



Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Dorchester County, MD

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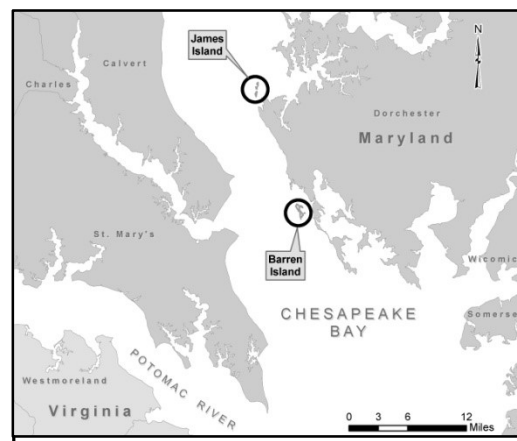
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FACT SHEET as of February 1, 2024

AUTHORIZATION: Section 7002 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, P.L. 113-121

TYPE OF PROJECT: Ecosystem Restoration/Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

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 goals to recover habitat and sustain fish and wildlife.



James and Barren Islands,
Dorchester County, Maryland

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Senators Cardin and Van Hollen (MD) and Representative Harris (MD-01).

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Administration

BACKGROUND: The Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration project is located in the vicinity of James and Barren Islands in western Dorchester County, Maryland. It focuses on restoring and expanding island habitat to provide hundreds of acres of wetland and terrestrial habitat for fish, shellfish, reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals through the beneficial use of dredged material. It will provide direct benefits of improved health, richness, and sustainability to aquatic and wildlife species and indirect benefits of navigational safety, education, and passive recreation and potentially, increased tourism. Habitat includes submerged aquatic habitat, mudflat, low marsh, high marsh, islands, ponds, channels and upland areas.

The project implements a long-term strategy for providing viable placement alternatives to meet the dredging needs of the Port of Baltimore while maximizing the use of dredged materials as a beneficial resource. Restoration of island habitat is necessary and valuable to the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. In the last 150 years, it has been estimated that 10,500 acres of this type of habitat have been lost in the middle eastern portion of Chesapeake Bay. Remote island habitat is valuable as resting and nesting sites for migratory and shore birds.

The project consists of constructing environmental restoration projects at both James and Barren Islands to restore 2,144 acres of remote island habitat (2,072 acres at James Island and 72 acres at Barren Island). The James Island component will consist of 45% upland habitat and 55% wetland habitat, while the Barren Island component will consist entirely of wetland habitat. Construction funds were appropriated in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) in 2022, and the project partnership agreement for the construction phase of the project was executed on August 23, 2022.

STATUS: The project is currently in the construction phase. The first construction contract for the restoration of Barren Island was awarded in September 2022 to Coastal Design & Construction of

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Gloucester, VA. Design of the next phase of the Barren Island restoration is underway and slated for award in 2024. Extensive design work continues on the James Island component of the project.

BUDGET (\$):

	<u>PED</u>	<u>Construction</u>
<u>Total Estimated Cost</u>	\$9,046,000	\$4,418,708,000
Federal Cost Estimate	\$5,880,000	\$2,872,160,000
Non-Federal Cost	\$3,166,000	\$1,546,547,000
 <u>Federal Funds Data</u>		
Allocation thru FY 2022 ^{1, 2}	\$5,880,000	\$84,000,000
Allocation for FY 2023	\$0	\$0
Allocation for FY 2024 ³	\$0	TBD
Balance to Complete	\$0	\$2,788,160,000

NOTES:

¹ Construction funding was provided in the supplemental BIL FY22 for the project.

² BIL is the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, 2022; PL 117-58. The USACE Civil Works spending plans for FY 2022 and FY 2023 are published at <http://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Budget>

³ The allocation amount is subject to change during the FY given any appropriations, an approved FY work plan using programmatic funds, and any reprogramming actions.

SCHEDULE:

FY 2023 Completed Work: Previous year carry in funds were used to continue the design of Barren Island, manage phase one construction at Barren Island, continue the design of James Island, perform stakeholder coordination, and perform environmental monitoring during construction.

FY2024 Scheduled Work: Previous year carry in funds will be used to continue the design of Barren Island and James Island, perform stakeholder coordination, continue environmental monitoring, continue construction management for the initial Barren Island contract, and award the second construction contract for the restoration of Barren Island.

COMPLETION: Completion of the initial construction phase of James Island is slated for 2028, but the project will support dredged material placement through 2058 and is anticipated to be complete by 2068.

