

RIDGEWOOD, NJ INFORMATION SESSION

17 June 2024



U.S. ARMY



US Army Corps
of Engineers®

 **AGENDA**

- USACE Overview
- USACE Partnering Opportunities
- Summary of Recent Meetings
- Overview of Congressionally Authorized Projects
- Overview of Planning Assistance to States
- Next Steps

- Q&A / Listening Session



USACE OVERVIEW

Federal Agency with a mission for Flood Risk Management (FRM), among other purposes
One of several Federal agencies involved in Flood Risk Management (FEMA)

Regional Offices based upon river basins
Located in NY City

USACE undertakes work in response to local requests, and at the direction of congress
- Congress provides the Authorization (direction), and Appropriation (funding)

USACE works in partnership with State and local governments
- In NJ, work with NJDEP on studies and projects for FRM
- conduct studies and construct projects
- unlike other Federal agencies, not a granting agency

 **USACE PARTNERING OPPORTUNITIES**

General Investigations Program

- Larger, More Complex Projects
- Requires Congressional Authorization for Study and Construction
- Separate Study, Design & Construction Process

Continuing Authorities Program

- Authority Delegated to Corps
- Smaller Scope, Lower Cost Projects
- Expedited Study, Design and Construction Process

Technical Assistance Program

- Provide technical recommendations to a community
- Do not directly result in USACE construction



SUMMARY OF RECENT MEETINGS

November 2023 – Ridgewood reached out to USACE, regarding flooding

January 3, 2024 – USACE, NJDEP conduct site inspection with Ridgewood

January 16, 2024 – Ridgewood formally requests assistance from USACE

- address flooding from Saddle River and Ho-Ho-Kus Brook
- request assistance in a long-term plan to mitigate flooding

March 12, 2024 – USACE response to Ridgewood request

March 27, 2024 – Follow-up USACE, NJDEP, Ridgewood Meeting

Agreed-upon Course of Action:

1 – near-term plan for USACE and Ridgewood to partner on technical assistance

2 – concurrently, initiate a study for a long-term plan in partnership with USACE and NJDEP

Recognize:

- Frequent flooding impacting portions of the village along Ho-ho-kus Brook
- Flooding along Saddle River
- Impacts to residential properties, school and village facilities
- Impacts due to Floyd, Irene, Ida, Sep 29,2023, Dec 18, 20024, Jan 10 2024

CONGRESSIONALLY AUTHORIZED PROJECTS

Steps in a Congressionally Authorized Project

- Study Authority (WRDA)
- Federal Appropriation (spending bill)

Study

- Study Agreement (USACE & NJDEP)
- Feasibility Study & NEPA
- USACE recommendations
- Congressional Authorization (construction)

