

Croatan Beach Update - 3/9/2024

Ladies and gentlemen,

Important: Sand won't come until 2025, not 2024, as expected. The reason is in the text.

I received this note from Dan Adams, Department of Public Works – Engineering, Coastal Program Manager

Your message is timely. The update below was shared with City leadership today. We had planned to share this update with all stakeholders and the larger community once leadership had been apprised. So, please share these details with the Croatan CL.

USACE had been forecasting an earlier start as there was some indication from the contractor that the beach quality sand would be encountered earlier in the dredging schedule. As it turns out, the **beach (quality) sand will not be encountered until the end of the larger dredging schedule**. This schedule was made available to us at the project preconstruction meeting last week. We would prefer the work to start soonest, however we are not at liberty to dictate the schedule. We did request that the Croatan work be completed before the July 4th holiday, and they revised their schedule to reflect that. Their original schedule had the Croatan work starting after July 4th. As with any construction project, this schedule is tentative and subject to change. We will keep you informed of any changes as soon as we are made aware of them. The good news is we now have a contract in place to deliver the largest single sand placement to occur on Croatan Beach, it will happen.

Resort Beach/Croatan Update

As a reminder, the City of Virginia Beach has partnered with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District (USACE) and the Port of Virginia to receive sand for purposes of renourishing the Resort Beach and Croatan Beach. The beach quality sand will be mined as part of the Norfolk Harbor and Channel Deepening, Atlantic Ocean Channel (Phase 2) dredging project. The project is the continuation of the Federal/Local sponsor partnership between the City of Virginia Beach and the USACE. The USACE is the construction administrator for this project. Manson Construction Company, based out of Jacksonville, FL, was awarded the contract on December 5, 2023. The preconstruction meeting for the project was held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024.

This will be the fourth nourishment project along the Resort Beach shoreline since 2001. The last one was performed in 2019. Manson Construction Company has prepared a tentative construction schedule which shows most of the beach nourishment work will occur outside of the heavy tourist season.

The Resort Beach mobilization should occur mid-January 2025. It will take about a month to mobilize. Then, the replenishment should be underway March 1, 2025, through May 23, 2025. At that point, the Contractor will move onto Croatan Beach. The Croatan Beach nourishment is tentatively scheduled to occur in June/July 2025.

Other details for the project include:

- *Sand placement limits will be from 15th St to 45th St (Starting at the Northern end)*
- *±950,000 cubic yards of sand will be placed on the resort beach.*

- *±130,000 cy of sand will be placed on Croatan Beach.*
- *The massive oceanic dredging project will begin in May 2024. At that time, the Contractor will deal with seasonal restrictions, adhere to turtle nesting laws, and perform beach surveys.*
- *Sand will be pumped onshore and graded into place by various equipment.*
- *The contractor typically works in 1,500-ft sections (500-ft pre-work, 500-ft work area, 500-ft post work area).*
- *The US Army Corps of Engineers will host a webpage that shows the progress of the project. A link will be placed on the City's website when we receive it.*

The US Army Corps of Engineers and City of Virginia Beach staff look forward to undertaking this long-awaited dredging and shore protection project that will provide significant storm damage reduction benefits in addition to a wider recreational beach with all its amenities to be enjoyed by residents and visitors to Virginia Beach for years to come.

On the weir study. We received three proposals, and all three firms will be selected for an interview. A city selection committee has been formed and an interview and award schedule for this study/design effort will be forthcoming.

Frustrating? A bit.

The Hoover Dam was built and operating in 7 1/2 years, two-years ahead of schedule. It also came in under cost. I doubt that it be done again today as fast and without cost overruns.

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