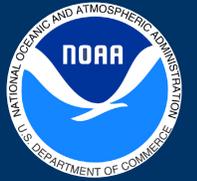




# Lincoln Park Wetland Restoration



## COASTAL RESTORATION *at work*

In February 2009, NOAA received \$167 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to restore coastal habitat and help jump-start the nation's economy by supporting thousands of jobs.

The agency funded 50 high quality, high priority coastal restoration projects—spanning the country from New England's salt marshes, to the shores of the Great Lakes, to the coral reefs of the Pacific Islands. One of these projects is the Lincoln Park Wetland Restoration project in New Jersey.

### Wetland Restoration in Urban New Jersey

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection received \$10.6 million in funding from NOAA under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to restore marsh and protect coastal and marine habitats. The project had been in the works for 15 years, and this funding was the catalyst that finally set this project in motion. To date, it has supported roughly 100 direct jobs for unemployed workers.

The project also received \$2.3 million in oil spill settlement funds from the Harbor Spill Restoration Committee comprised of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP). This funding was used to restore marine resources that were injured due to oil spills in the Hudson Raritan Estuary. More than \$300,000 was provided by NJ



*Clearing and grubbing at the site.*

DEP's Office of Natural Resource Restoration for project design, which also provided an additional \$1 million in funding for project construction.

This project restored the area's native salt marsh community to improve the overall ecological health of the Hackensack River ecosystem. It also created an ecological oasis just outside of New York City that is open to the public, providing critical green space so important to urban communities.

To restore tidal connection at the site, we excavated previously placed dredge and landfill material and re-contoured the site to create intertidal habitat and tidal creeks. This project restored 42 acres of habitat will created 4,500 linear feet of creeks. It also restored fish passage to a former tidal pond and created half a mile of pathway connecting the park to the Liberty Water Gap National Trail.

"These Recovery Act projects will put Americans to work while restoring our coasts and combating climate change."

- Secretary of Commerce, Gary Locke



Sand is delivered in a watery sand slurry by Army Corps contractors.



Before the restoration, the area supported little wildlife, as the soils contained wasted and toxic materials. But during recent monitoring, we've spotted 12 species of fish, including alewives and striped bass, using the habitat for refuge. We also observed more than 50 bird species, including egrets and osprey, and even a mink. The park is now used by boaters, hikers, bikers, and anglers.

The wetland restoration project is a collaboration between NOAA and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Hudson County Parks Department, the Hudson County Improvement Authority, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and Louis Berger Consultants.

### Recovery Act Results

A recent study by NOAA published in *Marine Policy* found that habitat restoration projects like the one at Lincoln Park create an average of 17 jobs for every \$1 million invested. Habitat restoration projects pay dividends twice: first in creating immediate, local jobs; and then, through healthy habitats that support fisheries, tourism, and coastal resiliency for years to come.



Sand travels by a 1,300-foot long pipe and is directed to the sand staging area.

### Contacts:

Carl Alderson  
Marine Habitat Restoration Specialist  
74 Magruder Road  
Highlands, NJ 07732-0428  
carl.alderson@noaa.gov  
732-872-3087

[www.noaa.gov/recovery](http://www.noaa.gov/recovery)