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US Army Corps of Engineers

Information Paper
River Des Peres, MO

Investigations (FRM)

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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, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) first evaluated the urban flood problems along River des Peres 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 a Hydrologic Engineering Center River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) model. The model results indicated induced flood damages downstream of the project. As a result, a General Re-evaluation Report (GRR) has been completed. The recommended plan consists of an 8-acre detention basin upstream of University City in the City of Overland. The estimated Fully Funded Cost is $15.2M and will reduce flood stages downstream in University City for all flood events above the 2-year (50% Annual Exceedance Probability) event.

Status: Chief of Engineers briefing is scheduled for February 2024. Design activities can begin immediately under the existing Design Agreement pending receipt of federal funds. Congressional authority to construct the recommended plan is required.

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, August 2019, and July 2022, each flood 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. 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.

Authority: Section 101(a) (17) of Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1990 (Public Law 101-640).

Schedule:
- Signed Chief's Report anticipated: February 2024

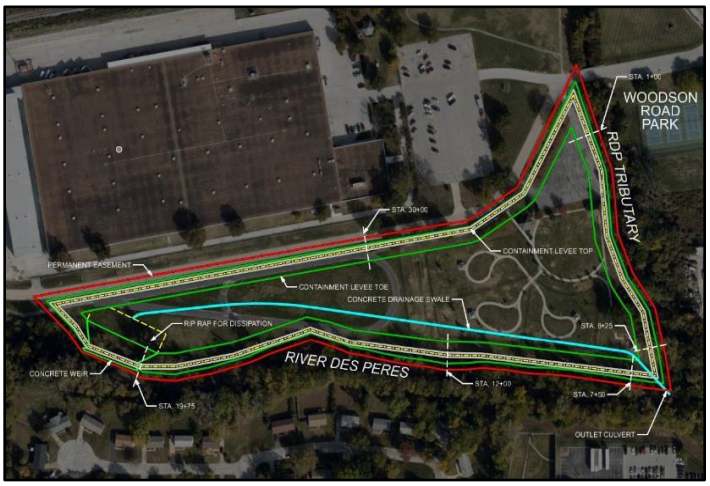

Figure 1: Footprint of Detention Basin 4

Activities for FY24: Sign Chief's Report, if federal funds are received, initiate PED.

Activities after FY24: Complete PED in FY25. Pending construction authorization and appropriation, execute a PPA and begin construction.

Project Partner: University City, MO

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

Financial:
Estimated Federal cost: $10,054000
Estimated non-Federal cost: $5,4413000
Estimated total cost*: $15,467,000
*Fully funded project cost