

**Brunswick Harbor Modification Project
Jekyll Island Fishing Pier Shoreline Nourishment
Glynn County, Georgia
Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant
Impact**

Appendix H

Request for Beneficial Use Proposals-Jekyll Island Authority Proposal

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SAVANNAH DISTRICT
100 WEST OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401
January 2024**



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Appendix H Table of Contents

H.1. Request for Beneficial Use Proposals

H.2. Jekyll Island Authority Beneficial Use Proposal

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

**Request for Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Sites
for the Brunswick Harbor Modifications, Glynn County, GA
Savannah District**

ACTION: Request for Sites for Beneficial Use of Dredged Material.

SUMMARY: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (Corps) is seeking sites for the beneficial use of new work material resulting from the Brunswick Harbor Modification Project (BHMP). The amount of potential available dredged material for beneficial use is approximately 205,000 cubic yards of mostly sandy material, this material would be obtained from the bend widener near the Cedar Hammock Range (between Stations 20+250 and 23+250) shown in the figure below.

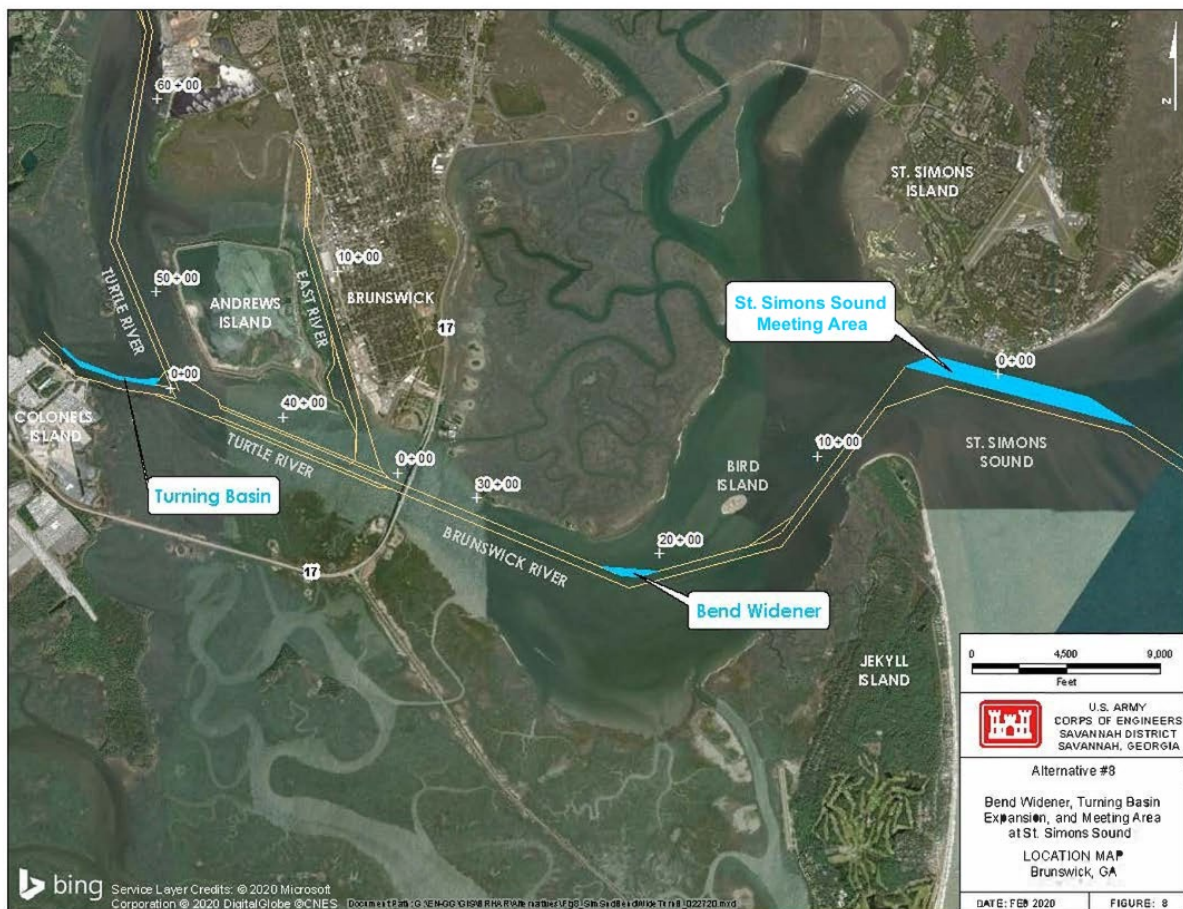


Figure 1. BHMP locations of widening areas. The bend widener consists of mostly sandy material and is suitable for beneficial use. The turning basin consists of mostly fines and is not suitable for beneficial use. The St. Simons Meeting Area does not require removal of material.

