



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New York District

ARVERNE

Jamaica Bay, Marine Park, and Plumb Beach, NY

FACT SHEET

DESCRIPTION: Jamaica Bay, situated within the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, New York City, is approximately 8 miles long, 4 miles wide, covers 26 square miles and opens into the Atlantic Ocean via Rockaway Inlet. The community of Arverne is situated on the Rockaway Peninsula, between Rockaway Inlet and East Rockaway Inlet in the Borough of Queens. Howard Beach is the northernmost community surrounding the study area and Broad Channel, an island with several finger canals that extend into Jamaica Bay, also forms a part of this study area. The study area ranges from Rockaway Beach Blvd in the south, to the Rockaway Inlet in the north and from Beach 75th Street in the west end of Arverne, to Beach 60th Street in the east.

Specific problems for Jamaica Bay include exposure to damages from severe coastal storm events and environmental degradation. Arverne's low bay shore ground elevations put its residential and commercial structures at risk of storm and flood related damages. The Arverne area has a history of frequent flooding caused by elevated water levels in Jamaica Bay. Howard Beach and Broad Channel have also been subjected to storm and flood damages. In general, storm surge inundation and limited erosion have seriously reduced the ability of the bayfront in the study area to provide adequate protection to back shore retaining structures, properties, structures and infrastructure.

AUTHORIZATION/PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The study for Jamaica Bay, Marine Park and Plumb Beach, NY was authorized by a resolution of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the United States House of Representatives adopted 1 August 1990 to determine the feasibility of improvements for beach erosion control, hurricane protection and environmental improvements in Jamaica Bay, including environmentally sensitive areas along Plumb Beach. The reconnaissance phase identified plan for Arverne consists of a ring levee system with steel bulkheads and a concrete floodwall with elevations ranging from +10 to +11 ft NGVD. Additionally, the communities of Broad Channel and Howard Beach were recommended to be examined during the feasibility phase, in order to ascertain whether they qualify to proceed as separate feasibility studies.

STATUS: A reconnaissance report was completed in January 1994. The feasibility study would seek to develop improvement plans to ascertain the most suitable solution for the study area problems. There are efforts presently underway by the City of New York, to develop a comprehensive waterfront strategy to ensure the stability of the bay shoreline under the Arverne/Edgemere Urban Renewal Area (URA) Plan. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) supports study efforts for the Arverne area. The NYSDEC has received notification of renewed interest and support from local interests for further study at Arverne. Study initiation will require execution of a cost sharing agreement and finalization of the study scope of work. However, NYSDEC, as the non-Federal sponsor, indicated that at the present time they do not have funds available to cost-share the feasibility study. As a result, initiation of the feasibility study has been delayed. An Environmental Restoration feasibility study effort is proceeding independently under the Corps' Environmental Initiatives (EI) Program and is being conducted and cost-shared with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP).

PROJECT COST: To be determined based upon negotiation of the Project Management Plan.

CONTACT: Mr. Peter Womack, Project Planner, mail to: peter.womack@usace.army.mil, (212) 264-5038

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District

26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY 10278

<http://www.nan.usace.army.mil>

District Area: NY#6, Congressional Member: Gregory Meeks

NY #9, Congressional Member: Anthony Weiner