

Millstone River Basin, Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study

Public Scoping Meeting
November 14, 2002



U.S. Army Corps of
Engineers, New York District



State of New Jersey,
Department of
Environmental Protection

Welcome

The purpose of tonight's public scoping meeting is to:

- **Introduce the public to the Millstone River Basin Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study**
- **Obtain early feedback from the community on the proposed project.**

Scoping is an important process to:

- **Identify the problem.**
- **Determine existing conditions and data gaps for the study.**
- **Determine significant issues.**
- **Address local concerns early in the plan formulation process.**

Your feedback is important in formulating a plan that will provide a solution to the identified problem and will be acceptable to the local community.

National Environmental Policy Act

Involve the public and resource agencies in the study process so that decision-makers will have the best possible information to make quality decisions.

Public Input

- **Scoping Meeting and Future Meetings**
- **Written Comments**
- **Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement.**

Early Feedback:

- **Local knowledge of environment.**
- **Identify available data on environmental and cultural resources.**
- **Local experience of flooding problems.**
- **Environmental and cultural resources concerns for the project.**
- **Areas for environmental restoration.**

Millstone River Basin Flood Control and Ecosystem Restoration Project

**Study Purpose,
Process and Schedule**

Authorization:

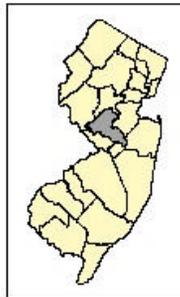
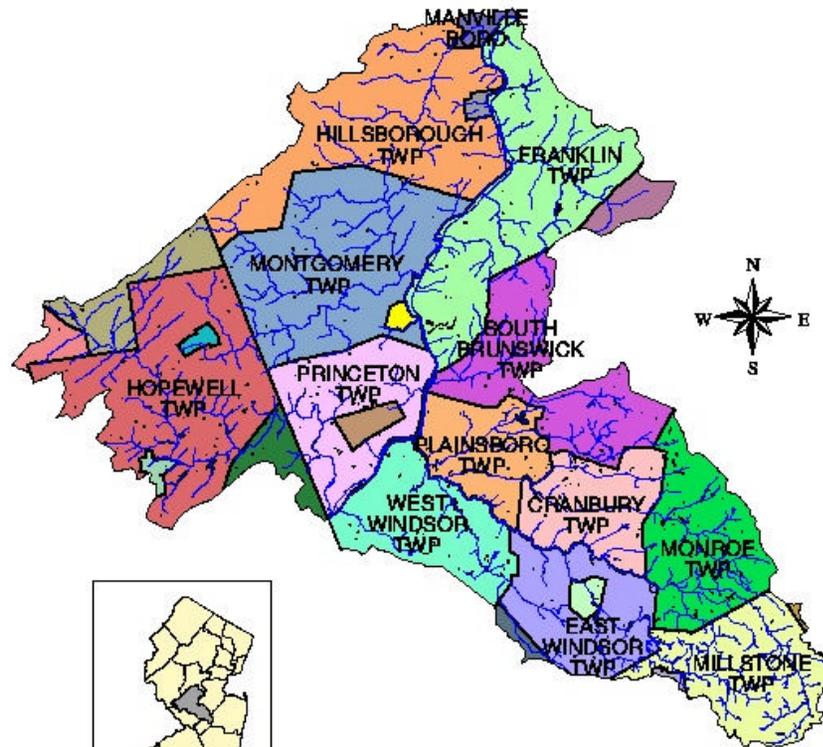
The Corps was authorized by Congress to determine if there was federal interest in water resource modifications within the Millstone River Basin for the purposes of flood control, ecosystem restoration and protection.

