Great Egg Harbor River Council

Chair:
Gregory Gregory
Bill Reinert
Somers Point
Vice Chair:
Rick Coe
Monroe Twp.
COUNCILLORS:
Julie Akers
Lou Harvey
Jenn Jennings
Buena Vista Twp.
Alison Stefanik
Kathleen Federico
Daniel Patterson
Corbin City
Bill Christman
Denise Appleget
Hamilton Twp.

Ralph Bernard
Bill Egan
Susan Stiles
Weymouth Twp.
Clark Sprigman
Winslow Twp.

John Keenan
Lynnee LoCicero
Hammonton
Jim Owen
Jim Owen Jr.
Estell Manor
Greg Conway
Borough of Folsom
David Brown
Tom Baum
Egg Harbor Twp.
Bill Handley
Steve Eisenhauer
Bill Stuempfig
Upper Twp.
Dick Colby
Paul Ludgate
Clay Emerson
GEHWA

Open Public Meetings Act Statement

This meeting was advertised pursuant to the NJ Open Public Meetings Act.

Meeting notices were sent to the Courier Post and the Press of Atlantic City.

All meeting notices are also posted on the GEHWA website calendar at www.gehwa.org.

River Council Roll Call

Julie Akers — *Buena Vista Twp*
(Lou Harvey)
(Jenn Jennings)

Alison Stefanik — *Corbin City*
(Kathleen Federico)
(Daniel Patterson)

Jim Owen — *Estell Manor*
(William Donath Sr.)

Bill Christman — *Hamilton Twp.*
(Michael Dupras)

Rick Coe — *Monroe Twp.*

Ralph Bernard — *Weymouth Twp.*
(Bill Egan)
(Susan Stiles)

Gregory Gregory — *Somers Point*
(Bill Reinert)

John Keenan — *Hammonton*
(Lynnee LoCicero)

Clark Sprigman — *Winslow Twp.*

Bill Handley — *Upper Twp.*
(Steve Eisenhauer)
(Bill Stuempfig)

Dick Colby — *GEHWA*
(Paul Ludgate)
(Clay Emerson)

Greg Conway — *Borough of Folsom*

David Brown — *Egg Harbor Twp.*
(Tom Baum)

Approval of Last Meeting Minutes

Great Egg Harbor River Council

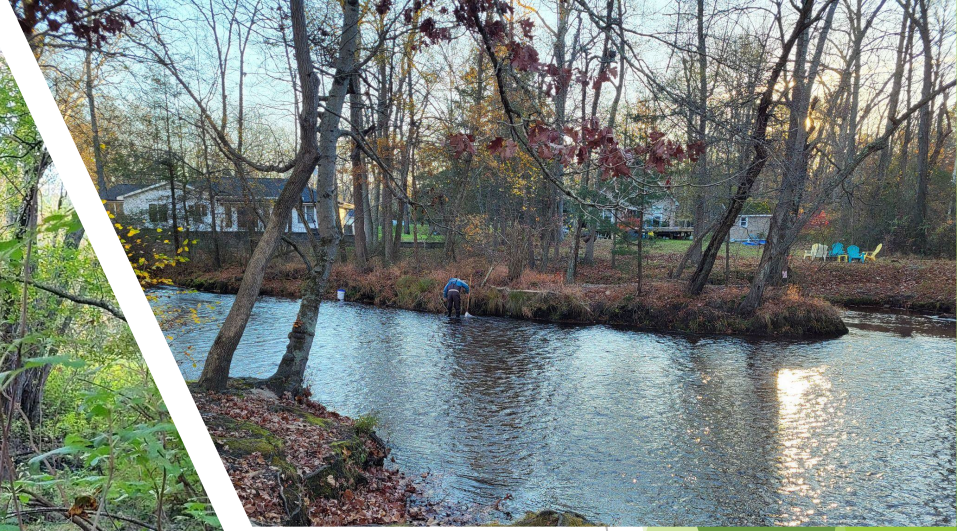
Public Portion

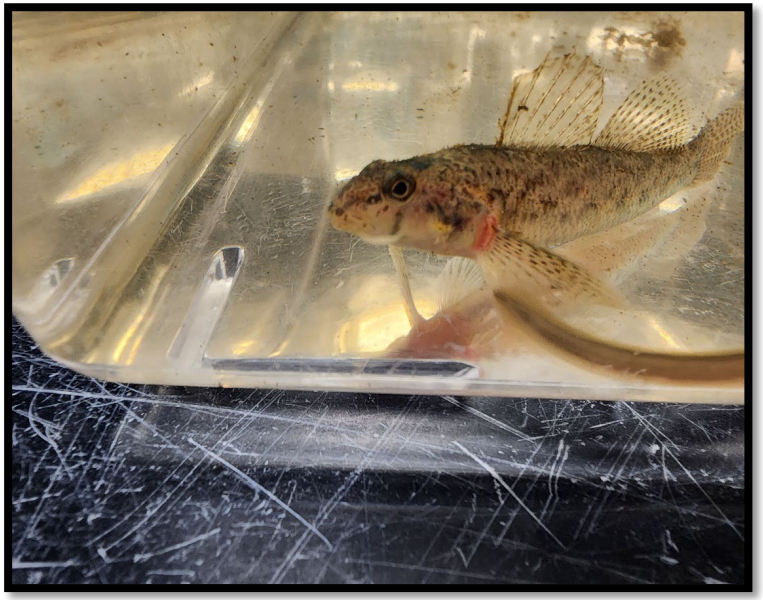
Great Egg Harbor River Council

Lynn Maun
Education and Outreach Coordinator

Fall 2025 Indoor and Outdoor Classroom Events

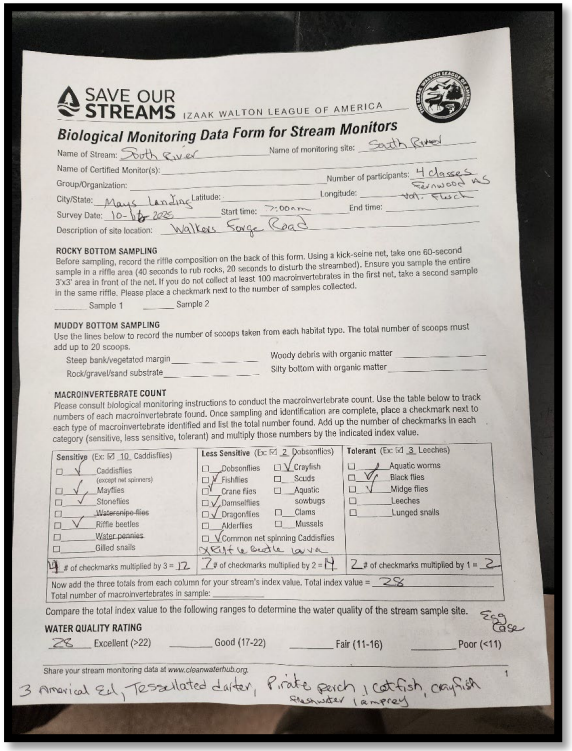
Fernwood MS Macroinvertebrate Programs 10/16, 11/11 & 11/13/2025






1080FHP
VEVOR
TOUGH TOOLS, HALF PRICE


02-06-2023 08:50:27
HAYVE



SAVE OUR STREAMS IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Biological Monitoring Data Form for Stream Monitors

Name of Stream: South River Name of monitoring site: South River

Name of Certified Monitor(s): _____

Group/Organization: _____ Number of participants: 4 classes Fernwood MS Vol. Flush

City/State: Mays Landing Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Survey Date: 10-16 2025 Start time: 2:00pm End time: _____

Description of site location: Walkers Forge Road

ROCKY BOTTOM SAMPLING

Before sampling, record the riffle composition on the back of this form. Using a kick-seine net, take one 60-second sample in a riffle area (40 seconds to rub rocks, 20 seconds to disturb the streambed). Ensure you sample the entire 3'x3' area in front of the net. If you do not collect at least 100 macroinvertebrates in the first net, take a second sample in the same riffle. Please place a checkmark next to the number of samples collected.

