



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

## UPPER ROCKAWAY RIVER

### Morris County, New Jersey

Flood Damage Reduction & Environmental Restoration  
Feasibility Study

#### FACT SHEET

**DESCRIPTION:** The Upper Rockaway River is located mostly within Morris County, New Jersey. The headwaters originate in Jefferson Township and flow in a southwesterly and then in an easterly direction, emptying into Boonton Reservoir. The river flows through the municipalities of Jefferson, Wharton, Dover, Rockaway Borough and Township, Randolph, Denville, Boonton, and Boonton Township.

Development in the basin and the floodplain as well as encroachment into the river and its tributaries has resulted in flooding in several areas in the basin. Flood damages have occurred to residential, commercial, industrial, and public properties, and resulted in the loss of economic activity. Over 1,000 structures are located within the 100-year floodplain of the Upper Rockaway River. Recent flood events occurred in 1971, 1973, 1977, 1979, 1984, 1996, 1999, and 2000. Ecosystem restoration opportunities also exist at a number of sites along the river and its tributaries where environmental problems threaten fish and wildlife habitat.

Previous studies for flood damage reduction were prepared in 1948, 1962, 1970, 1972, 1987, and 1990. No comprehensive plans were identified, which were in the Federal interest. Plans were either rejected due to high cost, lack of economic justification, major environmental impacts, or lack of public acceptability.

**AUTHORIZATION:** The current study is being conducted under U. S. House of Representatives Resolution Docket 2519, dated May 7, 1997. The resolution authorizes the study of the Upper Rockaway River, Morris County, New Jersey for the feasibility of providing flood damage and environmental restoration.

**STATUS:** On May 27, 1999, the New York District executed a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement with the State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP). A public notice announcing the initiation of the feasibility phase was released on June 30, 1999. Initial feasibility study tasks focused on data gathering, updated hydrology and hydraulic modeling of the basin, identification of potential environmental restoration sites, and public coordination. Work also included the formulation of structural and non-structural alternatives for flood damage reduction and the analysis and comparison of the alternatives. A public scoping process was conducted in February and March of 2003 to determine the acceptability of the plans that are economically justified. The non-Federal sponsor also reviewed the alternatives. The public response indicated that the alternatives should be revised to address concerns. The plans have been revised and a draft report has been prepared. The draft report was reviewed by the NJDEP and the results are being compiled into a final report for release to the public in early 2007.

#### PROJECT COST (Feasibility Study):

Estimated Federal Cost	\$1,300,000
Estimated Non-Federal Cost	<u>\$1,300,000</u>
Total	\$2,600,000

**CONTACT:** Paul A. Tumminello, P.E., Project Manager. [mailto: paul.tumminello@usace.army.mil](mailto:paul.tumminello@usace.army.mil),  
Telephone: (917)-790-8210  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District  
26 Federal Plaza  
New York, NY 10278-0090  
<http://www.nan.usace.army.mil>  
Congressional District: NJ-11