



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Philadelphia District

PROJECT FACTSHEET

**Mordecai Island Coastal Wetlands Restoration
Ocean County, NJ**

January 2009

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS: Rep. Adler (NJ-3)

APPROPRIATION / PHASE:

Continuing Authorities / Design & Implementation

BUSINESS PROGRAM:

Ecosystem Restoration

AUTHORITY: Section 1135 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, as amended. Aquatic Restoration.

LOCATION: Mordecai Island is located west of the Long Beach Island near Beach Haven Borough, New Jersey and is adjacent to the New Jersey Intracoastal Waterway (NJIWW), the main navigation channel of Barnegat Bay.

DESCRIPTION: Mordecai Island has a topography composed of widespread areas of salt marsh and varying degrees of exposed sod or grass-covered slopes. Large areas of submerged aquatic vegetation, consisting primarily of eelgrass, are located off the southwestern edge of the island.

The entire coastline of Mordecai Island has suffered from erosion; however, the western edge, adjacent to the NJIWW, has receded at a more substantial rate on the order of 3-6 feet per year. Continued erosion of the island threatens an abundant diversity of natural wildlife habitats including open marsh, salt ponds, exposed mud flats, shrub-dominated areas and shallow water eelgrass beds. These habitats provide breeding, foraging, nesting and resting areas for many species of migratory birds, including shorebirds, wading birds, raptors and wildfowl. Over 20 bird species have been observed on Mordecai Island. Residents of the island include American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginos*) and black skimmer (*Rynchops niger*), state-listed endangered species, and black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), a state-listed threatened species.

A wooden breakwater will be built approximately 200' offshore of the island to reduce wave impact.

STATUS: FY 08 funds in the amount of \$779K will be used in FY09 to finalize plans and specs, negotiate and execute the PCA, and award the construction contract. This project is fully funded.

**FINANCIAL
DATA (\$000)**

	Fed	Non-Fed	Total
Planning & Design Analysis	366	* 0	366
Construction	643	337	980
Total	1,009	337	1,346

BUDGET

DATA (\$000)	Comments
Thru FY 06	221
FY 07	10
FY 08	779
FY 09	0

* To be reimbursed during construction phase; includes in-kind services, real estate transactions

Mordecai Island Coastal Wetlands Restoration, Ocean County, NJ *(continued)*

SPONSOR: Mordecai Land Trust and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Coastal Engineering are co-sponsors of this project. Mordecai Land Trust, Inc., a New Jersey non-profit organization formed in 2001 to take title of Mordecai Island, was formed solely to preserve and protect Mordecai Island.

PROJECT MANAGER: Heather Jensen
(215) 656-6586
heather.n.jensen@usace.army.mil