_____ Sample 1 _____ Sample 2

MUDDY BOTTOM SAMPLING

Use the lines below to record the number of scoops taken from each habitat type. The total number of scoops must add up to 20 scoops.

Steep bank/vegetated margin _____ Woody debris with organic matter _____

Rock/gravel/sand substrate _____ Silty bottom with organic matter _____

MACROINVERTEBRATE COUNT

Please consult biological monitoring instructions to conduct the macroinvertebrate count. Use the table below to track numbers of each macroinvertebrate found. Once sampling and identification are complete, place a checkmark next to each type of macroinvertebrate identified and list the total number found. Add up the number of checkmarks in each category (sensitive, less sensitive, tolerant) and multiply those numbers by the indicated index value.

Sensitive (Ex: ☑ 10 Caddisflies)	**Less Sensitive** (Ex: ☑ 2 Dobsonflies)	**Tolerant** (Ex: ☑ 3 Leeches)
☐ √ Caddisflies (except net spinners)	☐ ___ Dobsonflies	☐ ___ Aquatic worms
☐ √ Mayflies	☐ √ Crayfish	☐ √ Black flies
☐ ___ Stoneflies	☐ √ Fishflies	☐ √ Midge flies
☐ ___ ~~Watersnipe flies~~	☐ ___ Scuds	☐ ___ Leeches
☐ √ Riffle beetles	☐ √ Crane flies	☐ ___ Lunged snails
☐ ___ Water pennies	☐ ___ Aquatic sowbugs	
☐ ___ Gilled snails	☐ √ Damselflies	
	☐ √ Dragonflies	
	☐ ___ Clams	
	☐ ___ Alderflies	
	☐ ___ Mussels	
	☐ √ Common net spinning Caddisflies	
	☐ √ Riffle beetle larva	
4 # of checkmarks multiplied by 3 = 12	7 # of checkmarks multiplied by 2 = 14	2 # of checkmarks multiplied by 1 = 2

Now add the three totals from each column for your stream's index value. Total index value = 28

Total number of macroinvertebrates in sample: _____

Compare the total index value to the following ranges to determine the water quality of the stream sample site.

WATER QUALITY RATING

28 Excellent (>22) _____ Good (17-22) _____ Fair (11-16) _____ Poor (<11)

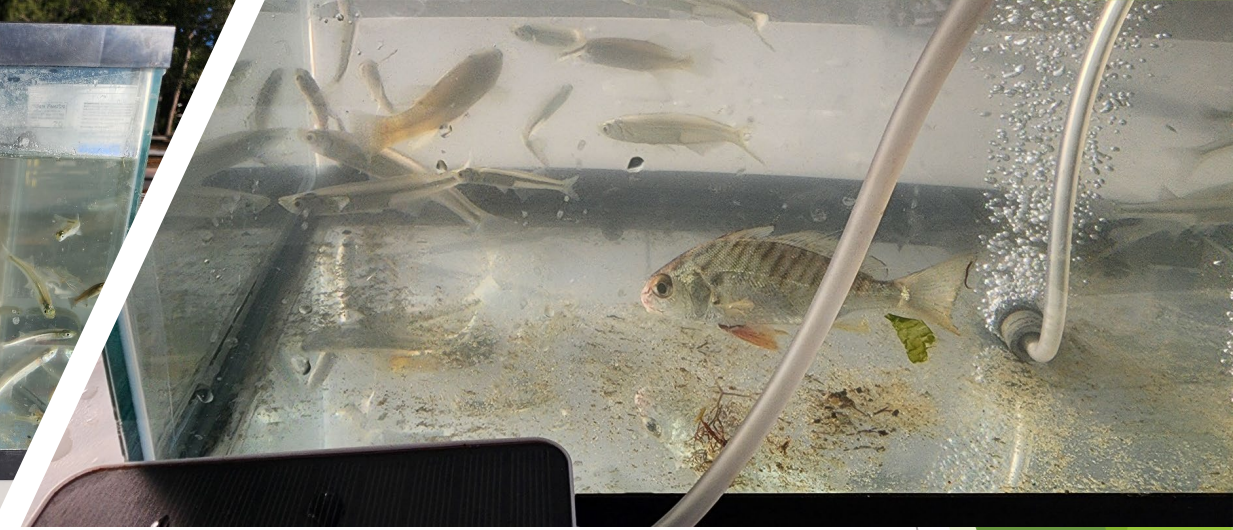
Share your stream monitoring data at www.cleanwaterhub.org.

3 American Eel, Tessellated darter, Pirate perch, Catfish, Crayfish, Freshwater lamprey

Egg case

Jordan Road School
115 5th & 6th Graders
Kennedy Park
Friday, October 17, 2025

The students rotated through 5 stations

Community Events

Community Event

Hammonton's 16th Green Day Event November 1, 2025

GEHWA Member and Friends Meeting Tuesday, November 25,2025

Fred Akers
“Restoration of Tuckahoe Island” & Jacob DeRose “NJDEP Watershed Ambassador Program”

Upcoming Events

GEHWA Member and Friends Meeting Tuesday, January 27,2026 at 6:30PM

2025 Calendar Year Review

Outreach 2025

GEHWA Staff

Students – 7,372

Adults – 4,227

Outreach 2025

GEHWA Volunteers

Julie Akers & Tom Baum

Students – 3,190

Adults – 1,717


GREAT EGG HARBOR
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Outreach 2025
Other GEHWA Volunteers Assisted at many Events.

Total Outreach 2025

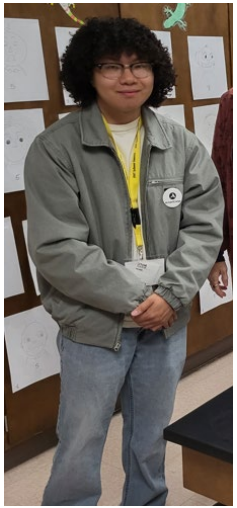
Students – 10,562

Adults – 5,944

We Would Like to Thank All Our Special Volunteers

Special Thank You To:
Julie Akers, Tom Baum, David Kreutz, Cheryl Fouts, Morgan Crouch, Bill Handley, Dave Brown, Jacob DeRose, Paul Ludgate, & Lynnee LoCicero
River Council Members and GEHWA Trustees


GREAT EGG HARBOR
WATERSHED ASSOCIATION




Paul, thanks for being with us for the past 20+ years!
2003
2007

CoCoRaHS Program

CoCoRaHS Guiness Records

CoCoRaHs - largest volunteer weather observation network

The CoCoRaHS network has been recognized by the Guinness World Records as the largest volunteer weather observation network.

