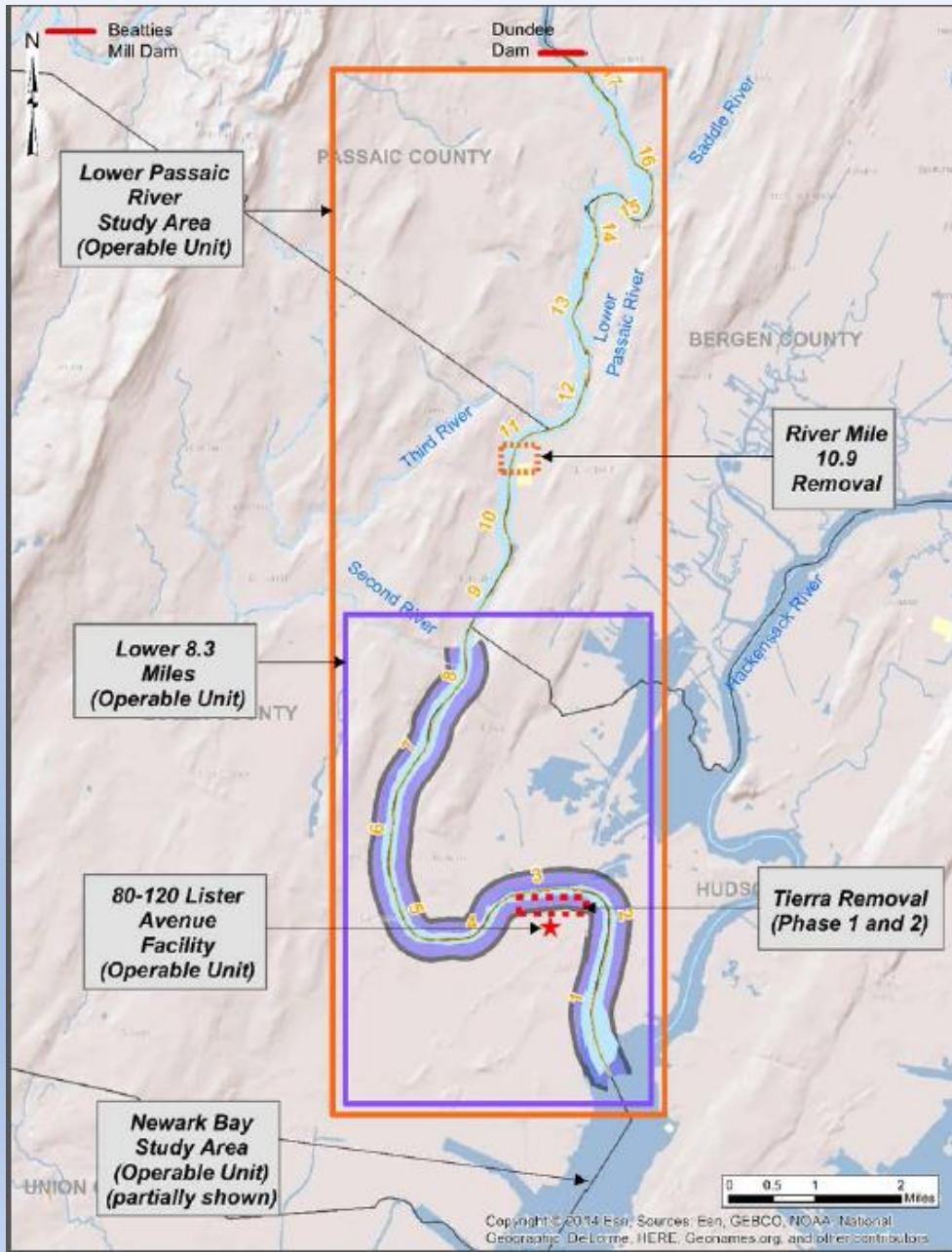
Four alternatives EPA considered for the cleanup:

