

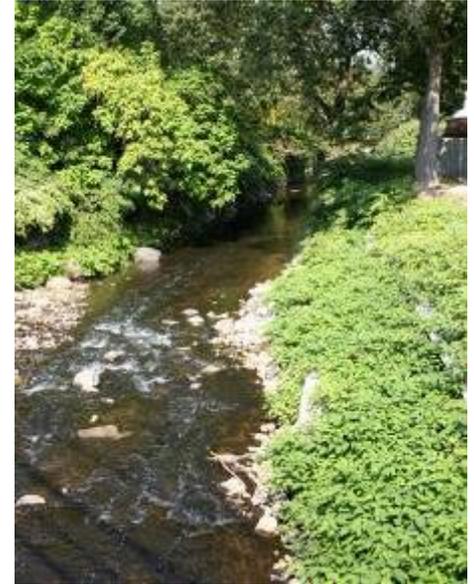


U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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DESCRIPTION

The Peckman River Basin is located in Essex and Passaic Counties, New Jersey. A tributary to the Passaic River, the Peckman River originates in the Town of West Orange and flows northeasterly through the towns of Verona, Cedar Grove, and Little Falls to its confluence with the Passaic River in West Paterson. Extensive development in the Basin has resulted in flood damages and ecosystem degradation. The Basin experiences frequent flooding from intense thunderstorms and heavy rainfall. These storms can deposit large amounts of precipitation in the watershed, producing significant runoff, which quickly surpasses the capacity of the river channel, and bridge and culvert openings. Significant degradation of the ecology of the Basin has occurred as a result of extensive erosion at specific locations along the river. The current state of the river ecosystem reflects the type of long-term degradation often associated with heavily urbanized watersheds. The development of the watershed has reduced the water-holding capacity of the landscape and altered the natural flow dynamics within the river system. As a result, the habitat suitability and ecological complexity of the river have been moderately impaired.



AUTHORIZATION

The U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, authorized a study of the Peckman River and Tributaries, New Jersey, by Resolution dated 21 June 2000. Initial Planning efforts were performed in accordance with Section 205 of the Continuing Authorities Program (CAP).

STATUS: A favorable reconnaissance report was completed in July 2001. The report recommended a feasibility study to develop alternatives for flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration in the Peckman River Basin. A Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) was executed on March 14, 2002 between the Corps and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). Work to date on the feasibility report includes the completion of a topographic survey, initial environmental baseline studies, and development of existing, future, and improved conditions hydrology and hydraulics. Funds are being utilized to complete planning, engineering, economic and environmental analyses and also begin technical reviews. Coordination will continue to be carried out with the local communities and public in the study area.

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