CoCoRaHS Guiness Records

2023 - 26,500 stations produced
5.6 million daily reports
US, Canada and Bahamas

National Park Service
Sarah Bursky ~

- **Outdoor Recreational Planner**
  NPS NE Regional Office, Philadelphia, PA
- **Great Egg Harbor River (Atl., Glo., Cam., Cape.)**
- **Maurice River (Cumberland County, NJ)**
- **Musconetcong River (Hunterdon County, NJ)**

White Clay Creek (Delaware)

Lower Delaware (NJ & PA)

National Park Service

Inflation Reduction Act

Inflation Reduction Act: Ecosystem Resilience - Infrastructure (U.S. National Park Service)

Resilience | FY24 $681,669

The National Park Service will work to restore degraded sea grass and salt marsh systems which provide valuable habitat and a buffer against storms and sea level rise.

Why? Salt marsh ecosystems are disappearing due to development and climate change, and over the last decade the United States has led the world in rates of salt marsh loss. **A globally rare ecosystem, salt marsh is home to unique, native species that can live nowhere else; many birds, fish and other wildlife rely on salt marshes, including most commercial and recreational species that support a multi-billion-dollar industry.** These marshes buffer coastal communities — and billions of dollars in infrastructure —from flooding due to major storms, which are intensifying due to climate change.

ARTICLE

Project Profile: Increasing Coastal Resilience through Salt Marsh Restoration and Conservation

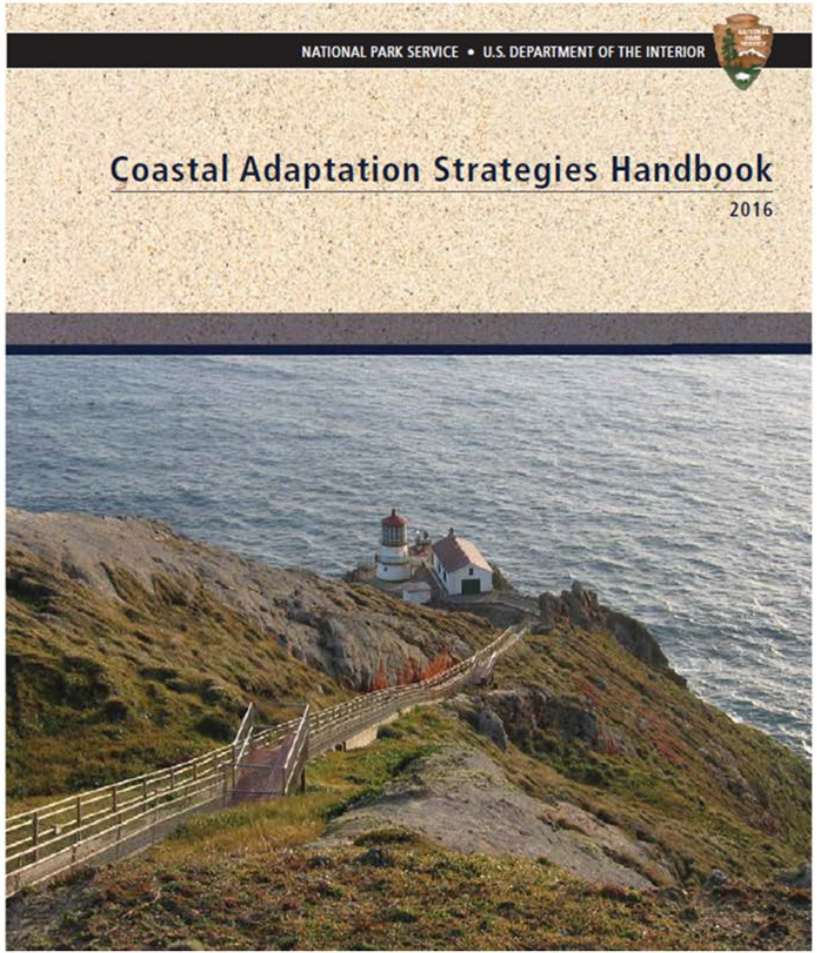
Thompson Island salt marsh, Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area.
NPS / E. Bernbaum

Starting in 2023, the National Park Service has been actively working with GEHWA staff to protect and restore Tuckahoe Island through the beneficial use of dredge material (BUD).

Tuckahoe Island will be a demonstration project to develop restoration procedures for other marsh areas in the Great Egg Harbor National Scenic and Recreational River

Paul Kenney and Kurt Cheng attended many online meetings with potential partners and worked to connect the project with restoration funding sources since 2023.

Paul Kenny scheduled a meeting in September 2024 with NPS Coastal Restoration Planners to get the project on their Website for potential funding and completed a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) report to rule out impacts to Federally listed species in the project area.



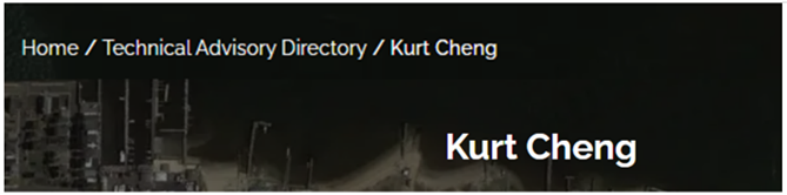
Case Study 11:

Restoring the Jamaica Bay Wetlands, Gateway National Recreation Area, New York
Contributing Authors:

Patricia Rafferty (NPS Northeast Region) and Amanda Babson (NPS Northeast Region)

Goals

Gateway National Recreation Area partnered with other state and federal agencies to restore wetlands in Jamaica Bay, a eutrophic urban estuary, through sediment addition and plantings. While the project was not driven by climate change concerns, addressing marsh elevation loss is consistent with methods to address sea level rise. The monitoring program strives to determine factors contributing to project performance; to test several experimental techniques; to develop and justify adaptive management actions; and to better understand factors contributing to marsh loss throughout Jamaica Bay.



Kurt is a coastal restoration expert for NPS, and when he returns from paternity leave on 12/22/25, he will continue to be an important partner to help with the successful restoration of Tuckahoe Island.

Technical Assistance Summary

Conceptual design, implementation, and monitoring for coastal projects

Regions Served:

Southeast and Central NJ (Great Egg Harbor Riverwatershed and Sandy Hook region)

Areas of Expertise:

Ecological Design & Techniques, Outreach & Education, Permitting, Monitoring

Contact:

Kurt Cheng - National Park Service
kurt_cheng@nps.gov

Old Business

Great Egg Harbor River Council

New Business

Great Egg Harbor River Council

Kyle Rumaker - Newly Elected GEHWA Trustee

Kyle's Background in Coastal Engineering:

- Beach analysis
- Beach replenishment design
- Dredge design
- Marsh/wetland restoration
- Inlet and harbor design
- Implementation of natural and nature based features for shoreline protection
- Increasing the resilience of coastal communities.

Kyle is a Beesley's Point native, and has spent a ton of time rowing and recreating in and around the Great Egg Harbor Watershed!

River Councilor Reports for each Municipality.

Buena Vista Township
Corbin City
Egg Harbor Township
Estell Manor
Folsom Borough
Hamilton Township
Hammonton Town

Monroe Township
Somers Point City
Upper Township
Weymouth Township
Winslow Township
Great Egg Harbor Watershed
National Park Service

Administrator's Report

Beesley's Point Project Updates

GEHWA Withdrawal from Beesley’s Point Project

After getting preliminary approval from the Wetlands Mitigation Council on the project, BPDG was not willing to deed restrict the project area for restoration.