- 1) No Action
- 2) Deep Dredging with Backfill
- 3) Capping with Dredging for Flooding and Navigation
- 4) Focused Dredging and Capping

Three disposal options for each:

- 1) Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) in Newark Bay
- 2) Off-site disposal
- 3) Local decontamination & beneficial Use

Status of the Cleanup Today



As of May 2017

Diamond Alkali Superfund Site

Clean Up Steps	Lower 8.3 miles of Passaic (Operable Unit 2)	Newark Bay (Operable Unit 3)	17-mile Lower Passaic River (Operable Unit 4)
Remedial Investigation & Feasibility Study	April 2014	Ongoing until 2020	Ongoing until 2021
Proposed Plan	April 2014	To be determined (TBD)	2022
Record of Decision	March 2016	TBD	2023
Remedial Design	2017-2020	TBD	TBD
Remedial Action	2021-2027	TBD	TBD
Operation & Maintenance	2027-...	TBD	TBD

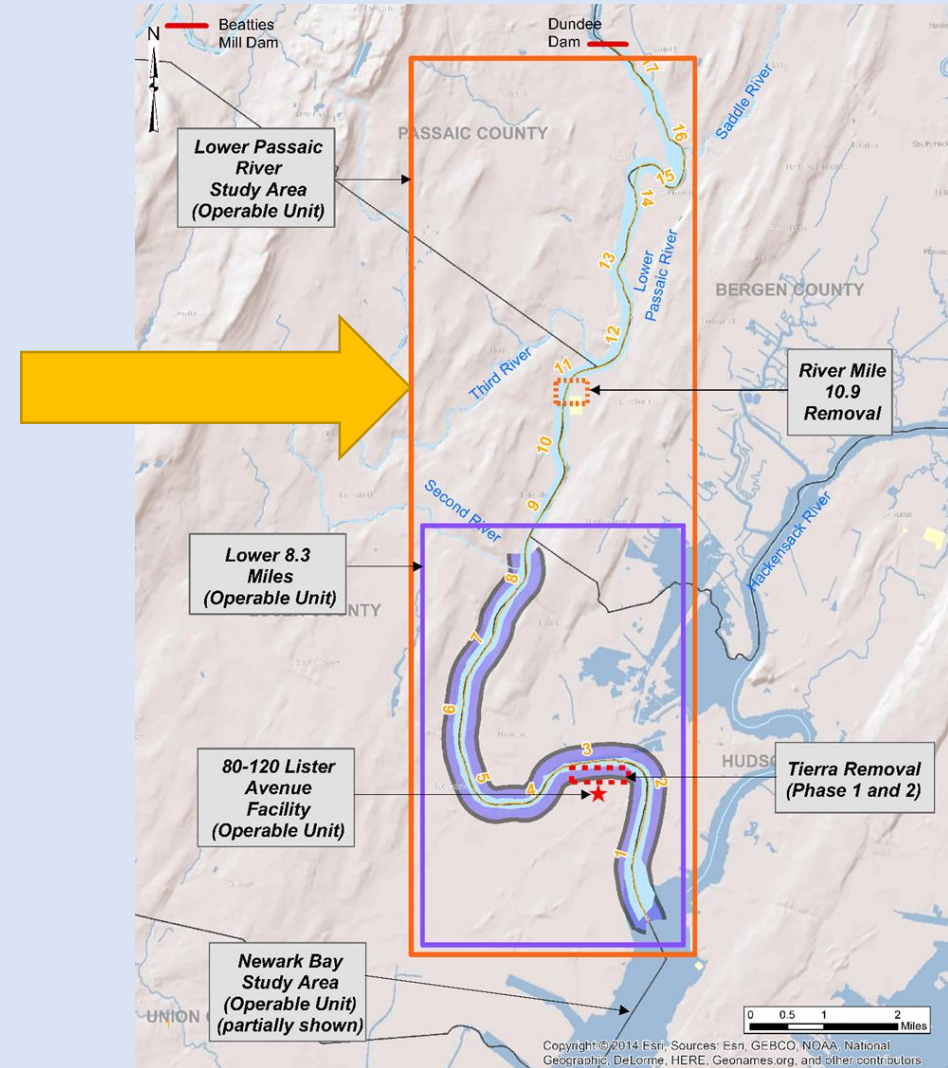
Lower 8 Mile Clean Up

2016 [Record of Decision](#) for the Lower 8.3 Miles

- An engineered cap will be constructed over the river bottom of the lower 8.3 miles,
- The engineered cap will consist of 2 ft of sand and may be armored to prevent erosion of the sand.
- River will be dredged bank to bank (approximately 3.5 million cubic yards) so that the cap can be placed without increasing the potential for flooding.
- Depth of dredging is estimated to be 2.5 feet, except in the 1.7 miles of the federally authorized navigation channel closest to Newark Bay.
- The remedy will include sufficient dredging and capping to allow for the continued commercial use of a federally authorized navigation channel in the 1.7 miles of the river closest to Newark Bay
- Dredged materials will be barged or pumped to a sediment processing facility in the vicinity of the Lower Passaic River/Newark Bay shoreline for dewatering.
- Dewatered materials will be transported to permitted treatment landfills in the US or Canada for disposal.
- Long-term monitoring and maintenance of the engineered cap will be required.
- Long-term monitoring of fish, crab and sediment will also be performed to determine remediation goals
- \$1.4 billion plan - 6-7 years to complete
- Occidental Chemical Corporation, entered into [\\$165 million dollars](#) first phase to design the cleanup

Current Status of Upper 9 Miles of the River

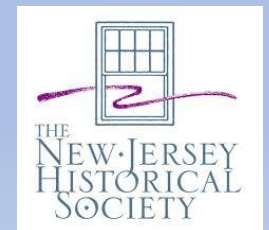
- Remedial Investigation underway
- CPG proposed Interim Remedy
- Review by technical experts in EPA, as well as the CAG
- Comments submitted to USEPA's CSTAG – response received



