Hudson Raritan Estuary- Liberty State Park, NJ
31 October 2006

Abstract: The recommended plan provides for restoration of an ecologically significant saltwater tidal marsh and tidal creek system at Liberty State Park, New Jersey, along with interior freshwater wetlands and buffer areas. Major components of the system include: a 46 acre salt marsh and tidal creek system; a 50 acre upland berm, utilizing 700,000 cubic yards of material from the excavated tidal creek; restoration of 26 acres of freshwater wetlands; modification of on site drainage to connect and improve existing interior freshwater wetlands; and construction of 15 acres of buffer areas surrounding the tidal marsh, and 25 acres of buffer areas surrounding existing freshwater wetlands. The implementation of these two measures will result in significant incidental benefits to 75 acres of existing uplands that are not the subject of any actions under the recommended plan.

The total first cost for construction of the recommended plan is $33,376,000. The estimated total Federal first cost of construction is $21,694,000, and the estimated total non-Federal first cost of construction is $11,682,000. All costs for operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of the recommended project are the responsibility of the non-Federal sponsor. The estimated average annual cost of the recommended plan is $2,145,000.

The recommended plan is the National Ecosystem Restoration plan. The proposed restoration of rare and ecologically significant saltwater tidal marsh and tidal creek system, and improvement/protection of existing freshwater wetlands, grasslands, and forest and shrub habitats will provide an improvement to significant habitats in a highly urbanized environment within the New York-New Jersey Harbor. The salt marsh at LSP will increase a scarce resource in the harbor, significantly enhance the ecological value of limited nearby existing salt marshes in the harbor, and contribute invaluable wildlife habitat in the center of the most densely populated area of the country. Use of the excavated material for a sheltering berm provides a cost effective disposal method, improves the hydrology of adjacent freshwater wetlands, buffers the project from nearby developed areas, and provides approximately 50 acres of warm weather grasslands also becoming rare in the urban area. The warm weather grasses will provide forage and breeding areas for many passerine and raptor species and enhance the potential for successful nesting of the Northern Harrier, a state listed species. The development of 26 acres of freshwater wetland systems and preservation of 23 acres of seasonally flooded wetlands and an urban forest of about 74 acres which is currently dominated by northern hardwood tree species and maritime shrubs assemblages contribute to the reestablishment of a diverse ecological mosaic of habitats. Construction impacts associated with this project will be temporary and long term beneficial effects of the project fully compensate for the temporary impacts.

Report Documentation: Pertinent documentation on the project, the results of the CWRB, and subsequent Washington Level Review Actions are linked below.

- CWRB Briefing Agenda
- Project Summary
- CWRB Briefing Slides
- CWRB Lessons Learned
- CWRB Meeting Record
- Comment Letters
- Documentation of Review Findings
- Signed Chief of Engineers Report
- ASA (CW) Memo to OMB
- OMB Clearance
- Congressional Notification
- Signed Record of Decision
- Authorization
    - Section 1001 (31) WRDA 2007
    - Full WRDA Text

Additional Information:

North Atlantic Division

New York District

Liberty State Park Feasibility Study Information