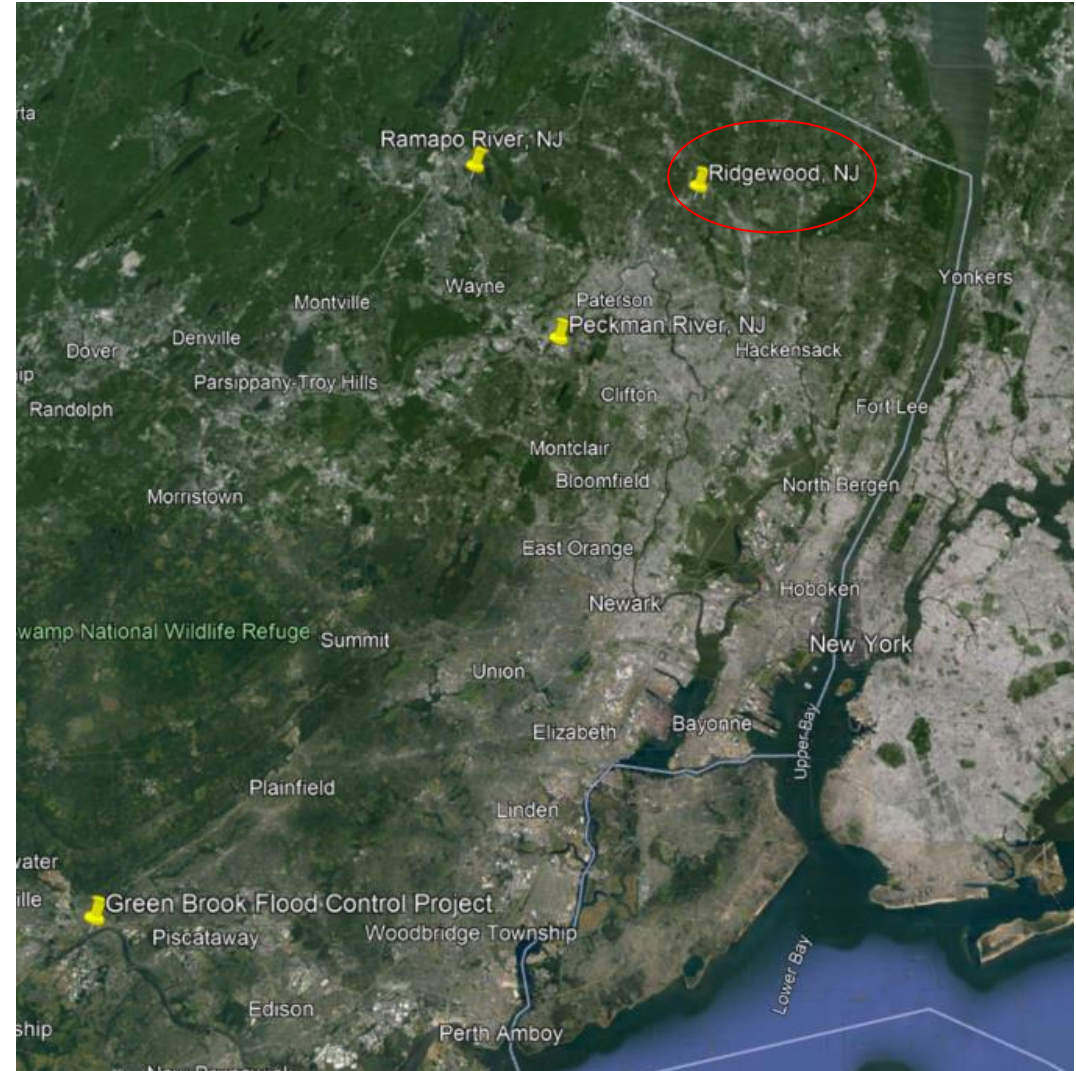
Design

- Design Agreement (USACE & NJDEP w/ Village)
- Plans and Specifications

Construction

- Partnership Agreement (USACE & NJDEP w/ Village)
- Acquisition of Real Estate
- Construction