(U.S. House of Representatives Resolution dated August 1999)



US Army Corps
of Engineers
New York District

Millstone River Watershed Study New Jersey



Area of Detail

5 0 5 Miles

Multiple Agency Involvement

- **U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service** – Sedimentation and Flood Control in the Millstone Basin
- **New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection** – Watershed Study
 - New Jersey Water Supply Authority (March 2000 and July 2000 Reports)
- **Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association** – Watershed Research, Outreach and Restoration Activities

Focus of Feasibility Study

- **Flood Damage Reduction in Manville, NJ.**

Hurricane Floyd



Ecosystem Restoration Opportunities

- **Carnegie Lake – Princeton, NJ**
- **Campo Mine Restoration –
Millstone Township**
- **Mountain Lake – Princeton, NJ**

Interested in feedback on additional opportunities.

6 Step Planning Process

- 1. Identify Problems and Opportunities**
- 2. Inventory and Forecast Conditions**
- 3. Formulate Alternative Plans**
- 4. Evaluate Alternatives Plans**
- 5. Compare Alternative Plans**
- 6. Select a Plan**



Step 1

**Identify Problems
and
Opportunities**

Reconnaissance Phase

- **100% Federally funded baseline study effort.**
- **Determined Federal Interest to conduct a more detailed investigation, which is the Feasibility Study.**

- **September 2000 Reconnaissance Report presented to the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP).**
- **The NJDEP agreed to cost share the feasibility study as the non-federal project partner.**



Currently transitioning to Step 2.

Step 2

**Inventory and
Forecast
Conditions**

Feasibility Study Phase

- Further identification of the problem.
- Further exploration of ecosystem restoration opportunities within the watershed.



- Determine existing conditions.
- Forecasting what the future condition of the study area may be without implementation of a Federal project.

Data Collection Efforts

- **Survey and Mapping**
- **Hydrology and Hydraulics**
- **Geotechnical Studies**
- **Economic Inventory of Structures**
- **Environmental Inventory**
- **Cultural Resource Inventory**
- **Real Estate**



Step 3

**Formulate
Alternative Plans**

Alternative Plans

- **No action plan**
- **Non-structural plans**
- **Structural plans**

Non – Structural

- **Emergency management**
- **Flood-proofing (dry and wet)**
- **Ringwalls – barriers**
- **Elevation of homes**
- **Buy-outs – acquisition in floodplain**
- **Natural storage**

Structural

- **Interior Drainage**
- **Floodwalls**
- **Levees**
- **Closure gates**
- **Elevation of roadways**
- **Detention basins**
- **Channel modifications**

Ecosystem Restoration Alternatives

- **Wetland Restoration**
- **Riparian Corridor Restoration**
- **Floodplain Habitat Restoration**
- **Fisheries Habitat Protection and Restoration**
- **Lake Watershed Management and Restoration**
- **Disturbed Lands Restoration**
- **Stormwater Management to Improve Habitat Quality**



Step 4

**Evaluate
Alternative Plans**

Evaluation Considerations

- **Environmental quality**
- **Economic Benefits (Benefit/Cost Ratio)**
- **Engineering feasibility**
- **Effectiveness**
- **Local acceptability**
- **Social effects**
- **Compare with and without project condition**

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Step 5

**Compare
Alternative Plans**

Plan Comparison

- **Compare alternative plans against each other and determine outputs and environmental effects.**

REPORT PREPARATION :

- **Draft Feasibility Report and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.**

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Step 6

Select a Plan

Plan Recommendation

NED/NER Plan

National Economic Development (NED) Plan

Maximizes economic benefits

National Ecosystem Restoration (NER) Plan

Maximizes ecosystem restoration benefits compared to costs.

Schedule

2002 – 2003 Data Collection and Analysis

2004 Alternative Formulation and Screening

2005 Fall Draft Feasibility Report/Draft EIS

2006 Winter Final Report and Record of Decision



**Authorization by Congress
to Implement Construction**

Summary

- **Beginning of Feasibility Phase Study**
- **Flood Damage Reduction in Manville and Ecosystem Restoration throughout Basin**
- **Public Input Important:**
 - **Environmental Information**
 - **Local Knowledge of Flooding**
 - **Environmental Restoration Opportunity Identification**
 - **Environmental Concerns**