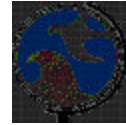




Millstone River Basin, New Jersey Flood Control & Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study

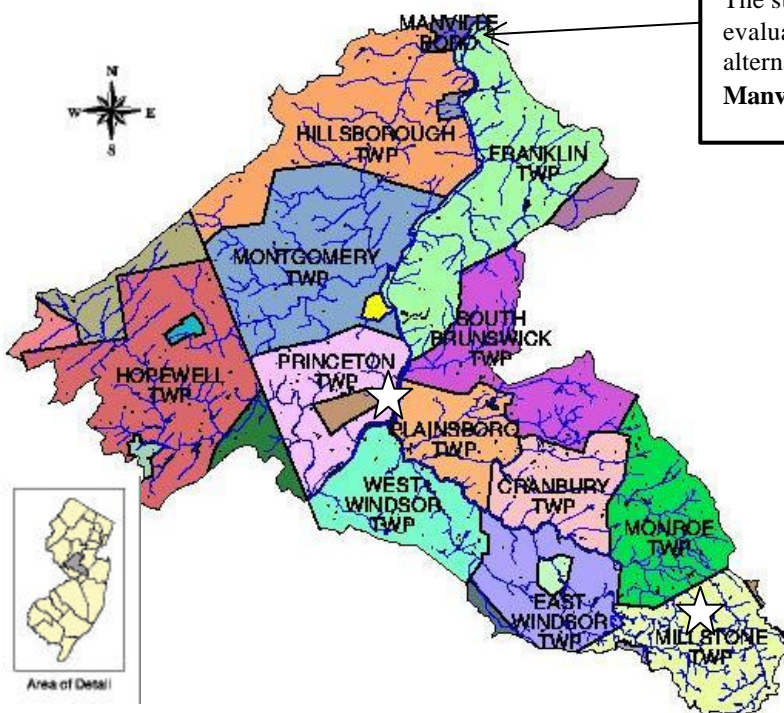


Study Purpose: The purpose of the study is to develop alternative solutions for flood damage reduction within the Borough of Manville and to evaluate plans for ecosystem restoration within the Millstone River Watershed, New Jersey.

Study Partners: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), New York District, has partnered with the State of New Jersey, Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to conduct the Millstone River Feasibility Study. The NJDEP signed an agreement on 14 March 2002 to equally share the cost of the feasibility study with the Corps. The NJDEP in turn will act on behalf of all other local municipalities and jurisdictions as the primary non-Federal sponsor.

Study Location: The Millstone Watershed encompasses parts of the north-central New Jersey counties of Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Hunterdon, and Somerset. The Corps will be limiting the study area for its evaluation of flood damage reduction alternatives to the Borough of Manville, NJ. Flood protection measures for other flood prone areas of the basin are being addressed through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program in NJ (PL 83-566). Ecosystem restoration projects will be located throughout the Millstone River Basin.

Millstone River Basin Study Area



The study area for investigation and evaluation of **Flood Damage Reduction** alternatives will be the **Borough of Manville, New Jersey**.

The study areas that have been proposed for investigation and evaluation of **Ecosystem Restoration** alternatives include **Carnegie Lake and Mountain Lake in Princeton, Township** and a sand mine site, referred to as **Campo Mine, in Millstone Township**. *Other potential ecosystem restoration sites within the watershed may be identified as a result of scoping with the public and resource agencies!*

Study Authorization: This study is authorized by a resolution of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives, adopted August 5, 1999.

Previous Corps Studies: The Corps completed an initial Reconnaissance report entitled “Millstone River Basin, New Jersey – Reconnaissance Study For Flood Control & Ecosystem Restoration ” in September 2000. This report determined that there was potential Federal interest in flood control and ecosystem restoration measures for the Millstone River Basin. Additional investigations have demonstrated Federal interest and the need for further study of the Millstone River Basin area, in the nature of a detailed feasibility study.

Studies by Others: The NJDEP and the New Jersey Water Supply Authority are developing a Raritan Basin Watershed Plan, of which the Millstone River Basin is a watershed management area. The NRCS is assisting local communities through its Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program in NJ (PL 83-566). The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association has completed restoration projects within the basin, as well as a sub-watershed assessment for Beden Brook.

Problem Identification (flooding): The Millstone River Basin has a history of severe flood damages. Low-lying residential and commercial structures in the area are experiencing flooding caused by intense thunderstorms, northeasters, and hurricanes. Evaluation of flooding problems in the Millstone River Basin has identified the Borough of Manville as the highest priority problem area in the Basin. Manville was selected for detailed consideration in this feasibility investigation.

Alternatives to be considered (flood damage reduction):

- **No Action Plan**
- **Non-Structural Alternatives** such as floodproofing (wet and dry), buy-outs, ring-walls or other flood barriers, elevation of homes, natural storage, and emergency management.
- **Structural Alternatives** such as interior drainage, levees, floodwalls, closure gates, elevation of roadways, detention basins, diversions and channel modifications.

Problem Identification (environmental): The structure and function of the natural systems in the Basin, and the Millstone River’s ability to perform critical local and regional ecological functions have been greatly reduced due to land use patterns and practices.

