



# Hudson-Raritan Estuary, New York & New Jersey Ecosystem Restoration (Overall Feasibility Study)

As of February 2013

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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## DESCRIPTION

The Hudson Raritan Estuary (HRE) is within the boundaries of the Port District of New York and New Jersey, and is situated within a 25 mile radius of the Statue of Liberty National Monument. The HRE study area includes 8 Planning Regions: 1) Jamaica Bay; 2) Lower Bay; 3) Lower Raritan River; 4) Arthur Kill/Kill Van Kull; 5) Newark Bay, Hackensack River and Passaic River; 6) Lower Hudson River; 7) Harlem River, East River, and Western Long Island Sound; and 8) Upper Bay. The study purpose is to identify the water resources problems, existing conditions and factors contributing to environmental degradation within the estuary in order to develop potential solutions aimed at ecosystem restoration, while building upon existing restoration efforts and management plans (e.g., Harbor Estuary Program's Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan).



The HRE Ecosystem Restoration Program will enable the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), its non-Federal cost-sharing sponsors, and other regional stakeholders to restore and protect lost or degraded aquatic, wetland and terrestrial habitats within the HRE study area. These activities will be accomplished by implementing various site-specific ecosystem restoration projects formulated within the context of an overall strategic plan. As a first step, USACE, with participation of the regional stakeholders, has developed a Comprehensive Restoration Plan (CRP). The CRP will serve as a master plan and blueprint for future restoration in the HRE region.

The CRP provides the framework for an estuary-wide ecological restoration program by utilizing restoration targets -Target Ecosystem Characteristics (TECs) developed by the region's stakeholders. The CRP Program goal is to develop a mosaic of habitats that provides society with renewed and increased benefits from the estuary environment. Each TEC is an important ecosystem property or feature that is of ecological and/or societal value including restoration of coastal wetlands, shellfish/oyster reefs, eelgrass beds, waterbird islands, public access, maritime forest, tributary connections, shorelines and shallow habitat, fish crab and lobster habitat, reduction of contaminated sediments and improvement of enclosed and confined waters. The CRP provides a strategic plan to achieve the TEC goals, identify potential restoration opportunities and mechanisms for implementation.

## AUTHORIZATION

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

## **STATUS**

The USACE Reconnaissance Phase commenced in January 2000 and a Section 905(b) WRDA 86 Analysis was approved in June 2000. The Project Management Plan (PMP) was completed in May 2001 and the Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) was executed on July 12, 2001 with The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), the non-Federal sponsor. Overall goals and restoration targets were established as a collaborative effort among the region's stakeholders through a series of stakeholder workshops in 2007 and 2008. A Draft Comprehensive Restoration Plan was released in April 2009 and has been adopted by the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program (HEP) as the path forward for restoration in the future. Intensive public outreach to build consensus for the CRP was completed in July 2011 and the CRP is currently being updated based on stakeholder comments. Ongoing Feasibility Study activities includes evaluation (ecological benefits and costs) of restoration opportunities outlined within the CRP, preparation of a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document, development of an implementation and management strategy and identification of potential local sponsors for the future.

In addition, the HRE-overall study has spun-off several projects, including the HRE-Lower Passaic River and HRE-Liberty State Park. The HRE-Hackensack Meadowlands and Flushing Bay and Creek Restoration Studies have since been incorporated into the HRE-overall Feasibility Study.

## **STUDY COST**

Estimated Feasibility Federal Cost:	\$ 9,500,000
Estimated Feasibility Non-Federal Cost:	<u>\$ 9,500,000</u>
Total:	\$19,000,000

## **CONTACT**

Lisa Baron, Project Manager, Harbor Programs Branch, E-mail: [lisa.a.baron@usace.army.mil](mailto:lisa.a.baron@usace.army.mil), tel: (917) 790-8306.

## **CONGRESSIONAL INFORMATION**

### **New Jersey**

NJ U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez  
NJ U.S. Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg  
NJ-05 Rep. Scott Garrett  
NJ-06 Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr.  
NJ-07 Rep. Leonard Lance  
NJ-08 Rep. William J. Pascrell, Jr.  
NJ-10 Rep. Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
NJ-11 Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen  
NJ-12 Rep. Rush Holt  
NJ-13 Rep. Albio Sires

### **New York**

NY U.S. Sen. Charles E. Schumer  
NY U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand  
NY-02 Rep. Peter T. King  
NY-03 Rep. Steve Israel  
NY-04 Rep. Carolyn McCarthy  
NY-05 Rep. Gregory W. Meeks  
NY-06 Rep. Grace Meng  
NY-07 Rep. Nydia M. Velazquez  
NY-08 Rep. Hakeem Jeffries  
NY-09 Rep. Yvette D. Clarke  
NY-10 Rep. Jerrold Nadler  
NY-11 Rep. Michael Grimm  
NY-12 Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney  
NY-13 Rep. Charles B. Rangel  
NY-14 Rep. Joseph Crowley  
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NY-16 Rep. Eliot L. Engel  
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NY-18 Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney  
NY-19 Rep. Chris Gibson  
NY-20 Rep. Paul D. Tonko