Chapter 9: Natural Resources

A natural resources assessment is conducted when a natural resource is present on or near the project site and when an action involves the disturbance of that resource. The *City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Technical Manual* defines natural resources as water resources, including surface water bodies and groundwater; wetland resources, including freshwater and tidal wetlands; upland resources, including beaches, dunes, and bluffs, thickets, grasslands, meadows and old fields, woodlands and forests, and gardens and other ornamental landscaping; and built resources, including piers and other waterfront structures.

The project area is fully occupied by buildings except for a landscaped area on portion of the Triangle Site. The landscaped area is considered a terrestrial cultural community. According to the *CEQR Technical Manual*, terrestrial cultural communities are prevalent in all five boroughs and may include "flower and herb gardens, mowed lawn with trees, paved and unpaved roads and paths, and urban vacant lot(s)". However, the entire project area, including the Triangle Site, is located in a fully developed area in Manhattan and has limited potential to provide unique habitat for noteworthy wildlife. As part of the proposed East Site project, the landscaped area on the Triangle Site would be expanded and redesigned, and would continue to provide limited habitat for small urban mammals, birds and insects. Landscaping would also be added on the East Site in the form of courtyard open space for the residents of the proposed apartment buildings and rear yards for the proposed townhouses.

No other natural resources are present on or near the project area. Therefore, a detailed assessment of the potential for impacts on natural resources is not necessary. Overall, the proposed projects would not result in any significant adverse impacts to natural resources. ✷