The Corps will evaluate the feasibility of the proposed sites using the following factors: environmental acceptability, benefits attained, distance from the dredge site, transportation costs, and construction costs. Sites will also be evaluated to determine if they meet the federal standard. Any proposed project that does not meet the federal standard may require a cost share agreement. Site submissions must address the ability to enter into a cost share agreement and funding availability.

DATES: Sites must be submitted to the Corps on or before August 5, 2023.

ADDRESS: Anyone wishing to provide beneficial use sites should submit the required information to CESAS-Planning@usace.army.mil, no later than 30-days from the date of this notice.

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Name and location of the proposed site (please include latitude/longitude coordinates).
2. Purpose of the proposed site (i.e., provide shoreline stabilization, restore beach or bird habitat, enhance marsh, etc.).
3. Detailed Summary Description of the proposed project, including:
 - a. Approximate size of the site, a map image or Google Earth KMZ file of the project area.
 - b. Whether the public has the right to use the site in its entirety, from the low water line to the place where there is marked change in material or physiographic form, or to the line of permanent vegetation.
 - c. Detailed narrative of proposed benefits of the site, including any environmental, economic, recreational, and/or social benefits.
 - d. Conceptual plans (optional, if available)
 - e. Known environmental constraints.
4. Signed statement of interest from site sponsor. Statement of interest will need to address:
 - a. Ability to enter into a cost share agreement
 - b. Ability to provide all lands, easements, and rights-of-way (LER), and perform all relocations, required for placement.
 - c. Funding availability
 - d. Capability to partner with the Corps in the development of the design of the site and in environmental compliance processes.
 - e. Provide primary point of contact.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Section 125 of the WRDA of 2020 requires the Corps to maximize the beneficial use of dredged material obtained from construction of the Corps' projects. As part of this requirement, the Corps is seeking beneficial use sites of the new work material from the BHMP. Beneficial use is defined as productive and positive uses of dredged material.


These uses can have positive impacts to fish and wildlife habitat, economics, structure, and recreation. Examples of beneficial use include, but is not limited to, beach placement, marsh restoration, bird island creation, and shoreline stabilization. Guidance for Section 125 of the WRDA of 2020 can be found at: https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Project-Planning/Legislative-Links/wrda_2020/. Search Section 125(a)-(c) for links to the implementation guidance and other Section 125 information.

For more information about the Brunswick Harbor Modification Project please see the Integrated Feasibility Report (IFR)/Environmental Assessment (EA) at the following link: <https://www.sas.usace.army.mil/About/Divisions-and-Offices/Planning-Division/Plans-and-Reports/>.

For further information, please contact Ms. Summer Wright at summer.g.wright@usace.army.mil

Kimberly L. Garvey
Chief, Planning Branch, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

July 5, 2023
Date



Kimberly L. Garvey
Chief, Planning Branch

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January 2024**





August 11, 2023

Kimberly Garvey, Chief, Planning Branch
Department of The Army, U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers, Savannah District 100 W. Oglethorpe Avenue Savannah,
Georgia 31401

Dear Ms. Garvey,

This letter serves as a statement of interest on the part of the Jekyll Island Authority (JIA) in response to the Request for Sites for Beneficial Use of Dredged Material, issued by USACE-SAS on July 5, 2023. The JIA is interested and encourages the Corps to consider the site described in the attached brief.

As you know, the Jekyll Island Authority manages Jekyll Island State Park on behalf of the State of Georgia. The JIA is motivated to put this prospective project forward for the Corps' consideration because its potential benefits align the JIA's mission to serve as stewards of Jekyll Island's past, present, and future. While the water bottoms to be considered for the proposed placement are believed to have been within the original boundary of Jekyll Island State Park, the primary State jurisdictional authority for the site belongs to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. In discussions scoping this proposal, GADNR Coastal Resources Division staff have indicated that they support this project being proposed for consideration.

