



Former Lonsdale Drive-In Ecosystem Restoration Lincoln, RI



Client: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Owner: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Value: \$2,270,269

Charter restored seven acres of wetlands and a 17-acre ecosystem of riparian habitat along the Blackstone River in Lincoln, RI, under the USACE National Rivers Program. Charter demolished and disposed of site structures, including an abandoned drive-in movie screen with asbestos panels, and excavated and disposed of 65,000 cy of material.

Charter altered the original approach of manually removing the drive-in screen's 2,500 ft² of asbestos panels, and used an excavator to collapse it onto a sheet of polyethylene. Charter saturated the asbestos panels with water to prevent the suspension of asbestos-laced particulates and used the excavator to remove most of the panels. Charter personnel, in Level C PPE, collected and removed the loose debris before the screen's superstructure was demolished. This approach reduced the screen demolition schedule from an estimated 2 weeks to only 48 hours and also eliminated the need to have personnel perform aerial work to manually remove the asbestos panels.

Excessive rainfall pushed river and groundwater levels to 20-year highs, complicating excavation, requiring Charter to dewater 40M gallons of water (at no additional cost to the Government). Charter installed a pumping system to maintain free and clear excavation sites, particularly in the 14 ft deep inlet/outlet cut, which defined the two acre-island created on-site. Charter installed silt fencing and erosion controls to minimize sediment migration into the river, and operated low-pressure earth-moving equipment on the

site to enable access in extremely wet conditions. Charter completed all site activities ahead of schedule despite the fact that the site flooding from one severe rain event required Charter to evacuate equipment from the site for 5 days.

Charter restored the wetlands by creating a two acre island, planting over 13,000 plants, and establishing 10 acres of grassland. Charter accelerated the restoration planting schedule and increased the survivability rate of the plantings to almost 90%.

"Congratulations to the Lonsdale Wetlands Restoration Team on receiving the Coastal America 2005 Partnership Award for your work to restore and protect our Nation's coastal environment. I appreciate all those involved for your hard work and dedication to conserving our coastal environment."

President George W. Bush



Federal, State and private sources funded this complex, highly politicized project whose stakeholders included three US Senators, the former governor of Rhode Island, and an active, local environmental group.

I didn't think any firm (large or small) could complete this project within the proposed schedule. However, Charter completed the work four months ahead of schedule, which was an amazing feat. I would highly recommend Charter for other construction/restoration work.

Maurice Beaudoin, USACE-NAE
Contracting Officer's Representative