



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
New York District

**SOUTH RIVER,  
RARITAN RIVER BASIN, NJ**  
Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem  
Restoration

**FACT SHEET**

**DESCRIPTION:** The project area is located within the lower Raritan Basin in Middlesex County, New Jersey. The South River is the first major tributary of the Raritan River, located approximately 8.3 miles upstream of the Raritan River’s mouth at Raritan Bay. The South River is tidally controlled from its mouth upstream to Duhernal Lake Dam. Fluvial conditions prevail above the dam. The area is prone to imminent and severe flooding from hurricanes and other storms, with significant flooding occurring in March 1962, May 1968, August and September 1971, April 1984, December 1992, March 1993. For example, the March ‘93 northeaster (a 25-year) event resulted in approximately \$17 million in damages (2001 dollars) and closed the highway bridge connecting the Boroughs of South River and Sayreville. Based on coordination with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), county and local interests, it was determined that there are no widespread flooding problems in the South River watershed upstream of the Duhernal Lake dam. Consequently, the study area focused on river reaches below the dam, specifically flood-prone areas within the Boroughs of South River and Sayreville, the Township of Old Bridge, and the Historic Village of Old Bridge (located within the Township of East Brunswick). This portion of South River also includes the areas of greatest ecological degradation (and greatest potential for ecosystem restoration).

**AUTHORIZATION/PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project was authorized for construction in the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-114) on November 8, 2007. The feasibility report, completed in September 2002, recommended hurricane and storm damage (HSD) protection from a 500-year event and ecosystem restoration of 379.3 acres of degraded wetlands. The HSD protection component of the plan consists of a storm surge barrier spanning the South River for a length of 320 feet, with a clear opening of 80 feet, two combined levees (10,712 feet long)/floodwalls (1,655 feet long) constructed along the east and west bank of the South River in the boroughs of Sayreville and South River, and interior drainage facilities (i.e., pump stations, outlets, etc.). The ecosystem restoration consists of returning 379.3 acres of *Phragmites* wetlands to wetland forest, upland forest, low emergent marsh, mudflat, and open water. The cost of the overall plan is \$103,268,200 (\$55,171,900 for HSD protection/\$48,096,300 ecosystem restoration), with a benefit-to-cost ratio of 2.2 to 1.

**STATUS:** A Design Agreement was executed with the non-Federal sponsor (NJDEP) in July 2004. FY08 Federal funds in the amount of \$161,000 are being used to perform surveying, design and modeling work of the project area in Sayreville. No funds were included in the FY09 President’s budget request to continue this project. To date, \$704,000 in Federal funds have been appropriated to design the project.

**PROJECT COST:**

Estimated Federal Cost	\$67,124,300
Estimated Non-Federal Cost	\$36,143,900
Total	\$103,268,200

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