



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

JAMAICA BAY, NY

Environmental Initiatives

FACT SHEET

DESCRIPTION: Jamaica Bay, situated within the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, New York City, is about 8 miles long, 4 miles wide, covers 26 square miles and opens into the Atlantic Ocean via Rockaway Inlet. Jamaica Bay opens to the Atlantic Ocean via Rockaway Inlet, which is about 17 miles by water southeast of the Battery. A Beach Erosion Control and Hurricane Protection project for the Atlantic Coast of New York City between East Rockaway Inlet and Rockaway Inlet and Jamaica Bay was authorized by the Flood Control Act (1965). There is no existing Federal project for storm damage reduction at the Bay shoreline areas. There is, however, an existing Federally maintained navigation project for Jamaica Bay.

Over the past century, the Bay’s fragile ecosystem has been degraded through human encroachment and increased urbanization. Combined Sewer Outfall (CSO) discharges have also exacerbated these effects. To investigate the feasibility of restoring portions of the ecosystem of Jamaica Bay, a number of environmental restoration measures must be evaluated. These measures may include the need to: regrade shorelines, revegetate grasslands, create and/or restore additional estuarine, wetland and upland habitats, and improve circulation and flushing.

AUTHORIZATION: The study of 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.

STATUS: A reconnaissance report was completed in January 1994. It recommended that a cost-shared feasibility study be undertaken to investigate restoration of the Bay environment, including its wetland and aquatic habitats and the water quality that supports them. The New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) is the Non-Federal sponsor for this study. A Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) was executed between the Corps of Engineers and the NYCDEP in February 1996 and the Environmental Restoration feasibility study was initiated. Restoration sites were selected in conjunction with input from environmental resource agencies, the Harbor Estuary Program (HEP) and the local sponsor. The study seeks to recommend restoration measures for each selected site, including feasibility-level designs for projects that may be implemented. Additional funds are needed to conduct the new external peer review requirements to complete the Feasibility phase.

STUDY COST

Estimated Federal Cost	\$2,410,000
Estimated Non-Federal Cost	\$2,010,000
Total	\$4,420,000

CONTACT: Mr. Daniel T. Falt, Project Manager, <mailto:daniel.t.falt@usace.army.mil> , (917)790-8614

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

District Area: NY #9, Congressional Member: Anthony Weiner