

## **5.7 WETLANDS AND SENSITIVE SPECIES**

### **5.7.1 Wetlands**

The project site would be located in landscaped parkland and developed urban land. The nearest wetland or open water, the confluence of New York Harbor with the Hudson River, is approximately 500 feet to the south. Because no wetlands have been identified in the project impact area, no impacts to wetlands would result.

### **5.7.2 Ecologically Sensitive Areas**

The approach tunnel portion of the Proposed Action would be located under the eastern edge of Battery Park, which is parkland comprised largely of ornamentally landscaped areas and paved public walkways. Vegetation within the site contains a range of trees, lawns and shrubberies. There are no aquatic habitats within the project site, and the proposed project would not involve in-water construction nor would it affect water quality. The site does not support protected plant or animal species and does not provide sensitive wildlife habitat. Based on correspondence with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), and the New York State Natural Heritage Program (NYSNHP), no ecologically sensitive areas are present in the vicinity of the project site. Therefore, the ecology of the Hudson River and Battery Park would not be impacted as a result of construction and operation of the proposed project. For construction-related impacts to trees in Battery Park, see Section 5.3: Public Open Space.

### **5.7.3 Threatened and Endangered Species**

The USFWS, NYSDEC and the NYSNHP were contacted for information on the presence of endangered and threatened species in the vicinity of the proposed project site. Information provided by these agencies indicated that the proposed project site does not provide habitat for threatened or endangered species (see Appendix G). Information from the USFWS indicated that the state endangered peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) could occur in the vicinity of the project area, but since the project area does not provide suitable foraging or nesting habitat for this species, it is not considered likely that there would be impacts on this species as a result of the proposed project.

Since no protected species have been identified on the proposed project site, there is no potential for adverse impacts on threatened or endangered species.