Because this project concept is newly formed in repose the USACE Request for Sites, no JIA or other source of state or local funding is currently allocated for its development in the current fiscal year (July 2023 – June 2024). Ideally, the close proximity of the site to the material source will allow the project to be developed under the Federal Standard to avoid or minimize the need for additional funding streams.

Should the Corps decide to advance development of this project, JIA staff stand ready and enthusiastic to partner with USACE, GADNR-CRD, and any other potential contributors, such as The University of Georgia and The Nature Conservancy, that may wish to provide valuable inputs of time, expertise, and intellect to the collaborative development of an innovative and resilient design for the project. In past efforts, such as the Thin Layer Placement Pilot Project, Jekyll Island has proven itself as a conducive site for successfully bringing together state, federal, academic, and NGO partners to meet challenges and seize opportunities in service to the public.

Thank you for considering this beneficial use site proposal. We look forward with anticipation to further discussion with USACE and GADNR-CRD to fully evaluate the prospect. In the meantime, please reach out with any questions or requests for additional information.

Yank Moore, Director of Conservation, Jekyll Island Authority

Cc:

Mark Williams, Executive Director, Jekyll Island Authority
Noel Jensen, Deputy Executive Director, Jekyll Island Authority
Jan MacKinnon, Program Manager, GADNR-CRD
Kelie Moore, Federal Consistency Coordinator, GADNR-CRD
Ben Carswell, Coastal Resilience Liaison, University of Georgia



Site/Project Name: Jekyll Island – Brunswick River, Marsh Restoration/ Preservation

Location: 31° 6'55.28"N, 81°25'4.35"W

Purpose:

The purpose of beneficially utilizing dredge material in this location south of the Jekyll Island fishing pier would be to stabilize a hotspot of rapid salt marsh erosion. The marsh edge at this location has been retreating at rates exceeding 2m per year due to erosion driven by wind waves, ship wakes, tidal currents and possible wave refraction energy associated with adjacent hardened shoreline. Restoring and protecting salt marsh at this site would align with the goals of the South Atlantic Salt Marsh Initiative (SASMI) and present design opportunities for bird habitat creation potentially benefitting priority species including saltmarsh sparrow and oyster catcher. Addressing this erosion concern now will reduce the future vulnerability of the peninsula of upland that accommodates Clam Creek Road, the route leading to the Jekyll Island fishing pier. This project along with the “sand motor”, being evaluated for the ocean facing side of Jekyll Island’s north end, could be considered together as part of a system of beneficial use projects contributing to the stabilization of a highly erosional land mass, threatened by sea level rise and storm impacts, in close proximity to federally maintained channels.

Detailed Summary Description:

The site is identified as an erosion hotspot in the Coastal Georgia Hazards Portal (Figure 1). If this site were selected by USACE, a comprehensive site evaluation and design would need to be developed in collaboration with the Jekyll Island Authority and GADNR Coastal Resources Division, to determine spatial extents and elevation targets as well as methods and materials for sediment containment. An environmental constraint that presents a design challenge will be the need to avoid any negative impacts to the connectivity of the small tidal tributaries that exist in the adjacent, remaining marsh to be protected. Offsetting restored marsh features, to be created using dredged sediment, some distance off-of the existing shoreline, as nearshore marsh islands, rather than making it continuous with the existing marsh, could be one approach to this challenge that could also lend itself to supporting quality bird habitat. A positive attribute of the site is its potential to accommodate a ranges of design scales depending on the availability of material. The initial placement could be scaled up to address the entire erosional hotspot, if sufficient material is available, or scaled down for a smaller placement closer to the fishing pier area. The northern portion of the site closest to the fishing pier is the highest priority for intervention because this is where total loss of remaining salt marsh is most imminent. If more salt marsh is lost, community recreational assets on the adjacent upland will be increasingly threatened. This site is a popular location for many of the approximately four million visitors per year that travel to Jekyll Island State Park. Generally, all of the lands and waters of Jekyll Island and associated marshlands are considered public spaces, with the marshes also falling under the jurisdiction of the Coastal Marshlands Protection act. Public access to salt marsh areas, including restoration sites in particular, may be discouraged due to the environmental sensitivity of such areas. However, the site’s proximity and visibility from a high visitor-use area does present the opportunity for educational exposure to the site, as well as potential fish habitat and fishing benefits, and birding opportunities.

