US Army Corps of Engineers
St. Louis District

INFORMATION PAPER

River Des Peres, MO

Section 101(a) (17) of Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1990 (Public Law 101-640); Section 1015 of Water Resources Reform and Development Act (WRRDA) of 2014

Investigations (FRM)

Location: The project area is located along the upper River des Peres in the densely urban community of University City, St. Louis County, Missouri.

Description: At the direction of Congress, USACE first evaluated the urban flood problem in the 1970s. A feasibility study was completed in 1988 and resulted in a signed Chief's Report in 1989. The Chief's report recommended a structural flood-risk management solution of widening and stabilizing 2.53 miles of the upper River des Peres channel. The project was authorized for construction in 1990. In June 2004, a Design Agreement was executed for Preconstruction Engineering and Design phase. Changed watershed conditions and channel improvements (since the 1990 authorized plan) were reflected in our Hydrologic Engineering Center River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) model. The model results indicated induced flood damages downstream of the project.

A General Re-evaluation Report (GRR) is required due to changed conditions and/or assumptions to meet the project purpose, which is to reduce flood risk to life and property. The GRR may affirm the previous plan, reformulate and modify it, as appropriate, or find that no plan is currently justified.

Status: A GRR was initiated in 2004 and work stopped in FY10 due to the sponsor's inability to further cost share. City Council letters of intent dated May 2016 and November 2018 reaffirm the City's interest, willingness, and financial capability to cost share the GRR. The District was unable to secure federal funds and Section 1015 of WRRDA 2014 enabled the City to contribute funds to complete the GRR.

Importance: The flood-prone study area experiences frequent flooding that continues to jeopardize public safety. In September 2008, the residual effects from Hurricane Ike caused significant flooding and resulted in two casualties and devastating flood damages. Flooding has occurred in May and June 2011, June 2013, September 2014, and August 2019 forcing evacuations and costly flood recovery from each event. The public maintains a very high interest in working toward a solution to the recurring flood problem.

Risk: Progress is being made in working toward a solution to the flooding problem.

Consequence: A total of 275 residential structures are situated in the 100-year floodplain, and 90 single-family and four multi-family residential homes are situated in the frequently flooded five-year floodplain. This threat not only exists to the structures but also to the families that occupy these homes.

One of 275 at-risk homes in the authorized project area. Two drowning deaths occurred across the street from this home in 2008.

Activities for FY22: Identify Agency Decision Milestone (ADM), finalize report using non-federal carryover funds.

Acquisition Strategy: No contracts are scheduled for award in the current fiscal year.

Activities after FY22: Chief's Report

Project Partner: University City, Missouri

Congressional Interest: Senate: Blunt (MO), Hawley (MO) House: Bush (MO-1)

Phase	FY 22 Allocation
Investigations	$0