



# Hudson-Raritan Estuary Liberty State Park Jersey City, NJ Ecosystem Restoration

*As of February 2013*

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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## **DESCRIPTION**

The Hudson-Raritan Estuary, Liberty State Park (LSP) study area is located in Jersey City, Hudson County, New Jersey, on the western side of Upper New York Bay. The project area is 234 acres of undeveloped semi-degraded parkland within a fenced area of LSP.

Liberty State Park was built upon a former rail yard whose habitat has been degraded over decades by fill which converted an estuary into an upland environment. In the absence of Federal action, it is anticipated that the study area ecosystem will remain in a degraded condition, with wetland areas dominated by invasive species.

Additionally, some areas that are currently of higher functional value will continue to degrade unless significant management measures are undertaken. Restoration alternatives under investigation include reintroduction of tidal wetland habitat, protection and enhancement of freshwater wetlands, and management of allied terrestrial buffer habitats.



## **AUTHORIZATION**

Liberty State Park constitutes the first interim response to the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Environmental Restoration Feasibility Study (HRE-Overall) being carried out under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) General Investigations (GI) Program. The study was authorized by a resolution of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, dated April 15, 1999, Docket 2596. The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey is the non-Federal sponsor for the HRE-Overall study; the State of New Jersey is the sponsor for Liberty State Park construction. The project was authorized in Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2007, Section 1001(31).

## **STATUS**

The Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement for Liberty State Park was completed in the fall of 2005, and approved by Headquarters, USACE. Congressional authorization to advance to construction was achieved in WRDA 2007. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) will be

the non-Federal sponsor for the project, and has advanced the Pre-construction and Engineering Design (PED) phase for the freshwater wetlands through the USACE Interagency and International Services (IIS) Program. Contingent upon funding, construction could begin at Liberty State Park at any time.

**COST**

Estimated Federal Cost (65%)	\$22,588,150
Estimated Non-Federal Cost (35%)	<u>\$12,162,850</u>
Total	\$34,751,000

**CONTACT**

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**CONGRESSIONAL INFORMATION**

- NJ U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez
- NJ U.S. Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg
- NJ-8 Rep. Albio Sires

