

Little Tinicum Island
Trail and Habitat Enhancement Draft Proposal

January 19, 2006

An estimated 3,500 to 4,000 people access Little Tinicum Island on a yearly basis (Sandra Insalaco, Forester, Bureau of Forestry, personal communication, January 19, 2006) but there are no maintained trails on the island. Instead, visitors cross the island on make-shift trails worn down by frequent use or struggle through the thick vegetation to find their own ways. Island visitors contribute to erosion by hiking on steep dredge spoil cell berms, disturb rare mudflat habitat and plants, trample ground-nests, and construct illegal viewing/hunting blinds. In order to minimize habitat degradation and to increase recreation enjoyment, we propose to install a permanent trail, most of which will be a loop on the berm of the large spoil cell with a feeder trail that will allow viewing of the existing inlet wetland and lead to a permanent duck blind (see attached PDF). In addition to developing the trail, we propose to control invasive plant species and revegetate with native plants in close proximity to the trail (to prevent further spread of invasives by recreationalists using the trail) and to enhance bird and turtle habitat by installing habitat structures based on future consultation with Pennsylvania Game Commission, Fish & Boat Commission, and US Fish & Wildlife Service biologists.

In addition to the \$8, 294 trail development cost listed in the attached PDF, other approximate costs include:

\$14,000	Boat for Bureau of Forestry for access and equipment transportation
4,000	Labor for vegetation and habitat enhancements/management
3,000	Supplies for vegetation and habitat enhancements/management

Total cost is estimated to be \$29,294.