



Harpeth River Watershed Study

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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INFORMATION SHEET

As of August 2013

AUTHORIZATION: This General Investigations (G.I.) Flood Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study was authorized by a Resolution by the Senate Committee on Public Works, dated 19 September, 1973. The G.I. Program establishes a process by which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) can help a community solve a water resource problem. The USACE jointly conducts the feasibility study and, if a project is shown to be feasible and Congress provides further authorization, constructs a project. Local sponsors share the study and construction costs with the USACE, and usually pay for all operation and maintenance costs.

LOCATION: The Harpeth River Watershed is about 870 square miles and reaches into six counties in Middle Tennessee including most of Williamson and Cheatham, about half of Dickson, a significant portion of southwest Davidson, and portions of Rutherford and Hickman Counties.

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: The City of Nashville, City of Franklin, Williamson County, and City of Brentwood.

STUDY BACKGROUND: As a result of record flooding in 2010, within the Harpeth River Watershed, a reconnaissance report was completed evaluating water resources issues including flood risk management and ecosystem restoration within the watershed. This is the first step in the USACE process toward reducing threats to life and property from flooding. The reconnaissance report (certified 23 July 2012 by LRD) finds federal interest in pursuing both flood risk and ecosystem restoration issues into the feasibility-level of study. The Feasibility Cost Share Agreement (FCSA) was signed on 13 June 2013. The feasibility phase of the study will further investigate both local and regional flood risk management alternatives as well as ecosystem restoration alternatives in the upper portions of the Harpeth River watershed.

IMPORTANCE: On May 1-2, 2010, record-breaking rains struck the Cumberland and Tennessee Valley regions. The Harpeth River Watershed experienced local rainfall amounts of 18-20 inches during this 48 hour period, some of the heaviest in the area, causing widespread, devastating flooding. The Harpeth River reached record flood stages, far exceeding the previous record stages by as much as 43%. Two of the 26 flood-related fatalities directly attributed to this event were in the Harpeth River Watershed. Portions of Interstate 40 along the Harpeth were closed for as many as three days. Individual Applicants for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the Harpeth River Watershed numbered in the thousands.

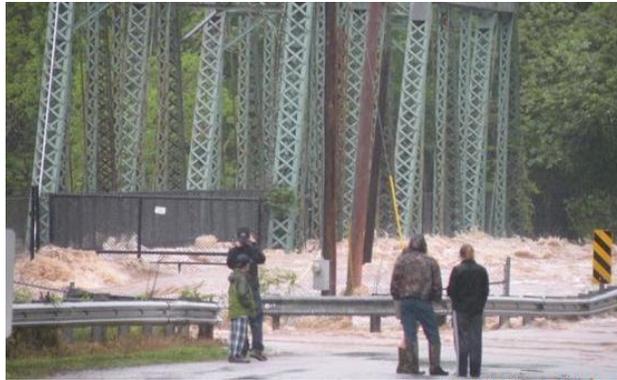
SCHEDULE AND BUDGET: This study is estimated to cost \$1.4 million shared between the City of Nashville, City of Franklin, Williamson County, the City of Brentwood, and the Corps. The project has been initiated under a new Corps' process called Smart Planning. The goal is to complete high quality feasibility studies with shorter timeframes and lower costs. MG Walsh, the Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations, has directed the Corps to complete all (new) feasibility studies with a target of 18 months - but no more than three years, at a cost of no more than \$3 million, and of a "reasonable" report size.

NEXT STEPS: The project will kick-off to analyze flood risk management and ecosystem restoration opportunities in the basin. If a cost effective, environmentally sound plan is found, the Corps may also share in design and construction costs.

WEB ADDRESS:

<http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/Missions/CurrentProjects/Investigation/HarpethRiverFloodRiskManagementStudy.aspx>

For more information regarding the Harpeth River Watershed Study, contact Amanda Burt, CELRN-PM-P, phone: (615) 736-7851, email: Amanda.L.Burt@usace.army.mil.



Harpeth River and Kingston Springs Bridge



City Cemetery at 4th and Margin St, Franklin



Brentwood Academy

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Nashville District
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