Figure 3. Current site conditions and proposed maximum extent (green outline) of beneficial use placement. Priority for shoreline protection is highest at the north end of this area.



Figure 1. Erosional hotspot identified in Georgia Coastal Hazards Portal. 1930's shoreline shown in yellow.

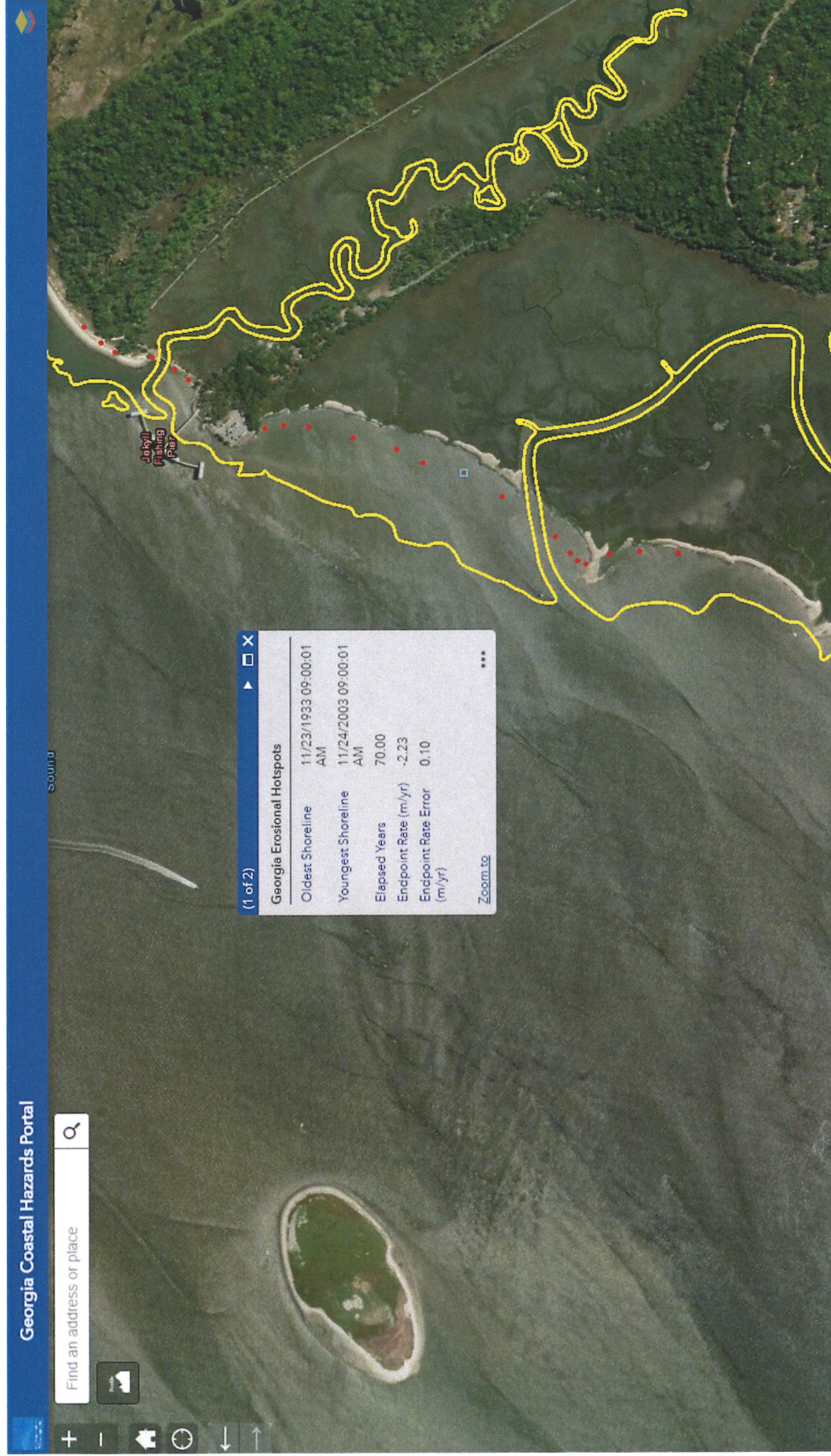


Figure 2. Site conditions in 1972, shortly after the construction of the Jekyll Island Fishing Pier.

