



Monmouth County Park System Fisherman's Cove Restoration

PROJECT INFORMATION - UPDATE

PROJECT UPDATE:

The New Jersey Department of Transportation, Office of Maritime Resources (NJDOT) has received Federal grant money for the dredging of the Glimmer Glass, Watson's Creek, Sherman's Creek, and the Wills Hole Thorofare; along with the Sawmill Riviera, Clarke's Landing, and Manasquan Yacht Club; all State navigable channels. The dredged material will consist of sand and/or fine grained material. The sand will be used for beach replenishment at the Fisherman's Cove beach and the fine grained material will need to be dewatered before being transported to the Monmouth County Reclamation Center for cap and fill material.

At the request of the Monmouth County Park System, the NJDOT will use the highest point of the site which had previously been designated as the new overflow parking area (described below) to construct the dewatering area. The NJDOT will place approximately 30,000 cubic yards of sand onto the Fisherman's Cove beach and will dewater approximately 60,000 cubic yards of the fine grained dredged material in the dewatering area. The work is intended to begin in July of 2021 and extend for 13 months. Work on the habitat restoration project will resume after the dredging project is complete.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project will continue the process of landscape restoration at Fisherman's Cove in order to provide a high quality and diverse coastal landscape for purposes of recreation and open space appreciation as well as key habitat for wildlife and coastal plant communities. This phase will include the reshaping of the former dredge spoil areas to create the hydrology necessary for various coastal and maritime habitats.

JUSTIFICATION:

A key reason for the acquisition of Fisherman's Cove was to maintain open space in this area of the county as a conservation area. The initial concept included the restoration of habitat on the majority of the site. While some restoration has been accomplished (primarily the removal of invasives), the existing conditions are serving a limited recreational and habitat function on only a small portion of the 55 acre site. This project will enhance native coastal landscape features and improve the degraded conditions on the balance of the site, providing more opportunity for a coastal experience.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

As part of the original agreement, Manasquan Borough agreed to move the overflow parking area from its current location in the interior of the site. In order to continue with the restoration and tie the property together, the relocation is planned. There is much interest in coastal landscapes by organizations interested in preserving or enhancing coastal environments, especially for habitat values. There is also a need to provide safe public access to the waterfront. Additionally, there is concern that a deteriorated site proves a hazard to the adjacent community through fire hazard, rodent concerns and inaccessibility.

ESTIMATED COSTS:

\$400,000 to be requested in future Capital Budget.

SCHEDULE OF PROJECT:

NJDEP permitting is in progress. The project will be conducted over several years. Initial work will follow-up on previous efforts to control invasive Phragmites and to establish coastal dune habitats. Work will commence off-season to relocate the municipal parking and remove old macadam, establishing coastal habitats and a tidal creek in subsequent efforts.



Aerial Showing Impacts on the Site



Restore tidal Salt Marsh



Restore Coastal Dune habitat