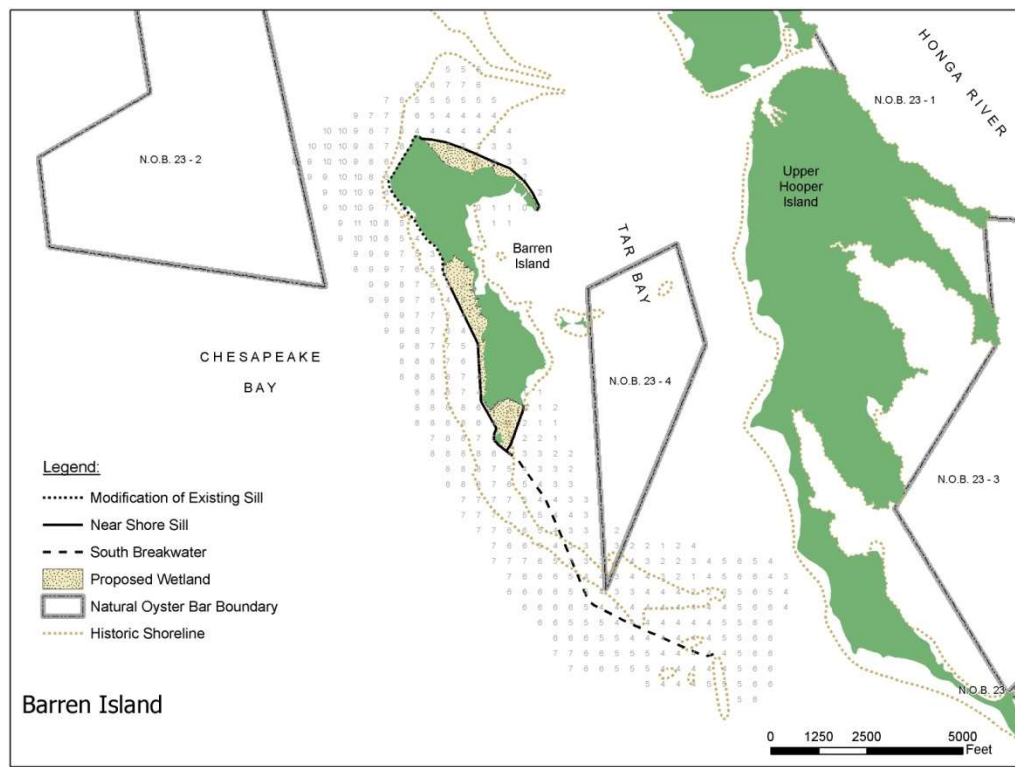
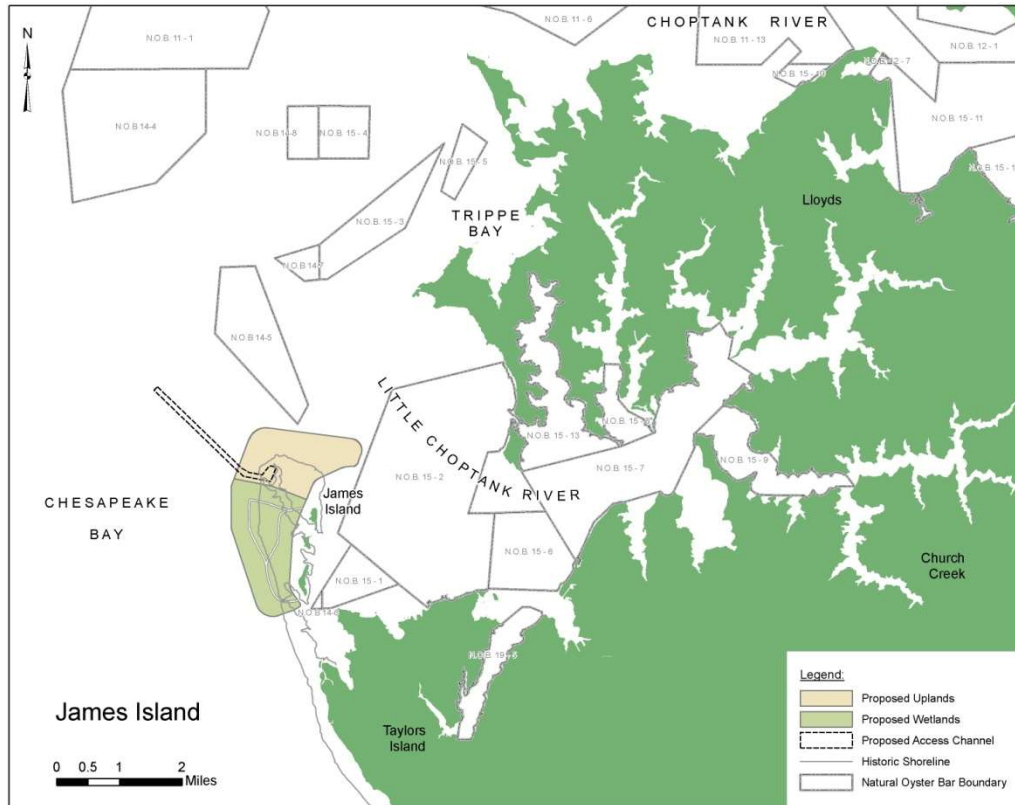
For more information contact Trevor Cyran, (410) 962-4999, or by e-mail at trevor.p.cyran@usace.army.mil.

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