

COASTAL FISH & WILDLIFE HABITAT RATING FORM

Name of Area: **Udall's Cove**

Designated: **March 15, 1987**

County: **Nassau; Queens**

Town(s): **North Hempstead**

7½' Quadrangle(s): **Flushing, NY; Sea Cliff, NY**

<u>Score</u>	<u>Criterion</u>
12	Ecosystem Rarity (ER) One of the last undeveloped tidal salt marshes in the northern Queens County and East River area; rated between rare in county and rare in an ecological subzone in NY; (geometric mean: $(9 \times 16)^{\frac{1}{2}}$).
0	Species Vulnerability (SV) No endangered, threatened or special concern species reside in the area.
4	Human Use (HU) Birdwatching, hiking, and nature study important to residents of northern Queens and Nassau Counties.
4	Population Level (PL) Urban wildlife concentration is rare at the county level.
1.2	Replaceability (R) Irreplaceable.

SIGNIFICANCE VALUE = [(ER + SV + HU + PL) X R]

= **24.0**

SIGNIFICANT COASTAL FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

UDALL'S COVE

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF HABITAT:

Udall's Cove is located in the southeastern end of Little Neck Bay in the Town of North Hempstead on the Queens County/Nassau County line (7.5' Quadrangles: Flushing, N.Y. and Seacliff, N.Y.). The habitat includes the tidal shallows and salt marsh up to the level of mean high tide, and adjoining undeveloped upland areas, including Udall's Cove Ravine. This area is approximately 120 acres in size and most of it is owned by New York State and the City of New York for conservation purposes.

FISH AND WILDLIFE VALUES:

Udall's Cove is one of the last undeveloped tidal salt marshes left within the northern New York City area on Long Island. Along with providing habitat for fish and wildlife species within the area, wetlands such as this are important for the productivity of adjacent marine waters.

Shorebirds and wading birds utilize the Udall's Cove area extensively; among those species observed here are black-crowned night heron, snowy egret, least bittern (SC), green heron, and marsh wren. Migrating ducks and geese use the cove as a stopover area, and various species of waterfowl spend the winter in the vicinity and nest here. Muskrat, opossum and raccoon have also been observed in and around Udall's Cove. Udall's Cove contains abundant shellfish such as fiddler crabs, lobster, ribbed mussels and hard clams. Finfish species found in the cove include winter flounder, striped bass, eel and killifish. Fish and wildlife concentrations such as this are unusual in the New York City metropolitan area.

Although access to the area is limited, residents from the northern Queens and Nassau County area take advantage of the recreational opportunities provided by Udall's Cove. Human use activities here include birdwatching, hiking, and nature study. The area is well suited for educational uses.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

Any activities affecting the tidal fluctuations in Udall's Cove may adversely impact its fish and wildlife. Loss of the marsh habitat by dredging, filling, or impoundment would reduce the value of this area for migratory birds and disrupt the food chain for aquatic organisms in the cove. Degradation of water quality within the wetland would also reduce the productivity of the area for fish and wildlife. The adjoining undeveloped upland areas bordering the cove and wetlands should be preserved as a buffer zone since the habitat value of Udall's Cove depends in part on the undeveloped nature of these watersheds. Public acquisition of the adjoining upland areas would help ensure that the Udall's Cove area is protected, and provide improved access for human use of the area.