



ROCKAWAY BEACH, QUEENS, NY

Restoration of Previously Constructed Projects

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Description

Hurricane Sandy severely impacted large portions of the northeastern United States. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' previously constructed coastal storm risk reduction project at Rockaway Beach in Queens, N.Y., was impacted with the storm causing a great deal of coastal erosion throughout the project area.



Rockaway Before 1970s Beach Work



Rockaway After 1970s Beach Work

Authorities

Everything the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does must be tied to a statutory authority. The current work at Rockaway Beach is the result of two statutory authorities, one previously existing and one that is new since Hurricane Sandy.

- Through the Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies Act, PL 84-99, the Corps of Engineers is authorized to **repair** previously constructed projects after a large event like Hurricane Sandy. Put simply, this pre-existing authority allows the Corps to return the project area to pre-storm conditions.
- Through the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013 (the Sandy Relief Bill, or PL 113-2), the Corps of Engineers is authorized to **restore** previously constructed projects severely impacted by Hurricane Sandy. This new authority allows the Corps to restore projects impacted by Hurricane Sandy to their original design profile, which often means placing a great deal more sand during the near-term coastal restoration efforts.

History

The Corps of Engineers originally constructed the beach at Rockaway in the 1970s, placing approximately 6.3 million cubic yards of sand in the authorized project area from Beach 19th Street to Beach 149th Street. The originally constructed beach was 100 feet wide and 10 feet above sea level. The Corps of Engineers has only built one groin/jetty on Rockaway Beach that was not specific to navigation and that was the terminal groin at the end of the authorized project area at Beach 149th Street. All other groins were built in the past by some entity/agency other than the Corps of Engineers. Over the years since the beach's original construction there have been various renourishments, with the last federally authorized and funded renourishment taking place in 2004. Other sand placement since then has generally been smaller than a traditional renourishment and has been directly tied to maintenance dredging of nearby inlets.

Current Operations

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded two sand placement contracts for work along Rockaway Beach this summer for the placement of approximately 3.5 million cubic yards of sand roughly from Beach 19th Street to Beach 149th Street. The first contract was awarded in June for the placement of roughly 600,000 cubic yards of sand being dredged from East Rockaway Inlet and placed primarily along the severely eroded area from Beach 89th to Beach 149th. This contract was completed in Fall 2013. The second contract was awarded in August and is for the placement of approximately 3 million cubic yards of sand being dredged from an offshore borrow area. This second contract will fully restore the project area to its original design profile from Beach 19th to Beach 149th. Work on the second contract is slated to begin in early 2014.

Efforts will be made to mitigate the impacts from the ongoing beach work on recreation but there will be periodic closures of sections of the beach where work is going on. These will be closely coordinated with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.

Questions? Call the public affairs office at 917-790-8007 or e-mail CENAN-PA@usace.army.mil

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