



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New England District

Project Information Sheet



Saco River and Camp Ellis Beach Shore Damage Mitigation Project Saco, Maine

February 23, 2006

696 Virginia Road, Concord, Massachusetts 01742-2751

PROJECT NAME: Saco River and Camp Ellis Beach, Post Feasibility Study

AUTHORITY: Section 111 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Maine – 1st (Allen)

LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION: Camp Ellis Beach is located in Saco, Maine, about 16 miles south of Portland, Maine. The Saco River Federal Navigation Project consists of an 8-foot deep channel that varies from 100 to 200 feet wide. The channel is protected by a 4,800-foot long jetty to the south, and a 6,600-foot long jetty to the north. Camp Ellis Beach lies adjacent to the north jetty and extends 2,500 feet north to Ferry Beach.

Figure 1 – Saco River and Camp Ellis Beach

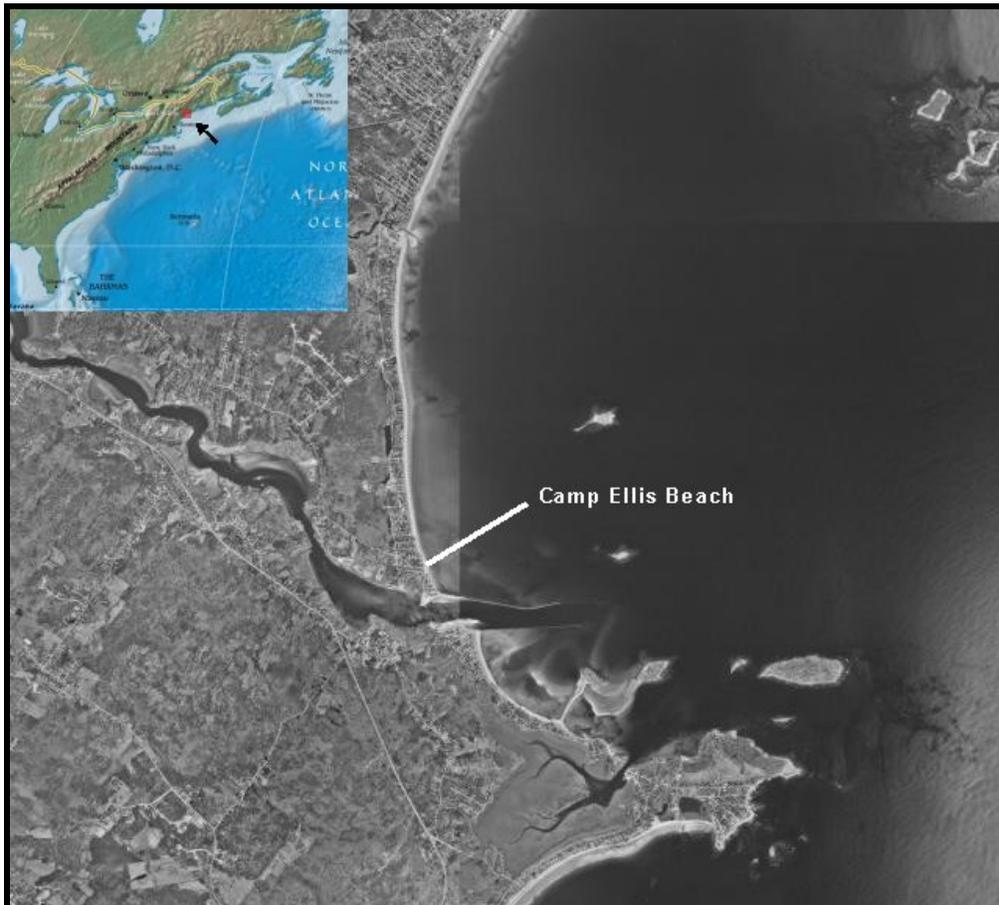
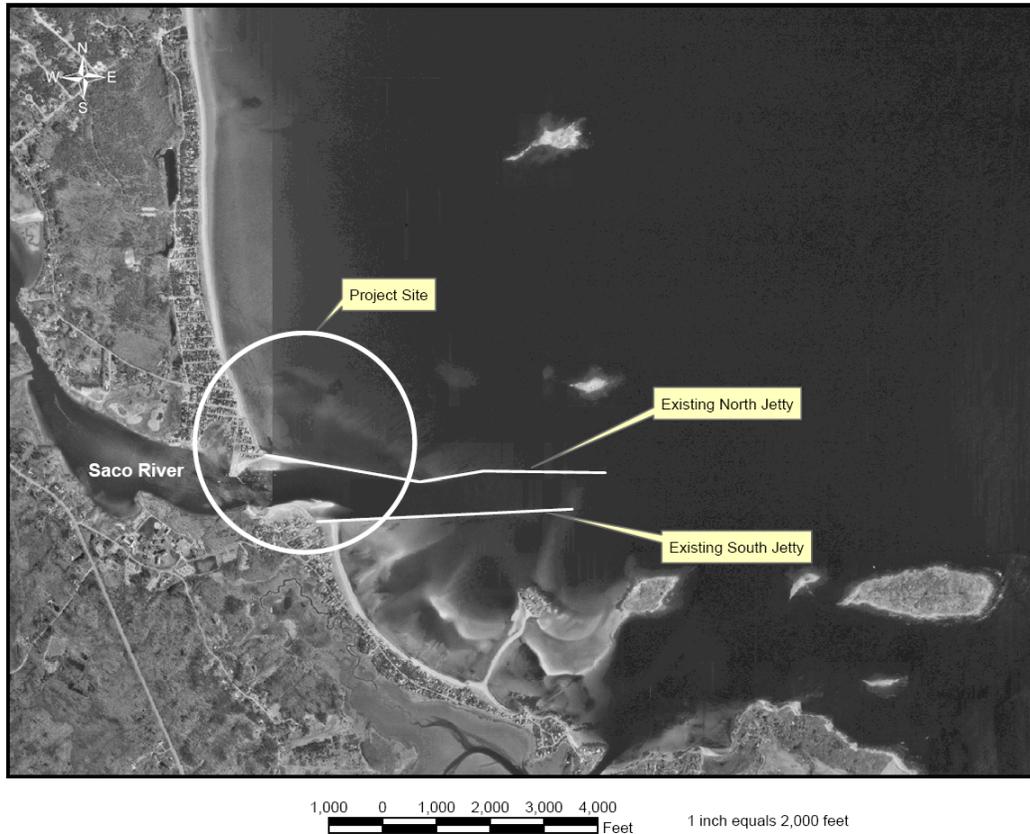


