



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

Gowanus Bay and Canal

NY

Environmental Restoration

FACT SHEET

DESCRIPTION: The Gowanus Creek Canal, constructed in 1881 to accommodate industrial users and commercial shippers on the Brooklyn waterfront, extends approximately one mile north of the Hamilton Avenue Bridge. The Gowanus Creek Canal is not a Federally maintained waterway however, the Gowanus Creek Channel is a Federally maintained waterway and extends for 0.8 miles northeasterly from Gowanus Bay to the Hamilton Avenue Bridge. The historic industrial uses in and around the Gowanus Canal have caused a significant amount of hazardous materials to deposit themselves at the bottom of the canal. In addition, the natural water habitat has been drastically changed and detrimentally affected. This poses a great risk to area residents and discourages the private sector from investing in this area. As a result, recreational, commercial, and housing opportunities do not exist.

The feasibility study will assess the environmental problems and potential solutions in the Gowanus Canal. Restoration measures will assess hot spot clean-up of off channel contaminated sediments, contaminant reduction measures, creation of wetlands, water quality improvements, and alteration of hydrology/hydraulics to improve water movement and quality.

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

STATUS: The District initiated the Reconnaissance Phase in January 2000 and submitted its Section 905(b) WRDA 86 Analysis factsheet to HQ's, USACE for policy review and approval in June 2000. HQ approved the factsheet in July 2000. The 905(b) factsheet recommended a separate feasibility study for the Gowanus Bay and Canal. The District is has completed its Project Management Plan (PMP) for the feasibility study and has received authority to execute the Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement. The non-Federal partner is the New York City Department of Environmental Protection. The District and the sponsor signed the FCSA on 8 Jan 02. The feasibility phase began on 1 Feb 02

PROJECT COST:

Estimated Feasibility Federal Cost	\$ 2,500,000
Estimated Feasibility Non-Federal Cost	<u>\$ 2,500,000</u>
Total	\$ 5,000,000

CONTACT: Thomas J. Shea, III, Project Manager, mailto: thomas.shea@usace.army.mil, (212) 264-5570
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza, New York, NY 10278
<http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/>

CONGRESSIONAL INFORMATION: NY-12, Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez
NY-11, Honorable Major Owens