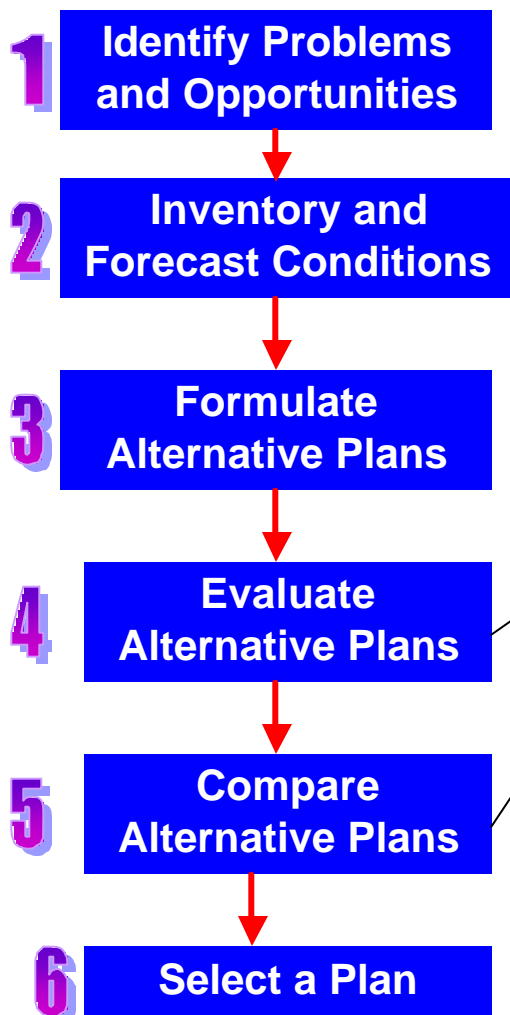
Alternatives to be considered (ecosystem restoration): A number of improvement measures would be evaluated during the feasibility study. The types of ecosystem restoration projects to be formulated could include lake restoration and watershed management; comprehensive riparian system restoration; disturbed land restoration; aquatic habitat restoration; and fisheries habitat protection or restoration.

Feasibility Study Planning Process

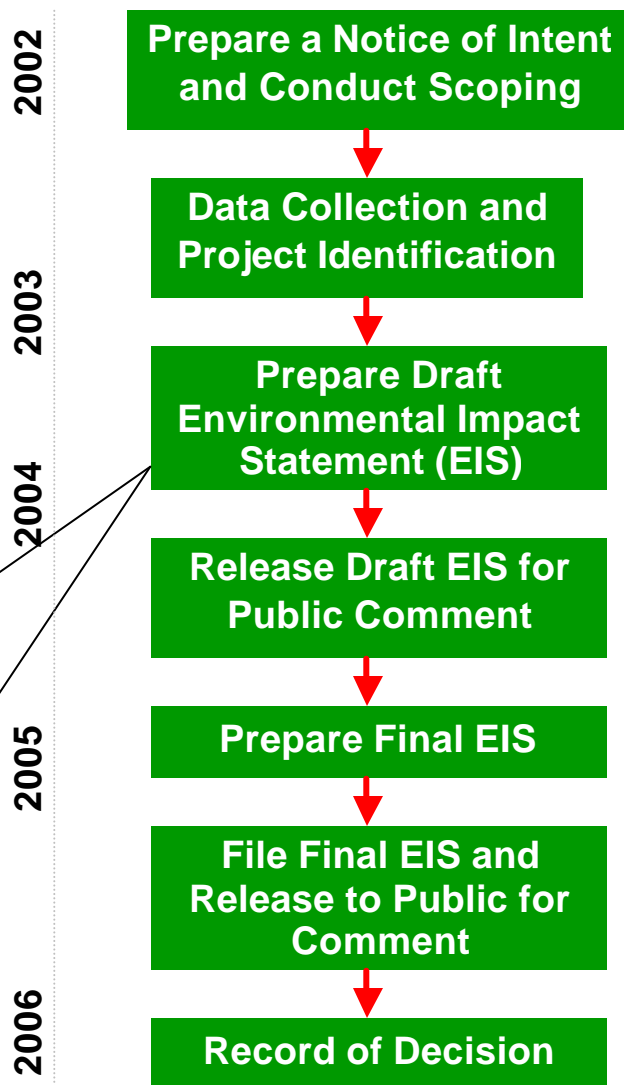
The Corps of Engineers utilizes a six-step planning process when conducting a feasibility study. In parallel with the six-step process, the Corps conducts an environmental compliance and public coordination study process in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1970, as amended.

What is NEPA? The National Environmental Policy Act is largely an information statute that requires the federal government to prepare and publish information about the environmental effects of and alternatives to actions the government may take. Decision-making should proceed with full awareness of environmental consequences of a proposed major Federal action.

6 STEP PLANNING PROCESS



NEPA COORDINATION PROCESS



Your participation throughout the study process is very important in order to develop a final plan that will be locally acceptable! Public comments are welcome at any time.

How do I get more information on the Millstone River Basin Project?

If you have any specific questions regarding the Millstone River Basin Flood Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study, please contact one of the following representatives:

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Please direct all NEPA scoping comments to Ms. Megan Grubb, Project Biologist.

The Corps website will be updated with Millstone River Project information:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District, Flood Control Projects:
www.nan.usace.army.mil/business/prjlinks/flooding/index.htm

For additional information on other agency and organizational activities in the Millstone River Watershed, check out the following websites:

New Jersey Water Supply Authority Raritan Watershed Basin Management Project:
www.raritanbasin.org

New Jersey Division of Watershed Management:
www.state.nj.us/dep/watershedmgt/index.html

Natural Resource Conservation Service Millstone River Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention (PL-566) Locally-Led Planning and Implementation Effort:
www.raritanbasin.org/nrcs_millstone.htm

Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association:
<http://www.thewatershed.org/>