



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

Philadelphia District

## Public Notice

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Public Notice No.  
CENAP-PL-E-16-03

Date  
July 5, 2016

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In Reply Refer to:  
Environmental Resources Branch

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### **Delaware Bayshore, Downe Township, NJ (Fortescue and Gandys Beach) Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) Section 205 Flood Risk Management Feasibility Study**

Notice is hereby given that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the Municipality of Downe Township, Cumberland County are conducting a feasibility investigation for flood risk management problems along the Delaware Bayshore communities of Fortescue and Gandys Beach. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, this notice serves as the initiation of the scoping process 33 CFR Part 230.12 for any potential project or action proposed in this study.

The Delaware Bayshore, Downe Township flood risk management study area is located on Delaware Bay in Cumberland County, New Jersey (**Figure 1**). The Township has an area of approximately 53 square miles and is home to several historic mixed use villages which include: Dividing Creek, Newport, Money Island, Fortescue and Gandys Beach (**Figure 2**). These villages share in the cultural, social and economic heritage of many of the other communities on the Bayshore. In Downe Township, three bay beach communities, including Fortescue and Gandys Beach, provide 80% of the township's property tax base.

The developed shorelines at Fortescue and Gandys Beach are fronted by an assortment of nonuniform sea walls and bulkheads built over the past several decades. The shore protection structures have been constructed from a variety of materials including concrete, steel and vinyl sheet piling, timber, cinderblocks, concrete rubble, and various sizes of stone. Beach erosion on the bayward side of the structures threatens to undermine them due to scouring at the toe and washout of material from the landward side. Homes and infrastructure are at risk of flooding and wave damage or loss during coastal storms.

In 2015, a Federal Interest Determination (FID) was completed under Public Law (PL) 113-2, the "Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013". The FID concluded that a project in Downe Township was in the Federal interest and recommended that a Feasibility Study be conducted under the authority provided by Section 205 of the

Flood Control Act of 1948 (Public Law 80-858), as amended. Under this authority, the USACE is authorized to plan, design, and construct small flood control projects. This feasibility study will identify problems and needs within the communities of Fortescue and Gandys Beach, and will evaluate (in addition to "No Action") a number of potential non-structural and structural solutions for the flooding problems experienced in these communities. Additionally, this study will consider completed, planned and ongoing actions conducted by other agencies and non-government organizations in these communities, which include beachfill placement, debris removal, and other habitat-based shoreline restoration activities.

This notice initiates scoping procedures in accordance with 33 CFR Part 230.12. Scoping is an early and open process for identifying the significant issues and obtaining any pertinent information related to the proposed action. Participation of the general public and other interested parties and stakeholders in identifying significant issues, pertinent information and alternatives is being solicited by means of this public notice.

The public is invited to participate in the project scoping by providing written comments, pertinent information, questions, and concerns to this office within 90 days from the date of this notice. All correspondence should be provided to the contacts listed below:

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Peter R. Blum P.E.  
Chief, Planning Division



**Figure 1: Location of Downe Township within New Jersey**

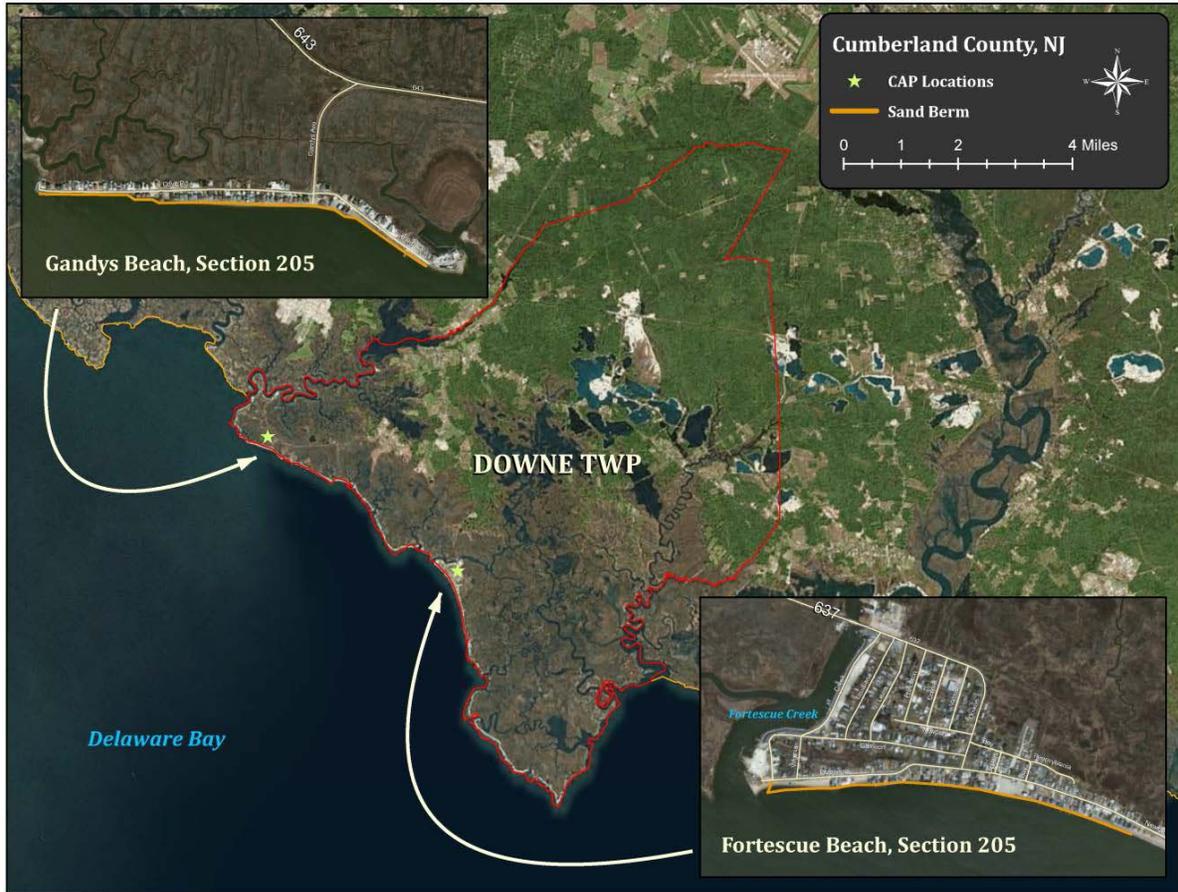


Figure 2: Locations of Fortescue and Gandys Beach in Downe Township