



Comprehensive Restoration Plan Nomination FAQs – What does it mean to nominate a site for restoration or acquisition?

Please direct any questions about the nomination of a new site to [habitat@harboestuary.org](mailto:habitat@harborestuary.org). For comments regarding the Hudson-Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan (CRP), the Feasibility Study of this plan, or to request a hard copy, please send to hre-plan-comments@usace.army.mil

Q: What is the significance of listing a site in the Comprehensive Restoration Plan (CRP)?

A: Nominating a site to the CRP list is a tool to recognize a site's current or potential habitat or public value, making it more visible to the restoration community.

Q: How are nominated sites reviewed?

A: Listed sites will be collected and then evaluated by the Harbor Estuary Program's Restoration and Public Access Working Groups. These groups include representatives from multiple agencies and non-governmental organizations, with a range of expertise. The nominating party may be asked to have a conversation with these groups about their site as part of the review process. Upon approval, the nominating party will be notified and the site added to the map and database. Feasibility of the project will be determined on a case-by-case basis if a site is pushed forward for restoration by a funding party.

Q: Does listing a site mean that it will be restored or protected?

A: Listing a site in the Comprehensive Restoration Plan represents an agreement between Harbor Estuary Program partners about which sites are a priority for restoration, protection, or acquisition. The CRP list is intended to be an inventory of opportunities for future harbor restoration activities by multiple state, federal, and non-governmental agencies. The listing process will allow the Restoration Working Group to take a more active role in coordinating and advancing restoration, access, and protection with municipalities and other stakeholders within the Estuary. The New York-New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program, for example, devotes annual funds towards restoration based upon the CRP's Target Ecosystem Characteristics. Additionally, the list will provide guidance and highlight opportunities for current and potential federal cost-sharing of restoration projects. For example, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will use the CRP as a basis for potential partnering with other public or private groups through its Civil Works Program. Further, one of the recommendations of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Hudson-Raritan Estuary Feasibility Study will be the establishment of a programmatic authority that would allow proposing and evaluating individual projects based on merit and relative contribution to the overall program objectives. In this manner, each restoration site could be implemented through a cost shared program administered by the Corps.

Q: Can I list someone else's back yard as a restoration site?

A: The list of nominations is a goal for habitat restoration, and was approved as such from a habitat perspective. The list currently does include privately-owned sites, but no restoration will be able to occur on those sites without the owner's interest and consent in restoration occurring on their property.

Q: Is there a different permitting protocol for restoration projects under the CRP?

A: No; the inclusion of a site on the CRP list in no way exempts it from applicable permits or regulatory review by appropriate federal, state or local agencies.



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