



RAHWAY RIVER BASIN, NJ

Flood Risk Management Study

As of: June 2012

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, April 2007 Nor'easter, and Hurricane Irene in August 2011. 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. As a result of Hurricane Irene, residents and business owners along Rahway River have suffered extensive financial losses and personal hardship than in most severe prior storms.

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 risk management 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. While an entire basin study was authorized, an initial screening conducted in 2006 determined that Cranford, NJ and City of Rahway (Robinson's Branch) apparently have the greatest potential for Federal Interest. The study focus has been mostly in the Cranford area and completed work includes surveys, existing conditions hydrology and hydraulics, environmental and cultural. Current funding is being utilized to continue formulation of alternatives in Cranford and initiate existing conditions analysis in City of Rahway.

CONTACT:

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