Due to their development interests, GEHWA had to withdraw from the project.

We are hopeful that in the future there will be opportunities to work on the much needed shoreline stabilization and restoration work on Beesley’s Point.

Tuckahoe Island Project Updates

NJDEP & NJDOT are committing to restore Tuckahoe Island in the coming years.

Brooke, Fred, Kurt Cheng (NPS), and Tyler Kinney (NJDEP) are members of the “Habitat Team”

We are tasked with creating an “Area of Interest” report and will be meeting bi-weekly starting in January.

This will be a long complicated process and there is a timeline that informs all of the steps that have to happen.

Partners:

Personnel	Role	Email Address
NJDOT OMR		
Genevive Clifton	Director	genevieve.clifton@dot.nj.gov
Nusrat Jahan	PM	nusrat.jahan@dot.nj.gov
Katie Axt*	Staff Augmentation	katie.axt@wsp.com
WSP/GBA		
Jenn Grenier*	Program Manager	jenn.grenier@wsp.com
Jen Brunton *	Project Manger	jennifer.brunton@wsp.com
Michael Marano *	Eng	michael.marano@wsp.com
Joseph Fisahn*	Eng	joseph.fisahn@wsp.com
Tyler Armstrong*	Env	tyler.armstrong@wsp.com
Tyler Littlefield*	Eng	trlittlefield@gba-inc.com
Project Partners		
Tyler Kinney*	NJDEP	tyler.kinney@dep.nj.gov
Fred Akers*	GEHWA	fred.akers13@gmail.com
Brooke Fishe*r	GEHWA	bhandley99@gmail.com
Adrianna Zito-Livingston*	TNC	azito-livingston@tnc.org
Bill Shadel*	TNC	william.shadel@tnc.org
Elizebeth Semple*	TNC	elizabeth.semple@tnc.org
Kurt Cheng	NPS	kurt_cheng@nps.gov

Schedule Overview

Scope Item	Schedule
Data Collection	Fall / Winter 2025-2026
Partner-generated Preliminary restoration site recommendations	January 2026
Conceptual Placement Design	Feb/March 2026
Hydraulic Analysis	Spring 2026
Restoration Design of Preferred Alternative	Summer 2026
NJDEP and USACE Permit Applications	Target submission late Summer/ Early fall 2026

GOAL OF THIS PHASE OF THE PROJECT: PERMIT PLANS

Final design efforts to begin in early fall 2026 for 2027 construction

Scope Review

GEHWA

Design Team

- Data Collection
  - Biobenchmark survey – Fall
  - Survey and Mapping
  - Environmental Base Mapping (desktop effort)
  - Geotechnical investigations
- Hydraulic Analysis – existing and proposed conditions
- Conceptual Placement Design
- Final Restoration Design of Preferred Alternative (60%-Level)
- NJDEP and USACE Permit Applications

Partner Team

- Data Collection
  - Biobenchmark survey – Spring
  - Habitat Mapping
  - Tidal Cycle Monitoring
- Analyses
  - Sea Level Rise Analysis
- Preliminary restoration site recommendations

Drexel & Stonybrook Report on Tuckahoe Island

During our time studying Tuckahoe Island, we noticed that there was other research occurring there.

Drexel University and Stonybrook University had SETs (Surface Elevation Table instruments) out on the island.

Until recently, we did not have any more information about them.

Assessment and monitoring of tidal marshes along the Tuckahoe River

Authors and Affiliation:
Andrew Payne [1] & Elizabeth Burke Watson, Ph.D. [2]

[1] Department of Biodiversity, Earth & Environmental Sciences Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA, ap3752@drexel.edu

[2] Associate Professor, Dept. of Ecology and Evolution Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, Elizabeth.b.watson@stonybrook.edu

Prepared for:
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Science and Research
Project Manager: Lori A. Lester, Ph.D.

June 2024

Study purpose:

The purpose of establishing this wetland monitoring effort is to provide important baseline data about an area of coastal wetlands that is relatively unstudied in coastal New Jersey but comprises a large portion of coastal marsh under state management.

Drexel / Stonybrook Research & Report for NJDEP

Published on the NJDEP website we found the report for the research that took place from 2021 - 2024 along the Tuckahoe river and on Tuckahoe Island.

The Universities measured:

- Soils
- Vegetation (Biomass, diversity, and distribution)
- Water Quality
- Shellfish Distribution
- Surface Elevation
- MidTRAM Rapid Assessments

GEHWA’s work so far

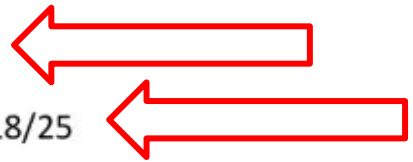
- Desktop mapping
- MidTRAM marsh assessments
- Data Logger deployments & data collection
- Transporting partner engineers on site
- Meeting and coordinating with state partners

Special thanks to Dave Brown and Paul Kenney for volunteer assistance in conducting the MidTRAM marsh assessments.

