



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

PRECISION EXCAVATION AND GRADING TRANSFORMS A DEGRADED MARSH INTO A THRIVING WETLAND

The conversion of an approximately 55-acre degraded marsh, overgrown with invasive vegetation, into an emergent wetland environment was complicated by access issues, endangered plants, impacted soil, and the need for precision grading and excavation.

LOCATION: Bass River, New Jersey

PROJECT: Great Bay Mitigation Bank Construction

SERVICE: Excavation, T&D, Precision Grading

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Evergreen contracted with Cascade for the excavation, transport and disposal of approximately 90,000 cubic yards of non-hazardous soils, the precise grading of 55 acres, and the construction of over 2,200-lf of tidal channels to re-establish a wetland environment.

Prior to excavation, the site was cleared of invasive vegetation, a perimeter berm was constructed, and a tide gate installed in an existing channel to prevent tidal flow and allow for the excavation and grading activities to be completed “in the dry.”

The site was excavated using long reach excavators with 60-ft reach working on wooden crane mats and equipped with sticks TopCon GPS systems for precision grading. Over 1,800-lf of three-ply wooden plank road mats were installed to provide access across disturbed surfaces. Excavated soil was loaded into tracked end dumps with 360° cab rotation to minimize the amount of disturbance. More than 6,000 tri-axle dump truck loads were sent off-site to a specified recycling facility.

At the completion of the excavation and grading tasks, the temporary perimeter berm and tide gate were removed and the site breached to establish a tidal connection with a tributary of the Bass River. A specialty wetlands planting contractor planted several species of native low and high marsh vegetation to re-establish the natural habitat.

RESULTS

Cascade was able to successfully establish an emergent wetlands environment. Egrets and herons were documented actively hunting saltwater prey (saltwater minnows and crabs), proving the area was restored from a degraded marsh to a saltwater wetland.



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