



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

FLUSHING BAY AND CREEK, Borough of Queens, New York

Ecosystem Restoration

FACT SHEET

DESCRIPTION: The study area is an embayment of western Long Island Sound adjoining a portion of the northern coast of New York City, in the Borough of Queens. The primary concern is the southwest corner of the Bay next to La Guardia Airport where water quality is degraded. The odors emanating from this region are a serious public concern. The Flushing Bay Task Force has worked closely with former Queens Borough President Claire Shulman, Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, Assemblyman Jeffrey Aubry and Democratic Congressman Joseph Crowley for a solution. During numerous public sessions, the earthen dike in Flushing Bay has been targeted as the primary cause restricting tidal circulation in the Back Bay. Over the past century, however, the Bay's entire ecosystem has been degraded through fill activities, bulkheading, dredging, landfills, sewage and Combined Sewer Outfall (CSO) discharges.

AUTHORIZATION: A reconnaissance study was authorized by resolution of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the United States House of Representatives adopted 28 September 1994 to determine the feasibility of improvements in the interest of water quality and other purposes. The existing Federal project consists of a three-mile long navigation channel, a maneuvering area, an anchorage basin, and an earthen dike which functions as a breakwater. The study was authorized to address the problems and needs of the area with a view toward improving water quality problems in the Bay through ecosystem restoration. By investigating engineering solutions to the poor bay hydrodynamics and tidal circulation, it is believed that ecosystem restoration can be effected, with the benefits thereto measurable as improvements in fish and wildlife habitat values.

STATUS: A reconnaissance report was completed in April 1996, which demonstrated a federal interest for further study at the feasibility level. It identified six measures which could be taken in the interest of ecosystem restoration: (1) Tidal Wetlands Restoration; (2) Freshwater Wetlands Restoration; (3) Dredging; (4) Further Removal of the Earthen Dike; (5) Reorientation of the Federal Navigation Channel; and (6) Shoreline Bank Stabilization, Site Cleanup and Debris Removal. The Corps has two non-federal co-sponsors for the feasibility study - the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP). The feasibility study began in October 1999. A numerical hydrodynamic model is currently being used to examine tidal current circulation patterns. The Flushing Bay hydrographic survey was completed in May 2000, while the Bay water quality sampling program and the tidal current and stage data-gathering program were completed at the end of October 2000. In addition, inter-tidal wetlands delineation was also completed during summer 2000. Aerial photography of the study area was flown in early April 2001. A preliminary formulation of alternatives report was prepared in 2003. Currently, the Corps, the NYCDEP and PANYNJ have agreed to pursue recommendations for Flushing Creek, including the restoration and dredging components, which are expected to be environmentally sustainable with the implementation of the NYCDEP abatement facility of the most influential sewage outfall. The draft feasibility report and public review period for this study are scheduled to be completed and finalized in 2008.

STUDY COST:

Estimated Federal Cost	\$1,364,000
Estimated Non-Federal Cost	\$1,364,000
Total	\$2,728,000

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District Area: NY #7, Congressional Member: Joseph Crowley