



Cumberland River, Browns, Whites, and Richland Creeks

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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INFORMATION SHEET

As of August 2013

AUTHORIZATION: Section 205 of the 1948 Flood Control Act (P.L. 80-858), as amended, is a law that authorizes the Corps to plan, design, and construct non-structural and structural measures for flood damage reduction and risk management, through a partnership with non-federal government agencies such as cities, counties, and tribes. Projects under the Section 205 authority allow the Corps to reduce flood damages experienced in a community if a cost effective, environmental sound solution is identified.

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County (Metro).

STUDY BACKGROUND: The feasibility study will inventory flood damages, evaluate potential flood damage reduction measures, and recommend feasible measures for construction. The study will build on the evaluations completed by Metro Nashville under their Unified Flood Preparedness Program. Measures to be further evaluated include buyouts, flood proofing, channel and bridge modifications, stormwater detention, and levees along the Cumberland River and Richland, Browns and Whites Creeks.

The first step of the two-step study process for Section 205 studies is a federal interest determination, or FID, which is a quick justification for moving to a more detailed feasibility level of study. The FID for the Cumberland River and tributaries was approved by the Lakes and Rivers Division of the Corps on June 4th 2013. The feasibility study is the second phase of study. Its purpose is to evaluate potential measures to address the identified problems and opportunities and to determine if there is an economically feasible (benefits of the measure exceeds its costs), environmentally sound, and publically acceptable way to reduce flood risk and prevent flood damage. The feasibility phase is cost shared 50% federal, 50% non-federal. The feasibility study cost sharing agreement was signed by Metro and the Corps on June 13th, 2013.

IMPORTANCE: On May 1-2, 2010, record-breaking rains struck Middle Tennessee with local amounts of up to 16 inches in Nashville. The heaviest rain occurred in the uncontrolled basins of the Cumberland River, which resulted in widespread, devastating flash flooding, as well as unprecedented flooding along the Cumberland River and its tributaries. The highest stage of the Cumberland River in downtown Nashville exceeded the previous regulated flood of record by over 4 feet. There were 11 flooding fatalities on uncontrolled tributaries to the Cumberland River directly attributed to this event in Nashville. Estimates of property damage are in excess of \$2 billion in Nashville alone.

SCHEDULE AND BUDGET: This study is estimated to cost \$1.6 million shared equally between Metro and the Corps. Metro Nashville has provided all their funds. Initial Corps funding of \$80,000 has been provided this fiscal year. Corps funding for Section 205 projects is provided annually by Congress and is then distributed to individual project by the Corps. Thus, continued funding for this project is dependent on the Congressional budget process. This feasibility study is estimated to take 3 years at optimal funding levels. Partial annual funding will lengthen the time required to complete the project.

NEXT STEPS: If a cost effective, environmentally sound plan to reduce flood risk and damage is found, the Corps can also share in design and construction costs. Costs for design and construction are shared 65% federal and 35% non-federal after signing a Project Partnership Agreement (PPA). The federal cost limit for Section 205 projects is \$7 million.

WEB ADDRESS:

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

For more information regarding the Nashville Cumberland River Watershed Flood Risk Management Study, contact Sue Ferguson, CELRN-PM-P, phone: (615) 736-7192, email: sue.l.ferguson@usace.army.mil



Cumberland River Downtown



Residential flooding across from Opry Mills



Richland Creek Rescue on Delray Drive



Richland Creek at Charlotte Pike



Whites Creek – Tucker Rd Damage



Whites Creek Residential Damage



Browns Creek at Craighead Ave