Figure 2 - Camp Ellis, Saco, Maine - Location Map



EXISTING PROBLEM AND BACKGROUND: Coastal storms have caused severe shoreline erosion along Camp Ellis Beach and the loss of over 30 homes. At the request of the city of Saco, the New England District is conducting a study to find a remedy to this ongoing erosion. Alternative solutions are being analyzed using a computer model developed by Woods Hole Group under contract to the Corps. The model is examining the effects of structures, including jetty spurs, breakwaters and T-groins, on wave climate, currents and erosion. Subsurface borings have also been taken in the Saco Bay area to assess foundation conditions. Soft clay was found under a large portion of the study area and resulted in a reanalysis of alternative solutions.

STATUS: Subsurface borings were completed in mid-November 2005, and modeling efforts were complete, including internal reviews, by early January 2006. The final draft modeling report was then provided to the City and State for their information/review. A progress meeting was held in Saco, Maine on February 22, 2006 to discuss the results of studies, and the cost of alternative solutions. This meeting was heavily attended by Federal, State and local officials, including Representative Allen, staff from all Congressional offices, State agency representatives including the Director of the Maine Geologic Survey, and Mayors from Saco and Biddeford, Maine. These officials were pleased with our progress, but concerned that budget shortfalls would delay completion of the design effort and Environmental Assessment.

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Senators Collins and Snowe, and Representative Allen. The delegation has hosted two site visits by John Woodley, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.