



## OASIS updates – Summer 2007

OASIS has been featured recently in a book and a newsletter, and we have some interesting partnerships in the works.

### *Upcoming partnerships*

#### **1. The Mannahatta Project**

The Wildlife Conservation Society's project to map Manhattan's ecological footprint circa 1609 (<http://wcs.org/mannahatta>) is almost complete. The project has compiled some amazing GIS layers of the historical coastline, streams, and ecological communities, and would like to feature this mapped information on OASIS in time for the 2009 Quadricentennial celebration of Henry Hudson's arrival.

This should be a fascinating addition to the OASIS platform. Eric Sanderson from WCS is also preparing outreach and educational materials, and looks forward to integrating OASIS's mapping tools in their curriculum. They can provide seed funding for OASIS's role, and are interested in joining together on additional grant support.

#### **2. NYC Soil and Water Conservation District (part 1)**

Through Shino Tanikawa's efforts, the District has reached out to us to map the combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in the city as well as the CSO-sheds – the areas that drain to each CSO outfall. The effort would be undertaken with the "Storm Water Infrastructure Matters" (SWIM) coalition – see <http://www.bronxriver.org/swimmableNYC.cfm>

The general idea is to enable people to find out what CSO-shed they live in, and therefore what waterbody is impacted by their CSO outfall. OASIS would also help people identify property developments and land use patterns within each CSO-shed.

#### **3. NYC Soil and Water Conservation District (part 2)**

The "NYC Reconnaissance Soil Survey" has begun to generate maps of soil types throughout the five boroughs – see [http://www.nycsxcd.net/files/RSSw\\_photo.jpg](http://www.nycsxcd.net/files/RSSw_photo.jpg) (this is a large file so it might be slow to display). According to Aubrey McMahon, the NYCSWCD Stewardship Program Director, this data is likely in GIS format and can be added to OASIS. This is something the OASIS Steering Committee has been interested in for some time, and it would be a great addition to the site.

#### **4. Waterfront Access**

An ongoing collaboration with the Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance and NY/NJ Baykeeper – funded through the Harbor Estuary Program – has greatly expanded the number of mapped public access points along the waterfront on both sides of the Hudson. We've begun to incorporate this data into OASIS (see [www.oasisnyc.net/OASIS\\_Waterfront\\_Access\\_2006.htm](http://www.oasisnyc.net/OASIS_Waterfront_Access_2006.htm))

and will continue working with our partners through 2008 to use the OASIS platform to help analyze the accessibility of these waterfront entry points.

## **5. Harbor Estuary Program**

HEP has provided funding support to OASIS to integrate data from the Harbor Estuary Program and the Army Corps of Engineers into a single mapped database. This will enhance the public's understanding of habitat protection and restoration in the harbor by providing an overall picture of habitat sites and opportunities throughout the NY-NJ Harbor region.

## **6. NYC Watershed**

By the fall we expect to add a series of links to OASIS of resources about the New York City watershed, emphasizing the "forest to faucet" relationships of our drinking water. The links will include maps for display at Google Earth regarding the watershed. This is a partnership effort including the Forest Service, Open Road, NYC DEP, and others. The project will be funded by the Watershed Agricultural Council.

### ***OASIS "in-the-news"***

The OASIS collaborative was featured this year in a book titled *Design and Landscape for People: New Approaches to Renewal*. It was published by Thames & Hudson in Great Britain (<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Design-Landscape-People-Approaches-Renewal/dp/0500342334>). The authors sent me a copy of the book, and wrote in a cover letter that they "find your project completely inspirational."

The Harbor Estuary Program also featured OASIS recently in their Spring 2007 issue of the *Tidal Exchange* newsletter. The cover article in the newsletter is titled "An OASIS for the NY-NJ Harbor Estuary." The full copy is available at <http://www.seagrant.sunysb.edu/hep/news/TEspring07.pdf>.

### ***Sustainability***

A family fund in New York – Double-R Foundation – has provided a small gift to the CUNY Graduate Center to help support OASIS.