



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Norfolk District

James River Beachfront Removal Action

The James River beachfront is a former trash and scrap metal disposal site. The site contains metal, construction, and building debris on the surface and subsurface. The Army Corps of Engineers is planning a removal action to clear away debris from the low tide mark to the bluff. Plexus Scientific Corporation has been contracted to complete the work.

Plexus will access the site through a gate in the southeast corner of the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) site, off College Drive. An office trailer and three roll-off waste containers will be set up during the removal action. Excavation equipment will include an excavator, a front-end loader, and some small equipment that is necessary for limited tree removal. The contractor will improve the existing access road that connects the beach to the project access road by placing a layer of geotextile fabric covered by crushed stone. Some brush and tree removal will be necessary to provide access to the bluff and eroded slope areas.

Plexus will pick up and separate all man-made debris, and deposit it into the roll-offs. A loader will be used to uncover and remove any debris that is partially buried or that cannot be lifted manually. Plexus will be excavating approximately 2 to 3 feet below the surface. A skid-steer loader will be used to rake the beach to consolidate smaller items for removal. A large wooden dock on the beach will be demolished. In addition, existing fencing located at both the east and west beachfront boundaries will be removed and disposed of. The excavator will remove large objects from the beach area and objects observed within the bank from a point on top of the existing bank.

After all visible material has been removed, the contractor will perform a geophysics survey utilizing equipment that can detect metal objects under the surface. Positive readings from the survey will be investigated through excavation. All man-made debris will be removed, and the affected area will be resurveyed to ensure that the removal is complete. Soil samples will be collected from areas where significant debris was removed along both the beachfront and bank areas to determine whether chemical contamination exists and further actions are necessary.



Debris located along the James River beachfront

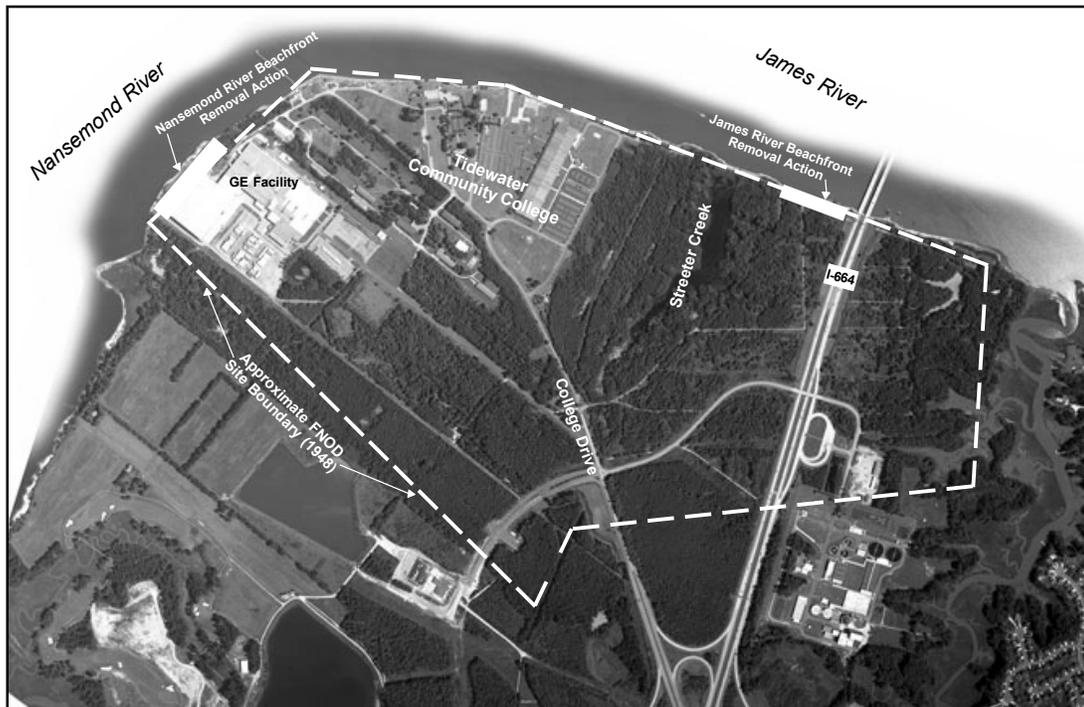
Once geophysics and analytical results indicate that all materials of concern have been removed, the beach area will be regraded to its original contours and reseeded. Temporary erosion control measures will be installed. Fencing that was removed from the work site will be reinstalled.

The final shoreline protection project will consist of a large armor stone placed on filter cloth, extending from the James River landward up the exposed bank.

The structure will extend along the shoreline from the I664 bridge revetment upstream approximately 480 linear feet.

Revetment: A stone facing used to protect an embankment from erosion

James River Beachfront Removal Action Aerial Map



This aerial map of the FNOD site shows the location of the James River beachfront removal action.

What's Next?

The Corps is currently developing cleanup criteria for the site, completing an archaeology study, and developing the work plans for the removal action. In April 1998, human remains were discovered on the bluff in the vicinity of the proposed removal action. The remains are believed to be of Native American origin. The Virginia Department of Historical Resources asked the Corps to carry out additional sampling with a series of "shovel test pits" to

determine if there were additional archaeological resources associated with the burial, or other significant archaeological resources nearby. Ninety-one shovel test pits were dug at 15-foot intervals within a 100-foot radius of the site. The Corps did not re-excavate the burial. The Corps has been consulting with the Nansmond Tribal Association and the Virginia Department of Historical Resources to determine the appropriate course of action.

Once the remains are addressed and a Programmatic Agreement with the Department of Historical Resources is signed, the Corps can proceed with the removal action.

Community Input

The Army Corps is interested in incorporating community input into the planning process for this site. All comments and concerns should be addressed to Ken Hafner or Keri Robertson.

Contact Information

For more information about the Former Nansmond Ordnance Depot project, please contact the following people:

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Information Repository

Information about the Former Nansmond Ordnance Depot project is available for public review at the Information Repository:

Tidewater Community College Library
Information Desk
7000 College Drive
Portsmouth, VA

Library Hours:
8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday