



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

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## **Upper Passaic River and Tributaries, Long Hill Township, NJ**

### **Flood Damage Reduction & Ecosystem Restoration**

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#### **FACT SHEET**

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**DESCRIPTION:** The Upper Passaic River project is located along the Passaic River and several small tributaries in Long Hill Township, New Jersey. The Passaic River flows along the borders of Long Hill Township and Warren Township, New Jersey approximately 15 miles southwest of Newark. The Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge lies to the north of the area.

Flooding has caused extensive damage to businesses, residences, and infrastructure in and around Valley Road, the major thoroughfare in Longhill Township. Local streets and neighborhoods are inundated, resulting in property damages and street closings during flood events. Flood damages are primarily attributable to backwater flooding from the Passaic River into a series of smaller tributaries that drain the floodplain to the river through the town. In addition to flooding, areas in Long Hill Township and along the Passaic River are degraded by development creating environmental problems that threaten fish and wildlife.

**AUTHORIZATION:** Section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (P.L. 80-858 as amended). This is a Continuing Authority Program.

**PROJECT HISTORY:** The initial study was authorized by U. S. House of Representatives Resolution Docket 2517, dated May 7, 1997. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New York District (USACE) executed a feasibility cost sharing agreement with the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) for the study. The study included surveying, engineering and design, environmental and cultural studies, economic analyses, and public coordination. A Detailed Project Report and Environmental Assessment were issued in October 2004 with a favorable recommendation for a flood damage reduction plan under the Continuing Authority Program. The recommendation is supported by the NJDEP as non-Federal sponsor and Long Hill Township as local sponsor.

**RECOMMENDED PLAN:** The recommended plan will provide flood damage reduction for events with an exceedance probability of approximately 1 percent (100-year event). The plan consists of the construction of a levee and floodwall with two sluice gate closure structures on the western side of the Township and a floodwall and sluice gate closure structure along Valley Road near Western Boulevard on the eastern side of the Township. The levee and floodwall will extend along the south side of Valley Road behind existing homes and businesses for a distance of approximately 4,000 feet from Sussex Avenue east to Poplar Drive. The levee and floodwall will have an average height of four to five feet and will consist of compacted earth or steel sheeting with a concrete cap on the top. The floodwall will utilize a wooden "picket" fence facing where it borders residential areas for aesthetic purposes. At locations where the levee and floodwall crosses existing roads, the road will be raised. The alignment of the line of protection is based on physical, environmental, and economic criteria.

The recommended plan also includes environmental mitigation features. They include the restoration and enhancement of 1.7 acres of wetlands and the preservation of 11.5 acres of existing forested wetlands. The recommended plan also recognizes the importance of maintaining the wide-open natural floodplain, which provides natural flood storage. The levee is set back from the Passaic River by several hundred feet to maintain the natural floodplain and ensure that there is no adverse impact to the river, its flow, and to ensure no adverse impact to neighboring communities. The avoidance and minimization of environmental impacts resulted in a Finding of No Significant Impact while providing protection to the majority of flood prone areas along Valley Road and adjacent streets such as Mercer, Warren, Essex, Union, and Passaic Streets.

**PROJECT COST AND ECONOMICS:** The cost of the project is shared by the USACE and the NJDEP. The NJDEP will share a portion of its cost with Long Hill Township. The annual O&M costs are estimated to be \$20,000.

Estimated Federal Cost		\$6,575,000
Estimated Non-Federal Cost		<u>\$1,025,000</u>
	total	\$7,600,000

**PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION:** The schedule for project implementation is as follows:

Final Project Report	October 2004
90% Plans and Specifications Completed	February 2008
Project Cooperation Agreement	(see below)

The project cooperation agreement will be executed when full Federal funding for construction is available. After execution of the agreement, but prior to construction, real estate acquisitions will be undertaken by Long Hill Township.

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