



The Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (S.4367)

Delivering for Delaware

The Water Resources Development Act of 2024 (WRDA 2024) strengthens the projects and programs of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in Delaware. This legislation continues the two-year reauthorization cycle for Water Resources Development Acts, ensuring timely congressional approvals for Corps studies and projects.

As the lowest-lying state in the nation, Delaware relies on partnerships with the Corps to address some of the state's biggest challenges, like sea level rise, inland flooding and other effects of climate change — all of which impact the state's economy. The Corps works with Delaware communities to protect and renourish Delaware's beaches, restore Delaware's ecosystems, and construct and maintain infrastructure that supports Delaware's economy — including the Port of Wilmington and our intracoastal waterways.

WRDA 2024 directs the Corps to construct critical water infrastructure projects and to continue vital flood risk management and ecosystem restoration programs — all while creating good-paying jobs and making Delaware's coastal communities more resilient to climate change. This builds on the innovative provisions Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman Tom Carper authorized in WRDA 2022 to better equip the Corps to address the threat that climate change poses to our coastal communities by expanding project authorities and updating implementation timelines.

WRDA 2024 protects Delaware's economy and shorelines from the threats of climate change by:

- Directing the Corps to reevaluate the Lewes Beach project to determine which additional areas should be included for beach renourishment along the Lewes shoreline.



- Establishing the Delaware Coastal System Program to promote efficiency and to share resources among the many coastal hurricane and storm risk reduction projects throughout Delaware. As a result, the Corps and the state will be able to more effectively use federal and state funds across projects, improve state-wide planning efforts and reduce redundancies during restorations.
- Reducing the local contribution requirement for renourishing Rehoboth, Dewey, Bethany and South Bethany beaches from 35 to 20 percent. The bill also reduces the local contribution requirement for renourishing Fenwick beach from 50 to 20 percent. Sustained federal investment is crucial to protecting Delaware's beaches as climate change intensifies coastal storms and drives mitigation and recovery costs up.
- Adding Broadkill Beach to the Bay Beach restoration initiative, reducing the state cost match to renourish Broadkill from 35 to 10 percent, in line with Delaware's other Bay Beaches.
- Reducing the state contribution requirement from 50 to 10 percent for completing the Delaware Back Bay Study. This Corps study recommends construction projects to increase community resilience to coastal storms along the inland bays. Because this initiative includes numerous economically disadvantaged communities, the federal government will be responsible for 90 percent of the cost of construction.

WRDA 2024 supports ecosystem restoration and water resources research by:

- Authorizing a new Delaware Inland Bays Watershed Study to comprehensively consider ecosystem restoration needs in the inland bay area.



- Authorizing Delaware State University to conduct research on water resources and environmental quality in collaboration with the Corps.

WRDA 2024 invests in municipal infrastructure programs in Delaware by:

- Authorizing feasibility studies for flood risk management projects for flood-prone Delaware communities including Milton and Wilmington.
- Authorizing a new \$25 million environmental infrastructure project for Delaware's bay beach communities to help improve sewers, stormwater treatment systems, water storage and other related wastewater infrastructure.
- Authorizing a new \$25 million environmental infrastructure project for Delaware's Atlantic beach communities to help improve sewers, stormwater treatment systems, water storage and other related wastewater infrastructure.
- Authorizing a new \$25 million environmental infrastructure project in Wilmington, Delaware to help improve sewers, stormwater treatment systems, water storage and other related wastewater infrastructure.
- Increasing the authorized funding for environmental infrastructure projects in New Castle, Kent and Sussex Counties to \$40 million for each county.