RICHARD P. KANE WETLAND MITIGATION BANK
A Unique Public-Private Partnership Created for the Benefit of New Jersey Transportation Agencies

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Limited Regional Mitigation Opportunities

The 8,400 acre Hackensack Meadowlands in northeastern New Jersey provides the largest expanse of wilderness in the New York City metropolitan area.

Transportation Project Constraints

The 8,400 acres of wetlands in the lower Hackensack River watershed are ecologically degraded, hydrologically disturbed, frequently contaminated, and crisscrossed by highway and rail transportation systems.

RegionaSolution

To answer this problem, the nonprofit Meadowlands Conservation Trust formed a unique Public/Private Partnership with the EarthMark Mitigation Services team, including The Louis Berger Group, Inc., Geo-Con, Inc, and The Dawson Corp., to restore the single largest remaining contiguous patch of wetlands in the Meadowlands District. The 230-acre parcel, part of the larger Richard P. Kane Natural Area, was a degraded marsh habitat that was isolated from tidal flows.

This Bank will provide a reliable source of wetland mitigation credits to support only transportation related projects over the next ten years.

Project Challenges

Combination of past land use decisions and ecological factors have constrained the opportunities for major transportation projects proposed by NJ Transit, NJDOT, NJ Turnpike Authority and the Port Authority of NY&NJ to provide necessary environmental mitigation for those projects in the region. Without adequate mitigation, regulatory approvals are jeopardized.

Other challenges encountered on the Kane Tract included marsh subsidence, extensive presence of invasive species, a gas pipeline bisecting the site, The Miracle on the Hudson, and low level mercury contamination, to name a few.

An innovative concept for restricting the tide from upstream properties was developed, gained regulatory approval, and was constructed. The use of this berm design avoided 10 acres of wetland impacts and reduced overall construction costs.

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