



# Salt Marsh Mitigation Project at KeySpan Corporation Site, Staten Island, N.Y.

As of February 2013

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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## **DESCRIPTION**

One of the first wetland sites identified for restoration by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the Salt Marsh Mitigation Project at KeySpan Corporation in Staten Island, New York. It was selected to compensate for the potential, unavoidable shallow water impacts resulting from the deepening of the Arthur Kill Channel in the New York/ New Jersey Harbor. The Corps, along with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, are deepening key shipping channels in the Harbor as part of an overall harbor effort to ensure safe and efficient channels for the larger class of vessels calling at the port. In addition to ensuring a safe, efficient Port, the partners are committed to maintaining a healthy, diverse and sustainable environment through the creation, enhancement and restoration of aquatic, wetland and upland habitat.



The project site that is being restored by the Corps and the Port Authority is located adjacent to the KeySpan facility and encompasses an area of approximately nine acres east and north of the tidally influenced portion of Old Place Creek adjacent to the Arthur Kill Channel in Staten Island, N.Y. As a result of the *Phragmites australis* or common reed that dominates the area, the marsh area of the site is tidally restricted. After clearing, excavating and grading the site, the phragmites will be removed and replaced by native wetland species. This will allow for tidal inundation to be reestablished. Once tidal flow to the area has been reestablished, water and sediment quality will be improved, promoting the return of native fish and wildlife.

The restoration project consists of clearing, excavating and grading an area of approximately nine acres, removal and disposal of approximately 37,000 cubic yards of soil to an approved landfill site, removal of invasive species such as phragmites and regrading of the marsh surface to achieve elevations that are more favorable to the growth of desirable species (such as various *Spartina alterniflora*), limited placement of clean soil and replanting of more than 115,000 native wetland species, such as various spartina grasses.

## **STATUS**

On Sept. 28, 2005, the Corps awarded a \$5.4 million contract for the restoration of the KeySpan Corporation site to the New York Concrete Corporation of Staten Island, N.Y. A Notice to Proceed was issued on October 18, 2005. Mobilization at the site was in February 2006. The restoration work was substantially completed in June 2007. Final inspection was held on September 19, 2007. Construction was accepted as completed. The contractor was back on site in June 2008 for some replanting and completion of remaining punchlist items. Viability monitoring of the replanted material was conducted. Monitoring of the site has been completed.

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**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

<b><u>State</u></b>	<b><u>Senator/Representative</u></b>
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NY	Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand
NY-11	Rep. Michael Grimm