Data Collection Updates

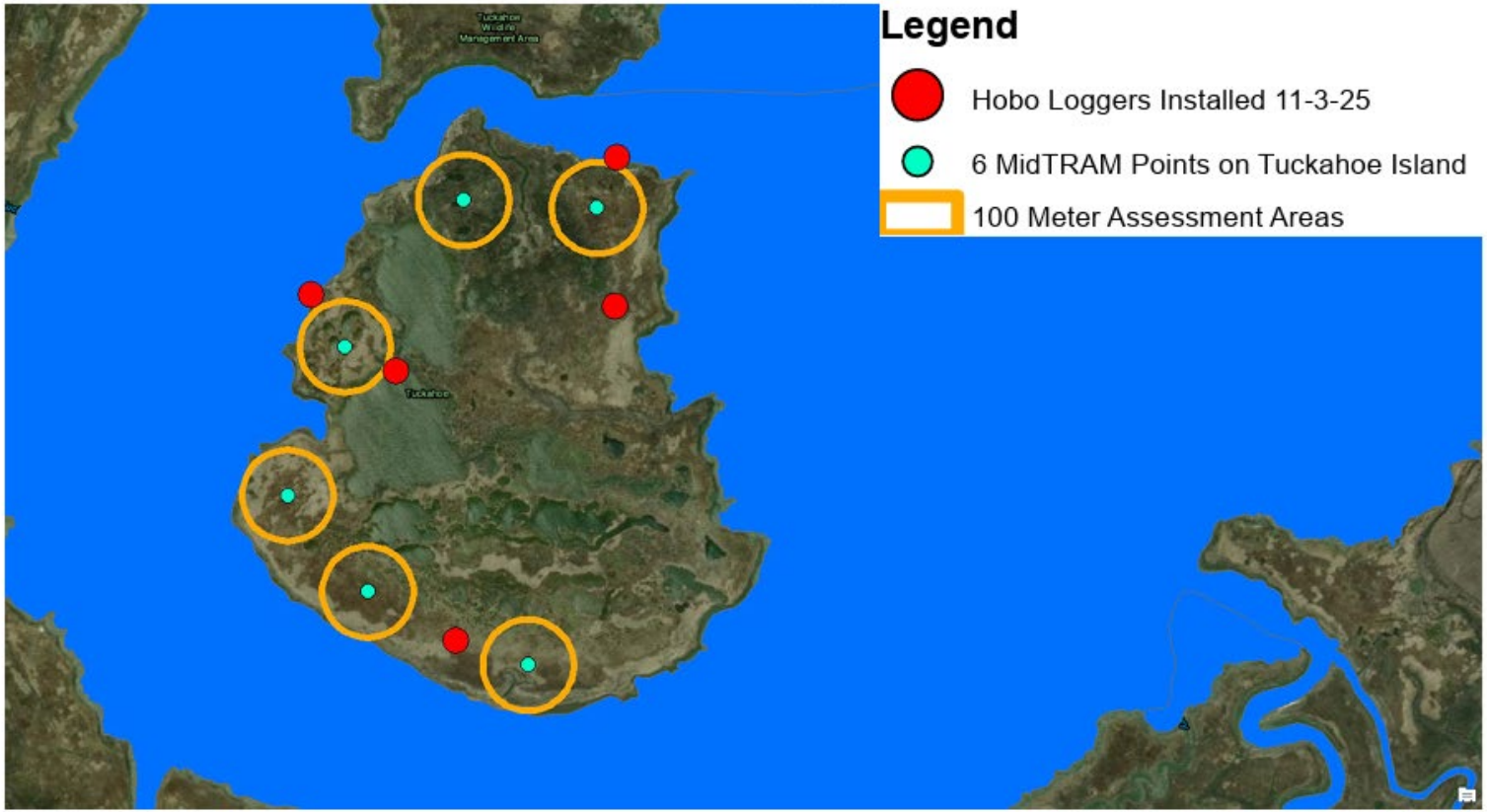
STATUS

- Tide Data – Loggers installed 11/3/25
- Biobenchmark Surveys – Conducted 11/18/25
- Survey – Targeting early January
- Geotech – Coordination with Northland ongoing regarding schedule

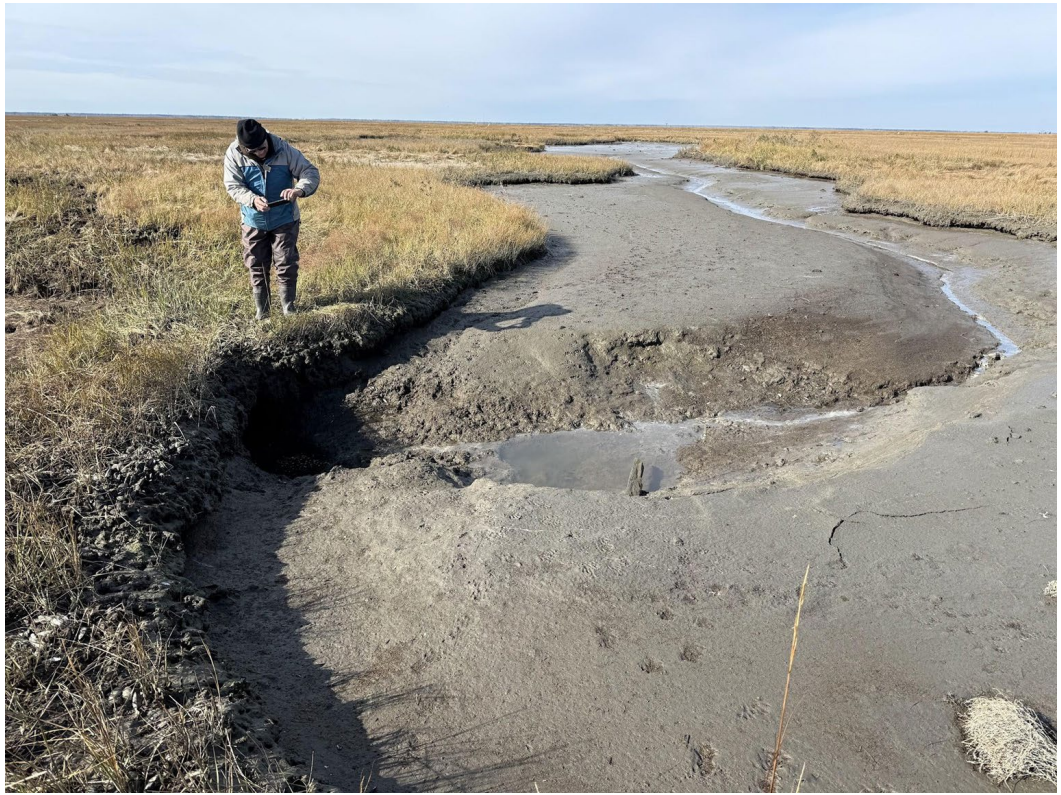


GEHWA & WSP engineers

MidTRAM Data Collected 9/25, Hobo Loggers Installed 11-3-25



11/18 Tuckahoe Island Survey



Fred and Brooke went out to collect data from the data loggers on the island while WSP engineers completed a Bio Benchmark Survey.

Native oysters found growing amongst ribbed mussels on Tuckahoe Island

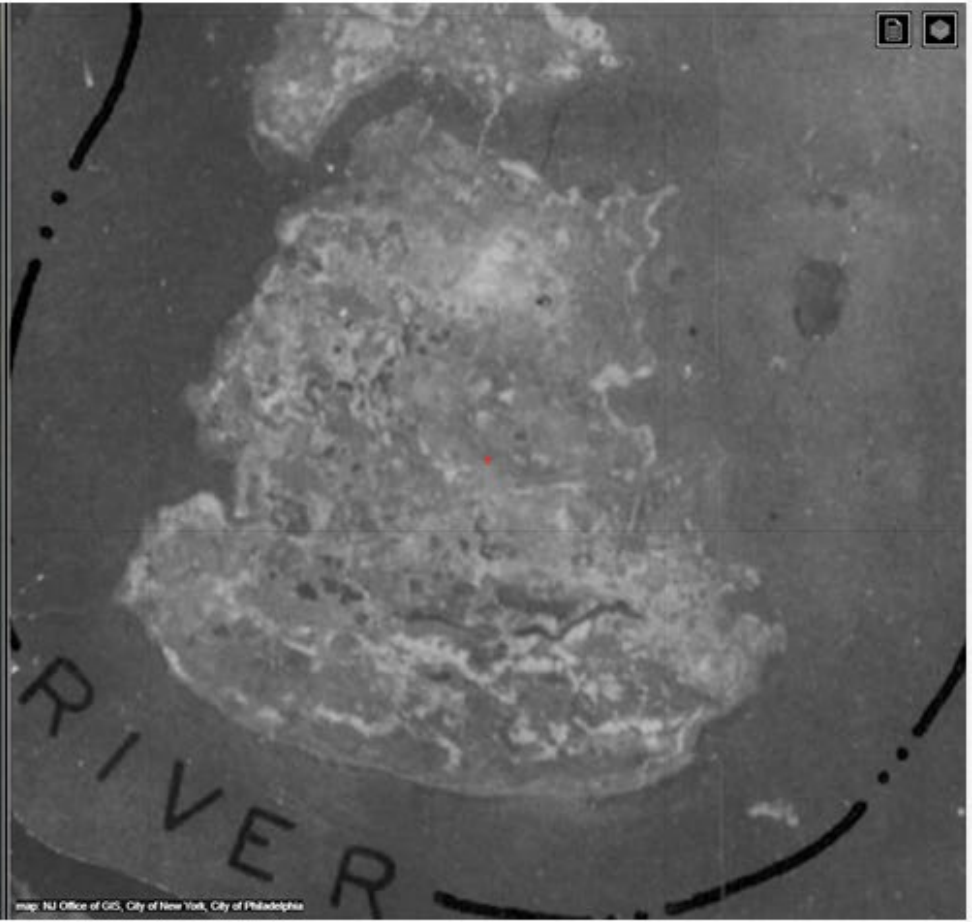
Our Preliminary Site Restoration Recommendations

#1: Restore large breached mudflats to marsh (SW of island)

#2: Restore fragmentation (S side of island)

Tuckahoe Island 2015

Tuckahoe Island 1930



TNC Grant Awarded for Pipeline Project

TNC was awarded **.989 million** to study and create 5 restoration designs for areas of interest in the Great Egg Harbor Estuary.

