



# ESOPUS & PLATTEKILL CREEKS

## Watershed Reconnaissance Study

### Flood Damage Reduction and Environmental Restoration

*As of: February 2012*

**US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**BUILDING STRONG®**

#### **DESCRIPTION**

The New York District of the Corps of Engineers has completed a federally-funded reconnaissance level study to determine whether there is a federal interest in watershed-based flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, navigational improvements, and other water resources problems and opportunities for the Esopus and Plattekill creeks watershed in New York. In light of the recurrence of fluvial flood damage over the past several years, including that from inundation, erosion, navigation impacts, and road washouts associated with the storms of October 2005 and April 2007, the Corps of Engineers studied the entire watershed. The storms resulted in damages to properties and businesses in the communities in the watershed, including the City of Kingston, Village of Saugerties, and towns of Hurley, Shandaken, Marbletown, Woodstock, Saugerties and Ulster, as well as many smaller hamlets. This reconnaissance study investigated the current field conditions and study criteria to determine whether any watershed-based opportunities for flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, navigational improvements, or other purposes, exist for continued federal participation in detailed evaluation and construction. As part of this study, the water resources problems in the area were identified, along with preliminary solutions to such problems. Determination of federal interest in a project is based on the preliminary screening of alternatives, and specifically, on the costs, benefits, and environmental impacts of those alternatives, as well as on the extent of support from local officials and other interested parties. If a non-federal cost sharing partner is identified, this study will be followed by a more detailed, cost-shared feasibility-level study.

#### **AUTHORIZATION**

The New York District of the Corps of Engineers is conducting the study under authority of a resolution adopted on September 20, 2006 by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives.

#### **STATUS**

The District initiated the Reconnaissance Phase in September 2007. The final 905(b) reconnaissance report was approved by the North Atlantic Division in September 2008. Stakeholder meetings were held by the District in the fall of 2008 to present the final report and next steps for a watershed feasibility study. The 905(b) reconnaissance report defined the problems, needs, and opportunities for the study area and demonstrated federal interest. The District will continue to develop the Project Management Plan (PMP) for a Feasibility Study when a local partner is identified.

#### **STUDY COST**

905 (b) Expedited Reconnaissance	\$ <u>100,000</u>
Total	\$ 100,000

#### **CONTACT**

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#### **CONGRESSIONAL INFORMATION**

Representative Maurice Hinchey, NY District #22