Sample USACE / NJDEP Projects

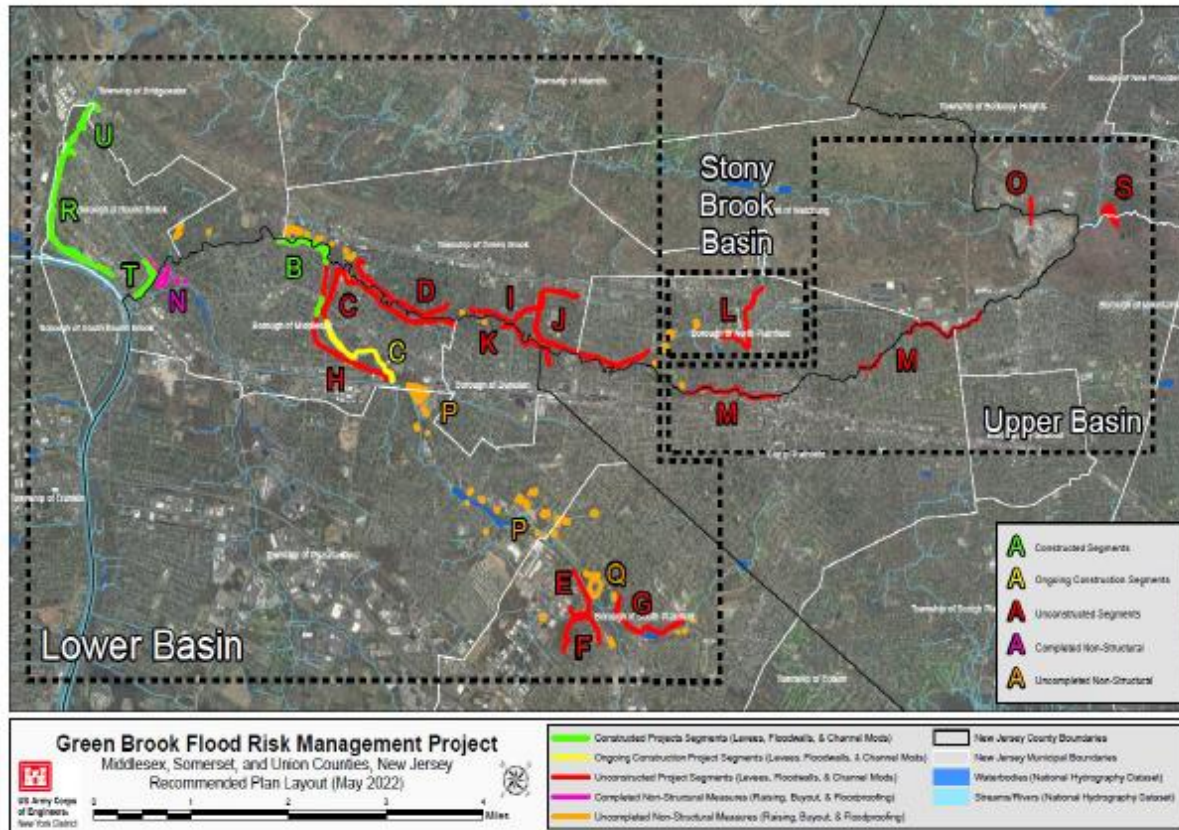


CONGRESSIONALLY AUTHORIZED PROJECTS

Green Brook Flood Control Project

- Largest USACE / NJDEP Flood Risk Management Project in NJ
- \$1 B project, under construction with NJDEP
- Under construction since 2000, \$500 M received after Ida to complete construction

Project Area

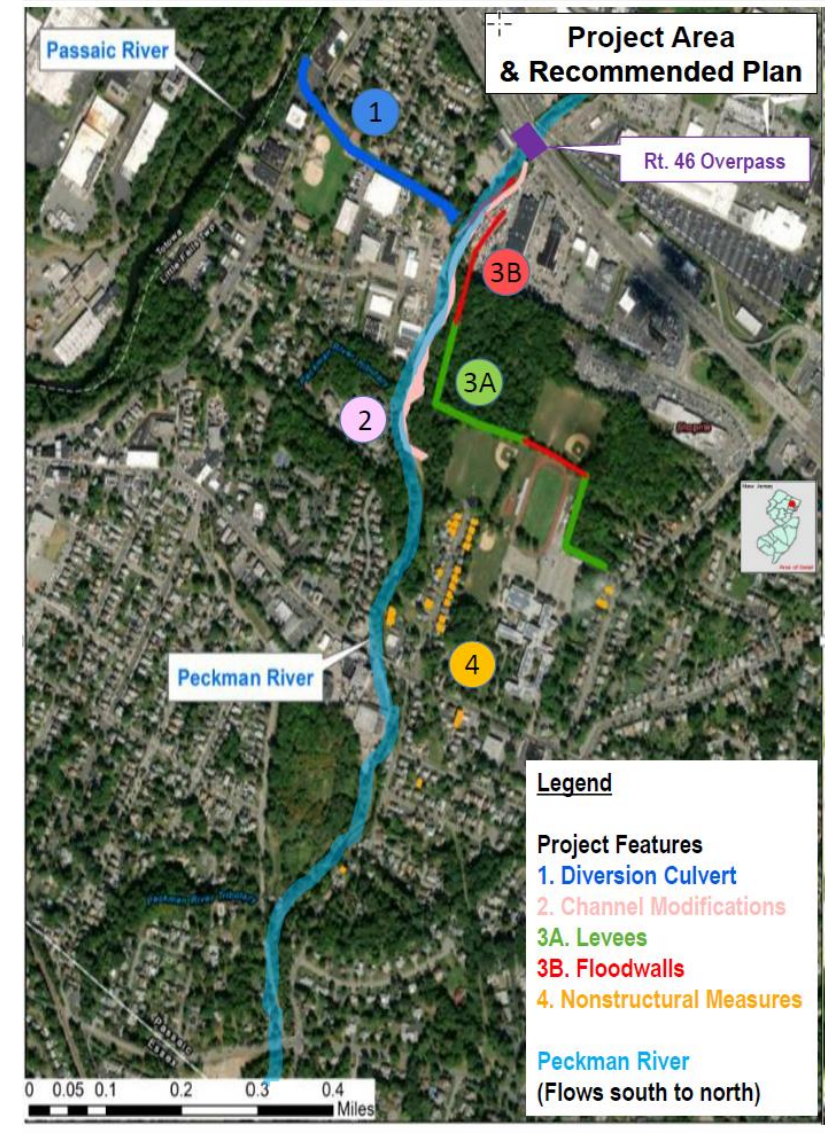


- Levees and floodwalls – 14.5 miles
- River channel modifications - ~3 miles
- Bridge Replacements - 10
- Pump stations for interior drainage - 16
- Detention Reservoirs
- Nonstructural -
 - Flood proofing – 130 homes including elevating homes
 - Buy-outs – removal of 15 homes from the floodplain