Goals: Restore habitat for wildlife, coastal resilience for surrounding communities

Developing Designs to Enhance Marsh in the Great Egg Harbor Estuary (NJ)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

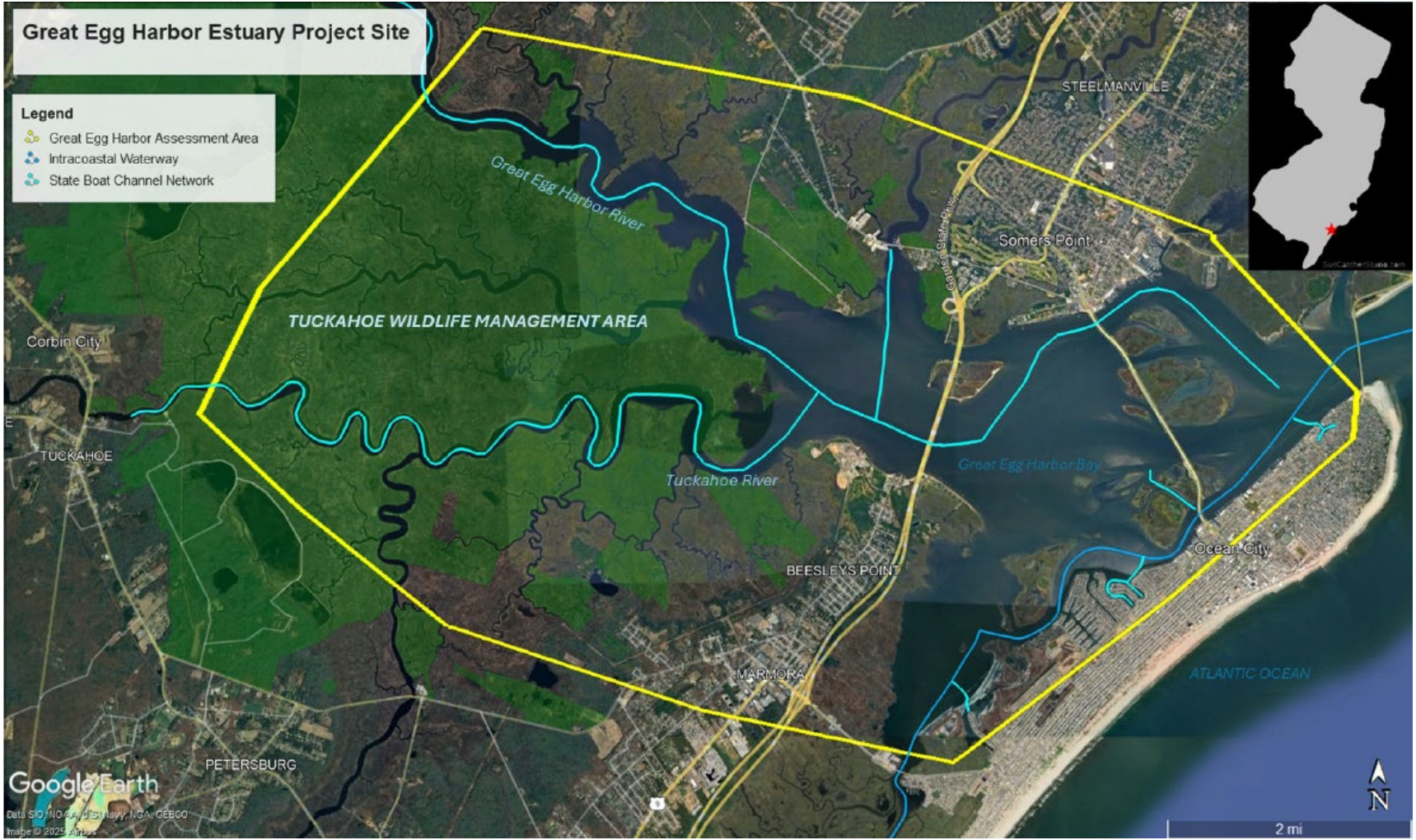
Grant Amount:.....$988,900

Matching Funds:.....$461,800

Total Project Amount:.....$1,450,700

Assess the marsh complex within the Tuckahoe Wildlife Management Area to create preliminary restoration designs for up to five areas of interest and identify additional locations for future restoration. Project will benefit 1,000 acres of marsh, restoring vital habitat for species, such as the saltmarsh sparrow and black duck, while protecting adjacent communities in the Great Egg Harbor Estuary.

