



Hurst Creek, Dorchester County, MD

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
FACT SHEET as of February 1, 2015

BUILDING STRONG®

AUTHORIZATION Continuing Authorities Program, Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, as amended

TYPE OF PROJECT: Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration

CONTRIBUTION TO CHESAPEAKE BAY: Directly contributes to achieving protection and restoration goals established by the 2009 Executive Order 13508 and the 2014 Chesapeake Bay Program Agreement by restoring clean water and recovering vital habitat.

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Senators **Mikulski** and **Cardin** (MD); Congressman **Harris** (MD-01)

PROJECT PHASE: Feasibility

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: Maryland Eastern Shore Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

BACKGROUND: Hurst Creek is located in Dorchester County on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The project area is located two miles east of Cambridge, Maryland and is approximately 1.5 miles in length from its headwaters to its confluence with the Choptank River.

There are numerous problems stemming from the alteration of a naturally occurring peninsula located at the mouth of Hurst Creek at the confluence with the Choptank River. Alterations to the peninsula have impaired sediment transport, created unusual erosion and accretion patterns and endangered adjoining mudflat areas. This complex ecosystem is a mix of both upland and wetland habitat. Initial indications suggest that a jetty placed at the mouth of the creek is not performing as intended. In addition, the open water channel has been completely filled in with sediment such that small boats are unable to use the channel even during high tide.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), in partnership with one or more non-Federal partners, proposes to restore and enhance the aquatic ecosystem within the estuarine portion of Hurst Creek. This will be achieved by the restoration of tidal wetlands and the stabilization of adjacent shoreline areas including the peninsula area at the mouth of Hurst Creek. The project involves restoring tidal wetlands at multiple locations within Hurst Creek, re-establishing a stable island at the mouth of the creek and deepening portions of the creek to restore historic open water habitat. The goal for the restoration project will be to re-establish a functioning and stable aquatic ecosystem that provides a full range of benefits including wetlands, open water habitat, and a protective peninsula at the mouth of the creek. To meet this objective the creek sediments will be re-distributed to restore wetland habitat and replenish the peninsula. Restoration will preserve the peninsula's diverse habitat and re-create natural patterns of tidal flushing and sediment movement.



View of Hurst Creek, MD

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – BALTIMORE DISTRICT

P.O. Box 1715, Baltimore, MD 21203

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A preliminary Restoration Plan was approved in August 2004. Work on the feasibility study stopped in fiscal 2004 due to nation-wide funding shortfalls in the Section 206 Program. The project was restarted at the end of fiscal 2010 and concept plans were completed.

STATUS: This study began when projects under Section 206 could be studied at full federal expense with the sponsor cost-share due prior to construction. Due to implementation of Continuing Authority Program (CAP) process improvements, all non-cost shared feasibility studies such as this one were stopped in September 2013 pending negotiation and execution of a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FSCA). The Baltimore District continues to coordinate with the sponsor to determine if there is still interest in negotiating and executing an FCSA with the non-federal sponsor to continue the Feasibility phase.

BUDGET (\$):

	<u>Construction</u>
	<u>Feasibility</u>
<u>Total Estimated Cost</u>	\$445,000
Federal Cost Estimate	\$272,500
Non-Federal Cost Estimate	\$172,500

<u>Federal Funds Data</u>	
Allocations thru FY 2013	\$125,100
Allocation for FY 2014	\$0
President Budget FY 2015 ¹	\$0
Allocation for FY 2015 ²	\$0
Balance to Complete	\$147,400

NOTES:

¹ The President typically sends the budget to Congress in February each year. Upon release, budget amounts for the USACE Civil Works programs and specified projects are posted online at the HQUSACE website in a Program Budget Press Book at <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/Budget.aspx>.

² The final FY 2015 allocation amounts will be made available upon final approval pursuant to the Energy and Water Appropriations Act's continuing funding requirements.

SCHEDULE:

FY 2014 Completed Work: None.

FY 2015 Scheduled Work: The Baltimore District will follow up with the sponsor to determine if there is still interest in negotiating and executing an FCSA with the non-federal sponsor to continue the Feasibility phase.

COMPLETION: With optimum funding, the feasibility phase can be completed in fiscal 2016.

For more information regarding the Hurst Creek Section 206 project, contact Anthony Clark, CENAB-PL-P, (410) 962-3413, or e-mail anthony.a.clark@usace.army.mil.



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