

Project: Weequahic Lake 1999-2000 Water Quality & Biological Assessment
Location: City of Newark, New Jersey
Client: U.S. EPA & Weequahic Park Association

Aqua Link, Inc. and a local NJ consulting firm were retained to perform a water quality and biological assessment of Weequahic Lake. Weequahic Lake, a relatively shallow, 80-acre impoundment, is located within the city limits of Newark, New Jersey. This lake serves as the focal point of Weequahic Park, which is the second largest park in Essex County.



Funding for this project was provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) under Section 104 of the Clean Water Act. This assessment consisted of the following major tasks: lake water quality monitoring, aquatic macrophyte survey, macroinvertebrate survey and fishery survey. The 1999-2000 water quality data were compared to historical data reported during 1979-1991.

The final report for this assessment offered recommendations to improve water quality and the overall ecological health of Weequahic Lake. These recommendations focused on nutrient loadings reductions from the surrounding watershed, in-lake restoration methods (sediment removal or dredging, nutrient inactivation and aeration) to improve lake water quality and installing gravel beds at key locations to establish fish breeding habitats. In addition, it was recommended that the County discontinue the use of aquatic herbicides until aquatic macrophyte (plant) densities increase substantially.