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION NFWF


Great Egg Harbor Estuary Project Site
Legend
Great Egg Harbor Assessment Area
Intracoastal Waterway
State Boat Channel Network
STEELMANVILLE
Great Egg Harbor River
Somers Point
TUCKAHOE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
Corbin City
TUCKAHOE
Tuckahoe River
Great Egg Harbor Bay
Ocean City
BEESLEYS POINT
MARMORA
ATLANTIC OCEAN
PETERSBURG
Google Earth
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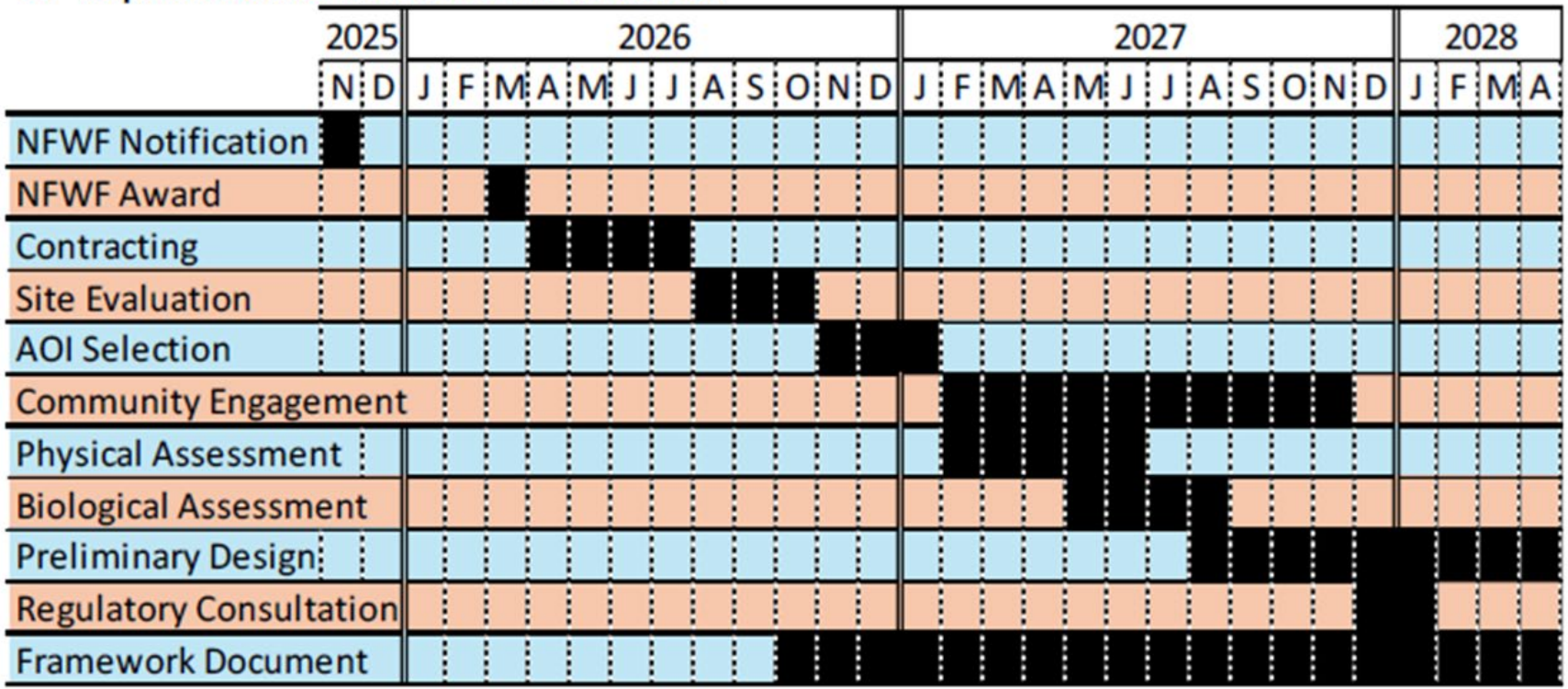
GEHWA’s role in TNC Marsh Pipeline

- **Inform Areas of Interest**
- **Community Outreach and Engagement**
- **Data collection and monitoring**

B. Implementation Timeline and Milestones:

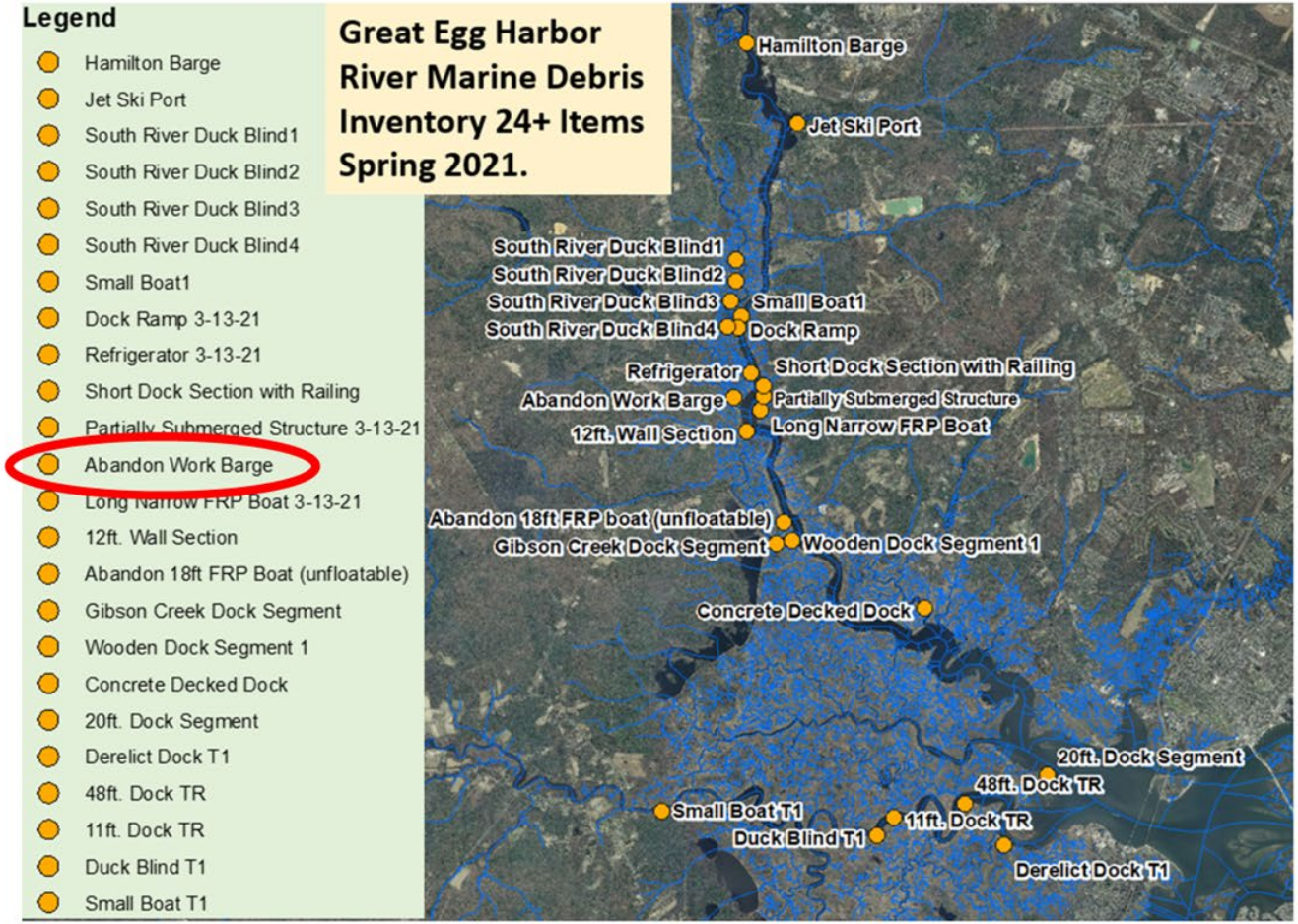


Abandon Work Barge Finally Removed!

In the Spring of 2021, when Brooke was working as the Marine Debris Program Intern, we discovered an Abandon Work Barge along with many other marine debris items.

4 years later in the Fall of 2025, GEHWA applied for and received a grant of $15,000 from Stockton University to remove and dispose of the 12ft. X 30ft. barge.

On 11/5/25, Shamrock Towing removed the barge from the river.



On 10/16/25, the Great Egg Harbor Watershed Association was awarded a grant from Stockton University not to exceed $15,000 to remove this derelict barge from Stephen Creek.

11/5/25, Shamrock Towing pulled the barge off the marsh and towed it to English Creek.

Before towing the barge, Shamrock Towing used the crane on the Defiant to remove big steel.

Before towing the barge, Shamrock Towing used the crane on the Defiant to remove big steel.

Separate parts of the derelict work barge were removed separately. (11/5/25)

Hauling out the derelict work barge at English Creek Marina on 11/5/25

Hauling out the derelict work barge at English Creek Marina on 11/5/25

Hauling out the derelict work barge at English Creek Marina on 11/5/25

The entire derelict work barge was filled with exposed crumbling Styrofoam (11/5/25).