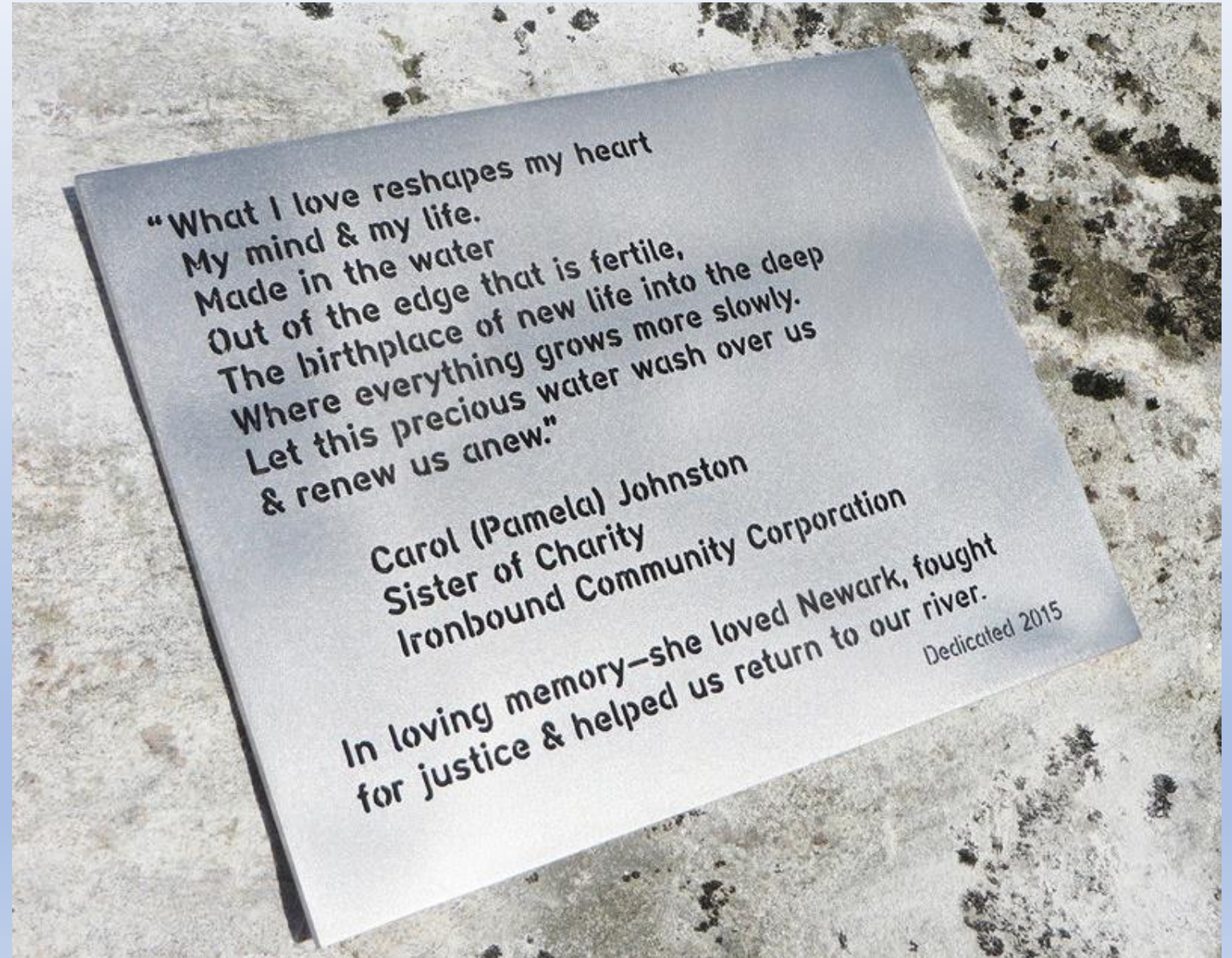
Passaic River Community Advisory Group



The Passaic River CAG was formed in 2007
Won the 2015 USEPA's Citizen's Excellence in Community Service Award



Sister Carol Johnston, Ironbound Community Corp



Passaic River CAG Values

Community Values in the Cleanup and Restoration of the Passaic River Revised Draft 2/18/2010

The following values were developed by the Passaic River Community Advisory Group to represent the consensus ideals of the Passaic River community. These values are intended to guide federal agencies and other stakeholders in making sustainable decisions and taking responsible action regarding all aspects of the cleanup, restoration, and stewardship of the Passaic River.

- ❖ **Protection of Public Health**
- ❖ **Env. Protection & Restoration**
- ❖ **Economic Benefits**
- ❖ **Community Benefits**
- ❖ **Recreational Opportunities**
- ❖ **Cleanup Process Effectiveness**

Environmental Protection and Restoration

- Make all decisions in light of a long-term goal to eventually return the river to a fishable, swimmable condition
- Restore the Passaic to a living river and a viable natural resource, with coordinated short and long-term efforts to conduct wetlands, habitat, and wildlife restoration
- Place a high priority on locating natural resource restoration activities in the local communities that have been directly affected by the long-term pollution of the river
- Protect against cross contamination to air, groundwater, and other environmental media
- Clean sediments to a level that supports the above conditions and limits the potential for recontamination

Crystal Burguan
Environmental Justice Leader



Key CAG Participation Elements



Superfund Job Training Initiative (JTI)



Community Health and Safety Plan

Looking to the future...River Restoration & Access



Getting Involved

- CAG meetings every 2nd Thursday bi-monthly from 6-8pm & open to the public.
- Meetings are normally held at 1 New York Ave, Newark in the ICC Early Head Start Ctr.
- Meeting locations sometimes rotate to upriver locations depending on the Agenda
- To receive regular meeting notices and updates, email Shereen Kandil at EPA kandil.shereen@epa.gov
- All meetings notes and presentations can be found on the CAG website at www.OurPassaic.org
- To find out how to join the CAG, email Doug Sarno, the Passaic River facilitator, doug@forumfg.com