



*project profile : ecological restoration*



*The restoration of 33 acres of tidal freshwater marsh now serves as the keystone for ongoing restoration efforts along the Anacostia River.*

## Kenilworth Marsh Design-Build Tidal Wetland Restoration

*Washington, D.C.*

In 1989, the Council of Governments (COG) recognized the need to coordinate a multi-agency effort to restore the Kenilworth Marsh system to improve its productivity and water quality functions within the watershed. The project was a cooperative effort by the Washington D.C. Department of Public Works, the National Park Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the COG.

Biohabitats, in conjunction with subcontractors, conducted a historical and environmental assessment to identify key challenges in restoring the marsh and developed detailed plans to restore approximately 30 acres of tidal freshwater wetlands. Biohabitats researched and characterized existing and historical conditions of the marsh for four periods from 1890 to the present. Biohabitats characterized ecological and physical conditions within the marsh relative to human influences so that a reasonable restoration goal/design could be established for the remaining phases of the project. Biohabitats then devised a conceptual restoration plan based on these findings. Biohabitats conducted two charettes to review data, solicit alternative ideas and solutions, and develop a unified goal and implementation strategy.

Biohabitats developed detailed grading plans, planting plans, and plant specifications for the experimental restoration construction. Restoration included bioengineering techniques including the use of “Brush fences,” the use of dead plant material for structural stabilization for the short term and live plant material for the long term. After implementation, the experimental restoration construction was monitored for one year. Based on the success of the experimental construction, Biohabitats developed the final restoration design and specifications for the Phase III full-scale restoration construction. Biohabitats also functioned as a construction manager during the Phase III construction process.

### PROJECT AT A GLANCE

SERVICES	Inventory & Assessments Design Permitting Construction Management Construction Public Outreach Adaptive Management
CLIENT	Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE	Piedmont/Coastal Plain
BIOREGION	Chesapeake/Delaware Bay
WATERSHED	Potomac River