The derelict work barge had to be divided in two to haul it out into the yard (11/5/25).

The derelict work barge had to be divided in two to haul it out into the yard (11/25/25).

The first half of the derelict work barge is hauled to the disposal area (11/5/25).

The entire derelict work barge was filled with exposed crumbling Styrofoam (11/17/25).

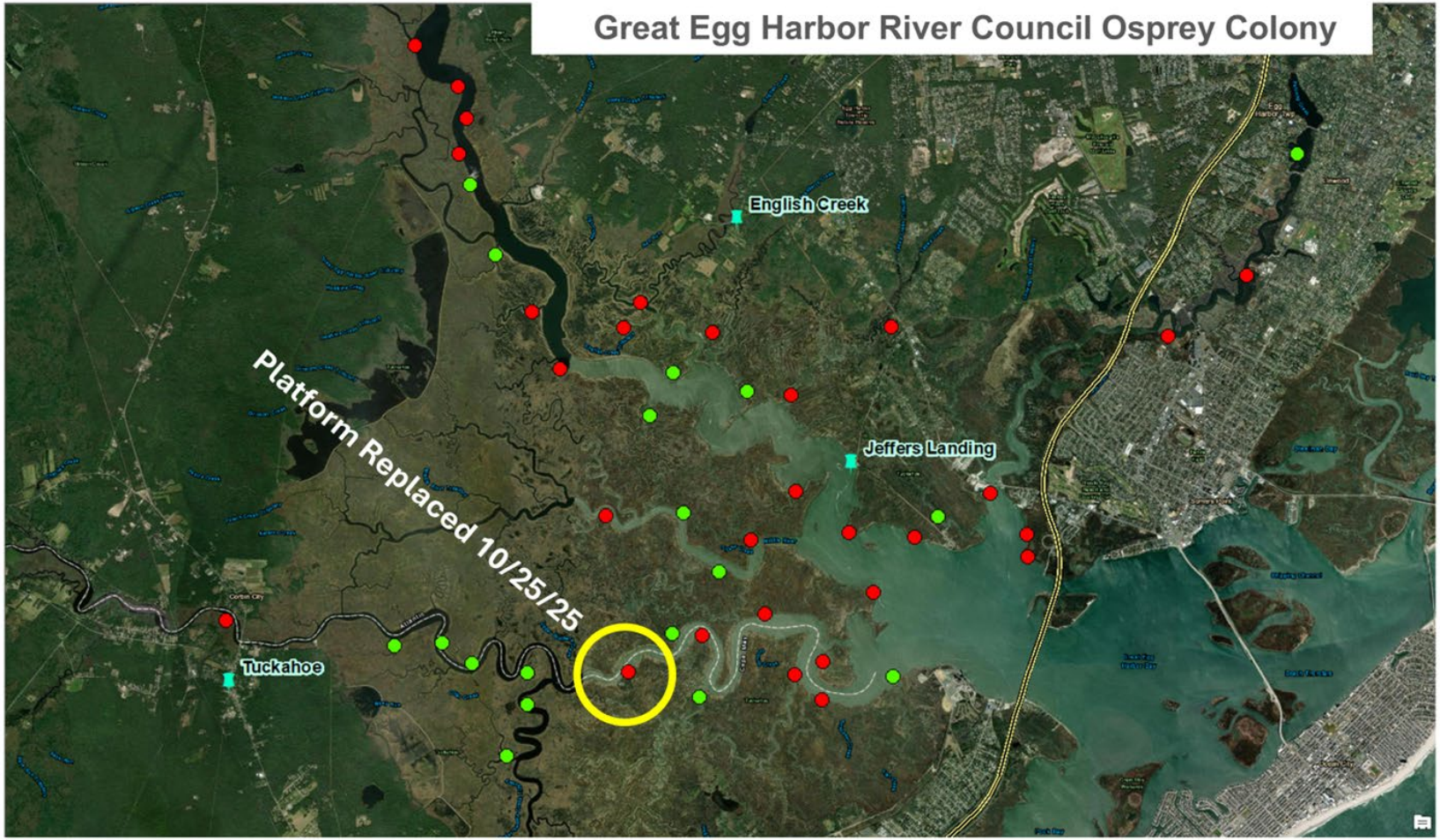
The entire derelict work barge was filled with exposed crumbling Styrofoam (11/17/25).

Parts of the derelict work barge are staged for removal from the yard. (11/17/25)

Parts of the derelict work barge are staged for removal from the yard. (11/17/25)

Parts of the derelict work barge are staged for removal from the yard. (11/25/25)

Parts of the derelict work barge are staged for removal from the yard. (12/12/25)


Great Egg Harbor River Council Osprey Colony
English Creek
Jeffers Landing
Platform Replaced 10/25/25
Tuckahoe

Staging the new osprey platform in the work boat before launching 10/19/25.

The new osprey platform in the work boat before delivery 10/21/25.

The new osprey platform installed, thanks to a great crew! 10/25/25

Oyster Spat Project 2025

Every other week this year, Tom Baum, Dave Brown, Julie, Fred, Lynn and Brooke went out and collected, counted, and measured oyster spat in 4 locations in the estuary for the Bureau of Marine Shelfisheries.

They want us to do it again for 2026.

Great Egg Harbor Estuary Oyster Spat Monitoring sites June to October 2025

2025 Great Egg Harbor Oyster Spat Monitoring Data Summary																							
Station	Collection Date	# of Shells	Total Spat	Spat Measurements MM																			
Seed Beds	7/11/2025	20	1	4																			
Seed Beds	7/24/2025	20	1	3																			
Seed Beds	8/6/2025	20	4	3	4	5	3																
Middle River	8/6/2025	20	1	6																			
Seed Beds	8/29/2025	20	17	4	5	5	4	3	3	3	6	4	6	6	4	8	5	5	4	8			
Middle River	8/30/2025	20	2	5	8																		
Seed Beds	9/13/2025	20	2	3	2																		
Patcong Creek	9/13/2025	20	2	4	15																		
Soaking for full 4 months																							
Seed Beds	10/11/2025	20	18	14	11	7	7	26	4	8	13	6	10	7	9	9	5	10	13	8	14		
Middle River	10/11/2025	20	1	8																			
Tuckahoe River	10/11/2025	20	0																				

Ocean City Visitor Center on the Great Egg Harbor Coastal Marshes

View of the Coastal Marshes from the Ocean City Visitor Center.
This location offers an exceptional opportunity to teach about coastal marshes.

The sign was designed by Lynn Maun, paid for by the Ocean City Yacht Club, and installed on 10/27/25.

Thanks to Dave Brown, David and Sheryl Kreutz, and Brooke for help with the install.

This picture was taken by Bill Reinert on 10/29/25.

Annual GEHWA report to NPS

Our annual reporting to NPS is due 12/29.

Brooke is currently working on finalizing our report that details how our Cooperative Agreement money is spent as well as staff activities and performance.

Upon completion, this report will be shared with River Councilors and Trustees for a recap of Fiscal Year 2025.

Progress on Marshallville Rd Bridge

The bridge over Mill Creek is set to be completed as a pedestrian bridge in January after being closed down for about 20 years!

Upper Township and Marshallville Road residents are grateful to have had the support from GEHWA and the River Council in getting this project to happen.

Residents are working together to plan a small opening celebration in 2026.