

DREDGED MATERIAL RESEARCH PROGRAM



CONTRACT REPORT D-76-6

SOCIOECONOMIC ASPECTS OF DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL: THE CREATION OF RECREATION LAND IN URBAN AREAS

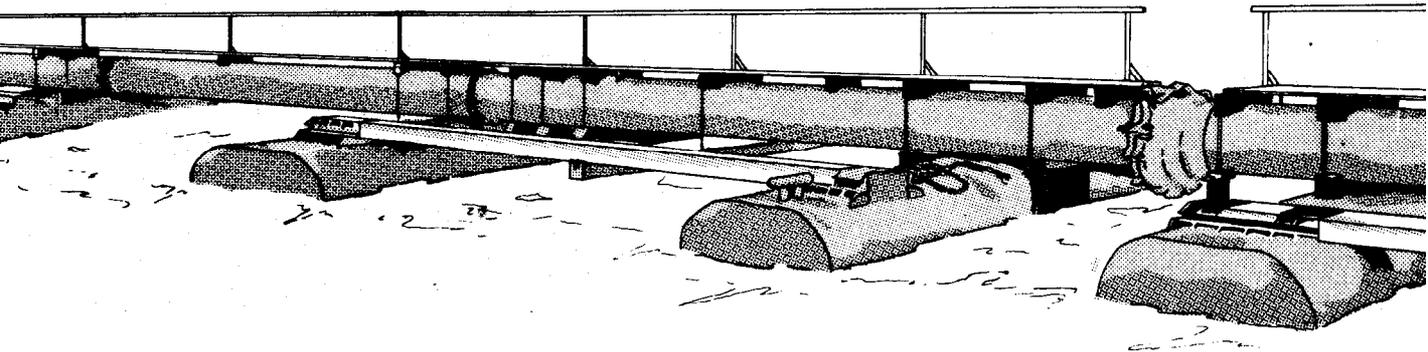
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Final Report

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Prepared for Environmental Effects Laboratory
U. S. Army Engineer Waterways Experiment Station
P. O. Box 631, Vicksburg, Miss. 39180

Under Contract No. DACW39-74-C-0072
Work Unit 5D01

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31 May 1976

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Contract Report D-76-6

TO: All Report Recipients

1. The contract report transmitted herewith represents the results of the first research effort completed as part of Task 5D (Disposal Area Land Use Concepts) of the Corps of Engineers' Dredged Material Research Program (DMRP). Task 5D is included as part of the Productive Uses Project of the DMRP, which, among other considerations, includes developing concepts for productively using disposal areas or dredged material removed from these areas.
2. There has been a dramatic increase in recent years in the amount of land disposal of dredged material, necessitated largely as a result of the need for confining dredged material classified as polluted. Land is continuing to become more and more scarce for disposal activities, and the problem becomes more acute with the need for selecting each new disposal area. Attention therefore can be profitably and justifiably directed towards concepts that enhance rather than degrade available land.
3. DMRP work units are in progress under other tasks aimed at developing improved disposal facility operation and management procedures as well as techniques for the reclamation of potentially valuable materials, both of which could increase area life expectancy as well as enhance their aesthetic and environmental characteristics. However, all sites will eventually be filled and the total picture would be incomplete without considering concepts for the productive use of the created land. To this end, the investigation reported herein was accomplished under contract with the University of Virginia. The report analyzes the factors that constrain the creation of shoreline or offshore recreational land from dredged material and advances a strategy for coordinating the dredged material disposal activities of Corps Districts with the recreational needs of urban areas.

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4. The study concludes that urban recreational space is inadequate in most areas and that dredged material created land can be developed to alleviate at least a portion of this deficiency. The most significant constraint appears to be the lack of financial resources available to local communities for recreational developments.



G. H. HILT

Colonel, Corps of Engineers
Director

| REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE | | READ INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM |
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| 20. ABSTRACT (Continue on reverse side if necessary and identify by block number) This report analyzes the factors which would constrain the creation of shore- line or offshore recreational land from dredged material. It presents and evaluates the legal, institutional, sociological, and economic factors affect- ing the recreational use of dredged material disposal sites. A strategy is advanced for coordinating the dredged material disposal activities of Districts with the recreational needs of urban areas. The major findings of this re- search are as follows. First, dredged material can be used in (Continued) | | |

20. ABSTRACT (Continued)

an economically efficient manner to create recreational land in urban areas. The existing need for recreational facilities, the increasing quantities of leisure time, and the changing utilization of it suggest that the benefits from the recreational use of dredged material disposal sites can be substantial. Second, environmental concerns are not an insurmountable barrier to the creation of recreational land from dredged material. Third, the financial resources available to local communities to develop the recreational potential of disposal sites may be a very important constraint. Fourth, the initiative and attitude taken by Corps of Engineer Districts to the idea will determine in many cases the extent to which it is implemented. Fifth, not every community will be able to benefit from the recreational use of dredged material nor will all Districts be able to implement the idea to the same extent.