

The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership

Supporting US Army Corps of Engineers Ecosystem Restoration Program



The Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP) has supported the mission of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Ecosystem Restoration Program since the CWRP inception in 2000. CWRP collaboration in the past has provided the local sponsor of Continuing Authorities Program projects with the much needed local cost share. The future CWRP wants to collaborate further with USACE and support General Investigation cost share as well as implementation of more Ecosystem Restoration projects. Additionally CWRP appreciates the leadership of the Corps in the Coastal America Partnership and their willingness to further the CWRP mission. In fact the first CWRP project was a USACE project; the Sagamore Marsh restoration at the Cape Cod Canal in Massachusetts. USACE leadership is responsible for taking the CWRP national using the Coastal America network. The following are examples of USACE projects over the past several years:

Lonsdale Drive-In, Section 206 Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (PL 104-303), “Aquatic Ecosystems Restoration”

The Lonsdale Marsh Restoration Project was identified through a comprehensive watershed evaluation of ecological restoration opportunities in the Blackstone River Watershed, aimed at restoring and linking key habitats to enhance overall watershed functioning. The project, cost shared with Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, involved the restoration of 17 acres of habitat by removing a former drive-in theater within a heavily urbanized watershed. Ten acres of riparian habitat and a 7-acre wetland composed of 3.6 acres of emergent and open water habitat and 3.4 acres of shrub and forested swamp, replaced the asphalt paved drive-in. The project created a continuous wooded riparian buffer along the Blackstone River, linking important upstream and downstream habitats



for the watershed’s wildlife community. In a parallel effort the Rhode Island Department of Transportation built a bicycle trail adjacent to the restoration site, linking the river and restoration site for the human community. In its highly accessible location, the restored marsh will demonstrate how underutilized, incompatible development can be replaced by a sustainable and compatible land use.

Partners: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, Rhode Island Corporate Wetlands Partnership, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council.



Smelt Hill Dam Removal Project

Removal of the dam in Falmouth, Maine restored a natural ecosystem with important fishery and recreational values. The project improved water quality and restored natural habitat and fish passages to the seven miles of the Presumpscot River closest to the ocean, as well as positively affecting the many miles of tributaries downstream of Westbrook. Fisheries biologists estimate the Smelt Hill Dam removal will re-establish runs of 6,000 – 24,000 adult shad, 150,000 – 200,000 alewives, and 78,000 blueback herring. Native searun fish provide food for commercially and recreationally important fish, as well as many species of seabirds, water birds, and aquatic fur bearing mammals. Smelt Hill Dam generated hydroelectric power until damaged during a flood in October 1996. The flood also damaged the dam's fish passage facility. Until the dam's removal, fish could not freely swim upstream for breeding.



Partners: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England District, Maine Department of Marine Resources, Coastal Conservation Association of Maine, Maine Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Gulf of Maine Coastal Program Office, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center.



The Batsto River Fishway Restoration Project

This project restored access to spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous fish (alewife and blueback herring) on the Batsto River. The installation of a permanent fishway on the Batsto River allows anadromous fish to proceed unimpeded around a spillway (dam) to approximately eight miles of historic spawning and foraging areas upstream. The Batsto River is a tributary of the Mullica River located in Burlington County, New Jersey, approximately two miles upstream from the confluence of the Batsto River and the Mullica River. The project is located in Batsto Village, a historic preservation village located in Wharton State Forest. The project has been implemented through the biological expertise of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the project and construction

expertise of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Project costs were estimated to be \$600,000. Federal funding for this project required matching funds from the State of New Jersey. The final portion of the non-federal funding (\$50,000) was through the New Jersey Chapter of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership (CWRP). Due to its location in an historic village, considerable coordination with the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office was completed to insure the design was compatible with the historic nature of the site. A fishway design was selected that meets the goals of fish passage and blends in with the existing New Jersey State historic park. Its unique location offers environmental education regarding the ecological importance of anadromous fish to a large number of park visitors who might normally not experience this type of education.

Partners: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Philadelphia District), The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Jersey Field Office, and the New Jersey Chapter of the Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership. Other organizations who partnered in this project and contributed to its success include the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Pinelands Preservation Alliance, American Rivers, Alden Research Laboratory, and Kuhnel Company.



Coastal America is a partnership among federal, state, and local governments and private alliances to address environmental problems along our nation's coasts. The federal partners are: Executive Office of the President, Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Health and Human Services, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, Justice, Labor, State, Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Science Foundation.