



Hudson-Raritan Estuary, New York & New Jersey Ecosystem Restoration (Overall Feasibility Study)

As of June 2012

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

DESCRIPTION

The Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE) is within the boundaries of the Port District of New York and New Jersey, and is situated within a 25 mile radius of the Statue of Liberty National Monument.

The HRE study area includes 8 Planning Regions:

1) Jamaica Bay; 2) Lower Bay; 3) Lower Raritan River; 4) Arthur Kill/Kill Van Kull; 5) Newark Bay, Hackensack River and Passaic River; 6) Lower Hudson River; 7) Harlem River, East River, and Western Long Island Sound; and 8) Upper Bay.

The study purpose is to identify the water resources problems, existing conditions and factors contributing to environmental degradation within the estuary in order to develop potential solutions aimed at ecosystem restoration, and building upon existing restoration efforts and management plans (e.g., Harbor Estuary Program's Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan).



The HRE Ecosystem Restoration Program will enable the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

(USACE), its non-Federal cost-sharing sponsors, and other regional stakeholders to restore and protect lost or degraded aquatic, wetland and terrestrial habitats within the HRE study area. These activities will be accomplished by implementing various site-specific ecosystem restoration projects formulated within the context of an overall strategic plan. As a first step, USACE, with participation of the regional stakeholders, has developed a Comprehensive Restoration Plan (CRP). The CRP will serve as a master plan and blueprint for future restoration in the HRE region. Projects to be implemented within this program include the restoration and protection of aquatic habitat, coastal wetlands, waterbird islands, maritime forests, and other ecosystem resources.

The CRP provides the framework for an estuary-wide ecological restoration program by utilizing restoration targets -Target Ecosystem Characteristics (TECs) developed by the region's stakeholders. The CRP Program goal is to develop a mosaic of habitats that provides society with renewed and increased benefits from the estuary environment. Each TEC is an important ecosystem property or feature that is of ecological and/or societal value including restoration of coastal wetlands, shellfish/oyster reefs, eelgrass beds, waterbird islands, public access, maritime forest, tributary connections, shorelines and shallow habitat, fish crab and lobster habitat, reduction of contaminated sediments and improvement of enclosed and confined waters. The CRP provides a strategic plan to achieve the TEC goals, identify potential restoration opportunities and mechanisms for implementation.

AUTHORIZATION

House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Resolution dated April 15, 1999, Docket Number 2596.

STATUS

The USACE Reconnaissance Phase commenced in January 2000 and a Section 905(b) WRDA 86 Analysis was approved in June 2000. The Project Management Plan (PMP) was completed in May 2001 and the Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) was executed on July 12, 2001 with The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), the non-Federal sponsor. Overall goals and restoration targets were established as a collaborative effort among the region's stakeholders through a series of stakeholder workshops in 2007 and 2008. A Draft Comprehensive Restoration Plan was released in April 2009 and has been adopted by the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program (HEP) as the path forward for restoration in the future. Intensive public outreach to build consensus for the CRP was completed in July 2011 and the CRP is currently being updated based on stakeholder comments. Ongoing Feasibility Study activities includes evaluation (ecological benefits and costs) of restoration opportunities outlined within the CRP, preparation of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document, development of an implementation and management strategy and identification of potential local sponsors for the future.

In addition, the HRE-overall study has spun-off several projects, including New Jersey HRE-Hackensack Meadowlands, HRE-Lower Passaic River and HRE-Liberty State Park.

STUDY COST

Estimated Feasibility Federal Cost:	\$ 9,500,000
Estimated Feasibility Non-Federal Cost:	<u>\$ 9,500,000</u>
Total:	\$19,000,000

CONTACT

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CONGRESSIONAL INFORMATION

New Jersey

NJ U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez
NJ U.S. Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg
NJ-05 Rep. Scott Garrett
NJ-06 Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr.
NJ-07 Rep. Leonard Lance
NJ-08 Rep. William J. Pascrell, Jr.
NJ-09 Rep. Steven R. Rothman
NJ-10 Rep. Donald M. Payne
NJ-11 Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen
NJ-12 Rep. Rush Holt
NJ-13 Rep. Albio Sires

New York

NY U.S. Sen. Charles E. Schumer
NY U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand
NY-02 Rep. Steve Israel
NY-03 Rep. Peter T. King
NY-04 Rep. Carolyn McCarthy
NY-05 Rep. Gary L. Ackerman
NY-06 Rep. Gregory W. Meeks
NY-07 Rep. Joseph Crowley
NY-08 Rep. Jerrold Nadler
NY-09 Rep. Robert L. Turner
NY-10 Rep. Edolphus Towns
NY-12 Rep. Nydia M. Velazquez
NY-13 Rep. Michael Grimm
NY-14 Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney
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NY-16 Rep. Jose E. Serrano
NY-17 Rep. Eliot L. Engel
NY-18 Rep. Nita M. Lowey
NY-19 Rep. John Hall
NY-20 Rep. Scott Murphy