



Jamaica Bay Marsh Islands, Brooklyn, NY

Yellow Bar Hassock & Elders Point Marsh Islands
Marsh Island Restoration, Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

As of January 2012

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG

DESCRIPTION

Jamaica Bay is situated within the Boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, New York City. Approximately 8 miles long by 4 miles wide, it covers 26 square miles, and opens into the Atlantic Ocean via the Rockaway Inlet. Over the past century, the Bay's fragile ecosystem has been degraded through human encroachment and increased urbanization. There is an existing federally maintained navigation project within Jamaica Bay. The Jamaica Bay Marsh Islands are at the heart of the complex urban ecosystem of Jamaica Bay that is a part of the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior - Gateway National Recreation Area (GNRA). Analyses conducted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) confirmed the loss of intertidal salt marsh on these islands and the effect this may have on the ecosystem if the trend continues. It is estimated that approximately 1,400 acres of tidal salt marsh have been lost from the marsh islands since 1924, with the system wide rate of loss rapidly increasing in recent years. From 1994 and 1999, an estimated 220 acres of salt marsh were lost at a rate of 47 acres per year. Left alone, the marshes could vanish by 2025, destroying wildlife habitat and threatening the bay's shorelines.



National Park Service experts concurred with the NYSDEC analysis and urged immediate action. It was recommended that the causes of the accelerating marsh losses be determined in order to formulate a long-term solution. Also, it was recommended that a series of pilot projects be developed to stem further losses and re-establish habitat while long-term initiatives are being pursued.

Under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Continuing Authorities Program (CAP), the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) and NYSDEC requested assistance in implementing one or more restoration projects. A feasibility report titled "Jamaica Bay Marsh Islands, Jamaica Bay, NY, Integrated Ecosystem Restoration Report, Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact" was approved in 2006, recommending restoration of three marsh islands: Yellow Bar Hassock, Elders Point East, and Elders Point West. Construction of the Elders Point East marsh island took place in 2006-2007 and Elders Point West in 2009-2010 restoring approximately 80 acres of marshland.

The Engineering Documentation Report for Yellow Bar Hassock and the Amendment to the Project Cooperation Agreement for the NY&NJ Harbor Deepening Project was approved by the Assistant Secretary of the Army in June and September 2011, respectively.

Yellow Bar Hassock construction has been proposed through the beneficial use of dredged material from the New York & New Jersey Harbor Navigation Project per Section 207 authority and in cooperation with The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, the non-Federal sponsor. The NYSDEC and NYCDEP are funding the local share (35%) of the Yellow Bar marsh restoration project.

Approximately 42 acres of salt marsh habitat will be restored at Yellow Bar Hassock via placement of ~375,000 cubic yards of sand from Ambrose Channel. The 42 acres of marsh will be comprised of approximately 11,000 transplanted low marsh plant hummocks, 40,000 newly planted high marsh transition plants and 30,000 high marsh plants and 500 pounds of dispersed seed.

AUTHORIZATION

Section 204 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992, Public Law 102-580, as amended by Section 207 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (codified as amended at 33 U.S.C. § 2326), and as amended by Section 2037 Regional Sediment Management of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

STATUS

The sand placement of 375,000 cyd of Ambrose Channel sand from the Harbor Deepening Project was awarded to Great Lakes Dredge & Dock, Inc (\$9,937,500) on 9 December 2011. A separate Marsh Building Construction Contract was awarded to Village Dock, Inc on 11 January 2012 (\$7,293,548) to conduct final grading and marsh planting. The Pipeline infrastructure installation to Yellow Bar was recently completed 7 January 2012 and sand placement is planned for initiation in February. Planting will take place in the spring through summer 2012 with project completion by 11 August 2012.

PROJECT COST

Yellow Bar Hassock Total Project Cost (Fully Funded)

Federal	\$12,767,857
Non-Federal	<u>\$6,875,000</u>

Total	\$19,642,857
-------	--------------

CONTACTS

Ms. Lisa Baron, Project Manager, Lisa.a.Baron@usace.army.mil,

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

<u>State</u>	<u>Senator/Representative</u>
NY	Sen. Charles E. Schumer
NY	Sen. Kirsten E. Gillibrand
NY-06	Rep. Gregory W. Meeks
NY-09	Rep. Robert L. Turner