CONGRESSIONALLY AUTHORIZED PROJECTS

Peckman River Flood Control Project

- More recent USACE / NJDEP Flood Risk Management Project
- Study timeframe: 2002 – 2020 (funding & recommendations)
- \$150 M project, cost-shared 65% Federal
- Currently in design
- Federal funding received after Ida for design & construction
- Design – 3 years
- Real Estate Acquisition (easements), 2 – 3 years
- Construction TBD



PLANNING ASSISTANCE TO STATES

The Planning Assistance to States (PAS) program allows the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to assist states and other eligible partners:

- With the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development, use, and conservation of water and related watershed and ecosystem resources within the partner's boundaries, including to address water resources challenges, and to submit to Congress reports and recommendations with respect to appropriate federal participation in carrying out such plans.
- By providing technical assistance in managing water resources, through the provision and integration of hydrologic, economic, and environmental data and analyses.

Who is eligible for PAS?

- a state
- a federally recognized American Indian tribe
- a group of states
- a non-federal interest, such as a legally constituted public body or nonprofit organization, working with a state or group of states
- a local government
- a regional coalition of governmental entity



PLANNING ASSISTANCE TO STATES EXAMPLES

What are examples of comprehensive plans USACE can help prepare?

- Watershed management plan
- Flood risk management plan
- Stormwater management plan
- Water control plan for dam/reservoir
- Water supply plan
- Drought management plan
- Climate resiliency plan
- Floodplain management plan
- Shoreline management plan
- Aquatic ecosystem restoration plan
- Erosion & sedimentation management plan
- Dredged material management plan



PLANNING ASSISTANCE TO STATES EXAMPLES CONT.

What are examples of technical assistance USACE can provide through PAS?

- Identification of problems, opportunities, objectives, constraints, & considerations
- Inventory of existing data
- Description of existing conditions
- Forecasting of future conditions
- Listing and screening of management measures
- Alternative plan formulation
- Alternative plan evaluation
- Multi-criteria decision analysis, e.g., to compare & rank alternative plans
- Stakeholder analysis & engagement
- Watershed mapping & modeling
- Flood frequency analysis
- Compound flooding (riverine, urban, and/or coastal) analysis
- Flood inundation modeling & mapping
- Stormwater survey & modeling
- Flood exposure & vulnerability assessment
- Flood impact or damage assessment
- Flood warning & evacuation modeling
- Flood forecasting guidance
- Dam/levee safety assessment support
- Emergency action planning for dam/levee
- Risk communication
- Nonstructural flood mitigation assessment
- Nature-based solutions guidance
- Wetland delineations & mapping
- Stream, riparian, & wetland assessments and surveys
- Aquatic habitat surveys
- Water quality surveys
- Support for water-related program & regulation updates
- Beneficial use of dredged material for habitat creation or restoration
- Hydrodynamic modeling for navigation improvement effect

 **COST-SHARING**

In a PAS project, the partnered municipality pays half (50%) of the total project cost.

- For PAS projects in which USACE assists a partner with the preparation of a comprehensive plan, the partner may provide all or part of their cost-share as in-kind services, including materials, supplies, or other services necessary to prepare the plan



INITIATING A PAS

1. After receiving and reading the letter, the District will contact the partnered municipality to scope a project. Scoping includes identifying the project tasks, deliverables, cost, and schedule.
2. Once the District and partner have agreed on a scope, it is sent to USACE North Atlantic Division for Review and Approval.
3. If North Atlantic Division approves the project and funding is available, the District prepares an agreement for the District Commander and partner to sign. Template agreements for PAS projects are posted on the USACE Headquarters website at:
https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Project-Partnership-Agreements/templates_pa
4. After a PAS agreement, if required, has been signed by both the District Commander and partner, and funding for the project has been provided, the project can begin

 **NEXT STEPS**

Near-Term Efforts

- Finalize Scope of Work for Comprehensive Plan
(Part of this Process is tonight & understanding the Issues)
- Execute Agreement & Receive Funding
- Undertake Study (typically 12 – 18 months)

Long-Term Efforts

- Congress is deliberating on Water Resources Development Act 2024 (Authority)
- Congress is deliberating on Fiscal Year 2025 spending plan (Appropriations)