



RAHWAY RIVER BASIN, NJ

Flood Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration Study

As of: March 2011

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

DESCRIPTION

The study area encompasses the Rahway River Basin located in northeastern New Jersey. The Rahway River Basin is 81.9 square miles and lies within the metropolitan area of Greater New York. Flooding within the Rahway River Basin is caused principally by the rapid development of the area, which has resulted in a large increase of storm water runoff. Floods have caused damage to houses, businesses, municipal facilities and public infrastructure. Portions of the Rahway River Basin have also suffered environmental degradation and opportunities exist for restoration.

The most damaging floods of record within the Rahway River Basin resulted from the storms of July 1938, May 1968, August 1971, August 1973, July 1975, June 1992, October 1996, July 1997, Tropical Storm Floyd in September 1999 and the April 2007 Nor'easter. During the April 2007 storm, 70 to 100 homes suffered major damage to first floor and foundations. Union County and the Township of Cranford were declared federal disaster areas as a result of the April 2007 storm.

AUTHORIZATION:

U.S. House of Representatives Resolution Docket 2548, dated March 24, 1998, authorizes the study of the Rahway River Basin, New Jersey.

STATUS:

In response to locals concerns regarding flooding, Congress funded the Corps to conduct a reconnaissance study of the Rahway River Basin. In July 1999, the Corps issued a favorable reconnaissance report recommending that a feasibility study be conducted to develop flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration alternatives in the Rahway River Basin. The State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection concurred with the Corps reconnaissance study recommendations and signed a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) on March 14, 2002 to cost share the feasibility study. Completed work includes surveys, existing conditions hydrology and hydraulics, environmental and cultural. Current funding is being utilized to continue formulation of alternatives and coordination with the locals.

CONTACT:

John O'Connor, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New York District, Programs and Project Management Division, Civil Works Branch
26 Federal Plaza, Room 2118, New York, NY 10278-0090
Phone: (917) 790-8213, FAX: (212) 264-2924
john.a.oconnor@usace.army.mil

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS: Congressional Districts: NJ-07, NJ-10