



About Us

Environmental Restoration, Shoreline and Streambank Protection

The restoration of ecological productivity of our aquatic habitats is a primary mission of the Civil Works Program. Numerous wetlands have been restored and fisheries migration corridors improved. All of these outputs improve the health of our environment.

There are several other authorities under which the New England District serves the citizens of the region in the environmental restoration arena. The Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (Section 1135) authorizes the restoration of degraded environments to more natural conditions by modifying Corps structures or operations, or implementation of new restoration measures. A similar authority, contained in the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (Section 206) provides for improving the quality of the aquatic environment for the public and fostering partnerships with private and not for profit, as well as traditional sponsors.

Additional authorities include contaminated sediment remediation, watershed planning and regional sediment management.

The 6,100 miles of New England coastline are among the most beautiful in the world, but they are subject to the erosive forces of wind and tidal movement. The Corps shore protection program helps

to protect and restore shores and beaches from erosion damage.

Structures built by the Corps include:

- Breakwaters to intercept wave energy, providing protection for harbor and shoreline
- Groins which trap and retain sand, thus maintaining shore alignment and stability
- Revetments to absorb the energy of breaking waves
- Seawalls to prevent bank erosion and heavy wave damage

Other erosion control methods include:

- Planting vegetation, such as beach grass, to trap and retain sand
- Nourishing beaches with sand to restore them and stop the water's inland advance

The Corps has constructed 40 shore protection projects along New England's 355 miles of public beaches. Inland, the Corps has constructed projects to protect public property along New England's rivers.



Restoring the ecological productivity of aquatic habitats is a primary mission of the Corps' civil works mission. Removal of the Smelt Hill Dam in Falmouth, Maine, is one example of how wetlands are being restored and fisheries migration corridors are improved.